PROFESSIONAL TIPS

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia feels choosing a role in a thriller can always be an advantage for an actor LEISURE



HISTORICAL COALITION

Opposition parties in Israel clinch a last-minute agreement to form a new national unity government and oust Benjamin Netanyahu

INTERNATIONAL P10



BARTY PULLS OUT

WTA World No.1 Ash Barty retires from her 2nd round match at the French Open because of a left hip injury

SPORTS P12

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL

for me every day is

a bicycle day

Bijaya Sahoo no more

Bhubaneswar: Bijaya Kumar Sahoo,

based SAI International School and advisor of Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya Sangathan (OAVS) breathed his

last Thursday while undergoing

treatment for Covid-19 at a Hyderabad-based private

hospital. He was 58. Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik has condoled the death of Sahoo. P3

the chairman of Bhubaneswar-

SII seeks indemnity from liability

MANUFACTURER SAYS IT CAN PRODUCE RUSSIAN VACCINE SPUTNIK V TOO

New Delhi, June 3: Covishield-manufacturer Serum Institute of India (SII) has asked for indemnity from liability, sources said Thursday. This move comes after Pfizer and Moderna adopted the same route. All vaccine makers, whether Indian or foreign, should be granted the same protection, SII told the government sources, informed.

'Not just Serum Institute of India, all Indian companies should get indemnity protection against liabilities if foreign companies are granted the same," sources close to SII said. "Serum is hoping that rules should be same for everyone." the sources added.

Other than producing Covishield, SII is also involved in trials for three new anti-Covid vaccines.

Advanced trials are on for 'Covovax' being developed in collaboration with the pharma company Novovax. Then 'Codagenix', which is a single-dose nasal vaccine, is in phase 1/2 trials in the UK. The third, 'SpyBiotech', is a novel virus-like particle vaccine, which is also undergoing trials.

SII has also sought permission from the DGCI to manufacture Russian vaccine Sputnik V.

The government has so far not given

POST NEWS NETWORK



any manufacturer indemnity or protection against legal action for any severe side effects.

Health Ministry sources had earlier said Wednesday that other countries have granted this concession and 'there is no problem' in granting indemnity or legal protection from any claims linked to the use of a company's Covid-19 vaccine. "If these companies have applied for Emergency Use Authorisation in India then we are ready to give them indemnity," the sources said.

"It is expected that they will be granted indemnity against legal proceedings along the lines of what has been allowed in other countries for Pfizer and Moderna," they added.

SII has applied to DCGI seeking permission to manufacture Sputnik V for examination, test and analysis at its licensed Hadapsar facility in Pune.

2ND INDIAN JAB IN MARKET SOON

NEW DELHI: In another landmark move in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, the Central government has booked 30 crore doses of another made-in-India vaccine to be manufactured by Hyderabad-based Biological-E. The vaccine is still in the final phase of clinical trials (phase-3) after showing promising results in phase-1 and 2. The vaccine is likely to be available in the market within the next few months, said a Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) statement. The Ministry is learnt to have made an advance payment of ₹1,500 crore to the firm -- the second made-in-India vaccine manufacturer after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin. "The doses will be manufactured and stockpiled by Biological-E from August to December and is likely to be available 'in the next few months', the ministry said.

The firm has collaborated with the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, Moscow for developing Sputnik V at its Hadapsar facility.



1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

Monsoon to hit Odisha on time

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The southwest monsoon may arrive in Odisha by June 10 to 12, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra. He informed Thursday that there is a likelihood of a fresh low pressure developing in the Bay of Bengal around June 11 which will help in the onset of monsoon over Odisha on time.

The IMD also informed that the southwest monsoon has made an onset over southern parts of Kerala after a delay of two days from the usual date of arrival

Releasing its second long-

range forecast for southwest monsoon Thursday. the weather office said it is likely to be normal in north and south India, abovenormal in central India and below-normal in east and northeast India.

"We expect a steady and normal movement of the monsoons across India this year. In case of Odisha the monsoon will be normal this season, but in June it will bring above-normal rainfall," said Mohapatra.

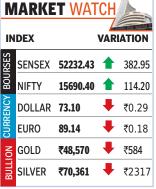
Meanwhile, the IMD said thunderstorms with lightning are likely to occur Friday in a number of districts among which are Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Bargarh and Jharsuguda.

ODISHA FARES POORLY

State features among bottom five in NITI Aayog SDG index

Hearing adjourned

New Delhi: Dominica High Court adjourned Thursday the hearing on a habeas corpus petition filed on behalf of diamond trader Mehul Choksi, local media reported. Judge Bernie Stephenson will decide the next date of hearing after meeting The adjournment is to allow lawyers of both sides to prepare properly.



WEATI			
	BHUB	СТК	
≜ MAX	35.6℃	35.6°	C
≅ MIN	23.8℃	23.6°	Forecast
Humidity	73%	70%	Light rain
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	very likely

the 18-44 age group in the state. The

Odisha government had earlier an-

nounced free vaccination for people in this

segment. Now however, the entire scenario

Vaccination of the 18-44 age group started

in the first week of May in the towns of

Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur,

Sambalpur, Rourkela, Puri, Bargarh,

Khurda, Bhawanipatna, Nabarangpur and

Koraput. The recipients in the state capi-

tal were given Covaxin jabs while for other

However, now due to the shortage of

vaccines, the drive has been severely affected

in all places. In the state capital, vaccina-

places it was Covishield.

is one of doubt and apprehension.

New Delhi, June 3: With marginal or no improvement on vital parameters like poverty, education and hunger, Odisha has slipped to feature in the bottom five states of the third edition of NITI Aavog's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) India The index for SDGs evaluates progress of

states and Union Territories on various spheres including social, economic and environmental parameters. Odisha's score stood at 61 in comparison to its tally of 58 in 2019. However, in spite of gaining three points, the state remained among the bottom five in the list topped by Kerala with 74 points. India's overall score in the index was 66. Bihar with 52 points was at the bottom of the list

Odisha was placed in the category of aspirants in goals like 'No Poverty', 'Zero Hunger', 'Quality Education', 'Gender Equality', 'Decent Work and Economic Growth' and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. The NITI Aayog's report revealed that 32.5 per cent of Odisha's population is living below poverty line while 47 per cent of pregnant women are anaemic. The report also said at least 29 per cent children in Odisha under the age of five are stunted. The net enrollment ratio in elementary education has been reduced to 71 from 94 in 2019. Odisha's performance has also dipped in crime against women and providing employment under MGNREGA.

The NITI Aayog report awarded zero points to Odisha in the parameter of 'Ease of Doing Business' and the unemployment rate of the state stands at 7.6 per cent.

The bright point for Odisha is certain segments where it has emerged frontrunners. These segments are 'Life Below Water', 'Good Health and Well Being', 'Clean Water and Sanitation', 'Affordable and Clean Energy' and 'Reduced Inequalities'. In fact in the 'Life Below Water' and 'Climate Action' segment, Odisha has topped the list.

The report says that 2.8 per cent of urban population in Odisha lives in kutcha houses and 65 per cent of urban households have drainage facilities, which is encouraging.

The report also states that 79 per cent of households in Odisha have LPG or PNG connections. In terms of energy efficiency, Odisha saved the highest amount of CO2 (5.5 MtCO2) followed by Gujarat (4.4 MtCO2) and Uttar Pradesh (2.8 MtCO2).

Our effort of monitoring SDGs continues to be widely noticed and applauded around the world. It remains a rare data-driven initiative to rank our states and Union Territories by computing a composite index on the SDGs

RAJIV KUMAR | NITI AAYOG VICE-CHAIRMAN

The top-performing states and UTs are: Kerala (75 points), Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu (both 74), Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Uttarakhand (all 72), Sikkim (71) and Maharashtra (70). The worst-performing states and UTs include: Chhattisgarh, Nagaland and Odisha (all 61), Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and UP (all 60), Assam (57), Jharkhand (56) and Bihar (52).

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)

Deemed to be University (Established U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India





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- M.Arch (2 Yrs) Master of Mass Communication (2 Yrs)
- MBA-Rural Management (2 Yrs) MBA-(Agribusiness Management) (2 Yrs)

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(Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe

Vax shortage hits 18-44 group Bhubaneswar, June 3: Vaccine shortage in Odisha has affected the drive for

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha registered Thursday its highest single-day spike of 42 Covid-19 fatalities, raising the toll to 2,873 in the state. The Health department said Thursday that there were 8,839 fresh cases of Covid-19 infections. It took the overall tally to 7,90,970 and currently Odisha's active caseload stands at 85.423.

now the state has only 3,100 Covaxin doses - an amount that will not last for even a day.

Odisha has enough stock of Covaxin under the Central quota. However, despite the state government's request, the Centre has not allowed it to use the vaccine for the 18 years-plus population.

Odisha Health Minister Naba Kishore Das had requested Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan to allow the state utilise 3 45 lakh doses of Covaxin on loan basis. He said the amount can later be adjusted with the quota to be supplied to Odisha. However, he is yet to hear from the Centre.

In May, Odisha was allocated 1,65,940 Covaxin doses which were exhausted within a couple of days. For the month of June, the state has been allocated 1,64,370 Covaxin doses with the rider that these can only be used for people availing the second dose. Health department sources informed, Odisha is likely to receive 26,000 doses of Covaxin by June 7 and 2,27,750 doses of Covishield by June 9.

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140











leisure



'MONEY HEIST FINAL SEASON FULL OF TENSION, ACTION'

As the final season of global hit Money Heist draws closer, lead star Alvaro Morte has teased that the last chapter is filled with loads of action and tense moments. The final season of the smash hit Netflix show, titled La Casa De Papel in Spanish, will be released in two parts.

LANA PARRILLA REVEALS HER ROLE IN WHY WOMEN KILL 2

Actress Lana Parrilla has opened up about her role in the second season of Why Women Kill. "I play Rita, a sardonic wife, married to this elderly man, and she has waited long enough for her husband to die so she can live her best life," Parrilla said.



Anupam dreams of

making Saaransh 2 as an action thriller

FORTUNE **FORECAST**

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Today people will actually drag you into altercations, so flash the peace sign if you must. You may face some sort of legal troubles from peace-loving groups Therefore, Ganesha advises you to medi tate, take a walk or just seek out the company of your near and dear ones.

ITAURUS

This all matters are likely to revolve around the opposite sex. Women are going to feature prominently and significantly in everything that you do. So says Ganesha That is good. But you will be inclined to be lazy and laid back and may thus reduce the effect and impact of efforts. Keep your sluggishness away and you will find that everything that you have been striving for is falling in your lap.

Today, you may decide to get a little more conscious about your your health. Filled with positive drive, you may even plan to join a gymnasium or start taking a hard look at your calorie intake. Don't go overboard, though! You don't want to do it only today, and forget it tomorrow plan and execute in a step-wise manner, so it doesn't get a bit too much.

CANCER

You will spend your day reflecting on your past and thinking what went wrong. predicts Ganesha. But keep in mind that vour mistakes won't lead to the end of the world, unless you are a nuclear scientist. So get your act together, and stop brooding over your mistakes.

You will get good co-operaand subordinates. In your personal life also you will gain the support of your spouse and your friends. Other people will be accommodating of your problems and will try to solve them for you. Your expenses may increase, leading to some financial worries, says Ganesha.

You are quick-witted, sharp and artistic to the core, says Ganesha, so you may go ahead and enrapture people with your special abilities, perhaps at a social gathering, However, Ganesha says it would be better if you could conserve some of that enthusiasm in order to focus your attention on issues of greater importance.

Monotonous is the word to describe the way things have been till now, but no more, says Ganesha. It might be a very good idea for you to take a break from things around you and go on a small trip Invigorate yourself with a small picnic and friends. It shall go a lo way in boosting your energy and enhancing your awareness and wisdom in the coming future. In any case, the stars predict satisfying results to private affairs. Also, you will impress the opposite sex.

SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, it's a good day for long term and real estate investments. It may lead to benefits and profits in long run. Sit back, relax and enjoy the pleasures of life before you miss out on them. Welcome all the opportunities with open arms.

SAGITTARIUS

The wheel of fortune turns towards you today, says Ganesha. Make a wish and it's bound to come true. However don't be over-confident when it comes to decision making. In case of disappointments, 'this too shall pass' would be the best remedy.

CAPRICORN

You comparatively less experienced than others in the office, but the boss will choose you with a hope to get the company out of the existing troubles. Trusting your intelligence, skills, and potential, you will assigned some crucial matters. It is a great deal to live up to such high expectations, but you will be able to do so and win the hearts of many, predicts Ganesha. Personally, you will express your deep emotions to your sweetheart.

AQUARIUS

You will be on a spending spree today. But, make sure that your desire to enjoy life doesn't burn a hole in your pocket. Watch your words and steps, as people are observing your every move. You have put all of your eggs in one basket, so make sure that you don't mess up and lose everything that you have, advises Ganesha.

PISCES

You will feel very emotional about those who are close to your heart. Those people who know you will endear you because of this quality of yours. But Ganesha adds a word of caution; take care of those people whom you hold close to your heart because in your sentiments for them you might not notice their bad qualities or for give their mistakes. You might feel fastidi ous today and spend time to groom yourself in a saloon or beauty parlour.

'Thriller genre has high binge quotient'

MUMBAI: South star Tamannaah Bhatia feels choosing a role in a thriller can always be an advantage for an actor because the genre has a high binge quotient.

This year, Tamannaah made her digital debut in April with the Telugu web series 11th Hour, a crime thriller that also features Adith Arun and Vamsi Krishna.

In May, she returned to OTT space again with the Tamil whodunit drama November Story alongside Pasupathy, GM Kumar, Aruldass Vivek Prasanna.

"A thriller, if

done well, has the ability to let you binge-watch. Now that is essentially what everybody who makes a show wants you to do. So, when you choose a genre like the thriller, if it is done well, it has a high potential of reaching that goal of being a bingewatchable show," she says.

11th Hour streams on Aha while November Story is on Disney+ Hotstar VIP.

Alaya's revelation for fans



MUMBAI: If Saaransh, his debut film of 1984 had a sequel, veteran actor Anupam Kher would want it to be an action film high on thrills.

> and won hearts. Not action in terms of beating people up, but as a thriller," says Anupam. Saaransh is considered one of Kher's best

"If part two is made, usmein bhi main hi kaam

karunga. (I would work in it). I dream of making

part two as an action film. He was a principled man

works. The Mahesh Bhatt film cast the actor, then 28. as a 58-year-old man who is heartbroken after the tragic loss of his young son. However, he doesn't let go of his morals when faced with an adverse situation. The actor, now 66, has completed 37 years in Hindi film industry and has essayed over

500 roles.



Titled 'Ruk Jaana Nahi', the limited edition original audio and video series, highlights the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things

tories of good Samaritans have emerged as rays of hope and positivity in these grim times. Spotlighting a number of these reallife superheroes through his narration is actor Rajkummar Rao, who has recited a moving Hindi poem written by lyricist Swanand Kirkire as part of an eight-episode Spotify series.

Titled Ruk Jaana Nahi, the limited edition original audio and video series highlights the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things-from frontline workers to doctors. It launched the first episode's teaser last week, and will be followed by an original podcast on similar lines

"Of course, there are some great

organisations that are doing some brilliant work towards COVID relief, but I was so touched by the strong will and the kindness of a common man. Having noticed stories of people helping others in need without any motive and from the sheer kindness of their heart on an almost daily basis on social media, I knew that these were stories that had to be told so that we remember their strength and sacrifices and that we are not alone in this fight against the pandemic. Spotify reached out to me to help share these stories of hope with a larger audience and I was very impressed with the initiative. said Rao.

Asked about his favourite line from the two-minute-long recital of

FUN

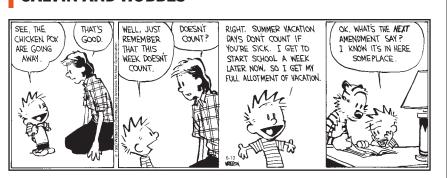
Kirkire's poem, Rao says candidly: 'You know honestly, I can't pick one line, when I first read Swanand sir's poem, I was so moved by the words, every line resonated with me, I knew I just had to be on board. Swanand Sir's words are so beautiful, I feel honoured to recite them on screen for everyone.

The series puts the spotlight on young India and the sacrifices ing to help other people in need.

PEANUTS

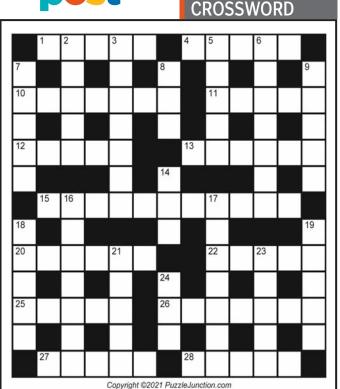


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





<u>Across</u>

- 1 Rubbish
- 4 Feather in
- one's cap 10 Intensify 11 Bolivian
- capital
- 12 Hooded snake
- 13 Jumping rodent
- 15 Red gun dog
- (5,6)
- 20 Appetizer 22 Frigid

- <u>Down</u> 2 Post-op time

25 Staircase post

27 Gastric woe

28 Antiquated

26 Agitated

- 3 Certain correspondents
- (3,4)5 Fine thread
- 6 Ghastly 7 Park feature

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 18 Bloodhound's clue 19 Fuddy-duddy
 - 21 Throb
 - 23 Carpenter's
 - machine 24 Knowledge

8 Morning moisture

9 Tooth trouble

14 Petition

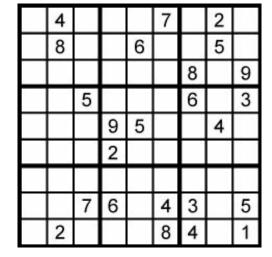
16 Magazine

purchase

17 Emblematic

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

5 8 6 2 2 3 7 SUDOKU 7 6 3 4 4 1 3 5 8 2 1 5 9 8 6 3 1 7 3 5 9 6 2 8 4

downtown



PARCHED THROATS

		2000	COV	/ID-19	TRACK	ER
	PARCHED THROATS			INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	Youths quench their thirst		World	17,25,59,002	15,52,34,632	37,09,084
2	from a water tanker installed by Commissionerate Police at		India	2,84,41,986	2,63,90,584	3,37,989
A CAR	Kalpana Square in Bhubaneswar, Thursday		Odisha	7,90,970	7,13,055	2,873
				: 		

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

Excise officials attacked by liquor mafia; 4 nabbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested four people on charges of assaulting and injuring a team of Excise department officials, including a woman constable.

