

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | MONDAY 14 | JUNE 2021

## WEATHER



**Max:** 29°C  
**Min:** 22°C  
**Rainfall:** 0.8 mm

## ASTROGUIDE

**Pilava:** Vaikashi 31  
**Tithi:** Sathurthasi  
**Star:** Poosam  
**Rahukalam:** 7.30 am to 9 am  
**Yamagandam:** 10.30 am to 12 noon

### PRAYERS

**Fajar:** 4.23 am  
**Luhar:** 12.14 pm  
**Asar:** 3.33 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6.34 pm  
**Isha:** 7.52 pm

**SUNSET TODAY** 6.45 PM  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 5.59 AM  
**MOONRISE TODAY** 9.06 PM  
**MOONSET TOMORROW** 10.54 PM

## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+80,834)	(+3,819)
2,95,20,020	3,74,226

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

**(+14,016)**  
**TN:** 23,53,721 29,547

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

17,65,85,538

**DEATHS**  
38,16,407

**COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES**  
219

worldometers.info

## Saudi bars foreigners from Hajj due to Covid

**Jeddah:** Saudi Arabia announced this year's hajj pilgrimage will be limited to no more than 60,000 people, all of them from within the kingdom, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The announcement by the kingdom comes after it ran an incredibly pared-down pilgrimage last year over the virus, but still allowed a small number of the faithful to take part in the annual ceremony.

## Will be part of Cabinet after expansion: JD-U

**Patna:** Amid the speculations of the Union Cabinet expansion, R C P Singh, national president of the National Democratic Alliance partner Janata Dal-United on Sunday said that the JD-U is part of the alliance of the ruling NDA coalition at the Centre and the party will be part of the Cabinet whenever there is an expansion.

## COUNTER POINT



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

# US opens visa for students; interviews to start on July 1

**VINEETA PANDEY |DC**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

Indian students who have taken admissions in the universities of the United States can book appointments for visa from Monday as the US embassy in India has decided to start an intensive two months of interviews starting July 1. Embassy officials said "tens of thousands of interview slots" would be available starting Monday. However, parents who want to go to the US to "help their children settle" cannot

accompany them this time as the US government has still not opened B1/B2 visas for tourists.

The US had stopped the entry of Indians after President Joe Biden signed Presidential Proclamation 10199 suspending most non-immigrant travel from India on April 30 due to the intense second wave of Covid-19 that saw a huge number of Indian population infected with the contagious "Delta" variant. Now with the wave abating and fresh cases much under control, the US government

has decided to open its borders for Indian students who will be joining classes in Fall.

"Student visas remain a top priority for the U.S. mission to India and we are making every attempt to facilitate student travel in time for the fall semester. As such, on June 14, 2021 we will open limited July and August student visa appointments at posts across India," The US embassy said.

The embassy added that the students not need worry about carrying the original

hard copy of I-20 Forms (certificate of eligibility for nonimmigrant student status) given by the institutions. Instead, the electronic I20 provided by schools are accepted by the Embassy. Students need to get it printed and carry with them while coming for visa. Also, fully funded students do not need to show proof for financial support during the visa interview if it is mentioned in I20 form. The students also do not need to give a letter from University specifying that the classes will be in per-

son, it said. However, parents would not be allowed to accompany students to the US (B1/B2 visa) to help them settle. The embassy has said that "students would need to travel on their own." This is because currently under the Presidential Proclamation, those seeking to travel to the US on tourist visas are not allowed due to COVID situation. Majority of Indian parents travel on tourist visas to help their children settle in a new country. The embassy said

parents who already have B1/B2 visa would need National Interest Exception in order to fly and the embassy will not be issuing any NIEs in such cases right now.

"Travelers who already possess a valid student or exchange visitor (For M) visa and who will begin their programs on or after August 1, 2021, may travel to the United States without further action from the Embassy or Consulates in India.? Direct?travel?to the United States from India with a F or M visa may

begin no more than?30 days prior to the start date of a student's classes. We are unable to facilitate travel for F or M visa holders with a program start date before August 1, 2021, including those who have already been issued a visa. Students with a program start date before August 1, 2021 should contact their respective educational institutions to discuss their options... The U.S. Embassy and Consulates in India are only accepting emergency appointments," the US Embassy has posted on its website.



## Nehru slams BJP protest against Tasmac reopening

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## World | 5 New Israeli govt to be sworn in

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## Djokovic wins French Open



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# Unlock starts today; Stalin seeks help to stop spread

■ **BJP protests Tasmac opening; DMK cites K'ataka example**

**R. MOHAN | DC**  
CHENNAI, JUNE 13

As Chennai and 26 other districts unlock from Monday, not only tea shops that serve "the cup that cheers but not inebriate" and also Tasmac shops that do quite the same in more elaborate ways. Both categories are to open for restricted hours and offer only "parcel" service as per the regulations spelt out prior to their opening.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin himself took interest in sending out appeals to people to use the tea shops (from 6 am to 5 pm) only to pick up tea, coffee and snacks like buns and "porai" as is their colloquial name. He also appealed to people to bring their own vessels so that tea shop operators do not have to pour the liquids in thin plastic bags for taking away.

The idea of making the tea shops "takeaways" is to avoid crowding of citizens that could lead to the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Sweet and savoury shops have also been allowed to function, from 8 am to 2 pm.

To help people avail a host of government ser-

# Covid-19 tally falls; Dharavi has just 2

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
WITH AGENCY INPUTS  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

With 80,834 fresh Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, India on Sunday recorded its lowest daily rise in new cases after 71 days (since April 2). The number of deaths in the past 24 hours was 3,303, while 1.32 lakh people recovered, taking the country's recovery rate to 95.26 per cent. Major cities like New

vices like getting certificates for various purposes, e-service centres would also function from Monday, the Chief Minister said. Offices of building construction firms are allowed to work with 50 per cent workforce.

Liquor shops are to operate to strict social distancing norms with customers to wait in spread out queues and only five of them to be served at the counter at any given time.

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

Some other cities too have started reopening from the lockdown gradually. ■ **P4**

Police are expected to be posted at some of the popular vends so that the business can go on smoothly rather than allow the crowding that is regularly seen in fish markets of the city on Sundays.

The opening of Tasmac shops does come with a bit of political chatter with the BJP holding a demonstration at their Kamalayalam headquarters in the city to condemn the sale of liquor during the pandemic. ■ **P4**

## SHOPS, MALLS, HOTELS TO BE OPENED IN DELHI

**BHASKAR HARI SHARMA |DC**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

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

In addition, salons, beauty parlours and barber shops, which have been closed since the lockdown was imposed April 19, will also reopen from Monday, officials said. "All activities, except certain prohibited ones, will be allowed from 5 am on Monday. There are also certain restricted or partly allowed activities announced last week that will continue," Mr Kejriwal said in an online briefing. One weekly market in every zone can also reopen from June 14.

# PM bats for patent waiver for Covid vaccines at G7

**New Delhi, June 13:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for adopting a "one earth, one health" approach to effectively deal with the coronavirus pandemic globally during a virtual address at a session of the G7 summit.

Calling for global unity, leadership and solidarity to prevent future pandemics, Mr Modi who spoke late on Saturday emphasised the special responsibility of democratic and transparent societies to deal with the challenge. The prime minister also sought support of the G7 for a proposal moved at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by India and South Africa for patent waiver on Covid related technologies. "The Prime Minister committed India's support for collective endeavours to improve global health governance. He sought the G7's support for the proposal moved at the WTO by India and South Africa, for a TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver on Covid related technologies," an official statement said.

"Prime Minister Modi said that today's meeting should send out a message of 'One Earth, One Health' for the whole world," it said about his address at



Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in the first Outreach Session of the G7 Summit virtually, in New Delhi. — AP

## PRESIDENT BIDEN CLAIMS US IS BACK IN BUSINESS OF LEADING THE WORLD

**Newquay (England), June 13:** President Joe Biden on Sunday said the United States had restored its presence on the world stage as he used his first overseas trip since taking office to connect with a new generation of leaders from some of the world's

most powerful countries. "America's back in the business of leading the world alongside nations who share our most deeply held values," Mr Biden said at a news conference before leaving Cornwall to visit Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle. — AP

the outreach session.

Mr Modi who spoke on another session on Sunday said India is a natural ally for the G7 countries in defending the shared values from a host of threats stemming from authoritarianism, terrorism and violent extrem-

ism, disinformation and economic coercion.

In a virtual address at a session on 'open societies and open economies' at the summit, Mr Modi highlighted India's civilisational commitment to democracy, freedom of thought and liberty. —PTI



Minister for Information & Publicity M.P. Saminathan inaugurates oxygen production plant for Covid-19 treatment at Government medical college hospital in Tirupur on Sunday. — DC

# Suvendu warns he will invoke anti-defection law

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
KOLKATA, JUNE 13

A major policy clash has unfolded between two prominent functionaries in the West Bengal BJP on how to tackle the threat of defection of its newly elected MLAs to the ruling Trinamul Congress. This, after the return of BJP's national vice president and Krishnanagar North legislator Mukul Roy to the ruling Trinamul Congress.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari has warned Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee that he would raise provisions of the anti-defection law in the state Assembly if

defection of legislators from the BJP took place. This is also seen as a veiled warning to BJP MLAs so as to hold them back in the party.

