THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | FRIDAY | 2 JULY 2021





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

#### ASTROGUIDE

Tithi: Jyeshta Bahula Ashtami

Plava: Uttarayana

till 3.32 pm **Star:** Revathi full day Varjyam: 5.01 pm to 6.47 pm **Durmuhurtam:** 8.25 am to 9.17 am; 12.46 pm to 1.38 pm Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon **HIJRI CALENDAR** Zeegad 20,1442 AH **PRAYERS** Fajar: 4.36 am **Zohar:** 12.30 pm Asar: 4.56 pm Maghrib: 7.00 pm **Isha:** 8.17 pm SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM **SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.46 AM** 

**MOONRISE** TOMORROW 12.17 AM

MOONSET TODAY 12.39 PM



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

SHORT TAKES

#### **Nirav's sister** turns approver

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

#### **SC: Kindness of** kidnapper key

name." Niray Modi's

sister said.

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

Full report on Page 2

#### **Ban animal** sacrifice: PETA

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

#### **Pet animals too** can catch Covid

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



WORLD 5

Xi warns against **bullying China** 



SPORTS 8

**Abhimanyu Mishra youngest** ever chess Grandmaster

**TABLOID** 

**YS Jagan biopic** on the anvil

9 EU nations give

nod to Covishield

More likely to lift travel restrictions



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



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

# TS tightens project security

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

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

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

**WHATSAPP FACES** 

**OVER ONE HOUR** 

Popular messaging app

WhatsApp was paralysed

for some time on Thurs-

day evening, which was

purportedly caused by a

Many people have com-

plained that they could

not download photos or

forwarded videos at 10

resolved after one hour.

Experts said the prob-

lem could have been

caused by some problem

at the WhatsApp server.

utive of a private firm.

said, "Even some errors

occur, I guess we blame

■ Page 2: Software bugs

cause glitches, say experts

Ravikanth, an HR exec-

The issue got

glitch in its server.

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC

HYDERABAD, JULY 1

**GLITCHES FOR** 

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

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

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

■ Page 2: AP officials submit representation to TS cops

#### TS REJECTS AP'S **CLAIM OF WATER SHORTAGE**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

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

Full report on Page 2

Registration charges may

#### **KRISHNA BOARD CALLS FOR TS, AP MEET TO END ROW**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

The decision was taken after the AP government had lodged a complaint against the TS govern-ment taking up hydel power generation at Srisailam and Nagarjun-

■ Full report on Page 2

#### ctions within the EU. Individual mer member states have the flexibility to accept vaccines that have been authorised at the national level or by the World Health Organisation (WHO). However, while AZ's Vaxzevria is

DC CORRESPONDENT With agency inputs NEW DELHI, JULY 1

A day after India flexed its

muscle over discriminatory practice by the European Union with

regard to Indian vaccines Covishield and Covaxin,

nine EU countries gave

their approval to the AstraZeneca vaccine for a

"green pass", allowing free travel in the region of

those vaccinated with

Covishield. These nine

countries are Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Gree-ce, Iceland, Ireland, Spain,

Estonia and Switzerland while more EU countries

are expected to join in.
The European Union
Digital Covid Certificate

framework, or the Green Pass, to facilitate free

movement during the

Covid pandemic, came into effect on July 1 under which persons vaccinated with vaccines authorised

by the European Medici-

nes Agency (EMA) will be

exempt from travel restri

approved by EU, the fate of Indian Covishield, remains under suspense.

India has already asked the EU member countries

# State's e-pass rule gets SC approval

Supreme Court has dismissed a plea challenging the Telangana govern-ment's notification under the Disaster Management Act which prevents movement by mandating e-pass

during Covid-19.

A Bench of Justices
Indira Banerjee and V. Ramasubhramanian refused to entertain the plea saying it is a temporary mea-

sure, whose validity has already expired.

The plea was filed by a law student saying that the Telangana State government was illegally denying the right of unimpeded access to Hyderabad to the people of Andhra Pradesh, by man19 pandemic.

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

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

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

to individually consider allowing Indians who have taken Covishield and Covaxin vaccines and want to travel to Europe.

There has been apprehension in India that people who took Covishield and Covaxin jabs are unlikely to be eligible for travel to the European Union member states under its "Green Pass"

scheme. The EU Digital Covid certificate or 'Green Pass' will be mandatory to travel to European countries and the document will serve as proof that a person is vaccinated against Covid-19.

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday took up the issue of inclusion of Covishield in the EU Covid certificate scheme during a meeting with EU representative Josep Borrell Fontelles.

# Modi govt may get 5 ministers

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 1

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

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

Jyotiraditya Scindia, former Assam chief deputy CM Sushil Modi. Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel and former TMC leader Dinesh Trivedi, RS MP Anil Baluni are doing the rounds.

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

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

too may join Modi team

#### DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 1 **RECORD IN JUNE** A proposal is before the state government seeking DC CORRESPONDENT enhancement of stamp

duty and registration charges from the existing 6 per cent to 7.5 per cent. The stamps and registration department submit-

ted a request to this effect to chief secretary Somesh Kumar on Thursday. The CS forwarded the report to Chief Minister K. Cĥandrashekar Rao for

favourable consideration. The government has set a target to earn ₹12.500 crore in revenue through stamp duty and registration charges this fiscal.

Enhancing the stamp duty and registration charges is imperative to achieve this target. The **PROP DEALS HIT** 

HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Though the pandemic has

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

Full report on Page 2

state suffered huge loss in revenue in the first three months of this fiscal

be hiked from 6% to 7.5% (April-June)) due to the Covid second wave and subsequent lockdown.

The department earned just ₹1,349 crore in the past three months. In 2019-20, the target was

to earn ₹6,146 crore and the target was surpassed by the government earning ₹6,671 crore.

In 2020-21, the earnings nosedived due to the Corona lockdown and suspending property transactions for about three months from September to December to enable launch of the Dharani portal. While the target was to earn ₹10.000 crore, it could earn just ₹5,243 crore, forming only 52 per cent of the target.

■ Page 2: TS eyes more money from registrations

## • NAMES OF BJP MP minister Sarbanand Sonowal, former Bihar

Page 4: JD(U), AIADMK

mobile network.

Justice Ramana blames government for not giving priority to medical sector

# CJI calls for universal free healthcare in India

#### **BALU PULIPAKA I DC** HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said huge eco-nomic losses inflicted by the Covid-19 pandemic on India, and across the globe, "should wake us up to the reality that there is

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

no substitute for a free and

universal public health-

care system that focuses

issues of immediate concern.

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

eradication endeavours. "For the programme to be successful, it needs to



CJI Justice N.V. Ramana

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

reach the goal," he said. On the rising diabetes cases in India, he said, 'One must pause and wonder about the implications of this on the already strained healthcare system in

the country. Formulating public healthcare policies based on intense scientific research is needed.' Studies, Justice Ramana

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

individuals, we will never myths like it is the obese. those who consume more sugar, are the ones who get the disease, or that it is contagious and the one that says women are immune to the disease.

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

Quoting the Telugu saying 'Aarogyamey mahabhagyam', the Chief Justice of India said it was the universal truth that health was wealth. "Any investment is justified to acquire this wealth because only a healthy nation can become a wealthy nation," he said.

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

someone else's failure?

■ Page 2: CJI points out at insufficient medical infra

#### L.E.T. TERRORISTS **PLANNED BLASTS ACROSS COUNTRY** DC CORRESPONDENT

**COPS: ARRESTED** 

HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

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

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

unit of NIA had re-regis-

tered the case and had

taken up the investiga-

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

> ■ Page 2: Nasir was trained in Pak in 2012

#### **Training module** for Urdu journos

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

#### **THUDUMDEBBA MEN FACILITATE REVANTH REDDY**

the inauguration session to

be held at 10.30 am on July

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, JULY 1

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

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

#### **SOFTWARE BUGS CAUSE GLITCHES SAY EXPERTS**

From Page 1

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

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

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

### KTR URGES PEOPLE TO PROTECT

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

able in the 70 preceding years. The Aasara pension scheme today guarantees 10 times more benefits than what was given by the earlier govern-ments, he said and added that efforts were on to include poor people above 57 years in the pension scheme. The government is to issue new ration cards to all BPL families from July 5, he pointed out.

# KTR starts 7th phase TS: No water crisis in AP of Haritha Haram

#### 10 per cent of local body funds for 'green budget'

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

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

**NASIR WAS** 

**TRAINED IN** 

**PAK IN 2012** 

The NIA traced the

shop to Hyderabad and reached out to the shop-

keeper who later identi-

fied Imran and Nasir.

