# icle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

**NELLORE | TUESDAY | 15 JUNE 2021** 



**RH:** 48%

Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: clear. Max/Min

temp. 37/29 ºC

#### ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana Tithi: Jyeshta Shuddha Panchami till 10.53 pm Star: Ashlesha till 9.38 pm Varjyam: 9.55 am to 11.35 am Durmuhurtam: 8.21 am to 9.14 am;11.10 pm to 11.54 am **Rahukalam:** 3 pm to 4.30 pm HIJRI CALENDAR

Zeeqad 3,1442 AH PRAYERS (SHAHI MASJID) Fajar: 4.20 am **Zohar:** 12.10 pm Asar: 4.45 pm Maghrib: 6.40 pm **Isha:** 7.59 pm SUNSET TODAY 6.39 PM

**SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.41 AM MOONRISE** TODAY 9.41 AM MOONSET TOMORROW 11.30 PM



This is the record of undercounted Covid deaths...

### **ACTIVE COVID CASES DECLINE BELOW 10 LAKH**

New Delhi: Daily cases of Covid-19 in India saw a big dip on Monday with 70,421 new detections. This was the lowest after 74 days. Though such low numbers are often due to reduced testing on Sundays, the Jnion health ministry said a total of 14.92 lakh tests were conducted in the last 24 hours in the country. Officials said India's active caseload has dropped below the 10 lakh-mark after 66 days and daily recoveries continue to outnumber the daily new Covid cases for more than a month now. India's Recovery Rate is 95.43 per cent at present while daily Positivity Rate stands at 4.72 per cent. However, the death toll still remains a cause of concerns as nearly 4,000 deaths were reported in one day. Since cases have started coming down many States and Union Territories have started easing Covid-19 restrictions. However, West Bengal has extended curbs till July 1 but is opening up restaurants and manufacturing

## **43% Indians skip China products**

New Delhi: A half of Indian consumers surveyed said they did not buy made-in-China products in the past 12 months as an aftermath of the border tensions with China, a report by online firm LocalCircles on Monday said. The report is based on a survey, which was conducted during June 1-10 and covered 17,800 citizens. Imports from China, however, increased 42 per cent during January-May 2021, due to Covid cases

#### **RBI to regulate** microfinance

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Monday proposed a uniform regulatory framework for the microfinance sector, wherein MFIs can provide collateral-free loans to households at board-determined interest rates. Microfinance is a form of financial service which provides small loans and other financial services to poor and low-income

## WORLD 5

**Biden ready to talk to China and Russia** 



## SPORTS 8

**Brazil begin Copa** campaign in style

DC CORRESPONDENT

The annual 2021-22 loan plan for Andhra Pradesh is of the order of ₹2,83,380

crore. Chief Minister Y.S.

while announcing this,

has urged bankers to coop-

erate with the government

in the implementation of

cultural loans.

Bankers

ant farmers.

schemes development activities along with providing agri-

The Chief Minister conducted a review meeting

with 215th State-Level

(SLBC) on Monday and released the 2021-22 annu-

al loan plan. He directed

the banks to concentrate

on providing loans to ten-

Jagan Mohan Reddy said

unpredictable situations arose around the world

and even across the coun-

try and restrictions like

curfew were imposed to

contain the Covid-19 pan-

demic. Though the curfew was extended, stipulated targets were crossed in

loan disbursement, he

said, and added that 105

per cent of targets were

achieved in priority sec-

tors and 114.16 per cent in agriculture sector.

banks in achieving this

growth rate was commendable. They have exceeded the stipulated targets in loan disburse-

ments. Yet, the efficiency

of banks needed to be

increased in certain areas like agriculture infra,

The CM said the role of

Committee

Mohan Reddy,

VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

#### **TABLOID**

**Huma makes a** splash again

Welfare, development

guide AP's annual plan

Jagan asks banks to give priority to tenant farmers

Vol. 18 No. 340 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

## **India to restore 26m acres** of degraded land, says PM

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

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday evening told the United Nations that India is "on track to achieve its national commitment of land degradation neutrality and ... working towards restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030".

This, he said, would "contribute to India's commitment to achieve an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equiva-

He was delivering his keynote address in virtual format at the UN "High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land degradation and Drought".
"Land is the fundamental building block for sup-

porting all lives and livelihoods. All of us understand the web of life functions as an inter-connected system. Sadly, land degradation affects over two-thirds of the world today," Mr Modi said, adding: "If left unchecked, it will erode the very foundations of our societies, economies, food security, health, safety and quality of life. Therefore, we have to reduce the tremendous pressure on land and its resources. Clearly, a lot of work lies ahead of us. But

**PRICE GAP WITH** 

**KARNATAKA** 

**HITS BUNKS** 

**ON AP BORDER** 

DC CORRESPONDENT

Abnormal difference in

diesel prices between AP and Karnataka/Puduc-

herry is jolting fuel out-

lets in border areas as

hundreds of outlets in AP

are incurring huge loss-

es. Many of them have

closed shop following poor business due to a

difference of ₹6 on a litre

of diesel. Meanwhile, the

vast difference in fuel

price was directly bene-

fiting mostly construc-

tion companies and

other engineering sec-

tors involved in govern-

This peculiar situation

has been prevalent in the state for the past several

years because of the dif-

ference of VAT com-

pared to other states.

Diesel price was ₹97.29
per litre in AP while
₹91.10 in Yanam of
Puducherry and ₹92.97 in
Korneteke on Mondoy

Karnataka on Monday.

The fuel outlets in border

areas of AP were unable to compete with Karna-

taka outlets while trans-

porters and construction

companies prefer to pur-

chase from Karnataka

Page 2: Fuel dealers

Paris: Novak Djokovic for joy and in shock at the

gesture.

ask state to review tax

said he gave away his

French Open winning rac-

quet to a young boy watching courtside for "giving me the right tactics".

The world number one

claimed a 19th Grand Slam

title and became the first

man in 52 years to win all

four majors twice when he

came from two sets down to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas

At the end of the four-

hour and 11-minute final,

the 34-year-old Djokovic

handed his racquet to the

youngster who was then

pictured on TV jumping

6-7 (6/8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

outlets in Rayalaseema.

ment contract works.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land degradation and Drought', through video conferencing, in New Delhi on

we can do it. We can do it land degradation issues."

Said Mr Modi: "It is mankind's collective responsibility to reverse the damage to land caused by human activity. It is our sacred duty to leave a healthy planet for our

future generations."
The Prime Minister added: "Land degradation poses a special challenge to the developing world. In the spirit of South-South cooperation, India is assisting fellow developing countries to develop land restoration strategies. A centre of excellence is being set up in India to promote a scientific approach towards

He further said: "In India, we have always given importance to land and considered the sacred Earth as our mother. India has taken the lead to highlight land degradation issues at international forums. The Delhi Declaration of 2019 called for better access and stewardship over land, and emphasised gender-sensitive transformative projects. In India, over the last 10 years, around three million hectares of forest cover has been added. This has enhanced the combined forest cover to almost one-fourth of the

# country's total area. Be prepared for 3rd wave, Jagan directs officials

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy held a review meeting here on Monday on the prevailing Covid situation, as also the measures to be taken for treatment of infants and children in the event of a third wave and on the setting up of health hubs at district headquarters.
The Chief Minister directed the health offi-

cials to ensure treatment for the post Covid health problems of children under the Aarogyasri scheme.

During the review meeting, the officials explained to the Chief Minister about the data from June 6 to 12 and said the number of cases in the state has dropped significantly. The positive cases' rate had decreased to 6.58 per cent while it was 25.56 per cent on May 16. The positivity rate in all districts is less than 17.5 per cent, the officials said.

The positivity rate in seven districts is less than nine per cent and it's between 10-19 per cent in six districts Chittoor,

"He was in my ear the

entire match basically,

especially when I was two

sets to love down. He was

encouraging me. He was

actually giving me tactics, as well," said Djokovic.

serve, get an easy first ball,

then dictate, go to his back-

hand.' He was coaching me

literally. "I found that very

cute, very nice. So I felt

like giving the racquet to

the best person was him

"He was like, 'Hold your

Anantapur, Prakasam, Krishna, East Godavari West Godavari). Active cases reduced to 85,637 and the recovery rate rose to 94.61 per cent.

Five lakh calls were made to 104 Call Centre from April 15 while 6,41,094 outgoing calls were made. Some 2,700 calls were being made at present on a daily basis.

As many as 2,303 black fungus cases were registered till June 14, from which 157 patients died. A GO was released as per the advice of the CM to support the families of health department staff succumbed Covid19, they said.

The CM directed the officials to ensure these personnel received financial assistance soon. He also spoke of a plan to provide financial assistance to health staff of private hosnitals who died while treating Covid patients. The officials informed the Chief Minister about treatment facilities for

Page 2: CM wants focus on paediatric heath care

children in government

hospitals.

Party MPs in Lok Sabha have joined hands against their leader Chirag Paswan and elected Pashupati late father and the party founder Ram Vilas Paswan, in his place, causing a big churn in Bihar

The Lok Sabha Secretariat on Monday evening recognised Paras as the leader of the LJP in the House, a day after the five MPs informed Speaker Om Birla about their decision, Paras lauded Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as a good leader "vikas purush" (development-oriented man), highlighting the deep fault lines within the party as his nephew has been a strong critic of the supreme JD(U) leader.

Governor B.B. Harichandan at Raj Bhavan in Vijayawada on Monday. other agriculture allied second phase of Nadu sectors, housing and edu-Nedu scheme. There are no tier-1 cities in Andhra Schools and hospitals are Pradesh. People are going being revamped under the to Bengaluru, Hyderabad Nadu Nedu scheme and focus is laid on developing and Chennai for treatment. Medical infrastructure is being developed from Village Clinics to infrastructure facilities in the agriculture sector, he said. English is introduced Teaching hospitals across the state. Sixteen new medical colleges are being set up in the state and AP as a medium of instruction in government schools and CBSE affiliation is completed. As a result, "chilis moving forward to dren are coming back to

government schools." The CM said schools are being revamped under the

ensure a teaching hospital in every parliamentary

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy presents Lord Venkateswara Swami's photo to

constituency.

He said revolutionary

changes were made in the agriculture sector and RBKs were introduced with one RBK for every 2,000 population. These RBKs will support farmers in all aspects —from pro-viding certified quality seeds to selling the crop.

Agriculture infrastructure is being developed at RBK level and godowns, cold storages and all other facilities are being provided to farmers, he said.

Page 2: Steps were taken to empower women: CM

## Coup in LJP; Chirag gets ejected, uncle in saddle

of the six Lok Janshakti Kumar Paras, the youngest brother of Paswan's politics.

"I have not broken the party but saved it," Paras, the MP from Hajipur, told The LS Secretariat on Monday evening recognised Paras as the leader of the LJP in the House, a day after the five MPs informed Speaker Om Birla

about their decision.

He asserted that 99 per cent of LJP workers were unhappy with the turn of events in Bihar as Paswan led his party against the JD(U) and it fared poorly in the 2020 assembly polls.

The LJP has been on the brink of collapse, he said in reference to its poor show in the polls, and lashed out at "anti-social" elements in the party, an apparent pointer to a close aide of Paswan whose proximity to him has not gone down well with many party leaders

Paras said his group will continue to be part of the BJP-led NDA, and added that Paswan can remain in the organisation. There has been no com-

ment from Paswan on the development in his party. Soon after Paras spoke to reporters, Paswan drove to his uncle's residence in the national capital to

meet him Paswan, who has not been keeping well for some time, waited for over 20 minutes in his car before he was let into the house and then left after spending more than an hour inside. He left without saying a word to waiting media persons.

It is believed that neither of the two rebel MPs met him. A household help said the two were not at home when the LJP chief arrived.

Paras had long been unhappy with Paswan's style of functioning and was joined by other MPs, including Chandan Singh, Veena Devi and Mehboob Ali Kaiser, as they believed that his campaign against Nitish Kumar had left them at a disadvantage in the state.



P. Ashok Gajapati Raju

## **HC CANCELS SANCHAITA'S APPOINTMENT**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 14

Andhra Pradesh High Court has struck down appointment of Sanchaita Gajapati Raju as chairperson of Maharaja Alak Narayan Society of Arts and Science (Mansas) and Simhachalam temple trusts. Further, the court restored former minister and TD politburo member P. Áshok Gajapati Raju as chairman of both these trusts.

While cancelling GO No. 74 issued in March 2020 appointing Sanchaita Gajapathi Raju, High Court judge Justice N Venkataramana upheld the appointment of Ashok Gajapati Raju made in 2016.

Urmila Gajapathi Raju, second daughter of Ananda Gajapati Raju who is the elder brother of Ashok Gajapati Raju, was nominated but disqualified as she was below 30 years of age. Sunita Prasad, sister of Ashok and Anand, did not take oath. It is mandatory to take oath within 30 days of the nomination. Sanchaita is the daughter of Anand

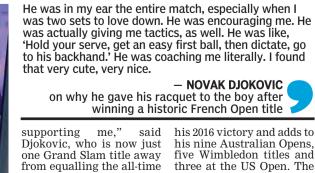
Gajapati Raju Ashok Gajapathi Raju had filed two petitions in the High Court challenging the appointments made under Government Order 74.

■ Page 2: HC dismisses state govt. GO



LOVE | ALL | Tennis ace gifts his historic French title winning racquet to courtside kid 'coach'

after the match. That was Tennis world No.1 Novak Djokovic gives away his racquet kind of my gratitude for to a young boy after winning the French Open on Sunday. him sticking with me and



It was a second French crown for Djokovic after

record of 20, jointly held by

Roger Federer and Rafael

tiple occasions and just the third in history.

34-year-old is the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to

win all four Slams on mul-



















households.

SHORT TAKES

### **CM TO RELEASE FUNDS FOR YSR VAHANA MITRA**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

The Chief Minister will release a financial assistance of ₹10,000 under the third phase of YSR Vahana Mitra scheme on Tuesday for eligible auto rickshaw and taxi drivers, a month in advance, by crediting a total of ₹248.47 crore into the accounts of 2,48,468 beneficiaries.

In view of the ongoing pandemic crisis, the state government decided to extend a helping hand to the auto and taxi drivers by providing the YSR Vahana Mitra scheme a month in advance. As many as 42,932 beneficiaries have applied for the scheme this year, wherein a total of 2,48,468 will be receiving the aid. Over two lakh persons have benefitted from the scheme in the previous year.

As part of this scheme, financial assistance will be provided to drivers who have their own auto, taxi and maxi cabs. Out of the total 2,48,468 beneficiaries under the scheme, 59,692 are SCs, 1,38,372 are BCs, 9,910 are STs and 40,494 are OCs. A majority of the beneficiaries are from back-ward classes and other weaker

### PROTECT SCHOOL PLAYGROUND, NAIDU **TELLS COLLECTOR**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** TIRUPATI, JUNE 14

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Supremo Nara Chandrababu Naidu wrote a letter to Chittoor district collector M. Harinarayanan, alleging that the YSR Congress party lead-ers are attempting to illegally occupy land in Palakuru village in Puthalapattu assembly segment in Chittoor district.

In his letter, Naidu said that a piece of land to an extent of 1.25 acres, which is currently being used as a school playground in survey no. 805 and 2.05 acres of village common grazing land in survey number 788/2 has been targeted by the ruling YSRC leaders. He alleged that the supporters of the YSRC leaders are in the process of erecting huts and other structures to illegally grab the school playground and the panchayat land.

