



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, sir. The worry is not about slow speed in vaccination. See, my family is in the US!

Lioness dies of Covid

CHENNAI: A lioness has died of coronavirus while nine others in the pride have tested positive for the virus at the zoo near here. 'Neela' succumbed to the virus Thursday while nine others of the 11 in the zoo tested positive, said the officials of the Arignar Anna Zoological Park at Vandalur. The zoo has remained closed with the COVID-19 enforced lockdown. Recently, eight lions at the Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad had tested positive for the virus.

Crippling vax crunch

STATE GETS TWO BIDS FOR SUPPLY OF VACCINE; SHORTAGE HITS INOCULATION OF 18-44 AGE GROUP IN BHUBANESWAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The global e-tender floated by the Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd (OSMCL) for procurement of vaccines received two bids Friday.

However, the government did not reveal the names of the two bidders. "They are under evaluation," said Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Pradipta Mohapatra.

Earlier, Health Minister Naba Kishore Das had informed that neither Serum Institute of India (SII) nor Bharat Biotech participated in the bidding process. On the other hand, the state government has admitted that no global player is showing any interest to deal with the state. In view of the challenges faced by the states, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had written to his counterparts for a consensus on centralised procurement of vaccines. The global tender was floated May 14. Following poor response, the last date of the tender was extended and the government also relaxed the terms and condition. Now, the price bid, which was scheduled to open June 4, has been rescheduled for June 9. This indicates the government is running after the vaccine manufacturers to get supplies. Meanwhile, the actuate shortage of vaccines has hit hard the inoculation



The vaccination centre at Capital Hospital wears a deserted look, Friday.

of the 18-44 age group. The state government doesn't have sufficient stock of Covaxin to continue the ongoing vaccination programme in the capital

In Bhubaneswar, the vaccination drive for 18-44 age group was conducted at only four government facilities Friday and only 390 people were inoculated. The state is having only 2440 Covaxin doses for the same group in its quota that will not last for even a day, official sources said.

However, the state is having enough stock of Covaxin under Central govOP PHOTO

ernment quota for vaccination of 45 years and above. But, despite the state government's request, the Centre has not allowed the state to use the vaccine to continue the drive for 18-44. The government is eying to receive about 1.60 lakh Covaxin doses in June, which will be used only for second dose, said state vaccination in-charge Bijay Panigrahy. "We don't have suf-ficient vaccine for inoculation of 18-44 age group in Bhubaneswar. We will receive around 26,000 doses of Covaxin by June 7 and another 1.34 lakh in a

> Choksi slips away from India's clutches again

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 4: After a Dominican High Court adjourned the hearing in fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi's case, the eight member team of CBI, ED and MEA are now en route to India, without the diamond ieweller who duped millions in the PNB multicrore fraud.

The next hearing has been



State cancels **Plus II exams**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The state government Friday announced the cancellation of the Plus II board examinations conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE).

Making the announcement, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said the safety of students is more important than examinations. The state government has already cancelled the Class X board examination. Noting that the second wave of the pandemic has created an unprecedented situation across the country. Patnaik said the prevailing condition has severely affected studies of children. "However, protection of stu-

Patnaik said. If the examinations were held, it could have risked the lives of students, teachers, guardians and others associated with the process, he added. 'Well-defined objective criteria will be made to evaluate the standard of students," Patnaik said, asking the authorities to fix the criteria in a time-bound

dents' lives is above all the

is the possibility of society

and civilisation to move

forward. If there is no life,

nothing can be achieved,"

"If there is life, then there

examinations," he said.

manner. However, if anyone has any objection towards the state government's criteria, he or she may appear in the examinations, he said.

3,000 MP docs resign in protest against govt

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Bhopal, June 4: About 3000 resident doctors have resigned after the division bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court declared their statewide strike as 'illegal' and

told Orissa POST. "The stipend given to the MBBS interns and PG students in MP is among the lowest in the country while the working hours are almost three times the normal routine hours.

FUEL PRICES AT HISTORIC HIGHS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 4: After Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, petrol price has crossed the ₹100-perlitre mark in Leh, in almost all districts of Andhra Pradesh and parts of Telangana after fuel prices were again hiked Friday.

From 10.5% to 9.5%: RBI slashes growth forecast

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 4: The Reserve Bank of India Friday lowered the country's growth forecast for the current financial year by a percentage point to 9.5 per cent in view of the uncertainties created by the second wave of





dose. But, inoculation of new beneficiaries may have issues," Panigarhy told Orissa POST.

mission to the Serum Institute of India

to manufacture the Sputnik COVID-19

vaccine in India for examination, test

and analysis with certain conditions,

official sources said Friday. The Pune-

Moscow for developing Sputnik V at its

phased manner. So there will not be

any major problem to provide second

MORE P8

based firm has collaborated with

Gamaleva Research Institute of

Epidemiology and Microbiology,

licensed Hadapsar facility.

Scientists Forum (PMSF)

MARKET WATCH					
IN	DEX	VARIATION			
RSES	SENSEX	52100.05	₽	132.38	
BOU	NIFTY	15670.300	₽	20.10	
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	73.16		₹0.05	
CURR	EURO	88.66	₽	₹0.48	
ION	GOLD	₹49,040		₹363	
BULLION	SILVER	₹71,550	1	₹740	

WEATH	ER		
	BHUB	СТК	
MAX	37.4℃	36.8°(47.6
[⊭] min	27.0℃	26.5°C	- Forecast
Humidity	67%	65%	Light rain
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	very likely

Petrol price was increased by 27 paise per litre and diesel by 28 paise

CITY FU	JEL PRICES
PETROL	₹95.95 (+0.27)
DIESEL	₹93.40 (+0.31)

a litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. The hike - 18th in the last one month - took fuel prices across the country to a historic high.

In Delhi, petrol hit an all-time high of ₹ 94.76 a litre, while diesel is now priced at ₹85.66 per litre. In 18 increases, petrol price has risen by ₹ 4.36 per litre and diesel by ₹4.93 a litre. Rates are at the highest in the country in Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan where petrol comes for ₹105.81 a litre and diesel for ₹98.64 per litre. Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district has petrol priced at ₹105.18 a litre and diesel at ₹96.31.

the coronavirus pandemic.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that taking several factors into consideration, "real GDP growth is now projected at 9.5 per cent in 2021-22 consisting of 18.5 per cent in Q1; 7.9 per cent in Q2; 7.2 per cent in Q3; and 6.6 per cent in Q4 of 2021-22.

He was addressing the media after the meeting of the rate-setting panel -- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The Reserve Bank had earlier projected a growth rate of 10.5 per cent for 2021-22.

Das noted that since the MPC's April meeting, the second wave of COVID-19 has surged across several states and has spread into smaller towns and villages, leaving a trail of human misery and tragedy.

As per the provisional estimates of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) May 31, 2021, India's real gross domestic product (GDP) contracted at 7.3 per cent for 2020-21, with GDP growth in the January-March quarter at 1.6 per cent



(year-on-year). The Governor said the sudden rise in COVID-19 infections and fatalities has impaired the nascent recovery that was underway, but has not snuffed it out.

The MPC also decided to keep the policy rate at its current level of 4 per cent and to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward. Among other measures, the RBI Friday announced a ₹50,000 crore fresh support to All India Financial Institutions, including SIDBI, for new lending in 2021-22, to nurture the still nascent growth impulses and ensure continued flow of credit to the economy. MORE P11 journed in the matter to June 14. According to agencies sources, the private Qatar jet left from Dominica Thursday along with the eight member team of the CBI, ED, MEA and two CRPF commandos.

The team of Indian officials had landed in Dominica Saturday with a set of documents relating to the case of Choksi.

Thursday, Dominican High Court Judge Bernie Stephenson adjourned the habeas corpus hearing of Choksi, who is wanted in India in the ₹13.500 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case.

According to Antigua News Room, a news outlet based in the Caribbean island, it was adjourned to allow lawyers for Choksi and the Dominican government to agree on the language to be used with respect to the injunction filed to prevent his removal from Dominica. It said that both parties are expected to meet to discuss the matter and to inform the judge, who will set a new court date.

ordered them to resume work within 24 hours.

The move comes after the pending demands of the COVID warriors were not fulfilled by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in the state. The junior doctors had been demanding free treatment for the family members of doctors who are working in vulnerable

hospital setups, rise in their stipends among other things. "At the peak of the pan-

demic, the Madhya Pradesh government shunted around 450 doctors for raising their voice for their legitimate demands. This comes at a time when the doctors are working in extremely vulnerable setups with high exposure to the virus," Dr Harjit Singh Bhatti, National President of Progressive Medicos and



According to Dr Bhatti, the MP government also charges one of the highest fees for MBBS courses compared to other state government medical colleges. "Many doctors in MP are subjected to mental and physical trauma but they remain mum just to complete their degree courses. They know very well that when they speak up against the system, they are likely to face its wrath and their degrees could also be in trouble." he said.

As green cover dips, human-animal conflict spurts

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The loss of green cover in Odisha over the last few years is well documented in government records. Several forest lands have now been diverted for mining projects, felled for road expansion and other infrastructure development projects.

With the consistent loss of green cover, the cases of human-animal conflicts also seem to have grown. According to the latest available data from the department of forest and environment, a total of 836 animals died in the state between 2015 and 2020 due to human-animal conflicts. These included 360 elephants alone.

While 102 people were killed in such conflicts in 2015, the numbers touched 126 in 2020. Wild boars, bears, deer, and other animals had been victims of such clashes in the state over the last few years, as per government records.



According to the written data submitted by Environment and Forest Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha in the last Budget Session of Odisha Assembly, a total of 1.85 crore trees were felled for expansion of roads alone since 2011.

Several mining projects have also led to loss of large green patches in the state. According to the project documents of the Talabira I and II coal mines in Sambalpur district, the government had

planned to fell more than 1.30 lakh trees while several of them have already been cut down despite opposition from the local community.

The government data also claimed that in the mining district of Keonjhar, 10,451 hectares of forest land have been diverted for 64 mining projects over the last 39 years.

Environmentalists and experts claim that the rise is cases of humananimal conflicts are a result of gov-

ernment intrusion into animal space. "Several projects in the state come over proposed elephant corridors which have not yet been notified despite directions from courts and tribunals. As their paths have not been legally defined, it becomes easier for the government to use such lands for development projects and it paves the way

ORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

for more conflicts. In case these are notified, they get the status of protected lands," said Sankar Prasad Pani, lawyer with the National Green Tribunal.

Others have questioned the ways the government adopts to declare the causes of deaths of animals like elephants. Biswajit Mohanty, an environmentalist who has been tracking elephant deaths in Odisha through his outfit, claims that several jumbo deaths in the state are often attributed to anthrax or other diseases.

"The process of declaration of the

cause of jumbo deaths should be as tight as tiger deaths where independent experts and expert panels are roped in to maintain transparency otherwise the government could attribute several conflict deaths of elephants to other causes," he said.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Sasmita Lenka said besides elephants many other animals like pangolins are victims of poaching and smuggling. Lenka however said that with some government interventions like seedballs and other ways, forest department in some areas like Athagarh Forest Range tried to minimise animals venturing into human habitations.

Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) HS Upadhyay told this reporter that another issue in the local environment leading to the disrupted food chain in the wildlife is the lack of predators which has resulted in an exponential rise in the population of MORE P5 species like wild boars.

NO PARADISE THIS



Birds perch on a pile of garbage at a dumping site, on the eve of World Environment Day, at Ghazipur in New Delhi, Friday PTI PHOTO











KATIE PRICE UNDERGOES TREATMENT TO MAKE DERRIERE SMALLER

Former glamour model and singer Katie Price has shared that she is undergoing fat dissolving treatment to make her derriere smaller. Price shared the news in a YouTube video that she had undergone two colonic irrigations before beginning her fatdissolving treatment, reports femalefirt.co.uk.

DREAM GIRL FAME ACTOR RYINKU NIKUMBH SUCCUMBS TO COVID

Actress Ryinku Singh Nikumbh, who featured in the 2019 Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer Dream Girl and Hello Charlie earlier this year, is dead. She was battling Covid over the past few days and was admitted to ICU. Rvinku's childhood friend Darshana posted on Facebook.



FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 🎑 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

The yogis have finally succeeded in impressing you. Was it a stint in a Art of Living course? Ganesha gives you the thumbs-up and suggests you join that music or dance class you have been wanting to. Generally a nice day, and success is on the cards.

TAURUS

Ganesha sees you in a very romantic mood today. Your thoughts, tender and dreamy, will keep drifting towards some

one special; someone of the opposite sex. Come evening and you will, in all likeli hood, be sitting closely together, arm in arm, with your spouse or your sweetheart.

GEMINI

Maintaining the image you have created in the minds of people, as well as upholding your reputation in society will give you some anxious moments today. You will work hard to improve you social standing, and will get results by the end of the day.

CANCER Ganesha advises you to

watch your back today. However, he wants to make it clear that you may be at the receiving end of others' actions. Anyway, your cau-tious and watchful approach will save you from needless discomfiture. In short, life

will teach you priceless and precious lessons today, predicts Ganesha.

On some days, the sun doesn't seem to have risen from the east, and neither does it seem you have gotten up on the right side of the bed. You start your day in a tensed atmosphere in the morning, caused by some annoyance on the part of one of your family members.

VIRGO

The artist, the comedian and the showman in you are all set to take the floor today. Entertain people and set the evening ablaze with your arsenal of jokes and gags, says Ganesha. But save valuable time and energy for other pressing matters and responsibilities too



KAJAL SIGNS NEW FILM UMA

Mumbai: Actress Kajal Aggarwal will play the female protagonist in a new film titled Uma.

"I look forward to commencing shoot as soon as the situation around us gets better: I'm always keen to give a green signal to scripts that are fun, entertaining yet challenging for me as an actor. I'm excited to share Uma with all of you!" said Kajal.

The film is directed by Tathagata Singha and produced by Avishek Ghosh. Uma is slated to be shot in a startto-finish schedule in the se cond half of 2021 keeping all

Covid-19 protocols in consideration. The other cast members

are going to be revealed soon.

Tiger shares 'failed hero shots'

Mumbai: Even a machoman can buckle under extreme conditions, ask Tiger Shroff. The action star, with a dash of candid humour, posted a couple of video clips on Instagram where he struggles to pull off stunt sequences that depict him as the infallible hero on screen.

In the first clip, a shirtless Tiger struggles to stand straight and look intensely at approaching helicopters, owing to storm fans that are operating on the set. In the second, he fumbles while trying to tear off his shirt amidst sub-zero temperature. Both videos seem to be

from the Baaghi franchise of films. "A couple of hero shot 'fails' in 1 i couldnt stand firmly in one place with a heroic pose as i look on at the choppers cause of the intense storm fans...and two couldn't even rip my shirt off cos it was so cold (-7) either that or im just a weakling making excuses," wrote Tiger, with his post.

Tiger's mother Ayesha Shroff dropped as many as eight red heart emojis. The actor completed seven years in the Hindi filmdom in May. Tiger stepped into films with the 2014 release Heropanti. His notable films include the Baaghi. Student Of The Year 2 and War. His upcoming slate of work includes Heropanti2 and Ganapath. IANS

Alia posts then and now pictures

> Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt Friday shared two pictures on social media, which has melted the hearts of many

Alia posted two pictures on Instagram. The first has her dressed in a vellow co-ord with daffodil prints and a hat. The second picture is from her childhood. In both the photographs, she sits on the beach.

"Because no matter who we are," Alia wrote as caption, with an emoji of cloudy sky with sun. Alia's friends from the industry could not stop gushing over the photographs in the

comment section. Actress Jacqueline Fernandez

wrote: 'Awww' Writer-filmmaker Tahira Kashyap dropped a few heart emojis.

Alia's mother and actress Soni Razdan said: 'Awww baby'.

The actress will soon be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Gangubai Kathiawadi. She will also be seen in Ayan Mukerji's adventure Brahmastra, Baahubali director SS Rajamouli's RRR and Karan Johar's multistarrer Takht.

She is all set to turn producer, too, with Darlings, a mother-daughter drama that features herself alongside Shefali Shah. Alia co-produces the film with Shah Rukh Khan.

Yami ties the knot with Uri director Aditya Dhar

Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam announced Friday that she has tied the knot with *Uri* director Aditva Dhar in a private ceremony.

The wedding took place Friday. Yami shared a picture from their wedding venue and said they were both private people and preferred to get married in presence of family and close friends. "In your light. I learn to love — Rumi'. With the blessings of our family,

we have tied the knot in an intimate wedding ceremony today. Being very private people, we celebrated this joyous occasion with our immediate family. As we embark on the journey of love and friendship, we seek all your blessings and good wishes, Love, Yami and Aditya," Yami said in an Instagram post, Among colleagues who greeted Yami were Vaani Kapoor, Jacqueline Fernandez and Dia Mirza. IANS



Ganesha says that if you wish to gain success you need to first leave your ego behind. Only then will you be able to stride ahead on the path to progress.