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh meanwhile lamented the "habit on the part of many to leave the party," and said the party itself would drive out those "who only want to enjoy power."

Replying to questions on Roy's alleged bid to poach on at least 10 BJP MLAs and a Lok Sabha MP to take them to the TMC fold, Adhikari said, "There were instances of MLAs of Congress and CPI(M) being present in the TMC. Mamata Banerjee now

started it again with Mukul Roy. It is my responsibility as a leader of opposition to establish that Banerjee and the West Bengal Assembly are not above the law."

The Nandigram BJP MLA added, "Who will go where and with whom is not a big issue. But the CM must keep in mind that the anti-defection law had not been enforced in West Bengal because of the control the CM exercised on the Speaker. As leader of opposition, I know the steps. I will show how to ensure this law is implemented here. It will take two or three months. One can change party but must abide by law."

## DELHI JAMA MASJID DAMAGED BY STORMS

**New Delhi, June 13:** The structures of the historic Jama Masjid in old Delhi have suffered damage in two dust storms within a week's time and thus, need "immediate intervention" of heritage experts, the Shahi Imam of the celebrated mosque said on Sunday.

The 17th-century architectural icon was built in the reign of Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan for the main city of Shahjehabad, which currently falls in the Walled City, and is a major tourist attraction in the national capital.

"Over a week ago, the southern minaret of the grand mosque was damaged by a dust storm and rain, and a big block of stone had fallen off it. Luckily, no one was injured in the incident. But, due to this, other stones around it have also become loose," the Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari said.

On June 4, a big chunk of the red sandstone tower had fallen off after suffering damage in the massive dust storm and rains that had hit Delhi-NCR.

The fallen piece was about two-metre long, 12-18 inches wide and about 2.5-inch thick. Other small pieces had also fallen along with it, he said.



## OTHER STORIES

Case against  
Baba transferred  
to CB-CID

Chennai, June 13: The case against Shiva Shankar Baba, the founder of a residential school, under sections of IPC, Pocco Act and Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, has been transferred to the CB-CID.

The school founder had cases registered against him in the Mammalapuram all women police station in the wake of sexual abuse complaints from a few alumnae of the school in Kelambakkam in the city outskirts.

Among the students who complained of sexual harassment and abuse is a minor.

The police have formed special teams to arrest Shiv Shankar Baba who is said to have absconded and is said to be somewhere in north India.

The Baba case came to the fore with former students of the school taking to social media to expose him following the arrest of school teacher Rajagopalan on charges of sexually harassing school girls.

Worker killed for  
not paying  
house rent

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CUDDALORE, JUNE 13

A 38-year old person was arrested on a charge of murdering a worker for not paying rent for a month in Cuddalore on Saturday.

According to sources S. Raja, 37, was working in a company in Devanampattinam. He was residing for more than a year in a rented house owned by Revathy at Ayyanar Street in Pudukulayam.

Due to Covid-19 lockdown, he failed to pay the rent to Revathy for a month. Based on the direction of Revathy, her relative Rajesh, 38, developed a quarrel with Raja on Friday demanding rent be paid to him immediately.

Following an altercation, he assaulted Raja with a wooden log and the victim sustained head injuries to be rushed to Government general hospital, Cuddalore.

He was referred to JIPMER hospital, Puducherry and later succumbed to serious head injuries on Saturday. Rajesh was arrested and remanded to prison.

**Following an altercation, he assaulted Raja with a wooden log and the victim sustained head injuries to be rushed to Government GH, Cuddalore**



People waiting in long queue to receive coronavirus vaccination at a camp in Kodambakkam, Chennai on Sunday.

— DC

## Oppose NEP, says educationist

OP ARULN | DC  
CHENNAI, JUNE 13

Educationist and former Vice Chancellor urged chief minister M.K. Stalin to oppose the New Education Policy 2020 as it is against the interests of the students, against social justice and violation of Federal principles enshrined in the Constitution. In his letter to the CM, Prof. L. Jawahar Nesan, former VC, JSS Science and Technology University, Mysore, implementation of the NEP-2020 would affect the reservation policy in the state and promote Hindi and Sanskrit.

Nesan, who has been appointed as a member of the NEET review panel by the State government, said the Centre's policy has shifted from Hindi centric linguism to now Sanskrit centric linguistic nationalism. It stipulates that of the three languages, two should be native to India but emphasises Sanskrit as one option in the three-language formula at all levels up to secondary

education and beyond. According to NEP, "Sanskrit will thus be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an important, enriching option for students, including as an option in the three-language formula". "Why should the nation compel simply for the sake of learning someone else's past pride or primitive knowledge or culture", he asked.

Alternatively, Tamil as a medium of learning shall be fostered at all levels of studies, until then, the current bilingual (Tamil and English) approach shall continue, he recommended. Stating that a centralised assessment system is not practised in any progressive country, Nesan said the public examination for students of Third, Fifth and Eighth standards would hamper the progress of the students.

The policy stipulates that an apex authority, named, National Assessment Centre, as guided by NCERT, along

with centrally authorised bodies like Boards of Assessment (BOAs) will have the power to regulate and implement all such examinations from standard 3 to 12 and states will only be an operative in this national level mechanism who will simply have to comply with the standards and framework set by the centre. He recommended that the Government should focus more on investing on teacher's competence and skills.

He feared that vocational education proposed by the NEP 2020 eventually will end up with descent based (kula kalvi/kula thozhil) education and will also curtail the talent of a majority of students and block the channels of progression to pursue mainstream education and thus higher education as well. In a hierarchically fragmented social structure, vocational choices are at the mercy of those at the higher levels of the social hierarchy, where educational institutions and students will have a very slender chance of select-

ing their vocational choices.

Since Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution he said the States also have the powers to formulate policies and legislate laws and Acts to ensure that quality education is imparted. He further elaborated that the Concurrent status of education means policies related to education are legislated by the central and state governments in the form of meaningful and constructive partnership in consonance with the broader themes and objectives of the Constitution. And, the Centre cannot unilaterally impose its educational policies and legislations, as it desires, without engaging the states and their people.

The NEP also violates principles of Social justice and the policy does not speak about reservation in students' admission and teachers' recruitment. The reservation policy will gradually cease to exist despite its existence in the Constitution, Nesan said.

Give blood and keep  
the world beating

T. SUDHEESH | DC  
CHENNAI, JUNE 13

The voluntary blood donation through camps and drives, which account for 80 percent of national blood supply, took a beating due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day being observed on Monday, medical practitioners emphasised that it's time for blood donors to be brought back on track as vaccination programmes are gaining momentum and the risk of transmission of Covid-19 through transfusion of blood is minimal.

The voluntary blood donation came to a grinding halt due to the fear among people of getting infected by the virus. However, medical practitioners clarified that Covid-19 is primarily transmitted through the respiratory system. Therefore, any potential risk of virus transmission

by transfusion of blood collected from individuals is theoretical.

Dr Deepti Sachan, senior consultant and clinical lead, transfusion medicine, Rela Hospital, pointed out that donors were also scared of contracting the virus. It led to suspension of plans to visit hospitals and hold blood donation camps. Maintaining social distance would also become difficult in such camps. As per the NBTC (National Blood Transfusion Council), a person can donate blood 28 days post Covid-19 recovery or discharge from a treating facility or 28 days after home isolation ends. Individuals who recently received the vaccine can donate after 14 days," said Dr Deepti.

Dr Akshith Thimmaiah, head of laboratory services and head of hospital infection control, Dr Mehta's Hospitals, suggested that ramping up in-house blood donation pro-

grams with all safety measures was key to deal with the pandemic situation.

Blood donation camps should not be stopped completely. It can be planned with better maintenance for rare blood group registry. Considering the pandemic, rationalising and prioritising the use of blood and blood products is important to improve the reserve and prevent wastage', he added.

"Since vaccination drives are picking up in the state, it's time for the health department authorities to encourage voluntary groups and non-governmental organisations to conduct blood donation drives with strict guidelines to meet the demand at hospitals. We are now organising a drive where vaccinated individuals are encouraged to donate blood", opined Dr Arun Kalyanasundaram, head, department of cardiology,

Promed Hospital.

"There has not been any reported case of developing Covid-19 through blood transfusion or via blood donation procedure. Blood donation is the greatest act of kindness especially at a time when the world is undergoing a health crisis", he added.

June 14 is observed as World Blood Donor Day to encourage people to donate blood voluntarily, to thank blood donors who regularly donate for their life-saving gift of blood and to raise an awareness about the need for regular blood donations. This year, the theme is "Give blood and keep the world beating". Blood transfusion is a life-saving measure for bleeding patients during major surgeries like liver transplants, cardiac surgeries, road accidents, pregnant women and critically ill patients who require frequent blood transfusions like Thalassemia.

State crosses one crore  
Covid vaccinations

From P1

On Covid-19, Mr Stalin said the incidence of positive cases was declining in a majority of the districts, particularly Chennai, and based on that more relaxations were announced in 27 districts. However, western districts like Coimbatore and Tirupur were reporting little higher, he said, adding that overall, the government has succeeded in controlling the spread.

