



No landless farmers in national database, says Narendra Singh Tomar

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Dholavira becomes 40th Indian site with World Heritage tag

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Biden, Kadhimi seal agreement to end U.S. combat mission in Iraq

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Lovlina stays on course for a medal in boxing; Sharath bows out

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NEARBY



Notice to Centre, Delhi on vaccine for homeless

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Union and the Delhi governments about the steps taken to vaccinate the homeless. A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud refused to take an "elitist view" to "restrain beggars, vagabonds and the homeless" from begging at traffic junctions, markets and public places.

NEWS PAGE 10

Man ends life after brawl at vaccination centre

GHAZIABAD
The son of a local RSS functionary in Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh allegedly ended his life on Monday night after a brawl with policemen at a vaccination centre. Eleven policemen, including one SHO, have been sent to police lines. Five of them have been booked for abetment to suicide and other sections of the Indian Penal Code.

NORTH & EAST PAGE 5

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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 2

Basavaraj Bommai will be new Karnataka CM

BJP opts for safe choice of BSY loyalist and Lingayat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a choice that underlined a keenness to protect the Lingayat vote base rather than indulge in risky experiments, the BJP on Tuesday chose 61-year-old Basavaraj Bommai as the next Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Significantly, he is not from the RSS stable and was earlier associated with the Janata Dal (United); Mr. Bommai joined the BJP only in 2008. This makes him an exception among BJP Chief Ministers in the State. He is a moderate face not known to take a hardline Hindutva stance and an amenable man across party lines.

Mr. Bommai met Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot to stake his claim to form the government late on Tuesday and will be sworn in alone on Wednesday at 11 a.m.

No surprises
Though there had been intense and wild speculation on the possibility of the BJP throwing a up "surprise" choice, the saffron party played it safe by going with Mr. Bommai, who does not disrupt the caste calculations.

Significantly, he is seen as a man who is close to the Lingayat strongman and outgoing Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, which implies



New leader: Basavaraj Bommai, third from left, showing the victory sign after being elected CM. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A man of the middle-path
Basavaraj Bommai, chosen by the BJP as the next Chief Minister of Karnataka, is known as a man who reads the middle path in a right-

wing party. Known as a man who is not easily ruffled, he was a troubleshooter for the BJP during the legislature stalemate. ▶ PAGE 5

that the latter still holds sway. Seers from the Lingayat-Veerashiva community had interpreted Mr. Yediyurappa's ouster as an "insult" to the community, and the choice of Mr. Bommai would assuage these hurt sentiments at least partially.

Mr. Bommai also meets the long-pending demand for a person from north Karnataka to be at the helm of affairs in the State.

Also, Mr. Bommai is only the second Chief Minister whose father (S.R. Bommai) also served in the same post,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Jabs for children as early as August

Final trial results are awaited, says Mandaviya

NISTULA HEBBAR
BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Vaccination of children against COVID-19 may start as early as August, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told a meeting of the BJP parliamentary party on Tuesday.

India was on its way to becoming the largest producer of vaccines as his Ministry would expedite more licences to Indian companies, he said. He also spoke about the

15 crore doses expected in August, says V.K. Paul
The Union government expects to have 15 crore vaccine doses available for administration in August, V.K. Paul, Chairman of the National Expert Group On Vaccine Administration for COVID-19, said on Tuesday. "We have a visibility of about 15 crore doses," Dr. Paul said at a press briefing. ▶ PAGE 10

Right to health has taken back seat: plea in SC
The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Union government to respond to a petition that said the fundamental right to health had taken a back seat as patients were forced to choose between expensive private care and an "inadequate" public health sector, especially during the pandemic. ▶ PAGE 10

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Zydus Cadila's DNA vaccines for the 12-18 age group were being looked into.

"Final trial results are awaited and after due scrutiny, the vaccines will be made available for children. We hope to make the vaccine available in the near future," he added.

A senior Health Ministry official said while the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine had been tested and approved in the European Union for use in those aged 12-15, India was looking at an indigenous vaccine.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Sarma talks tough on Mizoram border row

Assam will abide by any law enacted by Parliament, says Assam Chief Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SILCHAR

Assam will abide by any law enacted by Parliament that makes it even cede its land to another State but till then it will not allow even an "inch to be encroached upon", Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma asserted on Tuesday, amid the border row with Mizoram.

Mr. Sarma's comments came a day after five Assamese people - five police personnel and a civilian - were killed and over 50 injured in the border clashes.

He also said Assam will move the Supreme Court seeking protection of the In-



Himanta Biswa Sarma

ternline Forest Reserve from destruction and encroachment and deploy three commando battalions in Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi districts bordering Mizoram to strengthen security. As-

regret that they have fired at fellow countrymen but we are leaving it to their wisdom and conscience. This is a dispute between two States and not a fight between countries. But the video evidence that we have of the Mizo forces celebrating after attacking our people has saddened and hurt us," he said.