SCORPIO

You are in a mood of introspection and analysis, says Ganesha. This is likely to give you a clear vision in the days to come. Your systematic approach towards work will provide you room to think out of the box. Your innovative ideas may bag applause from superiors and bosses.

SAGITTARIUS

Begin your day with a renewed zest. Consider a jump case of lucrative offer Cracking a telephonic interview may prove to be a milestone in your career path. Your dedication and determination towards your work and goals makes you a deserving employee, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Things may just fall in to your lap today. You will help those in need but will get extremely upset when the out come is not as per your expectations, feels Ganesha. It is not an encouraging sight and it will affect your confidence adversely. But, you are over-reacting, as these disappoint ments are not as big as they seem

You want to spread peace and joy all around, and today you may achieve that. You, however, may have to sacrifice your own preferences and interests to ensure that the problems get solved. If is a noble thing to play the role of peace maker, but people may take you for granted, feels Ganesha.

PISCES

Today your professional and love life will cause worry. You will want to be emotion ally balanced but you may not find the time to sort things out. Long sightedness and open discussions will help resolve matters easily







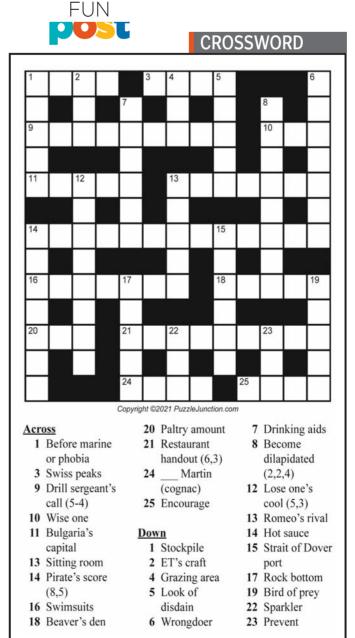
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY

PEANUTS





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



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.

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

SOLUTIONS TRIPEPLUME CROSSWOR А IRISHSETTER κ APE POLA K I A U E X C I T E D N A ULCER OLD 4 9 5 8 7 1 2 6 7

2

8

6

4

9

5

SUDOKU

				9				
5	6	4	1	2	8	3	9	/k
7	5	8	4	1	6	9	3	- m
3	1	9	5	6	2	4	7	
9	4	2	7	3	5	1	8	
6	8	1	3	5	9	7	2	6
1	7	6	2	4	3	8	5	t
2	3	7	9	8	4	6	1	



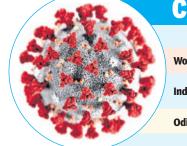


downtown



SUMMER RITUAL

Chandan Yatra of Srimandir deities underway at Narendra pond in Puri, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	17,30,97,697	15,58,47,116	37,21,007
lia	2,85,74,350	2,65,97,655	3,40,702
isha	7,98,699	7,24,402	2,912

Plus II students unsure about evaluation criteria

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Even as the fate of CHSE Plus II exams went CBSE way Friday, the students are now unsure about the evaluation system to be adopted for the final results as no exam was held last year.

Divya Acharya, a Plus II student, said that she supports the cancellation of exams for now but she would not accept average marking system as she had work hard for two years.

Nikhil Pradhan, another Class XII student, said that the government had put us in confusion by not deciding on the marking system. "However, I am happy that the exam will not be conducted now as the situation isn't good for holding exams in physical mode," said Pradhan.

Prabodh Panda, an educationist, said instead of cancelling the exams, government could have waited for a few more months or could have done exam online or through OMR sheets. The state government followed the path of the Central government after Prime Minister Narendra Modi cancelled Class XII exams Tuesday. Earlier, April 21, 2021 the Chief Minister had cancelled the Class X exams.

Duped investors can now submit claim pleas online

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari Friday launched a website on virtual mode for inviting online claim applications from duped depositors of fraudulent financial establishments.

The website www.opid.odisha.gov.in, was launched in the presence of Finance department secretary Ashok Meena and other senior officials, sources said.

Now, the duped depositors will no more be required to approach the tehsil offices for submission of their claim applications. They can submit the same either from their home or through Mo Seva Kendras, sources added.

The newly-launched website will be convenient not only for receiving claim applications but also for their quick processing. To start with, online claim applications

NGT forms panel to dig deep into Subarnarekha sand mining

A TWO-JUDGE BENCH OF THE TRIBUNAL COMPRISING JUDICIAL MEMBER B AMIT STHALEKAR AND EXPERT MEMBER SAIBAL DASGUPTA DIRECTED THE COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT ITS REPORT WITHIN FOUR WEEKS WITH REGARD TO ILLEGAL SAND MINING IN SUBARNAREKHA RIVER

THE PANEL WAS DIRECTED THE NGT ORDER CAME IN RESPONSE TO A TO DETECT IF MINING IS PETITION FILED BY SARAL KUMAR PARIDA **BEING CARRIED OUT IN** ALLEGING THAT SAND MINING IN EXCESS OF THE PLAN AND SUBARNAREKHA RIVER WAS IN VIOLATION THE CONSEQUENT OF THE CONSENT TO OPERATE LOSSES, IF ANY, TO THE CONDITIONS AND SUSTAINABLE SAND STATE EXCHEQUER MINING GUIDELINES OF 2016 AND 2020

POST NEWS NETWORK

A two-judge bench of the tribunal comprising Judicial Member B Amit Sthalekar and expert mem-New Delhi, June 4: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has conber Saibal Dasgupta directed the stituted a four-member commitcommittee to submit its report tee to investigate the alleged illegal within four weeks with regard to sand mining on Subarnarekha illegal sand mining in the river as riverbed in Balasore district. well as division of river and construction of sand bars/bandhs/di versions or roads in the river and other violations as alleged by the petitioner.

The committee, comprising Balasore District Magistrate/Collector, state **Environment Impact Assessment** Authority (SEIAA) member secretary, senior scientist of Odisha State Pollution Control Board, and mining officer, Baripada Circle, was also directed to detect if mining is being carried out in excess of the plan and the consequent losses, if any, to the state exchequer.

The tribunal asked the SEIAA to act as the nodal office for all logistic purposes.

Asserting that the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) should be the necessary party to the matter, the tribunal directed the applicant to implead the secretary of MoEF&CC in the application.

Significantly, the NGT order came in response to a petition filed by Saral Kumar Parida alleging that sand mining in Subarnarekha river was in violation of the consent to operate conditions and Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines of 2016 and 2020.

He submitted in the application that five machines (excavators) were being used for mining purposes in the river whereas only manual mining was permitted.

He also claimed that the mining was happening in excess of the permissible 8 cubic metre per dav and is also obstructing free flow of river water by creating artificial sand bars/diversions and approach roads in the river.

NOT GIVING A FIG..



Rasulgarh-Kalpana Square road in Bhubaneswar witnesses huge traffic even though the city was under Covid-induced lockdown. Friday

Jharsuguda addl tehsildar in soup for thrashing vendor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: More trouble seems to have mounted for the woman additional tehsildar of Jharsuguda who was recently caught assaulting an elderly fruit vendor and his minor family member as two separate petitions were filed in OHRC and NHRC, Friday.

The lady officer, Jogita Tirkey, currently holds the post of additional tehsildar of Jharsuguda.

Rights activist Pradipta Kumar Nayak has filed a petition before the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) while another activist Himanshu Sekhar Navak has lodged a petition with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Petitions have been filed in OHRC and NHRC seeking ₹5 lakh compensation for the elderly vendor

over the issue.

They have sought Rs 5 lakh compensation for the victim and stringent action against the lady tehsildar following an independent enquiry in this regard.

"She (Tirkey) may be immediately suspended from her duty as one Collector had been suspended due to a similar act in Chhattisgarh just a few days before," applicant Pradipta Nayak pleaded before the OHRC Notably, the tehsildar Wednesday thrashed the old man and his minor

grandson, who were running a watermelon shop at Bombay square in Jharsuguda town, mercilessly in full public view. The only 'crime' of the elderly

victim was that he made a few min-

utes' delay in closing his makeshift shop during the lockdown that day. This act of the elderly man infuriated the lady officer who allegedly assaulted him and one of his family members with a wooden stick.

The tehsildar later received flak from several quarters after the video of her beating the duo went viral on social media within a few hours.

ବିଶ୍ୱଦ ପାହାୟ ଜନ ବେହ୍ର, ଖରିଗୋଏ

Wait over as 2nd dose vax drive for 18+ starts June 8

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; June 4: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Friday, stated that it will be launching a special drive June 8 to administer the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine to beneficiaries in the age group of 18 to 44 years.

BMC Additional Commissioner, Laxmikant Sethi, said that the two-day

Vax for homeless begins In an aim to inoculate the vulnerable sections of the society, the BMC, Friday, launched vaccina-

tion camps for homeless at its shelter for urban homeless (SUH). The camps which were organised at the SUHs located at Unit-VI (Ganga Nagar), Ashok Nagar and Nildari Vihar saw about 50 people getting the vaccines. The vaccination

drive included only the first dose to people above



are invited from the depositors of Hi-Tech Estates and Promoters Private Limited and M/s Rajdhani System and Estate Private Limited. These depositors had invested money in Kalyan Vihar, Kalyan Vihar Phase-II, Bhagya Nagar, Kunja Vihar and Pushpanjali Enclave schemes of the companies to get land or plots.

However, the depositors were allegedly defrauded by the companies, sources said.

drive will start June 8 at all the vaccination centres in the city.

"Those who had taken the first dose May 3, 4 and 5 will be administered the second dose during the special drive starting from next week. We will intimate the beneficiaries who had taken the first dose through mobilisation centres about the second dose dates. The beneficiaries will have to take the second dose at the same centres where they were administered the first dose," Sethi said.

Similarly, those who had taken the first

45 years. It may be noted that there are five other such SUHs functioning under the BMC at Bhimpur, Mali Sahi, Baramunda, Kharabela Nagar and Ghatikia for the homeless.

dose after booking slots through CoWIN portal will have to book slots for the second dose. Meanwhile, clearing the air about vaccinating journalists, Sethi said that a special drive will also be launched soon to administer the second dose at Unit-VI Girls High School.

RAILWAYS' STRIVE FOR ZERO CARBON EMITTER TAG BY '30



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The Indian Railways, including the East Coast Railway (ECoR), has launched various initiatives for containing environmental pollution.

The Indian Railways is on a mission to become the largest 'green railways' in the world. It is now moving towards becoming zero carbon emitter by 2030, ECoR sources said.

Apart from provision of bio-toilets in trains, plastic bottle crushing machines at important stations and regular cleanliness drives in trains and station premises, the ECoR is now gearing up for ecosystem restoration.

The ECoR has taken measures for pollution control at railway sidings under its jurisdiction. The measures include provision of boundary walls, water sprinklers to protect dust, drainage system and effluent treatment plants, sources added.

This apart, automatic coach washing plants have been set up at Puri and Visakhapatnam coaching depots. The plants utilise less water in comparison with manual washing. At least nine effluent treatment plants (ETPs) have also been set up at coaching depots in Puri, Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam along with carriage repair workshop at Mancheswar and also at divisional hospitals at Khurda

Apart from provision of bio-toilets in trains, plastic bottle crushing machines at important stations and regular cleanliness drives in trains and station premises, the ECoR is now gearing up for ecosystem restoration

The ECoR has The measures include taken measures provision of boundary for pollution walls, water sprinklers to control at railway protect dust, drainage sidings under its system and effluent iurisdiction treatment plants

Road and central hospital at Mancheswar, ECoR sources said. Pole hanging twin dustbins have been put up at various railway stations as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Moreover, nine sewage treatment plants (STPs) have been installed at various places under ECoR jurisdiction. Rainwater harvesting pits have also been constructed in more than 100 places during last four years to improve groundwater level.

The ECoR authorities have constructed compost plants at Sambalpur, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and Rayagada railway stations. This apart, automatic sanitary napkin vending machines have been installed at major stations.

The ECoR is also focusing on solar energy for reducing carbon emission. It has commissioned rooftop solar plants at various buildings and railway stations.

DEFINING A NEW PRESENT ENVISAGING A RENEWED FUTURE

PARADEEP PHOSPHATES LIMITED

www.paradeepphosphates.com





downtown/state

State sees dip in fresh Covid cases, fatalities

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Odisha witnessed a slump in daily Covid cases and fatalities as the coastal state reported 7,729 fresh infections in the past 24 hours, taking the tally to 7,98,699 and 39 more deaths, pushing the toll to 2,912, a Health official said Friday.

The state last saw below 8,000 daily infections May 28-7,188 cases. Odisha had last reported less than 40 deaths June 1—37 fatalities.

Of the new infections, 4,331 were detected at the quarantine centres and the rest 3,398 were local contact cases.

Khurda district, which encompasses the capital city of Bhubaneswar, reported the highest 1,062 new infections, followed by Cuttack (720), Angul (449) Balasore (426), Mayurbhanj (442) and Puri (333).

Khurda also reported the highest number of fatalities at six. Angul, Kalahandi, Jharsuguda, Rayagada and Sundargarh reported three deaths each, while two persons each died in Boudh, Deogarh, Cuttack, Gajapati, Ganjam and Puri. On Thursday the state tested 68.604 samples for Covid-19. Odisha's positivity rate now stands at 11.26 per cent.

At least seven of the 30 districts have less than 1000 active cases of Covid-19. Khurda has 11,470 active cases, the highest in the state, while Nuapada district has the lowest

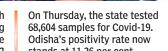


Odisha reported 7,729 fresh infections in the past 24 hours, taking the tally to 7.98.699 and 39 more deaths, pushing the toll to 2,912

number of 412 active cases.

The Health department, on the other hand, said that 5 per cent of the general and ICU beds at the hospitals will be reserved for Covid treatment of the healthcare workers, doctors and their family members.

The department has also asked hospitals to screen all the patients with suspected Covid symptoms through Rapid Antigen Tests while availing IPD and OPD services. The decision was taken to ensure appropriate precaution at the right



wave of the pandemic. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

received Rs 41 crore on Covid.

stands at 11.26 per cent

time so that the healthcare system remains free from the coronavirus infection, a notification said, adding that it will help maintaining preparedness for the possible third

has, meanwhile, sanctioned Rs 15 crore from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to Cuttack Municipal Corporation to further strengthen the Covid management. With the additional release of funds, Cuttack Municipal Corporation has so far

Young couple found hanging from tree

PNN/AGENCIES

Baripada, June 4: In a shocking incident, a young couple was found hanging from a tree near Dhanasola village under Rasagovindapur police limits in Mayurbhanj district Friday.

The deceased have been identified as Baula Singh and Sima Singh of Darakholi village under the same Rasagovindapur police limits. Sources said that some local residents spotted the bodies hanging from the same rope.

As the news spread, family members of the deceased reached the spot and identified the bodies as those of Baula and Sima.

On getting information from the villagers, a team from Rasagovindapur police station reached the spot. They brought the bodies down and sent them for postmortem.



Congress leaders hold a demonstration in front of the Governor's House in Bhubaneswar. Friday, seeking free vaccination for the people

Quack-run illegal clinics rile Kendrapara locals

TWO PEOPLE HAVE DIED AFTER TAKING MEDICINES PRESCRIBED BY THE FAKE DOCTORS. CLAIM LOCALS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpara, June 4: Unauthorised and illegal clinics run by quacks are blossoming in several coastal villages under Mahakalpara block of Kendrapara district. Locals Friday blamed these quack-run clinics for the death of two persons. Sources said most of these clinics are operating at a local market near Milan Square bordering Sunti and Kansar Badadandua panchayats.

A man from Pankapal village suffering from fever was brought

Garima in hand, WATCO hones

skills of sanitation workers

to one of such clinics here at the Benakandha market for treatment. The quack present at the clinic administered some medicines and four bottles of saline. When the condition of the man did not improve, his relatives took him to the Kendrapara district headquarters hospital (DHH). However, he was declared brought dead on arrival. Similarly, another man down

with fever from Ramnagar village was taken to one such clinic at Pitapata area two days ago. He was prescribed medicines by the 'doctor' in the clinic. However, the man Most of these clinics are functioning in villages that have a large number of Bangladeshi refugees

died within a couple of days of visiting the clinic. Locals said that there are many such clinics which are flourishing especially during the pandemic. They said that some unscrupulous people are taking advantage of the situation.

Most of these clinics are functioning in villages that have a large number of Bangladeshi refugees. Some of these villages are: Batighara, Kharinasi, Ramnagar, Petchhela, Baulakani, Jambu, Sunti, Tantiapal, Babara, Benakandha and Kansar Badadandua. These quacks are allegedly exploiting innocent and illiterate people, some villagers said.

On being contacted, Kendrapara chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Anita Pattnaik said, 'We have got allegations about quacks treating patients in coastal villages. The matter will be investigated and necessary legal actions will be taken against wrongdoers."