Police sources said that a case (171/21) has been registered on the basis of a complainant lodged by the Excise officials.

A team of Excise officials carried out a raid in a house at Haraparavati slum in Bharatpur area.

While they tried to seize the liquor, around 10 people, including the family members of the illegal liquor traders, attacked the Excise officials with sticks and iron rods. They also damaged the vehicle of the raiding team. The team members sustained injuries.

When Bharatpur police reached the spot to rescue the Excise officials, they were also attacked by the

However, police managed to control the situation and arrested four people in connection with the incident. The accused were identified as Arun Nayak, 29, Dhusha Nayak, Sunita Nayak, 20 and Anil Nayak, 45 of Nayagarh.

Ulaka now Cong's Ch'garh in-charge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Congress MP from Koraput Saptagiri Ulaka



Chhattisgarh Congress, in a recent reshuffle of the ageold party. The All

Committee (AICC) Thursday announced his appointment.

The information was shared by KC Venugopal, General Secretary of the AICC. In the notification, issued by the party, the AICC said that while Ulaka will be appointed as AICC secretary and the AICC incharge of the party for Chhattisgarh, four others were given leadership responsibilities in Bihar, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.

Ulaka, however, was not available for his comments.

Tender for black fungus drug finds no bidders



THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT THROUGH OSMCL HOWEVER, NO HAD FLOATED A TENDER TO PROCURE MANUFACTURER IS SAID AMPHOTERICIN-B INJECTIONS DIRECTLY TO HAVE EVINCED FROM THE MANUFACTURERS, INSTEAD OF INTEREST TO DEAL WITH RECEIVING PARTIAL AND SHORT THE STATE GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS OF THE DRUG FROM THE DESPITE THE OPEN UNION GOVERNMENT TENDER

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 3: An attempt by the state Health department to procure Amphotericin-B injections, touted as the most effective drug for treatment of mucormycosis (black fungus) directly from the manufacturers, seems to have received a setback.

The department through the Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd (OSMCL) had floated a tender to procure Amphotericin-B injections directly from the manufacturers, instead of receiving partial and short consignments of the drug from the Union government.

However, no manufacturer is said to have evinced interest to deal with the state government despite the open tender. Sources in the state Health department said that the selected manufacturers told the Odisha government that it was dealing only with the Union government and not with states due to high demand from the Union

The Health department also admitted that the state is struggling with the short supply of the essential drug and that it didn't get any supplier of the same.

government.

We had floated a tender for procurement of Amphotericin-B injections and some other drugs

ment of mucormycosis. We have not received any response from the manufacturers for giving us Amphotericin-B. Mohapatra, Director, Health Services told Orissa POST.

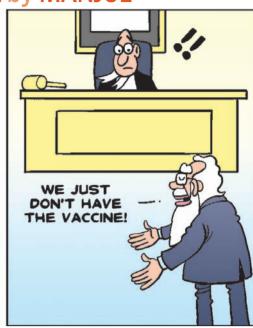
He also said, "However, another tender for alternative drugs is still open and the technical bids are likely to be completed in next 2-3 days. We will get to know more about the response from the manufacturers of alternative drugs then. For Amphotericin, most manufacturers are dealing with the Union government only and the problem is for all Indian states not only Odisha.

Mohapatra admitted to the shortage of the drug in the state for treatment of black fungus. The state government has now been getting fragmented supplies of the drug from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers which is dispatching only 50 vials at a time to the state while around 40 vials are required for the treatment of one infected person.

Marred by lack of the life-sav ing drug, several frantic appeals are now being made on social media from the patients and their relatives wherein help is sought from several celebrities, social workers, ministers and others but mostly in vain. According to the self-admission of the state government, more than 40 patients in the state have been infected with the disease in the past few days while four of them have also succumbed to the infection.

However, the state government has not been attributing such deaths to the fungal infection.





Critical Covid patient airlifted to Chennai

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The Commissionerate Police once again facilitated green corridor like facility for the emergency airlifting of a 24-year-old critically-ill Covid patient to Chennai for advanced treatment. The Covid-19 patient has been identified as Amrit Pradhan.

Amrit, a resident of Berhampur, was admitted to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar after being tested positive for Covid-19 May 2. He had been put on ventilator as his health condition deteriorated since May 12. Later, he developed severe complications in lungs due to Covid pneumonia. He also suffered deadly septicemia infection of blood stream.

Doctors later advised his family that Amrit requires treatment on

AMRIT, A RESIDENT OF BERHAMPUR, WAS ADMITTED TO AIIMS, BHUBANESWAR AFTER BEING TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 MAY 2

> HE HAD BEEN PUT ON **VENTILATOR AS HIS HEALTH CONDITION DETERIORATED MAY 12**

the support of Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) system which is not available at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. The family was informed by the doctors that they need around Rs 2 crore as the cost for a probable lung transplant and advanced treatment at Apollo hospital in Chennai.

His sister soon appealed through social media and other aid generating sites seeking monetary help from people across the country.

Soon, help started pouring in from various parts of the country.

Though the family had not applied for green corridor, the commissionerate police took suo motu action and alerted its staff to facilitate the ambulance carrying Amrit from AIIMS a hassle-free passage to the Biju Patnaik International Airport Thursday afternoon. The ambulance took just 13 minutes to reach the



WHEELS OF

Srimandir priest places the 'Agyan Mala' of Lord Jagannath on a wheel of Nandighosa chariot as part of a ritual at Rath Yard in Puri **Thursday**

Adieu to edupreneur par excellence

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, who breathed his last at a hospital in Hyderabad Thursday due to post-Covid complications, was the founder of SAI International Educational Group comprising four institutions--SAI International School, SAI Angan, SAI International Residential School and SAI International College of Commerce. Sahoo had been elevated to the status

of a Minister of State by Odisha government for his appointment as the advisor-cum-working president to Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, Department of School and Mass Education. He was a chartered accountant, a cost

accountant and a graduate in law. This apart, he had a Master's Degree in Business Administration with specialisation in Finance and Treasury, and a Doctorate Degree in Commerce.

The renowned educationist, in his pursuit for academic excellence and to build a better India through education, had attended training programmes at several prestigious institutions including Harvard Graduate School of Education in USA, National College for School Leadership in UK and Asian International College in Singapore

Sahoo had been invited by the Planning Commission of India as an advisor on Model Concession Agreement for public-private partnership (PPP), to establish 2,500 Rashtriya Adarsha Vidyalayas. He firmly believed that leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

Acknowledging his relentless passion for education, Sahoo was conferred with 'Honoris Causa' by Utkal University

This apart, he had been conferred with the coveted QCI Quality Champion Award-2020 for his dedication to quality education and contribution towards innovation, digital technology and scientific temperament.

Sahoo had received lifetime achievement award for 'Bringing Innovation



He was a chartered accountant, a cost accountant and a graduate in law. This apart, he had a Master's Degree in Business Administration with specialisation in Finance and Treasury, and a Doctorate Degree in Commerce

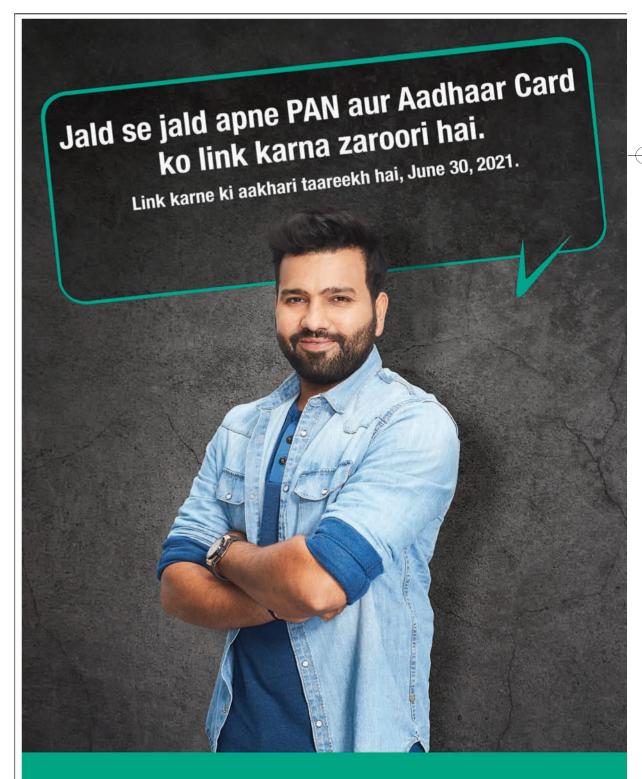
Sahoo had been elevated to the status of a Minister of State by Odisha government for his appointment as the advisor-cumworking president to Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan

in Learning' by Brain Feed, 'Odisha Living Legend Award' by Odisha Diary, 'Achiever of Odisha' by Times of India and Business Eminence Award by **Orissa POST** and Dharitri.

Moreover, he had received commendation from the British Council and won Corporate Odisha Award for steering Leadership and Entrepreneurial Values. Condoling his untimely demise, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tweeted, "Deeply saddened to know about the passing away of noted educationist and entrepreneur, Dr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo. As Advisor of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, he had a pioneering role in transforming Govt School education. My condolences to his family, friends &

Taking to Twitter, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, "As an advisor to Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya, his role in bringing about qualitative changes in the state's public education system was unparalleled. As an educator, he encouraged students to take part in their special presentations."

Born in Khurda June 1, 1963, Sahoo completed his Bachelor of Commerce with Honours and Distinction from Utkal University, 1982 and Bachelor of Law from the varsity, 1986. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a



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ILS dir's hope for brighter days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, director Ajay Parida said that the Covid situation in Odisha is likely to improve in the next 10 to 15 days

Parida said that the rate of Covid-19 infection in the country has started declining and it is likely to improve further in the next 10 to 15 days

He said that around 11,000 to 12,000 Covid cases were reported daily in the state during the peak period of the pandemic-between May 15 and 25

But it started declining from May 26 with an average caseload of 9,000. The state reported 8,839 fresh infections in the last 24 hours from 70,178 sample tests, putting the test positivity rate (TPR) at 12.59 per cent, he said.

Commenting on the rising number of fatalities in state due to Covid during the last few days, Parida said it happened as the patients were reporting to the hospital late at a very critical stage.

5-year plan for upkeep of small temples in Srimandir precincts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, June 3: After a long wait, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Thursday decided to prepare a five-year plan for conservation of various small temples in the 12th century shrine complex.

The decision in this regard was taken at the meeting attended by SJTA Chief Administrator Dr Krishan Kumar, ASI Additional DG, Dr. Ramji Nigam, Director Science Conservation and other officials of Odisha's Public Works department. Though the meeting was an annual event held ahead of every Rath Yatra, this is for the first time that the officer of the rank of ASI ASG attended it.

The meeting was held to coordinate repair and maintenance work inside the temple.



Renowned external experts like AP Gupta, ex-professor & HOD, IIT Kharagpur and chairman of Technical Core Committee; DP Mishra, Bindheswar Patra and B K Ratha attended the meeting.

The ASI is tasked with the upkeep of the world famous shrine.

Official sources said that though the SJTA had earlier drawn attention of the ASI for the repair of the small temples inside the shrine, the appeals were not addressed.

Though the SJTA had $\stackrel{.}{:}$ Thursday's earlier drawn meeting is attention of the ASI for the repair of the small temples inside appeals were not

significant as the time, agreed for the shrine, the the five-year plan for the purpose addressed IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE REPAIR OF

THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM WILL BE

A NINE-DAY SOJOURN

Thursday's meeting is considered significant as the ASI, for the first time, agreed for the five-year plan for the purpose, the officials

Water seepage was witnessed in many small temples in the 12th century shrine complex following 2019 cyclone Fani and this was discussed at the meeting.

Earlier, this year a part of the statue of lord Narsimha had come down due to lack of maintenance.

"Annual repair and restoration works will be taken up inside Garbha Gruha (sanctum sanctorum) of Shree Jagannath Temple and other parts of the complex with strict adherence to Covid-19 protocol," the SJTA chief administrator said.

A micro work plan will be jointly developed by ASI & Works department in this regard, Kumar said, adding that it was decided to make a five-year action plan for comprehensive conservation works of various "Parshva" (inner side) temples and other parts of the temple complex. It was also decided that the re-

pair of the 'Garbha Gruha' (sanctum sanctorum) will be done when the trinity - Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath-go on a nine-day sojourn to Sri Gundicha Temple during Rath Yatra beginning July 12.

BMC admits vax crunch for 18-44 age group

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Thursday admitted for the first time that the Capital city is grappling with acute crunch of anti-Covid jabs for the people in 18-44 age group.

Speaking to media, BMC Commissioner Sanjay Singh stated that the civic body has adequate stock of shots for people in 45-plus age group, but it is grappling with shortage of vaccines for youths. However, he assured that the vaccines will be made available soon. 'We had started the drive to vac-

cinate youths May 3. We are making all-out efforts to stock up vaccines for those who are awaiting second dose before June 13. We are also in talks with concerned authorities to bring in more vials for those in 18-44 age group," Singh said.

Notably, the vaccination drive for 18-44 age group began May 1. However, the BMC is yet to open slot

booking for second dose despite passage of more than 28 days. According to the Health department, only 365 people in 18-44 age group have been administered the second dose of Covaxin in the City.

Moreover, the state government Jun 2 had instructed the BMC to stop the first dose of the 18 to 44 years age group due to shortage of Covaxin doses. Sources at the BMC said that the city had earlier received 1.65 lakh doses of Covaxin for 18-44 years age group of which over 1.50 lakh doses have already been used. The remaining doses were administered to eligible beneficiaries June 1.

Even though the civic authority had made a target of vaccinating 5.17 lakh beneficiaries of below 45 age group before June, it could vaccinate around 1.60 lakh beneficiaries. Although sources say that the BMC still has around 1.4 lakh doses of Covaxin, it is reserved for the 45-plus age group and cannot be

Comorbidity, delay in testing blamed for surge in fatalities

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Comorbidity and delay in testing or treatment have resulted in a surfeit of Covid-19 fatalities in the state, said director of Institute of Life Science (ILS) Ajay Parida here, Thursday. Odisha has reported the highest single-day death of 42 patients in the past 24 hours.

Speaking to reporters here, Parida said the rising number of fa talities during the last few days is due to delay in reporting to the hospital by the patient, at a very critical stage. The director said that comorbidity along with Covid is also one of the major reasons behind the spike in deaths.

He said the third wave of Covid, if it comes, could be countered if people follow Covid appropriate behaviour strictly, more people are vaccinated and there is no mutation of the virus.

If a third wave of Covid pan-



WAVE OF COVID, IF IT **FOLLOW COVID** PPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR STRICTLY, MORE PEOPLE ARE VACCINATED AND THERE IS NO MUTATION OF THE VIRUS

IN SOME CASES, IT HAS BEEN NOTICED THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT

demic breaks out, it might affect others apart from children, the director informed. Cases of re-infection have also been reported in the state and that too mostly among healthcare workers who are more exposed to high load of infection, he further said.

Admitting that people are getting infected even after vaccination, the doctor said such cases are being monitored closely.

DEVELOPING ANTI-BODIES In some cases, it has been noticed that people are not developing anti-bodies. It is believed that such situation depends only on the im-

However, Parida cautioned that Covid should not be taken for granted, especially in case of already infected people.

munity power of the patients.

The only way to avoid infection is to wear mask and follow Covid appropriate behaviour, he added.

₹67.52L sanctioned for feeding stray animals in cities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: In order to ensure that stray animals in urban areas don't go hungry during the lockdown, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday sanctioned an amount of Rs 67, 52, 000 from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF).

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) can spend Rs 20,000 per day while other four municipal corporations - Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela – can spend Rs 10,000 each per day. Similarly, 48 municipalities can spend Rs 5,000 per day and 61 NACs have been allowed to spend Rs 2,000 daily. The Chief Minister had earlier sanctioned Rs 1. 13. 94, 000 this year in two phases for this purpose.

Meanwhile, Rs 15 crore has been sanctioned from the CMRF to **Cuttack Municipal Corporation** (CMC) for Covid management, taking the total amount sanctioned for CMC to Rs 41.71 crore.

STRENGTHENING FIGHT AGAINST VIRUS



CDA area, being inoculated against Covid-19, Thursday

Body of girl found hanging in clinic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The body of an 18-year-old girl was found hanging at a doctor's residencecum-clinic under mysterious circumstances in Bhimatangi area under Airfield police limits here Thursday.



The deceased has been identified as Mamali Jena, a resident of nearby Kargil slum, police said. Sources, meanwhile, revealed

that Mamali and her elder sister were working at the clinic in the Airfield area and they used to stay in a room downstairs. Mamali's elder sister went upstairs for duty leaving her alone in the room Thursday morning. On her return, she found the room locked from inside. She immediately called others when Mamali did not respond despite repeated knocking.

Mamali was later rescued from the room and rushed to Capital Hospital, where doctors declared her dead. Informed, Airfield police reached the hospital and sent the body for postmortem. The cause of Mamali's death is yet to be ascertained.

"The postmortem report will help us ascertain whether it is a case of murder or suicide. We have registered an unnatural death case on the basis of a complaint filed by the deceased's sister. We are looking into all possible angles," said a police officer. Police also seized the mobile phone of the deceased to collect the call records and other data.

Malabar Group to donate IL nCoV shots POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: With a mission to strengthen the fight against Covid-19, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, a leading jewellery retailer, has decided to contribute 1 lakh free anti-Covid shots

The vaccines will be administered to vulnerable people with limited access to the jabs apart from jewellery artisans, employees, investors and their dependents. This initiative is part of the CSR work of the jewellery retailer amid the Covid-19 pandemic.