The Chief Minister said that satellite images have shown that roads are being constructed and forests cleared for jhum cultivation (shifting cultivation) which cannot be allowed.

He also visited the Silchar Medical College and Hospital and met police personnel injured in the attack. "We hope that the Mizos

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

MORE REPORTS PAGE 8

Mamata terms meeting with PM a courtesy call

I sought more doses of vaccines: CM

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

A united Opposition against the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election is a given, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said minutes after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Tuesday. She has also demanded a judicial probe into the Pegasus cyber snooping row.

Ms. Banerjee's visit to the Capital, her first visit in two years, comes after her victory in the Assembly election for a third time. During her five-day visit, she will be meeting a host of Opposition leaders.

Buoyed by her victory, especially in the face of a resurgent BJP, her meetings with the Opposition parties



Mamata Banerjee

are being seen as a definitive sign that the TMC wants to play a larger role in national politics. "Opposition unity will automatically happen," Ms. Banerjee said. Asked if she will lead such a consortium of Opposition parties, she said, "India will lead and we shall follow."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Rakesh Asthana appointed Delhi Police Commissioner

Gujarat cadre officer gets inter-cadre deputation, extension

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Days before his superannuation, Gujarat cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana was on Tuesday appointed Delhi Police Commissioner.

Mr. Asthana, a 1984-batch IPS officer, was to retire on July 31. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs order, Mr. Asthana, who was serving as Director General, Border Security Force, will join as the Delhi Police Commissioner with immediate effect.

On July 1, Balaji Srivastava, a 1988-batch IPS officer, was given the additional charge of Commissioner of Delhi Police.

While clearing Mr. Asthana's appointment as CP, Del-



Rakesh Asthana. ■ FILE PHOTO

hi, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the inter-cadre deputation from Gujarat to AGMUT cadre. The ACC also extended Mr. Asthana's service initially for a period of one year beyond the date of his superannuation or until further order, whichever is earlier.

This is one of the very few instances when an IPS officer outside of the AGMUT cadre has been appointed as the Delhi Police chief.

Mr. Asthana had earlier served as the Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation. He was the Narcotics Control Bureau chief when actor Rhea Chakrabarty was arrested in a drugs case in Mumbai.

During his stint in the CBI in 2018, Mr. Asthana was engaged in an unsavoury spat with the then CBI Director Alok Verma. Both the officers were removed from the central probe agency and Mr. Asthana was subsequently cleared of the charges. (With inputs from PTI)

'21.5 mn lost jobs in tourism sector'

Significant job loss was due to lockdown, Minister Kishan Reddy tells Rajya Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With the tourism industry among the hardest hit due to the pandemic, it is estimated that about 21.5 million people working in the sector lost their jobs during the nine-month period from April 2020-December 2020, as per the data shared by the government on Tuesday.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said a significant number of jobs were lost in the tourism sector once the lockdown was implemented.

"About 14.5 million jobs during Q1, 5.2 million during Q2 and 1.8 million jobs during Q3 were expected to have been lost as compared to an estimated 34.8 million jobs in the pre-pandemic period of 2019-20 [direct jobs]," he said. Mr. Reddy said this was one of the key findings of the



Slow revival: Visitors walking to the Taj Mahal in Agra on Tuesday as the tourist attraction has reopened. ■ PTI

study done by the National Council of Applied Economic Research for the Ministry of Tourism to assess the extent of losses to the sector.

As per the report, due to overall economic slowdown during 2020-21, tourism economy or tourism direct gross value added (TDGVA) saw a fall of 42.8% in April-June 2020, 15.5% in July-September 2020 and a fall of 1.1% in October-December 2020.

However, Mr. Reddy added that the Ministry did not maintain data on revenue generated from tourism.

Replying to another query, the Minister said no formal study had been instituted by the Ministry to assess whether the movement of people from all States increased at tourist places, which might raise fears of an increase in COVID-19 positive cases after the second wave.

Further, Mr. Reddy said that as per the Bureau of Immigration, the number of foreign tourist arrivals in India stood at 10.93 million in 2019, declining to 2.74 million in 2020 and about 0.42 million till June 2021.

According to the data compiled by the Ministry of Tourism, domestic tourist visits during the calendar year 2019 stood at 2,321.98 million while those in 2020 stood at 610.21 million.

Highest July rain in Delhi in 18 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Heavy rain lashed the Capital on Tuesday, causing waterlogging and traffic snarls in several areas.

Safdarjung, the official weather station of the city, received 100 mm of rain in just three hours before 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday. Palam received 68 mm before 8.30 a.m. and 59.4 mm during the day.