State urges Doordarshan to livestream Rath Yatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar. June 4: As uncertainty prevails on whether the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath in Puri this year would be restriction-free, the state government Friday urged the Doordarshan. Odia to livestream the mega event and provide common feed to recommended television channels and web portals free of cost.

The Trinity's annual car festival is schedule to start July 12.

The sibling deities- Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath, will go on a nineday sojourn to Gundicha temple marking beginning of the festival generally attended by lakhs of people from across the globe.

However, the state government in view of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic last year prohibited public participation and arranged live telecast of the event. Though this year, the government is yet to take any decision on whether to put curbs on the festival, the government has adopted

the same strategy of inviting Doordarshan for live telecast of the event.

"Like last year, Director, @dd_odia has been requested for live coverage of Snana Yatra, Gubndicha Yatra, Bahuda Yatra, Suna-Besha & Neeladri-Bije and to provide common feed to recommended electronics media and web media channels free of cost," Information and Public Relations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) has conducted a series of trainings for core sanitation workers and sanitation service providers under 'Garima' scheme in Bhubaneswar, Puri and Cuttack in a phased manner.

The programs were designed to train the participants on the use of various personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety devices that are required for cleaning and maintenance of sewer lines and septic tanks amidst the pandemic.

With an aim to ensure the safety and dignity of core sanitation workers. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had launched Garima September 11, 2020 benefitting around 20,000 sanitation workers and their families.



tend to other cities to improve their skills on hassle-free and safe sanitary cleaning.' Garima aims to provide

With an aim to ensure the safety and dignity of core sanitation workers, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had launched Garima September 11, 2020

demonstrations on the use of equipment. The demonstration of crucial equipment provided an assurance of safety to the workers and

Ore-laden truck mows down 3 in Mayurbhanj

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, June 4: Tension gripped Badadalima village under Tiring police limits in Mayurbhanj district after hundreds of irate villagers Friday staged a road blockade on National Highway-220 over death of three persons late Thursday night. The trio was run over by an iron ore-laden truck.

According to sources, a man and his nephew were washing their hands in front of their house, which is close to the NH, after having their dinner Thursday night Meanwhile, the ore-carrying truck veered towards them and before they could react, it mowed them down before hitting a biker.

While the young boy was killed

on the spot, the injured, including

a biker, were rushed to a nearby hos-

pital where they succumbed. While



loaded the iron ore from the truck on the road itself and staged a blockade

The sources added that top police officials are already on the spot and trying to pacify the agitating locals and persuading them to call off the strike. As per latest reports, the irate villagers vented their anger on some stranded iron ore-loaded trucks and ransacked them. The agitation was on till 5pm.

Woman's suicide bid

Cuttack: A married woman Friday tried to commit suicide by jumping into Mahanadi from Jobra anicut bridge here over a reported marital dispute. According to locals, the woman's husband too jumped into the river to save her. On being informed, fire brigade personnel reached the spot and rescued the couple. "The woman has sustained minor injuries," said a fire brigade official. Sources claimed that the woman is a resident of Kalyannagar area of the city and she had tied the knot with a man from Kendrapara around a year ago.

Covid patient tries to end life at CCC

Cuttack: A Covid patient reportedly tried to commit suicide by stabbing himself at a hospital in Tangi area of Cuttack Friday. The patient, identified as Sukumar Subudhhiray of Choudwar's Debinagar, was admitted to SCB in a critical condition. "Subudhhiray had stabbed himself at a Covid Care Centre (CCC) at Tangi. Our doctors have removed the knife from his neck through a surgery. His condition is stable now," said SCB Emergency Officer Bhubanananda Maharana

department said in a twitter post. Plans are made for live coverage

of Snana Yatra June 24, Gundicha Yatra July 12, Bahuda Yatra (return car festival) July 20, Suna Besha (golden attire) July 21 and Neeladri Bije July 23.

Managing director of WATCO Pradipta Kumar Swain said, "We will complete the training for all registered core sanitation workers and sanitation service providers in Bhubaneswar, Puri and Cuttack soon and will ex-

prehensive package of service level benefits, social security and financial benefits to core sanitation workers and their families, thereby institutionalising and regulating the delivery of sanitation services. The trainings included live

an understanding on the benefits of using them while undertaking hazardous activities. The training programs were also used as a platform to sensitise the participants about the key features & benefits of the scheme.

the identity of the biker is yet to be ascertained, the deceased man and his nephew have been identified as Tarini Behera and Sipu Behera respectively.

As the news broke, hundreds of villagers blocked the NH. They un-

PANDEMIC HELPED IN RESTORING ECOSYSTEM Low pressure to bring rain: IMD

Covid-19 made us realise that we can live in the society with controlled use of resources, thereby helping to sustain and save natural resources

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

BHUBANESWAR: If we have to define ecosystem in simple terms, we may describe it as a geographical area where plants, animals and other organisms as well as weather and landscape work together to form a bubble of life.

Hence, for the ecosystem to function effectively we need a systematic working of all these factors. In last one decade, Odisha has been hit by the effects of climate change. Adverse impacts have been felt in various sectors like agriculture, healthcare and even availability of water. In addition. the state witnessed increasing natural disasters, such as cyclones, floods, storms, droughts and heat waves, besides further land erosion in coastal areas, intrusion of sea water into land and a rise in sea level.

Interestingly, the environmental changes were fewer during Covid-

19 induced lockdown since March 2020. According to experts, there is a decrease in discharge of sewage and industrial effluents into the rivers. This apart, noise pollution too was reduced by up to 35% to 68% across the globe, while wildlife got a chance to reclaim their habitats.

The pollution levels in major towns in Odisha, including Bhubaneswar, fell drastically during the lockdown, according to sources at the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB).

Sundara Narayan Patro, an environmentalist and president of Odisha Environmental Society said that in a way, Covid-19 made us realise that we can live in the society with controlled use of resources, thereby helping to sustain and save natural resources as well as protecting our environment.

Echoing his view, Jaya Krushna Panigrahi, secretary of OES, said that activities, when detrimental, should be restricted. "A paradigm



shift in our behaviour holds the key to bring about the desirable change," he said

Bichitrananda Biswal, known as the 'Turtle man of India', said that the government should continue the lockdown restrictions for at least one day every week even when the Covid situation improves. He explained that last year the nesting activities of Olive Ridley turtles coincided with the lock-

down declared by state and Central government to curb the spread of

the Covid-19 pandemic. With no tourists flowing in to

witness the annual affair, there has been least human interference to the nesting sites. As a result we witnessed mass nesting of the species during the day after many years," Biswal said.

"This makes us realise that strict controls by government helps in pro-

tecting the environment and, hence, the government should continue with such restrictions in vulnerable areas on trail basis for more positive results," he said.

Meanwhile, Sudarshan Das, an environmentalist and secretary of Odisha Environment Congress, said that although Covid-19 helped in minimising the exploitation of resources, the pandemic also witnesses an increased use of singleuse plastics (including personal protective equipment such as disposable masks and gloves), which is not good for our environment.

Ajay Parida Director of Institute of Life Science said that it is time to take appropriate measures to restore and protect the natural environment

Panigrahi concluded that our objective should be to highlight the significance of environment and remind people to take a pledge to protect and conserve the natural ecosystems.

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The state is likely to receive rainfall under the influence of a low pressure area that would form over North Bay of Bengal around June 11, the

POST NEWS NETWORK

India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday. Following the formation of the low pressure area, rainfall activity will

begin in the state. A few places will also witness heavy to very heavy rainfall. said director of Bhubaneswar Met Centre, HR Biswas. Due to the formation of the low pressure area, southwest monsoon is likely to advance into most parts of Odisha.

Stating that dry weather is likely to prevail in many parts of the state for next two days, the director said thunderstorm with lightning would occur during June 7 and 8.

Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over Nuapada, Bolangir, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Deogarh June 7.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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. 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 SATURDAY | JUNE 5 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

Since

1974. World

Environment Day has been

celebrated every year June 5,

issues. Keeping this motto in

mission to revive billions of

hectares, kicked off today

Ecosystem Restoration, a global

and citizens to address

pressing environmental

view, the UN Decade on

engaging governments, businesses

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

RESTORING TIES WITH NATURE

MEGHA RANI

n 1972, the UN General Assembly declared June 5 as the World Environment Day with a slogan "Only on Earth" which was used for the first celebration of the environment day in year 1974. Since, then this day is used to create awareness on the issues faced by our environment. Furthermore, the day is utilised to bring change in the pattern of consumption and action towards protection of the environment. This year the focus is on restoring the ecosystem. The day calls to pledge on Restoring the lost ecosystem. Recreating the lost biodiversity and Reimaging a future' where all living or-

ganisms are respected. Metaphorically, life on the Earth is so much dependent on healthy ecosystem, a system where there is continuous interaction and engagement of biotic and abiotic components through energy flow and nutrient cycle with their surroundings

It's been decades since we are over utilising, wrecking, exploiting and profiteering from our eco-system. Every three seconds we are damaging. destroying and killing natural resources to fulfil our greed. The damages are not limited to the land, but also killing our underwater ecosystem. We have almost lost 50 per cent of our coral reefs and if steps are not taken towards restoration the possibilities are that we could lost 90 per cent of coral reef by 2050 (United Nations, 2021). The planet is warming up with intense rise in temperature, the effects of global warming and climate change are much more visible - the burning heat is melting our glaciers, shifting precipitation pattern, and damaging wildlife habitations. Moreover, if warming continues, hurricanes, floods and droughts will become more frequent and devastating resulting in destroying millions of worthy life and livelihoods. Additionally, there will be an increase in waterborne diseases such as malaria, while many spices such as polar bears, which won't be able to adapt with the changes in environment, will become extinct

India is not alien to the issues. Similar trend is marked in India where every year more and more damages are inflicted to our ecosystem. We have lot of environmental issues ranging from poor waste management to water pollu



tion due to over utilisation of resources, soil erosion, deforestation, and increase in urbanisation as well as over population.

As per World Bank's evaluation, India is trving to build harmony with the natural environment with enhancing its ecological qualities but still environmental issues remain the biggest challenge and are the primary cause of diseases, illnesses and long term-livelihood impact. As Indians we still have to go a long way to reach the desired environmental quality

Ecosystem restoration is what we must count on. We have to work towards bringing back the life of t living organisms from the fringe of extinction at the top of mountains and from the bottom of the sea. A small day-to-day initiative from people such as planting trees, rewinding our gardens, using the 3R principle (reduce, reuse recycle) to cut down waste and stopping human activities that pollute our natural resources will help in the On the community level, we can start CHIPKC - "An Unfinished Movement", that was initially started by group of people, particularly women to protect nature and lives of thousand living organism. It had a humane appeal: "Cut me down before you cut down the tress". The other move ment that portrayed strong community engagement was "Jungle Bachao Andholan' where the tribal population of Jharkhand and Odisha joined hands together to protect the Sal trees from being felled. As a youth or as a community we can take these non-violent social movements as an inspiration and further work together as a team to create awareness and design eco-friendly technologies to overcome waste and pollution. The participation of youth in restoration of environment will not only provide an ecological solution and income but will also provide a space where they can experiment with ecological technologies to fight climate change and global warming.

Destruction on pretext of development A STUDY BY IIT-BHUBANESWAR REVEALED THAT THE CITY HAS TNESSED 83% INCREASE IN URBANISATION BETWEEN 2000 AND 2014



Over 1.85 crore trees

under scrutiny. In fact

COVID WASTE A NEW FOE

s rapid urbanisation has put undue stress on the flora and fauna of the capital city, a new entrant in form of Covid waste has posed another daunting challenge for the denizens and civic authorities

Known for providing the best healthcare in the state, Bhubaneswar, has observed a high rise in Covid cases during first and second waves. As a result, the city is set to have generated a high amount of bio-hazard wastes from Covid Care Centres (CCC), Covid Care Hopsitals (CCH) and from home isolated patients.

"The CCCs and CCHs tend to generate waste in form of PPE kits, masks, used clothes from recovered or deceased patients, syringes and other such stuff. These wastes are either



long run

Tt is 5:00 in the morning and 63year-old Prafulla Das is out on his morning walk. Ambling his way to his nearest park, Das is on the look-out for fresh orchids in nearby shrubs. But, alas! An overnight road-widening project has removed all the wild greenery in the vicinity.

Spending almost his entire life in Bhubaneswar, Das, a botanist and an avid bird watcher, has witnessed rapid urbanisation, mostly in last two decades. Fuelled by demands of a rapidly increasing population, the development is said to largely come at a cost of losing our flora and fauna.

While the Census 2011 states that Bhubaneswar's population is 8.37 lakhs, experts speculate that it has more than doubled presently. This increase in population has put overwhelming pressure for construction of properties, widening of roads and other such projects. As a result, the city is now divided into three parts: planned, old, and unplanned.

Though the planned and old parts of the town comprise much of the state capital, the unplanned construction, mostly in outskirts such as Jatni, Balipatna and Patrapada, have come

felled to build roads

It is shocking to learn that the authorities felled 1.85 crore trees for road construction between 2010-11 and 2020-21 in the state. In return, the state government planted just 29.83 lakh trees with an investment of Rs 66.17crore during the period. As per green norms, plantation of two trees must be ensured for every tree felled on non-forest land for any developmental project and 10 trees to be planted on forest land. However, the state government has planted only 16 per cent of the trees felled for road projects.

YEAR	TREES FELLED
2010-11	1,18,971
2011-12	6,34,823
2012-13	17,78,734
2013-14	16,990
2014-15	17,33,385
2015-16	62,03,936
2016-17	18,07,909
2017-18	13,10,314
2018-19	20,44,782
2019-20	26,77,686
2020-21	1,73,218
TOTAL	1,85,00,748

IIT Bhubaneswar revealed that the city has witnessed 83% increase in urbanisation between 2000 and 2014.

'This unplanned growth has resulted in much loss of flora and fauna. Up until 2012, around four kinds of dandelions and orchids could be found in the city. However, now even two of their types are few and far between. Similarly, about seven of eleven species of bats that resided mostly in temples of old town areas are under threat due to constant renovation and construction activities," Das said.

The IIT-Bhubaneswar report also mentions that the capital city has witnessed an increase of 0.5°C in absolute local temperature during the period between 2001 and 2010 solely due to urbanisation. The urbanisation, which came at a cost of dense vegetation and crop fields, saw vegetation reduce by 89% and green cover shrink by 83%.

However, despite such reports suggesting environmental degradation, the state government last year asked the Horticulture Department to surrender 20 acres of Ekamara Kanan land. Ironically, the decision was taken despite the fact that the land has fruit-bearing trees and other medicinal plants on 25.96 acres.

dumped underground or burnt. In either case, chances of soil degradation and air pollution remain high. Moreover, these wastes mixed with general waste can end up in rivers and drains," said Subendu Bhattacharya, an environmentalist.

Although the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has deployed dedicated vehicles for transportation of the bio-medical waste to disposal centre at Tangiapada, lack of enough carriers has posed challenges for efficient waste management. Sources at the CCCs said that wastes remains accumulated for days as vehicles do not come for collection.

"We were asked to dispose waste from home-isolation patients. However, in the past few weeks there has been high number of Covid cases and most of them are home-isolation cases. About 20-30 tonnes of Covid waste is generated and we are not adequately prepared to handle such crisis," said an official of a private agency deployed by the BMC.

LET'S NURTURE THE NATURE SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A BETTER FUTURE.

State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Circle

imfa

Touching lives beyond business...

IMFA is India's leading fully integrated producer of ferro alloys straddling the value chain from mining to smelting. For six decades, our core philosophy of value addition has provided livelihood to more than 6500 families and enabled us to give back to society. We touch lives beyond business through healthcare, education, skill development, water & sanitation, and annual awards for literature, sports & community service.

Wildfire a regular phenomenon in Odisha

BISWA BHUSHAN MOHAPATRA, OP

 \mathbf{W} ith the climate change and increase in global temperature, forest fires have now become regular phenomena in Odisha. The recent wildfire in Similipal biosphere and some other forest ranges has not only worried the environmentalists but also turned to be an eye-opener for the policy planners.

Most of these forest fires are reported to be "man-made" as people inhabiting the forests or in their periphery often set the jungles on fire to further their petty interests.

There are instances of people setting the jungles on fire to make their mahula flower (a forest produce) collection easier or to grow grass on the cleared land for their domestic animals. In



other case, people burnt torches while traversing through the jungles at night and left the burning objects in the forests that set the forest floor on fire. The recent incidents of forest fire forced the state to form a Task Force to monitor such devastating infernos in the jungle in coordination with the

Forest Survey of India.

As per data provided by the state Forest and Environment Minister BK Arukha during the last session of Assembly, over 1,12,000 incidents of forest fire were reported from across the state during past 10 years. At least 23,000 forest fire incidents were reported in Odisha since January this year, damaging about 150 sqkm of forest cover.