Mr Subramaniam said the state had received 13 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccines out of 42 lakh allocated by the Centre for June so far. The government is planning to step up the vaccination drive depending upon the supply of vaccines from the Centre.

On Saturday, a record 3.26 lakh doses of vaccines were administered



in a single day.

The state has already administered 1.01 crore of the 1.10 crore doses received.

"We are expecting much pace in the vaccination as the days to come. The state has made all facilities ready to inoculate vaccines even if the centre provides surplus doses. We are expecting more doses after June 21 as the Prime Minister declared Centre would procure 75 per cent of vac-

cines from 7 manufacturers and send it to the states at free of cost. So the Chief Minister decided to get a date of appointment with the PM to seek more vaccines so that all people in the state can get jabs. As per the supply from the Centre, more vaccination centres will be set up in rural and tribal areas," the minister said.

Responding to the mucormycosis infection situation, the minister said a total of 1,499 people were affected till Sunday morning. Of them, 538 are under treatment in private health centres and the rest in government hospitals.

"We have asked for 60,000 vials of medicine from the Centre and only around 10,000 vials have been delivered so far," he said.

## 24 districts get new Collectors

Chennai, June 13: A spate of transfers of IAS officers came into effect in Tamil Nadu with a notification on Sunday appointing them as District Collectors from other posts they were holding.

Ms Kavitha Ramu, IAS, Director cum Mission Director, Integrated Child Development Scheme, is posted as Collector, Pudukottal District. Mr S.Gopala Sundara Raj, IAS, JMD & Project Director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board posted as Collector, Ramanathapuram District. Mr Dinesh Ponraj Oliver, IAS, Collector, Ramanathapuram District posted as Collector, Thanjavur District. Mr K.V. Muralidharan, IAS, Director, Agricultural Marketing and

Agri Business posted as Collector, Theni District.

Dr. A.Arun.Thamburaj, IAS, Project Director, Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project posted as Collector, Nagapattinam District. Mr AR. Rahul Nadh, IAS, Joint Secretary to Government (Protocol), Public Department posted as Collector, Chengalpattu District.

Dr M. Aarthi., IAS, MD, Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation, posted as Collector, Kancheepuram District. Ms Mageswari Ravikumar, IAS Deputy Commissioner (Health), Greater Chennai Corporation posted as Collector, Tiruvallur District.

Mr D. Mohan, IAS, former-

ly MD, Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation posted as Collector, Villupuram District. Mr P.N. Sridhar, IAS, Regional Joint Commissioner (Central), Greater Chennai Corporation posted as Collector, Kallakurichi District.

Mr P. Kumaravel Pandian, IAS, Commissioner, Corporation of Coimbatore posted as Collector, Vellore District. Mr B. Muruges, IAS, MD, Tamil Nadu Housing Board posted as Collector, Tiruvannamalai. Mr Amar Kushawha, IAS, Additional Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj posted as Collector, Tirupathur District. Ms Shreya Singh, IAS, Additional Collector (Revenue), Villupuram

District posted as Collector, Namakkal District. Mr S.Visakan, IAS, Commissioner, Corporation of Madurai, posted as Collector, Dindigul District. Dr. G.S.Sameeran, IAS, Collector, Tenkasi District posted as Collector, Coimbatore District.

Dr. S. Vinceth, IAS, JMD, TANGEDCO posted as Collector, Tirupur District. Ms P. Raman? Saraswathi, IAS, Additional Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments posted as Collector Ariyalur District.

Dr. T.Prabhushankar, IAS, ED, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board posted as Collector, Karur District. Mr J.Meghanatha Reddy, IAS,

Deputy Commissioner (Works), Greater Chennai Corporation posted as Collector, Virudhunagar District.

Dr. J.Vijaya Rani, IAS, MD, Tamil Nadu Adl Dravidar Housing Development Corporation posted as Collector, Chennai District. Dr.LU. Chandrakala, IAS, ED, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development Women posted as Collector, Tenkasi District.

Mr H.Krishnanummi, IAS, Collector, Theni District posted as Collector, Erode District and Ms P.Gayethri Krishnan, IAS, Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (State Taxes), Coimbatore posted as Collector, Tiruvarur District.

DC CORRESPONDENT,  
CHENNAI, JUNE 13

After almost two months, daily Covid-19 positive cases count climbed to 14k on Sunday. According to the data provided by the Health department, the state added a total of 14,016 new cases and 267 deaths. With this, the total Covid19 tally in the state has touched 23,53,721 while death toll is 29,547 including 7826 in Chennai.

Chennai recorded below thousand cases in the second straight day with 935 cases. A total of 27 people lost their lives on Sunday. Now, total new cases in the district touched

525009. Only two districts - Coimbatore and Erode - recorded thousand plus cases on Sunday. While Coimbatore reported 1,895 cases with 19 deaths a total of 1,323 people tested positive for Covid19 with 3 deaths. New cases in Chengalpattu district touched 563 with deaths of 16 people. Total cases in the district now are 15,1228. Salem registered 855 cases with 11 deaths while Thanjavur recorded 615 cases with 4 deaths. Tirupur also reported 500 plus with 820 cases. Three deaths are also reported in the district.

N a g a p a t t i n a m , N i l a g i r i s , T i r u v a l l u r ,

Thiruvannamalai, Trichy, Villupuram districts recorded 300 plus cases each. As many as 17 districts reported cases in between 100 and 300. Three districts recorded below 100 cases.

The count of active cases in the state on Sunday was 1,49,927. The total active cases in the Chennai district now stand at 9140. Death toll crossed double digits in 9 districts including 18 cases in Ranipet and 15 cases in Thiruvallur. A total of 1,68,663 persons were subjected to RTPCR tests on Sunday taking the total tests to 2,92,05,623 so far.

## Social media mob rule mars legitimate cancel culture



R. Mohan

Namma Chennai Diary

In the last few turbulent years the idea of a person being "cancelled", or culturally, socially and even professionally blocked, has become a raging phenomenon.

This rise of the "cancel culture" is falling into a pattern but, predictably, some of it is being taken too far as we see most lately in sport and in the rooms of academia. Do we blame the public backlash that is fiercely amplified by the social

media or just kowtow to the power of the SM handles that seem to blow up each little bit that a person may have done in the distant past?

The cancel culture seemed to have gone berserk as the English cricket administration acted in its regular holier-than-thou fashion in docking cricketers who may have made terrible mistakes on social media when they were young and naive. The case of Ollie Robinson

brought it all into the limelight. His case might be an extreme one as his youthful tweets betrayed too much of a pattern of not fitting into the conventional modes that a largely conservative world was used to living in until this social media thing came along to dominate public discourse in the third decade of the new millennium.

Over a 12-month period in 2012-13, Robinson's tweets made references to Gary Speed's suicide, the disappearance of young English girl Madeleine McCann in Europe, the N-word, derogatory messages about Muslims and people with disabilities and women. That was quite a gamut of transgressions from the accepted banter of Twitter and may have brought upon

him harsher action now. But then would the authorities be justified in killing off his nascent career as an England fast bowler because he was so naive and colourful with his opinions in his youth?

Cricket's contemporary heroes like Eoin Morgan and Jos Buttler, who have been part of the revolution in the game brought about by IPL, are also feeling the heat for a few "innocent" enough tweets in which they may have crossed the thin red line to outright sarcasm in mimicking the Indian habit of deferential referring to everyone as "Sir". This is a cultural more arising from the dictate of being respectful and polite to everyone in Indian society and it might seem funny to those not belong-

ing to India to mock us Indians. But should we take such offence as to pillory these fine batsmen for a bit of harmless fun in tweets?

Graduate students of Magdalen College in Oxford, many of them International students, had voted to remove a 1952 portrait of Queen Elizabeth II from a common room as an unwelcome symbol of "recent colonial history." They hope to explore replacing it with "art by or of other influential and inspirational people." Was this another egregious example of "woke" posturing that has seen many statues and portraits of historical figures being taken down because they were believed to have been connected to slavery or colonial abuse? The debate has gotten par-

ticularly hot over Cecil Rhodes of Britain and South African fame that is splitting the UK now.

The Dons of Oriel College in Oxford have got themselves into such a "woke" twist that they are refusing to tutor students because the college has refused to take down the Cecil Rhodes statue. It was a given then that the dons would have their own backgrounds checked and investigation revealed that some of them were beneficiaries of legacy funding set up by colonialists. Such are the contradictions that are being thrown up by posturing on the history of colonialism in this shindig that a charade is being enacted. The cancel culture triggered by the "woke" movement may, however, be here to stay. But

how far should we allow it to go?

The cancel culture may owe its modern avatar to the days in which Harvey Weinstein was named, and rightly so, by a clutch of women that he had sexually harassed or forced into sex by virtue of his position as a Hollywood executive of influence.

Whatever happened to him the gent may have thoroughly deserved for his cavalier ways in outraging the modesty of women or invading their rights by thrusting himself upon them. Such instances of naming and shaming and even banishing them from their profession help bring out the power of cancel culture as a way of speaking truth to power.

It was a bit of a shock then

to see the Tamil Nadu chief minister hand out a literary award to lyricist Vairamuthu who, if not quite in the Weinstein category, was guilty of harassing several women according to their bold statements on the man.