"In the connection with the issue, the High Court of AP, in its order, has categorically said that the panchayat land cannot panchayat." Naidu mentioned

## **RAJU WILL BE SUSPENDED SOON: REDDEPPA**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** TIRUPATI, JUNE 14

Coming down heavily on MP Raghu Ramakrishna Raju for commenting against YSRC's interests and even mocking the party chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chittoor MP N. Reddeppa said that the party high command is working on to suspend the rebel MP from the party as he lacks loyalty.

Speaking to media persons in Chittoor on Monday, MP Reddeppa alleged that Narsapuram MP Raju was hatching a conspiracy to pull down the YSRC government even when CM Jagan Mohan Reddy called him into the party and gave him a ticket to contest the elections.

"MP Raju lacks loyalty to the party. The BJP and TĎP was using the Narsapuram MP as a pawn in his plot against our party. It was, however, his own fault to provoke the party and he will get suspend soon", the

MP said.
MP Reddeppa accused Raghu Ramakrishna of swindling hundreds of crores of money in the name of power projects in AP, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. He demanded the MP Raju and those who have instigated him must not be spared and strict action should be taken against them as per

HYDERABAD: YSRC rebel MP Raghu Ramakrishna Raju filed a rejoinder petition on Monday to deny the allegations made against him by AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in the special court for CBI cases. The Chief Minister had filed a counteraffidavit to Raju's original petition seeking cancellation of bail in the quid pro quo cases. In his turn, Raju levelled a series of allegations against the Chief Minister.

## **Employees stage protest**



AP Ward and Village Secretariat employees protest outside the District Collectorate in Visakhapatnam on Monday, demanding that the government fix work timings for them and ensure that their work only at the Ward and Village

# **Registrations along NH** stalled, farmers worried

## Sources say govt put registrations on hold to cut compensation

DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, JUNE 14

Farmers and plot owners are in dire straits as the state government has suspended land registrations adjacent to the proposed Rajampet-Renigunta National Highway 716 since past year.

It is learnt centre's ministry of surface transport has proposed construction of a straight national highway without crossing the railway line from Vontimitta to Renigunta in Kadapa district. The highway, costing ₹2,800 crore; will be a four-lane road with a length of about 120 km and width of 150 metres.

Necessary land acquisition has also been completed in this regard. 215 hectares of land has been acquired for construction of the proposed road from Kanumalopalle Cross to increased.

**FUEL DEALERS** 

**ASK STATE TO** 

**REVIEW TAX** 

The companies report

edly quote tenders about

purchase of fuel from AP outlets but procure

unofficially from other

states and stand to bene-

fit by more than 12 per

Prasad, an analyst, observed that about 35

per cent of the budget

should be spent on fuel

in various forms, dig-

ging machinery, con-struction and trans-

An outlet dealer from

borders

lamented that the busi-

ness was not even to the level of petty shops in

"We need to pay at least

₹15000 towards salaries

of workers", he said.
Presently, Polavaram,
Handri Neeva Sujala
Shravanthi, TB canals
and road works are

being executed in the

state. An irrigation work

against an estimated cost of ₹1,500 crore

entails ₹600 crore on

diesel, a fuel outlet deal-

er revealed. Normally, a machine requires minimum 20-30 litres of fuel

per hour during digging of sluice and other

Even as associations

have represented to the

state government to review VAT and make

the price like it is in

Pondicherry, no action

has been taken so far in

Madakasira area lament-

ed that the business was

not even to the level of

areas. We need to pay

at least ₹15000 towards

salaries of workers, he

AN OUTLET dealer

from the borders of

petty shops in rural

works.

Karnataka

this regard.

From Page 1

cent.

portation.

Madakasira

rural areas.

 SPEAKING TO the Deccan Chronicle, Rajampet tahsildar Ravi Shankar Reddy said land acquisition for the national highway has been completed in their area.

Bhakarapeta, Vontimitta, Nandalur, Rajampet and Railway Koduru. Last year, a meeting had been arranged at the Kadapa collector's office with owners of private lands with regard to compensation to be paid for the acquired lands.

Following the announcement of the centre with regard to the highway, real business Rajampet-Rayachoti route in Rajampet town has been booming. An acre of land here is already priced at ₹2–3 crore. Most of the lands in the area are being bought and sold for residential purposes. As the new national highway is adjacent to the railway track, the demand for these lands has further

However, farmers who have given land as per requirements of the national highway, are unable to sell rest of their land as government has suspended land registra-Railway Pullampeta and other

It is rumoured that the government is withholding land registrations here to reduce compensation. Information is that if registrations are allowed, the value of the land will increase. Farmers may then go to court demanding compensation based on the current value of

For example, if a farmer with five acres of land in a survey number loses 50 cents of land in construc-

tion of the national high-way, he will be unable to sell the remaining four and a half acres even if he is in dire need of money. This way there is a lockdown on sale of hundreds of acres of land in Rajampet mandal alone. Leave alone realtors and

big landlords; middle class people who had bought just 3–5 cents of land are having trouble registering their lands. They all want the government to respond and grant permission for registration of lands next to the national highway.

Speaking to the *Deccan Chronicle*, Rajampet tahsildar Ravi Shankar Reddy said land acquisition for the national highway has been completed in their area. He said they cannot do anything about registrations, as the state government is yet to take a decision on the issue.



**TRIMURTHULU** 





## CM meets Governor, gets nod for four MLC names

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his wife Y. S. Bharati paid a courtesy visit to the Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and his wife at the Raj Bhavan here on Monday. Jagan Mohan Reddy explained his recent Delhi tour details to the Governor and further explained the measures initiated by the gov-ernment towards containment of Covid-19. The meeting lasted for 45

minutes and according to sources, Jagan Mohan Reddy sought approval for names of YSRCP leaders for four MLC seats under Governor's quota.

Earlier Jagan Mohan Reddy had selected K. Moshen Raju, Lella Appi Reddy, R.V. Ramesh Yadav and Thota Trimurthulu for the recently vacated four MLC posts under Governor's quota and sent the same to the Governor for approval. The Opposition Telugu Desam Party objected to the names claiming they were ineligible as they were facthe names also was not given by the Governor hence the Chief Minister met Harichandan on Monday. Sources informed that Jagan

informed about the four leaders and the Governor approved them for vacant MLC posts. Meanwhile, Guntur Municipal Corporation Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu with YSRCP lead-

ers met Lella Appi Reddy on Monday night and congratulated him for getting MLC post under

## Blame Naidu for land grab in Vizag: Avanti

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 14

Taking advantage of loopholes in the abolished estate and inam acts, TDP lands, tourism minister Muttamsetti (Avering Srinivae be

Addressing a press conference in Visakhapatnam on Monday, the minister said all parties must sup-port the state government in reclaiming encroached lands from the illegal occupation TDP leaders.

Avanti Srinivas explained that TDP lead-ers with active support from former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu grabbed huge chunks of land in Visakhapatnam during TDP's rule. He asserted that it is the responsibility of the government Visakhapatnam safe from

such encroachers. "Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy does not discriminate between him, us, party and caste. Soon, the SIT report on Vizag land scam will be made public. Action will be initiated against all

## TD LEADER ADMITTED LAND GRABBING, **SOUGHT PROBE, SAYS AMARNATH**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 14

Official spokesperson of YSRC and Anakapalli MLA Gudivada Amarnath pointed out that Chandrababu Naidu had been forced to constitute an SIT on insistence of Ayyanna Patrudu.

Addressing a press conference, he pointed out that a former collector had pointed out that land documents pertaining to one lakh acres of govern-

ment land had disappeared during the super cyclone Hudhud that hit Visakhapatnam in 2014. 'There was only a wind but no rain. Chandrababu Naidu must explain how the documents disappeared," Amarnath stat-

He went on to allege that as Naidu had slept in a bus in collectorate for over a week after Hudhud hit the coast, he will have a better knowledge about the missing documents.

those involved in the land scam," the minister declared. He alleged

Chandrababu keeps himself busy only with conspiracies and intrigues against YSRC government to destabilise it. While the government is making efforts to reclaim encroached lands, the reclaim TDP chief and his son Lokesh are making false allegations that YSRCP leaders are grab-

Gajapati Raju told Deccan

Chronicle soon after the

court order. Ashok Gajapathi Raju

told reporters in Vizianagaram that the

decree proved that the

Constitution and courts

"I have to check what all

damages have been done to the temple during my absence," Raju told

Meanwhile, sources said the state government has decided to approach the

Supreme Court against

the High Court orders.

Endowments minister Vellampalli Srinivas met Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy soon

after the court verdict

and briefed him about the

judgment. The CM

the High Court orders in

earlier GO and ordering

the government to rein-

After meeting the CM

Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy,

the minister spoke to the

media persons and made

it clear that they would go

for appeal against the HC order in MANSAS Trust

case. He said that they are

going through the High

Court order and would

continue the legal battle. Minister Srinivas Rao

said that there was no

development to the Trust

during the Telugu Desam

regime. Rubbishing the comments of TDP MLC Nara Lokesh, the minis-ter said that Lokesh is

neither a grownup child

nor a kid to understand

these issues. He said that

if a court gives an order

that is not the end of the case, there are many

courts to fight legal bat-

tles. He said that they

found a few irregularities

in the Trust that took

place and are legalising

everything and all things

will be done legally as per

advised

against

are still intact.

reporters.

reportedly

state Ashok.

**GOVERNMENT TO GO FOR APPEAL** 

issued

Avanti Srinivas said Telugu Desam leadership cannot deny that its lead-ers indulged in large-scale grabbing of government lands in Visakhapatnam. Even former minister and present politburo member Ch. Ayyanna Patrudu publicly came out against nis own ministerial colleague and asked Chandrababu Naidu to initiate a probe into land encroachments.

**CM WANTS FOCUS** 

**ON PAEDIATRIC** 

## **HC** dismisses state govt. GO

From Page 1

Ashok Gajapathi Raju counsel argued that elders should be trustees in their old age, as they are hereditary trustees. He thus contended that AP government's appointment of chairpersons of these trusts had been against rules. The gov-ernment, however, con-tended that the appointment was made in accordance with rules.

The High Court agreed with arguments submit-ted by Ashok Gajapati Raju and struck down the GO issued by the AP gov-

Sanchaita had said that since her father Ananda Gajapathi Raju had been the chairman of 104 temples as a member of erstwhile royal Vizianagaram family, she urged that she should also be recognised

"I am yet to see the copy of the High Court order. I the apex court, sources added.

DC CORRESPONDENT

Minister for endowments

Vellampalli Srinivas Rao

said that the government

is likely to go for appeal objecting to the AP HC verdict on MANSAS Trust. He stated that the

orders to the MANSAS

Trust according to the

law hence now would thoroughly go through the Court orders to chal-

The High Court on

Monday dismissed the

government order per-taining to replacement of chairman of MANSAS

Trust and Simhachalam

Earlier the government removed P. Ashok

removed P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju from the

chairman post and appointed his brother

Allanda Gajapatin's daughter Sanchaita Gajapati Raju. The order was challenged by Ashok in the High Court and it gave its verdict on Monday cancelling the

Gajapathi's

lenge the directions.

Devasthanams

government

VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

**ON MANSAS VERDICT** 

#### **HEALTHCARE** From Page 1 am not the kind of woman to give up the fight so easily," Sanchaita

An action plan on increasing ICU beds and providing oxygen to infants and children was being implemented, and a plan to increase ICU beds to 1,600 and oxygen beds to 3,777 for children was also being put in place. Plans were on to recruit pediatricians, staff nurses and other supporting staff, offi-

cials noted. The Chief Minister asked them to complete the recruitment in one month's time. He asked the officials to be prepared for any contingencies and provide train-

ing to nurses and staff in pediatrics issues. The officials said children are facing post-Covid-19 health problems related to lungs and kidneys. It was then that the CM asked them to them under Arogyasri. rates Arogyasri so that hospitals won't suffer, he said,

and added that Arogyasri bills are being paid to network hospitals within three weeks. The CM told officials that health hubs should be setup nearby habitations and ensure hospitals are setup at all directions in towns and cities. The main objective of health hubs is to introduce modern treatment techniques, and ensure that the facilities similar

to those of multi-specialhospitals ty hospitals in Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad are available in AP as well.

He said districts should attain self-suffi-

ciency in providing health-related treatment services through these health hubs. Prepare guidelines regarding health hubs within two weeks, the CM asked

officials.

Dy CM Alla Krishna
Srinivas, Covid-19 command control chairman Dr Jawahar Reddy, additional DG Ravi Ayyanar, health principal secretary A.K. Singhal, Covid task force committee chairman Babu, were among the officials present.

# Steps were taken to empower women:

From Page 1

Many steps were being taken to empower women in the state and schemes like Cheyutha and Aasara have been implemented. The beneficiaries will be given financial assistance for four years under these schemes.

The Amma Vodi scheme is also being implemented for women and these three schemes would play a major role in empowerment of women.

Jagan Mohan Reddy said 17,000 new greenfield

colonies are being constructed in which 28.30 lakh houses will be built. Poor eligible beneficiaries were selected in a transparent manner for the housing scheme. Some 15 lakh houses are being constructed in Phase-1 and facilities like drinking water, drainage, roads and other social infrastructure

are being developed. He said ₹34,000 crore is being spent on this scheme and requested support from banks on these

The Chief Minister said

Restart and Navodaya programmes are introduced for MSMEs and a loan restructuring programme was initiated. This is needed to provide assistance and run MSMEs during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Chief Minister said RBKs are set up at village level and e-cropping is being done at village secretariat level. He advised bankers to focus on pro-

farmers. The state annual credit plan for 2021-22 is finalized with an outlay of ₹2,83,380

viding loans to tenant

crore. Of this, 54 per cent of the loans are for the agriculture sector. It is targeted to give ₹1,48,500 crore as loans in the agriculture sector.

The target is also to provide ₹2,13,560 crore as loans to the primary sector which formed 75.36 per cent of the state's annual credit plan. Participating in the state

level bankers committee (SLBC) meeting virtually, Union Bank MD and CEO Raj Kiran Roy said the Chief Minister took many measures to support peo-

ple during the Covid-19 pandemic. Under Jagan, Andhra Pradesh has emerged as one of the five top-performing states in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Year 2020. This is as per the rankings released by Niti Aayog, he

CM for this.

He said banks should focus on supporting tenant farmers and providing services in RBKs. While the loan disbursement target for primary sector is ₹1,87,550 crore, gramme.

said and congratulated the

were disbursed and the target for agriculture sector was ₹1,28,660 crore, but ₹1,46,879 crore in loans

was given. He said the MSME sector has received ₹40,312 crore as loans while the target was ₹39,600 crore and the non-priority sector has received ₹60,652 crore while the target was ₹60,050 crore.

He requested the Chief Minister to give priority to bank employees in Covidvaccination

SHORT

## **ANDHRA VARSITY SIGNS MOU**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 14

Andhra University Andnra University and Intellectual Property Talent Search Examination (IPTSE) academy signed an MoU to promote IP culture in all educational institutions across the State. The MoU was signed by the AU registrar Prof V. Krishna Mohan and the IPTSE's Sourabh Sachdeva.

Sachdeva said that IPTSE and Andhra University act as a state IPR nodal agency organise workshops, seminars, webinars, organise training programs to faculty members and students and prepare the students for the IP Olympiad Examination and offer internships to students.

While delivering the inaugural address in the IP literacy drive webinar, the AU vice-chancellor Prof P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy highlighted the various initiatives taken by various initiatives taken by the university to promote IP. He has also mentioned that the University is making it mandatory to file IP applications for PhD students particularly to start with who registers for PhD from industry.