During 2010-11 to 2020-21, the government spent Rs 184.75 crore to contain and counter forest fires. The amount includes Rs 139.03 crore from CAMPA, Rs 45.02 crore from state plan and Rs 68.413 lakh from non-plan allocations.

Asked, environmentalist Ranjan Panda said that the government should first involve the local community, especially those who are likely to indulge in forests fire, in management of forests. Awareness among the locals, especially among the forest dwellers, should be created at least during the summer, he said. Some kind incentive or financial assistance can be given to the people collecting mahula flower, who are reportedly involved in such incidents, suggested Panda.

INDIAN METALS & FERRO ALLOYS LIMITED www.imfa.in





am on earth because it is on earth that the divine work must

he done, and for no other reason

power post

FOCUS CHINA

THREE-CHILD POLICY OF NO USE

n an effort to address rapid population aging, China has just announced that it will allow all families to have up to three children. The decision comes on the heels of widely publicized new data showing that the Chinese fertility rate in 2020 was only 1.3 per woman, which is similar to that of Japan (1.36 in 2019) and notably lower than that of the United States (1.7).

But a below-replacement fertility rate is only one part of China's demographic problem. A second issue is the sheer size of its older population. Before 1971, Chinese family-planning policies were pro-natal, restricting access to contraceptives and family-planning education. As a result, the country's current or soon-to-be elderly population has grown particularly large: the size of the population aged 15-24 is only around 72% that of those aged 45-54, compared to 79% in Japan and 100% in the US. This topheavy demographic structure makes the problem of declining fertility even more acute, because new, younger workers are needed to replace those who will retire and

require support. A third issue is urban-rural inequality. China's rural population is generally prohibited from moving to urban areas by the country's hukou system of residency permits. Rural residents thus have had fewer opportunities to access education and health care. In 2010-12, the urban enrollment rate was 100% for middle school, 63% for high school, and 54% for university; in rural areas, it was 70%, 3%, and 2%, respectively

Likewise, urban areas had 2.68 doctors per 1,000 people in 2008, compared to just 1.26 per 1,000 people in rural areas. Not surprisingly, rural areas suffer worse health outcomes, with lower life expectancy and higher morbidity rates than in urban areas.

Chinese policymakers tend to discuss each of these issues separately. But that is a mistake. Low



three children will not automatically increase the fertility rate, nor will it necessarily help with the larger economic challenge. Fertility is determined by socio-economic factors

fertility, the legacy of pro-natal policies, and rural-urban divides all affect a population-age structure that has a direct bearing on China's long-run economic development. Economic growth depends heav-

ily on the quality of the labour force. If workers cannot access healthcare or acquire skills in school or on the job, the economy will suffer. Worldwide, differences in worker quality can explain around half of all cross-country differences in income and growth.

Telling Chinese couples that they may have three children will not automatically increase the fertility rate, nor will it necessarily help with the larger economic challenge. Fertility is determined by socio-economic factors such as the cost of raising children and the economic opportunities that parents foresee for their offspring. Those costs are extraordinarily high in urban China, where residential real estate is more expensive than in any other country at a similar income level.

Moreover, academic competition is intense. Children and their parents begin feeling the pressure of the nationwide gaokao exam for university admission in primary school. A 1999 reform

that expanded the number of university slots could have partly relieved this pressure, except that job growth has not kept up; unemployment rates for college graduates have duly increased.

Urban parents also face the burden of caring for their own aging parents. This is no small task in a country where pensions are limited, and where few people move to retirement communities later in life. Most aging Chinese expect their adult children to care for them. And because the onechild policy in place from 1979 to 2016 was enforced more strictly in urban areas, most young urban parents grew up as only children. With no siblings to share the load, couples can expect to spend the next one or two decades caring for four aging parents in addition to rearing their own child. Adding two more children would increase the average couple's dependents from five to seven.

By contrast, fertility is higher in rural areas, and the cost of rearing children is lower. Housing is cheaper, and the fact that there are fewer schooling opportunities means that parents can worry less about the costs of education. Rural Chinese of childbearing age are much more likely to have siblings with whom they can work together in caring for elderly parents.

Under these circumstances, allowing families to have three children without also making other changes would likely not achieve the intended economic result, and could even make things worse. With the urban population unlikely to have many more children unless the financial burdens of child-rearing and elder care are reduced, it is only rural fertility that will increase. And without improvements in rural health and education, the size and share of the unskilled working population will grow.

A labour force with a growing share of unskilled workers is the last thing China needs as it strives to push the frontiers of technological innovation and advance bevond middle-income status. While improving schools and public health in rural areas is straightforward (albeit expensive), generating employment for the graduates will be much more difficult. And without employment, young people will not be able to help support the aging population.

Chinese policymakers have shown awareness of some of these issues. In addition to increasing the fertility limit, they have acknowledged the need to reduce housing costs and to provide education subsidies. But these proposals remain vague, because there really are no simple solu tions. Chinese policymakers will need to be mindful of the economic ramifications of the country's demographic trends in tandem with its rural-urban divide - and take care to avoid making a difficult problem worse.

The writer is Professor of Managerial Economics and **Decision Sciences at** Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and Director of China Lab.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Nancy Qian

A BELOW-

REPLACEMENT

FERTILITY RATE

PART OF CHINA'S

DEMOGRAPHIC

SECOND ISSUE

IS THE SHEER

SIZE OF

ITS OLDER

POPULATION

IS ONLY ONE

PROBLEM. A



Restoring ecosystem need of hour

he theme for World Environment Day 2021 is "Ecosystem Restoration" and it has been declared as the "UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration". There has never

and water security, sustainable economy and supporting climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation. It is a solution-based approach that engages bottom to top to repair ecological damage

aments, several thousand protozoa and scores of nematodes. 95% of small insects spend their life in the top soil. All these humble creatures, living or dead, continuously add to the nutrition of the soil. In

grove forest and changing sea surface temperature. A mangrove in Bhitarkanika National Park stood as a protective barrier from cyclone Amphan, 1999 Super cyclone and now Yash. The mangrove is

The unrelenting Ashok Khemka



has been appointing IPS, IFoS and IRS officers to IAS cadre posts such as principal secretary without the Centre's sanction.

Sources say that Khemka had made a representation to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba in December last year, but it has taken a while for the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to sit up and finally take notice.

The department has now called for a detailed report from the Khattar sarkar on the status of these postings. It has advised the state administration to stick to the IAS cadre rules and not appoint other all-India cadre officers to IAS cadre posts of principal secretaries and certainly not for a period beyond three months, without the department's prior approval. Some may recall that a similar situation had arisen in Nagaland where the government was appointing state service officers to IAS cadre posts.

Khemka, the officer who flagged the issue, should be satisfied with the Centre's response since it is such a rare thing!

Extension rai

The Modi sarkar has given a year's extension for Intelligence Bureau L chief Arvinda Kumar and RAW chief SK Goel in the interest of "continuity". Both are IPS officers. Interestingly, these extensions come after the setback to plans when both senior IPS officers, Rakesh Asthana and YC Modi, were left out of the race to become the CBI chief. This, only after the Chief Justice of India NV Ramana objected to their names, citing a Supreme Court ruling which states that only officers who have more than six months left for retirement could be considered.

But the government lost no time in quickly approving extended terms, in the case of IB and RAW chiefs. Note, it is only an extension and not a new appointment. Insiders say that the extension to the two officers was given after relaxing the existing rules.

Similarly, there is buzz that the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chief Pramod Chandra Mody is hoping for another extension. This, after two extensions, one of six months and another of three months already!

Of course, it will be argued that it is the PM's prerogative to retain trusted officers in supra-sensitive posts such as the IB and RAW chiefs. It also doesn't hurt a bit, if you are also close to the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Questions will, of course, be asked about the problems such extensions



THE MOTHER

n the context of the second Covid surge, a group of 116 former civil servants has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing the government of not addressing the crucial issues at stake.

What makes this "open letter" significant is that the signatories include former Cabinet Secretary KM Chandrasekhar, former Foreign Secretary and National Security Advisor Shiv Shankar Menon, former health secretary K. Sujatha Rao, former advisor to the Prime Minister TKA Nair, former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah and former Delhi Lt Governor Najeeb Jung, among others.

Now unfettered by civil service regulations and free to speak their mind, these former babus, who call themselves the Constitutional Conduct Group, have alleged that the Centre has botched the efforts to tackle the spread of the pandemic and urged Modi to take urgent action, including centralisng procurement and supply of vaccines which should be administered free and universally to all Indians. They have also expressed concern about the 'steady erosion of the Cabinet system of governance" (too much PMO!) and deteriorating ties with the states.

Of course, there is nothing new in the missive. The ordinary citizens, Opposition parties, and even the judiciary in several states have been raising these same issues. The "coalition" of the willing that Modi seemed to have created since his ascent to power in 2014 is now beginning to crack. The government had managed the narrative adroitly so far, but in the face of the Covid pandemic, it now seems unable to contain the growing dissent in the country over its pandemic policy.

Khemka sets off Centre-Haryana tussle

L has struck again. The Haryana cadre IAS officer and whistleblower has brought to light blatant violations of the civil service rules by the Haryana government. It ap pears that the state government



create within the next in line. While the line of succession at IB is not really affected much by Kumar's extended term, but in the case of Goel, the extension will ensure that at least two senior RAW officers will retire before his extended term ends.

While this practice allows the favourites to continue for a bit longer, it does kill the hopes of officers hoping to retire at the top of their service. But that's the subject for another day... keep watching this space.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

- l learned that we can do anything, but we can't do everything... at least not at the same time. So think of your priorities not in terms of what activities you do, but when you do them. Timing is everything. DAN MILLMAN
- Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

FRANCIS OF ASSISI

I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination. JIMMY DEAN

WORDS**WORTH**

Cack-handed

t's certainly British. It's only obscure, though, if you're from somewhere else, since it's a well-known British informal term for somebody who is inept or clumsy. By extension, as I know to my cost, being of the sinistral variety myself, it means somebody left-handed, who does everything "backwards" and so looks clumsy or awkward. It first appeared in the middle of the nineteenth century. The American Heritage Dictionary suggests it comes from Old Norse keikr, bent backwards, and other American dictionaries also suggest this. I disagree, as do most British works of reference. The direct association is with cack, another fine Old English term. for excrement or dung. Cachus was Old English for a privy, and both words come from Latin cacare, to defecate. It almost certainly comes from the very ancient tradition, which has developed among peoples who were mainly right-handed, that one reserved the left hand for cleaning oneself after defecating and used the right hand for all other purposes.

Cacography

his word derives from the Greek graphos, "writing", prefixed with kakos, "bad". We're more familiar with this as the beginning of cacophony, "bad noises". When cacography began to appear in English at the end of the sixteenth century it did so with the sense of "bad spelling". It was beginning to be thought that the old way of spelling words by personal preference ought to give way to a standardised system; the introduction of printing had a lot to do with this. So cacography was seen as the opposite of orthography, "correct spelling". In the following century cacography was used to mean bad handwriting as well, as the opposite of yet a third Greek word, calligraphy, "fine writing".



Dr Siba Sankar Sahu

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE URGENT NEED TO REVIVE DAMAGED ECOSYSTEMS THAN NOW. THE **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (2016) AIMS AT "RESTORATION OF DEGRADED NATURAL AND**

SEMI-NATURAL

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

send in their valuable comments, opinion

101

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

ECOSYSTEMS

been a more urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems than now. The Convention on Biological Diversity (2016) aims at "restoration of degraded natural and seminatural ecosystems, including urban environments. Ecosystem restoration means the process of assisting the recovery of ecosys tems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact. The objective is to revive degraded ecosystem to its historic course, not its historic shape and to make a healthier ecosystem with rich biodiversity. The UN Decade is building a strong, broad-based global movement to ramp up restoration and sustainable future. The aim is to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 through ecological restoration.

Restoration can take many forms: Growing trees, greening cities, re-wilding gardens, changing diets or cleaning up rivers and coasts. This is the generation that can make peace with nature. Ecological restoration, when implemented effectively and sustainably, contributes to protect ing biodiversity, improving health and wellbeing, increasing food

and rebuild a healthier humanenvironment linkage that needs to work at local, regional, and global level. Ecosystem services can support life through healthy ecosystem, reduce hazards and disasters, preservation of soils and renewal fertility, protection from the global warming and climate change, preservation aesthetic beauty and traditional ecological knowledge and protection of the native ecosystem.

The degraded planet Earth and its deprived people desperately call for ecological restoration. Unjust development, paradigm shift of natural and human disaster, population pressure, biodiversity loss, poverty and pollution have all brought down our mother Earth to the edge of planetary catastrophe. Around 90 billion tons of resources are extracted from the Earth every year, two third of tropical rainforest destroyed and 2.12 billion tons of waste dumped every year on the planet. In 2050, it is expected the world population will be too big to feed and by 2070 coral reefs are anticipated to be gone altogether.

A single teaspoon of rich garden soil can hold up to one billion bacteria, several yards of fungal fil-

the view of Natabar Sarangi, a pioneer in organic farming, "Man has raped the earth mercilessly through industrial/commercial agriculture and now time has come to adopt organic farming for sustainable ecosystem". According to the USA based geologist David Montgomery, the Earth is losing 1% of its topsoil every year due to erosion, mostly due to faulty agri-

culture." The United States is losing soil at a rate 10 times faster than the soil replenishment rate, while China and India are losing it 30 to 40 times faster. It is expected that by 2050, 95% of Earth's land will be degraded. A whopping 24 billion tons of soil have already been eroded by unsustainable agricultural practice which harms the ecosystem functions.

Mangrove forests are most valuable coastal ecosystems having a great role in reducing frequency and intensity of coastal hazards like cyclone are being destroyed at an alarming rate. 50% of the world's mangroves were destroyed just in the past half century and the trend continues. The remaining mangroves could be invisible in the next century. The increasing intensity of cyclones in Odisha may be due to excessive loss of manproven and time-tested natural barrier against tidal surge and cyclones in coastal Odisha. Although mangroves make up less than one percent of all tropical forests worldwide, their contribution to mitigating climate change is huge. Unfortunately, 40% of the country's mangroves have already been converted to agricultural land or lost to urban sprawl.

UN has declared the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals and the timeline identified by scientists is the last chance to prevent catastrophic climate change. Healthy soils, emotional connection to nature, protecting native and indigenous cultures and restoring environmental micro-biomes are four major key reasons why ecological restoration is the most vital endeavour of the contemporary world. Our fear of nature has to be replaced by love and respect. She needs us to delay her premature ageing by establishing a harmonious relationship with the Earth.

The writer is an Assistant Professor in Department of Applied Geography, School of **Regional Studies and Earth** Sciences at Ravenshaw University.

Greyhounds set to return

Sir, There is some good news for wildlife lovers in India. World's fastest land animal, the cheetah, or the 'greyhound', is all set to make a comeback in the country. Asiatic cheetahs vanished from India as back as 1950; the cheetah was declared extinct from the country in 1952. Worldwide, its population is almost extinct except for a few regions in Africa. Low genetic variability and prolonged inbreeding were once cited as reasons. Now, cheetah is expected to be reintroduced in November at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. The reintroduction project is being carried out based on the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) report and its direct guidance. About ten cheetahs, which are brought from South Africa, will be housed in the park. India, it has to be said, made no serious attempts at cheetah reintroduction though it was known that grassland scrub forest habitats were needed for this lovely cat as a first measure. Efforts to clone cheetahs from procuring a pair from Iran came a cropper when there were concerted efforts to do so. It was after all failed attempts that Kuno National Park, spread over an area of 750 sq km, was identified. The Kuno National Park has a big prey base for the cheetahs. Since cheetah is seen as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation Of Nature (IUCN), reintroduction has to be done with care and caution.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Confusion over Covishield

Sir, The ever-changing recommended time interval between the first and the second dose of the Covishield vaccine has created a lot of confusion among people in India. The revised time interval, however, is not applicable to Covaxin. India is currently using only these two vaccines for its inoculation programme. The gap between the two doses of the Covishield vaccine has been increased for the fourth time in a row. This practice will discourage people from getting vaccinated. Many people are still unsure about getting vaccinated. The Government of India needs to broadcast clear messages to people so that its vaccination programme remains unaffected. The priority of the government should be to inoculate all its citizens if it desires to free the country of the deadly virus. At the same time, it should also pay attention to the irresponsible statements made by government representatives and ask them not to speak on the issue. Only senior doctors should be allowed to educate – people about the virus.

Jubel D'Cruz, MUMBAI







HC directs Maha to pull up hosps denying entry to Covid suspects



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 4: The Bombay High Court has directed the Maharashtra government to take strict action against hospitals and medical centres that deny admission to deserving patients merely over lack of a positive RT-PCR Covid-19 test report.

a bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice GS Kulkarni said the state authorities must act against hospitals and medical centres that flouted guidelines issued by the state and Centre last month on admitting suspected Covid-19 patients.