Malabar Group Chairman MP Ahammed

"This initiative is the first step in our contribution to the nationwide vaccination drive. We will use our services and infrastructure to reach out to and vaccinate those who are most vulnerable to the disease. This includes the elderly and those with chronic illnesses who will be identified through charitable associations and like-minded organisations. We have earmarked Rs 8 crore for the vaccination drive," said Malabar

Group Chairman MP Ahammed. The vaccination drive will be held at both the company premises and through tie-ups with leading hospitals administering WHO approved vaccines. The jewellery retailer has kept aside 5 per cent of its profit for the CSR activities.

High drama over youth's abduction in Capital city

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: High drama unfolded in Capital city when some unknown persons in a four-wheeler abducted a bike-borne youth from Delta Square in Khandagiri police limits here. The onlookers who immediately

rushed to his help left the place when the miscreants reportedly drove the car towards them. Informed, Khandagiri police reached the spot and started an investigation. The probe revealed that the

youth, identified as Babu Naik of Baramunda area, was admitted to a de-addiction centre 'Jagruti' located at Khandagiri Bari in 2020.

Naik ran away from the de-addiction centre on a two-wheeler Thursday afternoon. The authorities of the centre chased Naik and

caught him near Delta Square. "The alleged kidnapping incident at Delta Chowk was promptly



investigated. The boy has been located. He had fled a de-addiction centre. All aspects of the incident are being investigated including the conduct of the centre," twittered DCP Umashankar Dash.

Vehicles rolled out for awareness on Covid-19

(I&PR) department in collaboration with Odia Language, Literature & Culture (OLL&C) department and Unicef Thursday flagged off awareness vehicles to sensitise

people on Covid-19. The vehicles will

carry awareness messages on the

critical aspects of the disease.

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The

Information and Public Relations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Earlier, the campaign was launched in two phases to cover 116 blocks of 16 districts and three cities. However, vehicles launched Thursday would cover Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Mavurbhani. Nuapada. Sundargarh, Gajapati, Khurda and Cuttack districts apart from covering areas coming under the



Principal secretary to I& PR department Bishnupada Sethy flagged off the vehicles in the presence of additional secretary to Odia Language, Literature and Culture Ranjan Kumar Das, I&PR minister Raghunandan Das, Minister of Odia Language,

Literature, Tourism and Culture

Jyotiprakash Panigrahi, Padma Shri awardees Aruna Mohanty and Sudarshan Patnaik, actors Kuna Tripathy and Archita Sahoo. Audio visuals of play 'Keun Bela re Asila A Corona Bhutanu' written by Ranjan Kumar Das was launched on the occasion.

That apart, songs 'Hata Ate Amulya Ratna' and 'Nagara Nagari' written by Basudev Malbisoi and Abani Mishra were released too.

Dry ration for kids, women at doorsteps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Anganwadi workers have started distributing dry ration to the beneficiaries including pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, children below 3 years and those in the age group of 3 to 6 years to enhance their nutrition levels.

Under take home ration initiative of Women and Child Development department, Anganwadi workers are distributing dry ration to the beneficiaries on the first day of every month.

Since the Anganwadi centres across the state have remained closed due to Covid-19, Anganwadi workers are providing dry ration to

the beneficiaries at their doorsteps. For June, dry ration includes chhatua. laddu, egg and others that have been distributed to 40.83 lakh beneficiaries including pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, children below 3 years and children in the age group of 3 to 6 years.

Cuttack Municipal Corporation. BOOKING STAT

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488

jurisdiction of Bhubaneswar

Municipal Corporation and

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

OrissaPOST

Angul: 1,339 newborn deaths reported in 3 years NGT panel to probe into illegal murram mining

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, June 3: As many as 1,339 newborns died in different hospitals across Angul district in the last three years. This startling revelation has laid bare the manner in which newborns are being taken care of at hospitals in this district. Infection is said to be the main reason behind these fatalities.

The government has been giving priority to safe delivery as well as to ensure that infant mortality rate remains under check. Several schemes have been launched and the government is paying monetary assistance to encourage institutional delivery. Despite all these, newborns are dving due to infections, suggesting poor hygiene in labour rooms, SNCUs and wards.

To protect newborns from infection, as per the standard operating procedure, labour rooms, OTs, Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) etc. need to be disinfected frequently. There are managers in each hospital to ensure



The Maternity and Child Health Centre, Angul

such places are sanitised properly to keep them free from pathogens.

At the same time, special care needs be taken to ensure no outsiders except new mothers, hospital staff and doctors enter these wards.

Regular cleaning, however, is taken lightly in most of the hospitals owing to laxity. The wards are not cleaned on a regular basis. This is the primary reason why infections are proving to be fatal for newborns in the district.

According to health experts, preterm babies are more vulnerable to infections than infants. Besides, shortage of oxygen is also claiming the lives of infants.

"Even though several factors are responsible for the death of new-

borns, infection is responsible for most deaths. Hospital authorities are not inspecting their premises regularly. Officers who have been assigned the task to look after all these issues are not serious with their jobs. ASHAs and hospital staff can be seen entering labour rooms and wards bare feet, wearing their regular clothes. At the same time, seriouslyill babies are being referred to other hospitals only at the eleventh hour. This is another reason for high fatalities here," observed Angul-based paediatrician Dr Nilakantha Sahu.

In fact, no disinfection drive is being carried out at the Angul district headquarters hospital (DHH) regularly. No one at the DHH seems to be serious enough to find out if the floors and medical equipment are being disinfected regularly. The situation at CHCs and PHCs can well be imagined from this.

Owing to such negligence, in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 the district saw 518 deaths (386 babies between 0-28 days and 132 between 28 days-12 months), 429 deaths (317 babies between 0-28 days and 112 between 28

days-12 months) and 392 deaths (306 babies between 0-28 days and 86 between 28 days-12 months) respectively. Angul DHH alone reported 173, 99 and 102 deaths in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively.

If the number of fatalities in these three years are put together, Angul DHH tops the list with 374 deaths, followed by Angul CHC (153), Banarpal CHC (138), Chhendipada CHC (131), Pallahara CHC (125), Kishorenagar CHC (124), Athmallik CHC (112), Kaniha CHC (92), Talcher CHC (85), Pallahara SDH and Talcher SDH (one each) and Athmallik SDH (0).

When contacted, chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Trilochan Pradhan said, "I have joined recently as CDMO of Angul. I have not vet reviewed the infant deaths and the reasons behind them.'

"Soon a review meeting will be convened and only then I can say how many newborns and infants have died so far. Besides infection, there are some other reasons that are to be blamed for such deaths. Things will get clear after the review meeting," he added.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered setting up of a special committee to examine the allegations regarding illegal murram mining in forest and non-forest areas of Parjang and Kamakshyanagar in Dhenkanal district.

The order comes following a petition by one Santanu Kumar Bhukta before the NGT challenging the alleged illegal mining of murram and soil from the area in violation of the established laws concerning forests and mining.

The tribunal bench headed by Justice B Amit Sthalekar and Saibal Gupta, an expert member, has issued a notice to the Dhenkanal district administration, state government, miners and others in this connection and sought their response on the matter.

"In our opinion, the matter requires consideration as a considerable question of environment arises," the NGT order said.

It added, "We are constituting a committee comprising the following members—Dhenkanal Collector, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Dhenkanal, Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), and a senior scientist of Integrated Regional Office of Ministry of Forest and

DHENKANAL DIST

The tribunal said that the Integrated Regional Office of the ministry would act as the nodal office for all logistic purposes. The bench has asked the committee to report before the NGT on the allegations of illegal mining of murram and soil and also regarding felling of trees on the site without required approvals. They have also been asked to report on the environmental degradation due to the alleged action and cost of restitution from the actions.

The panel has been given four weeks' time to submit its report before the NGT. The respondents in the case have also been asked to file their views on the issue within the same time period.

The petitioner had alleged that Sal trees on site were felled for the works without any approval from the Forest department, as mandated under the law. The petition had alleged that the works undertaken in the area were illegal in nature and in contravention of the established laws. The tribunal is now slated to hear the matter again July 6.

Name of applicant

Two youths killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 3: Traffic on National Highway-55 was disrupted after two youths were killed when their scooter rammed the rear of a truck at Sindurapanka Square under Sadar police limits in this district,

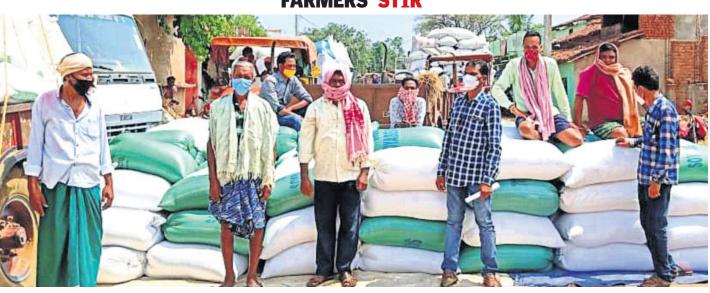
Traffic remained gridlocked on the route for over half-an-hour before the police intervened and resumed the movement of vehicles.



The deceased were identified as Aniruddh Chhura of N Guha Lane under Town police limits in Sambalpur and his employee Nilamani Bagarti of Kutab village under Jamankira police limits in the this district. Police have registered a case in this connection and sent the body for post-mortem. The two were on their way to Sindurapanka on a scooter (OR-15R-8621) when the mishap took place.

The two were crushed under the wheels of the truck. While Nilamani died on the spot, Aniruddh was rescued and rushed to the district headquarters hospital where he succumbed to his injuries during

FARMERS' STIR



Farmers staging a demonstration over paddy procurement for the rabi season outside the Gambhari paddy procurement centre under Khaprakhol police

Covid graph declining in Ganjam district

Chhatrapur, June 3: The number of Covid cases is on the decline in Ganjam district with the infections dropping below 100 Wednesday, a report said Thursday.

The number of infected persons detected was 65, Wednesday Earlier, the number of infected persons remained above 200 and had also crossed 300. However, the graph started declining from May 25 with the number of infected persons dropping below 200. As many as 158 persons tested positive May 25, 196 on May 26, 150 on May 27, 163 on May 28, 150 on May 29, 129 on May 30 and 156 on May 31.



The declining graph of infections has brought some respite for the district administration and the residents. Not a single person tested positive in Hinjili Municipality area, Wednesday, the district Collector tweeted. On the other hand, the district administration has a launched door-to-door health screening of the

ers are visiting the doorsteps of the residents daily and enquiring about the health conditions of senior citizens and also asking whether they have been vaccinated or not. They are also conducting oxygen level check-up and measuring the body temperatures of the residents during their visits.

The district administration has opened four Covid hospitals and Covid Care Centres in Aska. Bhanjanagar and Hinjili areas of the district. Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange is laying stress on setting up of beds with oxygen facilities.

A liquid medical oxygen plants has

Man hangs self after killing wife

started functioning in MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur where oxygen is supplied to the Covid patients at their bedside. The Collector has directed strict enforcement of lockdown and shutdown rules in the district to contain the spread of coronavirus infections.

A total of 318 villages in the district are in the red zone, while 2.837 villages are in the green zone. Health screening of 20,49,423 persons have been completed by last Tuesday. Among them, 174 persons were found having low oxygen levels, while 196 others have tested positive for the virus. Five of them were advised hospitalisation.

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

Deendayal

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my Client LICHFL, IPICOL HOUSE at Bhubaneswar, for advancing construction loan to Sri Dilip Kumar Barik on his property at Plot No.239/1136, Khata No.194/371, Area- Ac. 0.080 decimals at Mouza-Kuanrada, Tahasil - Vyasanagar, Dist.- Jajpur.

TATA SPONG IRON LTD

Notice is hereby given that the certificate(s) for the undermentioned securities of the company has/have been lost/ mislaid and the holders(s) of the said

such claim with the company at its Registered Office within 15 days from this

date, eles the Company will proceed to issued duplicate certificate(s) withou

But it was found that, Sri Dilip Kumar Barik, has lost the Original link deed Sarat Rout, Bearing No. 4814 dt.30.11.2015, while he was coming from the market at Jajpur Road, Court to his residence, in his motor cycle. Therefore notice is hereby given to general public that if anybody has got any right, title interest over the property on the missing document, they have to claim before the LICHFL, within 15 days from the date of publication. And after that the documents will lose its legal force and LICHFL will not be responsible for any claim. Whatsoever on the property after 15 days

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH

E-mail Id - eerw_deogarh@yahoo.co.in

E-Procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. EEDGH-online- 02/2021-22

Mode of submission of tender:-Tender shall be submitted

Availability of tender for online bidding: - 07.06.2021,

5. Date and time of opening of tender: -21.06.2021, 11.00 AM

6. Other details can be seen from the website www.

Corrigendum / Addendum if any shall only be published

1. Name of work: Road works :- (02 Nos)

online in www.tenders.ori.nic.in

tenders.ori.nic.in.

in the above website.

Estimated cost:-Rs. 31.25 & 35.71 lakhs

11.00 AM to 18.06.2021 up to 5.00 PM

Address for communication: **Branch-LICHFL, Cuttack** Bhubaneswar N.C. Pattnaik - Advocate Mob.- 9853311189

Truck rams into house killing woman, grandson

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 3: A woman and her grandson were killed after a speeding truck ran over them while they were sitting on the verandah of their home by the side of NH-20 near Bankamaruni village under Keonjhar Sadar police limits in Keonjhar district Wednesday. The deceased have been identi-

fied as Sumitra Mohanta and her grandson as Subham Mohanta. According to sources, the speed-

ing truck, coming from Padmapur and moving towards Palaspanga, veered towards Sumitra's house after the driver lost his control over

the wheels and ran over the duo while they were busy gossiping.

While Subham died on the spot, Sumitra was fatally injured. Family members, with the help of neighbours, rescued Sumitra and rushed them to Keonjhar district headquarters hospital. Few hours later, she breathed

her last while undergoing treatment

On being informed, a team from Palaspanga police station reached the spot and the DHH and sent the bodies for postmortem.

The cops have seized the truck and launched a probe into the

Shavam Sundar Agarwal, Rudra

Moharana, Pramod Kumar Padhi

Md. Sakir, Md. Theru, Anil Agarwal,

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purushottampur, June 3: In a shocking incident, a man allegedly murdered his wife by crushing her head with a grinding stone before ending his life at Bedhachhelu village under Purushottampur police limits in Ganjam district late Wednesday night.

The deceased couple has been identified as Prashant Muduli and Jhili. They are survived by an 18-yearold son and 13-year-old daughter.

According to sources, Prashant was an alcoholic and the family had fights every time as Jhili opposed him coming home in an inebriated state. Most times, the quarrels ended up with Jhili being beaten up.

Wednesday night was not differ-



Prashant was an alcoholic and the family fought over the issue often. His wife Jhili objected to his coming home in inebriated state

ent. Prashant returned home drunk prompting Jhili to pick up a quar-

bal duel. The scene turned ugly when Prashant hit Jhili with a grinding stone on the head leaving her spot dead. According to neighbours. Prashant may have lost his mental balance after committing the crime. As a result, he hanged himself with a chain inside the house. The mishap occurred when the couple's children were away at a relative's place.

The deceased couple's son and daughter arrived home Thursday morning only to find their mother lying on the ground in a pool of blood

and father hanging from the ceiling. On being informed, police

reached the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them for postmortem. Police said that a detailed probe is underway.

Sd./- Satyabrata Mohanty, Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Deogarh OIPR-25087/11/0002/2122

No. A-164:- GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA **DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,

MANJORE IRRIGATION DIVISION, ATHMALLIK DIST.- ANGUL (ODISHA), PIN-759125, e-mail ID: ee.manjore@gmail.com

Government of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.- EEMID No-02/2021-22 Dated: 01.06.2021 Number of works Total 1 (One) No. of work 2. Estimated Cost ₹ 71.63 Lakhs 3. EMD Bid Security declaration to be furnished as per Annexure-VIII of Chapter 8 of Technical Bid Period of Completion 10.00 AM of 08.06.2021 Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in portal

Last date/Time for receipt of 5.00 PM of 30.06.2021 bids in the portal Date of opening of Bid 11.00 AM of 01.07.2021 Name and address of the Executive Engineer, Manjore officer inviting Bid Irrigation Division, Athmallik details can be seen the e-procurement porta from

http://tendersorissa.gov.in*

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Manjore Irrigation Division, Athmallik OIPR-32198/11/0001/2122

Citizens oppose move to establish Covid hospital argued that the Spasrh City Hospital, of the Fire department. Therefore,

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 3: The state government's decision to establish a Covid hospital on the premises of Sparsh City Hospital in the town has sparked anger and resentment among the local residents.

The decision to establish a Covid hospital at the Sparsh City Hospital was announced by the state Health Minister Naba Kishore Das at a press meet, Monday.

Das said that the new Covid hospital will be unveiled in the second or third week of June. The decision has drawn flak from various quarters and a delegation of the residents met the Collector Subham Saxena and submitted a memo-



Surya Pattajoshi, Saroj Singh and Sk. Kalim are signatories in this

memorandum The members of the delegation which is situated at a main thoroughfare of the town, lacks adequate parking space and proper sewerage facilities. Besides, a flyover bridge, which is being constructed nearby, is likely to pose problems in frequent movement of ambulance to and from the hospital Various private banks, ATM

kiosks and private telecom offices function from the building which also houses the hospital. These establishments regularly witnesses footfalls of thousands of people who may be at risk if the Covid hospital is set up in the same building. Moreover, the building does not have proper fire-fighting facilities nor it abides by the guidelines

it will be quite wrong to establish the hospital in this building. The members of the delegation demanded that the hospital be established in any hospital situated on the town outskirts. Notably, the VSS Institute of

Medical Sciences and Research has two Covid hospitals on its premises, while another Covid hospital is functioning from the district headquarters hospital in the town. In view of the increasing Covid infections, the state government has planned to set up an additional 110 bed Covid hospital in the district. The new Covid hospital will be jointly operated by the state government and Vikash group.



Is it true that existence consists only in the action of energy? Or is it not rather that energy is an output of Existence?