#### HERD OF **ELEPHANTS CREATE PANIC**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** /ISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 14

A herd of elephants allegedly created panic among the residents of villages in Bhamini mandal of Srikakulam district on Monday. The locals alleged that the elephants came out of the forest into residential

areas during the day. When contacted, Srikakulam district forest officer Sandeep K. Gundala told this newspaper that the elephants keep roaming in the border cover of Andhra and Odisha in Bhamini mandal. The herd did not create any panic situation in the mandal on Monday.

I personally visited the spot along with my supporting team from Parvatipuram range. We have alerted our cracker team also in the mandal. Since the Covid-19 induced curfew was going on, there would be no chances of man-animal conflict," Sandeep said.

The Parvatipuram range officer Routhu Rajasekhar said that the herd were spotted at Talada and Kosali in Bhamini mandal, along the river Vamsadhara on Monday.

## PARTS OF VISAKHAPATNAM

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 14

Many areas in Visakhapatnam received rains on Monday. Narsipatnam received 15 mm of rainfall, highest in the state, while agency areas like Paderu received 10 mm of rainfall. The cloudy weather conditions would continue to prevail for the next two days.

The rains were attributed to the presence of the low pressure system over north coastal Odisha and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal. The IMD Amaravati Centre officials said that monsoon would be active in the state with light to moderate rains in isolated places in the next few days.



WANTED DME for CNC milling VMC &HMC operators & Programmer trainee or experience, ITI machinists. Location: Hyderabad, Balanagar (HYMM/2122/C01663)

#### **EDUCATIONAL DISTANCE EDUCATION**

ONLY FOR Educationa Consultants/ Academies. No Ivance Fee. Students please no call. Contact for Verifiable +Fast Track: Graduation (15,000)/ B.Ed.-M.Ed. -NCTE- Recognised (30000)/ BBA-MBA- BCA-MCA (20-25.000 from Government University. ECA WES/ IQAS/ICAS Documentation &Attestation Support Available, 48-Educationa Experience. Shiksha Bharti Varanasi. Mobile: 9519759663 9915103781. Email: shikshabhar-

## t i 8 8 @ y a h o o . c o m (HYMM/2122/C01665) NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. shall not be held responsible / liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.

## **More Covid tests**



Healthcare wokers collect swabs from people for Covid-19 tests at a primary health centre at Akkayyapalem in Visakhapatnam on Friday.

# First city to have highest no. of solar street lamps

## GVMC plans to set up 10,000 solar street lights in the city

DC CORRESPONDENT

Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) is planning to set up 10,000 solar street lights in the city. Once that happens, Vizag will be the first city in the country to have the high-est number of solar street lamps, thus contributing to environmental protection in its own

way.
GVMC's electrical wing is preparing a detailed project report in this regard, which will be placed before the council for approval.

The estimated cost of the project will be around ₹20 crore. The lamps will be set up along the beach road, covering nearly 10 km the Fishing

10,000 solar street lights over 10 km of beach

Project will cost ₹20 crore.

Vizag has nearly 1.2 lakh street lights.

Harbour junction to ect report to place it Visalakshinagar beach. before the council led by Areas to come under solar street lighting include RK beach, include Submarine Kursura Submarine Museum, The Park Road Junction, VMRDA Park, Appughar.

Confirming this project proposal to Deccan proposal *Chronicle*, to senior GVMC official said, "In fact, the project was first proposed in December 2020. But it could not move forward due to various reasons, including and elections to GVMC. Now, we are on the job

the mayor." the Once approves the project, its implementation will gather momentum. The corporation approach corporate entities for funding, said the GVMC officer, who does not want to be

quoted. At present, a pilot solar street lamp project is being taken up under the Smart City Mission in Pandurangapuram and surrounding areas. But it is not linked to GVMC's project, the officer added.

The corporation spends street light project.

nearly ₹2 crore a month bills, including those of its offices and street lights. Nearly 30–40 per-cent of power charges are for street lights. The corporation is responsible for nearly 1.2 lakh street lights in the city from Anakapalli to Bheemili, catering to the needs of nearly 25 lakh

population.
When DC brought this solar street light project to the notice of GVMC mayor Golagani Hari Venkata Kumari, she said "I have so far not received any file regarding this project from my officials. However, I will discuss it with technical experts and check the possibility of implementing the solar



B.B. Venkateswara Rao

## **NATIONAL AWARD FOR GST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

Deputy Commissioner of state tax (GST) B.B. Venkateswara selected for Dr B.R. Ambedkar National Award 2020-21.

Selection The Committee informed that Venkateswara Rao was selected due to his excellence and the highest standards of ethical conduct, integrity and social responsibility. The committee further said that he stood out as a leader with exemplary behaviors in societal contribution. The committee informed that the award would be presented on June 23 during a pro-

gramme. Venkateswara Rao said that he was inspired by Ambedkar and had started payback to socie service. He said that he formed a youth committee which is working for development in rural areas.

LIMITED STOCK

DC CORRESPONDENT

upland areas are getting

ready for raising paddy

nurseries as the Godavari

districts received consid-

erable rainfall during the

past one week under the

impact of the Monsoon as

well as the formation of a

low pressure area in Bay

While farmers are busy

of Bengal.

KAKINADA, JUNE 14

## State school kids to get **English dictionaries**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VISAKHAPATNAM,JUNE 14

Nearly 24,000 government students from dents Class VI to Class X in the tions Oxford English- English-Telugu dictionaries in the present academic year. This is the first such provision by the government, said the state education officials. The state government

accorded permission to procure the dictionaries for supply to the children studying the government schools like MPP, municipal, residential schools, welfare

schools, ashram, aided, model, KGBVs and registered Madrasas.

dents would get the dic- of shoes and two pairs of under the VidyaKanuka, keeping in view of the present and future English learning requirements of the children studying in the schools, a G.O. on this regard Monday. stated on

government launched Jagananna Kanuka on October 8, last year, to supply Student Kits before the start of every

ing of three pairs of uniforms cloth, textbooks. A total of 23,59,504 stu- set of notebooks, a pair studying from classes I to X in all government schools, on par with counterparts attending schools.

It is to enhance the selfconfidence of the students coming from BPL households and thereby reduce dropout rate and improve learning outcomes, said an educational Visakhapatnam.

## Cocktail jab cures Covid-19

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JUNE 14

The newly introduced monoclonal antibody cocktail injection has come as a blessing in disguise to Covid-19 patients, going by the marked improvement in their condition without any need for hospitalisation. Doctors administering the drug said antibodies are proteins that the body generates to defend itself against any Monoclonal antibodies are artificially created in a laboratory and devised to fight a particular disease. The antibody cocktail

and making other arrangements, they have

not got the seeds, mainly

hybrid seeds. Rythu

Bharosa Kendras and

agricultural societies have to place indents

department first and then

only will the seeds be

that the department does

released.

the agriculture

combination of two injections known as casirivimab and imdevimab, which are dis-tributed by popular drug firm Cipla.

The antibody cocktail can be administered for adult patients with mild to moderate symptoms if they are at high risk of developing severe Covid-19 infection, said Dr MCS Reddy, consultant physician at Apollo Hospitals in Nellore, a designated Dr Reddy said doctors

gave the cocktail injection to 10 patients at their hospital in Nellore tion by 70 vis patient moderate drug being administered and all are doing fine Farmers have not got the seeds, mainly hybrid seeds

Farmers get ready for Kharif

for a requirement of 1.11

lakh quintals in East

This process of releas-

ing seeds has to be expe-

dited to enable farmers

Kharif sowing. The gov-

ernment has announced

per kilo to non-agency

will affect the

Any

not have sufficient stock areas and 90 per cent of BPT (5204- Pithapuram and Thondangi areas.

Godavari district.

raise nurseries.

delay

At present, it is learnt subsidies at the rate of ₹5

at ploughing the fields of seeds. They have only and making other 16,000 quintals of seeds

to the patients now is a sans complications. One of the beneficiaries is the mother of a senior official.

The injection was administered to the 70year-old woman with comorbidities on June 3, shortly after she was detected Covid-positive. She was tested negative

Notably, all the 10 patients were treated on a daycare basis and no side-effect has been noticed.

Dr Reddy said the therwould reduce chances of hospitalization by 70 per cent vis-avis patients with mild to

the subsidy to the Agency

The farmers, particu-

larly in upland areas,

want to sow hybrid vari-

eties of paddy seeds like

Sampad etc as they

expect a good yield. They

are mainly sowing

Swarna variety of paddy

Farmers in different

areas are sowing differ-

ent paddy varieties like

(MTU 7029).

areas for paddy seeds.

## **ON COVID DUTY** VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

DC CORRESPONDENT

**EX GRATIA TO** 

**MEDICAL STAFF** 

**DYING WHILE** 

State government has issued an order paying ex gratia to regular employees of health, medical and family welfare (HM&FW) department deployed in management of Covid-19, who have succumbed to the disease while being on duty. As per GO RT No. 299

As per GO RI No. 299 signed by principal secretary Anil Kumar Singhal, ₹25 lakh will be paid to next of kin of doctors who have lost uctors who have lost their lives to Coronavirus. Nurses will get ₹20 lakh, MNOs / FNOs ₹15 lakh and all other staff ₹10 lakh. Dependents of

deceased employees awaiting declaration of their probation are also eligible for the ex gratia. Collectors of respec-tive districts have been asked to sanction ex gratia immediately to families or dependents of the deceased staff of HM&FW department who had been drafted on Covid duties.

The ex gratia shall be sanctioned subject to eligibility conditions like deceased employee should have died due to Covid-19 after getting exposed to Covid environment while posted for management of Coronavirus inside a Covid hospital or a Covid Care Centre or while visiting houses of Covid positive patients.

The kin of deceased must mandatorily produce a Covid-19 positive certificate and death certificate. Other documents include valid employee identity card issued by the competent authority, Aadhaar card and other relevant documents, which will be verified.

This ex gratia will be in addition to any other benefits from insurance companies, organisa-tions and institutions, apart from other statutory payments announced by central and state governments. For example, the ex gratia announced by state government will be in addition to the benefit under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme.

documents before sanctioning the ex gratia to dependents of deceased

## **MD PROMISES APSRTC STAFF BETTER CARE**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

APSRTC MD Thirumal Rao has assured its employees that their problems will resolved expeditiously. The promise was made while he visited the facilities like the bus depot, the zonal workshop, tyre retreading division, the training academy and the zonal training college in Vidyadharapuram here

on Monday. The MD planted saplings on the depot premises and went round various departments. He also visited the RTC hospital at the depot.

Addressing the depot staff, the MD said that the APSRTC employees are absorbed by the state government, they are expected to discharge their duties with more commitment.

and Gollaprolu areas),

Swarna in eastern and

central delta and some of

the areas in upland seg-

ments where water sources are available, RGL 2537 Srikakulam

Sannalu in Razole area,

MTU 1061 Indra' and

Korukonda, Rajamahen-

dravaram and Gokav-

aram areas, LLR 34449

Nellore Sannalu in Tuni

Amar in

MTU 1064-

## Covid on decline; 4,549 new cases, 59 deaths in state

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

The single day Covid-19 new infections further dropped in Andhra Pradesh on Monday with the registra-tion of 4,549 cases and recoveries improved with the discharging of 10,114 patients from various

hospitals. As many as 87,756 samples were tested in the past 24 hours in which 4,549 found infected and the state has conducted a total 2,05,38,738 Coronavirus tests in the 13 districts of the state.

The total Covid-19 infections in 13 districts were 18,14,393 in which total recoveries were 17,12,381. A total of 59 new deaths were registered, increasing the death toll to 11,999.

Chittoor district is on top with highest daily new infections of 860 fol-lowed by East Godavari 619, West Godavari 529, Kadapa 412, Guntur 322, Anantapur 272, Visakhapatnam 263,

Vizianagaram 247, Srikakulam 228, Krishna 210, Prakasam 207, Kurnool 198 and least number of 182 new cases registered in Nellore district.

Chittoor district reported 12 new deaths, eight in Prakasam district, six in West Godavari, five in Krishna, four each in and Srikakulam districts, registered in the 3,540 secretariats in the past 24 hours.

• THE TOTAL Covid-19 infections in 13 districts were 18,14,393 in which total recoveries were 17,12,381. A total of 59 new deaths were registered, increasing the death toll to 11,999.

Guntur, Visakhapatnam Vizianagaram districts and two each in Kadapa and Nellore districts.

East Godavari is on top in total Corona cases with a total of 2,48,466 infections followed by Chittoor 2,08,978, Guntur 1,57,563, West Godavari 1,51,187, Anantapur 1,49,866, Visakhapatnam Nellore 1,23,512, Kurnool 1,19,703, Prakasam 1,15,285, Srikakulam Kadapa 1,02,02, Krishna 95,853 and Vizianagaram is on the last place with

Coronavirus cases.
Meanwhile, addressing
a press meet on
Monday night, Anil Kumar Singhal, principal secretary, medical & health, said Covid positive cases were on the decline in the state. He said the data of ward and village secretariats in the state shows that the number of cases was declining. He stated that there were 15,000 ward and village secretariats in the state, of which, Anantapur, East Godavari not a single case was

total of

## Measures to strengthen liquor retail outlet system in state

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 14

The state excise department and AP State Beverages Corporation Limited (APS-BCL) to strengthen APSBCL Retail Outlet System and issued instructions on According to the orders, the government vowed to implement prestigious Navaratnalu as contemplated in the manifesto under which Prohibition of Liquor in three phases in the state as promised to the society especially to the women.

The Excise department and APSBCL decided to further strengthen the retail outlet system under which it is decided to install a CC TV camera surveillance through setting up of control room in every dis-

trict with access to every government outlet. To get two sureties from sales staff working in liquor outlets to infuse responsi-bility. Setting up of separate professional audit team to conduct monthly

occurring due to manual sales (Non-scanning of Excise Adhesive labels) hence to prevent this, strict instructions should be given to distillery officers about the supervision of label affixing process. Display boards at every shop mentioning local Excise officers' phone numbers as this will strengthen intelligence inputs.

Shuffling and transfers of all doubtful sales personnel should be taken up

## Driven by debt, elderly couple ends life in Chittoor district

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, JUNE 14

Upset over their inability to repay debt, an aged couple died by suicide at their house at Gajulapelluru village in B.N. Kandriga mandal of Chittoor district. The incident came to light on Monday when neighbours came to the house and found the bodies.

Police have identified the

deceased as Ramachandraiah (60) and Munemma (55). who ran a small business in the village. It is suspected the couple drank poison during the late hours of Sunday after locking the door from inside. Neighbours knocked on

the door in the morning for some work. When there was no response, they peeped through a window and found them lying on the floor.

## **RELEASE 'ASHA ENCOUNTER' ONLY AFTER 15 DAYS, TELANGANA HC TELLS FILMMAKERS**

DC CORRESPONDENT

Film director Ramgopal Varma (RGV), no stranger controversies. has changed his strategy in making 'Disha Encounter' that is based on the gruesome rape and murder of a 25-year-old old veterinary doctor on the outskirts of

the city in 2019. The Telangana High Court was told that Varma was not the director of the film but had only provided its storyline. Durga Prasad, counsel for the producers, on Monday explained to the court that Varma has no other

role in making the film. The court was dealing with a petition filed by the parents of Disha (name charles released within 15 days.

nged), who urged the court to stop the release of 'Disha Encounter', as a judicial inquiry by the Supreme Court-appointed commission was pending completion.

Counsel for the producers submitted that the film was directed by Anand Chandra and it has obtained the Censor Board certificate on April 16 and would be released soon. He added that the name of the film has been changed to 'Asha Encounter'.