It was a triumph for the still valid #metoo movement that he was forced into returning the award and the cash that would have gone with it. But, at many other times it does appear as if this cancel culture is being allowed to spin out of control and descend into a form of social media mob rule.

(R. Mohan is the Resident Editor of the Chennai and Coimbatore editions of Deccan Chronicle)







## SHORT TAKES

## J'KHAND REGISTERS 'O' COVID FATALITY FOR FIRST TIME

**Ranchi, June 13:** Jharkhand on Sunday did not report any fresh Coronavirus death for the first time during the ongoing second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, but 239 new cases pushed the state's tally to 3,43,304, a health bulletin said.

East Singhbhum district registered the highest number of new cases at 51, followed by 27 in Ranchi and 23 in Hazaribag, it said.

The state now has 3,966 active cases, while the Coronavirus death toll remained unchanged at 5,082.

A total of 3,34,256 people have recovered from the disease thus far, including 493 in the last 24 hours, the bulletin said.

The recovery rate among the Coronavirus patients in the state has improved to 97.36 per cent.

The state has tested over 90.6 lakh samples for Covid-19 to date, including 43,653 in the last 24 hours, it said.

In a bid to combat the surge of cases, the state government has imposed lockdown-like restrictions till June 17.

## K'TAKA: MENTALLY ILL MAN BEATEN TO DEATH BY COPS

**Madikeri, June 13:** A 50-year-old mentally unstable man in this city was beaten to death, allegedly by policemen, for violating lockdown norms last week, following which eight of them have been suspended, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

The policemen were booked on a complaint by the man's brother Robin D'Souza, based on which a case was registered against them. Inspector General of Police, Karnataka Southern Range, Praveen Madhukar Pawar, told reporters here.

He said the deputy superintendent of police of Virajpet had furnished a report against eight policemen, based on which they have been suspended.

"An inquiry is being conducted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate. As per the National Human Rights Commission guidelines, we are handing over the case to the CID," Pawar added.

Family members said that Roy D'Souza, who was mentally unstable, was living with his mother, while his brother Robin was in Bengaluru.

Roy ran away from his house late at night on June 8. The policemen found him wandering about, questioned him for violating the lockdown norms and thrashed him, they said.

Early on June 9, his mother was summoned to the police station, where she found Roy lying unconscious, the family said. He was rushed to a local private hospital and from there to the district hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

## WOMAN ACCUSES HOSP. STAFF OF RAPING MOTHER

**Amethi (UP), June 13:** A woman here has alleged that her 40-year-old mother was beaten up and raped by doctors and medical staff at a Lucknow hospital from where she was discharged a day before her death.

Family members of the deceased said she died on the night of June 12 while being taken to another hospital in the state capital.

The daughter alleged she approached Union minister Smriti Irani, who was on a visit to Amethi, on Saturday as the police refused to pay any heed to her.

Amethi District Magistrate Arun Kumar has constituted a team on Irani's instructions to probe the allegations.

The woman said her mother was admitted to the Amethi Joint District Hospital, Gauriganj, on June 6 as she was unwell, but her condition deteriorated, and she was referred to the Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow the next day.

She alleged that her mother was initially kept in the emergency ward of the Lucknow hospital and then shifted to a bed on the fourth floor but no family members were allowed to visit her.

The daughter claimed that when she finally was allowed to meet her mother after repeated requests, she found out her condition was critical. She alleged that her mother told her she was beaten up and raped by doctors and staff.

A spokesperson of the Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Sansthan, however, refuted the allegations.

## INDIA RECORDS 80,834 CASES, LOWEST DAILY RISE IN 71 DAYS

FROM PG 1

The Assam government directed fully vaccinated government employees to attend offices from June 14.

Jammu and Kashmir has given relaxations from curbs for a few activities in eight districts -- Poonch, Reasi, Ramban, Doda, Shopian, Kulgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora -- on significant improvements. The UT government has said government and private offices can work without restrictions subject to strict adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour.

In Karnataka, chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa said he will instruct the health department to conduct Covid-19 tests on people/migrant labourers who will return to the state after its unlocking.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that head of the EU drug regulator's Covid-19 task force was quoted as saying that countries should also avoid giving the AstraZeneca vaccine to people over 60 amid fears over rare blood clotting and as more vaccines become available. It said the European Medicines Agency (EMA) considers the AstraZeneca shot safe for all age groups. However, several European Union member states have stopped administering it to people below a certain age, usually ranging from 50 to 65, restricting its use to the older population, due to the rare cases of blood clotting, mainly among young people.

"In a pandemic context, our position was and is that the risk-benefit ratio remains favourable for all age groups," Covid-19 task force chief Marco Cavaleri told the Italian newspaper La Stampa.

However, as the number of Covid-19 cases is falling and taking into account the fact that the younger population is less exposed to Covid-related risks, Mr Cavaleri said it would be better to use on them Covid-19 vaccines based on messenger RNA (mRNA) technology, such as the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines.

## Assam: Vaccinated staff can join office

**Guwahati, June 13:** The Assam government on Sunday asked all its employees who have received two doses of Covid-19 vaccine to join offices from Monday even as a partial lockdown across the state will be in force.

The general administration department commissioner and secretary M.S. Manivannan issued an order and said the decision has been taken for the smooth functioning of the government offices.

"In order to ensure smooth functioning of government offices, all the employees of Government of Assam who have received both the doses of Covid-19 vaccine are hereby directed to attend office from June 14, 2021 regularly," he added.



Beneficiaries wait to receive a dose of Covid-19 vaccine during a special three-day vaccination camp, at Khadayata Bhavan Hall, Vile Parle East, in Mumbai on Sunday.

— PTI

## Delhi: Markets to open daily, restaurants with 50% capacity

Kejriwal warns that if cases spike after 'unlock', curbs will be reimposed

**SHAKSHI HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 13**

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

In addition, salons, beauty parlours and barber shops, which have been closed since the lockdown was imposed April 19, will also reopen from Monday, officials said. "All activities, except certain prohib-

ited ones, will be allowed from 5 am on Monday. There are also certain restricted or partly allowed activities announced last week that will continue," Kejriwal said in an online briefing. One weekly market in every zone can also reopen from June 14.

Kejriwal warned, however, that if cases increased after the unlocking, the restrictions have to be reimposed. The relaxations have been allowed on a trial basis for a week, till 5 am on June 21. "We will watch the relaxation allowed to reopen markets/restaurants during next week. If Covid cases do not increase, we will continue the relaxation, but if cases increase, we will

have to bring back the restrictions," the CM said, adding, "I appeal to all market associations and others to prevent crowding and ensure social distancing and other precautions."

So far, shops in markets and malls had to follow the "odd-even" formula, opening only on alternate days. This meant only half the shops in a mall or market could open on a given day. That restriction has been removed under the latest rules. The shops can stay open only between 10 am and 8 pm. Standalone shops and colony shops dealing with essential services like groceries and milk booths can remain open beyond 8 pm. There will be

no specific restrictions on shops dealing with non-essential goods and services such as liquor vendors.

There will be no curbs on the inter-state movement of people and goods. This means one can freely move between Delhi and places like Noida, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and other NCR towns.

Certain activities and services like schools, colleges, educational and coaching institutes, political, social, cultural, religious and festival gatherings, cinemas, multiplexes, swimming pools, spas, gyms, and public parks and gardens will continue to remain closed, he said. Religious places in the city will also reopen, but no

visitors will be allowed.

Delhi began a stringent lockdown from late evening April 19. The Delhi Metro operations came to a halt on May 10 as case/deaths continued to spiral. Early this month, construction activities and some factories were allowed to reopen, while markets, malls and the Metro reopened partially on June 7.

In its latest order, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority observed that the number of patients and the positivity rate has declined considerably and the overall situation has improved, "but due caution and care has to be maintained for consolidating the whole process of Covid-19 management".

## Covid under control in MP: Shivraj

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC with agency inputs BHOPAL, JUNE 13**

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday announced that "Coronavirus pandemic is almost under control in MP" and indicated further relaxation on curbs from June 15 in view of 'vast improvement' in the situation.

He was reviewing the situation with the crisis management committees of all the 52 districts in the state.

"MP reported the lowest number of new cases in the country on Sunday. The pandemic is almost under control in the state", he said.

MP reported 274 new cases on Sunday taking the tally of cases to 7,88,183. The state has recorded 18 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the



Guest workers arrive to board a train to return to their workplaces, at a railway station in Jabalpur of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday.

— PTI

death toll to 8,552. The positivity rate in the state on Sunday also dropped to 0.3 per cent.

Chouhan dropped hints at further relaxations on curbs from June 15.

He, however, said night curfew would remain in force till further orders.

Chouhan said the state government would not lower its guard in the wake of sharp decline in

Coronavirus positive cases in the state.

"The district crisis management committees will continue to function to stop the third wave in the state. The Covid care Centres will not be wound up. We have set a target to conduct 80,000 tests daily till the last person is screened", he said.

The Chief Minister said the state government would take a lesson from foreign countries which experienced the third wave after the waning of the second wave and draw a plan to ensure that the state dodged the third wave.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also said that the Madhya Pradesh government was fully committed to taking care of children who had lost their earning parent or had been orphaned due to Coronavirus pandemic.

He had recently announced a scheme under which such children would get several benefits, including financial assistance of ₹5,000 per month.