Imran Khan resided

with his wife in Hyde-

rabad, who was intercepted first by the NIA,

leading to the arrest of

Mohammad Nasir con-

fessed that he travelled

to Pakistan in 2012 and

was trained there for

four months at the

Pakistan-Afghanistan

border. He specialised

in IED blasts and timer

devices. He also met Hafeez Saeed and the

underworld don Tiger

The preliminary investigation in the case and an examination of the accused per-

nspiracy hatched by top

LeT operatives to exe-

cute terror acts across India and cause large

scale damage to life and

property, the NIA said,

adding that the duo,

along with Mohammed

Haji Saleem Kashim and his son Mohammed

Kafeel of Kairana and

Pakistan, were named

Acting under the directions of Pakistan-

based handlers of LeT,

Malik brothers fabri-

cated an incendiary

and packed it in a par-

cel of cloth and booked

the same in a long- dis-tance train from

Secunderabad to Dar-

Later, a team of NIA from their New Delhi unit flew to Hyderabad

and took custody of the

Malik brothers from the

Counter Intelligence (CI) Cell of Telangana

DC CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee

(TPCC) president A. Revanth Reddy has accused chief minis-

ters of the two Telugu states K.

Chandrasekhar Rao and Y. S.

Jagan Mohan Reddy of fanning

emotions among people over

Krishna waters just to gain

ed out amicably through discus-

sions. Otherwise, they must

approach courts", he observed.

Revanth Reddy appealed to

people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh not to get emo-

Water disputes should be sort-

HYDERABAD, JULY 1

political mileage.

police's

intelligence

as accused in the case.

handler from

revealed

Memon there.

transnational

Meanwhile,

FROM PAGE 1

forest department special chief secretary A. Shanti Kumari around 1.6 lakh acres of forest land in the state is close to urban areas. She said ₹660 crore have been ear-

ACCORDING TO

of parks of which 59 have been completed parks being developed to enhance greenery in rural as well as urban areas. HMDA is setting up 59 urban parks in an

marked for setting up

area of 1.60 lakh acres, "Apart from planting

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

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

track, yoga centre, and children's play area. Indrakaran said ₹5,900 crore is being spent on the green

programme. He maintained that forest cover in Telangana has increased by four per cent because of Haritha Haram.

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

# KCR desperate for survival, says Bandi

Bandi Sanjay Kumar hit out at Chief Chandrasekhar Rao provoking Telangana sentiments to ensure his own political survival. He said that Rao would disappear from the

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

political stage in the

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

sentiments. Alleging that TRS ministers and legislators were buying their own party leaders lest

plunge.

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

#### DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 1 Sanjay Kumar said that it was the BJP's rising popularity that BJP state president

ready to overcome every challenge posed by the ruling party. He demanded fulfill-

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

# due to hydel power work

**DC CORRESPONDENT** HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

# AP officials submit representation

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

However, AP officials could submit representation to TS officials at Pulichintala. police blocked roads leading to Jurala dam in Mahbubnagar district for a few hours in the morning leading to traffic jams for a few hours.

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

## KRMB to hold meet to resolve dispute

**DC CORRESPONDENT** HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

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

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

raised objections over the TS government utilising more water from Nagarjunasagar than its allotted share. The KRMB also asked the

TS government to deduct 9.9 tmc from its share that was used for power generation. The river board has also

directed the TS government to submit a report on water used for hydel power generation immediately.

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

It pointed out that the

CJI POINTS OUT AT INSUFFICIENT MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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

## Govt implementing 'mission check dams' vigorously

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

KCR, Jagan seeking political

mileage over Krishna: Cong.

socially boycotted.

emotions among people for

political mileage should be

charged

Chandrasekhar Rao of raking

up water disputes whenever he

needed votes in elections. In

fact, even Telangana was carved

out over water disputes and recruitments, he pointed out. "If

TRS government is sincere

about Krishna water issue, it

should bring it to the notice of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and union ministers concerned", he underlined. The

TPCC chief said Congress party

ly 1,200 TMC of water is going waste into the sea from Telangana.

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

FRO of Penchikalpet in Kagazngar division, said: "Certainly, increase the groundlevel water quench thirst of forest animals too in forest areas. The large number of check dams on rivulets and streams are likely to improve the ground water and water from going waste.

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

per an estimate, near- ing groundwater levels and also control-ling floods to an extent. Nabard has sanctioned crore for construction of check dams in 10 districts of the state. Of this, ₹453 crore has been allocated for old Adilabad district. Officials have taken up construction of 104 check dams with an crore. Construction of some of these dams

has been completed and they are full of water now. Senior TRS leader B. Goverdhan Reddy of Adilabad pointed out that regular de-silting of these dams is essential for ensuring that they continue recharging groundwater. Otherwise, the depth of check dam will decrease and it would not serve any purpose

is ready to fight for Krishna water along with TRS MPs in

the Parliament session starting

from July 20.He maintained that

it is unfair to criticise legendary

leaders of united Andhra Pradesh like N. T. Rama Rao and

Y. S. Rajasekhar Reddy, as they

served people setting politics

aside. He felt leaders who fan

emotions among people for polit-

ical mileage should be socially boycotted. Reacting to Y. S. Sharmila comments, Revanth

Reddy asked her to get her poli-

tics right before criticising

Congress. He suspected a politi-

cal conspiracy by TS CM to

divert pro-Congress forces into supporting Sharmila in

#### FROM PAGE 1 This, the Chief Justice said, was because of an "insufficient number of medical pro-

fessionals, insufficient infrastructure, lack of medicines and outdated technologies.' The government was not give ing priority to the medical sector or issues of immediate concern, he said.

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

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

cerned agencies in the gov-ernment should put their heads together to address these concerns, he added. "Only then," the Chief "Only then," the Chief Justice of India said, "can we sincerely greet the doctors on the first of July every year."

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

**COMPLETED** 

17,419

3,712

# Despite pandemic, registration dept keeps cash registers ringing

Registrations /

Part distributions

**Pending mutations** 

Mutations

Virasath

**ITEM** 

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

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

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

2,00,000 registrations of agricultural and non-agricultural assets in June in the state Despite the adverse conditions, the government received the expected level of rev The boom in real estate

business has become a topic of discussion even in times of fear of coronavirus. Property sales are booming in all districts across the state. The offices of the sub-regis-

trars and tahsildars under the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) are full of activity with people buying and sell-ing lands and other proper-

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

#### **LAND TRANSACTIONS DATA**

**APPLICATIONS** Land transactions in June Registrations / 84,047 75,901 Mutations Virasath 6,229 5,328 Part distributions 251 **Pending mutations** 12,747 12,669 **Nala Conversions** Land transactions in May

19,793

1,787

3,730

**Nala Conversions** Non-agricultural asset transactions in June 91,771 Registrations: Revenue through registrations: ₹1186.94 crore **Booked slots:** 

## TS eyes more money from registrations

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

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

in the market that registra-

The government could earn

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

tion charges may be almost doubled compared to the present tariff. Sub-registrars and tahsildars are said to be expecting all potential buyers to complete registrations within this month. There is a talk doing rounds

#### Pass must for travel with the patient, says Supreme Court pass was required," court said, missed the petitioner's plea and

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

pointing out that the restriction because of Covid pandemic was all over.Responding to this, the lawyer appearing for the peti-tioner said that Delhi is differ-ent.The Supreme Court dis-

said, "Delhi is the capital of India. What are you saying? "Even lawyers had to get an e-

pass. Sorry, we will not entertain this. This measure is temporary and not permanent. Dismissed."

#### MIN. HELPS MAN TO **RECOVER MONEY** FROM PVT HOSP

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, JULY 1

hospital private Hyderabad has paid back ₹5 lakh out of the ₹6.4 lakh it collected from the family of Shaik Alim Khuresi, an auto driver who died in hospital while undergoing treatment

recently.

The hospital management returned the hefty amount to the family after the transport minister P. Ajay Kumar confronted it for collecting fees higher than what were fixed by the state government based on the high court's direction.

The minister visited the house of deceased Alim Khureshi to console the family members. When he asked the family about the treatment at the hospital, the deceased's brother Arshad Ali narrated the harassment they faced from the hospital staff in relation to payment of various charges.

"The hospital authorities charged ₹6.40 lakh for the treatment. They refused to reduce the bill amount though we pleaded for their kindness. The hospital insisted that we pay the full bill before we took possession of the body. We hurried out, took loans and paid the hospital bills," the brother told the minister.

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JAGTIAL BRANCH, JAGTIAL, DIST: JAGTIAL, TELANGANA STATE

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e) Name of the Borrower

f) Name of the Mortgagor

f) Name of the Mortgagor

Sincy Synchystantam.

Sincy Synchystantam.