With Tuesday's downpour, the Capital has recorded 381 mm of rain so far this month, which is the highest in July since 2003, according to figures shared by the Met Department. The rain led to a fall in the maximum temperature, which settled five degrees below normal at 29.4 degrees Celsius.

DETAILS ON PAGE 2

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Delhi receives 4 lakh doses of Covishield

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI After nearly two weeks of vaccine shortage, the city received around 4 lakh doses of Covishield, as per Delhi government data.

Khalid cannot claim parity with other accused in riots case, police tell court

Agency opposes his bail plea citing Supreme Court order

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI Delhi Police on Tuesday informed a local court here that former JNU student Umar Khalid, arrested in connection with the north-east Delhi riots, cannot claim parity with other accused such as Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha, who were recently released on regular bail.



Umar Khalid. FILE PHOTO

Delhi Police, in its reply, also said that the present case pertains to a "larger conspiracy". "In total 21 accused have been arrested in the case till date, out of which chargesheet of 18 accused has been filed including the present applicant [Mr. Khalid]," the reply said. It said further investigation is on.

Capital sees highest amount of rainfall in July since 2003

Waterlogging, road cave-in disrupt traffic; Safdarjung gets 100 mm rain in 3 hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI Heavy rain lashed the Capital on Tuesday causing waterlogging in several areas which further led to traffic snarls.



At snail's pace: Heavy rain and waterlogging cause traffic congestion at Vikas Marg; (right) motorists struggle on a waterlogged road in New Delhi on Tuesday.



Motorists struggle on a waterlogged road in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Delhi govt. to nominate doctors for Padma awards

Kejriwal says citizens have time till Independence Day to submit suggestions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced that the Delhi government will only nominate doctors and healthcare workers for this year's Padma awards.



CM Arvind Kejriwal

awards: Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan, Mr. Kejriwal said the Centre asks for nominations of people who they think deserve the honour.

can be sent to padmaawards.delhi@gmail.com. "A Search and Screening Committee" has been set up under Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. It will decide the names for recommendations. The last date for sending names to the Centre is September 15," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Government of Jharkhand Department of Transport (Lead Agency, Road Safety) NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION OF EoI (Reference PR No:- 247850) Memo No:- VLTD /suchibaddh-29/2021-(R.S)-286 Dated:-26-07-2021

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HC rejects IMA president's plea against court order

He was told not to propagate religion

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed plea of Indian Medical Association (IMA) president Dr. J.A. Jayal challenging an order of a local court here asking him to not use the platform of IMA for propagating any religion.

superiority of allopathic medicines over ayurveda medicines in treatment of COVID patients". Mr. Jha had alleged that an article on March 30, 2020 published in Nation World News read with TV debate of Mr. Jayalal with Baba Ramdev on various TV news channels on May 2021 have seriously disparaged and denigrated his "reputation in the society being a Hindu".

Provide details of vaccine drive in jails, HC tells govt.

Bench wants to know plan for 2nd dose

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the city government to give details about its COVID-19 vaccination drive, which is going on in the jails on the existing inmates and the newcomers.

The court's direction came while hearing two pleas seeking vaccination of all the prisoners who were out on bail or parole before they surrender so as to prevent the spread of COVID inside prisons.

JNUEE to be held from Sept. 20-23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI The National Testing Agency on Tuesday announced it will be conducting the Jawaharlal Nehru University Entrance Examination for 2021-22 admission in Computer Based Test-mode from September 20-23.

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Delhi Board to be launched in 30 schools

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI The Aam Aadmi Party government on Tuesday announced that the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) will be launched at 30 government schools in the academic session 2021-22, out of which 20 will be Schools of Specialised Excellence (SoSE) and 10 will be government schools.

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China's sea claims have no basis, says U.S.

We don't seek confrontation with China, but won't flinch when our interests are threatened: Pentagon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SINGAPORE

Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin said on Tuesday that Beijing's expansive claims in the South China Sea have "no basis in international law", taking aim at China's growing assertiveness in the hotly contested waters.



Territorial dispute: A file photo of Chinese vessels anchored at Whitsun Reef in the South China Sea.

Mr. Austin's broadside came at the start of his first trip to Southeast Asia as U.S. Defence Secretary, as he seeks to rally allies in the region as a bulwark to China. President Joe Biden's administration wants to reset relations with Asian countries and build alliances to face Beijing, after the turbulence and unpredictability of the Donald Trump era.

"Beijing's claim to the vast majority of the South China Sea has no basis in international law," he said in a speech hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies think tank. "That assertion treads on the sovereignty of the states in the region," he said, adding that the U.S. would support countries in defending their rights. China claims almost all of the resource-rich sea, through which trillions of dollars in shipping trade passes annually, with com-

peting claims from Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Beijing has been accused of deploying a range of military hardware, including anti-ship missiles and surface-to-air missiles there, and ignored a 2016 international tribunal decision that declared its historical claim over most of the waters to be without basis. Washington does "not seek confrontation" with China. "I am committed to pursuing a constructive, stable relationship with China, including stronger crisis communications with the People's Liberation Army."