The bench was referring to circulars issued by the state government and the Union government May 17 and May 8, respectively. The circulars direct hospitals or medical centres to not deny admission or medical aid to any patient on any count.

The High Court was hearing a petition filed by lawyer Wilson K Jaiswal, seeking directions to ensure that all hospitals, health centres, Covid-19 centres, etc., across the state, admit suspected Covid 19 patients, without insisting on an RT-PCR test report.

K'TAKA CANCELS CLASS Central Railway penalises 2,018 for using fake IDs **XII BOARD EXAMINATION** AGENCIES

AGENCIES

Bangalore, June 4: The Karnataka government Friday announced that the SSLC or 10th standard examinations will be held in July third week while cancelling the second year pre-university course (PUC) exams this year in view of the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The PUC second year students will be promoted to the next level and the grading will be based on their performance in the first PUC exam

"The SSLC exam will have one multi-choice question paper for mathematics, science and social science and one more question paper for languages," Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar told reporters.

The multi-choice question paper bearing 40 marks will be easy and straight and there will not be any indirect questions, he said. Kumar said there will be a sup-

plementary examination for those students who are affected by the Covid-19. The exam results will be out by August. The exams will be conducted in

6,000 centres, which is double last vear, the Minister said, adding, each room will have 10 to 12 students. There will be a gap of six feet between students The decision to hold the SSLC

exam was taken as it was crucial Hence, such patients must not be for students to opt for the streams denied treatment or hospital adof their choice such as science, mission based on their negative commerce and arts.

Regarding the second PUC examination, the minister said, "We

WAR OF WORDS CONTINUES

COVID I

The PUC second year students will

be promoted to the next level and

the grading will be based on their

performance in the first PUC exam

The SSLC or 10th standard

examinations will be held in July

third week while cancelling the

second year pre-university course

exams this year

The decision to hold the SSLC exam

was taken as it was crucial for

students to opt for the streams of

their choice such as science.

commerce and arts

are not holding the PUC exam. The

grading will be based on their per-

formance at the district level as-

РАСТ



would be notified later.

The minister clarified that he was satisfied with the decision. In view of the prevailing situation, whatever decision that was in

the best interest of the students has been taken. The decision was arrived at after wide consultation with various stakeholders such as academics, educationists, teachers, officials and parents.

The examination board will issue detailed guidelines for grading the students of second PUC students whereas a model question paper for SSLC students will be released on the board website and handed over to the district and block education officers to supply them to the schools for reference.

The SSLC students arriving for examination will be given N-95 masks and there will be hand sanitisers at the entrance of the examination halls.

Last year, Karnataka successfully conducted the SSLC and PUC examinations amid the COVID-19 scare.

Mumbai, June 4: The Central Railway has caught 2,018 passengers, who were found travelling in Mumbai suburban locals amid the pandemic by carrying fake identity cards, and collected from them Rs 10.09 lakh fine in a little over a month that ended May 31, an official has said.

At present, only healthcare, frontline workers and government employees are allowed to travel in Mumbai suburban locals considering the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

The passengers, who were found carrying fake ID cards, were caught between April 28 and May 31. The action was taken against them as they violated the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, the

Central Railway official said Thursday. Railway staff in CR's Mumbai division conducted a massive ticket checking drive in April and May, and collected Rs 9.50 crore from as many as 1.50 lakh ticketless passengers who were found trav elling in non-suburban and suburban trains, an official release said.

Of the 1.50 lakh ticketless travellers, 54,000 were caught in May and an amount of Rs 3.33 crore was collected as penalty from them. It included 32,000 ticketless travellers from the suburban section and a fine of Rs 1.65 crore was collected from them, it said.

Besides this, special teams of the ticket-checking staff caught 1,269 passengers without mask and collected Rs 2.40 lakh fine from them between April 17 and June 2, the release added



PUBLIC NOTICE

Bhatia Energy And Minerals (Sundargarh) Private Limited Village: Barpali, Village Panchayat: Duduka Tahasil/PO/ PS: Hemgir, Dist: Sundargarh, Odisha

This is informed to all concerned that the Environmental Clearance granted by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha vide Letter No. 3193/SEIAA dated 06/05/2015 in favour of M/s Bhatia Energy & Minerals Pvt. Ltd for establishment of 0.96 MTPA Coal Washery at Barpali Sundargarh, Odisha has been trnsferred in favour of Bhatia Energy And Minerals (Sundargarh) Private Limited vide letter No. 1218/SEIAA dated 05/04/2021

The detail of the above related to environmental clearance are available with SEIAA, Odisha & the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) and the website of the Board

Shri Pawan Agrawal Directo





the hierarchy instead of making a public outburst.

There is a regional commissioner above whom there is a chief secretary. Even a complaint must follow a certain degree of procedure," Sindhuri said, taking a swipe at Nag.

According to Sindhuri, she had only asked Nag to furnish the details of the utilisation of the Rs 12 crore CSR funds which were contributed by various industries from across the Mysore dis-

sessment in the first pre-university examination". He also said that aggrieved students who are not happy with the grading system can take up the examination, the dates of which **MYSORE IAS TUSSLE**

The HC was hearing a petition, seeking directions to ensure that all hospitals and health centres across Maharashtra. admit suspected Covid-19

In an order passed Wednesday,

any person who has developed any common Covid symptom without reason would approach for getting admitted to a hospital or medical centre," the court said. to take strict action against such hospitals/medical centres, who

Jaiswal, in his plea, said some pa-

'There are many super CMs in MVA'

Nagpur, June 4: BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis Friday took a dig at the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government and its ministers, saying that while there is only one chief minister, there are many "super chief ministers", who make announcements about key policy decisions on their own.

He said several ministers consider themselves as chief minister and try to take credit by making such announcements.

Fadnavis said this in response to a query over the Maharashtra government's clarification on Thursday

avirus-induced lockdown-like restrictions have not been lifted anywhere, contrary to the announcement previously made by Minister Vijay Wadettiwar.

patients, without insisting

on an RT-PCR test report

tients tested negative in their RT

PCR tests, but their CT scans

showed that they were suffering

RT-PCR reports, the plea stated.

the Centre had already issued guide-

lines in the circulars to prevent

such inconvenience to citizens, and

what remained, was the strict im-

"It can never be conceived that

'We urge the state government

flout these guidelines," it said.

plementation of the guidelines.

The court said both the state and

from COVID-19.

"There is one chief minister and many super chief ministers in this government. Many of the ministers consider themselves as chief minister and make announcements themselves," he told reporters.

In any government, a chief minister takes a policy decision or chooses a minister to speak on an important issue. However, in this government, several ministers speak out even before a statement is released by the chief minister.

AGENCIES

Mysore, June 4: The ongoing tussle between two IAS officers in Mysore continued Friday with Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri saying that there is a process to be followed if any junior officer wants to complain against a senior officer, which she feels has been violated in this case.

The war of words erupted on Thursday after the Commissioner

of Mysore City Corporation (MCC), Shilpa Nag, held a press conference to announce her decision to resign from her post, accusing Mysore DC Sindhuri of humiliating her at every step.

However, hours after Nag's announcement, Sindhuri flatly denied all the accusations and termed them as "contrary to real facts". Speaking on the sidelines of a function in Mysore Friday, Sindhuri

said that any officer must follow

trict.

"MCC alone cannot utilise these (CSR) funds. Are there no industries other than in Mysore? There are industries in Nanjangud and various other places. Aren't these contributions meant to be used for the villages or talukas where these industries function? I had asked these questions to her (Nag) and I am still waiting for the answers," Sindhuri said.

She said that in all the districts, the deputy commissioners are in direct control of CSR funds and not the city commissioners, adding that it was unusual that this had happened in Mysore.

Google apologises for hurting Kannada sentiments

THE SEARCH RESULT SPARKED AN OUTRAGE AMONG THE NETIZENS EARLIER IN THE DAY, WITH THE KARNATAKA **GOVERNMENT THREATENING TO ISSUE A LEGAL NOTICE TO THE COMPANY**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 4: Facing a controversy after a Google Search with the keywords "ugliest language in India" showed "Kannada" in the results, Google India said Thursday that it is not the reflection of the company, as it apologised for misunderstanding and hurting any sentiments.

The Search result sparked an outrage among the netizens earlier in the day, with the Karnataka government threatening to issue a legal notice to the company.

"Search isn't always perfect. Sometimes, the way content is described on the Internet can yield surprising results to specific queries," a Google India spokesperson told IANS in a statement.

"We know this is not ideal, but we take swift corrective action when we are made aware of an issue and are continually working to improve our algorithms. Naturally, these are not reflective of the opinions of Google, and we apologise for the misunderstanding and hurting any sentiments," the company spokesperson added.

The Search algorithm issue has been rectified now.

Minister for Kannada, Culture and Forest



in Karnataka, Aravind Limbavali, took to Twitter earlier Thursday and highlighted the controversy, demanding an apology from Google.

"Kannada language has a history of its own, having come into existence as many as 2,500 years ago! It has been the pride of Kannadigas all through these two-and-a-half millennia. If Kannada is now called ugliest language in India, it is merely an attempt by Google to insult this pride of Kannadigas," he said in the tweet.

Bangalore Central MP, CA Mohan, also shared a screenshot of the Google Search engine showing Kannada as 'ugliest language in India'. Mohan said Karnataka is home to the great Vijayanagara Empire and the Kannada language has a rich heritage, a glorious legacy and a unique culture.

"One of the world's oldest languages, Kannada had great scholars who wrote epics much before Geoffrey Chaucer was born in the 14th century. Apologise @GoogleIndia," he tweeted.

After Mohan's screenshot went viral on Twitter, social media platforms were filled with outrage, demanding an unconditional apology from the tech giant as well as removal of any

No.O-282:-

Procurement Officer

Koraput

such offensive content associated with any language, including Kannada. Janata Dal

(S) strongman HD Kumaraswamv also lashed out at Google and sought to know

Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, why Google "behaves in an Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/aap. All amendments, time irresponsible extension, clarifications etc, will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should manner" when website to keep themselves updated. N.B.: Any addendum or corrigendum will be a it comes to the

language.

Dt. 09.06.2021 to 17.06.2021.

- 4. Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal :-
- Dt. 17.06.2021 up to 4.00 PM
- 5. Date of Opening of bid :- Dt. 18.06.2021 at 11.00 AM
- 6. Name & address of the Office inviting bid :-

Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj (R&B) Division, Baripada. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer Mayurbhanj (R&B) Division OIPR-34060/11/0004/2122



OIPR-34042/11/0011/2122 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

From

07.06.2021 at

11.00 A.M.

Bid Identification No.: EERWKPT-Online-05/2021-22 01. Name of the work: Road & Building works in the Dist. of Koraput for the year 2021-22. 02. Total number of works: 06 (Six) Nos. 03. Approximate estimated cost: Rs.2.23 lakhs to Rs.39.83 lakhs (Approximately) 04. Class of contractor: 'B', 'C', 'D' Class. 05. Period of completion: Within 3 months. 06. Other details: Availability of tender online for bidding

d regularly visit the above	1
vailable in the website only.	-t
Works Division, Koraput	
D 000000000000000000	

17.06.2021 upto

5.00 P.M.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural OIPR-25088/11/0004/2122



RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KORAPUT

Email: eerwkoraput@yahoo.com, Phone: 06852-251263

e-Procurement for Building Works

Letter No.2900 Date: 31.05.2021

Bid Identification No.

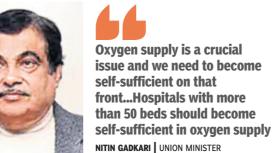
Online Tender / 05 /

RWD- KPT/2021-22





national



CBSE INTRODUCES 'CODING', **'DATA SCIENCE' AS SUBJECTS**

Complying with the recommendations of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the CBSE has introduced coding and data science as skill subjects in the schools. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhrival Nishank tweeted: "Under NEP 2020, we promised to introduce coding and data science in schools"





We have decided to give priority in vaccination to the parents of children less than 12 years of age as it is feared that the third wave of corona will affect them the most

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN CHIEF MINISTER, MF

Today, the entire (Congress) party and the government of Punjab are in Delhi Who will look after

Punjab? Ignoring Punjab for their internal fight. This is a big sin of Congress

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR UNION MINISTER

Tourism is our bread and butter and it has suffered at multiple levels due to the pandemic. A relief package at this stage will do a world of good to people in the sector

SATPAL MAHARAJ TOURISM AND CULTURE MINISTER, UTTARAKHAND

SHORT TAKES

Eatala Rajender quits Assembly

Hyderabad: A month after he was dropped from the KCR cabinet following allegations of land encroachment, Eatala Rajender Friday resigned from the Telangana Assembly and primary membership of ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). Addressing a news conference, the fourtime legislator announced that he is ending his 19-year-long association with the party for the sake of his self-respect.

Campaign against riverside burials

Prayagraj: The seers in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj have decided to launch an awareness campaign against burial of bodies along the river banks. The campaign will be launched by the Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP), the

Visas of stranded 'No indemnity to local vax firms yet' foreigners valid till Aug 31: MHA



New Delhi, June 4: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said Friday that Indian visa or the stay stipulation period of foreign nationals stranded in the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic will be valid till August 31.

Accordingly, these foreign nationals will not be required to submit any application to the FRRO/FRO concerned for the extension of their visa till that period or until further orders. The MHA said that due to the

non-functioning of normal com-

mercial flight operations on ac-

count of the pandemic since March

2020, a number of foreign nation-

als, who came to India prior to

March 2020 on valid Indian visa,

Keeping in view the difficulties

being faced by such foreign na-

tionals in getting their visas ex-

tended in India due to the lock-

have got stranded in India.

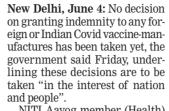


days from the date of resumption of normal international flight operations, on gratis basis. However, such foreign nationals have been applying for extension

of their visas or stay stipulation period on a monthly basis "The matter has now been re-

considered by the MHA in the light of non-resumption of normal commercial flight operations, and it has accordingly been decided that the Indian visa or stay stipulation period of such foreign nationals stranded in India will be considered as deemed to be valid till August 31, 2021 on gratis basis without levy of any overstay penalty," the MHA said.

downs, the MHA had issued an Such foreign nationals may apply order June 29, 2020, conveying that for exit permission to the Indian visa or stay stipulation pe-FRRO/FRO concerned before exriod of such foreign nationals exiting the country, which would be piring post June 30, 2020 shall be granted on gratis basis without deemed to be valid until 30 more levy of any overstay penalty.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul's statement came over the issue of offering indemnity to Indian Covid-19 vaccine-manufacturers

He said the issue has come up in the context of foreign companies, specifically Pfizer, and that the government is engage ing with the US

making

such a de

"In

mand.

On pharma major the issue of and others indemnity for local manufacturers who have done such a great patriotic service, the government has a watch but there is no decision.

princi-These decisions are to be taken in ple, they totality in the interest of nation (foreign and in the interest of people manufacturers) ex-DR V K PAUL | NITI AAYOG MEMBER pect indem-

nity to be given. This is what they have said has been the case all over the world. We have also checked with other countries and

the World Health Organization." "Yes, indeed they have supplied vaccines only after such indemnities have been given. This appears to be the fact. Particular companies have requested and we are in negotiation with them but there is no decision at the moment," Paul

> sponse to a question. Domestic vaccine major Serum Institute of India has also

liability for its Covid-19 vaccines. saying the rules should be same for all the companies, sources have

"On the issue of indemnity for local manufacturers who have done such a great patriotic service, the government has a watch but there

is no decision. These decisions are to be taken in totality in the interest of nation and in the interest of people," Paul said.

Asked if Pfizer vaccine, when available in India, will be considered for children between the age of 12 and 15 years as the UK has approved it for this category, Paul said India is readying its own vac-

cines for children. "Child cohort is not a small cohort. My rough guess is that if it is between 12 to 18 years, this itself is about 13 to 14 crore population and for which we will need about 25-26 crore doses.'

'We cannot have some people getting and others not getting. So we will have to take this into account when we strategise and make a decision based on how many doses of which vaccines are available. he said.

He further said that not only Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, but Zydus Cadila's vaccine is already being tested on children.

"So when Zydus comes for licensure, hopefully in the next two weeks, maybe we have enough data to take a view whether the vaccine can be given to children," he said.

These pathways of decisionmaking and analysis are being actively considered and examined, he added.

Serum Institute of India's plea for indemnity came after requests for indemnity and exemption from bridging trials were made by Pfizer and Moderna to the Indian government.

O2 CONCENTRATORS Govt caps trade margin up to 70%

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 4: The government has capped trade margin on oxygen concentrators at 70 per cent and the NPPA will inform revised MRPs within a week.

As per information collected by the government, margin at the level of distributor currently ranges up to 198 per cent.

By invoking extraordinary powers under Para 19 of the DPCO. 2013, in larger public interest, the NPPA has brought the cap on Price



be easily accessible to any person

wishing to consult the same.