S/o.Vykuntam.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:
All that the RCC Roof Residential house bearing H. No. 6-2-51/11
and in Sy No.2052/E, Assessment No. 1101014736 and having its
area as follows Total extent of site 169.02 Sq. Yards or 141.32 Sq.
Meters, plinth area RCC roof Ground floor 1204.65 Sq. Feet, First
Floor 1204.65 Sq. Feet. The property is situated at Hanumanwada
(Kandlapelli road), Jagtial Town and District under the limits of
Jagtial Municipality within the jurisdiction of Registration SubDistrict, Jagtial, Registration District, Kamimagar, Standing in the
name of Sr Kotagin Nagabushanam, S/o Vykuntam and within the
following boundaries:

name of Sri Kotagini Nagabushanam, Sro Vykuntam and within the following boundaries:

East – 9 ft wide road, West – Land of Pallerla Bhagya Laxmi, North – Land of Bandar Narsimulu, South – 24 ft wide road.

Terms and Conditions of the Auction:

i) The property shall be auctioned on "AS IS AND WHERE IS" condition.

ii) For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to depost an amount equivalent to 10% (Rs. 5.01,585/) of the Reserve Price of the property being auctioned as a refundable earnest money depost before commencement of auction by way of cash or money order or banker's cheque or D.D drawn in favour of The Gayatri Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd., Jagital Branch, payable at Jagital.

iii) The property shall be sold to the highest bidder. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bild amount on the same day of sale in cash or

should deposit 25% of the bid amount on the same day of sale in cash or DD drawn on a Nationalized Bank and the balance within 15 days from the date of sale.

The sale certificate will be issued in the name of the successful bidd only, after payment of the entire bid amount and other charges, if an The successful bidder shall bear all expenses like stamp duty, registrative fee etc. for getting the sale certificate registered in his her favour.

he etc. or gening in each cambrace registered in having haves. In case of default in what so ever manner by the successful bidder in adhering to the terms and conditions of the sale, the earnest money and other amounts deposited by him/her as the case may be shall be forfeited

The purchasers should make their own enquiries regarding any statutor, liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc., of the property by themselves before participating in the auction. The bank is not aware o

any encumbrance in respect of the said property.

The authorized officer shall have powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone / cancel the auction without assigning any reasons thereof and also to modify any terms and conditions of this sale without any prior notice.

AUCTION NOTICE (PROCLAMATION OF SALE)

# Pattana Pragathi to benefit Dalits: Min.

Dalit Kanthi Programme with ₹1,000 crore to brighten the lives of Dalits, says Satyavathi Rathod DC CORRESPONDENT Large-scale plantation taken up in GWMC

WARANGAL, JULY 1

Tribal, Women and Child Welfare Minister Satyavathi Rathod said the Dalita Kanthi Project was launched for the development of the SCs.
She inaugurated the Pattana Pragathi programme scheduled to be held from July 1 to 10 in the 29th ward of Mahbubabad Municipality on Thursday

lity on Thursday.
Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the decision of the Minister Chandrashekhar Rao to start the programme with the Dalits colonies has been fulfilled.

The minister assured that the problems in these areas will be solved step by step. She said the municipality has undertaken development works worth ₹50 crore, which are in various stages. She laid the foundation for the model market to be constructed in an integrated

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, JULY 1

Warangal Municipal Corporation Mayor Gundu Sudharani said that the ecological balance will be achieved only through planting saplings as part of the Haritha Haram programme.

The mayor participated

complex at a cost of ₹5

"The Dalit colonies would be given priority in the Pattana Pragathi programme to make them the face of the new developed city. I made a door to door visit to understand the problems of the households. Whatever the prob-lems like power problems, drinking water problems, construction of toilets will be instantly resolved. The state has taken steps

and planted seedlings at the headquarters premises on Thursday as part of the seventh phase of the Haritha Haram.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that Chief Minister brainchild Haritha Haram has been successfully running for the past six years with large-scale plantation programmes.

the pilot project, each fam-

ily would be allotted ₹10

lakh to ensure that every

Dalit family continues on

the path of development.

The SC population is esti-

mated to be around five to

six lakhs. Loans would be

given to Dalits and equip-

ment like earthmovers

and septic tank cleaners

would be provided so that

being implemented suc-cessfully in Greater Warangal," she said. in the Dalit Kanthi it would also be useful for Programme to brighten government works and the lives of Dalits with 400 houses were being ₹1,000 crore. As part of constructed in the town to

provide two-bedroom houses to Dalits," she said. The Minister directed officials to collect comprehensive information on every household in Dalit colonies and give those who have been living in the colony for a long time, their right to a place of residence. Steps will be taken to sanction houses.

"The GWMC's target for

to plant 13 lakh seedlings

across the city and 17

lakh seedlings are ready

in 17 nurseries. The new

Municipal Act dictates

that 10 per cent of the funds in each municipali-

ty budget should be spent

on greenery and it is

plants. Large-scale planting of seedlings has been taken up on the day at the GWMC office premises. corporator Local Devarakonda Vijayalakshmi, Prakash Reddy, were pres-

ent among others.

The Mayor asked the

officials to be prepared with support sticks and

tree guards to protect the

ration cards will be issued to 6,000 people and pensions will be settled soon, she assured. District Collector V.P. Gautam, Additional

Abhilasha

Collector Abhinav, MLAs Shankar Naik, Municipal Chairman Rammohan Reddy, Vice Chairman Fareed, Municipal Municipal Commissioner Narender Reddy, Tahsildar Ranjit, Ward were present among

### SPEAKER, MIN. MARK **PALLE AND PATTANA PRAGATHI IN**

INDUR, KAMAREDDY Nizamabad/Kamaredd y: Palle Pragathi 4th phase programme was started in grand scale in Nizamabad Kamareddy districts on

Speaker Assembly Pocharam Srinivas Reddy took part in Palle and Pattana Pragathi progra mmes in Sangojipet village, Banswada town on

Thursday.

Thursday. He said that collective efforts of people will change the face of vil-

Minister V. Prashanth Reddy took part in Palle, Pattana Pragathi programmes in Balkonda, Banswada Jukkal Assembly constituencies.

#### **WEED GROWTH POSES PROBLEMS FOR FARMERS**

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, JULY 1

The high weed that was grown up following rains is haunting the farmers since many farmers are spending huge money on anti-weed pesticide sand manual weeding operations in the cotton fields in the Adilabad dis-

The weeding around the plant is a must for the growth of the plant. The continuous rains have resulted in high weed in the agriculture fields. Famers are busy in agriculture weeding operations now by engaging the agriculture laborers and applying fertilisers to the plants that were grown up.

WEEDING AROUND the plant is a must for the growth of the plant. The continuous rains have resulted in high weed in the agriculture fields.

 FARMERS ARE spending huge money on anti-weed pesticide sand manual weeding operations in the fields.

#### **CONGRESS DEMANDS EX GRATIA TO KIN OF** 1.50 LAKH WHO DIED DUE TO COVID-19

**Hyderabad:** AICC official spokesperson Dasoju Šhravan on Thursday demanded the state government to declare the actual number of deaths of Covid-19 in Telangana

government failed to declare actual data, the kin of Covid-19 deceased would be unable to get ex-gratia", he said. The TRS government

had declared Covid-19 deaths as 3,651 only, but in the Congress party survey around 1.5 lakh people died due to Coronavirus in the first and second waves, he explained.

Dasoju Shravan along with TPCC general secretary Sangishetty Jagadish, OBC cell chairman Nuthi Srinivas and fisheries department chairman Mettu Sai addressed a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday.

AICC spokesperson said that the Supreme Court directed the government to pay ₹4 lakh ex-gratia to the kin of Covid-19 deceased. Supreme Court orders woken up the government from slumber, he criti-

AICC leader

## Service of docs in Covid fight unforgettable: KMC principal

hospital to serve the

people in his home

district. I especially

appreciate the servic-

es the hospital provid-

ed to the patients dur-

Charanjit Reddy MD,

Hospital said that Dr

Bipin Chandra Rov

Veeramalla

Bannu

pandemic,

said.