Mark Lowcock &

policymakers facing

Raj Shah

High-quality

data enable

crises to align

limited resources

and the Covid-19

pandemic has

highlighted the

need for more of it

with greatest need,

Data Saves Lives

hen the Covid-19 pandemic began in March 2020, Afghanistan had only 300 ventilators and two intensive-care units. Early epidemiological models predicted that the country, with a population of about 38 million, would experience a peak of up to 520,000 cases and 3,900 deaths per day by the beginning of summer. Facing the prospect of ten million cases within a matter of months, aid workers and government officials braced for a public-health catastrophe.

To help decision-makers understand where to focus their limited resources, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and The Rockefeller Foundation used actual data for Afghanistan - including Covid-19 infection rates and locations of health-care facilities - to project the number of cases, hospitalisations, and deaths over a four-week period. This more realistic forecast helped officials prepare for a peak in cases and deaths that proved to be flatter and later than other models were projecting. Accurately predicting needs enables a more effective hu-

But models are only as good as the data on which they rely. And, to prepare for the next crisis, the world needs to obtain and share better data.

The guiding principle behind our model, which we developed with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, was to support short-term operational decision-making to protect and save more lives in humanitarian crises. In addition to Afghanistan, we used the model in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. We included Covid-19-related data adjusted for underreporting, as well as data on mobility patterns, health-care infrastructure, and underlying vulnerabilities of the population resulting from food insecurity or medical comorbidities such as diabetes.

Our experience of building a predictive model, and its use by publichealth officials in these countries, showed that this approach could lead to

better humanitarian outcomes. But it was also a reminder that significant data challenges. regarding gaps and quality, limit the viability and accuracy of such models for the world's most vulnerable countries. For example, data on the prevalence of cardiovascular diseases was 4-7 years old in several poorer countries, and not available at all for Sudan and South Sudan.

Globally, we are still missing about 50% of the data needed to respond effectively in countries experiencing humanitarian emergencies. OCHA and The Rockefeller Foundation are cooperating to provide early insight into crises, during and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic But realizing the full potential of our approach depends on the contributions of others

So, as governments, development banks and major humanitarian and development agencies reflect on the first year of the pandemic response, as well as on discussions at the recent World Bank Spring Meetings, they

must recognize the crucial role data will play in recovering from this crisis and preventing future ones. Filling gaps in critical data should be a top priority for all humanitarian and development actors.

Governments, humanitarian organisations, and regional development banks thus need to invest in data collection, data-sharing infrastructure, and the people who manage these processes. Likewise, these stakeholders must become more adept at responsibly sharing their data through open data platforms and that maintain rigorous interoperability standards.

Where data are not available, the private sector should develop new sources of information through innovative methods such as using anonymized social-media data or call records to understand population movement patterns. Data sharing, of course, depends on trust. The world must therefore heed the World Bank's recent call for a new social contract for data based on shared social and economic value, equitable benefit, and fostering confidence that data will not be misused by those who collect it.

The global humanitarian system is highly effective, but today's needs are unprecedented. A record 235 million people worldwide, up nearly 40% from 2020, are expected to need humanitarian assistance and protection this year. Hunger is on the rise, internal displacement is at its highest level in decades, severe weather events are more common, and disease outbreaks are increasing. Meanwhile, the gap between humanitarian needs and the financing available to address them is growing wider.

High-quality data enable policymakers facing crises to align limited resources with greatest need, and the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for more of it. The world must take that lesson to heart by investing in the data infrastructure and human capacity required to get ahead of crises, predict future needs, and trigger responses earlier. The return in lives saved would be enormous.

Mark Lowcock is UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. Raj Shah is President of The Rockefeller Foundation.

WISDOM CORNER



You simply have to put one foot in front of the other and keep going. Put blinders on and plow right ahead.

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.

WORDS**WORTH**

Cacoethes

An English word starting with a kak sound suggests something bad or unpleasant, by analogy with words such as cacography for bad handwriting and cacophony for a horrible discordant noise. These join a plethora of medical terms, mostly long obsolete, that include cacothymia, a disordered state of mind, and caconychia, decaying nails.) Cack, dung or faeces, is a distant relative. Cacoethes is of the same sort. It's an uncontrollable urge to do something, especially something harmful. The first part is from Greek kakos, bad. To it has been added ethos, a disposition, making a word for a bad habit. It arrived in English unchanged via Latin. It's almost, but not quite, as rare as some of those medical terms, appearing sporadically in prose of the more elevated or pretentious sort. (I was astonished to find hundreds of usages in newspapers in the late 1980s. Was this a sudden outburst of classical erudition? Alas not, just a successful racehorse. If it had been named as an attempt at inverted magic, it seems to have worked.) In a dictionary of quotations of 1808, D E Macdonnel commented that cacoethes was never written alone, but always in combination with some other word. That's not true today, but one of his phrases is a Latin tag still known and quoted: cacoethes scribendi. It's from the Satires of the Roman author Juvenal: "Tenet insanabile multos scribendi cacoethes"; in English, "many suffer from the incurable disease of writing". Aspiring wordsmiths should note that an uncontrollable urge to write doesn't necessarily lead to anything worth reading.

FOCUS TRACING THE VIRUS

INDIA BACKS PROBE

ndia had finally shaken off its hesitation in joining others in demanding thorough investigation into the origin of the virus. This time the demand is direct, unlike last year when 62 countries moved a resolution in World Health Assembly, the apex organ of WHO, to study the origin and implications of Covid-19 virus on the lives and economies in the world. Then, neither Wuhan nor China was mentioned. Now, the investigation may require China to give access to Wuhan laboratory, its records and employees etc.

The Resolution last year suggested that the Director General of WHO should contact the World Organisation of Animal Health to conduct scientific and collaborative field missions and identify the zoonotic source of the virus and its entry into humans including the possible role of intermediate hosts. The WHO came out with its report in March 2021. It suggested that the virus came from the bat to humans via other animals. It is 'extremely unlikely' that the virus escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology accidentally.

The needle of suspicion points towards the lab-origin of the virus as Beijing has been withholding facts, and diverting attention. Initially, for a couple of weeks, it did not share the nature and extent of the infection in Wuhan area. At the same time, Beijing blamed USA and Italy for spreading the virus, and said they were the first sites of the infection

Furthermore, ridiculously, the Chinese Academy of Sciences conjectured that the SARS-COV-2 virus may have originated in India in the summer of 2019. There was acute water scarcity in the Indian subcontinent which would have led the monkeys' fight amongst themselves. Due to the unhygienic conditions and poor sanitations existing in this part of the world, the virus from the monkeys would have come to humans and infected others in an undetected state.

However, 13 countries led by the US had disregarded the WHO Report of March 30 done at the behest of Beijing as inconclusive



Now the moot question is how far would New Delhi go in demanding accommodation of investigation and accountability for the findings, should the source of the virus turn out to be the laboratory? New Delhi cannot hold back any more in regard to Beijing

and insufficient without using original data and samples in China. WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom himself admitted that his team had difficulties in accessing raw data. He added that "he did not believe that this assessment was extensive enough. Further data and studies would be needed to reach more robust conclusions.

The statement was revealing as Tedros, a Chinese nominee to this post made it implying that China was not transparent. These 13 counties asserted that there was need for a follow up investigation that was a "transparent and independent analysis and evaluation, free from interference and undue influence, of the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.'

In the meantime, as the dust settled after the horrific shock of the virus wore off after the countries went through second and third waves etc., virologists and Intelligence personnel have come up with more circumstantial evidence as well as scientific elements that merit a comprehensive and transparent investigation.

Two noted scientists Angus Dalgleish of the United Kingdom and Birger Sorensen of Norway have stated that the SARS-COV-2 had no credible natural ancestor and is most likely a lab-creation.

In the US, former President Donald Trump had been insisting that the virus originated in the Wuhan lab. A State Department factsheet released near the end of the Trump administration had said "the US government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illnesses

Armed with the above expert opinions, US President Joe Biden has ordered an enquiry May 26, 2021 by the American Intelligence to give him a more comprehensive and definitive report on the origin of the virus. He has given them 90 days to complete the investigation. Biden said his Intelligence Committee (IC) has too coalesced around two scenarios on the origin of the virus, one from the an-

imal, and another from the lab But neither of them is conclusive. The President asked his IC to redouble their efforts and come up with a more robust and concrete finding.

The American leadership wants to get to the bottom of this issue, the origin of the virus as it is so far shrouded in suspicion and conjectures. White House Senior Covid Advisor Andy Slavitt said. "We need a completely transparent process from China, we need the WHO to assist in that matter, and we don't feel like we have that now." But will they ever get that cooperation from China? Beijing has been calling the call for investigation an act of vendetta manipulation and diversion. The commonsense perspective is if China has nothing to hide, why should it not open the WIV lab and the records?

Now the moot question is how far would New Delhi go in demanding accommodation of investigation and accountability for the findings, should the source of the virus turn out to be the laboratory? New Delhi cannot hold back any more in regard to Beijing. The second wave was heart-wrenching and devastating killing over 0.3 million, the foreign press like NYT puts it at 1.6 million. The trauma and shock of people, including doctors, dying that India went through could not have been worse even in a war. Therefore the Indian leadership owes it to its people to find out the truth about the origin of the virus and demand retributive action against the perpetrators of such a deadly crime.

Some say we should remain neutral and non-aligned as before as it is tug-of-war for supremacy between two big powers, USA and China. That is really political gobbledygook at its worst and diplomatic fantasy at its best. India must put an end to its prevarication on China and take positions. That is the call of the times and in its national interest.

The author is a Professor of International Politics. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM CHINA

Dr D.K. Giri

INDIA HAD

OFF ITS

FINALLY SHAKEN

HESITATION IN

IN DEMANDING

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THOROUGH

INTO THE

ORIGIN OF

THE VIRUS

JOINING OTHERS

Xi's historic mistake



J Bradford Delong

AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, **CHINA WILL NEED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL STRATEGIES AND SYSTEMS**

ing referred to Taiwan as a "country" in an interview to promote his latest film. Though he was using the term to refer to a linguistic media market with a discrete distribution channel, not to the status of the island of Taiwan in international law, the Chinese government would make no allowance for such distinctions.

What are we to make of this episode? Clearly, globalisation has gone terribly wrong. The speech restrictions dictated by China's authoritarian government apply not just to China but also, and increasingly, to the outside world. Even in my own day-to-day experience, I have noticed that far too many people now speak elliptically. elusively, and euphemistically about contemporary China.

I could do that, too. I could subtly point out that no empire has ever had more than five good emperors in a row, and that it is important for a society to preserve a place for well-meaning critics like the sixteenth-century Chinese official Hai Rui, the early communist-era military leader Peng Dehuai, and the economic reformer Deng Xiaoping. But I prefer to speak frankly and directly about the

interest that the government in Taipei remains the sole authority on the island, so that it can continue to follow an institutional and governance path that is different from that of the People's Republic. Likewise, it is in China's interest that Hong Kong remains a second system. The appalling and tragic history

of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced assimilation in the twentieth century suggests that top-down, imperial Sinicization will sow resentments that will last generations and create conditions for serious trouble in the coming years and decades. Humanity has grown up enough to know that diversity, regional autonomy, and cosmopolitanism are better than the alternatives. A regime that aspires to lead the world toward a brighter future should be especially cognizant of this.

Nonetheless, China's current paramount leader, Xi Jinping, very much wishes to centralise authority in Beijing. Rightly fearing careerism and corruption in the Communist Party of China, he seeks not a Cultural Revolution but a Cultural Renaissance to restore egalitarian values and utopian aspirations the right commands, his main concern is that his orders won't be implemented properly. The solution to that problem, he seems to have concluded, is much greater concentration of power. But even if Xi has made the right

tactical calculation for the current moment, his own senescence, together with the logic of how authoritarian command organizations evolve, all but ensure that his strategy will end in tears.

It is a huge mistake to ignore the benefits that come with more regional autonomy. Consider an alternative history in which the People's Liberation Army had overrun both Hong Kong and Taiwan in 1949; Sichuan had not been allowed to pursue pilot reform programmes in 1975, and China's centralisation had proceeded to the point that the Guangzhou Military District could not offer Deng refuge from the wrath of the Gang of Four in 1976. What would China's economy look like today?

It would be a basket case. Rather than enjoying a rapid ascent to economic superpower status, China would find itself being compared to the likes of Burma or Pakistan. When Mao Zedong died in 1976, China was impoverished and rud-

ate last month, the American real issues that lie behind termiacross the leadership ranks. derless. But it learned to stand on actor John Cena issued a grov- nological disputes over Taiwan. Supremely confident in his abil- its own two feet by drawing on ity to read the situation and issue Taiwan and Hong Kong's entrepreneurial classes and financing systems, emulating Zhao's policies in Sichuan, and opening up Special Economic Zones in places like Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

At some point in the future, China will need to choose between governmental strategies and systems. It is safe to assume that relying on top-down decrees from an aging, mentally declining paramount leader who is vulnerable to careerist flattery will not produce good results. The more that China centralises, the more it will suffer. But if decisions about policies and institutions are based on a rough consensus among keen-eyed observers who are open to emulating the practices and experiments of successful regions, China will thrive.

A China with many distinct systems exploring possible paths to the future might really have a chance of becoming a global leader and proving worthy of the role. A centralised. authoritarian China that demands submission to a single emperor will never have that opportunity.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley.



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sluggish economy

Sir, Covid second wave has shattered India's hopes of economic recovery in 2021. In the absence of universal immunisation, we are witnessing another year of economic slowdown. In the first wave of the corona, the economic slowdown in the world reduced the price of raw materials, which helped Indian corporates to gain a record, even though their sales fell. This year, the recovery of a global Covid is pushing raw commodity prices forward and it is sure to put pressure on corporates' profits. This means that those who depend on the corporate sector may also face a bad year in 2021. The second wave of Covid has affected everyone directly or indirectly. That means everyone's financial situation is weak. It is certain that the all-India vaccination will take another financial year. The whole year is going to be a big setback for the economy. All businesses have been affected by the closure of people's income. Their sales have plummeted and the flow of money in the market is very low. Many private employees have lost their jobs or are getting paid less than before. Many companies have issued "pay cuts" to their employees. That is, if employees' salary is cut instead of raising salaries and the price of goods increases in the market, how can they buy goods from the market?

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Financial boost

Sir, The GST revenues during March 2021 are the highest since its introduction. In line with the trend of recovery in the GST revenue over the past five months, the revenue for the month of March 2021 is 27% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. GST revenue crossed above ₹1 lakh crore-mark at a stretch for the last six months and a steep increasing trend over this period are clear indicators of an economic recovery post pandemic. However, due to price rise of various raw materials as well finished goods it is showing higher collection, it may not due to increased volumes. Is it due to real growth or due to massive jump in prices of almost everything? If prices of plastic granules jump from ₹120 to 175 or 30-40% everywhere then GST collection will rise on the same volume. All said and done, GST has come to the rescue of many states. Now, the people blaming GST will have to eat their words.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI



TWOSTATES





'Rethink vaccination policy'

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain called on Central government to rethink its current vaccination policy because when a state is ready to vaccinate and to buy vaccines, then it should get the required number of vaccines

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 3: The Delhi government Thursday blamed the Centre for not providing it the required amount of Covid-19 vaccines despite its preparedness and facilities to inoculate people.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain called on Central government to rethink its current vaccination policy because when a state is ready to vaccinate and to buy vaccines, then it should get the required number of vaccines.

Delhi government is fully prepared and has the best facility to vaccinate the entire population, but we are not getting the required number of vaccines from the Central government, he said

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said that the Delhi government wants to vaccinate more and more people because it wants to save the lives of the citizens.

I understand that many people who have taken the first jab of Covaxin are not getting the scheduled second jab in Delhi. The situation has become like this because of the mismanagement on the behalf of the Central government.

They have changed the schedule of vaccination. If the Central government had given us the required



accination centre in New Delhi, Thursday

number of vaccines, then there should have been no problem. But they are not providing vaccines. We are hopeful that people who are waiting for the Covaxin second dose will get it as early as possible,

Noting that the Central government earlier told them to vaccinate more and more people, Jain told that according to the Central government, 50 per cent of the vaccines will go to it, 25 per cent will be given to the states and 25 per cent

will be given to the private partners. "I think it is high time to rethink this policy and rework it. When a state is ready to vaccinate its citizens, then that state must get the required number of vaccines. The Delhi government is fully prepared to vaccinate the entire population. but we are not getting it (vaccines). We are buying these vaccines and giving them for free to the citizens but due to the policy of the Central government, we are not getting

the required number of vaccines.

he contended

The whole control over the vaccines and the price of the vaccines are with the Central government, Jain said, adding that the cost of the vaccines in the private hospitals is also monitored by the Central gov-

About black fungus, he said 1,044 such cases were there in Delhi till Wednesday. Out of these 1,044 cases, 92 patients have recovered fully and 89 people have lost their lives due to black fungus

The Minister said for the past three days, Delhi has been reporting a positivity rate below one per cent which is a good sign, but still appealed to every citizen to follow Covid protocols.

Delhi reported 576 positive Covid-19 cases and the positivity rate was 0.78 per cent.

In this phase of the Covid pandemic, Delhi even witnessed over 28,000 cases in 24 hours but now the number of Covid cases is coming down which is a good sign, he said. Before this second phase of the pandemic in Delhi, day to day cases used to stay within 200. I appeal to every citizen is please maintain social distancing, wear a mask all the time and wash your hand from

Stalin launches Covid relief distribution, second payout

In its manifesto for the Assembly polls, the DMK had promised ₹4,000 cash assistance to people and after Stalin took over as the Chief Minister, he launched the scheme May 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 3: The distribution of Covid-19 relief hamper, containing 14 essential commodities including wheat and sugar to beneficiaries was launched here Thursday by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.

Also, he inaugurated the disbursal of the second instalment, under the ₹4,000 cash assistance plan to help people whose livelihoods were affected due to the pandemic and the resultant curbs.

Stalin gave away the cash assistance of ₹2,000, which is the second installment and a bag containing the commodities to 10 families at the Secretariat here marking the launch of the initiatives on the 97th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi Thursday.