As the censor certificate was issued, the court was not inclined to stop the release. However, Disha's parents were given two weeks time to challenge the censor certificate and stated that the film should not be

SHORT TAKES

## **ASSAM STUDENTS MOVE SC OVER**

**BOARD EXAMS** 

MANOJ ANAND I DC GUWAHATI, JUNE 14

Students of Assam have moved the Supreme Court pleading cancellation of Class 10 and Člass 12 board examination on the lines of Central Board of School Examination.

The plea filed by a group of students stated that they are being compelled to appear in the HSLC and HS exams amid a threat to their life. The petition says, "In the interest of the safety of lakhs of students and their parents it is better to cancel the exams."

The move came after Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on June 10 announced that the exams will be conducted only if the Covid-19 positivity rate drops below 2 per cent. "The two education boards — Board of Secondary Education Assam (SEBA) and the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) — will try to hold the exams in mid-July," Sarma

Class 10, 12 board exams would be held between July 15 and 20 for two to three papers. Male and female students would be writing the exams on separate dates to ensure social distancing, Sarma said.

The students in their plea before the apex court said that the Chief Minister's announcement to hold exams between July 15 and July 20 has created panic among students and parents. "The gov-ernment's statement that Covid positivity rate below 2 per cent has no relevance," the students said in its plea.

### **STALIN: LIQUOR SALES RESUMED TO PREVENT HOOCH**

**G. BABU JAYAKUMAR** & D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, JUNE 14

The Tasmac shops were opened again as part of the relaxations to the lockdown on Monday only with a view to preventing the flow of hooch, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said and warned that the liquor outlets would be closed again if the Covid-19 protocols

were not followed. Illicit liquor would ruin the state and the government wanted to avoid that, Stalin said in his address to the people, even as the new set of relaxations were brought in, and urged the people to show responsibility in stopping the

spread of Coronavirus. Since schools and colleges would have to be opened soon and public transport had to be resumed, he sought the people's cooperation and help, which alone can bring down the numbers further.

The government's efforts had so far yielded results in bringing the pandemic under control, he said, recalling that the daily infections at one point were at 36,000 with the doctors fearing that it could touch 50,000. But today the numbers had not only come down to 15,000 but were also declining by the day due to the various steps taken by the government, he pointed out.

### STATES TO GET **MORE VACCINE DOSES SOON**

DC CORRESPONDENT with agencies input NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

The daily cases of Covid-19 in India saw a big dip on Monday with 70,421 new detections. This was the lowest after 74 days. Though such low numbers are often due to fewer testing on Sundays, the Union health ministry said a total of 14.92 lakh tests were conducted in the last 24 hours in the

Officials said India's active caseload has come below 10 lakh mark after 66 days and daily recoveries continue to outnumber the daily new cases for more than a month now. India's Recovery Rate is 95.43 per cent at present while daily Positivity Rate stands at 4.72 per cent. However, the death toll still remains a cause of concerns as nearly 4,000 deaths were reported in one day.

Meanwhile, the Centre has said it is making available more vaccines to the states

The Union health ministry said more than 96,490 vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be delivered to the states/UTs within the next

three days. Union Health Ministry officials said more than 1.40 crore vaccine doses are still available with the states/UTs to be administered



Crowd at Sadar Bazar market in New Delhi after authorities eased lockdown restrictions on Monday.

# India, China, Pak N-arsenal grows

## India adds 6, Pak 5 and China 30 warheads

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 14

India, China and Pakistan continued to grow their nuclear arsenal in the region in 2020, a report by Stockholm-based think tank SIPRI has claimed.

Among the three countries, China saw the highest addition of 30 nuclear warheads in 2020, taking its total nuclear stockpile to 350. India added six and Pakistan five nuclear warheads. However, China and Pakistan continue to more nuclear weapons than India.

Pakistan has 165 nuclear warheads against 156 with

India, according to the SIPRI report.

"China is in the middle of a significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear arsenal, and India and Pakistan also appear to be increasing the size of their nuclear weapon inventories," said the report

Overall, Russia leads the pack with 6,225 nuclear warheads followed by the US with 5,550.

There was a decrease in the number of nuclear weapons in the world from 13,400 in 2019 to 13,080 in 2020 as the USA and Russia continued to reduce their overall nuclear weapon invento-

ries by dismantling retired warheads. However, despite this overall decrease, the esti-mated number of nuclear weapons currently deployed with operational forces increased to 3,825 3,720 last year. Around 2,000 of these

 OVERALL, RUSSIA **LEADS** the pack with 6,225 nuclear warheads followed by the US with

nearly all of which belonged to Russia or the USA — were kept in a state of high operational alert, said SIPRI.

The report said that while initially India's nuclear systems were focused on Pakistan, the country now appears to place increased emphasis on China, with the development of longer-range missiles capable of targeting all of China.
It said that India has

assigned its nuclear weapons to a maturing nuclear triad of aircraft land-based missiles and ballistic missile submarines.

The report said that the remarks in recent years by Indian defence ministers have created doubts about India's commitment

to the no-first-use policy. "Recent scholarship and government statements have called that policy into further question, with some analysts suggesting that 'India's NFU' [no-first-use] policy is neither a stable nor a reliable predictor of how the Indian military and political leadership might actually use nuclear weapons," said SIPRI. It said that there are suggestions that some portions of India's arsenal, particularly those weapons and capabilities designed for retaliation against Pakistan, "are now kept at a much

higher state of readiness, capable of being operationalised and released within seconds or minutes — not hours, as has been previously assumed"

The report said that aircraft are the most mature component of India's nuclear strike capabili-ties. "It is estimated here that approximately 48 nuclear bombs are assigned to aircraft. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has reportedly certified its Mirage 2000H fighterbombers for delivery of nuclear gravity bombs. It is widely speculated that the IAF's Jaguar IS fight-er-bombers may also have a nuclear delivery role," said the report.

It said that the Indian Army's Strategic Forces Command operates four types of mobile nuclear-capable ballistic missile: the short-range Prithvi-II (250 kilometres) and Agni-(700 km); the mediumrange Agni-II (>2,000 km); and the intermediate-range Agni-III (>3,200 km). Two new and longer-range land-based ballistic missiles are in development: the Agni-IV (>3,500 km) and the Agni-V (>5,000 km). A variant with an even longer range, the Agni-VI (6,000 km), is in the design stage

of development.
Unlike the other Agnimissiles, the Agni-V is designed to be stored in and launched from a new mobile canister system, which will reduce the time required to place the missiles on alert in a cri-

**NOW, A MASK** 

THAT INACTIVATES

**VIRUS PARTICLES** 

New Delhi, June 14: A Pune-based start-up has

integrated 3D printing

and pharmaceuticals to

develop a mask which

inactivates viral parti-

cles that come in contact

with it, the Department

Science and Technology

Developed by Thincr

Private Limited, these

masks are coated with

anti-viral agents known

The coating has been

tested and shown to ina-

ctivate the SARS-CoV-2

the DST said, adding the

material used in it is a

Sodium Olefin Sulfon-

otherwise as virucides.

said on Monday.

Technologies

# L'dweep observes black day as Khoda returns to island

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Lakshadweep administra-tor Praful Khoda Patel skipped Kochi airport to reach Lakshwadweep on Monday to avoid protests from people in Kerala.

Congress MPs, MLA and other elected representatives had gathered at the Kochi airport to submit memorandum to Khoda against the controversial decisions taken by him in island. However, Patel went to Kavaratti straight from from Goa.

Meanwhile, people in Lakshwadeep observed black day against Patel's arrival. People hoisted black flags atop their houses and raised slogans against the administrator. The Lakshadweep police asked people to the remove flags.The cops also videographed and took pictures of houses that displayed black flags.

'He may have evaded us but Khoda will face strong protests from people of Lakshadweep," said Congress MP T.N.

Prathapan in Kochi Khoda who is a former minister of state for home Gujarat and a close confidante of Minister Narendra Modi returned to the island almost a month after the protests began over his controversial decisions. Reacting to the ongoing

protests he told media

that the campaign against him was being organised by people based in Kerala.

Most political parties in the island including CPM, Congress, prominent people have termed many of the decisions as part of the BJP led Central gov ernment's agenda to saffronise the island. A section of BJP leaders of Lakshadweep have also opposed these decisions.

The administrator, however, claimed that he aimed at the fast paced development of island. There is plan to increase the length of airstrip, open coconut processing units increase tuna fish catch to 25,000 metric tonne. He said the people are being misled by vested inter-

Meanwhile, filmmaker Aisha Sultana against whom a sedition case has been registered following her "bio weapon" remark against the central government, moved Kerala High Court challenging the stringent sections

invoked against her. During a recent television prime time debate she had alleged that the government unleashed bio weapon against people of island lifting the Covid restrictions

that her She said remark was taken out of context. The filmmaker stated that she had even expressed regret on social

## Kerala says will ease restrictions

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Kerala which has been under lockdown since relaxation in the curbs from this week.

Chief Minister Pinaravi Vijayan said the govern-ment would formally announce the relaxation in lockdown in specific sectors on Tuesday. The decision to relax restrictions has been taken in view of the decline in number of Covid cases from 30,000 last month to less than 10,000. On Monday the state reported 7,719 new cases of Covid 19. Even the TRP rate which was hovering around 28 in May has now

further. The number of active cases too has come down from over 3 lakh to 1.15 lakh. With lockdown creating serious livelihood problems for the daily wagers and economically weaker sections besides adversely affecting small and medium businesses, pressure has been mounting on government to lift

restrictions.

Opposition Congress-led

dropped to less than 12

and is expected to go down

UDF also demanded lifting of curbs on Monday. Transport huses autorickshaws, taxi and other public carriers have been allowed to operated Automobile workshops, salons, shops and buisness establishments selling raw materials and essential materials for construction sector including plumbing, paint

and electrical shops have

been allowed to function.



Teacher takes online class of 1st standard students after schools reopened on

The government offices will function with 50 percent strength.

Joggers, morning walkers have already been allowed between 5 am and am, evening walkers between 7 pm and 9 pm, banks and financial institutions till 5 pm, only parcel services at hotels and resturants between 7 am to 7.30 pm, stationary shops, outlets selling school text books.

Only those making purchases for wedding would be allowed to shop at jewellery outlets, textile and footwear shops. Only 20 persons would be

cremations. The government will also allow electrical goods optical repair shops,

allowed in weddings and

Service centres of gas stove, mobile phones, computers and other electronic gadgets will be allowed to function. The government will come out with a detailed order on Monday on the restrictions that are to be lifted.

# Bengal eases curbs, extends lockdown

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JUNE 14

Retaining the suspension of the state-run transport network and academic activities, the Mamata Banerjee government on Monday extended the lockdown in West Bengal for another two weeks till June 30.

It, however, eased curbs at various levels in many sectors due a drop in daily cases and deaths in the last two weeks.

The Chief Minister informed that the schools, colleges and educational institutes, intra-state bus services, local train services. metro services and ferry services would remain closed in addition to beauty parlours and swimming pools for the public. She said that private

vehicles, cabs can only function for emergency or essential services. Among the relaxations, the government and private offices have been allowed to be open with 25% strength from June 16. Private and corporate offices can oper-

ate from 10 am to 4 pm.

The markets and haats related to fruits, vegetables, meat and eggs can be run from 7 am to 11 am while small and medium enterprises can be open from 11 am to 6 pm to help the public and trade. The restaurants and bars can be open between 12pm and 8pm with 50% seating capacity. Besides, parks will be allowed to open from 6 am till 9 am for morning walks and physiexercise but access will be restricted to only those who are vaccinated

#### ate-based mixture, a soap-forming agent. In contact with enveloned viruses, it disrupts the outer membrane of the virus. The ingredients used are stable at room temperature and are widely used in cosmetics. The DST said that as part of the fight against Covid-19, the virucidal initiative was among the earliest proj-

ed for commercialisa-tion by the Technology Development (TDB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology. Thincr Technologies India works in develop-

ects to have been select-

ment of Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM) 3D-printers to discover new pharmaceutical formulations and drug loaded filaments of different types. 'We sensed that use of

face masks will become nearly universal as the most important tool to prevent infection. But we realised that most masks which were then available and within the reach of common people were homemade and of relatively low quality. It is this need for high quality masks which led us to undertake a project to develop and commercialise cost-effective and more efficient virucidal coated masks, as a better approach to reduce the spread of infection,' said Shitalkumar Zambad, the Founder-Director of Thincr Technologies

Thincr Technologies

## AGE-OLD | PROBLEM | Most elderly have to depend on family care, which makes them vulnerable

## 73% elderly face increased abuse during lockdown

New Delhi, June 14: About 73 per cent of the elderly population experienced increased abuse the lockdown during imposed amid the second wave of Covid-19, according to a new report.

The report by Agewell Founda Foundation, based on responses from elderly, released ahead of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day said 82 per cent of the respondents claimed that their life has been affected adversely due to the curIT WAS found that 65 per cent elderly respondents were facing neglect in their life while approximately 58 per cent of the respondents said they are suffering abuse in their families and society.

rent Covid-19 situation. The report found that 73 per cent of the respondents reportedly said cases of abuse against them increased during and after the lockdown period, and among them 61

per cent claimed that interpersonal relationships was the main factor responsible for increasing incidences of elder abuse in families.

During the survey, it was found that 65 per cent elderly respondents were facing neglect in their life while approximately 58 per cent of the respondents said they are suffering abuse in their families and society

The report also found that approximately every third elderly (35.1 per cent)

claimed that older people face domestic violence (physical or verbal) in old

Himanshu Rath. Chairman, Agewell Foundation said though the Covid-19 situation and related lockdown rules and restrictions have affected almost every human being, older persons are the most vulnerable so far as the coronavirus threat and its impact is concerned.

'There is an urgent need

munity about the growing incidences of elder abuse. Older persons also need to be educated about support systems, legal provisions and non-formal support network, accessible and available to them," he

The report said most elderly have to depend on family care, which makes them vulnerable and incidences of elder abuse, mistreatment, and harassment of elderly occur primarily within their respective families are on

Elderly women are worst affected due to their poor financial status, increased level of dependency, and

older people.

even due to longer lifespan comparatively to elderly Elderly hardly report incidences of abuse to concerned stakeholders due to

rise due to vulnerability of

various factors like lack of awareness about their rights, poor physical health and lack of social support system, the report

India Pvt Ltd has applied for a patent for this product. Commercial scale manufacturing has also started, he added.

**DEMOLITION OF** 

**DHARAMSHALA** 

**Islamabad, June 14:** Pakistan's Supreme Court has ordered the Ka-

rachi administration to

stop the demolition of a

Hindu dharamshala and

leasing out the heritage property located in the heart of the city.

A three-judge bench

led by Chief Justice of

Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed

issued the order on Friday while hearing a case regarding the impleme-ntation of a 2014 judgm-

ent on minorities' righ-

ts. During the hearing,

Dr Ramesh Kumar a co-

opted member of a one-man commission on minorities stated that

the property at Saddar

Town-I in Karachi meas-

uring about 716 square

yards was a dharamsha-

la, The Express Tribune

Kumar also placed bef-

ore the court photogra-

phs of the building. He

said the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB)

leased out the property

to some private person,

who was demolishing the dharamshala to con-

struct a commercial plaza. Kumar said the

ETPB chairman contended that the Sindh High Court (SHC) has allowed

the ETPB to lease the place out, have it demolished and raise a new

building there.

reported on Sunday.