Rising tensions

Tensions have escalated in recent months between Beijing and rival claimants. Manila was angered after hundreds of Chinese boats were spotted inside the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone, while Malaysia scrambled fighter jets to intercept Chinese military aircraft that appeared off its coast. Mr. Austin said on Tuesday the U.S. "will not flinch when our interests are threatened" — but he insisted

Biden, Kadhimi seal deal to end U.S. combat mission in Iraq

American forces will still operate there in an advisory role

REUTERS WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi sealed an agreement on Monday formally ending the U.S. combat mission in Iraq by the end of 2021, but American forces will still operate there in an advisory role.



Reaching a pact: U.S. President Joe Biden with Iraqi PM Mustafa al-Kadhimi, left, in the Oval Office on Monday.

The agreement comes at a delicate time for the Iraqi government and could be a boost for Baghdad. Mr. Kadhim has faced increasing pressure from Iran-aligned parties and paramilitary groups who oppose the U.S. military role in the country. Mr. Biden has largely kept the hawkish stance on China of Mr. Trump, describing the Asian power as the pre-eminent challenge to the United States, but has lowered the temperature and instead emphasised working with allies and working at home to compete better. After Singapore, Mr. Austin will visit Vietnam and the Philippines, and will seek to underline that the U.S. is a "stabilising force" in Southeast Asia, said a senior defence official.

By the end of August. Together with his agreement on Iraq, the Democratic President is moving to formally complete U.S. combat missions in the two wars that then-President George W. Bush began under his watch nearly two decades ago. A U.S.-led coalition invaded Iraq in 2003 based on charges that then-Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's government possessed weapons of mass destruction. Saddam was ousted from power, but such weapons were never found. In recent years, the U.S. mission was focused on helping defeat the IS militants in Iraq and Syria. U.S. diplomats and troops in Iraq and Syria were targeted in three rocket and drone attacks earlier this month. Analysts believed the attacks were part of a campaign by Iranian-backed militias. Mr. Kadhim, who is seen as friendly to the U.S., has tried to check the power of Iran-aligned militias. But his

government condemned U.S. air strikes against Iran-aligned fighters along its border with Syria in late June, calling it a violation of Iraqi sovereignty. In remarks to reporters after the talks, Mr. Kadhim stressed that his government was responsible for responding to such attacks. He acknowledged that he had reached out to Tehran to address them. "We speak to Iranians and others in an attempt to put a limit to these attacks, which are undermining Iraq and its role."

Move welcomed Several powerful pro-Iran groups in Iraq welcomed the announcement by the U.S. Conquest Alliance, the political wing of Iraq's Hashed-al-Shaabi paramilitary network, said it considered Mr. Biden's announcement "to be a positive step towards the full sovereignty of Iraq". "We hope that it will materialise on the ground." (With AFP inputs)

Israeli war crimes apparent in Gaza assault, says HRW

ASSOCIATED PRESS JERUSALEM

Human Rights Watch on Tuesday accused the Israeli military of carrying out attacks that "apparently amount to war crimes" during the 11-day war in May against the Hamas militant group.

It said "there were no evident military targets in the vicinity" of the attacks. The report also accused Palestinian militants of apparent war crimes by launching more than 4,000 unguided rockets and mortars at Israeli population centres. Such attacks, it said, violate "the prohibition against deliberate or indiscriminate attacks against civilians". The report, however, focused on Israeli actions during the fight-

ing, and the group said it would issue a separate report on the actions of Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups in August. "Israeli forces carried out attacks in Gaza in May that devastated entire families without any apparent military target nearby," said Gerry Simpson, associate crisis and conflict director at HRW. He said Israel's "consistent unwillingness to seriously investigate alleged war

crimes", coupled with Palestinian rocket fire at Israeli civilian areas, underscored the importance of an ongoing investigation into both sides by the International Criminal Court. The HRW report looked into Israeli air strikes. The most serious, on May 16, involved a series of strikes on Al-Wahda Street, a central thoroughfare in downtown Gaza City. The strikes destroyed three apartment

buildings and killed a total of 44 civilians, HRW said, including 18 children and 14 women. Twenty-two of the dead were members of a single family, the al-Kawalks. In its investigation, HRW concluded that Israel had used U.S.-made GBU-31 precision-guided bombs, and that Israel had not warned any of the residents to evacuate the area ahead of time. It also found no evidence of military targets in the area.