The manufacturers / importers



told a press conference here in re-

sought indemnity from

said

apex body of saints. ABAP president Mahant Narendra Giri said, "The seers will travel across the length and breadth of the country, preaching to rural folk as well as poorly educated residents of cities, located on the banks of prominent rivers of the country, against burying their dead along the riverbanks."

Man hurls sandals at HC judge, held

Ahmedabad: A magisterial court here sentenced a tea vendor from Guiarat's Raikot district to 18 months in jail for hurling his sandals at a High Court judge in 2012, out of frustration over long pendency of his case. Chief iudicial magistrate V A Dhadhal of Mirzapur rural court Thursday held Bhavanidas Bavaii guilty as charged under IPC section 353 (assault on a government servant to deter him from discharging his duty).

Eminent writer KaRa no more

Amaravati: Prominent Telugu author and Sahitya Akademi awardee Kalipatnam Rama Rao breathed his last Friday, aged 97 years. He was ailing for some time and passed away at his residence in Srikakulam, due to agerelated health issues. He was the author of several acclaimed stories and books, including Yagnam and was awarded the Sahitya award in 1996. Popularly known as KaRa Master, he had established Katha Nilayam, a unique library that emerged as a repository of Telugu books and stories published since the 1930s.

Oxygen on Wheels, a bus and a small car, parked outside a shopping mall after its launch, in Kolkata, Friday

SII gets DCGI's nod to make Sputnik V

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: The DCGI has granted permission to the Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture the Sputnik Covid-19 vaccine in India for examination, test and analysis with certain conditions, official sources said Friday. 'The DCGI has granted per-

mission to the Serum Institute to manufacture the Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine in India for examination, test and analysis at its licensed



ditions," an official source said.

The company had submitted an application to the DCGI in this regard Thursday.

According to the four conditions set by the DCGI, the Serum Institute will have to submit a copy of the agreement between it and the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology for transfer of cell bank and virus stock and submit the copy of agreement for technology transfer with Gamaleya. Further, the SII has to submit a copy of the RCGM per-

mission to import cell bank and virus stock and a copy of the RCGM permission to initiate research and development of viral vector vaccine Sputnik V, the sources said. The SII May 18 had also applied to the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), Department of Biotechnology seeking clearance for import of strains/seed lots and cell banks, and for carrying out research and development, the official sources said.

to Distributor (PTD) level on Oxygen Concentrators.

had successfully capped the Trade Margin on Anti-cancer Drugs. Based on the notified Trade Margin, NPPA has instructed the manufacturers / importers to report revised MRP within three days. Revised MRPs will be informed in public domain within a week by NPPA.

The situation arised due to the Covid pandemic that has resulted in recent volatility in Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) of Oxygen Concentrators, the government has decided to step-in to regulate the price of Oxygen Concentrators. Every retailer, dealer, hospital and

of black-marketing institution shall display price list as furnished by the manufacturer, on a conspicuous part of the busireview.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY PPE, masks & shields: Pandemic debris adds to waste crisis

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), India produced 45,308 tonnes of Covid-19 biomedical waste between June 2020 and May 10, 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: The crisis of plastic and biomedical waste is deepening with each Covid case as millions of people use and throw face shields, surgical masks, gloves and PPE suits, once used primarily in hospitals and now an indispensable part of everyday life.

The movement against plastic has taken a battering in the pandemic with dependency on singleuse plastic surging and households contributing to the tonnes of biomedical waste being generated, worried experts said ahead of World Environment Day Saturday.

The detritus of the pandemic can be seen everywhere - PPE suits lying discarded behind hospitals and crematoriums, surgical masks and shields being thrown as part

of household waste and, of course, sanitiser bottles, gloves and the like found in street corner garbage dumps.

'There has been a general increase and since it is a crisis situation, we are not thinking of plastic but general prevention. The focus is no longer plastic, so that is a problem," Ravi Agarwal. founder director of the environ-

mental NGO Toxics Link, told PTI. "A lot of biomedical waste like masks and PPE kits are also being generated in general homes now So that is becoming a big problem. These things are finding their way across ecosystems. A lot of these things like masks can be seen on beaches, in coral reefs etc," he added

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), India produced 45,308 tonnes of Covid-19 biomedical waste between June 2020 and May 10, 2021, an average daily generation of 132 tonnes of Covid-19 related waste.

This is in addition to the 615 tonnes of biomedical waste a day being produced before Covid-19, amounting to a 17 per cent increase in biomedical waste generation solely because of the pandemic.

Besides Covid-related waste from hospitals and homes with positive patients, there is 'pandemic promoted' waste from non-Covid homes, including not just protective gear but also plastic packaging with more and more people using home deliveries for essential and non-essential shopping.

Under the existing waste disposal rules, biomedical waste is segregated into four categories -



Yellow (highly infectious waste such as human, animal, anatomical, soiled). Red (contaminated recvclable waste generated from disposable items like tubing, bottles

waste generation has also gone up. Secondly these incinerators are meant for waste that has been segregated. But since Covid waste is

not being segregated, the process compromises the efficiency of the incinerators," said Siddharth Singh, deputy programme manager atthe Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

vials). Considered potentially in-

fectious, all Covid waste, irre-

spective of content, is tagged Yellow

well equipped to handle this extra

load of biomedical waste with a na-

tional incineration capacity of 800

tonnes a day. But experts said there

are other factors that needed to be

health crisis, non-Covid biomedical

"Like the fact that due to the

On the face of it, India seems

and incinerated.

taken into account.

PTI PHOTO

Earlier, in February 2019, NPPA

not complying with the revised MRP after Trade Margin capping, shall be liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with 15 per cent interest and penalty up to 100 per cent under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 read with Essential Commodities

Act. 1955. State Drug Controllers (SDCs) shall monitor the compliance of the order to ensure that no manufacturer, distributer, retailer shall sell Oxygen Concentrators to any consumer at a price exceeding the revised MRP, to prevent instances

The Order shall be applicable up to November 30, 2021, subject to

tubes, syringes), White (waste

sharps, including needles, syringes

with fixed needles), and Blue (bro-

ken or discarded and contaminated

glassware, including medicine





Today, we have launched an online portal for commercial plantations. A person who wants to start commercial plantation of commercially viable species of trees, can apply in advance PRAMOD SAWANT | CHIEF MINISTER, GOA

DU MULLING FEE WAIVER FOR STUDENTS ORPHANED BY COVID

The Delhi University is considering giving fee waiver to students who have lost their parents to the novel coronavirus infection, officials said Friday. The varsity has written to its colleges to conduct a survey and prepare a list of such students who have lost either one or both their parents to the virus





According to this programme, around 2.25 lakh youth will be vaccinated free of charge from Friday. All those who have registered themselves will be intimated for the time, place and date for vaccination through SMS

VIJAY RUPANI CHIEF MINISTER, GUJARAT

We want to encourage well-meaning youth and the private sector to step in and bring forth innovative products, processes

and services for the elderly which is presently not there R SUBRAHMANYAM SECRETARY OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Some states called tenders but there is no response. Some states spoke to companies like Pfizer and Moderna but they said they were dealing with the

government of India KT RAMA RAO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, TELANGANA

SHORT TAKES

Gas leak at chemical factory in Maharastra

Thane: A gas leak occurred at a chemical factory at Badlapu in Maharashtra's Thane district, due to which a number of people living around the unit faced difficulty in breathing for a few hours, an official said Friday. The incident took place late Thursday night and the leakage was plugged within an hour, he said. "The gas leak was reported around 10:22 pm at the factory in Shirgaon MIDC of Badlapur (East). A chemical reaction due to the overheating of sulfuric acid and benzyl acid led to the incident," Santosh Kadam, chief of the Regional Disaster Management Cell of Thane Municipal Corporation said.

Delhi man threatens to kill PM Modi: held

New Delhi: A 22-year-old man was arrested from northeast

MAKE IN INDIA Defence Ministry clears deal for 6 submarines

The Navy has been focusing on significantly bolstering its overall capabilities in view of China's increasing efforts to bolster its military presence in the Indian Ocean Region

Purchase of air defence guns, ammo approved n a boost for the air defence

system, the Defence Ministry Friday approved the proposals concerning modernisation of its the Army's air defence guns. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in its meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved proposals concerning capital acquisitions of various equipment for modernisation and operational needs of the armed forces amounting to approx ₹6,000 crore. Noting that there was a long-pending need of the Indian Army for modernisation of its air defence guns, the Defence Ministry said: "These had been earlier procured only from foreign sources. With the continued thrust of the Ministry of Defence towards 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India', an enthusiastic response from about a dozen Indian

The sources said the DAC approved the issuance of the Request for Proposal (RFP) or tender to shipbuilder Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and state-owned Mazagaon Docks Ltd (MDL)

companies was received."

The RFP is expected to be issued within a month and the contract will be awarded following a detailed evaluation of the response of the L&T and MDL, the sources said.

highest decision-making body on The Indian Navy plans to acquire 24 new submarines, includ-They said the project will be implemented in a period of around 12 ing six nuclear attack submarines, vears and the final cost may go up to bolster its underwater fighting depending on the weapons syscapability. It currently has 15 contems to be incorporated into the ventional submarines and two nuclear submarines



Devotees hold wheels as preparation for upcoming Rath Yatra festival, at Lanka Vijay Hanuman temple, in Surat, Friday

PTI PHOTO

NIOS cancels XII exams, objective type evaluation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has cancelled its class 12 examination in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' an nounced Friday

"Keeping the safety and security of our students on priority, NIOS cancels class 12 examinations. Students will be evaluated based on objective criteria to be announced soon. This will benefit around 1.75 lakhs students." the minister tweeted

The move comes in the wake of scrapping of class 12 exams by CBSE, CISCE and several state boards.

According to SK Prasad, Director (Evaluation, NIOS), students who are not satisfied with the assessment



will be given the option to appear when the situation becomes conducive

"The public examination in theory and practical of senior secondary courses scheduled in June, 2021 are hereby cancelled. The NIOS will devise a well defined objective criteria for assessment in time bound manner."

"Any learner who is not satisfied with the assessment will be given an option to appear in public examinations or an On-Demand Examination (ODE) when the sit-

NHRC issues advisorv to monitor spread of **Covid among PVTGs**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has recommended a slew of measures to the Union and state governments to check the spread of Covid-19 infection among the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the remote areas across the country.

The apex rights body directed the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the states to submit monthly reports in connection with the steps taken for implementation of the advisory till the end of the pandemic. The NHRC has declared the district magistrates as nodal officers for the proper implementation of the advisory

Delhi's Khajuri Khas area after he called the Police Control Room (PCR) and allegedly threatened to kill Prime Minister Narendra Modi officials said Friday. The accused, who has been identified as Salman alias Arman, told police that he made the call as he "wanted' to go to jail. He is addicted to drugs and was released from a juvenile correction home, where he was sent in a murder case, in 2018, they said. -----

Water level rises in **Meghalaya** mine

Shillong: The water level inside a coal mine where five miners remain trapped in Meghalayas East Jaintia Hills district has risen by about 1 metre from the previously recorded depth due to heavy rainfall, impacting rescue efforts, an official said Friday. The National Disaster **Response Force (NDRF)** Thursday had said that the water level was about 46 metres from the bottom of the

common man. The development comes a fortnight after the state government issued an order May 18 to provide free treatment, including medicines, beds, etc. to mucormycosis patients under the Mahatma Jyotiba Jan Arogya Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, at 130 pre-

152-metre-deep pit.

Tripura man hailed for 'ber apple' farm

.

Agartala: 32-year Bikramjit Chakma, as a pilot project, has cultivated the Kashmiri variety of the fruit on his 1.25 hectare of land and earned a net profit of ₹3.5 lakh in one season, winning accolades from the chief minister himself. Chakma, who hails from Pencharthal in Tripura's North district, said he came to know about cultivation of 'ber apples' in neighbouring Bangladesh, and decided to try his luck with the fruit in his state, which has similar climatic conditions.

Maha caps treatment rates for private hosps

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

itime capabilities.

sources said.

New Delhi, June 4: The Defence

Ministry Friday cleared a mega

project to domestically build six

conventional submarines for the

Indian Navy at a cost of around

₹43.000 crore. in a major decision

aimed at significantly boosting

India's naval prowess in the face of

rapid expansion of China's mar-

The submarines will be built

under the much-talked-about strate-

gic partnership model that allows

domestic defence manufacturers to

join hands with leading foreign

defence majors to produce high-

end military platforms to reduce im-

port dependence, government

The decision to approve the proj-

ect named 'P-75 India' was taken at

a meeting of the Defence

Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired

by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The DAC is the Defence Ministry's

procurement, they said.

stealth submarines

Mumbai, June 4: Cracking the whip on private hospitals, the Maharashtra government Friday imposed limits on the treatment and surgery costs that can be recovered from patients afflicted by the dreaded mucormycosis (black fungus), a post-Covid disease Chief Minister Uddhav Thackerav

has approved a proposal by the Health determined hospitals, besides em-Ministry fixing the charges to be panelling another levied by all private hospitals, till hospitals. July 31, providing a huge relief to the

"In view of the increasing number of patients being treated for mucormycosis in private hospitals, we had submitted a proposal to control the rates charged by them for treatment,' said Health Minister Rajesh Tope. No hospitals shall be allowed to fleece the patients and the government has also made a provision for

auditing the treatment with stringent

1000

action against those flouting the rules, amid reports that certain private hospitals were allegedly charging exorbitantly for treating black fungus cases.

The government has classified the treatment rates chargeable by private hospitals under various criteria for cities categorised as Class A, B, C, and the rest

The government has also fixed the cost for 28 types of surgical procedures required for mucormycosis treatment, which will be upto ₹100.000. ₹75.000. and ₹60.000 in the three categorised cities respectively, and no hospitals can charge higher than the prescribed rates.

There are around 2,000 black fungus cases in the state currently with more than 150 deaths recorded till date, which are considered the highest in the country, according to officials

Govt sharing data with WHO to give recognition to Covaxin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: Data sharing is going on with WHO to give recognition to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, the government said, noting that it wants to achieve this 'milestone" as soon as possible.

Responding to a question on recognition of Covaxin by the WHO, NITI Aayog Member (Health) V K Paul said the government is pursuing it.

"We have been working with both Bharat Biotech and the WHO to make it happen. There is data

1000	
No.	ND
S atta	3 -tillar
B	8
	E .

sharing going on and we are very keen that this milestone is achieved as soon as possible. We are pursuing it," he said.

uation becomes conducive. In such

circumstances, the result of the

concerned learner in public ex-

aminations or ODE will be treated

The government Tuesday can-

celled the CBSE class 12 board

exams amid the continuing Covid-

19 pandemic across the country

with Prime Minister Narendra

Modi asserting that the decision

was taken in the interest of stu-

dents and the anxiety among stu-

dents, parents and teachers must

as final," he said.

be put to an end.

May 24, Hyderabad-based Bharat **Biotech International Limited** (BBIL) conveyed to the government that it has already submitted 90 per cent of the documents to the WHO for obtaining emergency use listing (EUL) for the Covaxin vaccine. The latest 'Status of Covid-19 Vaccines within WHO EUL/PQ evaluation process' guidance document dated May 18 on the WHO website said Bharat Biotech submitted EOI (Expression of Interest) April 19 and that "more information (is) required".

A pre-submission meeting is expected "to be planned May-June 2021", the guidance document said.



The commission also advised the authorities to carry out RT-PCR testing drives at the doorsteps of the vulnerable groups and to ensure expeditious delivery of reports to the individuals. The commission has instructed the authorities to send mobile medical teams to the remote areas for the vaccination of all the vulnerable tribal groups having population less than 50 thousand within 60 days.

'Covid cannot infect newborn from mother'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, June 4: Like HIV and hepatitis, Covid-19 cannot transmit to the new born babies even if the mother had tested positive for the deadly virus, as around 250 nCoV positive women were found to have delivered healthy babies in Tripura, doctors and experts said.

Agartala Government Medical College's (AGMC) Microbiology department head Tapan Majumder said that it is a very positive development that in India there has been no such instance found where the Covid-19 is being transmitted to the new born baby

municable disease. 'Congenital and vertical transmission of coronavirus is not possible as there is no receipter at the placenta to receive or entertain the virus.But HIV positive and hepatitis virus can be transmitted to the new born baby from the mother," Majumder, also a Professor of the AGMC, told IANS.

During the two pandemic waves, since last year around 250 Covid-19 positive pregnant women have delivered healthy babies at the AGMC, Tripura's main Covid med-

ical college and hospital. "During the first wave, as many as 214 Covid-19 positive women had delivered healthy babies while in the second wave 35 such mothers gave birth to fit and normal

Congenital and vertical transmission of coronavirus is not possible as there is no receipter at the placenta to receive or entertain the virus

TAPAN MAJUMDER HEAD OF MICROBIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, AGMC

babies. There were also many other cases of caesarean delivery," said Jayanta Ray, Head of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology of AGMC.