"The state government, along with civil society, will provide education, refuge, food and other needs to orphaned kids. A scheme on this is going to come up shortly. We can't leave such children in the lurch," Chouhan said.

**PANDEMIC | HORRORS** According to NCPCR, 3,621 kids were orphaned, over 26,000 kids have lost one parent

## Orphaned kids stare at uncertain future, scramble for aid

**New Delhi, June 13:** Losing a loved one is never easy but if one were to compare, there would not be a loss that could quite match the severity of losing one's parents, especially for dependent children.

The death of a parent strips away the child of not just the emotional blanket of comfort, but also in several cases takes away the financial support, leaving their futures in a lurch.

According to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), 3,621 children have been orphaned during the pandemic, and over 26,000 children have lost one parent.

Ten-year-old Deepika is one of them. She lost her

father to Covid-19 less than a month back and is trying to get her life back to normal, but her mother Kalpana said "nothing will ever be normal again", and who could argue?

The sole breadwinner of the family, her 57-year-old husband — an editor at a Hindi publishing house — was gone almost in a night's span, without even getting a chance at proper treatment, and now she is at a loss for ideas to secure her daughter's future.

"He had low grade fever and a slight cough, which actually got better in a few days, but one morning he suddenly collapsed. Although we managed to revive him then after scrambling for an ambulance and a bed for hours,

by the time we reached the hospital, we had lost him," Kalpana said.

"I remember my little daughter running after the ambulance, pleading with me to take her along," she added, barely managing to keep it together.

"I have always been a housewife. How am I suddenly supposed to start working? Honestly, I don't even know what I can do. And even if I do find a job, where will I keep my daughter while I am away. We live in times where no one can be trusted," Kalpana said.

However, she has filled in a form seeking free education at her daughter's school under the Delhi government's scheme instructing schools to

waive the fees for children who have lost their parents to Covid-19, but she hasn't heard anything yet.

The story of Gaurav (13) and Rohan (6), who live in Uttam Nagar, is not very different. Their father, again the only earning member in the family, was an e-rickshaw driver making a living one day at a time, but his death has pushed the family to the depths of hopelessness.

Life was already a challenge with dipping incomes due to the lockdown. The boys' parents had decided to take the younger son out of school, and shift the older one to a government one to make managing finances a little easier, but before anything could happen, tragedy struck.

"My younger son keeps asking about his father, and I do not have an answer. The little one was really close to him... the elder boy has become indifferent. "I don't know what to take care of. My children, their futures, or myself. I am so clueless and scared," said Madhu, mother.

In another tale of the cruel twist of fate, three siblings — aged nine, 11 and 13 — lost both their parents to Covid-19 in the first week of May.

To make things worse, their landlord refused to let their tenancy continue unless they paid rent. Thankfully, their uncle, a welder, came to their rescue and took the three children in. "They are my sister's children and I love



A combo photo shows photographs of families and children orphaned due to Covid-19.

— PTI

them. I want to ensure they get an education and have a bright future, but there is only so much that I can do." "I do not earn enough to fend for three

children. I want the best for them, but I will need help," said Mohammad Asif, who also has to take care of his seven-month pregnant wife. — PTI

## TN: TEA, TASMAL SHOPS OPEN FOR 'PARCELS' ONLY

FROM PG 1

Party president L. Murugan was there to stress the point. Long time anti-liquor campaigner Anbumani Ramadoss of the PMK also stated his opposition to Tasmal resuming business.

Their political opponents did point out that in BJP-ruled states, with Gujarat an exception, sale of liquor did not stop for too long during the second wave of the pandemic, particularly in Karnataka from where there has been considerable movement of liquor into Tamil Nadu during the last month and a bit of the lockdown.

Minister Senthil Balaji pointed out the dichotomy in criticism of Tasmal when shops in Karnataka are open for longer hours. Tamil Nadu urban development Minister K.N. Nehru took strong exception to the BJP, saying that liquor shops are doing roaring business in nearby Puducherry where the party is in power along with A.N. Rangasamy's party.

Replying to all the criticism against the opening of Tasmal shops, the Chief Minister had said in Salem on Saturday that they were opened following a decline in Covid cases as part of relaxation of restrictions in a few districts. Tipplers may be saying cheers to the restrictions being removed from 27 districts while 11 will still remain locked until the cases dip there too.

## RESTRICTIONS EASED IN EIGHT J&amp;K DISTRICTS

**Jammu, June 13:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday announced further easing of restrictions in eight districts showing significant improvement in the Covid-19 situation.

The decision to grant relaxations in Shopian, Kulgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora in Kashmir division and Poonch, Reasi, Ramban and Doda in Jammu division was taken at a meeting which focussed on total weekly new cases (per million), positivity rate, bed occupancy, case fatality rate and vaccination coverage of the targeted population, an official order said.

It said government and private offices can function in the eight districts without any restrictions subject to strict adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour, while barber shops, salons and parlors are permitted to open on all days of a week, except on Saturdays and Sundays.

Similarly, standalone shops, outdoor bazaars and shopping complexes are also permitted to open on all days except the weekends, the order said.

The order, issued by the chief secretary, who is also chairperson of the state executive committee, said there was a need for further improvement with regard to the Covid situation in all districts. — PTI



## SHORT TAKES

**BOLSONARO FINED FOR MASKLESS MOTORCYCLE RALLY**

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

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

**CHINA CITY'S DRONES TO KEEP PEOPLE INSIDE**

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

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

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

**POLICE ARREST 1 OF 2 IN AUSTIN MASS SHOOTING**

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

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

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

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

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

An AFP correspondent shot footage of white-helmeted aid workers in the hospital courtyard strewn with bodies.

"The shelling targeted several areas of the town and hit the hospital", Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahmane said. "Most of the victims died in shelling on the hospital," the monitoring group said in a statement.

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

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

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

# New Israeli govt to be sworn in

## Will end Netanyahu's 12-yr premiership

**Jerusalem, June 13:** Israel's parliament is set to vote on Sunday on a new government led by Yamina head Naftali Bennett, ousting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power after an uninterrupted 12 years at the helm of affairs.

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

Informed sources said that "they all re-affirmed their commitment and it was all set to go ahead". The approval by the Knesset would bring to an end 12 years of uninterrupted rule by Netanyahu, 71, who holds the record of

## WILL RETURN TO POWER, SAYS BIBI

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

—AP

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

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

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

Bennett, 49, has entered into a power-sharing agreement with Centrist leader Yair Lapid, the head of the Yesh Atid party, under which the latter would take over Premiership in September 2023, serving for two years till the end of the term. Lapid, the leader of the second-largest faction in the Knesset with 17 seats was invited by President Reuven Rivlin to form a coalition after Netanyahu, leading the Likud party with 30 seats, expressed his inability to put together a government.

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

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

—PTI

# Nato set to bid symbolic farewell to Afghanistan

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

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

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

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

## AFGHAN I.S. GROUP CLAIMS KABUL ATTACKS

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

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

—AP

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

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

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

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

—AP

## Flash mob demo in Myanmar



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

—AFP

# G7 leaders agree on vaccines, China and taxing corporations

**Carbis Bay, June 13:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answering a question on issues covered by the G-7 Summit on pandemic response, economy, trade and global supply chains and US efforts to "seizing"

the opportunity to bond with other Western countries to safeguard the "rules-based international system", the Chinese embassy in London said there is only one system, the international system, which is led by the UN. "We always believe that countries, big or small, strong or weak, poor or rich, are equals, and that world affairs should be handled through consultation by all countries," it said.

—PTI

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

**London, June 13:** US President Joe Biden chose a custom-made, hand-built bicycle as his gift for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for their first in-person meeting ahead of the G7 Summit in Cornwall this weekend.

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

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

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

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

sion of an upright British roadster with a custom paint scheme with the Union Jack flag and a matching helmet," he was quoted as saying.

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

—PTI

## BIDENS ATTEND SUNDAY SERVICE, AMAZE LOCALS

**Falmouth (England), June 13:** Churchgoers in a seaside resort in England say they have been left "gobsmacked" when US President Joe Biden and the first lady Jill Biden dropped in for a Sunday service.

The Bidens are in Cornwall, southwest England, to attend a Group of Seven wealthy democracies summit.

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

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

—AP

## PROOF IN MEXICO SERIAL KILLER'S HOME SUGGESTS 17 VICTIMS

**Mexico City, June 13:** Investigators digging under the house of a suspected serial killer on the outskirts of Mexico City have said they have found 3,787 bone fragments so far, apparently belonging to 17 different victims.

Prosecutors in the State of Mexico, which borders Mexico City, suggested the grisly finds may not end there. In excavations carried out since May 17, authorities have dug up the floors of the house where the suspect lived. They now plan to extend the search to the soil beneath several

other rooms he rented out on the same property. ID cards and other possessions from people who disappeared years ago were found at the junk-filled home, suggesting the trail of killings may go back years. The number of bone fragments found underneath concrete floors at the suspect's home would imply the corpses may have been hacked into tiny pieces. That could make sense: The suspect, identified by prosecutors only as "Andrés", was formerly a butcher and in fact sectioned and filleted his last victim.