Omega

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, JULY 1

The doctors had effectively dealt with the coronavirus second wave with the cooperation of the nursing, paramedical and support staff who together saved lives, said Medical Kakatiya College Principal Dr S. Sandhya Rani. She was taking part

in the Doctors' Day celebrations at the Omega Bunnu Hospital on Mulugu Road in Warangal on Thursday. She first laid a wreath at the portrait of Dr Bipin Chandra Roy whose birthday is celebrated as national doctors

On the occasion, Dr with a sense of dedi-Sandhya expressed special thanks to Dr cation. He noted that the medical profession, which sustains Reddy, Charanjit managing director, life, is highly sacred Bannu and requires every-Omega Hospital. "In spite of one to work with combeing educated in mitment. America, he set up a

He congratulated the hospital staff on the occasion and asked them to maintain a similar sense of The hospital doctors

ing the coronavirus were felicitated on the occasion. Ravinder Reddy, Dr Venkata Sinha, Dr Dilip Meeneni, Nagaraj, E.V. Srinivas Rao, V. Sankeertana Manoj Reddy, DMOs and hospital staff should continue to inspire the younger were present among

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General public are hereby informed that, my clients Sri. Chenna Anil Kumar, S/o. Devadas & Sri. Bodla Srikanth, S/o Haribabu, both R/o Karimnagar, has entered into ar agreement with 1). Smt. Korivi @ Teenapalli Vinayakala W/o. Hari and 2). Sri. Korivi Vinod Kumar, S/o Veeraswamy R/o Karimnagar to purchase the property i.e., an open land admeasuring Ac. 0-05 Gts & 34 Sq. Yds or 646.66 Sq. Yds, situated at Sharmanagar (Sainagar) locality, Road No.2 of Karimnagar town, with the following boundaries

Boundaries (as per Regd. Document No. 1632/2009)
East: Open land of Bairam Sailu & Bairam Madhusudhan, West: 30 feet wide Road, North: Open land of Vinayakala, South: Open land

Boundaries (as per Regd. Document No. 5213/2010 dt:22-06-2010) East: Open land of Bairam Sailu & Bairam Madhusudhan West 30 feet wide Road, North: H. No. 6-6-288, South: Open land o Korivi Vinod Kumar

The said land was acquired by above said persons i.e Smt. Korivi @ Teenapalli Vinayakala & Sri. Korivi Vinod Kumar from their mother, through regd. Gift settlement deed Nos 1632/2009, dt: 09-02-2009 & 5213/2010, dt: 22-06-2010 My clients have paid part sale consideration to the vendors. Any person or persons having any right, title or interest over the above mentioned property, may file their objections if any with the undersigned within (10) days from the date of publication of this notice along with all lawful documents of title supporting their claim, if no claim is received within the time stipulated above, my clients shall proceed to obtain regd. Sale deed from their vendors, by paying the balance sale consideration and any objections received thereafter will not be entertained.

Sd/- NEERUMALLA SHANKAR. Advocate. Sai Raja Residency, Christian Colony, Karimnagar Cell:90108 05888, 94416 45656

### KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Undertaking)

Chief Commercial Manager, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open tender in Two-packet Bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible parties for the following contract. Tender Notice No.: CO-16/6/2015-COMM dated 02/07/2021. Name of Contract: Construction and Management of Pit Mounted Electronic Weighbridge at Kolad and Surathkal stations. Period of Contract : Five years. Closing Date/Time: 03/08/2021 up to 15:00 hrs. for submission of online Offers/Bids Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit https://ireps.gov.in portal for details / participation. Corrigendum / addendum, if any, will be uploaded on this

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(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala) (Phone No. : Mobile 9646106022)

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Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

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are found to be false.

Congress

Hyderabad: All India hospital in Hyderguda for the last few days for kidney ailment. Reportedly, Sonia Gandhi suggested to Rao to take care of his health. "Being senior leader, your services are about his health condition. required to the party and

#### Matha Sishu Kendram staff hailed for services during pandemic time DC CORRESPONDENT formed 594 deliveries in April, 584 in May and 505

KHAMMAM, JULY 1

Government have demonstrated their capabilities in providing quality services amid Covid-19 times, particularly during deliveries.

Parents of expectant mothers were worried about institutional deliveries and wondered if pregnant women were safe from Covid in government hospitals. However, such doubts were put to shade by the fact that government hospitals successfully managed 8,477 deliveries during the critical phase. A major reason for this milestone was the efficiency of the Matha Sishu Kendram in district headquarters hospital here.

It provides for 100 beds in the centre, which accounts for around 85 per cent deliveries in the district every year. The centre per-

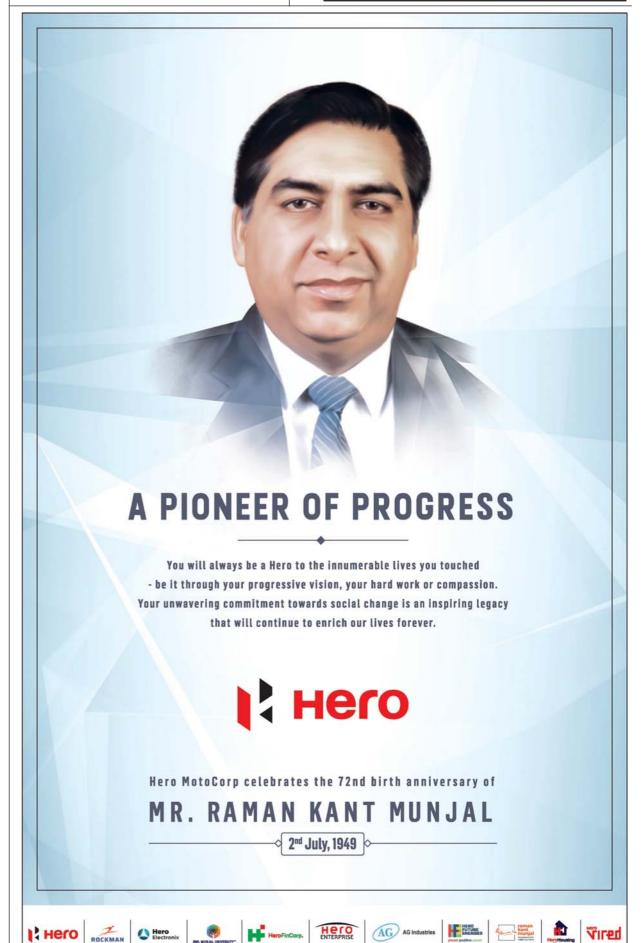
in June. District medical and health officer B Malathi said that gynaecologists at the centre had even managed cesarean deliveries during Covid. They continued the work despite 47 ANMs and 16 class four employees testing positive in the first wave and 27 ANMs and four other employees in the second wave. Many poor and middle class families relied on these government institutions for deliveries whereas private hospitals collected lakhs of rupees citing Covid-19 compulsions.

According to available details, government hospitals conducted 36.193 deliveries in the last four years while it was below 5,000 before June 2, 2017.

She said that the KCR Kit program was also coming

#### **SONIA GANDHI CALLS UP VHR ENQUIRES ABOUT HIS HEALTH**

Committee (AICC) chief Sonia Gandhi called senior Congress leader and former MP V. Hanumanth Rao on Thursday and inquired VH was admitted in Apollo people," she said.



#### **MP MINISTER FALLS FROM DAIS DURING EVENT**

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, JULY 1

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

The incident happened when the minister was going to address the function organised on the occasion of inau-guration of National Horticulture Board's office in

He accidentally hit a flower base kept on the dais and fell

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

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

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

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

#### **HC: JOURNALISTS NOT EXPECTED TO DRAMATISE NEWS**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **ACB RAIDS SR. IPS OFFICER'S PROPERTIES**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC

RAIPUR, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

of some influential people. Sources said the ACB sleuths were looking into complaints that the IPS officer has made investments in the mining

#### **NIA COURT ACQUITS AKHIL GOGOI, OTHERS** IN SEDITION CASE

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JULY 1

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

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

the Maoist elements.
The NIA court judge, however, in its judgment observed that it is necessary for the NIA to note that the "ambit of sedi-tion does not get stretched beyond per-missible limits."

The 120-page judgment of the NIA judge Pranjal Das had some observa-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

# Modi urges IMA to undertake studies on benefits of Yoga

#### Prime Minister hails contribution of doctors in saving lives from Corona

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

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

A big credit for that goes to doctors, healthcare and frontline workers, he said. On the occasion, he also urged the IMA to undertake evidence-based studful role in dealing with post-Covid complications. The Prime Minister said

work for its propagation that should have been done in the last century is being done now. He also suggested that studies on yoga could be

published in international iournals. Noting that there is not documentation available about the last century's pandemic, he

urged doctors to under-take research and studies in their dealing with Covid and its various aspects, including benefits of vaccines, early diagnosis and various treat-

Highlighting "limitations" of the medical infrastructure that was in "mission-mode" and over several decades and given maximum priority

commended the medical fraternity for spreading awareness about its helption pressure makes this challenge even more difficult. But despite this, India's per lakh popula-tion rate of infection and death rate has still been manageable compared with more developed coun-

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

> Noting that the virus is new and is mutating, the prime minister said India's doctors, with their knowledge and experience, are fighting the chal-

lenges posed by the virus.

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

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

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

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

mitted to safeguarding our doctors. Last year, we

against doctors," he said. We are also providing free insurance cover to our Covid warriors, Modi added.

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

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

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

Doctors' Day is observed in the honour of noted doctor and former West Bengal chief minister Bidhan Chandra Roy, who

# against crimes versaries fall on July 1. North India has to

New Delhi, July 1: The unending wait for rains and respite from searing has a forecast of below

Although the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the counnormal to normal rainfall probability over many areas of northwest India and some parts of south peninsula, central, east

rainfall is most likely to India and plains, it said.