## SHORT TAKES

#### MAN, 25, DIES **AFTER DOWNTOWN AUSTIN SHOOTING**

Austin (US), June 14: A man has died from his injuries following a mass shooting on a crowded downtown Austin street that left more than a dozen peo-

ple injured, police said Sunday. Douglas John Kantor, 25, who was hospitalised with critical gunshot wounds following the early Saturday morning shooting, died Sunday at 12:01 pm, the Austin Police Department said in a news release that also was confirmed by Lt Brian Moon. Interim Police Chief Joseph Chacon said the shooting happened around 1:30 am Saturday on a street packed with bars and barricaded off from vehicle traffic. He said investigators believe the shooting began as a dispute between

## **PAK COPS DENIED** FREE BURGERS. **DETAIN 19 STAFF**

Lahore, June 14: A group of police officers in Pakistan flipped out when a takeaway joint refused to hand over free burgers, detaining all 19 staff

at the branch. Workers at the trendy chain Johnny & Jugnu in the eastern city of Lahore were rounded up and held for seven hours overnight on Saturday, leaving behind unattended kitchens and hungry customers.

'This is not the first time something like this has happened with our kitchen teams at our restaurant, but we want to make sure this is the last, the fast food chain said in a statement published on social media. It started when staff at the restaurant refused a "request from a very high pro-

file special guest" Restaurant staff said that most of those arrested were

#### **B'DESH ACTRESS CRIES RAPE, ASKS PM FOR JUSTICE**

Dhaka, June 14: Prominent Bangladeshi film actress Shamsunnahar Smriti, popularly known as Pori Moni, has sought justice from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a Facebook post alleging that a businessman attempted to rape and murder her at a club here.

After making the allegations in a Facebook post without naming the suspect on Sunday, she held a media briefing later in the night and accused busin-essmen Nasir U. Mahmood, entertainment and cultural affairs secretary of Dhaka Boat Club, of assaulting her, bdnew-

s24 reported. ged that Nasir assaulted her at the club in Dhaka's Uttara four days ago. The businessman could not be reached immediately for comments, the news website said. A founding member of the Dhaka Boat Club. Nasir is involved with real

#### **TWO AMERICANS STAND TRIAL IN GHOSN'S ESCAPE**

**Tokyo, June 14:** Two Americans suspected of helping former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn flee Japan while he was out on bail go on trial Monday

Michael Taylor, a former Green Beret, and his son Peter Taylor are suspected in the Houdini-like operation where Ghosn hid in a box for music equipment that was loaded onto a private jet that flew him to Lebanon, via Turkey in December 2019. Unlike the US, Lebanon has no extradition treaty with Japan.

Ghosn has French, Lebanese and Brazilian citizenship. The Taylors were arrested in Massachusetts in May last year and extradited in March on charges of helping a criminal. The authorities say Ghosn hired the Taylors for at least \$1.3 million. Ghosn led Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co. for two decades before his arrest in November 2018. He was charged with falsifying securities reports in under-reporting his compensation and of breach of trust in using Nissan money for perso-

Ghosn says he is innocent. At Monday's court session, the Tokyo District Prosecutors will outline the allegations against the Taylors before Presiding Judge Hideo Nirei and two other judges. The Taylors will also likely make statements. They have been held in a Tokyo detention centre since arriving in Japan and were not avail-

able for comment. Peter Taylor said in a statement to a Massachusetts court in January that he met Ghosn in 2019 in Japan to pitch his digital marketing company to repair Ghosn's tarnished repu-

# Will better India ties, says Bennett

## Israeli foreign minister Yair Lapid says he hopes to welcome PM Modi to Israel soon

Jerusalem, June 14: Israel's newly elected Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Monday that he was looking forward to working with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to further develop the "unique and warm relations" between the two democracies. Bennett, the 49-year-old leader of the right-wing Yamina party who on Sunday became the new premier ending Benjamin Netanyahu's 12year hold on power, said this while responding to Prime Minister Modi's congratulatory tweet.

Prime Minister Modi earlier congratulated Bennett on being sworn in as Israel's new prime minister, and said he looked forw-ard to meeting him and deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries as they celebrate 30 years of the



Naftali Bennett

upgradation of diplomatic

"Thank you Mr. Prime Minister @narendramodi, I look forward to working with you to further develop the unique and warm relations between our two democracies," Bennett tweeted from his official handle. Bennett took oath of office on Sunday after the Knesset (Parliament) elected him as the 13th Prime

Alternate Prime Minister and foreign minister Yair Lapid also said that Israel's new government will work to "advance strarelations" with "I look forward to working together to advance the strategic relations between our countries and hope to welcome you to Israel soon," Lapid tweet-ed on Monday in response to a congratulatory message from External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

Jaishankar earlier in a tweet congratulated his new Israeli counterpart. 'Congratulate APM & FM @yairlapid of Israel on his appointment. Look forward to working closely together to further advance our multifaceted strategic partnership," Jaishankar wrote. Lapid, the head of the Yesh Atid party, would take over premiership in September 2023 under a

power-sharing deal with Bennett, serving for two years till the end of the term. In his tweets, Modi also conveyed his "pro-found gratitude" to Netan-yahu, whose long tenure as Israeli prime minister ended on Sunday. Modi thanked Netanya-

hu for his "personal attention" to India-Israel strategic partnership. "As you complete your successful tenure as the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, I convey my profound gratitude for your leadership and personal attention to India-Israel strategic partnership @netanyahu," Modi tweeted.

The personal chemistry between the two leaders has often been talked about in the Israeli media and Prime Minister Modi got a royal welcome during his historic trip to the Jewish state in July 2017. — PTI

## Bibi ouster ends worst conflict, says Palestine

jamin Netanyahu's ousting as prime minister of Israel closes the chapter on one of the "worst periods" of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Palestinian prime minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said on Monday.

The departure of the Israeli ex-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu after 12 years in power marks the end of one of the worst periods in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Shtayyeh said ahead of the Palestinian Authority's weekly cabinet

But Shtayyeh also said he was under no illusions about the new government

Ramallah, June 14: Ben- or its likelihood of advancing a peace agreement

> "We do not see this new government as any less bad than the previous one, and we condemn the announcements of the new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in support of Israeli settlements," the Palestinian premier said, referring to Israeli construction activity in the occupied West Bank.

"The new government has no future if it does not take into consideration the future of the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights," Shtayy-

## Suu Kyi on trial but critics say charges bogus

Aung San Suu Kyi was set to go on trial Monday on charges that many observers have criticised as attempt by the military junta that deposed her to delegitimise her democratic election and cripple her political future.

Suu Kyi's prosecution poses the greatest challenge for the 75-year-old and her National League for Democracy party sin-ce February's military coup, which prevented them from taking office for a second five-year term following last year's landslide election victory.

Human Rights Watch charged that the allegations being heard in a special court in the capital, Naypyitaw, are "bogus and politically motivat-ed" with the intention of nullifying the victory and preventing Suu Kyi from running for office again.

"This trial is clearly the opening salvo in an overall strategy to neuter Suu Kyi and the National

Beijing, June 14: The US

government is assessing a

report of a leak at a Chi-

nese nuclear power plant,

after a French company that partly owns and hel-

ps to operate it warned of

cal threat", a media rep-

ort said on Monday.
The warning included an accusation that the

Chinese safety authority

was raising the accepta-

ble limits for radiation de-

tection outside the Taish-

an Nuclear Power Plant

in Guangdong province in order to avoid having

to shut it down, the CNN

quoted a letter from the

French company to the US Department of Ener-

gy. There is no reaction

yet in Beijing by the Chi-

nese government or offi-

cials on this report, it

said. The media report

said despite the alarming

notification from Framat-

ome, the French company, the Biden administration

believes the facility is not

yet at a "crisis level".

"imminent radiologi-

US checking leak

at China N-plant

party as a force that can challenge military rule in the future," said Phil Robertson, the organisation's deputy Asia director.

The army seized power on Feb. 1 before the new lawmakers could be seated, and arrested Suu Kyi. who held the post of special counsellor, and President Win Myint, along with other members of her government and ruling party. The coup reversed years of slow progress toward more democracy for Myanmar.

The army cited the government's failure to properly investigate alleged voting irregularities as its reason for seizing power — an assertion contested by the independent Asian Network for Free Elections and many others. Junta officials have threatened to dissolve the National League for Democracy for alleged involvement in election fraud and any conviction for Suu Kyi could bar her

not currently pose a seve-

re safety threat to work-

ers at the plant or Chine-se public, it is unusual

that a foreign company

would unilaterally reach

out to the American gove-

rnment for help when its

Chinese state-owned part-ner is yet to acknowledge

The scenario could put

the US in a complicated

situation should the leak

continue or become more

severe without being fix-

significant enough that

the US National Security

Council held multiple me-

etings to discuss the situ-

ation, it said. The Biden

administration has discu-

ssed the situation with

the French government

and their own experts at

the Department of Ener-

gy, the report said, adding that the US has also been

in contact with the Chine-

se government.

a problem exists.

ed, the report said. However, concern was

Luxury vachts are moored at the Dubai Marina Beach in the Gulf emirate. Charter companies said they have seen an increased interest in yachting after Coronavirus measures eased, especially among those who want to spend time with friends and family.

## UK curbs may lift by July 19 over Delta variant case spike

Prime Minister Boris Johunce a four-week delay to an end to all legal lockdcountry when he makes a statement later on Monday in relation to so-called "Freedom Day", which was set for June 21.

The last and fourth stage of the lockdown roadman is now expected around July 19 instead amid a worrying spike in cases of the Delta variant, which experts fear will result in greater hospitalisations in the coming weeks. On Sunday, the UK recorded 7,490 new cases of Covid-19 and eight deaths, with the seven-day average for cases up 49 per cent compared with the seven days before. Scientists and health officials have called for a delay in lifting all social distance norms in order to allow the vaccination programme to gain further ground, with second doses for the older age groups and first doses for the younger population cohorts of over-25s now eligi-

ble for jabs. "It is one last heave. It is a straight race between the vaccine and the virus," a senior government source was quoted as saying after Johnson met his Cabinet ministers and scientific advisers to assess the latest data. Johnson is

## Novavax shot 90% effective

Washington, June 14: Vaccine maker Novavax said Monday its shot was highly effective against Covid-19 and also protected against variants in a large, late-stage study in

the US and Mexico. The vaccine was about 90 per cent effective overall and preliminary data showed it was safe, the company said. While demand for Covid-19 shots in the US has dropped off dramatically, the need for more vaccines around the world remains critical.

The Novavax vaccine, which is easy to store and transport, is expected to play an important role in boosting vaccine supplies in the developing world. That help is still months first doses will go to ... low- and middle-income countries, and that was the goal to begin with,' Novavax Chief Executive Stanley Erck told *The Associated Press*. While more than half of the US population has had at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose, less than one per-

The company says it pl-

ans to seek authorisation

for the shots in the US.

Europe and elsewhere by

the end of September and

be able to produce up to

100 million doses a month by then. "Many of our

cent of people in the developing world have had one shot, according to Our World In Data. expected to blame the

the UK Prime Minister is delay on the third wave of also likely to announce a Covid-19 infections and drive to accelerate the vaccination programme. The extension will be put to a House of Commons say it will allow millions of more people to be vaccinated and more to receive a second jab by the end of vote this month and could July. As well as a delay in trigger a backbench rebellifting restrictions to alllion from Johnson's own ow scientists more time to Conservative Party MPs. monitor the Delta variant,

## **NEPAL PLANT TO CUT DOWN INDIA**

Kathmandu, June 14: Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli on Monday virtually laid the foundation stone of Nepal's first-ever liquefied oxygen Province which will help cater to growing domestic demand and reduce oxygen imported from India. amidst the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

The plant is being set up at Simarhawa of Rupandehi district in the province. The country has been facing a shortage of oxygen and oxygen cylinders as the second wave of Covid-19 hit Nepal, Prime Minister Oli noted while lay ing the foundation stone from his official residence Baluwatar. It was an unprecedented event of happiness at a time when the country had been reeling under an acute crisis of oxygen, he noted.

The government was compelled to import oxygen and other essential medical equipment, he said. "Later, the government thought that it would be appropriate to set up an oxygen plant on its own,

## **BIDEN-PUTIN MEET UNNERVE SOME US ALLIES** Kyiv, June 14: Central

and Eastern European nations are anxious about the coming summit meeting between US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin, wary of what they see as hostile intentions from the Kremlin.

Some in the countries that once were part of the Soviet Union or the Moscow-led Pact during the Cold War worry that Washington could scale down support for its allies in the region in a bid to secure a more stable and predictable relationship with Russia.

"I think there have been doubts as to the resoluteness of the present administration to face Russian aggressive actions in a decisive mann-er," said Witold Rodkie-Russian politics at Warsaw's Center of Eastern Studies, a state-funded think tank that advises the Polish government. Both Russia and the US have sought to moderate expectations about Wednesday's summit in Geneva, ruling out any breakthroughs amid the worst tensions between the two powers.



## AT NATO, BIDEN **READY TO TALK** CHINA, RUSSIA

Brussels, June 14: President Joe Biden makes his entrance at a Nato summit aiming to consult European allies on efforts to counter provoca-tive actions by China and Russia while highlighting the US commitment to the 30-country alliance that was frequently maligned by predecessor Donald Trump.

The summit Monday comes as Biden tries to rally allies for greater coordination in checking China and Russia, two adversaries whose actions on economic and national security fronts have become the chief foreign policy concerns in the early going of the Biden presidency. Biden will use his time

at the summit to underscore the US commitment to Article 5 of the alliance charter, which spells out that an attack on one member is an attack on all.

## **US MILITARY | DOCUMENTS** Ultra-nationalists were looking to glorify ex-PM, 6 more as martyrs

## Mystery of war criminal Tojo's remains solved

Tokyo, June 14: Until Pacific Ocean about 30 recently, the location of executed wartime Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo's remains was one of World War II's biggest mysteries in the nation he once led. Now, a Japanese university professor has revealed declassified US military documents that appear to hold the answer.

The documents show the cremated ashes of Tojo, one of the masterminds of the Pearl Harbor attack. were scattered from a US Army aircraft over the

miles (50 kilometres) east of Yokohama, Japan's second-largest city, south of Tokyo. It was a tensionfilled, highly secretive mission, with American officials apparently taking extreme steps meant to keep Tojo's remains, and those of six others executed with him, away from ultranationalists looking to glorify them as martyrs.

The seven were hanged for war crimes just before Christmas in 1948, three years after Japan's defeat.

partial closure to a painful chapter of Japanese history that still plays out today, as conservative attempt to whitewash history, leading to friction with wartime victims, especially China and South Korea. After years spent verifyi-

ng and checking details and evaluating the significance of what he'd found, Nihon University Professor Hiroaki Takazawa publicly released the clues to

the remains' location last week. He came across the declassified documents in 2018 at the US National Archives in Washington. It's believed to be the

first time official documents showing the handling of the seven war criminals' remains were made public, according to Japan's National Institute for Defence Studies and the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records.

Hidetoshi Tojo, the leader's great-grandson, told ister during much of Wor-The Associated Press that ld War II, is a complicated

the absence of the remains has long been a humiliati-on for the bereaved families, but he's relieved the information has come to light. "If his remains were at least scattered in Japanese territorial waters ... I think he was still somewhat fortunate," Tojo said.

"I want to invite my friends and lay flowers to pay tribute to him" if further details about the remains location becomes available. Hideki Tojo, prime min-

figure, revered by some conservatives as a patriot but loathed by many in the West for prolonging the war, which ended only after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States.

About a month after Aug. 15, 1945, when then-Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's defeat to a stunned nation, Tojo shot himself in a failed suicide attempt as he was about to be arrested at his modest Tokyo home.

# Chronicle

15 JUNE 2021

## A year after Galwan, a lot of questions still remain

xactly a year ago, on June 15-16, 2020, in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley area, soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army attacked a body of Indian soldiers of 16 Bihar Regiment and other units which had gone there to ensure the Chinese had adhered to the agreement reached on June 6 at a meeting of corps commanders from the two sides to facilitate the disengagement of forces at friction points.