## GORILLA | TACTICS

## Colleague fired without warning after coming late for shift

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gorillas now operates in


dozens of cities across Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Britain, and has already set its sights on New York, where it faces US incumbents such as GoPuff. But strikes like those in Berlin show trouble is brewing in its home market. The rowdy but peaceful protest late Wednesday drew support from employees of rival delivery services, some of whom donned their colourful courier bags to join the picket. Eventually Gorillas agreed to close the depot for

the night, drawing cheers from the protesters.

The next day, riders blocked another warehouse, making clear their gripes go beyond the firing of a single colleague. "In the last six months, that I've been here I've noticed so many ways that the company is doing things in an unjustified way," said rider Huseyin Camalan.

"We're here to stand against that. It's part of a larger thing." Camalan said many riders suffer from back pain.

—AP

		Government of Tamil Nadu <b>STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY</b> <b>PMGSY III (2020-21) Road works</b> <b>Retender-III" Call</b>	
1. For details, visit <a href="http://www.pmgstyenderstn.gov.in">www.pmgstyenderstn.gov.in</a>		2. e-Bids are invited by the Project Director, DRDA of Namakkal District for the upgradation of MRL09-Elanagar Kattupalayam to ODR Mavureddipatti Kokkalai road, package no: TN10194, under two cover system.	
3. The Package wise bid documents can be downloaded free of cost from <a href="http://www.pmgstyenderstn.gov.in">www.pmgstyenderstn.gov.in</a> from 16.06.2021 to 01.07.2021		4. Date and Time for downloading of Bid document, submission and opening i) Last Date and Time for downloading and : <b>01.07.2021</b> online Submission of Bid Documents <b>upto 3.00 p.m</b> ii) Date and Time of online opening of Bid Documents : <b>01.07.2021</b> <b>4.00 p.m onwards</b>	
DIPR/1746/TEN/2021		Commissioner Rural Development and Panchayat Raj dept.	



# DECCAN Chronicle

14 JUNE 2021

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

UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath was in the national capital last week to discuss political, governance and administrative issues with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union health minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda, to tighten loopholes and raise the BJP's prospects in the Assembly election due early, 2022. Earlier, complaints were being voiced by BJP leaders in UP, and there were even murmurs that the PM and the CM might not be on the same page.

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

It would have become clear to all concerned that the UP CM is not a BJP leader in the normal sense and the usual rules of party discipline do not apply to him. He is the head of a centuries old religious establishment. Politically he is aligned to the Hindu Mahasabha. Hindu Vahini, the outfit he created, is a more extreme practitioner of Hindutva than any other outfit. Nevertheless, he has BJP connections because this party has sent him to Parliament several times and elected him to be its leader in the UP Assembly in 2017, catapulting him to the position of CM.

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

But can he be checked? If he were to break away, it is not unlikely that he can cut into a section of the saffron party's vote bank that is emphatically communal. The BJP can ill afford this specially when there is said to be considerable disenchantment, flagged by Covid mishandling.

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

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

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## GST cut is welcome relief

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

The Council, which comprises state and Union finance ministers, has also decided to levy a five per cent tax on any drug that the health ministry recommends for the treatment of coronavirus infection. The reduction in the tax rate, however, would be applicable only till September.

The tax on vaccines, however, would continue to be five per cent. Though several state governments had demanded exempting vaccines from GST, the Council went with the opinion of the central government which opposed any such move. The state governments, however, did not insist on its demand after the Centre agreed to buy 75 per cent of the vaccines for public immunisation.

The focus on healthcare should continue even after the Covid pandemic. It is high time that the Central and state governments take lessons from the pandemic and take steps to improve public health infrastructure which is woefully inadequate. Apart from building more hospitals and training more healthcare professionals, the government should focus on preventative healthcare. It is believed that preventative healthcare could add billions of dollars to the economy by way of saving the cost of hospitalisation and by enhancing people's productivity. Preventative healthcare could be promoted by reducing the cost of diagnosis by encouraging local manufacturing of medical equipment. Though the Narendra Modi government has already announced incentives for boosting the manufacturing of medical equipment, it should be pursued with renewed vigour.

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

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Subhani



## India's Great Helmsman: Salute to Narasimha Rao



Sanjaya Baru

Sanjayovacha

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

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

Those who imagine that the decline of the Congress Party began in 2014, attributing this to Narendra Modi's campaign for a "Congress mukt Bharat", are unaware of the roots of the party's decline. It began the day the party ceased to be a party, as Narasimha Rao famously put it in his book *The Insider*, and became a "proprietorship". When I suggested to late President Pranab Mukherjee that a book on the decline of the Congress Party was waiting to be written, he asked me when I thought the decline had begun. I said to him that the turning point was the 1989 election. Mukherjee sat back in his chair, thought for a while and said: "The analysis should begin from 1969."

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

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

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

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

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

India came close to the nations of Southeast Asia and East Asia, including South Korea and Japan.

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

the United States. While these two aspects — economic and foreign policy — of Prime Minister Rao's leadership will be much commented upon, few are willing to give him any credit for his leadership of the Congress Party. His critics point to the aborted attempt at internal democracy at the Tirupati session of the All-India Congress Committee in April 1992, where organisational elections were held for the first time in two decades, and to the political fallout of the handling of the Babri Masjid demolition as evidence of failed political leadership. The Congress also yielded space to the BJP during Narasimha Rao's tenure, enabling the BJP to make its first attempt at forming a government in 1996.

While some of this criticism is justified, the political importance of Narasimha Rao lies in his demonstrating to the Congress Party that someone from outside the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty can in fact run the party and the government quite successfully. He was not only the first Congress leader after the Nehru-Gandhis to remain in office for a full term but was also the first South Indian Prime Minister. The political significance of this cannot be underestimated, as it continues to be.

The loyalists of the Nehru-Gandhi family continue to chant the mantra that without the family at the helm, the party would disintegrate. Of course, at one time it also used to be said that without a Nehru-Gandhi at the helm the country would disintegrate. Narasimha Rao proved the loyalists wrong and earned their

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

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

Narasimha Rao's political legacy as Prime Minister deserves a more objective analysis than is so far available. Interestingly, the growing disappointment across the country with the assertive and domineering political leadership of Narendra Modi has sparked off renewed interest in the quiet and low-brow leadership of a man who in fact altered India's destiny.

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

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

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

## LETTERS

### LEARN FROM THE PAST

The saying goes, "If things are going out of control at present, look at the past." That is how our ancestors always dealt with tough times. But despite the raging second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and the devastation it caused, the Central government appears to be defiant to look back at history and learn lessons from the Spanish flu of 1918. To recall an incident that happened in September 1918, the Liberty Loans Parade was organised in Philadelphia to support the soldiers who fought in World War I. Even though intellectuals opposed the event as the Spanish flu was still raging, ignoring such objections, Public Health Director Wilmer Krusen allowed the crowded event to take place, and what followed was along expected lines. Within the next few days, 47,000 fresh cases of the flu were reported and 12,000 lost their lives. The tragedy exactly relates to what happened in India today, and the heavy price the whole country is paying now after the Centre was totally heedless to the warnings of those doctors and scientists against the second wave of the virus.

**R. Sivakumar,**  
Chennai

## WELCOME MOVE

The decision of the Union government to increase the subsidy for the manufacture of electric vehicles by 50 % under the FAME II scheme is commendable. What people need is a pollution-free environment, which electric vehicles (EVs) can undoubtedly ensure. That said, a lot needs to be done to improve the road infrastructure across the country for the EVs to produce desirable results on the environment front. It is imperative that the Centre and States expedite it.

**S. Ramakrishnasayee,**  
Chennai

A.G. Noorani



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

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

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

disowned the Constitution.

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

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

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

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

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

internal affairs".

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

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

It is, however, in the intellectual realm that the backwardness is

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

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

*By arrangement with Dawn*



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	52474.76	0.33
Nifty 50	15799.40	0.39
S&P 500*	4,247.44	0.19
Dollar (₹)	73.06	0.00
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.38	-0.36
Euro (₹)	88.81	0.07
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,530.441	0.90
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	72.91	0.54
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.006	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.464	0.005

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank to float IPO

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Ltd IPO consists of a fresh issue aggregating ₹750 crore and an offer for sale of up to ₹600 crore by selling shareholder Utkarsh Coreinvest Ltd. The equity shares, of face value Rs 10 each, will be listed on NSE and BSE. The company intends to utilise the net proceeds from the fresh issue to augment its tier 1 capital base to meet future capital requirements arising out of growth in its assets - loans and advances. The company may consider raising ₹250 Cr through a pre-IPO placement. The retail and technology focused, small finance bank across 528 banking outlets has served 2.74 million customers majority located in rural and semi urban areas.

Trading in DHFL shares suspended from today

BSE and NSE will suspend trading in the shares of DHFL from Monday, June 14. The move, aimed at avoiding "market complications", comes against the backdrop of the NCLT approving Piramal Group's resolution plan for DHFL. The resolution plan provides for delisting the DHFL shares. DHFL on June 9 said no value was attributable to the equity shares as per the liquidation value of the company estimated by the valuers.