Mrutunjay Mohapatra said rainfall is not expected to be good in the first week of July and the precipitation activity is like ly to pick up in the second half of the second week of

#### K'TAKA TO BUILD **MEMORIAL FOR COVID WARRIORS**

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

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

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

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

#### **IIT-M PROFESSOR ALLEGES CASTE DISCRIMINATION**

O.P. ARULN | DC CHENNAI, JULY 1

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

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

Social Science since joining in March 2019" The discrimination came from individuals in position of power irrespective of their irrespective of their claimed political affiliations and gender. There were multiple specific instances of discrimination and I shall be pursuto address the matter."
One of the curious phe-

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

Suggesting to set up a committee to study the

# JD(U), AIADMK too may join Modi team

The BJP's ally JD(U) could also see two of its leaders in Team Modi while the AIADMK could also see a representation in the Modi government. It remains to be seen

whether or not the BJP's another ally from Bihar -LJP, which is witnessing heavy infighting — finds representation in the Modi government.

Speculation is rife that a couple of BJP ministers could be sent back to the organisation. Ever since the second wave of Covid-19 started ebbing, a series of physical meetings have taken place between the PM, senior Cabinet minis-





Sarbananda Sonowal

ters and BJP president J.P. Nadda, giving rise to speculations of a rejig in the Modi government

Parliament's Monsoon session is likely to begin from the third week of this month and the expectation is that the Cabinet reshuffle could take place





**Sushil Modi** 

# wait longer for rains

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

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

and northeast India. Normal to above normal

be experienced over parts of central India and adjacent areas of peninsular Gangetic IMD Director General Mohapatra

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

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

# Covid toll underreported, says Kerala Opposition

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

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

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

the government was following the protocol laid down by WHO and ICMR for determining and declaring Covid deaths. As of now the hospital confirms the death first through the duty doctor or medical superintendent. The data is provided online to the district authorities who consolidate the figures. We are having a highly transparent mechanism. A software was developed for this purpose and staff was

also trained," she said. The minister said the government was willing to follow fresh guidelines, if any, issued by the ICMR or ment should come out wi-

However, the Opposition challenged the government claim of complying with WHO and ICMR guideli-

nes. It pointed out that many people with comorbidity who died of Covid were not reported as Covid related deaths. The actual death toll was much higher than what has been shown by the government.

Opposition leader V.D. Satheeshan asked the government to shed it's false prestige. "The government is not responsible for the spread of Covid. Therefore they should not make it a

vid deaths. It should stop the practice of underreporting deaths to gain credit for infection containment," he said. There are major dis-

crepencies in Covid data compilation, he added. Meanwhile, Kerala reported 12,868 new cases. The state continues to report the highest number of

statereported 124 Covid deaths on Thursday taking the death toll to 13.359. The Centre has directed the chief secretary to scale up disease containment activities in at least five

districts.

cases in the country. The

# has been fudged: BJD leader

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, JULY 1

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

ed deaths in the state. Patnaik, son-in-law of former chief minister

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

Covid mortality data in Odisha .

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

data manipulation Patnaik said that due to the

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

Had the actual number of deaths been revealed, there would not have been much loss of face. The illattempt of hiding the data is ruining the sanctity of Patnaik said that due to the administrative administrative failure and machinery, he said.

#### **BILL COSBY RELEASED FROM PRISON**

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

Philadelphia mansion in 2004. But the judges wrote in a 79page decision that a non-prosecution agreement between a former district attorney and Cosby over evidence he gave in a civil case meant the actor should not have been charged.

"Cosby's convictions and judgment of sentence are vacated. and he is discharged," they wrote. Cosby left SCI Phoenix, a state jail 35 miles northwest of Philadelphia, just before 2:30 pm (1830 GMT).

#### F-16 COLLIDES WITH BUILDING AT **DUTCH AIR BASE**

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

Belgium's defence ministry said in a statement that the incident happened at the start of an F-16 mission and the pilot

had to use his ejector seat.

There was no fire or explosion following the incident at Leeuwarden military airbase,

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

was being investigated. Further details were not immediately available.

#### **PAK INDUCTS** CHINA-MADE VT-4 **BATTLE TANKS**

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

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

#### **DEADLY HEAT WAVE SLAMS** CANADA, U.S.

people in western Canada and the northwestern United States were under heat alerts Wednesday as the region baked in record-breaking temperatures and police reported scores of deaths likely linked to the scorching conditions. The heat wave has stretched

Vancouver, July 1: Millions of

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

#### TRUMP's CFO **SURRENDERS TO FACE CHARGES**

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

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

Street Journal. The district attorney's office did not immediately confirm

# No foreign force can bully China: Xi

### Ruling Communist Party celebrates centenary with show of strength at Tiananmen Square

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

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

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

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

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

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

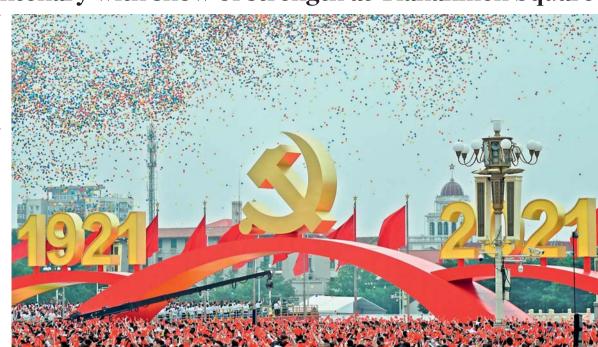
on and elsewhere.

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

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

"By the same token, we will never allow any foreign force to bully, oppress, or subjugate us," the 68-year old leader said. "Anyone who would attempt to do so will find themselves on a collision course with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people," he said. Over 70,000 carefully vet

ted party workers and schoolchildren who took part in the event cheered Xi's over an hour-long speech which was telecast live. About 71 aircraft par-



Balloons fly during the celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China in



Gholamhossein Mohseni

#### **IRAN GETS NEW** HARD-LINE **JUDICIARY CHIEF**

Dubai, July 1: Iran's supreme leader on Thursday appointed a hard line cleric sanctioned by the West as the country's new judiciary chief, state media reported, replacing the president-elect who previously held the

The new chief, Gholamhossein Mohseni Eje-hi, 64, takes the reins from Ebrahim Raisi, who will ascend to the country's highest civilian position after his election victory earlier this month.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters in Iran, announced Ejehi's appointment, urging him to advocate for justice and fight corruption. In a decree, he praised Ejehi's valuable experience, shining records and legal competence.

Ejehi takes over a judi-

ciary widely criticised by international rights groups for being one of the world's top executioners, as well as conducting closed-door trials of dual nationals and indi-viduals with Western Raisi, the previous judiciary chief and a protege of Khamenei,

was sanctioned by the US in part over his execution of thousands of political prisoners in 1988, as well as over his tenure at the judiciary. Thursday's announce ment was widely expect-

ed as Ejehi, considered close to Khamenei, had served as deputy judiciarv chief after a long history in the branch, including as prosecutor general. In that post, from 2009-2014, he pushed to further limit access to the internet and popular social media apps, sparking worries among his opponents over the rise of social oppression. From 2005-2009, during

the first term of hard-line populist former President Mahmoud Ahmad inejad, Ejehi served as intelligence minister, following decades of deep involvement in the services dating back to his role as head of the ministry's recruiting office in the 1980s.

The conservative cleric landed on the US Treasury Department and European Unions sanctions lists over allegations of severe human rights abuses.

That vote, considered rigged by the reformist opposition, sparked massive Green Movement protests and a sweeping crackdown in which thousands of people were detained and

#### Delta shadow over EU Covid travel pass Double Covid jab seems to Study: Viral load easier travel came into force on Thursday, just in control Delta variant: EMA time for Europe's busy summer vacation period

but the highly infec-Delta variant is already threatening to curtail its use.

The EU document –

essentially a QR code available on smartphones or on paper — shows whether the bearer is vaccinated with one of the EU's approved jabs (from BioN-Tech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson), or whether they have recovered from an infection or recently tested negative. Under EU law, the certifi-

cate is meant to do away with the need for quarantines or further testing when travelling between the EU's 27 countries or four associated European nations (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein). All EU member states were connected to the digital certificate system on Thursday except Ireland, which was hit by a cyber-attack targeting its health service in May and plans to have it operatio-

nal on July 19. But a surge in the Delta variant, first detected in India and now quickly gaiground elsewhere, could trigger an "emergency brake" provision suspending the certificate's

acceptance.