The Chinese had to dismantle their camp in parts of the Galwan riverbed near the point where this river meets the Shyok. In an ambush late at night, the Chinese soldiers used iron rods and heavy clubs with steel spikes embedded in them. Twenty Indians, including their commanding officer, a Colonel, were killed. They fought back with bare hands but pushed the Chinese back that night, although the PLA would return later with China claiming it always had "sovereignty" over the Galwan area, which is an outlandish distortion of the facts.

June 15 is an anniversary of bravery and betrayal. To this may be added national humiliation, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Opposition parties on June 19 last year that the Chinese "had not intruded, were not intruding, and were not in occupation" of Indian territory." This is at variance with the ground situation.

The Indian troops were carrying firearms as per protocol, but did not use them at Gal-wan, again as per border stabilisation protocols in force since 1987 and aimed to be confidence-building measures on the Line of Actual Control, the perceived boundary line. Such protocols were created to ensure "pe-ace and tranquility" on the border so that bi-lateral relations could continue unmolested in other areas. It is this process which has received a jolt from which it is yet to recover.

 $Acknowledging this at a public platform \ last month, external \ affairs \ min$ ister S. Jaishankar noted that India-China relations were at a "cross-roads". He also observed that the ongoing relationship had been violated. The Chinese military is yet to vacate the areas where it intruded April 2020 onward. These add up to thousands of square kilometres in strategic regions, including areas where Chinese and Pakistani troops can potentially come together against India.

Numerous rounds of technical meetings between military officials, in some of which diplomats were included, have only produced homilies from China's side. Repeated Indian requests to the Chinese government to disengage, de-escalate and normalise ties have fallen on deaf ears. Beijing seeks a return to normal without first vacating the encroached Indian territories. How matters go from here is not clear.

Strangely enough, the country's military brass has not been above parroting the damaging narrative that no encroachments have occurred, and that India will "not give away an inch". Evidently, they feel protected by the PM's on-record June 19, 2020, observation, of which Beijing has taken full advantage. Baffled Indians naturally ask what the boundary negotiations are then all about. They also wonder about the relevance of the external affairs minister's observations. Is the government speaking to its own people in different voices?

In all areas where China has violated the LAC, its troops are in Ladakh well to the west of the 1960 Chinese claim line, whose map coordinates were given to India by the Chinese four decades ago. But the government seems afraid to point this out to Beijing. India did not accept the claim line and adhered to its historical claim to Aksai Chin.

## Undisputed champ of Grand Slams

o one in 52 years has won the four tennis Grand Slams multiple times since Rod Laver did it just after tennis was thrown open, and Roy Emerson. He was down two sets and seemingly out of the contest when Novak Djokovic returned from a toilet break re-energised like a cellphone coming to life after a recharge and wore down his young opponent, Stefanos Tsitsipas, the most talented of the emerging brigade, to win his 19th Grand Slam.

The Serb was in another fluctuating four-hour battle within 48 hours of having jousted with Rafael Nadal in the greatest duel of the era that contained more shades of art than the raw power of modern tennis. He emerged winner against a player with an unsurpassable record on the red shale of Roland Garros. So fiercely locked in their gladiatorial contest were they that the tennis authorities, prompted by President Emmanuel Macron, overruled curfew rules to allow the crowd to stay to the end on the night of the semi-final.

Djokovic may not win popularity contests against contemporary greats Roger Federer and Nadal, both of whom have just one more Grand Slam title than his 19. But, when it comes to tennis on the varied surfaces of the Wimbledon and three US Opens — that is superior to that of the legends, of whom Federer has only one French Open win and Nadal a solitary Australian Open title among 20 Grand Slams.

Djokovic's athleticism is backed up by an array of strokes, including laser-like crosscourt backhands. Such weapons from his armoury come with uncanny anticipation and decisiveness in volleys and drop shots at extreme angles played with amazingly deft touch. Power and subtlety flow from his racket in equal measure and to metronomic accuracy in trading shots from the baseline. Tennis has been known to lament the seeming inability of the younger generation to take over from the three musketeers who are in their 30s but Tsitsipas appears ready to challenge the kings.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER

K. Sudhakar Printer & Publisher

**DECCAN CHRONICLE** offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256 Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph. 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

Visakhanatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony /isakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph. 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-

Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255 Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08 Gram: CHRONICLE

Aakar Patel



Civil society & NGOs: Why they matter in run-up to 2024

e have entered the third year of the Narendra Modi government and in the months to come the discussion will inevitably turn to the general election of 2024. Some of the recent political activity around Uttar Pradesh is being seen in this light. In India what the government does is left generally to the political parties, especially by the middle class which, once it has voted, does not engage with the State. But there is a part of our country which does engage and does not remain aloof.

The term "civil society" refers, according to the World Health Organisation, to a wide array of organisations: community groups, non-gov-ernmental organisations (NGOs), labour unions, indigenous groups, charitable organisations, faith-based organisations, professional associations, and foundations".

In India we usually use the term "civil society" almost exclusively for the NGOs and activists, because professional associations are quite afraid of confronting the government. There are some exceptions, but these are very few. It is the NGOs, activists and

indigenous groups who represent the people and their interests outside the framework of politics. In India, when we say indigenous groups, we mean Adivasis. The model of development that India has adopted is to extract from Adivasi lands the resources that are used for the rest of the country. You and I do not get displaced by the government from our homes. It is the Adivasis who must leave the homes and settlements that their ancestors have lived in for thousands of years because we need to build a dam or because we have found coal under-

The Adivasis have protested against India's government and its policies for over a century. The rebellion of Birsa Munda, the man whose statue Amit Shah once wanted to garland (but he wrongly garlanded someone else's) forced the British to introduce the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, which banned the transfer of adivasi land to non-Adivasis. The BJP wanted to garland Birsa Munda's statue but it also passed a law to undo the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 2016. This produced such a backlash from the Adivasis that the BJP retreated from the law and was defeated in the next state election. This is why Mr Shah was garlanding what he thought was Birsa Munda's

statue in 2020. Adivasi resistance to the Indian State is not understood and it is not very widely covered in the media. This month has seen at least two places where adivasis have been holding protests. In Gujarat 11 Adivasis were arrested for protesting against the proposed parking lot near the Statue of Unity. They said the land acquired by the Šardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam for the development project belonged

to them and had been taken illegally. The strength of the emotion can be understood by knowing that the women among them removed their clothes in public. An FIR was filed against 20 of them under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 143 (unlawful assembly) and 294 (singing obscene song, ballad or words near a public place). In Chhattisgarh, which has a Congress government, thousands of Adivasis have been on protest against a Central Reserve Police Force camp erected on their land without their permission. The government opened fire on them, killing three, but the Adivasis are still there in the open in Bastar, demanding their rights and insisting that the

camp be removed. On the outskirts of Delhi, tens of thousands of farmers are continuing their protest, having gathered in November and spent the entire winter and now the summer in the open along the highways. The laws that they are protesting against were passed without a division vote in the Rajya Sabha. The laws have been suspended indefinitely by the Supreme Court and the Narendra Modi government itself has offered to suspend them for 18 months. There is extreme disaffection against the laws, including by groups supporting the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, and it is unlikely that the laws will ever be implemented. The Modi government itself has lost interest in them and does not speak about their implementation. But it has allowed the protests to continue because it does not want to be seen as retreating, though it appears to have already retreated.

Similarly, though the Citizenship Amendment Act was passed by Parliament more than a year and a half ago, it has not been implemented.

SACHIN PILOT MY CO-PILOT WANTS TO WORK FROM HOME Tublique

# Ladakh standoff: Can Galwan occur again?

deterioration of the situa-

tion in Ladakh anytime

soon. It is easy to dismiss Galwan as a one-off event

brought on by cascading out of control circum-

stances. Situations in an environment with troops

at close quarters to each

other (although a separa-

tion exists here larger

than at the LoC) can

always be unpredictable

and response to awkward situations may find escala-

tion. The feasibility of

China deliberately trig-

gering tension appears

less likely as it should be

viewing its actions in Ladakh as a misadventure

which failed to deliver.

clarity in the politicostrategic domain of aiming to make India realise that it was alone in the

high Himalayas even as it

may be among future part-

ners in strategic arrange-

ments that it is seeking

under the American umbrella in the Indo-Pacific

region. The misadventure in Ladakh, effectively

thwarted by India, had a

flawed military strategy.

The occupation of some

pressure points, transgressions across some of

them and the refusal to

vacate, awaiting more

negotiations, are being

perceived by some as a victory for China. Victo-

ries are measured against

the attainment of the

politico-strategic aim and

not bits and pieces of occu-

pation of territory which

was vacant. What we in

India have failed to capi-

talise upon is the ethical

aspects of functioning

between nations. China

may have aspirations for

superpower status, but it

lacks the ability to build a

larger perception of itself

beyond that ambition;

powerful nations show

better ethics in interna-

tional functioning. Presi-

dent Xi Jinping's recent

The fact that China

couldn't attain its

aims in coercing

India even under

conditions and its

ate at the field

to a possible

decision to negoti-

change in strategy.

pandemic

China

had reasonable



Syed Ata Hasnain

15 last year cannot be easily forgotten. Twenty Indian soldiers led valiant Col. Babu, MVC (Posthumous), commanding officer of 16 Bihar, were killed in action. A deceptive enemy who hid behind the veil of 45 years of trust turned upon these unsuspecting soldiers who were on a mission to veri-fy what had been agreed by their senior commanders just 10 days ago.

Subhani

Perhaps nowhere in the world has occurred an incident in such bad taste and against all ethics of soldiering. You can take counteraction against adversary soldiers who threaten you or deceive you but targeting those on a verification mission after an agreement was something new in the world of military ethics. The PLA had transgressed Shyok-DBO Road. Not known to be followers of any rule-based order, the PLA took its time in disengaging from the transgression. When pressured to do so, it chose to get aggressive and turned upon those who were verifying the vacation, with weapons which were straight from the Stone Age, to pulverise, shred and tear human flesh. The PLA came prepared with these weapons and perceived that their employment could be projected as non-lethal in today's age.

What was clear from the incident was the fact that the Indian Army worked on a principle of trust. Forty-five years without loss of life at the Sino-Indian border, 22 meetings to resolve the border through a civilised format, dignified campaign at the highest political level to progress economic and people-to-people relations and regular delegation visits to each other's

military establishments, should count for a justified level of trust. Professional armies do not work on assumptions, but yet an element of human compulsion exists, forcing all implausible contingencies out of the consideration and settling for those within the realm of perceptual reason. Even more important, Galwan exemplified camaraderie and team spirit of an extreme kind when soldiers of different units, arms and services all joined the fight for the sake of their comrades, their countrymen and the honour of their

Much water has already flown down the Shyok River through 2020-21, since Galwan, with a lot happening at the Line of Actual Control. From partial mobilisation to stay-ing put in freezing winter conditions with rustic habitats, lifting and transporting stocks of an unimaginable quantum of the LAC to a LoC, we have also witnessed the professional riposte via the quid pro quo operation at the seven heights of the Kailash Range in south Pangong Tso. Through negotiations stretching into the eleventh round, a partial de-escalation and disengagement has been executed but restricted to north and south Pangong Tso. It can safely be assumed that the occupation of the Kailash Range heights caused much consternation in PLA ranks as its major war centre in Ladakh was under direct threat. We could force the PLA vacation of north Pangong Tso transgression because of this. However, some other key transgressions, including the one at Depsang, continue and await the out-

which could be indefinitelevel are pointers ly delayed. So is a Galwan likely to

come of further talks

be repeated, and for that

directions to remove "wolf warrior" diplomacy from China's ways of interna-tional dealings and build a more positive external perception about China is proof enough of its failure in pursuance of effective international relations. Notwithstanding what success it may perceive for itself through the Belt and Road Initiative outreach and attempts at cultivating influence in India's near abroad, the world's image of China remains one of a predatory nation which refuses to be bound by rules and agreements and therefore untrustworthy. The outlay of China's external aid remains at a quarter of what the US dishes out although the Chinese economy is just over half the US economy and growing at a much faster speed. Given all these circumstances and the ongoing

transition in the global order, what one should reasonably expect is some change in China's approach. How much this will impact Sino Indian will impact Sino-Indian relations and the Ladakh standoff is difficult to say, being already a theatre of recent and ongoing tension. The fact that China couldn't attain its aims in coercing India even under pandemic conditions and the field level are pointers to a possible change in strategy. The PLA will play hard to get, it will display reluctance to negotiate and for the foreseeable future will effect no change in the LAC's status. A campaign-like operation appears remote but even coercion operations which China experienced as having potential to go out of control may not take place. However, cyber threats should be expected to escalate, also campaigns in the information domain. Yet a Galwan could always happen as a spinoff from other circumstances, given the unpredictability of the LAC. It is something we should be prepared for even as the tone and tenor of the relationship at the highest levels improves to far greater

The writer, a retired ieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps

## **LETTERS**

#### **LAND GRAB**

About 430 acres of government land worth ₹4,291 crore was seized by the government in Visakhapatnam district till date as part of the special drive launched last year to take back encroached land (State acts on TD men's land grab, DC, June 14). But are the land grabbers being booked for the said crime? Many of the land grabbers are evidently TD leaders/men (read benamis of TD leaders). They earned crores of rupees by leasing such land to industries and corporate houses. Will the authorities close their eyes to such activities by a common man?

Govardhana Myneedu

Vijayawada

#### **NATIONALISE HOSPS**

Return of turncoats has been a mockery of democracy in West Bengal (WB BJP divided over defectors, DC, June 14). No law has been as abused as the so-called anti-defection law in India. The irony is that the leader of Opposition in the WB Assembly is talking about and raising the provisions of the antidefection law which is akin to pot calling the kettle black. It is time to take drastic steps to reform the anti-defection law by the apex court in order to save Indian democracy.

Dr C. Ghanshyam

## YEARS AGO IN hronicle

#### Price-rise on soaps to be checked

NEW DELHI, June 14. Finance Minister Y.B. Chavan today corrected a statement he made during his reply to the debate on the Union Budget about prices of Lux, Rexona and Lifebuov soaps.

Mr. Chavan said his statement that the prices had not been increased and that the manufacturers had absorbed the incidence of duty of Rs. 2.54 a gross was "based on incorrect information supplied to me". He said, he had not been informed that the prices of all the three varieties of soap have been raised by two paise a standard cake.

"We are taking up this matter with the manufacturers," he added.-UNI.

One reason is the widespread protests against it in India, the other is the widespread condemnation against it globally, including in the European Parliament.

Civil society action in Gujarat has resulted in the setting up of fast track courts to hear atrocities against dalits and adivasis. This came after the protest against the assault on dalits in Una over a cow's carcass. The civil society action was led by a former journalist, Jignesh Mewani, who was then elected to the Gujarat Assembly.

A lot of action has taken place in civil society since 2014. A weakening of the government, meaning a Central government with no party having an absolute majority, or a change in government, will give civil society groups additional leverage. Laws that are unacceptable to civil society groups will not be easy to pass and implement. And laws that are in outright violation of international human rights standards will come under pressure to be repealed. It is a most interesting time that is leading up to 2024.

> The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

# quick

<b>INDICATORS</b>		%
Sensex	52,551.53	0.15
Nifty 50	15,811.90	0.08
S&P 500*	4,237.13	-0.24
Dollar (₹)	73.27	0.27
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.25	0.12
Euro (₹)	88.76	0.06
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	47,705 <b>▼</b> 464	0.97
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	73.18	0.67
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.004	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.484	0.022
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

## Government clips powers of cashew council

The government suspended the power of the Cashew **Export Promotion Council to** issue or renew RCMCs (registration-cum-membership certificate) for cashew kernels, cashewnut shell liquid and kardanol and authorised the Apeda for the same. However, RCMCs already issued by the council would remain valid for the rest of their validity period, the DGFT said in a public notice.