He told IANS that before admission, all pregnant women are mandatorily undergoing Covid testing and if anyone is found with a positive case, due health protocols are being maintained.

"However, family members and relatives of the new born babies and the concerned women have to be more careful. They should not indiscriminately come closer to both the kid and the mother," said Ray, a renowned Gynaecologist.

Health officials in different northeastern states said that unlike in the first wave children below 15 years are also being tested for Covid-19 in reasonable numbers during the second wave in Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam, forcing the governments of these states to constitute panels of paediatric doctors





from the mother even though the

coronavirus disease is a com-







international

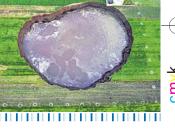


Every adult citizen of Russia has the opportunity to get vaccinated completely free of charge VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

MYSTERIOUS SINKHOLE

A massive water-filled sinkhole which opened up for unknown reasons in a field in central Mexico is getting bigger, local authorities said







Early studies also suggest that students who learn about climate action influence not just their own choices,

but their families' and communities' as wel

REBECCA WINTHROP CO-DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR UNIVERSAL EDU

In 'black is white' world, UN deprived Iran of its voting rights in the UNGA as we're in arrears MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARII

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

When Norway is speeding up on its way out of the pandemic then good expor agreements are important

AGENCIES

peutics.

and Infectious Diseases has a long

history of collaboration with its

counterpart agencies in India, Dr

Fauci said during a conversation

organised by the US-India Strategic

US vaccine action programme, we

will continue to work with India on

research related to SARS-CoV-2

(Severe Acute Respiratory

Syndrome Coronavirus 2) vaccines.

We also are eager to involve Indian

investigators in sites in global clin-

ical trials to evaluate the safety

and efficacy of various COVID-19

therapeutics," he said.

"Under the long-standing Indo-

and Partnership Forum

ERNA SOLBERG NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Pfizer/BioNTech vax for 12-15 year olds

London: The UK's medicines regulator Friday approved the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine for 12 to 15 year olds, saying it is "safe and effective" in this age group and the benefits outweigh any risks. Until now, Covid-19 vaccines being administered in the UK have been approved for adults aged 16 and over. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said the decision followed a "rigorous review" of safety and effectiveness in the lower age groups and its conclusion is that the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh any risks.

10 killed in Pak road mishaps

Islamabad: At least 10 people were killed and 16 others injured in two separate road

COVID-19 CLINICAL TRIALS

'US eager to involve Indian investigators'

Washington, June 4: America's

top infectious disease specialist Dr Anthony Fauci Thursday said his country is eager to involve Indian investigators in global clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 thera-

coveries in the past. "I am confident they will continue to do so in the future. India's contributions to global scientific knowledge are well known to all. With strong governmental support and a vibrant biopharma private sector, this knowledge already is vield-

vention and care," Dr Fauci said. India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu said as India ramps up vaccine production to cater to its needs and those of the world, it relies on the support of the United States in ensuring raw materials and component items are available in good supply.

Pressure on China

The pressure on China to prove that Covid-19 did not originate in a Wuhan lab and leaked from there has ratcheted up following a call by US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci, Fauci is now urging China to release medical records of nine people, including three who had taken ill with Covid-19 symptoms before China officially declared the outbreak of the pandemic, according to a Financial Times report. The three patients had worked in the WIV, a US intelligence report quoted by The Wall Street Journal had said.

best bet against another wave of the pandemic, and the ideal way to speed economic recovery," he said. Observing that India-US health

collaboration is not new he said under the longstanding Vaccine Action Programme between both nations, they developed a vaccine against rotavirus, which causes severe diarrhea in children.

Indian companies have also manufactured, highly cost-effective HIV drugs for use in African countries, building on cooperation between US organisations and the private sector, he said.

"Looking ahead, we need to invest in preparing for the future. Future global resilience will depend on how well prepared we are in dealing with future pandemics. We need to work to further expand our bilateral programmes in areas such as epidemiology, digital health and patients' safety to tackle communicable, and non-communicable diseases and improve infectious disease modelling, prediction and forecasting.

EU, UK PROBE FACEBOOK OVER **CLASSIFIED AD** COMPETITION

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, June 4: European Union and British regulators opened dual antitrust investigations into Facebook Friday to look into whether the company distorts competition in the classified advertising market by using data to compete unfairly against rival services

The EU's executive commission said that it's also looking at whether the way Facebook embeds its own classified ad service, Marketplace, into the social network gives it an advantage in reaching customers. in violation of EU competition rules. The UK's competition watchdog said in a simultaneous announcement that it launched its own probe to examine whether Facebook's collection and use of



data gave it an unfair advantage over competitors providing classified data and online dating services. The coordinated effort represents an escalation by European regulators in their battle to rein in the dominance of big tech companies. The focus of the investigations highlights their longstanding concern that the data these online platforms collect from their users is used to compete against other services

Hundreds show up around HK park



AEGCNIES

Hong Kong, June 4: Hundreds of people gathered near a Hong Kong park Friday despite a ban on an annual candlelight vigil remembering China's deadly crackdown in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, and the arrest earlier in the day of an organizer of previous vigils.

Hong Kong police banned the vigil for a second straight year, citing coronavirus social distancing restrictions, although there have been no local cases in the semi-autonomous Chinese city for more than six weeks.

Police closed off large parts of Victoria Park — the venue of past vigils — in the city's popular Causeway Bay shopping district and warned people not to participate in unauthorized assemblies, which carry a penalty of up to five vears in jail

Despite the ban and a heavy police presence, hundreds of people still turned up Friday night to walk along the perimeter of the park. At 8 p.M., many turned on the flashlights on their smartphones while others lit candles in remembrance of those who lost their lives when China's military put down student-led pro-democracy protests at Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989. Hundreds, if not thousands, were killed in the crackdown. In past years, tens of thousands of people have gathered in Victoria Park to honor the dead. Last year, thousands attended despite the ban to light candles and sing songs. Police later charged more than 20 activists with participating in the event. China's ruling Communist Party has never allowed public events on the mainland to mark the anniversary and security was increased at the Beijing square, with police checking pedestrians' IDs as tour buses shuttled Chinese tourists in and out.

TIANANMEN ANNIV

Chinese officials say the country's rapid economic development in the years since what they call the "political turmoil" of 1989 proves that decisions made at the time were correct.

The efforts come amid sweeping moves to quell dissent in the city, including a new national security law, election system changes and the arrest of many activists who participated in prodemocracy protests that swept Hong Kong in 2019. Earlier Friday, police arrested Chow Hang Tung, a vice chair of the Hong Kong Alliance which organized Hong Kong's annual candlelight vigil, the group said.

53 soldiers indicted for Call for 'moderate Muslim policy' in Afghan murder, rape in Tigray

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Addis Ababa, June 4: The Ethiopian Federal Attorney General's Office announced that 53 soldiers have been indicted on criminal charges related to murder

so far, there have been four convictions.' Timothewos said his office is

currently investigating several hundred instances of alleged rapes in Tigray, reports Xinhua news agency

AGENCIES Beijing, June 4: China, Afghanistan

and Pakistan have underlined that after the withdrawal of the US

troops from Afghanistan, the coun-

A trilateral meeting took place as China has stepped up its diplomacy with both Pakistan and Afghanistan to deal with the fallout of the US and NATO troops withdrawal which is already resulting in increasing incidents of violence in Afghanistan



rorist organisations or individuals from using their territories to engage in criminal activities against other countries.

They also urge



Indian Council of Medical Research have helped produce important scientific and public health dis-The National Institute of Allergy

ing solutions to COVID-19 pre-

'Vaccinating the world is our

mishaps in Pakistan Friday. police said. Six persons were killed and 16 others injured when a speeding car collided with a bus near Tando Masti area of Khairpur district in Sindh province. Police said a tyre of the car burst which caused the accident. Rescue workers reached the spot and shifted the victims to hospitals in the area. In another accident, a bus hit a motorcycle on Ferozepur Road in Lahore, killing four people. Police said the four victims belonged to the same family.

Chicago to fully reopen

Chicago: Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced that the third largest US city will fully reopen June 11, in line with the date of reopening of the state of Illinois ordered by Governor JB Pritzker. The date is three weeks earlier than the target date of July 4 that Lightfoot had initially planned to fully reopen the city, Xinhua news agency reported.

Unrest erupts in Minneapolis

.....

Minneapolis (US): Crowds vandalised buildings and stole from businesses in Minneapolis' Uptown neighbourhood after officials said a man wanted for illegally possessing a gun was fatally shot by authorities who were part of a task force trying to arrest him that included US Marshals. Following the Thursday afternoon shooting, a small crowd gathered in the neighbourhood where the man was shot, shouting expletives at police.

and rape accusations in the conflicthit Tigray state.

Speaking to journalists here Thursday, Attorney General Gedion Timothewos said: "Military prosecutors have conducted their own investigation and so far, they have pressed charges against 28 soldiers who have been suspected of killing civilians in such situations where

there was no military necessity. "Furthermore, military prosecutors have pressed charges against 25 soldiers who have been suspected of committing acts of sexual violence and rape, the trials of these suspects are underway and

Allegations of sexual violence against women and children including rapes amid the state's ongoing conflict have caused widespread local and international concern.

The Ethiopian government has pledged to investigate and bring to justice any security forces found to have committed sexual violence in Tigray

The Ethiopian government launched a military offensive in November 2020 against the the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which until then had power in the state



try should pursue a "moderate Muslim policy" amid Beijing's growing concern over the return of the Taliban and the Islamic State and its likely impact on its volatile Xinjiang province. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang

Yi, Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar and their Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi held their fourth China-sponsored trilateral meeting via video conference Thursday.

Last month, Wang had held talks over telephone with the foreign ministers from Pakistan and Afghanistan. A joint statement issued after the trilateral talks said, 'The three sides underlined the importance of a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Afghanistan and called on all parties in Afghanistan for an early declaration of a comprehensive ceasefire and an end to the senseless violence, in order to create the conditions needed for negotiation between the

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi hosts the 4th China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue via video conference AP

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban". They called for an orderly withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan to prevent the deterioration of the security situation there and the return of terrorist forces. State-run Xinhua news agency in a report said the three countries stressed that the solution to the Afghan issue should fully reflect the principle of "Afghan-

led and Afghan-owned", support Afghanistan in becoming an "independent, sovereign and neutral country pursue a moderate Muslim policy, firmly fight against terrorism, and maintain friendly ties with other countries, especially neighbouring countries".

They also stressed the need to reject the "double standards" of anti-terrorism, to forbid any ter-

efforts to combat the separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) and other terrorist forces, so as to safeguard regional security and stability, the Xinhua report said. The US is preparing to wrap up its longest war by withdrawing the last of its 2,500-3,500 troops along with 7,000 allied NATO forces by September 11 at the latest.

Beijing seeks to carve out its Afghanistan policy, to safeguard its interests, especially the security of its Xinjiang region that shares a narrow border with Afghanistan

bservers say China's worries stem from Uygur Muslim militants from Xinjiang belonging to the separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) who joined the Islamic State (IS) and fought in Syrian civil war returning to the volatile province which shares borders with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Afghanistan besides Central Asian States, Kyrgyztan and Kazakhstan.

Naftali, Netanyahu's ex-protégé, poised to succeed him

AGENCIES

Tel Aviv, Israel, June 4: For months. Naftali Bennett vexed Israel's political establishment by refusing to say whether he and his Yamina party would get behind Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Now the 49-year-old tech millionaire and former Netanyahu protege is poised to become his successor.

His rise to Israel's top job is a historic turn for the 73-year-old nation after four inconclusive elections and a brutal 11-day war with Hamas' militant rulers in the Gaza Strip. As a fragile truce held into its second week, Bennett finally announced his party would join with allies of centrist Yair Lapid to form

hour before a midnight deadline, paving the way to formally oust Netanyahu in the coming days. The "change" coalition reflects

a pragmatic streak in the 49-yearold father of four who built his career on becoming the pro-settlement, anti-Palestinian statehood leader of the new Israeli right. It also reflects Israel's mercurial politics. Less than two months ago, Bennett signed a pledge on national television. "I won't let Lapid become prime minister, with or without a rotation, because I'm a man of the right and for me values are important," he said.

Yet that's exactly what will happen under Lapid and Bennett's deal to serve as premier in twovear shifts. Bennett was more circumspect when he announced the deal this week. "No one will be



asked to give up their ideology, but everyone will have to postpone the realization of some of their dreams," he said. "We will focus on what can be done, instead of arguing over what is impossible." Bennett is a modern Orthodox Jew and lives in the upscale Tel Aviv suburb of Raanana, rather than the settlements he champions.

"The mistake," Bennett told The Associated Press in 2012, "is to categorize me as extreme.²

Bennett began life with his American-born parents in Haifa, then bounced with his family between North America and Israel, military service, law school and the private sector.

Throughout, he's curated a persona that's at once modern, religious and nationalist. After serving in the elite Sayeret Matkal commando unit, Bennett went to law school at Hebrew University and made a fortune in the largely secular world of technology. In 1999, he co-founded Cyota, an anti-fraud software company that he sold in 2005 to USbased RSA Security for \$145 million.

Bennett has said the bitter experience of Israel's 2006 war against the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah drove him to politics. The monthlong war ended inconclusively, and Israel's military and political leadership at the time was widely criticized as 🛁 bungling the campaign.

Bennett made his debut as Netanyahu's chief of staff for two years. They parted ways after a mysterious falling out that Israeli media linked to Netanyahu's wife,-Sara, who wields great influence over her husband's inner circle.



a government. They completed

the deal late Wednesday, just a half











We believe that formal retail spaces like malls have the ability to operate within a controlled environment. We hope other states will also follow the same method (like Haryana) when they open up and support the economy KUMAR RAJAGOPALAN CEO, RAI

FB LAUNCHES TECH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Facebook India Friday said it has launched a new initiative to provide students from leading law schools in the country a platform for research and mentorship on topics related to technology law and policy



uote Biden widens list of Chinese cos off-limits for investment

encouraging to see a much lesser impact of the second wave of the pandemic on the job economy versus last

It is

year. Even though the hiring activity declined by 15 per cent in April over March, we see hiring turning flat in May, signalling resilience and recovery

PAWAN GOYAL CBO, NAUKRI.COM



country's transition towards cleaner modes of transport cannot be fulfilled without mass adoption of EVs and we are delighted to have partnered with NHPC to

accelerate this movement SAURABH KUMAR EXEC VICE CHAIRPERSON, EESL



on a durable basis and to mitigate impact of Covid-19. apart from an aim to keep inflation within the target

SANJAY AGGARWAL PRESIDENT, PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

SHORT TAKES

US adds modest 5,59,000 jobs

Washington: US Employers added 559,000 jobs in May, an improvement from April's sluggish gain but still evidence that many companies are struggling to find enough workers as the economy rapidly recovers from the pandemic recession Last month's job gain was above April's revised total of 2,78,000, the Labor Department said Friday. The unemployment rate fell to 5.8% from 6.1%. The speed of the rebound from the pandemic recession has caught employers off guard and touched off a scramble to hire.

.....

AGENCIES

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 4: The Reserve

growth in the current fiscal year

ending March 31, 2022, while the

inflation forecast was bumped up

icy committee (MPC) headed by

Governor Shaktikanta Das voted

unanimously for keeping reporate

- RBI's key lending rate - unchanged

at 4 per cent, and the reverse repo

rate - the borrowing rate - at 3.35

at this juncture policy support

from all sides is required to gain

the momentum of growth that

was evident in the second half of

2021, and to nurture the recovery

after it has taken root," Das said.

It decided to retain an accom-

modative policy stance "as long

as necessary to revive and sustain

growth on a durable basis and con-

"The MPC was of the view that

The six-member monetary pol-

by 10 bps to 5.1 per cent.

per cent.

Washington, June 4: China vehemently objected Friday to US President Joe Biden's expansion of a list of Chinese companies whose shares are off-limits to American investors because of their purported links to the Chinese military and surveillance

The White House issued the update late Thursday to an order signed last year by Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, that added to antagonisms over trade and technology.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin urged Washington to withdraw the order and "provide Chinese enterprises with a fair and non-discriminatory business and investment environment".

RBI keeps interest

rates unchanged

'China will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises," he said at a regular briefing in Beijing. He did not elaborate

The executive order takes effect August 2. It is the latest indication that Biden has not softened Washington's stance on alleged security risks from companies US officials say are linked to the Chinese "military and industrial

complex". Tariffs on Chinese exports that were imposed under Trump, triggering similar actions from Beijing, mostly remain in place. China's chief economic envoy. Vice Premier Liu He, and US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen held their first meeting by video Wednesday, but the two sides gave no indication when



negotiations on ending their tariff war might resume.