Already Germany has a ban on incoming travellers from Portugal, where the Delta variant has become dominant. Only its own citizens or residents are allowed in from Portugal, and they must quarantine for two weeks upon arrival. Berlin's decision has raised Brussels' ire. with EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders saying on Wednesday that we should avoid travel bans" within the EU and stressing that Germany should have consulted with its partners first. The startling rise in

Delta cases in former EU member Britain, with a rolling two-week infection rate more than seven times that of the bloc, is generating deep concern on the continent. This week, Portugal, Spa-

in and Malta all abruptly increased restrictions for travellers from the UK, although the three said they would accept fully vaccinated Britons. The World Health Organisation added to the uneThe Hague, July 1: Two doses of Covid vaccine appear to provide protection against the rapidly spreading Delta variant of the coronavirus, the European Medicines Agency said on Thursday

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

The EMA's head of vac-cine strategy, Marco Cava-leri, said the Amsterdambased watchdog was "aw

We should avoid travel bans" within the

— DIDIER REYNDERS **EU Justice Commissioner** 

ase by warning Thursday that Covid case numbers in Europe were on the rise once again, up 10 percent after two months of decline, because of a loosening

of social restrictions and increased travel. The darkening context

could limit the effects of

the EU certificate. "There is no doubt that the tourist industry could do with a boost in time for the summer season," eco nomic research consultancy Capital Economics said in a note. But it forecast the EU

certificate "will have very little impact on European tourism this year", observing that "most adults are not fully vaccinated and the Delta variant is making people and govern-Airlines grouped togeth-

er in an umbrella lobby group, A4E, have expressed worries that an "inconsistent approach" among EU countries in vetting the EU Covid certificate could create lengthy lines in airports with the poten-tial to "create new health hazards". They called for the certificates to be checked online before travellers even arrived at the airport. There were scenes of problems at Brussels' airport early Thursday as the first day of school summer vacation in Belgium, an airport strike in neighbouring France. -AFP

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

Delta variant

MARCO CAVALERI, Head, European

Medicines Agency

are of concerns caused by derna, AstraZeneca and the rapid spread of the Delta variant." Johnson & Johnson.

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

London, July 1: Voicing concern over many countries failing to vaccinate their people, WHO chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Thursday called for vaccinating at least 10 per cent of the population of every country by September as he warned that "until we end the pan-

demic everywhere, we will

not end it anywhere".

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

some countries cannot

vaccinate, it's a threat to all countries, Ghebreyesus called for a global effort to vaccinate at least 10 per cent of the population of ber, at least 40 per cent by the end of the year, and at least 70 per cent by the

middle of next year.

protecting against all the

strains circulating in Eur-

ope, including the Delta

"Emerging data from real world evidence are sh-

owing that two doses of

vaccines are protective against the Delta variant."

Four vaccines are current-

ly approved for use in the

EU: Pfizer/BioNTech, Mo-

variant," he said.

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

Vaccine equity is not

us has infected over 18.2 crore people and killed nearly 40 lakh, according to Johns Hopkins Univers ity. India has recorded more than 3 crore cases and registered 400,000

#### less in re-infected **Washington, July 1:** People who contract Covid-19 "Right now it seems the four vaccines approved in the European Union are

even after vaccination are likely to have a lower viral load or quantity, experience a shorter infection time and have milder symptoms than unvaccinated individuals, according to a study of mRNA preventives in the US.

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

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

milder," Burgess said.

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

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

#### TREATMENT FOR **BLOOD CLOTS DUE TO VAX FOUND**

Toronto, July 1: Scientists in Canada have found a new lifesaving treatment for people suffering from rare blood clots associated

with Covid-19 vaccination. The researchers at the McMaster University recommend a combination of anti-clotting drugs and high doses of intravenous immunoglobulin to combat vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombo-

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

rnal of Medicine, has proven effective in three Canadian patients.

The treatment, described in *The New England Jou-*

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

### Russia booster shots amid spike Sputnik Light version.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SOARING I PRICES** Court had ruled government policy to freeze rents for five years as illegal

# Berlin to vote on bid to combat housing crisis

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

rlin election supervisor said. Local officials must now set a date for the vote, which is widely expected to be held on September 26, the same day as elections for a new federal parliament and Berlin government. The "Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co.' initiative, named after Beover surging housing costs rlin's biggest property group, targets companies with more than 3,000 aparsubmitted 183,711 valid signatures, "more than the tments in their portfolios.

240,000 homes placed under a public agency to be administered "democratically, transparently and in the public interest"

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

Berlin's city-state gov-

from 2020 in a bid to halt runaway gentrification, but the federal constitutional court ruled that policy to be illegal in April.

"Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co." bases its claims on Article 15 of the German constitution, which stipulates that "land, natural resources and means of production may... be transferred to public ownership" in the public interest in return for compensWest German state, the article was long forgotten during the Cold War with

its tensions between capi-

talist West and communist East. Deutsche Wohnen owns around 111,000 of an estimated two million rental apartments in Berlin and in May announced plans to merge with fellow real

estate giant Vonovia. It sharply criticised the initiative's aims as coun-

square metre of additional

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

The city's Social Demo-Mueller has also rejected the referendum, arguing that he would prefer "part nerships with the private sector" to develop more

total required" of around dozens were killed. 172,000 to put the question The movement would ernment already moved to ation. Adopted in 1949 terproductive "because it to a general ballot, the Belike to see more than freeze rents for five years with the founding of the doesn't create a single housing. 

# Chronicle

2 JULY 2021

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

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

The court's decision has come against the government's position that it did have the money but its focus is on providing food, medical care, oxygen, vaccination and on supporting the economy and not to pay compensation to the kin of four lakh odd people who have lost their lives due to the pandemic. The court, however, did not buy the argument and told the government that the relevant section of the National Disaster Management Act, 2005, says that the NDMA shall recommend guidelines for the minimum stan-

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

dards of relief to be provided to persons affected by disaster, which shall include ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life. The government cannot run away from its responsibility, the court reminded it.

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

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

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

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

### Fuel price paradox

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

The cascading effect of the fuel price rise is reflected in price escalation in goods as milk to cement prices spiral and services. The effect was visible in retail inflation ruling at six per cent, which least 12 helps explain somewhat the sharp rise in cost

months, the government's take from fuel tax was a phenomenal ₹5.6 lakh crores, with the Centre taking a lion's hare as most recent increases were in the form of cess and surcharge among many other levies.

of living. For governments, at the Centre and in the states, fuel is a weapon to raise revenues at a time of a sluggish economy as lockdowns are technically still in force in many parts of India. In the last 12 months, the government's take from fuel tax was a phenomenal ₹5.6 lakh crores, with the Centre taking a lion's share as most recent increases were in the form of cess and surcharge among many other levies

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

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

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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



Patralekha Chatteriee

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

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

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

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

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

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

Women's unpaid care work has emerged as a big issue among progres-sive economists in recent But millions of women in India, as in many other countries, are still socialised into accepting the notion that it is "natural" for women to be tasked with unpaid domestic work. And they

should not complain. But when we talk about women's "natural" role in the context of unpaid work, what is traded off,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Unpaid care work** means entrenching the sexual division of labour, furthering gender inequalities and creating an intergenerational cycle, with all attendant consequences

centres, etc., during the pandemic has made things much tougher. In an article in the Economic and Political

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

"Going forward", wrote Prof. Deshpande, "we should use this crisis to overhaul the current syswomen from entering the workforce and when they do, by not rewarding them enough". We can do this, she

added, "by recognising the myriad facets of women's work, the need for adequate compensation, putting support structures in place that allow for an equitable sharing of chores and care work. and most important, creating favourable oppor-tunities for work and livelihoods within a conscious anti-discriminatory policy framework". In India, less than a

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

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

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

#### **NOBLE INITIATIVE**

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

Syed Ali

#### **MYSTERY PACKAGE**

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

Satya Brahmaji

#### **WATER DISPUTE**

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

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao

#### **VAX BOOKING**

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

Damodar Joshi

### 50 YEARS AGO IN hronicle China can make 40

**N-bombs** 

NEW DELHI, JULY 1 China is now capable of producing about 40 nuclear boms of 20 kilo ton capacity annually, according to "an estimate" the Defence Ministry said today in its annual report for 1970-71.

The report did not disclose the origin of the estimate. It said China may now have

stock-piled about 150 nuclear bombs and a small number of thermo-nuclear bombs.

## Zahid Hussain



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

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

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

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

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

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

The Taliban have overrun many

northern districts and have besieged some major towns. They now control major roads leading to Mazar-i-Sharif. In many areas, Afghan government soldiers have abandoned their posts with out any fight. In some cases, the soldiers have joined the insurgents. The Taliban now control the main border crossing with Tajikistan, a main trade route. While these militia movements have helped reinforce the government forces fighting the Taliban in many northern districts, they have also strengthened the warlord fiefdoms, thus weakening the authority of the government in Kabul.