## IOB Q4 profit rises more than 2-fold to ₹350 cr



Indian Overseas Bank reported a more than two-fold jump in net profit at Rs 349.77 crore in Q4 against Rs 143.79 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total income in Q4FY21 rose to Rs 6,073.80 crore against Rs 5,484.06 crore in Q4FY20. Provisions for bad loans and contingencies rose to Rs 1,380.46 crore from Rs IOB reported a net profit of Rs 831.47 crore against a net loss of Rs 8,527.40 crore in 2019-20.

## Palm oil imports jump 48% at 7.69 LT in May

India's import of palm oils rose by 48 per cent to 7,69,602 tonne in May this year against 4,00,506 tonne a year ago on higher shipments of crude palm oil, industry body Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) said. Total vegetable oil imports rose by 68 per cent to Rs 12.49 lakh tonne in May this year compared to 7.43 lakh tonne in May 2020. The share of palm oil is over 60 per cent in India's vegetable oil imports.

## CAI cuts cotton ouput estimate to 356 L bales

The Cotton Association of India (CAI) reduced its cotton crop estimate for 2020-21 by 4 lakh bales to 356 lakh bales, due to lower output expected in southern and central zones. The crop estimate for the southern zone has been reduced by 3 lakh bales to 91.50 lakh bales. In Telangana, the estimates are lower by 3 lakh bales based on the data provided by the Telangana Cotton Millers and Traders Welfare Association.



## ■Shares tumble up to 25% intraday

## **Hot Adani stocks** turn freezing cold

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD** with agency inputs MUMBAI, JUNE 14

Adani Group companies shares fell between 5 per cent and 25 per cent intraday on news that tthe Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) has frozen accounts of three foreign portfolio investors' (FPIs), which own over Rs crore worth of shares in four of the group's firms.

According to reports, the market-cap of Adani Group Companies took a \$6-billion hit after media reports emerged about the suspension.

Group flagship Adani Enterprises lost 25 per cent as shares plunged to a low of Rs 1,201.10 on the BSE compared to the previous close at Rs 1,601.45. Later the stock recovered most of the day's losses to close at Rs 1,501.25, still down 6.26 per cent.

Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone ended the day with a loss of 8.3 per cent at Rs 768.70, after plunging 18.75 per cent to a low of Rs 681.50, compared to the previous close at Rs

Adani Power and Adani Transmission closed 4.99 per cent and 5 per centlower, respectively, as both stocks hit the 5 per cent circuit remained locked till the close of the market.

Adani Green Energy, which has risen sharply since August last year and commands a higher market cap than even Adani



Enterprises at Rs 1,83,920 crore, fell 4.13 per cent.

Adani Total Gas fell 5 per cent and hit the lower circuit and was locked in the lower circuit till day's end. It has also risen sharply since mid-October and commands a market cao of

Rs 1,69,871.17 crore. Reports said that NSDL has frozen the accounts of Albula Investment Fund, Cresta Fund and APMS Investment Fund due to insufficient disclosure of information regarding beneficial ownership.

The funds are based out of Mauritius and registered at the same address in Port Louis and the frozen accounts, as of May 31, won't be able to sell or securities, reports said.

However, the Adani Group said it has written confirmation that accounts of three foreign funds that are among its top shareholders are not frozen and reports to the contrary are "blatantly erroneous and misleading". In identical filings to the stock exchange, some group companies said, "This is causing irreparable loss of economic value to the investors at large and reputation of the

group."

A sharp rally in the shares of Adani Group companies had added over \$40 billion to the wealth of Gautam Adani this year.

The quick surge in these stocks, largely held by overseas funds and with very little public float, had also led some analysts to flag the risks involved.

The group's stocks, especially Adani Total Gas, Adani Enterprises and Transmission. extended, Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Gaurav Patankar and Nitin Chanduka wrote in a June 10 note after analyzing technical indica-

"Among the biggest for-eign investors are a few Mauritius-based funds holding over 95% of assets in these companies," the analysts wrote. "Such con-centrated positions, along with negligible onshore ownership, create asymmetric risk-reward as large investors conspicuously avoid Adani," they

## **SEBI SLAPS** ₹15 CR FINES ON **FRANKLIN BOSSES, TRUSTEE**

New Delhi, June 14: imposed totalling Rs 15 crore on Franklin AMC Templeton AMC and its trustee for violating regulatory norms in the case of winding up six debt schemes in 2020.

A fine of Rs 3 crore has been levied on Franklin Templeton Trustee Services Pvt Ltd and Rs 2 crore each on Franklin Management (India) Pvt Ltd president Sanjay Sapre and its chief investment officer Santosh Kamat, according to a Sebi order.

In addition, the regulator imposed a penalty of Rs 1.5 crore each on Kunal Agarwal, Sumit Gupta, Pallab Roy, Sachin Padwal Desai and Umesh Sharma, who were the fund managers at the time of violation, and Rs 50 lakh on Saurabh Gangrade, who was the chief compliance officer at that time.

They have been directed to pay the penalty within 45 days.

Sebi noted that the trustees of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund (MF) are thorough professionals and these officials are experts in their respective domain, and yet they failed to avert certain lapses in the functioning of a mutual fund.

"The acts and deeds committed by them while discharging their duties are not in the interest of the unitholders in specific and the investors in general," the Sebi said.

## RBI set to lift pricing cap on micro loans

**FALAKNAAZ SYED** 

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday proposed to do away with pre-payment penalty requirement of collateral and provide greater flexibility in repayment frequency for all microfi-nance loans. For the lenders, the central bank proposed removing the pricing caps on micro loans introduced after the 2010 microfinance crisis.

The proposals are part of a consultative document on uniform regulation for companies engaged in microfinance business released by the central bank. The proposed recommendations aim to ensure a level-playing field between banks non-banks and microfinance firms, all of which do micro lending but have different regulations.

The suggestions include a common definition of

microfinance loans for all regulated entities, capping the outflow on account of repayment of loan obligations of a household to a percentage of the household income and a board approved policy for household income ssessment.

The paper has proposed to align the pricing guidelines for NBFC-MFIs with guidelines for NBFCs, introduce a standard simplified fact sheet on pricing of microfinance loans for better transparency. besides displaying the minimum, maximum and average interest rates charged on microfinance loans on the websites of regulated entities.

At present the maximum interest charged by an NBFC-MFI has to be lower of (i) the cost of funds plus a margin cap of 10 per cent for MFIs with loan portfolio of Rs 100 crore or above and 12 per cent for others; (ii) The average base rate of the five largest commercial banks by assets multiplied by 2.75. The average base rate of the five largest commercial banks is announced by RBI at the end of each quarter, which determines the interest rate for the ensuing quarter. These pricing restrictions were introduced in 2014 by the regulator in line with the Y.H. Malegam committee rec ommendations.

The current regulations are applicable only to 30 per cent of the microfiloan portfolio NBFC-MFIs other lenders, which comprise around 70 per cent share in the microfinance portfolio, are not subjected to similar regulatory conditions. The emerging dynamics in the microfinance sector as well as the concerns of customer protection call for a review of the regulations,

## Inflation spikes above comfort zone in May

New Delhi, June 14: Rising prices of edible oils and protein rich items pushed the retail inflation to a six-month high of 6.3 per cent in May, breaching the RBI's comfort level and thus rendering reduction in interest rates a difficult proposition in the near-

government has asked the Reserve Bank to keep the retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2

per cent on either side. breached the upper band of

**Based on Consumer Price Index** 2021 Mar Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Figures in per cent | April & May 2020 were not released due to lockdown \* Provisional Source: Ministry of statistics & Programme Implementation Labour bureau/KBK infographic

the inflation target about 10 times since the first meeting of the monetary policy committeein October 2016. Wholesale price-based inflation too accelerated to a record 12.94 per cent in May on account of rising prices of crude oil, manufactured goods and the low base of last year due to the Covid-19 lockdown. -PT

## Amara Raja plans \$1 bn capex in new green tech

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD** MUMBAI, JUNE 14

Automotive and industrial battery manufacturer Amara Raja Batteries capex plan for investment in new green technologies, including lithiumion batteries, to capitalise on the evolving trends in the energy and mobility sectors.

"It's a moving capex as EV (electric vehicle) batteries technologies are changing fast and we may need to keep revisiting our capex requirements. Jaydev Galla, vice chairman, ARBL, told *Financial Chronicle* after the company's board

meeting.
"The technology in this space is emerging rapidly...The ACC (advanced chemistry cell) PLI scheme announced recently by Government of India for Rs 18.000 crore provides a significant impetus for building a domestic supply chain for lithium and other advanced cell chemistries to serve the fast-growing EV and



Jaydev Galla renewable energy sec-

"ARBL plans to invest in a bouquet of products and services to accelerate its transformation to an Energy and Mobility solutions provider," Galla

Jaydev Galla will be taking charge as the chairman of ARBL after the company's annual general meeting in August from his father and ARBL Ramchandra Galla, who has been at the

helm for 36 years. ARBL will also be expanding the core business of lead acid batteries production as Galla feels they will be used for at least two more decades by commercial and heavy

## PE/VC EXITS **MOVE UP AHEAD OF UNICORN IPOS**

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JUNE 14

PE/VC-funded companies have entered a major exit phase with May being the second-best ever in terms of exit values. With some ready for IPOs, exit activity is expected to heat up in the coming months.

May 2021 recorded 18 exits worth \$12 billion, almost 42 times the value of exits in May 2020 at \$286 million and nearly four times the value in April 2021 at \$2.7 billion. Till May this year, there

have been \$19.3 billion worth exits and this is three times the total exit value of last year. Large well-funded corporations have been taking advantage of the current environment to consolidate businesses or acquire online capabilities to enhance the value proposition of their existing brick and mortar businesses, says a IVCA-EY report.

Going ahead, PE/VC funds will see a heightened activity. Several PE/VC-funded firms, including Paytm, Nykaa, and Policy Bazaar have announced IPO plans.

## Rishi Sunak drawn into tax query on Murthy-funded Cloudtail

London, June 14: Cloudtail India Pvt Ltd— the online retailing joint venture of Infosys cofounder N. R. Narayana Murthy's firm Amazon.com— faced a 5.5 including interest and penalties, from tax authorities after it paid "meagre" taxes over the past four

years, a media report said on Monday. Amazon reportedly developed independent sellers such as Cloudtail, as 'spemerchant' which enjoyed over 35 per cent of total sales on the platform

until 2019. While Murthy's Catamaran Ventures indirectly holds 76 per cent in Cloudtail and Amazon the remaining 24 per cent, the firm's two top posts—chief executive and finance director—were with the US retailer. Cloudtail's holding company, Prione is also run by a former Amazon manager, the report in *The* 

Guardian newspaper said. The report said it is not known precisely what the tax dispute is about and the company said that it was contesting the bill, adding that since the "matter is



sub judice, we are unable to comment any further. Following the report, the

office of UK chancellor of the exchequer Rishi Sunak, who is son-in-law of Murthy, was forced to com-The revelations come

just days after Sunak led the G7 finance ministers' charge to agree to a global deal designed to make tech companies pay more tax. "Reaching an interna-

tional agreement on how large digital companies are taxed has been a priority for the chancellor since he took office," said a spokesperson for his UK Treasury office. "The chancellor's consis-

tent position has been that it matters where tax is paid, and any agreement must ensure digital businesses pay tax in the UK

activities. That is what our taxpayers would expect and is the right thing," the spokesperson said. Sunak has been dubbed the UK's richest minister,

largely as a result of his wife Akshata Murty's famiwealth. The latest *Guardian'* report claims analysis of Cloudtail's accounts and activities shows that it is one of the largest sellers on Amazon.in, as part of a 76-24 per cent joint venture with Amazon.

"The company has received a show cause notice in the current year from Directorate General Goods and Service Tax Intelligence amounting to Rs 5.455 lakh (5.5 mn pound) along with interest and penalties for service tax-related matters, it quotes Cloudtail's most recent accounts as saying.

It claims that the annual report further reveals that Cloudtail which only sells via the Amazon platform paid Amazon fees of 95 million pounds last year, almost 10 times more than the Indian business reported in profit.

-PTIk

# New Delhi, June 14:

Reserve Bank of India and Sebi will look into various regulatory issues related to the proposed Rs 4,000-crore investment by US-based private equity firm Carlyle and others in PNB Housing Finance, sources said on Monday.

Last month, the board of PNB Housing Finance cleared a proposal to raise up to Rs 4,000 crore by issuing preference shares and convertible warrants to Carlyle Group firms

According to cources, concerns sources, minority shareholders, corporate governance and others regulatory aspects would be looked into by the RBI and the Securities and Exchange Board of

Earlier this year, the RBI had shot down a Punjab National Bank (PNB) proposal to infuse capital into its subsidiary PNB Housing Finance through a rights issue on concerns of the lender's

deal, PNB director and CEO S. S Mallikarjuna Rao, earler this month, said the bank will neither be investing nor divesting its stake but because of investment from other sources, its shareholding could come down to around 21 per

Currently, PNB as a promoter holds 32.64 per cent stake in PNB Housing

cent.

Finance.
PNB Housing Finance's

## PHILIPS RECALLS **VENTILATORS OVER CARCER RISK**

WILLIAM WILKES

Royal Philips NV recalled ventilation devices used to treat sleep apnea and increased its cost estimate for addressing a defect that may potentially cause

The company said on Monday it's made millions of ventilator devices using sound-abatement foam that may degrade into particles that could be ingested or inhaled and potentially have toxic and car-cinogenic effects. Philips doubled its provision for expected costs related to the issue to 500 million

euros (\$605 million). The recall is a setback for Philips as it shifts to focusing entirely on health-care



# Abu Dhabi's Adia eyes affordable housing

DINESH NAIR, JACK SIDDERS & NICOLAS PARASIE

The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, one of the world's biggest property investors, is considering changes to its real estate strategy after some of its major holdings suffered during the coronavirus pandemic, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The sovereign wealth fund is reviewing the performance of its property assets following weakness in a number of the shopping malls and office buildings in its portfolio, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private. Adia may consider cutting its exposure to some troubled

investments, the people said. Adia has shifted in recent years to making more direct property investments and relying less on



external managers. The state-owned investor has amassed just under \$700 billion in assets, according to estimates from data provider Global SWF, and Adia has said real estate traditionally accounts for about 5 to 10 per cent of that overall portfolio.

While Adia will continue to be a major player in property, it could shift its focus for future deals and increase exposure to areas like warehouses, life sciences properties, technology hubs and affordable housing, one of the people

Its investments in logistics sites in China through a partnership with industrial real estate investor Prologis Inc are among those that performed well through the downturn, the person said. Adia bet on the UK affordable housing market in 2014 through an investment in Fizzy Living Ltd.

The fund has also been putting more resources into private equity investments, which have outperformed during the pandemic, the people said. The review is ongoing, and Adia hasn't made any final decisions on the changes it will make, the people

A representative for Adia declined to comment.

Adia remains in search of new in-house expertise, including a global head of real estate, following a wave of senior departures.

Cerberus Capital Management executive, left after more than a decade with the sovereign wealth fund. Pascal Duhamel, the head of

Last year Tom Arnold, a former

European real estate investments, and Anthony Bertoldi, acting head of real estate in Asia, also left the firm in the second half of 2020. Travel restrictions have slowed Adia's efforts to recruit replacements for some positions, according to the people.