1 dead, 31 injured in blast at German chemical park

Three staffers missing, say officials

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LEVERKUSEN

One person died and three were missing after an explosion rocked a chemical park in the western German city of Leverkusen on Tuesday, officials said, but a warning for residents to stay indoors was lifted several hours later.



A cloud of smoke rising above the chemical park in Leverkusen on Tuesday.

Another 31 people were injured in the incident at the Chempark complex, three of them seriously, city authorities said in a statement. All those affected worked at the site. The cause of the huge blast, which was heard several kilometres away and sent a column of black smoke into the air, was not immediately clear. Germany's NINA warning app sent an "extreme dan-

ger" alert to residents, telling them to stay home and shut doors and windows. The explosion happened around 9.40 a.m. at Chempark's waste incineration site in Leverkusen's Buerri district, according to site operator Currenta.

Man convicted in Hong Kong under new law

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE HONG KONG

A Hong Kong court convicted a former waiter of terrorism and inciting secession on Tuesday in the first trial conducted under a national security law that was imposed by China to stamp out dissent.

REUTERS TUNIS

Tunisia's biggest party, the moderate Islamist Ennahda, on Tuesday called for a national dialogue to get the country out of crisis after it accused the President of a coup when he dismissed the Prime Minister and suspended Parliament. In a reversal of a call early on Monday to its supporters to take to the streets against President Kais Saied's actions, Ennahda urged dialogue and efforts to avoid civil strife.

supporters through party branches not to resume a sit-in outside Parliament and to avoid protests. Though some senior party members wanted to retain a street presence, its leaders decided to avoid any further escalation and allow a period of calm, two Ennahda officials said earlier on Tuesday. The area outside the Parliament building, the site on Monday of confrontations between hundreds of supporters of Ennahda and Mr. Saied, was empty on Tuesday morning. Ennahda's supporters left on Monday evening and have not returned. Tunisia is facing its biggest crisis since the 2011 revolution that introduced democracy.

Tong Ying-kit, 24, was charged with terrorism for driving a motorbike into three police officers and secession for flying a protest flag during a rally on July 1 last year, the day after the national security law was enacted.

Ennahda had already told its supporters to avoid protests. In a reversal of a call early on Monday to its supporters to take to the streets against President Kais Saied's actions, Ennahda urged dialogue and efforts to avoid civil strife. "The movement ... calls on all Tunisians to increase solidarity, synergy and unity and to confront all calls for sedition and civil strife," it said in a statement.

NATO chief urges 'negotiated settlement' in Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BRUSSELS

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday reiterated calls for a "negotiated settlement" with the Taliban in Afghanistan, admitting that the country faced a "deeply challenging" security situation as foreign troops leave. "The security situation in Afghanistan remains deeply challenging, and requires a negotiated settlement. NATO will continue to support

Afghanistan, including with funding; civilian presence; and out-of-country training," Mr. Stoltenberg wrote on Twitter after speaking to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Since early May, violence has surged as the Taliban launched a sweeping assault just days after U.S.-led NATO forces began a withdrawal which is now almost complete. Most of NATO's 10,000-

strong force have already pulled out of the country after a decision by President Joe Biden to bring Washington's troops home after two decades. UN warning The United Nations warned on Monday that Afghanistan could see the highest number of civilian deaths in more than a decade if the Taliban's offensives across the country are not halted.

ELSEWHERE



Nearly 970 Mediterranean migrants have died: UN Geneva The deaths of 57 migrants off the Libyan coast brings the number of lives lost on the central Mediterranean crossing route this year to around 970, the United Nations said on Tuesday. At least 57 migrants drowned after their boat sank off Libya, said the UN's International Organization for Migration — the latest tragedy on the dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossing to Europe. Among those missing are at least 20 women and two toddlers, the IOM said in Geneva. AFP

Bhutan vaccinates most of population after donations

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE THIMPU

Bhutan has inoculated most of its eligible population with second doses of COVID-19 vaccinations in a week, in a speedy roll-out hailed by UNICEF on Monday as a "success story" for international donations. More than 4,54,000 shots were administered over the past week — just over 85% of the eligible adult population of more than 5.3 lakh people — after a recent flood of foreign donations. UNICEF's Bhutan representative, Will Parks, hailed the vaccination drive as a "great success story for Bhutan". The tiny nation had quickly used up most of the 5.5 lakh AstraZeneca doses

donated by India in late March and early April for first jabs, before New Delhi halted exports. Faced with a growing time gap between the first and second doses, Bhutan launched an appeal for donations. Five lakh Moderna doses donated by the U.S. via Covax and another 2.5 lakh AstraZeneca shots from Denmark arrived in mid-July. More than 1.5 lakh AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Sinopharm shots are also expected to arrive in the nation of 7.7 lakh people from Croatia, Bulgaria, China and other countries. The government has meanwhile bought 2 lakh Pfizer doses that are expected to be delivered later this year. of the investigation into the assassination of President Jovenel Moise," police spokeswoman Marie Michelle Verrier said. Port-au-Prince commissioner Bed-Ford Claude had already ordered immigration authorities to prohibit four police officers who were responsible for Moise's security from leaving the country.