The two initiatives are aimed

SC moved seeking closure of TPPs in Delhi's vicinity

anniversary, in Chennai, Thursday at benefitting over 2.09 crore rice category ration card holders spread across Tamil Nadu and the first instalment of ₹2,000 was disbursed

Priests come out from secretariat after receiving ₹4000 as Covid relief from

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, on his father M Karunanidhi's 98th birth

Distribution System shops. In its manifesto for the April 6 Assembly polls, the DMK had promised ₹4,000 cash assistance to people and after Stalin took over as the Chief Minister, he launched the scheme May 10.

last month through Public

The second installment disbursal, like the first, would cost the exchequer ₹4,196.38 crore and the distribution of 14 essential commodities, ₹844.51 crore, the government said in an official release.

The pandemic relief pack contains a kilo each of wheat, salt and rava and half kilo each of sugar and urad dhal. Tamarind and Bengal gram 250 grams each and mustard, cumin, turmeric and chilli powders, all 100 gram each are part of the pack. Two tea packets (total 200 grams), a bathing soap and a bar of

detergent also find a place in the bag. Minister for Cooperation, I Periyasamy, Food Minister R Sakkarapani, Chief Secretary V Iraianbu were present.

Guarantee 10.5% quota to Vanniyars: Ramadoss



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 3: Founder leader of Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), S Ramadoss has called upon the Tamil Nadu government to guarantee the 10.5 per cent reservation for Vanniyar community under Most Backward Class (MBC) quota which was passed in the state assembly in February during the previous AIADMK government and which was given assent by the Governor.

He said that the state government should not bring in unfounded reasons to deny the reservation to the Vanniyar community under the Most Backward Class quota.

In a statement released Wednesday night, the PMK leader came out against the state minister for Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes and Minority welfare SS Shivashankar for saying that the 10.5 per cent reservation to Vanniyars under the MBC quota cannot be implemented as cases are filed in the Madras High Court against it.

Ramadoss said, "The Governor's consent was given to the bill passed in the Tamil Nadu assembly in February and a Government Order (GO) was published by the Higher Education department April 1. Other departments should have passed similar orders and 10.5 per cent reservation would have been implemented. The responsibility and onus to ensure social justice lies

with the Backward Class Minister.'

The PMK leader also said that as other departments had not published it, the job opportunities for several Vanniyar youths are waning. He said, "In a circular that announced that 555 persons will be appointed as homeopath doctors, doctor assistants in PHCs temporarily by the Health Ministry, it has been announced that the previous reservation policy will be followed. For appointments to several posts in Madras High court, it has been said that 10.5 per cent reservation will be implemented once the pending cases are concluded. Both these decisions are wrong."

He said that similar cases against the 69 per cent reservation were pending in the Supreme Court and yet appointments are being made. The senior leader said that the responsibility for ensuring reservation to the Vannivars lies with the Minister for Backward classes and as he is not providing a clear picture on the same, the

chief minister must clarify.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 3: The Delhi government Thursday said it has filed a petition in the Supreme Court, seeking closure of 10 coalfired power plants in the vicinity of the city using outdated polluting technology.

The 10 thermal power plants in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh have been contributing significantly to air pollution in Delhi-NCR, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said. The Delhi government had written to the Central government requesting their cooperation on pollution from these TPPs, but no help has been received so far. We hope the Supreme Court will take necessary steps and direct closure of these plants on an urgent basis, he said in a statement.

The 10 power plants are - Dadri NCTPP, Harduaganj TPS, GH TPS (Lehra Mohabbat), Nabha TPP, Ropar TPS, Talwandi Sabo TPP, Yamunanagar TPS, Indira Gandhi

GENEROUS GESTURE



STPP, Panipat TPS and Rajiv Gandhi TPS.

A 2018 study by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Automotive Research Association of India says 60 per cent of the PM 2.5 pollution in Delhi originates from sources outside the city, it said. Various studies have highlighted the effects of the pollutants on the health of communities. The ill-effects are more pronounced for vulnerable individuals, children. pregnant women, the elderly, and persons suffering from asthma and lung diseases, the Delhi government said in the statement

from such coal-fired power plants

On April 1, the Union Environment Ministry had issued a notification with amended rules allowing thermal power plants within 10 kilometers of the National Capital Region (NCR) and in cities with more than 10 lakh population to comply with new emission norms by the end of 2022. It had revised emission norms

for particulate matter (PM), sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen for TPPs in December 2015, requiring them to install emission control systems by December 2017. The deadline was pushed to

December 2022 for all the power stations in the country in view of implementation issues and challenges. However, power stations in the national capital region were required to comply with the revised norms by December 2019.

According to the new notification, non-compliance by these TPPs will not lead to the closure of the polluting units but they would continue to pollute subject to the payment of

penalty, the Delhi government said in the statement.

According to Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), TPPs account for more than 60 per cent of the total industrial emissions of particulate matter; 45 per cent of SO2; 30 per cent of NOx; and more than 80 per cent of mercury, in the country

These are also responsible for 70 per cent of the total freshwater withdrawal by all industries, as per an analysis by the green think tank. A recent compliance report by CSE showed that out of the 12 power plants located around Delhi, SO2 control technology was available only in two plants.

According to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, the delay in installation of the SO2 and NOx control facilities are leading to more than 13 deaths and a loss of ₹19 crore daily in the region around Delhi-NCR at 2018 operational levels, it added

Students, teachers demand cancellation of 12th boards

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 3: Students, teachers, parents and academicians in Tamil Nadu have requested the MK Stalin government to cancel the Class 12 board examinations taking a cue from the central government's decision cancelling both the CBSE and ICSE exams.

Muruganandam, a Physics teacher at a government school at Namakkal told IANS that children are under severe stress and anxiety and the government must take immediate steps to cancel the Class 12 board examinations.

We can take the assessment of the past six or seven examinations and take the average. It is not possible at present to conduct an exam and postponing would lead to the suffering of next academic year and hence the solution is cancelling of examinations.

A similar demand is being raised by students, who are studying under the state board.

Soumitra Narayanan, a class 12 student at a government-aided school in Madurai told IANS, "My friends in the neighbourhood and all those studying under the CBSE and ICSE syllabus are relieved of the tension but I am still facing nightmares whether or not I will have to give the boards. If every board were conducting exams then

we could also have done the same. Let the government take a decision soon. According to me must be cancelling the exams."

The Chief Education Officers office has directed school teachers to submit the marks obtained by students in the last seven examinations to assess their performance.

MR Manikantan, Director, Save Education, Tamil Nadu, an organization working in the academic sector at Erode told IANS, "It is better that the examinations for Class 12 boards are cancelled. As the central government has already cancelled the CBSE and ICSE exams for 12th, why is the state government taking time on a decision? Students are suffering and they are under huge tension. This will not do any good in the long run and hence immediate action is required, otherwise the next academic year will also suffer."

The government is taking opinion from all corners -- academic circles and political leadership before taking a call.

MDMK leader Vaiko has already called upon the Stalin government to postpone the board exams and conduct it once the pandemic situation comes down and had added that with a good educational infrastructure. Tamil Nadu can easily conduct the exams.





A volunteer distributes masks, sanitisers and food to needy people during Covid-induced lockdown, at Yamuna Khadar,

MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES ARE IDENTICAL COPIES OF AN ANTIBODY THAT TARGETS ONE SPECIFIC ANTIGEN. THIS TREATMENT HAS **PREVIOUSLY BEEN USED TO CURE INFECTIONS SUCH AS EBOLA AND HIV**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: Two Covid positive senior citizens with cardiac problems were successfully administered antibody cocktail therapy and were saved from developing severe complications, doctors at the BLK-Max Super Speciality



Hospital here said Thursday.

Sunirmal Ghatak (70) and Suresh Kumar Trehan (65) were Tuesday administered a cocktail of Casirivimab and Imdevimab at BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital as part of this single-dose infu-

sion-based treatment, which is said to reduce the chance of hospitalisation by 70 per cent in patients with mild to moderate symptoms.

Ghatak, with a known cardiac problem, had undergone angioplasty with stenting in the past,

the hospital said in a statement. Trehan reported to the hospi-

tal two days ago with severe breathlessness and was unable to lie down. He had no previous history of any ailment. His echocardiography showed strained heart with an ejection fraction of only 25 per cent, it said in a statement.

Both of them had oxygen saturation level above 95 per cent and came to the hospital within three days of developing Covid-19 symptoms.

The hospital successfully administered monoclonal antibody cocktail therapy to two of these Covid positive extremely high-risk senior citizen patients Tuesday saving them from developing severe

complications, it said.This was the first time that monoclonal antibody cocktail therapy was administered at the hospital.

Monoclonal antibodies are identical copies of an antibody that targets one specific antigen. This treatment has previously been used to cure infections such as Ebola and HIV.

According to studies, this 'Antibody Cocktail Treatment' for Covid-19 can prevent escalation of mild and moderate illness to severe which then requires hospitalisation in 70 per cent of the cases, said Dr Sandeep Nayar, Senior Director, BLK-Max Centre

for Chest and Respiratory Diseases. The therapy is most suited for high-risk Covid-19 patients within the first 10 days of onset of symptoms who meet any of the listed criteria such as age being 65 years or above.

The other criteria include obesity with a body mass index of more than 35, type one or type two diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney disease including those on dialysis, chronic liver disease, currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment, or if aged above 55 with either heart disease or hypertension or chronic lung disease.



national



Covid-19 contagion is declining in West **Bengal following the** imposition of restrictions MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

FERTILIZER SCAM: RJD MP SENT TO 10-DAY ED CUSTODY

A Delhi court Thursday sent RJD Rajya Sabha MP Amarendra Dhari Singh, arrested in a money laundering case related to an alleged fertiliser scam, to 10-day custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), saying it was necessary for fair investigation



Disengagement process remains unfinished: India



I believe the central leadership will take a decision about HIMANTA BISWA SARMA



Alapan Bandyopadhyay knew many improper acts of the TMC government. He was privy to those

acts and he did not take any remedial action. Hence, there is a desperate bid by the chief minister of West Bengal to shield Bandyopadhyay. Hence, there is a desperate attempt by Bandyopadhyay to cling to the CM

SUVENDU ADHIKARI | BJP LEADER





SUKHBIR BADAL | SAD PRESIDENT

SHORT **TAKES**

K'taka extends lockdown

Bangalore: Karnatka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa Thursday announced extending lockdown for a week from June 7 to June 14 to contain the Covid-19 spread. "We had earlier announced stringent restrictions from May 24 to June 7 to contain the spread of Coronavirus. Though the infections have reduced. the spread of the disease is still on." "It has been decided to extend the restrictions by a week following the recommendation of experts till June 14 morning," Yediyurappa told a press conference. The curbs are in effect since April 27 but from May 10, the Chief Minister announced a

Meghalaya coal mine owner held

shutdown till May 24 morning.

Shillong: The owner of the illegal coal mine in Meghalaya's in East Jaintia Hills district, in which five miners were trapped for four days, was arrested, a police officer said Thursday. The owner, Shining Langstang, was arrested from Sutnga village near the mine. The rathole mine at Umpleng, about 20 km from Khliehriat, the district headquarters of East Jaintia Hills District, was flooded after a dynamite explosion Sunday. Hazardous rat-hole coal mining is not permitted in Meghalaya after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned it in 2014.

Leopardess, cub found dead

Nagpur: A female leopard and a four- month-old cub were found dead Thursday in Khapa forest range in Nagpur division of Maharashtra, an official said, The carcasses were found at Mouza Mohgaon in Pendhri Nullah beat, a statement issued by the Khapa range forest officer said. All the body parts of the deceased animals- the four- and-a-half year old leopardess and her cub- were found to be intact and they might have died due to starvationand dehydration, it said.

Over 2,800 prisoners get interim bail

New Delhi: Over 2,800 prisoners have been released on interim bail or emergency parole from three Delhi jails, including Tihar, to decongest the prisons during the second wave of the coronavirus infection, officials said Thursday. These include inmates who were released last year and then surrendered with no adverse report and also new prisoners who were eligible for such interim bail or emergency parole in view of the pandemic under the criteria laid down by a high-powered committee in its meetings on May 4 and 11.

2nd Made-in-India vax soon

New Delhi, June 3: In another landmark move in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, the Central government has booked 30 crore doses of another Made-in-India vaccine to be manufactured by Hyderabad-based Biological-E's Covid vaccine, which is still in final phase of clinical trials.

Biological-E's vaccine is currently in Phase-3 clinical trials after showing promising results in Phase 1 and 2, and it is likely to be available in the market in next few months, said a Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) statement.

The Ministry is learnt to have made an advance payment of Rs 1,500 crore to the firm -- the second made-in-India vaccine manufacturer after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

"The doses will be manufactured and stockpiled by Biological-E from August to December and is likely to be available "in the next few months," the Ministry said.

The move is expected to be a sigh of relief for the Centre facing wide criticism amid shortage of

Maha U-turn:

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lockdown curbs

continue in state

Mumbai, June 3: In an abrupt U-

turn, the Maharashtra govern-

ment on Thursday said that lock-

down restrictions have not been

lifted in half the state from Friday,

hours after Relief and

Rehabilitation Minister Vijay

Wadettiwar earlier in the day an-

lifted (from Friday). The proposal

is still under consideration," said

The state is still not completely

free of the Covid-19 infection, with

cases still on the rise in many rural

areas and the proposals would be con-

sidered and implemented after a

detailed review of the departments

"In view of the deadly and chang-

concerned in all districts, it said.

"The lockdown has not been

nounced partial relaxations.

an official statement.

Covid vaccine during the second wave of the pandemic

Biological-E's shot, the Ministry said, was given Rs 100 crore in financial assistance by the Department of Biotechnology. which also partnered with the company to conduct various studies.

This is part of the government's mission to support five or six new COVID-19 vaccine candidates, said the statement. Biological-E's indigenous vac-

cine was recommended for approval by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 or National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19.

Biological-E also has a separate

deal to produce about 600 million doses of Johnson and Johnson's Covid-19 shot annually. The company said on Tuesday it entered into a licensing agreement with Providence Therapeutics Holdings

to manufacture mRNA Covid-19

vaccines in India.

Besides Covaxin and Serum Institute of India's Covishield, Russia's Sputnik V will soon be used to vaccinate people as the government races towards a target of one crore vaccinations a day by August. It is also in talks with foreign makers like Pfizer and Moderna, who have insisted on an indemnity clause.

The new vaccine arrangement is "part of the wider endeavour of

1.34L fresh cases

With 1,34,154 fresh cases, India's Covid-19 tally has climbed to 2,84,41,986, while the daily positivity rate has further dropped to 6.21 per cent, the health ministry said Thursday. The death toll due to the viral disease has climbed to 3,37,989 with 2,887 more people succumbing to it, while the number of active Covid-19 cases was recorded below 20 lakh for the third consecutive day, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am. Also, 21,59,873 tests were conducted on Wednesday to detect COVID-19, taking the total number of such tests conducted so far in the country to 35,37,82,648, while the daily positivity was recorded at 6.21 per cent. It has been less than 10 per cent for 10 consecutive days now, the ministry said.

the government to encourage indigenous vaccine manufacturers" by providing them support in research and development and costs. the Centre said.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 3: The process of disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remains unfinished and its early completion in the remaining areas could lead to de-escalation of forces in eastern Ladakh, which could pave the way for full restoration of peace and tranquillity, India said Thursday.

Responding to a question on China increasing its military deployment and raising new infrastructure at friction points along LAC, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "The process of disengagement remains unfinished.'

India and China have agreed that in the interim they would maintain stability on the ground and avoid any new incidents, he

"It is our expectation, therefore, that neither side should do anything that is not in keeping with these understandings.

"An early completion of disengagement in the remaining areas could lead to de-escalation of forces in eastern Ladakh, which would hopefully lead to full restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas and enable overall progress in the bilateral relationship," Bagchi said.

India and China reached a fivepoint agreement to resolve the eastern Ladakh border standoff during talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a meeting in Moscow on September

10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

conclave. The pact included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC.

India and China are locked in a military standoff at multiple friction points in eastern Ladakh since early May last year but they have completed withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong lake in February following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

The two sides are now engaged in talks to extend the disengagement process to the remaining friction points.

There was no visible forward movement in disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points as the Chinese side did not show flexibility in their approach on it at the 11th round of military talks with the Indian Army April

There were reports of China further strengthening its positions___ in some of the friction points.





Volunteers participate in a bicycle ride at Grove beach to mark the World Bicycle Day in Thiruvananthapuram PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ing form of the coronavirus, it is Aligarh (UP), June 3: Five people important to decide whether or died and 22 more were hospitalised not to life the ongoing curbs. The after consuming spurious liquor in restrictions have not yet been lifted a village here, days after another in the state," said the statement. hooch tragedy resulted in the death It pointed out that under its of at least 35 in the district, police said Thursday. 'Break The Chain' orders, the gov-

On Wednesday night, some brick ernment has started giving some relaxations on a regular basis and kiln labourers fell sick after consuming countrymade liquor the Disaster Management Department is considering a fivedumped in a canal near Rohera phased unlockdown based on the village in the Jawan area, they said. "It appears that some persons weekly Covid-19 positivity rate and involved in the spurious liquor the availability of oxygen beds. Accordingly, the detailed guidetrade dumped their entire stock in the canal fearing a raid," Senior lines in this regard, on tightening or easing of restrictions, shall be no-Superintendent of Police Kalanidhi

tified by the government soon, it Naithani told reporters. said. The state government's clari-This is the second hooch tragedy fication came hours after Wadettiwar reported in the district in recent held a press conference and undays. In the earlier case, at least 35 people died after consuming illicit veiled the details of the unlockdown in half of Maharashtra - or 18 liquor, while autopsies were conducted on a total of 87 victims. of the 36 districts - from June 4.



Officials fear some of them may have died of the same cause and many people have suffered eye damage and vision loss.

In Wednesday's incident, the brick kiln workers found the liquor cartons dumped in the canal. They started celebrating but were taken ill shortly after consuming the countrymade brew

"Doctors are battling to save the lives of the remaining 22 victims,' he said, adding that critically ill patients kept arriving at the hospital throughout the night.