Pandemic shutdowns have hurt investors in the commercial real estate market since early 2020. Stay-at-home orders left shops empty and hit the payment of rents to owners of such properties. Offices have also lain dormant, with many companies now reassessing their real estate requirements in the light of work-from-home trend.

## **PLAN TO RAISE** ₹4K CR FROM CARLYLE that reflects their economic

**REGULATORS TO VET** 

PNB HOUSING FINANCE



and other entities.

India (Sebi).

financial health. About the proposed managing

extraordinary general meeting (EGM) is scheduled to be held on June 22 to seek shareholders' approval for the preferential allotment of shares on a private placement basis to Carlyle and other entities, besides other proposals.

COPA | AMERICA

**Sao Paulo, June 14:** Brazil kicked off a Copa

America tournament that

has been opposed by some

members of their own

team with a 3-0 win over

scored in the opener at

Mane Garrincha stadium

in Brasilia on Sunday, less

than a day after several

Venezuelan players tested

ago, despite their alarming

Covid-19 figures, after Argentina and Colombia

were dropped as co-hosts.

Despite their opposition

to staging the tournament

in their home country,

Brazil captain Casemiro

said the defending champi-

ons intended to retain

"It could be a friendly,

Copa America, World Cup

qualifiers, we play it to

"Venezuela had the idea of defending, they wanted

a draw. But we were

focused and we were

aggressive in the last third

Venezuela summoned 15

new players at short notice

after eight squad members

tested positive for Covid-19

on Saturday, and the dis-

ruption showed on the

from close range. Brazil coach Tite, who

of the pitch," he added.

their trophy.

win," he said.

Barbosa

foot-

Venezuela here.

Marquinhos,

Gabriel

positive for Covid-19.

South American ball's governing body, CONMEBOL, chose Brazil as host less than two weeks

Big guns Brazil begin with bang

Brazil

(Marquinhos 23, Neymar

also opposed holding the

tournament, took Lucas

Paquet off at halftime, but

kept Roberto Firmino on

Everton Ribeiro went on

provided

dynamism on the right

Ribeiro found Danilo on

the Brazilian was

the right edge of the box,

pushed to the ground.

Neymar calmly scored from the spot in the 63rd to make it 2-0. He looked to

the right of Venezuelan

goalkeeper Joel Graterol,

but took his shot to the left. Neymar dribbled past

Graterol and crossed for

Barbosa to chest the ball

into the empty net in the

89th. A flop at Inter Milan

and Benfica, Barbosa is a

hero at Brazilian club

Flamengo, which want him on the national team more

Tite said he's experiment-

ing with combinations,

thinking ahead to the World Cup in Qatar next

Brazil and Venezuela are

in Group 'B' with Colombia, Ecuador and

Peru. Brazil and Colombia

lead with three points each, but the defending

champions are ahead by difference

Colombia's 1-0 win against

Instead.

bench.

64, Gabriel Barbosa 89)

Venezuela

SHORT TAKES

## **Malvika pockets**

**Lithuanian crown** 

Kaunas (Lithuania): India's Malvika Bansod defeated Rachael Darragh of Ireland in straight games to clinch the women's singles crown at the **RSL Lithuanian International** badminton tournament here. The third seeded Indian got the better of fourth seed Darragh 21-14 21-11 in the summit clash on Sunday night that lasted just 29 minutes. Malvika, who reached the quarterfinals of the Austrian Open last month, had earlier defeated France's Anna Tatranova 21-13 21-10 to enter the singles final. En route to her title triumph here, the 19-yearold Malvika had defeated local player Vilte Paulauskaite 21-6 21-10 in the opening round, before crushing Heli Neiman of Israel 21-10, 21-11. — PTI

### **Mushfigur, Bryce** win ICC awards

Dubai: Former Bangladesh captain Mushfigur Rahim and Scottish all-rounder Kathryn Bryce were on Monday adjudged the ICC Players of the Month for May in the men's and women's categories respectively. The winners were announced by the ICC in a press release. Diminutive wicket-keeper batsman Mushfigur played one Test and three ODIs against Sri Lanka in the month of May, where he helped Bangladesh win their first ODI series against Sri Lanka by scoring 125 in the second game. Bryce, on the other hand, is the first player from Scotland, to make it to the top 10 of the batting or bowling lists in the rankings. - PTI

## **WTC winners to** bag \$1.6 million

Dubai: The winner of the upcoming World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand will walk away with a prize money of USD 1.6 million along with the Test Championship Mace, the International Cricket Council said on Monday.India and New Zealand will battle it out for the prestigious title at Southampton on June 18. "The winners of the muchawaited ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final between India and New Zealand will take home a purse of \$ 1.6 million along with the ICC Test Championship Mace,' an ICC statement read.

### **Sporting pitch in store for big Test**

**Southampton:** Head grounds man at Southampton Simon Lee is aiming to produce a pacy and bouncy pitch for the World Test Championship final with some assistance for spinners later on in the game. The final will be played between India and New Zealand from June 18. "Pitch preparation for this Test is a little simpler as we are a neutral venue, we are guided by the ICC, but we all want is a good pitch that offers an even contest between the teams,' Lee said. "For me personally I just want to get something out that has some pace, bounce and carry in the pitch." -PTI

### **Federer eases into Halle 2nd round**

Halle Westfalen: Roger Federer eased into the second round of the ATP grass court tournament in Halle on Monday with a straight sets win over qualifier Ilya Ivashka. Federer, who turns 40 in August, had few problems in his first match this season on grass to seal a 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 first-round win over Belarusian Ivashka, ranked 90th in the

Federer, the fifth seed in Halle, will meet Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime or Hubert Hurkacz of Poland in the second round. "There is room for improvement, but I am happy with my first game here on grass. I feel good," said Federer, currently ranked eighth. - AFP

## Live on TV

Group Stage: Hungary vs Portugal from 9.30 pm; France vs Germany from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

Printed and Published from Nellore by K.Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronile Holdings Limited at PlotNo.527.Chemudugunta (Village), Venkatachalasatram (Mandal), Nellore. RNI Registration No.APENG/2003/11048 Phones: 2348581, 82 & 83, Fax:2348580, Grams: CHRONICLE.

# DUTCH DRAMA

## Dumfries gives Netherlands a thrilling 3-2 win over Ukraine

Netherlands 3

(Wijnaldum 52, Weghorst 58, Dumfries 85)

Ukraine

(Yarmolenko 75, Yaremchuk 79)

Amsterdam, June 14: Denzel Dumfries scored a dramatic late winner as the Netherlands marked their long-awaited return to a major tournament with a 3-2 victory over Ukraine in a remarkable Euro 2020 game in Amsterdam on Sunday.

Dumfries, the full-back, Eindhoven headed in a cross from substitute Nathan Ake to complete a madcap second half after the home side eased into a two-goal lead and then threw it away.

Georginio Captain Wijnaldum and Wout Weghorst both scored before the hour mark in front a raucous crowd at the Johan Cruyff Arena, only for Ukraine to silence the home supporters as Andriy Yarmolenko and Roman Yaremchuk netted to briefly restore parity.

Frank de Boer's side got there in the end and the victory will provide a major lift to the major lift to the Netherlands after what was their first game at a major competition in seven years.
They will now hope to

build on it on Thursday against Austria, who beat North Macedonia earlier in Bucharest in the same

Group C.
It was a brilliant game, and a crowd of around 16,000 created an atmosphere fit for the occasion at the home of Ajax, where supporters held up banners with messages of support for Christian Eriksen following the Denmark star's cardiac arrest on Saturday.

Eriksen made his name at Ajax before moving to Tottenham Hotspur in

After failing to qualify for Euro 2016 or the 2018 World Cup in Russia, the Netherlands were playing their first game at a major competition since beating hosts Brazil 3-0 to claim third place at the 2014

PORTUGAL-HUNGARY

1998: Portugal won 3-1 in

**1999:** Portugal won 3-0 in

Denmark, June 14:

Denmark's goalkeeper

Monday lamented that

they had to choose

whether to restart the

Denmark-Finland Euro

2020 match while they

were reeling from Christian Eriksen's mid-game collapse.

position, that I person-

ally feel that we should-

n't have been put in," Schmeichel told

Danish media at a

Helsingor north of

event

"We were put in a

striker Martin

Schmeichel

EURO MEETINGS

**2016:** 3-3 in Lyon

Braithwaite

Matches: 13. Portugal: 9.

**HEAD-TO-HEAD** 

**DANISH PLAYERS CRITICISE** 

**DECISION TO RESUME GAME** 

Netherlands' Denzel Dumfries celebrates after scoring a goal against Ukraine in the

**Austria** (Lainer 18, Gregoritsch 78, Arnautovic 89)

N. Macedonia 1 (Pandev 28)

## **AUSTRIA SEE OFF NEWBIES** N. MACEDONIA

**Bucharest**, June Substitutes Gregoritsch and Marko Arnautovic scored late goals as Austria sealed a 3-1 victory over major tour-nament debutants North Macedonia in their Group C opener at Euro 2020 on Sunday.

Stefan Lainer put the Austrians ahead early on in Bucharest, but 37-yearold captain Goran Pandev levelled before the halfhour mark to become the second-oldest scorer in Euro history and delight the vocal Macedonian

"Above all, the substitutions really paid off," said Austria coach Franco

'Gregoritsch Arnautovic gave the team a new impulse. Overall I -AFP

field. Brazil opened the scoring in the 23rd minute after a corner kick ended with Marquinhos striking

# Czechs grin Schick-to-Schick

Glasgow, June 14: Scotland's long-awaited return to a major international tournament was ruined by Patrik Schick's slick finishing as the Czech Republic won 2-0 at Hampden on Monday to move top of Euro 2020

Group D. Schick's header just before half-time opened the scoring, but it was his stunning strike from just inside the Scotland half after the break that will live in the memory as one of the all-time great European Championship goals. After a 23-year wait to qualify for a major tournament, Scotland's hopes of making more history

FRANCE-GERMANY

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

Matches: 31. France: 14. Germany: 10. Drawn: 7.

EURO MEETINGS

Copenhagen.

explained.

"We had two options," Schmeichel

come back the day after (Sunday) at noon or

The Leicester City

goalkeeper said he

wished someone more

senior would've said

"that it wasn't the time

to take that decision,

and that we should

maybe wait until the

day after to decide".
"What has happened

has happened, and

hopefully they'll learn

from this," Schmeichel

continue the game.'

2016: France won 2-0 in

Czech (Schick 42, 52)

**Scotland** 

by getting out of the group for the first time now look slim.

Steve Clarke's men face England next on Friday at Wembley before hosting World Cup finalists Croatia at Hampden on

June 22 Playing in front of fans at Hampden for the first time since November 2019 with 12,000 in attendance, Scotland made a nervous

David Marshall was the hero of penalty shootout wins over Israel and Serbia to qualify and was needed early on to turn Schick's powerful effort at the near post behind.

The hosts were desperately missing the driving runs and poise on the ball normally provided by Kieran Tierney on the left side of a back three.

Clarke has settled on a 3-5-2 to make way for two of the Premier League's best left-backs in the same team. Without the Arsenal defender, Liverpool's Andy Robertson was his side's biggest threat with a series of rampaging

His cross was turned narrowly wide by Lyndon Dykes at the near post before the Scotland captain was denied a moment to remember by Tomas onto Ryan Christie's pass but his shot that was headed for the top corner was tipped over by the Sevilla goalkeeper. A cagev game of few chances burst into

ing leap put the visitors in front three minutes before half-time Scotland were slow to

react after initially clearing a corner and the Bayer Leverkusen forward rose highest to flick home Coufal's cross.

final shootout win over

European Championship

may not count for much

talent and one particular

player looking to make his-

Cristiano Ronaldo needs

six more goals to become

Italy.

life after Schick's tower-

**CHAMPIONS PORTUGAL** Brazil's Gabriel Barbosa (top) celebrates with teammate Home advantage at the

Brasilia on Sunday.

# Germany host France in blockbuster group clash

Munich, June 14: France and Germany usually play each other in the latter stages of major football tournaments. Not this time. The teams will meet in the group stage of a European Championship or World Cup for the first time on Tuesday when they open their Euro 2020 campaigns in Munich

Their last match at a major tournament came in the Euro 2016 semifinals. Antoine Griezmann scored twice for France in the 2-0 victory over then-World Cup champion Germany in Marseille. Germany have never real-

ly recovered, and though the French lost to Portugal in the final five years ago, they went on to win the World Cup two years later. Remarkably, no player in



Germany's Thomas Muller during a training session ahead of his team's Euro opener against France.

has ever scored in a European Championship Thomas Muller,

Test against England.

#### the all-time leading scorer for a men's national team. If the defending champi ons go far, Ronaldo could indeed break Ali Daei's record of 109 goals. And he'll get his first chance to add to his total on Tuesday against the Hungarians at

## Cardona scores in Colombia victory

Neymar after scoring against Venezuela during their

Copa America match at the Mane Garrincha Stadium in

Cuiaba (Brazil), June 14: surprising graphed move gave Colombia a 1-0 win against Ecuador in their first match of Copa America.

Edwin Cardona scored the winner at the Arena Pantanal in Cuiaba in the 42nd minute of a tense game on Sunday.

The decisive moment started when midfielder Cardona took a free kick close to the edge of the Ecuadorian penalty box. Instead of shooting, he exchanged three short passes with Juan Guillermo Cuadrado, who moved the ball forward to where Miguel Borja was

Borja headed the ball back to Cardona, who had run toward goalkeeper Pedro Ortiz and who scored with a right-foot shot as the Ecuadorian defenders watched on. The move had to be validated by video review.

The play of our goal has been worked on by our players since the ... World qualifiers,'

**Colombia** (Edwin Cardona 42)

**Ecuador** 

Rueda said.

Colombia's coach Reinaldo

The previous encounter between these teams ended 6-1 to Ecuador seven months ago in a World Cup qualifying game. Carlos Queiroz was fired as head coach after that heavy defeat. Sunday's win was the second in three matches for Rueda, who replaced

Queiroz. The win against Ecuador was a further boost for Rueda, who has made some contention decisions early in his tenure, including the call to leave star midfielder James Rodriguez out of the Copa America squad.

The result also eased some of the tension in the squad after Colombia's football federation on Sunday said two members

of the coaching staff had tested Coronavirus.



#### Rahane offers tips to women's team New Delhi, June 14: Playing close to the body, working on mindset and setting small targets are some of tips that Indian men's Test team vice-cap-

tain Ajinkya Rahane gave to Mithali Raj & Co ahead of their first red-ball game in seven years, against

According to sources in the know of develop-ments, Rahane, a Test specialist with 73 games and over 4500 runs under his belt, was requested by women's team head coach Ramesh Powar for a session, primarily with the batters before they left for

'Ramesh and Ajinkya

been teammates.

Since our girls are playing Test match after seven years, the coach thought that it would be a good idea to have a session where one of the best in the business will talk about Test match batting.

"It was a 50-minute zoom session that was arranged when both teams were in quarantine in Mumbai," a senior official privy to the development said on the condition of anonymity.

The match is starting on Wednesday. It is learnt that skipper Mithali, her deputy Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and all the batters, along with senior pacer Shikha Pandey, spoke to Rahane about the long-form batting. "Apparently, Ajinkya told them not to play the drive too much during the as the ball moves around a lot in the UK. He told the batters to concentrate on playing as close to the body as possible.

"He believes that with late swing, there would always be the lure to play the cover drive but its best to avoid the stroke initially with Dukes ball beingused," the source said.

Rahane believes that the foundation of a Test innings should be based on short targets. "He told the batters that it should be like first 15 runs and then another 25 and another 30 runs."



India's Jhulan Goswami trains ahead of their one-off