Slain President's security chief held

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PORT-AU-PRINCE

The Haitian police said on Monday they had arrested the head of Jovenel Moise's security as part of the ongoing investigation into the President's July 7 assassination.

Moise killed at his home in the middle of the night by armed commandos, who bypassed the President's guards without firing a shot. Civil had already been placed in solitary confinement at a prison in Delmas, near Port-au-Prince. "I can confirm that Jean Laguel Civil was arrested on Monday by the police as part

MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED TENDER NOTICE. (A Government of Kerala Undertaking), An ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015 Company. Visit: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for Online Submission of Bids for: Collection & Transportation of packed cement from Malabar Cements Ltd., Walayar to various locations in Coimbatore district within in radius of 100KM.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI MARKETING DEPARTMENT e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE. e-tender cum e-Reverse auction is invited for procurement of the following item by the Marketing Department, T.T.D, Tirupati.

ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY. Ref: AU/DRD/RUSA 2.0/EMMC/ Equipment/Tender/05/2020-21 Date: 28.07.2021. For and on behalf of Annamalai University, sealed tenders are invited for supply and installation of Equipment for establishing Educational Multimedia Centre in the Faculty of Education, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar from the Indian Companies of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM)/Authorized Dealers/Authorized Distributors.

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (A Govt. of India Company, Ministry of Power) Post Box No.8066, Prof. Sir. C.V.Raman Road Sadashivanagar Post Office, Bangalore - 560 080. ADVERTISEMENT No. CPRI/20/2021. CPRI invites applications for three positions of Project Engineers and one position of Project Associate on purely temporary basis, initially for a period of one year.

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT M.S.Building, Bangalore. E-No:ED/199/UBV/2021(P-2) Date: 27.07.2021. Selection of Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru North University. 1. The Government of Karnataka invites applications for the selection of Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru North University, Kolar as per sec. 14(2) of Karnataka State University Act, 2000 from eligible and distinguished Academicians/Professors with following credentials: i) A person of the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment; ii) A distinguished academician, with a minimum of ten years' of experience as Professor in a University or ten years' of experience in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership; iii) As provided in the sec 14(5) and 14(6) of Karnataka State University Act, 2000, the Vice-Chancellor shall, subject to the pleasure of the Chancellor, hold the office for a maximum period of 4 years or until he attains the age of Sixty Seven years whichever is earlier. Consequently, a person to be appointed as Vice Chancellor shall have clear four years of tenure.

MARKET WATCH

Table with 3 columns: Index, 27-07-2021, % CHANGE. Rows: Sensex, US Dollar, Gold, Brent oil.

NIFTY 50

Table with 3 columns: Stock Name, PRICE, CHANGE. Lists various companies like Adani Ports, Axis Bank, Bajaj Auto, etc.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table with 3 columns: CURRENCY, TT BUY, TT SELL. Lists rates for USD, Euro, British Pound, etc.

IN BRIEF



Droom to raise \$200 mn in pre-IPO round

MUMBAI Droom Technology Private Ltd., a marketplace for used cars, bikes and other mobility products, is planning to raise \$200 million in pre-initial public offering (IPO) round to invest in growth plans...

ESAF Small Finance Bank files ₹998-cr. IPO papers

NEW DELHI ESAF Small Finance Bank has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise ₹998 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The ₹997.78-crore public issue comprises fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹800 crore and an offer for sale of ₹197.78 crore by existing selling shareholders...

Hatsun founders repay loans, freeing pledge

CHENNAI Promoters of Hatsun Agro Product have repaid loans availed against a portion of their shares and released the entire pledge, the company said. Chairman R.G. Chandramogan had pledged 6 lakh shares representing 0.28% of share capital to Kotak Mahindra Bank...

IndusInd Bank net profit doubles to ₹1,016 crore

NEW DELHI IndusInd Bank on Tuesday reported doubling of its consolidated net profit to ₹1,016.11 crore in the June 2021 quarter, aided by healthy growth in retail loans and lower NPA provisioning. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹510.39 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year...

Panel raps govt. over MSMEs, urges larger economic package

Parliamentary committee moots steps to boost cash flows for micro, small units

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary panel has pulled up the government for offering inadequate relief measures for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that were worst-affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It mooted fresh measures to help them stay afloat, including a doubling of the 90-day limit for banks to classify their loan dues as problematic.