Hooch tragedy hits Aligarh again WILL MAINTAIN S' ON POLICY: WHATSAPP

THE COMPANY SAID THAT IT WILL MAINTAIN THIS APPROACH "UNTIL AT LEAST THE FORTHCOMING PDP LAW COMES INTO EFFECT"

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 3: Facebookowned WhatsApp Thursday reiterated that privacy of users remains its highest priority and it will maintain its stand till the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill becomes a law in India, after the Centre told the Delhi High Court that WhatsApp was obtaining "trick consent" from its users for its updated 2021 privacy policy ahead of the pending PDP Bill.

The company said that it will maintain this approach "until at least the forthcoming PDP law comes into effect".



The reaction came after the Centre claimed that WhatsApp is indulging in anti-users' practices by obtaining "trick consent" from its users for its updated privacy policy, under a game plan to transfer the existing users committed to

'We reiterate that we have al-

ready responded to the Government of India and assured them that the privacy of users remains our highest priority. As a reminder, the recent update does not change the privacy of people's personal messages," a WhatsApp spokesperson said in

a statement "We will not limit the functionality of how WhatsApp works in the coming weeks. Instead, we will continue to remind users from time to time about the update as well as when people choose to use relevant optional features, like communicating with a business that is receiving support from Facebook," the spokesperson said.

CLASS XII EXAM CANCELLATION

SC gives Centre 2 weeks to decide evaluation criteria

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 3: The Supreme Court Thursday said, it is happy that the board exams have been cancelled and emphasized that the interest of students will be protected, as it asked the Centre to submit the objective criteria to assess Class XII students in two weeks.

At the beginning of the hearing, the Attorney General K.K. Venugopal submitted he had circulated a letter by the government in the matter. A bench comprising Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari told the AG, "We are happy with the Centre's decision to cancel the board exam (CBSE and ICSE boards). But what is the objective standard principle you will apply? The criteria have not been given in the letter." The AG replied to the bench that

the objective criteria will be determined by CBSE and sought time to place it on record before the court. The AG submitted the petition seeking cancellation of board exams may be disposed and an application could be filed in the matter. The bench replied that it will only dispose off the matter after the objective criteria is placed on record. The ICSE board counsel sought four weeks' time to place the objective criteria on record.

Declining to give four weeks to both CBSE and ICSE, the bench said: "If you want, you can do it overnight, but we are giving you two weeks. All interactions are happening online, do it in two weeks. You should act overnight."



Justice Maheshwari said: "Last year they have taken the decision, why they are asking for more time.'

The bench said the decision in the matter has to be taken early, as there are many students who want

to take admission in foreign universities. Declining to give four weeks' time, the bench reiterated: "it will delay, urgent decision should be taken."

Petitioner advocate Mamta Sharma pointed out that some state boards are still going ahead with the exams. Asking the lawver to be patient, the bench replied: "We have interest of the students in our minds, irrespective of the board. Let this be resolved first and then we will consider the other state board exams.

The top court in its order said: "What remains is only to devise well-defined objective criteria for assessment of performance of the candidates, which decision will be taken by them within two weeks, as aforesaid. List the matter June 17.'

PM interacts with students n a surprise interaction with Class

12 students and their parents, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday asked them to utilise their time in a productive and creative manner fol lowing the cancellation of their exams and said they should never feel stressed about any examination. Joining the online interaction organ ised by the Education Ministry, Modi asked them how they are feeling following the cancellation of the board exams in view of the pandemic and what are they planning to do now. Several students shared their experiences with the PM about how the announcement brought relief to them and ended a long spell of uncertainty.



national



We are ready for the Amarnath Yatra. We have taken all the necessary steps although the final decision to hold the Yatra lies with the civil

MANOJ MUKUND NARAVANE CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF OF THE INDIAN ARMY

INS SANDHAYAK TO BE DECOMMISSIONED TODAY

Indian Naval ship Sandhayak, the first of the indigenously designed and built hydrographic survey ships of the Indian Navy, will be decommissioned Friday after serving the nation for 40 years





decided to restrictions by a experts till June 14



B S YEDIYURAPPA KARNATKA CM

The BJP government of UP had announced that it would pay for the treatment of coronavirus patients

at private hospitals. Now the BJP government should tell how many bills of people have been paid so far AKHILESH YADAV SAMAJWADI PARTY SUPREMO

I welcome Court's order, in which the Hon'ble Court has asked the Centre to review its vaccination policy and 'place on record a roadmap of projected availability of vaccines till

31 December 2021 ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

UP: Five kids drown in pond

Gonda (UP): Five children of a family drowned in a pond in Rasul Khanpur Mishrauli village here Thursday, police said. The incident took place when the children had gone to the pond to collect mud and one of them slipped into it, they said. In a bid to save him, others jumped into the pond and drowned. Their bodies were later fished out with the help of locals.

Terror operative eliminated

Srinagar: A terror operative has been eliminated in a joint operation by the army, police and CRPF at police component complex at Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said Thursday. Police said an active terror operative Mohd Amin Malik, resident of Nagbal Machhma, Tral got neutralized in an overnight operation on the intervening night of June 2-3, 2021 jointly conducted by Awantipora Police, army's 42 RR and 180 Bn of the CRPF at Police Component complex Tral.

Kolkata gets vaccine bus

Kolkata: A bus was turned into a Covid vaccination centre, which will travel to different markets of Kolkata to vaccinate priority groups, including vegetable and fish sellers, who cannot go for inoculation leaving their businesses for hours. The 'vaccination on wheels' initiative was launched by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Thursday in cooperation with the Health and Transport departments of the West Bengal government, minister Firhad Hakim said.

Three drug traffickers held

Noida (UP): Three alleged drug traffickers have been arrested after 100 kg of cannabis estimated worth ₹10 lakh was recovered from their possession in Uttar Pradesh's Noida, police said Thursday.

Woman killed in elephant attack

Jashpur: A 42-year-old woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Chhattisgarhs Jashpur district, a forest official said Thursday. Pratima Tigga, a native of Baasdhar village, was attacked by the tusker Wednesday evening near Kuhapani village near the Badalkhol Wildlife Sanctuary when she was on way to her village along with her sevenyear-old daughter, he said.



The regulations define the roles of states, district magistrates, police and other institutions in the protection of the children.

New Delhi, June 3: The government has come out with guidelines for the care and protection of the children affected by Covid-19 and fixed responsibilities for the states. district magistrates, police, Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies.

In a letter to the chief secretaries of all the states and Union territories, Women and Child Development Ministry Secretary Ram Mohan Mishra Wednesday said in order to streamline and facilitate the actions being taken, the major responsibilities of the primary duty holders have been enlisted to ensure the best interest of children during the pandemic.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), in an affidavit to the Supreme Court, said 9,346 children have lost at least one of the parents to the deadly virus, including over 1,700 who have lost both their parents, according to data received from the states. Defining the roles of the states, district magistrates



(DMs), police, Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies, Mishra issued detailed guidelines.

The states need to identify the children in distress through outreach and surveys and prepare a database with a profile of each child, along with the details of their specific needs and requirements, and ensure that the data is uploaded on the Track Child portal. Mishra told the states and Union territories to temporarily allocate child care institutions (CCIs) to house those children whose parents have been unwell due to Covid-19 and provide necessary support to them, in case the extended family is not available to take care of them.

The Women and Child Development Ministry has asked the states to issue directions to hospitals to collect the contact details of trustworthy persons known to the patients in the admission form, to be contacted for taking care of children in case of any eventuality.

"Immediate temporary rehabilitation of children through the existing child care facilities supported under the Child Protection Services scheme must be ensured ' Mishra said. The states have also been asked to make suitable arrangements for isolation facilities within the CCIs to take care of the children suffering from Covid and prepare a roaster of child psychologists or counsellors to visit the facilities and interact with the children.

Mishra further asked the states to launch a local helpline number manned by experts for giving psychosocial care or support to the children in distress.

On the role of the DMs, he said they shall be the guardians of the vulnerable children impacted adversely by Covid. "The DM shall make efforts that such children are rehabilitated in the following order of preference, in the manner as prescribed under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015," he said.

New Delhi, June 3: As the demand for Covid-19 vaccines rises globally, India Thursday said it would not be right to talk about the supply of jabs to other countries at the moment as it is currently ramping up domestic production for its own inoculation programme.

Elaborating the steps taken by the government to augment vaccine supply for domestic use, Spokesperson at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Arindam Bagchi said India remains engaged with US vaccine manufacturers like Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and Moderna as part of

"I just responded to a series of questions on what steps the government has taken to ensure adequate supply of vaccines from abroad. I think you will appreciate that against this background, it would not be right to talk about supply of vaccines abroad just now as we have repeatedly conveyed," he said.

"We are currently purposing domestic vaccine production for our own vaccination programme, Bagchi.

After it started its own inoculation programme in January, India also supplied vaccine to other countries. In response to a question in Lok Sabha on March 23, Minister of State for External Affairs V



plied 600 million doses to 76 countries under the 'Vaccine-Maitri' initiative. Of the 600 million doses. around 341 million doses were supplied on commercial basis, while around 177 doses were supplied to GAVI's COVAX.

The remaining 81 million were supplied as grant. However, it came to a halt after the deadly second wave of the coronavirus hit the country, killing thousands. The government also received flak for exporting jabs.

However, the vaccine export ban by India has led to shortage in other countries. The government has been in talks with the US over the shortage of vaccines in the country.

"We are also engaged with the US Administration to ensure that necessary components and raw materials for vaccine production in India are readily available. It is in our mutual interest to combat the global pandemic by expediting vaccination efforts," he said.

Delhi HC issues -

summons to

Ramdev

All efforts will continue to bring back Choksi: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Thursday said India remains steadfast in its resolve that fugitives of the country are brought back to face justice and all efforts would continue to bring back Mehul Choksi who is wanted in a major banking fraud here.

"Let me emphasise that India remains steadfast in its efforts to ensure that fugitives are brought back to India to face justice," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi told reporters at an online press briefing. Referring to the case of Choksi, he said the diamantaire is currently in the custody of Dominican authorities and certain legal proceedings are underway there.

'We will continue to make all efforts to ensure that he is brought back to India," he said. The MEA spokesperson refused to go into further details, saying it is in the domain of the Ministry of Home

The Cabinet minutes published by the media outlet show that "Choksi matter" was one of the agenda items discussed during the meeting on Wednesday where it was held that Choksi is now a "problem" of Dominica and if he comes back to Antigua and Barbuda the "problem reverts" to it.

The meeting chaired by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and attended by all his ministers physically and virtually decided that law enforcement officials will continue to gather intelligence in the circumstances of Choksi's "departure" from Antigua, media outlet Antigua Breaking News said.

He was replying to a batch of questions regarding Choksi who had fled the country. Choksi is wanted in India in connection with a ₹13,500 crore loan fraud in Punjab National Bank (PNB).

The businessman had mysteriously gone missing May 23 from Antigua and Barbuda where he has been staying since 2018 as a citizen. He was detained in neighbouring island country Dominica for illegal entry after a possible romantic escapade.

His lawyers alleged that he was kidnapped from Jolly Harbour in Antigua by policemen looking like Antiguan and Indian and brought to Dominica on a boat.

Meanwhile Dominican High Court Judge Bernie Stephenson Thursday adjourned the habeas corpus hearing of Choksi, local media reported.

DEALING WITH CRISIS



the matter for hearing July 13.

16 PEACOCKS FOUND DEAD

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pratapgarh (UP), June 3: Sixteen peacocks were found dead in the mango and gooseberry orchards in Baijalpur village in Pratapgarh

Panic gripped the area as soon as the birds were found dead Wednesday evening.

Initially one peacock was found



dead and the villagers immediately informed the forest department. A team of forest officials arrived and took away the dead peacock. Hours later, 15 more peacocks were found dead in the orchards. According to the divisional forest officer (DFO) Varun Kumar Singh, the post-mortem of the first peacock that was found dead Wednesday, has been done.

ments against allopathic medicines and claiming Patanjali's Coronil kit is a cure for Covid-19 but refused to restrain him at this stage saying the allopathic profession was not so fragile. The high court however orally

New Delhi, June 3: The Delhi High Court Thursday issued sum-

mons to yoga guru Ramdev on a

plea accusing him of making state-

asked Ramdev's counsel to tell him not to make any provocative state-

"Mr Rajiv Nayar is a very repectable senior (advocate). I am sure his client will listen to him," Justice C Hari Shankar said.

The high court issued summons to Ramdev on the suit filed by Delhi Medical Association (DMA) and asked him to file response in three weeks and listed

"Considerable time has passed since passing of allegedly injurious statements. The counsel says defendant no. 1 (Ramdev) continues to make statement. No iniunctive order can be given without giving an opportunity to the plaint, especially in view of the objections. Issue summons on the suit," Justice Shankar

said in a statement. The court also issued summons to social media platforms Twitter and Facebook and Astha channel, who are made parties to

Study lists global hotspots for new coronavirus strains

RESEARCHERS NOTED THAT MOST OF THE CURRENT HOT SPOTS ARE CLUSTERED IN CHINA, WHERE A GROWING DEMAND FOR MEAT PRODUCTS HAS DRIVEN THE EXPANSION OF LARGE-SCALE. INDUSTRIAL LIVESTOCK FARMING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: Global landuse changes through human settlement, agricultural expansion and livestock production are creating hot spots favourable for coronavirus-carrying bats, and where conditions are ripe for diseases to jump from the flying mammals to humans, according to a study. While the exact origins of the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, remain unclear, scientists believe that the disease likely emerged when a virus that infects horseshoe bats was able to jump to hu-

It could have done so either directly through wildlife-to-human contact or indirectly by first infecting an intermediate animal host, such as the pangolin.



Horseshoe bats are known to carry a variety of coronaviruses, including strains that are genetically similar to ones that cause Covid-19 and severe acute respi-

ratory syndrome (SARS). The new study, published in the journal Nature Food, used remote sensing to analyse land use patterns throughout the horseshoe bat's range, which extends from Western Europe through Southeast

The researchers analysed the

areas of forest fragmentation, human settlement and agricultural and livestock production, and compared these to known horseshoe bat habitats. By doing so, they were able to identify potential hot spots where habitat is favourable for these bat species, and where these so-called zoonotic viruses could potentially jump from bats to humans. Concentrated livestock produc-

tion is particularly concerning because the practice brings together large populations of genetically similar, often immune-suppressed animals that are highly vulnerable to disease outbreaks, they said.

"Land use changes can have an important impact on human health, both because we are modifying the environment, and also because they can increase our exposure to zoonotic disease," said study coauthor Paolo D'Odorico, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley in the US.

'Every formal land use change should be evaluated not only for the environmental and social impacts on resources such as carbon stocks, microclimate and water availability, but also for the potential chain reactions that could impact human health," D'Odorico said.

The researchers also identified locations that could easily become hot spots with changes in land use. They found that parts of Japan, the north Philippines and China south of Shanghai are at risk of becoming hot spots with further forest fragmentation, while parts of Indochina and Thailand may transition into hot spots with increases in livestock production.

Human encroachment into natural habitat can also indirectly increase exposure to zoonotic disease by reducing valuable biodiversity, according to the researchers. When forest lands become fragmented and natural habitats are destroyed, species that require very specific habitat to survive, called "specialists," may dwindle or even go extinct, they said.

The researchers noted that without competition from specialists, "generalist" species, which are less picky about their habitat, can take over. Horseshoe bats are a generalist species and have often been observed in areas characterised by human disturbance.

Previous work by the research team linked forest fragmentationand habitat destruction in Africa to outbreaks of the Ebola virus.

international



We are more vulnerable than Bangladesh due to the melting of our glaciers. It is not our fault. There are giants that contribute to carbon emissions but countries like us face the consequences

IMRAN KHAN PRIME MINISTER, PAKISTAN

HAJ PILGRIMAGE CANCELLED

Indonesia has cancelled the hai pilgrimage for people in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation for a second year in a row due to concerns over the Covid-19 pandemic, the religious affairs minister said Thursday





afternoon with Medtronic CEO Geoff Martha on their support in India's fight against the pandemic including through supply of ventilators along

TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU

China's vaccine diplomacy is creating divisions among countries in Central and South America, giving Beijing an opportunity to exert its influence in the Western Hemisphere

JOSEPH WU FORFIGN MINISTER, TAIWAN



HASSAN ROUHANI PRESIDENT, IRAN

SHORT TAKES

Bill to remove per country cap

Washington: A bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the US House of Representatives to eliminate the per country cap on employment-based Green Card. The legislation was introduced by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and Congressman John Curtis and it is likely to benefit Indian IT professionals anguishing over decades of Green Card wait. The Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act, 2021 needs to be passed by the Senate before it can be sent to the White House for the president to sign it into a law.

Funds to locate dead native kids

Ottawa: The Canadian government has announced a C\$27 million funding to assist locate more indigenous children who died at residential schools in the country. At a press conference here Wednesday, Canadian Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett said the government earmarked some C\$33 million in its 2019 budget to implement the burial-related recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

PM to face vote of no confidence

Prague: The government of

embattled Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis will face a vote of no confidence Thursday after representatives of five opposition conservative and liberal parties announced earlier in the week that they planned to bring the motion. Babis is accused of having a conflict of interest as a politician and founder of a business conglomerate, and he has been threatened with prosecution for fraud relating to EU subsidies.

■ 1st mucormycosis death in Nepal

Kathmandu: Nepal has reported its first death from black fungus, while 10 others have been detected to be suffering from the deadly infection in various districts across the country, according to a media report Thursday. A 65-year-old man died of black fungus, which is also known as mucormycosis, in Seti Zonal hospital in Kailali district. The Himalavan Times reported. He was admitted to the hospital May 31 and was diagnosed with black fungus Wednesday.

China launches new-gen meteorological satellite

THE NETWORK WILL **BE ABLE TO CONDUCT** DYNAMIC MONITORING AND TRACKING **OF A VARIETY OF DISASTER ELEMENTS INCLUDING FLOODS, COLD FRONTS, DROUGHTS AND**

SAND STORMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, June 3: China Thursday

a new generation meteorological satellite into planned orbit, which will be used in the fields of weather analysis, environmental and disaster monitoring.