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

a more committed enemy. The Taliban's success in the north

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

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

The changing ethnic profile of the group was evident in the fact that non-Pakhtuns now constituted a quarter of the Taliban leadership council and its various commissions. Members of ethsenior positions as provincial and district shadow governors and zonal commanders. By inducting Shia Hazaras, the Taliban wanted to make themselves more acceptable by presenting themselves as a multiethnic, multi-sect force. As an example, the Taliban appointed a Shia ethnic Hazara as its shadow district chief before the intra-Afghan peace talks. The hard-line Sunni Taliban had been previously blamed for persecuting the minority group during its stint in power. The Hazaras largely inhabit the central Afghan provinces.

nic minorities were also handed out

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

By arrangement with **Dawn** 

# quick

INDICATURS		%
Sensex	52,318.60	-0.31
Nifty 50	15,680.00	-0.26
S&P 500*	4,308.61	0.26
Dollar (₹)	4,305.76	0.19
Pound Sterling (₹)	1.466	0.022
Euro (₹)	88.38	0.004
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,310▼526	1.13
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	75.76	1.53
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.039	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.456	0.012
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

## QR code printing on B2C invoices deferred till Oct.

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

#### Special drive on to promote govt crop insurance



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

# Srei Infra board okays ₹2,500-cr fundraising

Srei Infrastructure Finance's board has approved a plan to raise up to ₹2,500 crore through various means, including public offer and QIP. Earlier, its subsidiary Srei Equipment Finance Ltd (SEFL) attracted investment proposals of ₹4.200 crore from foreign investors. Singaporebased Makara Capital Partners offered a term sheet for an investment of ₹2,200 crore by way of infusion of capital.

#### **Biocon official** barred from mkt for 3 months

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



### ■ All sellers in the network have to register with DPIIT

# Registration must for direct selling players

**SANGEETHA G** CHENNAI, JULY 1

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

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

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



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

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

In India there are more

Sood, Aseem Proveda Marketing India, said, "Registering with the DPIIT will increase the

trust customers have with the company and individual participants. No direct selling entity or direct seller should promote a Pyramid Scheme or Money Circulation Scheme in the garb of doing direct

selling business. In such

schemes there is transac-

tion of money without

needs to engage in discus-

sion with the government,'

sales of goods and services. The entity shall appoint a grievance officer as well as a chief compliance officer as a nodal contact person.

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

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

MOUMITA BAKSHI CHATTERJEE NEW DELHI, JULY 1

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

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

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

the amount in April

VIL has also said that while it is working on raising new funding for the last six months, 'investors are not willing to invest in the combecause they believe that unless there is a significant improvement in consumer tariffs, the health of the industry will not recover and they will incur a 

# cyber-attacks as risk Mumbai, July 1: The second wave of the pandemic took a "grievous toll" on India, but the

**RBI Guv flags rising** 

dented economic activity has started recovering from late-May, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday. In a first, Das flagged

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

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

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

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

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

#### **BANKS TOLD TO** TRACK RETAIL, **MSME LOANS**

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

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

spillovers.

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

withstand future shocks. The financial system is on the front foot to aid recovery, but the priority is to maintain and pre-serve financial stability, he said.

financial

Domestic

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

# Cadila applies for Covid vaccine approval

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

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

**RAGINI SAXENA** 

Lenders to Jet Airways

India Ltd stand to receive

just about 5 per cent of

what they're owed, anoth-

nation that are growing

increasingly accustomed

The new owners of Jet

Airways -- Dubai-based

businessman Murari Lal

Capital Management Ltd

in London -- have proposed paying Rs 380 crore

(\$51 million) of the Rs

7,810 crore they owe to

according to a bankrupt-

cy tribunal order tabled

Some Rs 190 crore will

be paid unfront within six

months while the rest

will come from the pro-

ceeds of issuing zero-coupon bonds. The new

owners have also offered

the lenders a 9.5 per cent

stake in Jet Airways and

a 7.5 per cent interest in

Jet Privilege, the carrier's

loyalty and rewards man-

In India, recoveries for

financiers from resolved

agement company.

financial

late Wednesday.

and Kalrock

creditors,

to paltry recoveries.

Jet Airways creditors to

recoup just 5% money

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

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

insolvency cases dropped

to 39 per cent of dues as of

March from 46 per cent a

vear earlier. Macquarie

Capital data show. If the

top nine cases by recov-

ery are excluded, lenders

received just 24 per cen

Jet Airways was India's

biggest private carrier

before it went belly up in

2019 under mounting

Airways is closer to fly-

ing again now that its res-

approved, there are many

challenges ahead for the

grounded carrier. Jet

Airways was planning to

operate all its historic

domestic slots, which went to other airlines in

the time it wasn't flying,

but the bankruptcy court

didn't agree to restore

and their usage is like a

constantly changing jig-

saw puzzle," the order

said. "A single slot there-

fore could not be left or

kept idle. Besides, other

airlines have utilised

those slots for all these

-Bloomberg

"The allotment of slots

though

plan has been

of dues.

debts.

Even

enrolled in this age group and the vaccine was found to be safe and very well tolerated.

selling companies and several others which are not

registered. As per the new

rules, not just the entity, but the individual sellers who are part of the net-

work also will have to reg-

ister with the DPIIT.

According to the World

Federation of Direct Selling Associations, India had 5.7 million direct sell-

Rajat Banerjee, vice

chairman, Indian Direct

Selling Association (Idsa),

welcomed the govern-ment's move. "However,

ers in 2018-19.

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

company Sharvil Patel.
"We expect to produce 1

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

ZyCoV-D in 45-60 days. The vaccine has to be stored at 2 to 8 degrees celsius but has shown good stability at temperatures of 25 degrees for at least three months, says the company. This makes it easier to transport and store

#### **MANUFACTURING PMI DIPS IN JUNE**

**MADHUSUDAN SAHOO** NEW DELHI, JULY 1

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

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

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

### **MICHAEL GONSALVES**

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

In fact, reopening of dealerships and a low base of car and SUV dispatches in June with an estimated sale of over 2,50,000 units. In June last year, around

1,15,000 units were sold by 15 passenger vehicle mak ers due to partial reopening of showrooms and restricted production.

Most automakers turing in all three shifts this month, with steep production targets at Maruti Suzuki, Hvundai Motor

India and Tata Motors. In the fourth quarter of FY21, most of these compa-

June car sales in high gear; demand rises

nies reported sustained recovery in retail sales. But supply constraints due to a shortage of microchips led to a long waiting period for some vehicles. Last month, Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor,

Kia and Toyota Kirloskar Motor logged big jump in

Passenger vehicle sales at

per cent to 1,24,280 units, compared with 51,274 units in June last year.
Similarly, Hyundai Motor
posted 90 per cent rise in
sales to 40,496 cars, up from

Maruti Suzuki jumped 142

21,320 units sold a year ago. Sales at Tata Motors rose 111 per cent at 24,110 units against 11,419 units last Mahindra and Mahindra doubled to 16,913 units in June as against 8,075 units

#### Crypto exchanges flounder as banks cut ties Mumbai, July 1: Indian by major payment gate-ways has hit transactions, exchanges said. At least two exchanges according to social media

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

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

complaints Customer have inundated all key exchanges as the pullout

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

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

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

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

Even payment gateways such as Razorpay, PayU and BillDesk have severed ties, as they too depend on banks to process transac-

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

last vear.



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

According to a regulatory filing by Coffee Day Global Ltd (CDGL), parent firm Coffee Day Enter-prises Ltd, a lot of vending machines installed by the company has been withdrawn from customers locations in view of the

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

According to CDGL, in the earlier year, to attract new customers, vending division of the company used to install custommade cabinets at customers' locations. Custombuilt cabinets are fixtures and cannot be removed and do not have any salvage value. "In this situation, 29,996 cabinets are

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

**TINA OREM** NEW YORK, JULY 1

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

paigns. Regulation on crowdfunding, in which companies raise capital from investors via government-monitored online platforms, has mushroomed in the last two years, going from about 100 million in 2019 to over 200 million in 2020, according to Chris Lustrino, founder and CEO of crowdfunding exceeded the 200-million mark year to date in 2021, he adds

Covid has been a massive boon to this market, Lustrino says. When the pandemic dis-

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

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



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

is often associated with

raising capital for new

businesses, months of lockdowns have many

small businesses exploring crowdfunding as a way to get back to normal operaccording Sherwood Neiss, a principal at Crowdfund Capital Advisors. 'What we're seeing is a

lot of these small restau-

rants, local parlours, beausalons, that type of thing, that were struggling during the pandemic are now going up to the cus-tomers and saying, 'Hey, I need 25,000, 50,000 to reopen, get us up and runhe says. And the businesses are offering great yields, if you think about it. Many of them are 7 per cent, 8 per cent, 9 per cen%, which is a healthy yield for a short-term loan, and people don't have to pony up 25,000. The average investment is about

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

Keys to an effective

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

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

of how big their investor

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

discarded," it said. —PTI

#### **Dunkley dazzles** in England's win

Taunton: Skipper Mithali Raj's second successive fifty went in vain as Sophie Dunkley produced a fighting half-century after Kate Cross' five-wicket haul to help England Women register a five-wicket win over India Women and grab an unassailable 2-0 lead in the threematch series here on

Wednesday. Chasing 222 for a win, England batswomen couldn't capitalise on their starts to lose five wickets for 133 in 28.5 overs but Dunkley and Katherine Brunt produced a 92-run partnership for the unconquered sixth wicket to take the team home with 15 balls to spare. - PTI

Brief Scores: India 221 (Mithali Raj 59, Shafali Verma 44; Kate Cross 5/34) lost to England 225/5 (Lauren Winfield-Hill 42, Sophia Dunkley 73 (not out), Katherine Brunt 33 (not out); Poonam Yadav2/63).