CG Power lines up ₹135 cr capex in current year

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

Nitco to launch new range of products in US

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



■ Paytm, Aadhar Housing, Policy Bazaar eye mega IPOs  
Financial services firms line up ₹55,000-cr float

Mumbai, June 13: With payments major Paytm's board reportedly approving a bumper share sale plan running north of Rs 22,000 crore, the IPO market is set for a big days, as over a dozen financial services players, including fintechs, are set to mop up over Rs 55,000 crore this fiscal from the market, according to investment bankers.

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

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

The board of the biggest payments bank Paytm has reportedly cleared a more



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

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

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

Ruchi Soya filed the draft red herring prospec-

tus (DRHP) with the market regulator on Saturday, sources said.

They said that the promoters have to dilute a minimum 9 per cent stake in this round of the FPO. The FPO is likely to hit the capital market next month after getting Sebi approval. Promoters group held 98.90 per cent stake in the company.

Ruchi Soya closed at Rs 1,242.35 apiece on the BSE on Friday. — PTI

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

If materialised, the Paytm issue will be the largest IPO ever in the country, eclipsing the hitherto largest issue—the Rs 15,000-crore share sale by the government in national miner Coal India in October 2010, says investment bankers, who wished not to be quoted.

Investment bankers and analysts consider the IPO boom to be reflective of the ongoing bull run and advice retail investors to be cautious while parking their money in new firms.

V. K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services in Kochi, said the performance of the IPO market usually has a strong correlation to the performance of the secondary market. "If the stock market is bull-

ish, it attracts a large number of investors into IPOs.

Particularly, new investors lured by high potential profits, get attracted to new offers and the IPO market has always done well during market booms, Vijayakumar said.

Rupen Rajguru, head of equity investments and strategy at global wealth management firm Julius Baer in Mumbai, concurs and cautions retail investors to study the valuations carefully before investing as the market is a bit over-heated now.

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

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

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

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

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

G-7 drops 2030 target to shift to green cars

JOSH WINGROVE & ALBERTO NARDELLI  
JUNE 13

The Group of Seven nations backed away from plans to set a target for making



sure most new cars sold are greener vehicles, instead pledging only speed up efforts to move away from combustion engines.

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

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

"We commit to accelerate the transition away from new sales of diesel and petrol cars to promote the uptake of zero emission vehicles."

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

MFs need fully independent board of trustees: Quantum

New Delhi, June 13: There is a need for a fully independent board of trustees that will ensure that markets regulator Sebi's rules are complied with and the interests of the small investors are protected, said Quantum AMC founder Ajit Dayal.

He said it should act as another check and balance that will further strengthen the mutual fund industry.

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

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

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

He further said the board of trustees is the most underutilised body.

In his opinion, Sebi should make a regulation that only independent trustees should be on the trustees board, not anyone from AMC, or anyone linked to the management.

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



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

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

Quantum MF is probably the only fund house where the board of trustees is totally independent.

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

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

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

Thinking up creative ways to fight inflation

TRACY ALLOWAY  
JUNE 13

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

Last month, for instance, the Tangshan steel hub banned steelmakers from spreading price-hike information, while Shanghai has urged steel mills not to raise prices if production costs haven't changed.

And while China's renewed interest in price controls does raise some questions about its continued commitment to freer markets, it's certainly not the only country to have experimented with more creative types of inflation

When egg prices rose in the spring of 1966 US President Johnson had the Surgeon General issue alerts as to the hazards of cholesterol in eggs... A surprising number of people still think eggs are unhealthy

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

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

RCA's David Sarnoff [RCA was then a major TV manufacturer] to hold them down. Domestic lamb prices rose. LBJ directed [defence secretary Robert] McNamara to buy cheaper lamb from New Zealand for the troops in Vietnam. The president told CEA [Council of Economic Advisers] and me to move on household appliances, paper cartons, newsprint, men's underwear, women's hosiery, glass containers, cellulose, [and] air conditioners ... When egg prices rose in the spring of 1966 and agriculture secretary Orville Freeman told him that not much could be done, Johnson had the Surgeon General issue alerts as to the hazards of cholesterol in eggs."

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

— Bloomberg

Income inequalities point to 'uneven' recovery: Subbarao

BIJAY KUMAR SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13:

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

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

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

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

but those expectations are now tempered by the impact of the second wave," Subbarao told PTI.

The RBI too reduced its growth forecast for the current fiscal by one percentage point, from 10.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent, he said adding that even 9.5 per cent growth might seem impressive but note that this is coming on a very low base of last year. "Even if we clock this growth rate, the output during this fiscal 2021/22 will still be less than the output two years ago."

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

— PTI

AMAZON RAISES MINIMUM PAY IN GERMANY TO 12 EUROS/HOUR



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

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

The pay increase is effective from July.

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

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

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

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

— Reuters

UNSEEN | COST

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

Out-of-control shipping costs fire up prices

ALEX LONGLEY, CATHERINE BOSLEY & DEIRDRE HIPWELL  
JUNE 13

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

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

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

"In 40 years in toy retailing I have never known such challenging conditions from the point of view of pricing," Gary Grant, the founder and executive chairman of the UK toy shop The Entertainer, said in an interview. He has had to



stop importing giant teddy bears from China because their retail price would have had to double to add in higher freight costs. "Will this have an impact on retail prices? My answer has to be yes."

A confluence of factors—soaring demand,

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

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

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

year could raise euro-area producer prices by as much as 2 per cent.

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

—Bloomberg



## SHORT TAKES

## Mankad inducted into Hall of Fame

**Dubai:** The ICC on Sunday inducted 10 icons of the game, including India's Vinoo Mankad, into its illustrious Hall of Fame with two players each from five eras, dating back to cricket's early days, making it to the list. The inductees are Aubrey Faulkner of South Africa and Monty Noble of Australia (pre-1918), Sir Learie Constantine of West Indies and Stan McCabe of Australia (1918-1945), Ted Dexter of England and Vinoo Mankad of India (1946-1970). Desmond Haynes of the West Indies and Bob Willis of England were inducted from the ODI era (1971-1995) while Andy Flower of Zimbabwe and Kumar Sangakkara were from the modern era. — *PTI*

## India up for WTC challenge: Pujara

**Southampton:** Batsman Cheteshwar Pujara says New Zealand will have the advantage going into the WTC final after playing a Test series against England but India will utilise the available time to prepare well for the title clash, starting here on June 18. "They will obviously have advantage having played two Test matches before the final but when it comes to final we will give our best and we know that our team has the potential to do well and win the championship," Pujara told *bcci.tv*. "So we are not worried about that, we will try and focus on these 10 to 12 days which we have for preparation." — *PTI*

## Milkha's wife dies of Covid-19

**Chandigarh:** Former Indian women volleyball team captain Nirmal Kaur, who is the wife of sprint legend Milkha Singh, died at a Mohali hospital due to complications related to Covid-19 infection she had contracted last month. She was 85 and is survived by his husband, one son and three daughters. "A back bone of the Milkha Family, she was 85 years old. It is tragic that the Flying Sikh Milkha Singh ji could not attend the cremation which was conducted this evening itself as he is still in the ICU (of PGIMER in Chandigarh) himself," a statement from the family spokesperson said. — *PTI*

## Faf recovering after concussion

**Abu Dhabi:** Much to the cricket community's relief, South African star Faf du Plessis on Sunday said he was back from the hospital and "recovering", after suffering a concussion during his team Quetta Gladiators' PSL match against Peshawar Zalmi here. In trying to save a boundary, Du Plessis collided with teammate Mohammad Hasnain during their Pakistan Super League match on Saturday night. — *AFP*

## Rabada helps SA clinch innings win

**Saint Lucia:** Kagiso Rabada completed a five-wicket haul as South Africa formalised their demolition of the West Indies by an innings and 63 runs just before the lunch interval on the third day of the first Test on Saturday. — *AFP*

**Brief scores:** West Indies 97 & 162 (Chase 62; Rabada 5/34) lost to South Africa 322 by an innings & 63 runs.

## Live on TV

## EURO

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

## COPA AMERICA

**Group Stage:** Argentina vs Chile from 2.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, 2

Paraguay vs Bolivia from 5.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

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## Sterling start

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

England	1
(Raheem Sterling 57)	
Croatia	0

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

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

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

Sterling has endured a chequered relationship with England fans after being hounded following his tame performances at Euro 2016.

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

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



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

## Belgium get off to a flyer

Belgium	3
(Romelu Lukaku 10, 88, Thomas Meunier 34)	
Russia	0

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

Despite being without key performer Kevin De Bruyne, world number one ranked Belgium were rarely in trouble against a Russian side that struggled to impose themselves.

Roberto Martinez's Belgium top Group B on three points, ahead on goal difference of Finland who beat Denmark in the

group's other game in Copenhagen.

The Red Devils are unbeaten in 10 games in all competitions and have suffered just one defeat in their last 24 outings.

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

Dendoncker, and Lukaku turned and fired into the bottom corner.

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

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

## Swedish challenge for Spain

**Madrid, June 13:** After a week without training and three years of upheaval, Spain head into their Euro 2020 opener against Sweden on Monday determined to leave the past behind but unsure about what comes next.

Luis Enrique was appointed to ring the changes in the aftermath of the 2018 World Cup, when going out on penalties to Russia had made it three consecutive failures to reach the quarter-finals of a major tournament.