The satellite, Fengyun-4B (FY-4B), was launched by a Long March-3B rocket in the early hours from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The FY-4B satellite which is the

first of China's new-generation meteorological satellites will be used in the fields of weather analysis and forecasting, and environmental and disaster monitoring, the

The new satellite will further strengthen China's observation and response capability of small and



medium scale disaster events and provide information security services for a range of sectors includ-

ing meteorological, agricultural, aviation, marine and environmental protection, the China National

Space Administration (CNSA) said in a press release.

The network will also be able to conduct dynamic monitoring and tracking of a variety of disaster elements including floods, cold fronts, droughts and sand storms, state-run Global Times reported.

Its observation range covers Asia, the central Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean regions, so that the network will also greatly improve China's forecast accuracy of disaster weather including typhoons and storms, the report said.

It is equipped with a rapid imager, improving measurement resolution to 250 meters from the geostationary orbit and accelerating scan imaging of the Earth, it said.

₹1 CRORE BLOOD MONEY

Indian national in UAE

saved from death row

US announces global vax sharing scheme



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, June 3: The White House Thursday unveiled President Joe Biden's plans to share Covid-19 vaccines with the world, including its intent to direct 75% of excess doses through the UN-backed Covax global vaccine sharing program.

The White House has previously stated its intent to share 80 million vaccine doses with the world by the end of June. The administration says 25% of doses will be kept in reserve for emergencies and for the US to share directly with allies and partners.

The long-awaited vaccine sharing plan comes as demand for shots in the US has dropped significantly as more than 63% of adults have received at least one dose, and as global inequities in supply have become more glaring.

As part of its purchase agreements with drug manufacturers, the US controlled the initial production by its domestic manufacturers. Pfizer and Moderna are only now starting to export vaccines produced in the US to overseas customers

The White House also announced Thursday that it is lifting restrictions on sharing vaccines produced by AstraZeneca, as well as Sanofi and Novavax, which are also not authorized in the US, allowing the companies to determine themselves where to share their doses.

Oppn reach coalition to unseat Netanyahu

Under a rotation arrangement, the head of the right-wing Yamina party, Naftali Bennett, 49, would serve as the Prime Minister first before handing over to Yair Lapid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, June 3: Israel's Opposition parties have finally clinched a last-minute agreement to form a new national unity government and oust Benjamin Netanyahu, the longest-serving prime minister in the Jewish nation's history.

Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist Yesh Atid party, announced an eightparty coalition had been formed.

Lapid, 57, officially informed President Reuven Rivlin and Knesset (Parliament) Speaker Yariv Levin about the deal late Wednesday night, barely half an hour before the Wednesday midnight deadline. The announcement came after

a series of back-to-back meetings with the leaders of the anti-Netanyahu camp in the Knesset.

In accordance with Clause 13(b) of the Basic Law: The Government I am honoured to inform you that I have succeeded in forming a government. The government will be an alternate government in accordance with Clause 13(a) of the Basic Law: The Government, and MK (Member of Knesset) Naftali Bennett will serve as a prime minister first," Lapid told Rivlin.

"I commit to you Mr President that



FRIENDS TURNED FOES

Yamina			
New Hope			
Yisrael Beiteinu			
United Arab List			

this government will work to serve all the citizens of Israel including those who aren't members of it. will respect those who oppose it and do everything in its power to unite all parts of Israeli society," the Yesh Atid party leader said.

Lapid will serve as foreign minister until the two men swap roles halfway through the term.

There still needs to be a p mentary vote before the government is sworn in.

The Israeli president thanked Lapid saying, "I congratulate you and the heads of the parties on your agreement to form a government. We expect the Knesset will convene as soon as possible to ratify the government, as required."

The development, seen by some as historic as it includes an Arab party in the coalition, will break an ongoing political impasse that has seen Israel go through four polls yielding inconclusive results in less than two years

Netanyahu holds the record of being the longest-serving Israeli PM, surpassing founding father Ben-Gurion, as he also served a term between 1996 and 1999.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, June 3: A 45-yearold Indian, who was on death row in the United Arab Emirates for killing a young Sudanese boy in a road accident in 2012, can't believe that he will be a free man and can return to the country to be with his

Becks Krishnan was saved by prominent NRI businessman and philanthropist M A Yusuffali who helped to pay his "blood money" amounting nearly Rs 1 crore.

Krishnan, who hails from Kerala, was sentenced to death by UAE Supreme Court after he was found guilty of killing a young Sudanese boy when he recklessly drove and rammed his car into a group of children in September 2012. Ever since, his family and friends

have been trying hard for Krishnan's release without any success, especially as the victim's family had already gone back and settled in Sudan, putting an end to any discussion or pardon.

The Krishnan family then approached Yusuffali, Chairman of Lulu Group, who went about getting the details of the case and got in touch with all stakeholders.

Ultimately in January 2021, the victim's family in Sudan agreed to pardon Krishnan. Subsequently, Yusuffali paid 500,000 Dirhams (Rs one crore approximately) as com-



the man's release, the Lulu group said here in a statement. Talking to the Indian embassy

officials yesterday in Al Watba Jail in Abu Dhabi, a highly emotional Krishnan could not believe the turn of events. 'It's a re-birth for me, as I had lost all hope of seeing the outside world,

let alone a free life. My only wish now is to see Yusuffali once before flying to my family," Krishnan was quoted as saying in the statement.

When asked for his comments Yusuffali simply thanked almighty for the release of Krishnan and the benevolence of visionary rulers of UAE for the release of Krishnan, and wished him a happy and peaceful life ahead.

Officials confirm 136 students abducted from Nigeria school

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lagos, June 3: Authorities have confirmed that 136 students were abducted by gunmen in northern Nigeria earlier this week, including some as young as 5 years old, the school's owner said Thursday

Gunmen on motorcycles targeted Salihu Tanko Islamic School, killing one person and abducting three teachers as well, school owner Umar Idris told The Associated Press. Idris said the number could be higher, though, because school officials have not been able to reach all of the parents to confirm whether their children are back home.

'We have sent out a message asking parents who have not yet reported to the school to do so," Idris said, adding that three teachers also were kidnapped.

Other preschoolers were left behind as they could not keep pace when the gunmen hurriedly moved those abducted into the forest.

The 11 children were mainly aged between 3 and 4 and they lacked the stamina to keep pace with the gunmen, so they were abandoned on the way, Idris said, adding that the preschoolers were found hours after the attack.

Earlier this week, 14 students and staff from Greenfield University in Kaduna state were released after spending more than a month in captivity. The gunmen who demanded hundreds of thousands of dollars in ransom had earlier killed five other students to compel the students' parents

Covax secures \$2.4B for jabs to needy countries



Washington, June 3: Covax programme has received \$2.4 billion aid for providing equitable vacci-

nations in low-income countries. The funds were pledged by wealthier countries, foundations and private companies after a virtual summit hosted by the Japanese government and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance Wednesday, the New York Times reported.

Belgium, Denmark, Japan, Spain and Sweden also announced plans to share a total of 54 million doses from their domestic supplies with countries in need. Japan has pledged \$800 million. It has also committed to share 30 million doses of locally produced vaccines.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Mastercard and the Visa Foundation were among institutions committing funds, and the European Investment Bank announced additional financing to support cost-sharing with African Union countries, the report said.



Smoke rises from a fire onboard the MV X-Press Pearl vessel as it sinks while being towed into deep sea off the Colombo

UK Royals barred 'coloured' from office jobs in 60's

THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SHOW BRITAIN'S LONGEST-SERVING MONARCH COORDINATED WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE WORDING OF NEW RACIAL AND SEXUAL EQUALITIES LAWS IN THE 1970's

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, June 3: Senior aides to Queen Elizabeth II barred the hiring of "coloured immigrants or foreigners" in office roles at Buckingham Palace until at least the late 1960's, a media report said Thursday.

The Queen and Britain's royal household also negotiated an exemption from 1970's-era laws on race and sex discrimination that still exists today, The Guardian reported. Citing historical papers it unearthed at the National Archives, the newspaper said that in 1968, the Queen's chief financial manager

told government officials of the hiring policy towards ethnic mi-

"It was not, in fact, the practice to appoint coloured immigrants or foreigners" to clerical and other office posts, one document quoted the royal courtier as having stated.

"Coloured applicants" were considered only for "ordinary domestic posts", it added.

It is unclear when the policy ended, but Buckingham Palace has said its records show people from ethnic minority backgrounds being employed in the 1990's, The Guardian noted.

The palace added it did not keep



records on the racial backgrounds of employees prior to that, according to the paper.

A palace spokeswoman said in a statement: "Claims based on a second-hand account of conversations from over 50 years ago should not be used to draw or infer conclusions about modern-day events or operations." The exemption secured for the royal household meant a government board, rather than the courts, has since dealt with allegations of discrimination within the royal household.

The disclosures are likely to renew focus on allegations of historical and more recent racism with the British royal family. In a bombshell interview earlier this year, Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle revealed a family member had expressed concern about their expected child's skin colour.

Shock at the claim prompted Prince William, second-in-line to the throne and Harry's elder brother. to tell reporters in March that the family was "very much not" racist.

The revelations are the latest in an ongoing investigation into the royal family's use of an arcane parliamentary procedure - knownas Queen's consent - to influence British legislation.

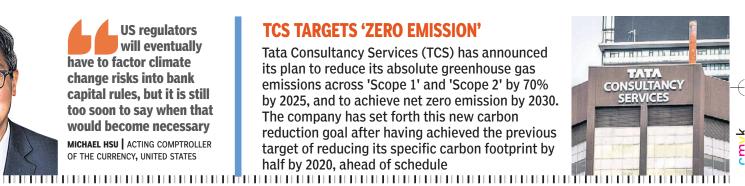
business



US regulators will eventually have to factor climate change risks into bank capital rules, but it is still too soon to say when that would become necessary MICHAEL HSU | ACTING COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY, UNITED STATES

TCS TARGETS 'ZERO EMISSION'

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced its plan to reduce its absolute greenhouse gas emissions across 'Scope 1' and 'Scope 2' by 70% by 2025, and to achieve net zero emission by 2030. The company has set forth this new carbon reduction goal after having achieved the previous target of reducing its specific carbon footprint by half by 2020, ahead of schedule



The availability of vaccines is anticipated to only increase (once banquet halls in hotels are included

venue) during which safe and controlled environments will be required to accommodate and

GURBAXISH SINGH KOHLI VICE-PRESIDENT, FHRAI

Exports have been rising and averaging at \$2 billion per month since October 2020. To be sure, there will be some moderation in the second quarter of this fiscal, which is a lean period typically RAHUL GUHA DIRECTOR, CRISH RATINGS

With a nimble approach. Vistara is focussing on a leaner cost-structure as well as exploring newer avenues to



SHORT TAKES

Biden orders to ban investment

Washington D.C.: The Biden administration will issue a new executive order Thursday that bans US entities from buying or selling publicly traded securities for 59 Chinese companies with alleged ties to defense or surveillance technology sectors, senior administration officials said. The Treasury Department will enforce and update on a "rolling basis" the new ban list, which replaces one from the Department of Defense, the officials, noting the policy would take effect August 2.

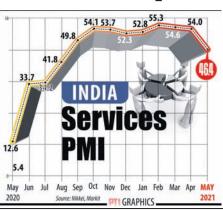
'Fiscal inclusion top priority'

New Delhi: Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur Thursday said financial inclusion is a top priority for the government and that promoting financial education would help in realising the collective potential. He was speaking at a virtual event to launch six modules of short films of Investor Education & **Protection Fund Authority** (IEPFA) titled 'Hisaab Ki Kitaab', according to an official release. Thakur is the Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs.

PSBs sanction 95% of loans

New Delhi: Public sector banks (PSBs) have sanctioned 95% of the total loans under PM SVANidhi scheme which aims at providing street vendors loans of up to ₹10,000 to restart their business post the COVID-induced lockdown last year. The Centre launched the PM Street Vendors' Aatmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme June 1 last year.

Covid resurgence cuts India's May services sector output: Report



New Delhi, June 3: Covid resurgence heavily dented India's service sector output which contracted last month. Moreover, the data indicated that India's service providers struggled in May, with the intensification of the Covid-19 crisis causing renewed declines in new business and output.

At 46.4 (index value) in May. down from 54 in April, the seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index was in contraction territory for the first time in eight months. The seasonally adjusted index reading remained above the critical 50-mark that separates growth from contraction.

"The latest reading pointed to a solid rate of reduction that was nevertheless slower than those seen in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak," IHS Markit said in the PMI report. According to panel members,

the fall in output stemmed from the escalation of the pandemic and the reintroduction of restrictions. "Growth of new work intakes

ground to a halt in May, with companies noting the first decline in sales since September 2020. Survey participants indicated that demand was dampened by the intensification of the Covid-19 crisis.

"International demand for Indian

66 While PMI data released at the start of the month showed that the manufacturing industry managed to keep its head above water in May, the service sector struggled as the pandemic escalated

POLLYANNA DE LIMA I **ECONOMICS ASSOCIATE** DIRECTOR, IHS MARKIT

services also worsened, with new export business falling at the quickest rate in six months. The drop was attributed to international travel restrictions and business closures.

Besides, May data pointed to a renewed decline in private sector activity across India as the service economy dipped back into contraction. Resultantly, the Composite PMI Output Index was down from 55.4 in April to 48.1, a reading indicative of a moderate pace of re-

"Although manufacturing production growth was sustained, the increase was the slowest in the current ten-month sequence of expansion.

"Aggregate new orders decreased for the first time in nine months, albeit at a moderate pace. The downturn was centered on the service sector, with factory sales rising only marginally at manufacturers in May." Additionally, the report pointed out that rate of input cost inflation at the composite level eased to a four-month low in May, with slower increases noted at manufacturing firms and their services counterparts.

"While PMI data released at the start of the month showed that the manufacturing industry managed to keep its head above water in May, the service sector struggled as the pandemic escalated," IHS Markit's Economics Associate

'Resumption of FTA talks with EU soon'

The proposed FTA with the EU, officially dubbed as Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement, has been stalled since May 2013 as both sides are yet to iron out differences over several issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: The time frame to resume negotiations for the stalled free trade agreement with the European Union (EU) and to initiate fresh talks for a pact with the UK will be "very early" and the talks will start soon after completion of the preparatory work, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan said Thursday.

He expressed hope that within this year, or close to the end of the year, the negotiations with both the regions should start.

All the preparatory work to start the talks has to be done and "very soon" after that, the formal negotiations will begin, he told reporters.

"The interactions are already underway. In the beginning, we will do some preparatory work, especially with the UK. The preparatory work is going to be some more elaborate since the negotiations are starting for the first time and with the EU also, some amount of preparatory work has to happen because there was long disruption in the negotiations," Wadhawan said

Sometime this year itself, there is a likelihood of completion of the preparatory work and launch of the negotiations, "So the time frame is very early," he added.

The proposed free trade agreement with the EU, officially dubbed as Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), has been stalled since May 2013 as both sides are yet to iron out differences over several issues

Last month, the UK government stated that it has kicked off preparations for a free trade agreement with India, launching a 14-week consultation to seek the views of the public and business before formal negotiations begin later this year.

With the EU, Wadhawan said that at the highest level, a clear

agreement was there on resumption of negotiations, tracks on which talks will happen, and a clear resolve to expedite finality in the negotiations at an early date.

Further, he said that India is also pursuing upgradation of preferential trade agreements with Chile and MERCOSUR (Latin American nations: Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay).

India is also taking forward negotiations with various other countries, including Israel.

"So very wide ranging efforts are underway. Also, efforts (are on) to review our existing FTAs and upgrade them and achieve their potential in a better manner whether it is with Korea, Asean and Japan," he said. When asked about the country's exports, he said the recovery is happening at a faster rate and several sectors are recording healthy growth rates.

State records ₹827.43 cr **OGST** collection in May

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Odisha collected ₹827.43 crore of OGST registering a growth of 40.40% during the month of May, 2021.

"The collection of ₹827.93 crore is against collection of ₹589.30 crore during May, 2019 and ₹440.67 crore during May 2020 (affected by Covid) recording a growth of 40.40% (against the collection of ₹589.30 Cr recorded during May '19), said officials from Commissionerate of CT & GST.

This growth of 40.40% is a result of better compliance by dealers having turnover of more than ₹5 Cr during previous year, increased collection from iron and steel sector as well as collection from matured GST demand made by tax officers after return scrutiny

"There is also a collection of ₹690.32 crore in CGST, ₹1094.70 crore



in IGST & ₹584.30 crore in Cess. The total GST collection during May, 2021 is ₹3,196.75 crore as against ₹2,140.37 crore collected during May, 2019 and ₹1,724.26 crore collected during May, 2020. This represents a growth of 49.34% against collection of May, 2019," an official said.

Also, the total collection of VAT (Petrol and Liquor) is ₹792.71 crore during May, 2021 as against ₹588.81 Cr during May '19 and ₹188.52 Cr during May '20 with growth rate of 34.69% (against collection of May, 2019).

BIZ BUZZ

smartphone is priced at ₹26,999 (8GB + 128GB) and ₹29,999 (12GB + 256GB) and will be up for sale June 4 at 12 noon

The collection of ₹827.93 cr is against collection of ₹589.30 cr during May, 2019 and ₹440.67 cr during the Covid-affected year, recording a growth of 40.40%, said officials from Commissionerate of CT & GST

Out of the above, collection from Petroleum Products is ₹665.83 crore during May, 2021 against ₹459.27 crore during May 2019 and ₹187.30 crore during May 2020. Similarly, the collection from liquor is ₹126.88 crore during May 2021 against ₹129.53 crore during May 2019 and ₹1.21 crore during

Jio deploys extra 20 MHz spectrum across Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The telecom operator Reliance Jio completed deployment of the additional 20 MHz spectrum acquired in the recent spectrum auctions, across Odisha, further enhancing subscriber experience in the state.



Jio made deployment of all the three spectrums across nearly over 10,000 network sites spread across the state. With this, the total bandwidth available with Jio for usage in Odisha will be 60 MHz including 10 MHz each in the 800 MHz & 1800 MHz, and 40MHz in 2300 MHz band. Spectrum augmentation of this magnitude will certainly help enhance the network and user experience manifold for entire JIO subscriber base in Odisha.