#### 12-yr-old Mishra is youngest GM

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

#### **Jhajharia rewrites**

own world record

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

#### **Fifteen athletes**

qualify for Tokyo New Delhi: Star sprinter Dutee

Chand, javelin thrower Annu Rani and 400m hurdler M. P. Jabir qualified for the Tokyo Olympics through world rankings as 15 Indian athletes and two relay teams were confirmed for the Games by the sport's world governing body on Thursday. Twelve individual athletes, including star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, booked automatic guota for the Olympics by breaching the qualification mark, while the trio of Dutee, Rani and Jabir, as well as the men's 4x400m relay team made it to the Games through rankings. Dutee was 41st and 50th respectively in the list of 56 athletes to compete in both the

100m and 200m events, while Rani was at 18th (out of 32) and Jabir at 32nd (out of 40). Long jumper M. Sreeshankar, shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, discus

throwers Kamalpreet Kaur and Seema Punia qualified for the Olympics this year. — PTI

#### Live on

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

**COPA AMERICA** 

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

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# BELGIAN BAFFLE

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

Munich, July 1: Belgium are anxiously waiting on the fitness of stars Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard for their Euro 2020 quarter-final showdown

against Italy on Friday.
Thorgan Hazard fired
Belgium into the last eight with the goal that knocked out holders Portugal, but the fitness of his brother Eden and De Bruyne is Belgium's main concern before facing the Azzurri in Munich.

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

Neither trained Wednesday with the Belgium's medical staff working around the clock to get them fit to face Italy.

Coach Roberto Martinez admits neither player will probably be 100 percent in Munich, "but we will use every day to get them as fit as possible".

Manchester City mid-

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

Martinez is assessing

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

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

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

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

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

ry of her career, 6-3, 6-4.

semifinalist

or injury.

doubles

singles draw.

In men's play, fourth-

seeded Alexander Zverev

hit 13 aces, lost only 12

points on his serve and

advanced to the third

round by beating Tennys Sandgren 7-5, 6-2, 6-3. Zverev was the U.S. Open

runner-up in 2020 and a

semifinalist at last month's French Open, but he has never been

past the round of 16 at

**SCRAPPY BARTY** 

INTO THIRD ROUND

Ashleigh Barty's bid to

win the Wimbledon sin-

gles title on the 50th

anniversary of fellow

indigenous Australian

Cawley's first victory

stayed on course on

Evonne



Italy's Francesco Acerbi during a training session with his teammates ahead of the

#### **50-50 CHANCE FOR KDB AND EDEN: COACH**

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

Coach Roberto Martinez said both players were "50/50" to feature against Italy in Munich on Friday. "Italy will attack from

the very first second; they will be very structured and dynamic. Every player knows his role. The game against Portugal was a game that could have been played a lot further down the line; usually players don't play these physical and intense games at this stage of the tournament," added

Midfielder Thorgan Hazard said: "Italy will be the toughest opponent. They've had a good run of

wins and it will be a nice challenge for us to end that sequence. Their style may suit us more than Portugal. They are enterprising so we may be able to profit from the open

### Swiss eye another big scalp games after a slow start to

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

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

Now the Swiss hope to spring another surprise against a Spain team that the group stage. Alvaro Morata's redemptive strike helped secure a

5-3 extra-time win over Croatia, but Spain will need to cut out the errors if they are to contend for a record fourth European Championship. The Juventus forward

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

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

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

2012 triumph. The win over Croatia was Spain's first in a knockout fixture since they beat Italy 4-0 to claim the second of back-to-back

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

embarrassing lapse of concentration, allowing a Pedri back-pass to roll off his foot for an own goal, but recovered his composure to make a crucial save in extra time.

"It was a miscontrol. I've seen it six or seven times now and I've got a bit worked up about it," said Simon.

"The sun's not bothering me and it doesn't bounce awkwardly. I think I tried to get the ball out of my instead of stopping it.

"It's an accident and something that can be fixed," he added.

and Alexa Guarachi to

move to the second round

of the women's doubles

event at the Wimbledon

Championships, here on

Sania and Mattek-Sands

were a bit rusty at the start but once they got

their rhythm they domi-

nated the match and won

7-5 6-3 against the American-Chilean combi-

nation in one hour and 27

minutes. Pressure was

put on the pair early in the match when Mattek-

Sands served the third

game that featured seven device points. — PTI

**NOVAK, ROGER,** 

**NAOMI ON ENTRY** 

LISTS FOR TOKYO

**Wimbledon, July 1:** Serbia's Novak Djokovic,

Federer, Japan's Naomi

Osaka and Australia's

Ash Barty are on the entry lists for the Tokyo Olympics that were

announced on Thursday

As the ITF noted, though: "The entry lists are still subject to change." Federer, for one,

said last weekend he

would wait until after

Wimbledon ends on July

11 to decide whether he

Djokovic would like to

pursue a Golden Slam,

something only Steffi Graf has done: winning

all major tennis tourna-

ments and an Olympic

singles gold medal in the

will head to Japan.

Tennis Federation.

the International

Switzerland's

Thursday.

# **IN FIRST ROUND**

**London, July 1:** Sania Mirza and her American the Arjuna award. partner Bethanie Mattek Sands knocked out sixth seeds Desirae Krawczyk

World Championship, is the only men's singles shuttler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games. Srikanth has been

The federation also sent

New Delhi, July 1: applications of S Olympic-bound shuttler Muralidharan and PU Sai Praneeth and Bhaskar Babu for the Leroy D'sa and PVV

nated for the Dhyanchand award. Reigning women's world rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy has been

nominated for the prestigious Khel Ratna award by the All India Chess Federation (AICF). Humpy is already a recipient of the Arjuna

award and Padma Shri. Also, seven other players — Vidit S Gujrathi, B

Adhiban, S.P. Sethuraman, M R Lalith Babu, Bhakti Kulkarni and Padmini Rout have been nominated for the Arjuna award, AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan said. — PTI Chauhan said.

# 2 UAE cricketers banned for fixing

charged both the Pakistanborn cricketers back on September 13, 2020, the backdated quantum of sentence was passed on the

day. "The bans are backdated

the ICC release stated.

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

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

As per ICC's anti-corruption code, the duo has been charged on five counts which includes failure to a cor trying disclose corrupt approach. improperly influence the outcome of a match, and

accepting gifts worth more

than \$750. "In October 2019, the ICC ACU commenced an investigation into allegations that members of the UAE senior international team may have had dealings with a known corruption network controlled by an Indian man named," the

Both cricketers had taken 15,000 AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham totalling USD 4083 approx) from an

COPA AMERICA

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

# Neymar back for Chile clash

Rio de Janeiro, July 1: with goals by David Luiz Defending champion Brazil and Chile will have their star players back in action when they meet in the Copa America quarterfinals on Friday.

Neymar will return for Brazil and Alexis Sánchez has recovered from a calf muscle injury ahead of the Santos Stadium in Rio de

Janeiro.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Coach Martín Lasarte is yet to decide whether 32year-old Sánchez will start against Brazil or come off the bench.

## **HUMPY, PRANEETH JOIN RATNA NOMINEES LIST**

Kidambi Srikanth have Dronacharya award. been nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Lakshmi have been nomi award by the Badminton Association of India, which has also recommended three players for

Praneeth, who won a bronze medal at the 2019

struggling of late but won four titles in 2017. The Badminton Association of India (BAI) nominated HS

honour.

Prannoy, Pranav Jerry Chopra and Sameer Verma for the Arjuna

# Dubai, July 1: The ICC on

Thursday banned two UAE players Amir Hayat and Ashfaq Ahmed for eight years after they were found guilty of trying to fix T20 World Cup qualifying round matches in their country, colluding with an

Indian bookie.
While the ICC's Anti-Corruption Tribunal had

to 13 September 2020, when they were provisionally suspended for corrupt conduct in relation to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019 in the UAE,"

Indian bookie, identified as Mr 'Y' in the ICC charge-

'She pushed me incredi-

Goolagong



Svitolina Polished off

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

#### THE RESULTS

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

meeting with Czech Katerina Siniakova.

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

The

However, Barty produced a far from perfect bly hard," said Barty. **COCO MAKES** performance in her 6-4, 6-**ANOTHER RUN** win over Russia's Anna Blinkova as she progressed to a third round

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

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

17-vear-old