At La Cartuja in Seville on Monday, only Jordi

Alba will remain from the Euro success nine years ago, with Sergio Ramos cut and Sergio Busquets self-isolating after testing positive for Covid last weekend.

And yet while the names bear almost no resemblance to what went before, Spain's fresh mix of promising youngsters and high-end performers arrive without any real sense of what now fills the void.

## BAD BLOOD BETWEEN CZECH &amp; SCOTLAND

Scotland's first match at a major tournament for 23 years is laced with acrimony

for the Czech Republic, who travel to Hampden on Monday having been forced into a last-minute change of training camp and without suspended defender Ondrej Kudela.

Kudela was hit with a 10-match ban for racially abusing Rangers midfielder Glen Kamara when Slavia Prague visited Scotland in the Europa League last 16 in March.

The widespread condemnation of Kudela in Britain has not been reflected in his homeland, where Slavia and many of his club and international teammates have stood

by the 34-year-old and claimed there was a lack of evidence against him.

## LEWANDOWSKI OUT TO IMPROVE RECORD

Robert Lewandowski's standing as one of the greatest ever strikers at club level is surely undisputed after a record-breaking season with Bayern Munich.

With 66 goals in 119 games for Poland, his status in the international game is well-established, too. Except, maybe, in one respect. Lewandowski has yet to turn it on at a major tournament. — *Agencies*

## HEAD-TO-HEAD

## SCOTLAND-CZECH REPUBLIC

● Matches: 9. Scotland: 4. Czech Republic: 4. Drawn: 1.

## EURO MEETINGS

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

## SLOVAKIA-POLAND

● Matches: 8. Slovakia: 4. Poland: 3. Drawn: 1.

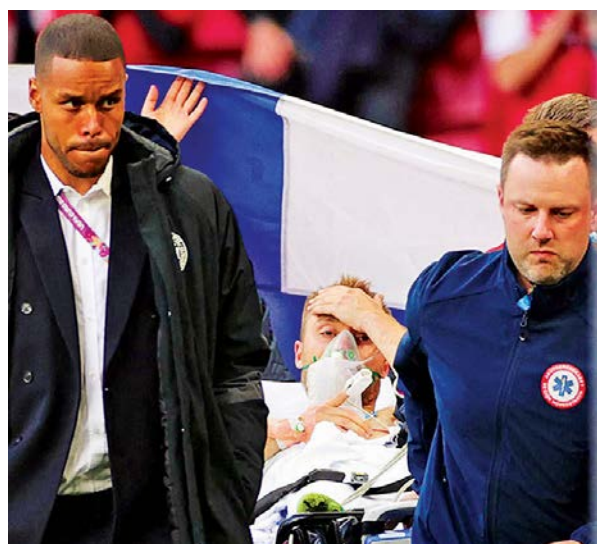
## EURO MEETINGS

1995: Poland won 5-0 in Zabrze. 1995: Slovakia won 4-1 in Bratislava.

## SPAIN-SWEDEN

● Matches: 14. Spain: 6. Sweden: 3. Drawn: 5.

2006: Sweden won 2-0 in Solna. 2007: Spain won 3-0 in Madrid. 2008: Spain won 2-1 in Innsbruck. 2019: Spain won 3-0 in Madrid. 2019: 1-1 in Stockholm. — *S. PERVEZ QAISER*



Denmark's Christian Eriksen (centre) is evacuated after collapsing on the pitch during the Euro match at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen on Saturday. — *AFP*

## We got Eriksen back: Team Doc

**Milan, June 13:** Denmark's team doctor said on Sunday that Christian Eriksen's heart stopped and that "he was gone" before being resuscitated with a defibrillator at the Euro Championship.

Eriksen collapsed during Denmark's opening Euro 2020 group game against Finland on Saturday and was given lengthy medical treatment before regaining consciousness.

"He was gone. And we did cardiac resuscitation. And it was cardiac arrest," said team doctor Morten Boesen, who led the work in giving Eriksen treatment on the field. "How close were we? I don't know. We got him back after one defib. That's quite fast."

Boesen said it was still unclear what caused the midfielder's collapse. "I'm not cardiologist, so the details about why it happened and further, I will leave to the experts," he said.

## HE HAD NO HEALTH ISSUES: INTER DOCTOR

Eriksen showed no hint of any underlying health condition, Inter Milan's team doctor said on Sunday.

"We had a bad time, not just me, but the whole family of our club," Piero Volpi told *Gazzetta Dello Sport*.

"In the next few days he will be subjected to in-depth examinations."

"The important thing is that he is well, but there had never been any episode that even remotely hinted at a problem when he was at Tottenham nor at Inter. In Italy there are very strict controls."



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

## CHRISTIAN HOPES TO BE BACK SOON

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

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

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

## LUKAKU DEDICATES GOALS TO ERIKSEN

Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku said he shed tears for Christian Eriksen before dedicating his two-goal haul in Saturday's 3-0 win over Russia at Euro 2020 to his stricken Inter Milan team-mate.

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



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

## Kiwis seal rare away series win

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

Set a target of just 38 after England tailender Olly Stone was out to the very first ball of the fourth day, the Blackcaps finished on 41-2.

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

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

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

"It's great to get an extra day of rest before India but we'll celebrate as well — we've not won here since 1999 so it's important to celebrate those achievements," said Latham at the presentation ceremony.

By contrast, this was England's first series loss at home since a 2014 defeat by Sri Lanka. — *AFP*

## BRIEF SCORES

England 303 & 122 (Wood 29; Wagner 3/18, Henry 3/36) lost to New Zealand 388 & 41/2 (Latham 23 (not out)) by eight wickets.

## DJOKER IS KING

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

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

The world number one triumphed 6-7 (6/8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 over the Greek 22-year-old who was playing in his first Slam final.

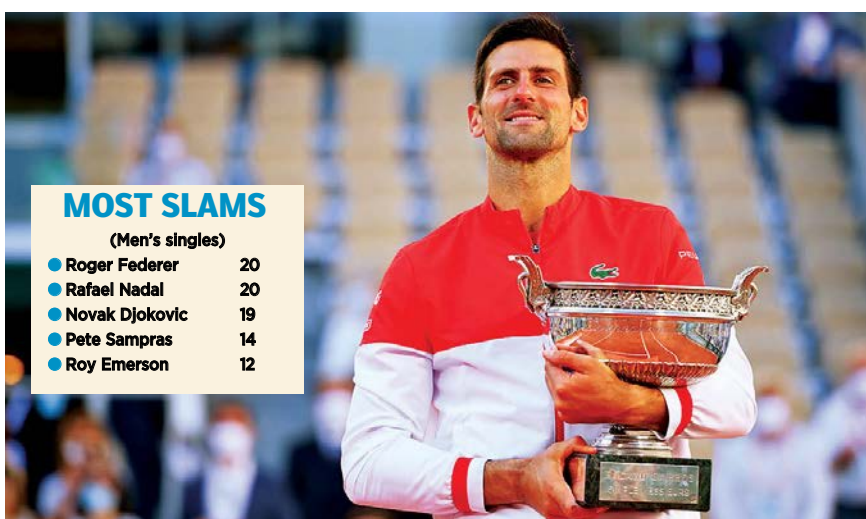
Djokovic is now just one major away from equalling the all-time record of 20, jointly held by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

It was a second French Open crown for Djokovic after his 2016 victory and adds to his nine Australian Opens, five Wimbledon titles and three at the US Open.

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

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

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



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

## MOST SLAMS

(Men's singles)

● Roger Federer 20

● Rafael Nadal 20

● Novak Djokovic 19

● Pete Sampras 14

● Roy Emerson 12

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

"It was an electric atmosphere," said Djokovic after the four-hour 11-minute final.

"It's a dream. It's difficult to win the title against a great player. It was a difficult three days physically and mentally."

Djokovic had also spent more than four hours on court on Friday to knock out defending champion Rafael Nadal.

Tsitsipas survived a nervy opening service game, having to save two break points.

Djokovic, by contrast, didn't concede a point in his first three service games. But suddenly he faced a set point in the 10th game courtesy of an ugly shank but saved it after a 26-shot rally.

Fired up by a time violation, Djokovic broke for the first time for a 6-5 lead but was unable to serve

out the opener as a series of razor-sharp returns put Tsitsipas back on level terms.

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

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

Dropping the opening set at this year's Roland Garros was familiar territory for Djokovic.

He had to recover from two sets down to beat Lorenzo Musetti in the last 16 and lost the opener against Nadal on Friday.

Tsitsipas, 12 years the world number one's junior, broke again in the first game of the second set as the 2016 champion looked increasingly weary in the 30-degree afternoon heat. The Greek edged ahead 5-2 and pocketed the second set with his eighth ace of the contest.

But the top seed wasn't finished, breaking in the fourth game of the third set to cut the deficit.

## BARBORA COMPLETES GRAND DOUBLE

French Open champion Barbora Krejickikova completed a rare sweep of titles at Roland Garros as she won a third women's doubles major trophy with fellow Czech teammate Katerina Siniakova on Sunday. Less than 24 hours after she claimed her maiden singles slam title, Krejickikova became the first woman since Mary Pierce in 2000 to lift both trophies at the clay-court major. Only seven women have completed the titles sweep at Roland Garros. — *Agencies*