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (RJIL in March announced that it had successfully acquired the right to use spectrum in all 22 circles across India in the recently concluded spectrum auctions conducted by the

Steel becomes costlier, companies hike rates

New Delhi, June 3: Leading domestic steel makers have hiked the prices of Hot Rolled Coil (HRC) and Cold Rolled Coil (CRC) by up to ₹4,000 and ₹4,900 per tonne, respectively, industry sources said Thursday. After the price revision, a tonne of HRC will cost ₹70,000-71,000 while the buyers will get CRC at ₹83,000-84,000 per tonne.

The price revision has been made in the last two days, the sources said. HRC and CRC are flat steel used in industries such as auto, appliances and construction. Hence, any rise in steel prices impacts the prices of vehicles, consumer goods and cost of construction as steel is a raw material for these sectors. SAIL, JSW Steel, Tata Steel,

JSPL and AMNS India are the leading steel-making companies in the country which jointly contribute about 55 per cent to India's total steel production. When contacted, a SAIL official said "it is market driven" and did not comment further.

Twitter rolls out paid subscription service

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 3: Twitter Thursday rolled out its first-ever subscription offering called Twitter Blue in Australia and Canada, that will give users a 30-second Undo Tweet option to erase any typo, which has been the biggest demand by its users for years.

The users can set a customisable timer of up to 30 seconds to click 'Undo' before the Tweet, reply. or thread they have sent posts to their timeline, and correct mistakes by previewing what your Tweet will look like before the world can see it.

"As a Twitter Blue subscriber; you will get these features and perks for the monthly price of \$3.49 Canadian dollar or \$4.49 Australian dollar," the company said in a statement.

The subscription service will be gradually rolled out to other countries including India in near future. "We will be listening to feedback and building out even more



features and perks for our subscribers over time," it added.

Another feature in Twitter Blue is Bookmark Folders where users can organise the Tweets they have saved, by letting them manage content so when they need it, they can find it easily and efficiently.

"Reader Mode provides a more beautiful reading experience by getting rid of the noise," the company said.

"We are making it easier for you to keep up with long threads on Twitter by turning them into easyto-read text so you can read all the latest content seamlessly".

Realme launches X7 Max G, Smart TV 4K

Bhubaneswar: Realme, India's smartphone brand, introduces its

latest and cutting-edge smartphone the realme X7 Max 5G, which

features India's first MediaTek Dimensity 1200 5G processor, along

with NextGen realme Smart TV 4K that gives an all-round package

with 4K cinematic experience. Realme X7 Max 5G features a 120Hz

battery, Sony 64MP Super Triple camera with MediaTek Dimensity

1200 5G processor. While, Smart TV 4K (43" & 50") is equipped with

powerful quad-core processor and Certified by TÜV Rheinland Low

Super AMOLED display, 50W SuperDart Charge with 4500mAh

Dolby Vision HDR technology & Dolby Atmos immersive audio

Blue Light Certification. Available in two storage variants, the

onward on Flipkart.com, realme.com and mainline channels.

Bhubaneswar: KFC India promised 4X safety promise delivery focusing on screening, sanitization, social distancing and contactless service. Customers can place a per-paid delivery order on the KFC App, Website or mSite and get your order delivered to your doorstep, with the delivery executive placing your order by the door, stepping back a few steps and calling you up to inform that the order has been delivered. Taking utmost care to ensure the delivery is completely contactless. Similarly you can opt for Contactless Takeaway - a hassle-free pick-up service. The food packaging itself is further secured with a tamper-proof seal to ensure that nobody has touched or accessed the food from the time it was packed until it is delivered. The food is prepared with utmost care, cooked at a high temperature of 170 degrees.



KFC ensures 4X safety promise delivery

velopers on the App Store are accentrators, for those who were in

'App Store helped developers log \$643bn in commerce'

Cupertino (California), June 3: Apple has announced that the App Store ecosystem facilitated \$643 billion in billings and sales during 2020, a 24 percent year-overvear increase. The number of small developers worldwide has grown by 40 per cent since 2015 and they make up more than 90 percent of App Store developers.

An independent study by economists from the Analysis Group defines small developers as those with fewer than 1 million downloads and less than \$1 million in earnings across all their apps in a given year.

"The apps we've relied on through the pandemic have been life-changing in so many ways -- from gro-



ceries delivered to our homes, to teaching tools for parents and educators, to an imaginative and ever-expanding universe of games and entertainment," said Apple CEO Tim Cook.

"The result isn't just incredible apps for users: it's jobs, it's opportunity, and it's untold innovation that will power global economies for many years to come," Cook said in a statement on Wednesday.

Apple is set to hots its annual WWDC 2021 developer conference from June 7-11 in a virtual avatar. More than one in four small de-

An independent study by economists from the **Analysis Group defines** small developers as those with fewer than 1 million downloads and less than \$1 million in earnings across all their apps in a given year

velopers who sell digital goods and services on the App Store have grown their earnings by an average of at least 25 percent each year for the past five years

Nearly 80 percent of small de-

tive across multiple countries' storefronts -- and on average, these developers see earnings from users in more than 40 countries. KidloLand, an app that makes learning fun for young children, was

launched in 2012 by brothers Aditya and Nishant Mohatta in India. Since then, the app has been downloaded more than 6 million times and has grown to a team of more than 40 people

"To know that children in 174 countries have played our songs more than half a billion times it means a lot to us, especially as fathers," said Aditya Mohatta.

"During the pandemic, we were able to donate food and medical supplies, including oxygen condire need," he added.

Apple said it has helped this thriving community of small developers build incredible apps with more than 250,000 application programming interfaces (APIs) included in 40 software development kits (SDKs). The more than 10,000 graduates of Apple's Developer Academies 00 which offer classes for new and aspiring developers looking to hone their skills - have launched over 1,500 apps.

The App Store, which launched in 2008, is the world's safest and most vibrant app marketplace, currently home to 1.8 million apps and visited by more than half a billion people each week across 175 countries.

Tough return for Benzema

FRENCHMAN MISSES PENALTY ON HIS COMEBACK AFTER FIVE-AND-HALF YEARS OF ABSENCE IN THE NATIONAL SOUAD, WHILE ALEXANDER-ARNOLD'S INJURY PUTS ENGLAND IN A SPOT OF BOTHER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 3: The international returns of France striker Karim Benzema, England defender Trent Alexander-Arnold and Germany players Mats Hummels and Thomas Muller didn't go according to plan.

Benzema, back in France's team after a 5-and-a-half-year absence, had a penalty saved Wednesday and also hit the post in a 3-0 win over Wales in a warm-up match ahead of the European Championship.

At least he came through the game unscathed, unlike Alexander Arnold. The Liverpool right back, who was selected by England for Euro 2020 after being dropped for international matches in March. sustained a thigh injury late in a 1-0 win over Austria and had to be helped back to the locker room.

"It's not good to see him come off the way he did," England coach Gareth Southgate said of Alexander Arnold, one of four right backs in the 26-man squad.

Hummels and Muller made their returns for Germany two and a half years after their last nationalteam appearances but had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Denmark in another match between sides who qualified for the Euros.

The Netherlands scored an 89thminute equaliser through Memphis Depay to draw 2-2 with Scotland in another warm-up. Euro 2020 starts

FRANCE'S FRONT LINE

France coach Didier Deschamps ended his long feud with Benzema, which came amid a sex tape scandal involving the striker, by calling him up for the first time since October 2015 and immediately put in the starting line-up alongside Kylian Mbappe, with Antoine Griezmann playing just behind them in a 4-4-2 diamond forma

Mbappe and Griezmann both scored in the first half for the World Champions, after Wales had been reduced to 10 men when Neco



UNFORTUNATE: Karim Benzema sees his penalty thwarted away by the Wales custodian as (inset) he reacts with a disappointing smile, Wednesday



Referee talks to England right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold (R) regarding his injury in the presence of another English player, Wednesday

Williams was sent off for a goal-saving handball to set up the penalty that Benzema missed in the 27th.

Ousmane Dembele added a third with a 79th-minute effort which post with a shot on the swivel.

ENGLAND JEERED

England and Austria players took a knee before their warm-up match and it was met with a mixture of loud boos and applause. It was the first time an England side has made the anti-racism gesture in front of a home crowd.

"I did hear it," Southgate said of the jeers. "It's not something on behalf of our Black players that I wanted to hear because it feels as though it's a criticism of them.

"I think we have got a situation where some people think it's a political stand that they don't agree with. That's not the reason we are doing it. We are supporting each

Bukayo Saka scored his first international goal to earn the win for England. Jordan Henderson, picked by England for Euro 2020 despite having not played since February because of a groin injury, didn't feature because he felt some discomfort early Wednesday

LOEW HAPPY

Germany coach Joachim Loew felt the returns of the experienced Muller and Hummels, who both played the full game against Denmark, improved the communication in the team.

"Of course, maybe a game or two to refine the connection a bit," Loew said. "We haven't been here for a while and haven't always played with some of the others like that. What was better was communication, talking to each other. It was louder on the pitch. The commands were better, it wasn't as quiet as it was before.

Florian Neuhaus' 48th-minute opener for Germany was cancelled out by Yussuf Poulsen, who plays in the Bundesliga for Leipzig, in the 71st.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 3: Top-ranked Ash Barty retired from her secondround match at the French Open Thursday because of a left hip injury that had flared up during training just before the clay-court Grand Slam.

The 2019 champion trailed 6-1, 2-2 when she signaled that she couldn't continue against Polish rival Magda Linette on Court Philippe Chatrier. "It's heartbreaking, Barty said.

The Australian started the match with her left thigh bandaged and it was immediately clear she could not move properly. Barty called for a medical timeout at the end of the opening set, then briefly left the court for treatment. She stopped after Linette hit an ace. Barty then walked to the net to shake the 45thranked player's hand.

Last year's runner-up Sofia Kenin advanced to the third round with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Hailey Baptiste in a battle of Americans. Fifthseeded Elina Svitolina also progressed by defeating French Open debutant Ann Li of the United States 6-0, 6-4.

Among others, USA's Sloane Stephens outplayed ninth seed Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic 7-5, 6-1 to move into the third round, while Coco Gauff and 13th seed Jennifer Brady got the better of Wang Qiang 6-3, 7-6(7-1) and Fiona Ferro 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 respectively.

In the men's draw, eighth seed Roger Federer had to toil hard be-

Croatian partner Franko Skugor advanced to the pre-quarterfinals with a straight set win (6-4, 7-5) in their men's doubles match against Americans Frances Tiafo and Nicholas Monroe

Top-ranked Barty retires with injury

fore beating Marin Cilic 6-2, 2-6, 7-6(7-4), 6-2. However, World No.1 Novak Djokovic had a comfortable outing as the Serb overwhelmed Pablo Cuevas 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to enter the

third round. Ninth seed Italian Matteo Berrettini defeated Argentina's Federico Coria 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 to enter the third round Thursday Berrettini will face Korean Kwoon Soon-Woo who beat Italy's Andreas Seppi 6-4, 7-5, 7-5.

In another match, 10th seeded David Schwartzman of Argentina beat Aljaz Bedene of Slovenia 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 to enter third round while 14th seed Gael Monfils crashed out losing 0-6, 6-2, 4-6, 3-6 to Mikael Ymer of Sweden in the second

Earlier late Wednesday night, second seed Daniil Medvedev defeated American Tommy Paul 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 to enter third round. The 25-year-old will play American Reilly Opelka for a place in the fourth round.

In other matches on the day, fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas and sixth seed Alexander Zverev progressed to third round with straight-set wins. Tsitsipas beat Pedro Martinez 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 while Zverev overcame Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin 7-6(7-4), 6-3, 7-6(7-1).



Conway breaks Ganguly's 25-yr record at the Lord's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 3: New Zealand Devon Conway has broker former India captain Sourav Ganguly's 25-year-old record of registering the highest Test score on debut at Lord's when he went past the stylish southpaw's 131 during the first Test against England.

Conway, who is also a left-handed batsman, remained unbeaten 136 as New Zealand finished the first day at a solid 246/3. With his opening day exploits, the South Africanborn 29-year-old became the sixth cricketer to hit a hundred on debut at the iconic venue.

Ganguly, who is now the BCCI president, had scored 131 on his Test debut at what is referred to as the Mecca of cricket in 1996. Interestingly, both Conway and Ganguly share their birthday - July 8 - but are separated by nearly 20 years in age.

Speaking to Sky Sports at the end of the day's play, Conway said, "I'll have some time to let that settle in. The job's not done but I'm very happy. I had a conversation with (skipper) Kane (Williamson) a couple of days ago and asked him what it feels like to go on that honours board; the first thing he said to me was: now you're on it, boy.'

With his century, Conway became only the third non-English batsman to score a century on Test debut at Lord's. Australian batsman Harry Graham had scored 107 against England on his debut in 1893.



ROBINSON APOLOGISES FOR ABUSIVE TWEETS

LONDON: For Ollie Robinson, the day should have been all about the joy of taking two wickets on his test debut for England at Lord's. Instead, he'll remember the biggest moment of his cricket career for the wrong reasons. Soon after stumps on Day 1 of the first Test against New Zealand, the 27-yearold fast bowler was close to tears as he apologized for a string of sexist and racist messages that he posted on Twitter from 2012-14 and which surfaced over social media while the game was being played. "I deeply regret my actions, and I am ashamed of making such remarks," Robinson said in a statement. "I was thoughtless and irresponsible, and regardless of my state of mind at the time, my actions were inexcusable." Robinson said the tweets were sent during a tough period in his life after he'd been fired by English county Yorkshire as a teenager. "I didn't know they were still there," he told a news conference. "I just want to apologize to everyone. I regret it hugely." The old tweets were shared online while he was on the field at the home of cricket. "Today should be about my efforts on the field and the pride of making my test debut for England, but my thoughtless behavior in the past has tarnished this," Robinson said.



SPORTS MINISTER RIJIJU UNVEILS OFFICIAL OLYMPICS KITS FOR INDIA

190-strong contingent likely for Tokyo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: The Indian contingent for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics is expected to be around 190, including over 100 athletes. IOA president Narinder Batra said Thursday as Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju unveiled the official kits for the country's participants.

So far, 100 athletes have qualified for the Tokyo Games, including 56 men and 44 women. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) expects another 25 to 35 to make the cut for the Games, which open July 23.

"We are estimating to touch 125 to 135 (qualified athletes) by the next two to three weeks when the qualification process is over," Batra said during the online ceremony which also marked 50 days to the Games. "This means the Indian contingent, including officials and support staff, is likely to be around 190," he added. The number of officials cannot be more than onethird of the athlete group as per the $\,$ Sports Ministry rules. The ministry can, however, allow additional officials at no cost to the government.

Batra also reiterated that India's



Kiren Rijiju (centre right) and Narinder Batra pose with the unveiled Indian Olympics kits, Thursday

medal haul can touch the doubledigit mark in Tokyo, which will be an unprecedented achievement. India's best medal haul came in the 2012 London Olympics, where the country snared six medals, including two silver and four bronze.

IOA chief said that all the athletes who have qualified for the Olympics have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine except for a few who have recently contracted the virus.

He requested Rijiju to ensure

that all the Indian athletes are fully vaccinated before they head to Tokyo. "The IOC will issue a Playbook (latest version) this month but there will be only minor changes (from earlier version). We have to follow all the health and safety protocols in view of the pandemic."

Unveiling the official kits of the Indian contingent, Rijiju said the whole country is behind the athletes. "Olympics is the platform where the best in the world will compete. I hope our athletes will make their

best effort and make the country proud by winning medals," he said. "Today, the Prime Minister took

a review of the country's preparation for the Olympics and assured the participating athletes that the entire country is behind them," he added. He said his ministry has pro-

vided all kinds of support - financial and logistical - to the athletes amid the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The official kits are sponsored by Li Ning while the official ceremonial kits are sponsored by Raymonds. "We could have organised a big event to mark the occasion but for this pandemic...' the minister lamented.

IOA Secretary General Rajiv Mehta said that four sets of official kits will be given to each athlete and more than 100 kits have been kept

aside as contingency.
Six Olympic-bound athletes, including Neeraj Chopra, Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya, Sumit Malik and Seema Bisla, were present. Chef de Mission of the Indian contingent B P Baishya and his deputy Prem Chand Verma were also present.

Indian teams land in England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 3: The Indian men's cricket team arrived here on Thursday for the upcoming World Test Championship final against New Zealand and the subsequent Test series versus hosts England.

The men's team was accompanied by the women's side which is touring England for three ODIs and as many T20s besides the one-off Test, starting in Bristol on June 16.

"Touchdown," top-order batsman KL Rahul tweeted with a picture of the chartered flight in the background, confirming their safe arrival in London.

Both the teams will now travel to Southampton, where they will complete their mandatory quarantine. Upon completion of the quarantine period and subsequent COVID-19 test, the Virat Kohli-led men's team will take on New



Zealand in the maiden WTC final starting here from June 18.

Following the WTC final, the men's team will face England in a five-match Test series starting August 4 in Nottingham.

India are travelling with an extended 20-member squad for WTC final and subsequent series against England keeping the COVID-19 pandemic in mind. The women's team's tour ends July 15.

VIDIT QUALIFIES FOR CHESS WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 3: India No.3 Vidit Gujrathi has qualified for the FIDE chess World Cup 2021, to be held in Sochi, Russia from July 10 on the basis of his rating. With this, Grandmaster Gujrathi becomes the fourth Indian man to qualify for the upcoming World Cup, a press release said Thursday.

The Nashik-based player joins Grandmasters P Harikrishna, Aravindh Chidambaram and P Iniyan as the Indian men to have qualified for the World Cup. Meanwhile, Koneru Humpy, D Harika, Bhakti Kulkarni, R Vaishali and Padmini Rout have qualified for the women's event at the World Cup.

This will be Gujrathi's third World Cup appearance, having previously featured in 2017 and 2019. The Indian said he is confident of putting up a nice show in the tournament.

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