Flip priorities: Policies must be framed with a focus on small enterprises, not larger firms, the panel says. * M. PERIASAMY

Offering loans and long-term measures — as the government had done over the past year — instead of improving the cash flow to generate demand as immediate relief, have put small enterprises in a grim situation, the panel said in its report tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.

The second COVID-19 wave this year 'even more vigorously ripped the economy, particularly the MSME sector' just as it was recovering from the initial lockdowns of 2020, the panel said. "The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government should immediately come out with a larger economic package aimed at bolstering demand, investment, exports and em-

Adani Ports issues bonds, raises \$750 mn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (AP-SEZ) has raised \$750 million through issue of bonds, including 20-year unsecured bonds, from the global markets.

The firm claimed that it has become the first infrastructure company in India to successfully raise 20 years money from international markets. According to a statement, the coupon rates for the 10.5-year and 20-year dual-tranche bonds were fixed at 3.8% and 5%, respectively. "The issuances were oversubscribed by over 3 times," it said.

IndiGo net loss widens on fuel, COVID impact

'May, June revenues lower than April's'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Low-cost carrier IndiGo on Tuesday reported a loss of ₹3,174 crore for the quarter ended June, wider than the ₹2,842-crore loss a year earlier. Total income almost tripled to ₹3,170 crore.



VID-19 second wave had on revenues in the quarter." He highlighted the second wave impact by pointing out the dip in monthly revenue.

Passenger ticket revenue and ancillary revenue surged fourfold to ₹2,297 crore and ₹668 crore, respectively. Total expenses climbed 59.2% to ₹6,344 crore.

"Fuel was a negative driver as, year-over-year, fuel price has doubled," said CEO Ronjoy Dutta. "The second large factor was the severe impact that the CO-

The figures came to ₹1,540 crore in April, ₹670 crore in May and ₹960 crore in June. The airline, however, expects revenue in July to recover to April levels.

Canara Bank Q1 net profit triples to ₹1,177 cr.

'Fall in bad loans helped boost profit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Canara Bank reported an almost threefold jump in net profit to ₹1,177 crore for the quarter ended June 30 from more than ₹406 crore in the year-earlier period.



The bank's global business increased by 9.38% y-o-y to ₹17,06,422 crore. Global deposits stood at ₹10,21,837 crore, a 12.34% y-o-y increase, while global advances grew 5.23% to ₹6,84,585 crore.

Reduction in bad loans helped net profit grow substantially, the lender said.

Gross NPA ratio stood at 8.5% in the April-June quarter as against 8.93% in the previous quarter and 8.84% in June 2020 quarter, MD & CEO L.V. Prabhakar said on Tuesday.

Net NPA ratio stood at 3.46% as against 3.82% in the last quarter and 3.95% in the June 2020 quarter. Total income increased marginally to ₹21,210 crore from ₹20,686 crore in the year-earlier period. Operating profit stood at ₹5,751 crore, up by 34.18% year-on-year.

Ramco Cements Q1 net rises 54%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Ramco Cements reported a 54% increase in standalone net profit for Q1 of FY22 to ₹168.98 crore. The company attributed the rise to implementation of tight cost-control measures in manufacturing operations.

Revenue from operations rose 18% to ₹1,205 crore. Cement sales increased 11% to 21.41 lakh tonnes. The company incurred a capex ₹397 crore. Demand for individual housing declined marginally in the south, while infrastructure and commercial segments looked up. Lockdowns dampened demand in May and June.

In the Eastern region, individual housing saw good growth and there was pickup in infrastructure and commercial segments, the company said.

Kirloskar files plaint against siblings' firms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Sanjay Kirloskar-led Kirloskar Brothers Ltd. filed a complaint with the Securities and Exchange Board of India against four firms led by his brothers Atul and Rahul Kirloskar, alleging they had misled investors and usurped its more-than-a-century-old legacy.

The complaint is against Kirloskar Oil Engines, Kirloskar Industries, Kirloskar Pneumatic Company and Kirloskar Ferrous Industries, which earlier this month announced a new logo and branding for their new mission 'Kirloskar Limitless'. In a statement, a Kirloskar Industries spokesperson said, "The said letter contains a large number of factual inaccuracies and misstatements."

Cotton prices rise, textile trade seeks zero duty

Textile exports turn expensive: SIMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE

With cotton prices rising, the textile industry has sought removal of 10% import duty on the produce.

Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) chairman Ashwin Chandran said in a press release that the increase of ₹3,800 a candy of cotton over the past 15 days by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and the 10% import duty on cotton were affecting the entire textile value chain. It had made textile exports 'expensive' in the global market, he said.

Though the CCI offered three months' lock-in for bulk purchase, textile mills could not benefit due to a liquidity crunch and uncertainty in cotton prices, he said. The import duty has

encouraged price speculation, he claimed. For some varieties, prices of Indian cotton had exceeded the international price.

Pradeep Kumar Agarwal, CMD, CCI, said international cotton prices and MCX prices had risen by ₹7,500 and ₹6,000 a candy, respectively, in the last one-and-a-half months. But, he pointed out, CCI had raised prices by ₹2,200 to ₹2,500 a candy for the same period, except for 1-2 varieties where it is higher. In the last one month, 40% of the cotton sold by CCI were purchased by textile mills directly.

Flipkart goes to SC in CCI probe matter

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Online retailer Flipkart has approached the Supreme Court challenging a Karnataka High Court decision allowing an antitrust probe against it and another e-commerce major, Amazon.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had in January decided to open a probe into the companies for allegedly entering into anti-competitive agreements in violation of the Competition Act of 2002.

The firms had denied the allegations and wanted the probe quashed.

The CCI had acted on a complaint by Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh, which had alleged that Amazon and Flipkart were giving preference to select sellers and offering deep discounts via anti-competitive accords.

IMF cuts emerging Asia, India growth forecasts

Fund sees India GDP growth at 9.5%

REUTERS TOKYO

The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday cut this year's economic growth forecast for emerging Asia, including India, as a spike in coronavirus cases from new variants and slow vaccinations cloud the region's recovery prospects.

The downgrade, which contrasted with an upward revision in the IMF's forecast for advanced nations, highlights the divergence emerging across countries on the pace of recovery from the pandemic's hit.

In an update to its World Economic Outlook (WEO), the IMF forecast emerging Asia will grow 7.5% this year, down 1.1 percentage points from its projection in April. That was a much bigger downgrade than a 0.4 point

Growth prospects in India have been downgraded following the severe second COVID wave

mark-down for emerging economies across the globe. "Growth prospects in India have been downgraded following the severe second COVID wave during March-May and expected slow re-

covery in confidence from that setback," the IMF said.

"Similar dynamics are at work in the ASEAN-5 group... where recent infection waves are causing a drag on activity," it said.

The IMF cut this year's growth forecast for India by 3 percentage points to 9.5%. China's forecast for 2021 was revised down 0.3 point to 8.1%.

Vedanta plans ₹6,611-cr. Balco expansion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Vedanta on Tuesday said it would invest ₹6,611 crore over the next 18-24 months in expansion of smelter capacity at group firm Bharat Aluminium Company.

In addition, the company said its carbon plant adequacy business in Odisha would set up a new facility at 635 crore.

"Balco's expansion is a very important project for us. We hope to ramp up the smelter capacity over the next 18-24 months," Group CEO Sunil Duggal said. "Post this expansion, Vedanta's aluminium capacity will increase to 2.8 million tonnes," he added.

Dr. Reddy's net slides 36% on charge; faces SEC subpoena

Drugmaker sets aside ₹193 cr. after losing arbitration in U.S.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) on Tuesday reported first-quarter consolidated net profit fell 36% to ₹380.4 crore after the company accounted for an additional expense of ₹193 crore in the wake of the loss of an arbitration award in the U.S.

Revenue rose almost 12% to ₹4,945.1 crore in the three months ended June, as per results prepared to Indian Accounting Standards.

The arbitration ruling required one of DRL's subsidiaries to pay \$46.25 million (₹340.1 crore) to Hatchtech



Pty Limited. "As the company was carrying \$20 million (₹147.1 crore) as provision towards this litigation, an additional expense of \$26.25 million (₹193 crore)... was recognised during the three months ended June 30," the company said.

Shares of DRL tumbled 10.4% to close at ₹4,844.35 on the BSE after the company also said it had received a subpoena from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) earlier this month asking for documents pertaining to certain CIS geographies over a complaint pertaining to alleged corrupt practices in Ukraine.

A U.S. law firm is probing the matter at the instruction of a committee of DRL's board. The company said it had disclosed the matter to the U.S. Department of Justice, SEC and Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Advertisement for Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER). Includes details about admissions to MBBS, B.Sc Nursing, and B.Sc Allied Health Sciences courses.

Advertisement for High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. Details the date of Preliminary Examination of Direct Recruitment to the U.P. Higher Judicial Service-2020 as 05th September, 2021.

Advertisement for CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT). Details the date of commencement of online applications (28.07.2021) and last date for receipt of applications (27.08.2021).

Advertisement for Additional Skill Acquisition Programme Kerala. A government company registered under the Companies Act 2013.

Advertisement for Indian Institute of Health & Family Welfare (IIHFW). Details the tender for printing and supply of print material.

Advertisement for Government of India Department of Atomic Energy Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Details the notice inviting e-tender.

Advertisement for NTPC Limited. Details the notice inviting expression of interest from Discoms/Bulk Consumers/Industrial Consumers for supply of electricity from NTPC.

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