The revised order from Biden says it is to "ensure that US investments are not supporting Chinese companies that undermine the security or values of the United States and our allies"

The updated list includes companies that Washington alleges contribute to surveillance of religious and ethnic minorities or to repression and "serious human rights abuses"

Investors already holding shares in the 59 companies listed have one vear to divest from them. Many but not all of the companies on the expanded list already were on a Defense Department blacklist that limits access to American technology and investment. The original list included 31 companies

It includes telecoms equipment maker Huawei Technologies, which faces various US sanctions, and two of its financial affiliates. It also includes China's big stateowned telecoms companies and China National Offshore Oil Corp.

Separately, the Commerce Department has put CNOOC, the country's third-largest national oil company, on an economic blacklist for what it described as "reckless and belligerent actions" in the disputed waters of the South China Sea.

That's a reference to CNOOC's involvement in offshore drilling in disputed waters of the South China Sea, where Beijing has overlapping territorial claims with other countries including Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia, as well as Taiwan.

Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp or SMIC, plays a leading role in the ruling party's effort to reduce reliance on US and other foreign technology by creating Chinese suppliers of processor chips and other components.

Indian firms missing the bus on vaccines: Report

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 4: Vaccines and mRNA-based technologies have rapidly emerged as promising new therapeutic modalities, but Indian companies are lagging behind in adopting these innovation platforms. A report by foreign brokerage Jefferies said that Indian companies are missing the bus on relatively low-risk innovation.

At a recent health conference in the US, several vaccine companies, including CureVac, Valneva, BioNtech and Novavax, set out their growth plans for a post-Covid world



The report said that mass inoculation with mRNA vaccines has validated the mRNA technology and put vaccines in the spotlight. The companies set out plans to use mRNA technology/vaccines for other infectious diseases, such as flu and Chikungunya, and in oncology.

FM chairs meet on infra road map

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 4: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday held a virtual meeting with senior government officials to discuss the infrastructure roadmap ahead. This was her fourth review meeting with Ministries and Departments, and the second in the series of meetings scheduled on the infrastructure roadmap ahead after the presentation of Budget 21-22.

During the meeting, the Capital Expenditure Plans of Ministries and their central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), the status of implementation of budget announcements, and measures to expedite infrastructure investment were discussed

The meeting was attended by the Finance Secretary, the Economic Affairs Secretary, the Public Enterprises Secretary, the Power Secretary, and the Railway Board Chairman & CEO as well as CMDs/CEOs of CPSEs of these two Ministries

While reviewing the capital expenditure performance of the Ministries and their CPSEs,

Blackstone acquires media

& data firm IDG for \$1.3bn

Sitharaman emphasised that enhanced capex will play a critical role in revitalising the economy postpandemic and encouraged the Ministries to front-load their cap-

ital expenditure. Ministries were also requested

to aim to achieve more than their capex targets

The Finance Minister said that the Budget for 2021-22 provided a capital outlay of ₹15.54 lakh crore. a sharp increase of 34.5 per cent over the Budget Estimate of 2020-21. However, the efforts from the budgetary side to increase the capital expenditure have to be complemented by the PSEs, she added.

She also highlighted that the infrastructure expenditure is not just Central government budgetary expenditure on infrastructure and includes infrastructures pending by state governments and the private sector. It also includes government expenditure through extrabudgetary resources.

Therefore, Ministries are to actively work on getting projects funded through innovative structuring and financing and provide all support to private sector for enhancing infrastructure spending, the Finance Minister said, adding that the Ministries also need to explore PPP mode for viable projects.

Bird Group executive director Ankur Bhatia dies of cardiac arrest

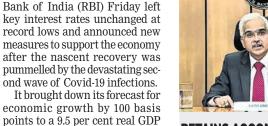


STANCE

Governor Shaktikanta Das voted rate unchanged

The central bank brought down its forecast for economic growth by 100 bps to a 9.5% real GDP growth March 31, 2022

has impacted the economic recovery. But Das said unlike the first wave of Covid-19 infections which brought the economy to an



RETAINS ACCOMMODATIVE

The six-member MPC headed by unanimously for keeping the repo

in the current fiscal year ending

RBI expanded its version of quantitative easing to keep borrowing costs anchored

of the second wave of Covid-19

FICCI awareness campaign launched

New Delhi: Industry chamber FICCI Friday said it has launched a multilingual mass media awareness campaign about Covid-19-appropriate behaviour - 'Corona Ko Harana Hai'. The campaign will be featured across the country through TV, print, radio and digital media, with the slogan "Har ghar ne thaana hai, Corona ko harana hai", it said.

'No candidate to head ONGC'

New Delhi: Government headhunter PESB Friday did not find anyone suitable from nine candidates, including two serving IAS officers, to head India's largest oil and gas producer, ONGC. The Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) interviewed 9 out of the 10 candidates who had applied for the post of Chairman and MD of ONGC. "Keeping in view the strategic importance and vision for the company and its future, the Board did not recommend anv candidate and decided to constitute a Search Committee," PESB said.

Bank credit grows by 5.98%

Mumbai: Bank credit grew by 5.98% to ₹108.33 lakh crore while deposits rose by 9.66% to ₹151.67 lakh crore in the fortnight ended May 21, 2021, RBI data showed. In the fortnight ended May 22, 2020, bank credit stood at ₹102.22 lakh crore and deposits at ₹138.29 lakh crore, according to RBI's Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India as on May 21, 2021, released Friday.

tinue to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the economy," signaling there is still room to cut rates further.

RBI expanded its version of quantitative easing to keep borrowing costs anchored. It will buy an additional ₹1.2 lakh crore of bonds under the Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP) 2.0 in the second quarter. In April, RBI committed to buy-

ing ₹1 lakh crore worth of government bonds from the market between April and May under G-SAP 1.0. Under G-SAP 1.0, RBI will purchase government securities worth ₹40,000 crore June 17.

The move is aimed at supporting the government's borrowing plan at comfortable interest rates. The speed, scale and severity

abrupt standstill under a nationwide lockdown, the impact of the second wave on economic activity is expected to be relatively contained with restrictions on mo-

bility being regionalised and nuanced. He said retail inflation is seen at 5.1 per cent in 2021-22, with upside risks from higher commodity prices and re-emergence of higher supply constraints amidst the current phase of lockdowns.

Other announcements include a separate liquidity window of ₹15,000 crore being opened till March 31, 2022, with tenors of up to 3 years at the repo rate, under which banks can provide fresh lending support to COVID-hit sectors such as hotels, restaurants and tourism.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 4: Leading investment firm Blackstone has acquired media and data company International Data Group (IDG) for \$1.3 billion. Private equity funds managed by Blackstone entered into a definitive agreement to acquire IDG from Oriental Rainbow, a subsidiary of China Oceanwide Holdings Group.

Founded in 1964, IDG provides market intelligence for the fastgrowing technology industry.

"The high-quality data, analytics, and insights IDG delivers to technology leaders are only becoming more critical as the pace of growth and innovation accelerates," said Peter Wallace, Global Head of Core Private Equity at



Blackstone.

"IDG has a trusted brand and deep knowledge of tech suppliers and buyers, and our investment will help the company accelerate its plans for creating even more advanced product offerings across its business," he said in a statement late Thursday.

IDG has a collection of tech publications that includes CIO, Computerworld, InfoWorld,

Macworld, Network World, PCWorld and Tech Hive.

The new ownership will allow IDG to invest significantly in additional opportunities for ongoing growth across its technology and product portfolio, including strategic acquisitions to extend its market leadership position.

"Additional capital investment from Blackstone will allow us to cultivate our rich history of innovation and accelerate our product roadmaps to bring our customers the deeper insights and data they need to succeed in today's rapidly evolving digital economy," added Mohamad Ali, CEO of IDG.

IDG and its subsidiaries have made multiple recent acquisitions to further increase its capabilities for its customers.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 4: Ankur Bhatia, the Executive Director of Bird Group died on Friday at the age of 48. Reports suggest that he suffered a massive cardiac arrest.

Bhatia has led the group's strategic thrust to create multiple drivers of growth that made a significant and growing contribution to the company and industry at large.

He also shaped and implemented blue ocean strategies that strengthen the overall brand proposition and accelerate a leap in core business value by exploring new growth avenues for building uncontested market leadership.

Bhatia is credited with bringing in the Amadeus brand to the Indian sub-continent in 1994, which today is the market leader in providing travel technology for travel agents and airlines.

In line with Bhatia's commitment towards shaping the future of mobility in India, Bird Group forayed in the electric mobility space and has been constantly adding unique new age mobility vehicles to the product portfolio of its subsidiary Bird Electric.

Bird Electric has pioneered the space of personal mobility devices in India since the last 10 years as the exclusive distributor of Segway Personal Transporters (PTs).

Bhatia, as the Executive Director also spearheaded the growth for the group in the hospitality sector under Bird Hospitality Services, to set new standards and world-classhospitality assets through Roseate Hotels & Resorts.

'Carbon emission by tech outsourcing industry dips 85%'

THE TRAVEL EXPENSE OF TOP FIVE IT FIRMS: TCS, INFOSYS, HCL, WIPRO AND TECH MAHINDRA REDUCED BY AROUND 75% TO \$370 MILLION IN FY 2021 AS COMPARED TO \$1.4 BILLION IN FY 2020

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 4: The carbon emission by Indian IT outsourcing industry has dropped by about 85 per cent to around 0.3 million tonnes due to reduced travelling, work from home and online hiring process, according to a report of market research firm UnearthInsight released Friday. The travel expense of top five IT

services companies TCS, Infosys, HCL, Wipro, Tech Mahindra) reduced by around 75 per cent to \$370 million in the financial year 2021 compared to \$1.4 billion in the financial vear 2020, thereby leading to dip in carbon emission, according to the report.

"The study reveals and estimates an 85 per cent drop in carbon emissions during the year at about 0.3 million tonnes of carbon emission from a pre-pandemic level of around 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually. The study observes that today only 4 to 5 per cent of around 4.4 million workforce in the outsourcing industry is traveling to work," Unearthinsight said in a statement.

UnearthInsight benchmarking analysis estimates that the Indian IT outsourcing spent only about USD 750 million on travel costs in FY 2020-21 compared to USD 2.9 billion in FY 2019-20.

Further, the plan of Indian outsourcing industry to use electric vehicles for their workforce will take them towards carbon neutrality. "The outsourcing industry was

on track for the adoption of hybrid working models, electric mobility even before Covid. However, the pandemic and quick adoption of digital tools and technology has dramatically changed the scenario and today carbon emission reduction looks sustainable over a

longer period of time,"



UnearthInsight founder and CEO Gaurav Vasu said. He said Covid-19 disruption has made outsourcing organisations,

clients' and employees' environment friendly, helping them accelerate their journey towards Carbon neutrality.

Even before the pandemic, tech companies and captives like TCS, Infosys, HCL, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Unisys, Google, Microsoft, Adobe, Oracle captives were already reducing carbon emissions with the adoption of digital employee transportation apps clubbed with electric vehicle fleet providers.

UnearthInsight study estimates over 20 to 25 per cent employees to return back to work by early next year as global and domestic IT firms' complete vaccination of employees and families.

This is when pre-pandemic pilots and investments of larger technology and captives who deployed disruptive electric vehicle startups will pay off as companies aim to move from around 5 per cent employee travel on EV to over 25 to 30 per cent by 2025 helping achieve carbon Neutrality targets," the statement said.







OrissaPOST SATURDAY JUNE 5 2021 BHUBANESWAR

sports

Argentina draw with Chile **INDIA LOSE TO QATAR**



FACE-SAVER: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu is airbourne denying Qatar a scoring opportunity during their match, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha. June 4: A 10-man India lost 0-1 to Asian champions Qatar with goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's outstanding performance coming in the way of a heavier loss for the tourists in their World Cup qualifying round match here

Abdel Aziz scored in the 33rd minute in a match completely dominated by the Qataris Thursday night. The two sides had played out a goalless draw in their first leg match here in September 2019, mainly due to Sandhu's impressive show under the bar that time as well.

India played with 10 men from the 18th minute onwards as Rahul Bheke received his marching orders after picking up a second yellow card for handling the ball outside the box. He had earlier received a yellow card in the ninth minute. India are already out of con-

tention for a World Cup berth but they are still in the reckoning for the 2023 Asian Cup. Igor Stimac's men still have two matches in the joint qualifiers to salvage some pride and notch up at least a win. They play Bangladesh June 7 and Afghanistan June 15.

Group toppers Qatar, who are yet to lose a match, came up with waves of attacks and more than half their squad stayed put in the Indian half for most of the time. They had 66 per cent possession as against 34 per cent of India.

But for Sandhu's heroics, India would have lost the match by a big margin. He pulled off as many as nine saves in the Group E match played at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium Thursday night.

In fact, Qatar had 29 shots on opposition goal as against India's none. India did have two good moves from counter-attacks but Manvir Singh failed to make them

count.

India captain Sunil Chhetri, who returned to the team after recovering from COVID-19, was replaced by Udanta Singh at the resumption of second half.

A winless India remained in fourth spot in the group with three points from six matches. They are two points behind Afghanistan (third with five points) who played out a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh

earlier in the day. It was all Qatar from the very beginning as Felix Sanchez's men put India under pressure in the first minute with Abdelkarim Hassan blasting his effort just wide from outside the box.

Hassan then had another chance in the fourth minute but his effort off Karim Boudiaf's corner was saved by Sandhu.

Qatar came close to scoring again in the 15th minute after Yusuf Abdurisag did well on the right to

Goalie Gurpreet saves 10-man team from big defeat in their World Cup qualifying match

cut back in and relay the ball to Abdel Aziz Hatim, who however hit his volley over the bar.

Despite being a man down, India showed determination and continued to deny Qatar with Sandhu foiling the West Asians' attempts at goal.

Debutant Glan Martins was im-pressive, pulling the strings in midfield alongside Bipin Singh Thounaojam and Suresh Singh Wangjam.

India had their first real look at the Qatari goal in the 29th minute when Ashique Kurunivan managed to slip past his marker and essayed it behind the defensive line for an onrushing Manvir. But the striker's touch let him down as the Qatar goalkeeper collected the ball.

However, Qatar scored the opening goal in the 33rd minute after Mohammed Muntari found space down the left before slipping the ball to Abdel Aziz Hatim, who converted off a rebound from his first attempt

A counter-attack on the 42nd minute gave India a sniff of a chance. Chhetri, with all his experience, shielded Bassam Alrawi as he found Manvir. whose shot was, however, blocked by a Qatari defender.

Sandhu continued to frustrate Qatar when he kept out Abdelkarim Hassan from close-range in the 47th minute and later Muntari's snap-shot from inside the box in the 53rd minute.

Qatar had their best chance of the second half with four minutes of regulation time left on the clock, when substitute Abdullah Alahraq rifled a longranger onto the near post. However, the ball ricocheted off the post and went out of play.



Lionel Messi Celebrates after scoring from the spot against Chile

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buenos Aires, June 4: Argentina and Chile drew 1-1 in their first World Cup qualifying game since November. The was played in an empty stadium because of the surging COVID-19 cases in the region.

The result will keep Lionel Messi's Argentine team in second spot in South American qualifying if leader Brazil doesn't lose to Ecuador in Porto Alegre Friday. In other games Thursday,

Uruguay and Paraguay drew 0-0 and Bolivia moved from last spot to seventh in the 10-team roundrobin with a 3-1 win over Venezuela.

The top four teams will automatically qualify to Qatar 2022. The fifth-place team will go into an inter-continental playoff.

Argentina will face Colombia Tuesday, in a match where fan attendance is expected despite a high number of coronavirus infections in the country. Chile will play against Bolivia. Uruguay will travel to Venezuela and Paraguay will host Brazil.

Messi opened the scoring for Argentina in the 24th minute after a video reviewed decision put the ball on the penalty spot. The superstar calmly slid a shot to the left of Claudio Bravo, who jumped the opposite way. It was Messi's 72nd goal for the team.

Alexis Sanchez equalised in the

35th. Charles Aranguiz took a freekick from the left that ended with Gary Medel behind the Argentinian defenders. He made a low cross which Sanchez pushed to the back

of the net. The teams, which have become bitter rivals since the 2015 Copa America, had late absences because of the coronavirus. Argentina missed goalkeeper Franco Armani and defender Gonzalo Montiel, and Chile had to do without midfielder Arturo Vidal.

Playing without suspended Edinson Cavani, Uruguay had to settle for a scoreless draw with Paraguay, which kept both teams in the middle of the standings with five points apiece.

"This match made us stronger," Paraguay coach Eduardo Berizzo said. "We took a point and we blocked two for our rival. A rival with a lot of experience.

Cavani will not play in the next game, either, because of a suspension. That could force Luis Suarez to play once more alongside Jonathan Rodriguez, who had never started a match for Uruguay until Thursday.

The most controversial moment of the match was in the 24th minute. when Rodriguez found the back of the net but a video reviewed decision ended with a ruling that Matias Vina interfered in the reaction of goalkeeper Anthony Silva.

TRIBUTE TO MARADONA

BUENOS AIRES: Lionel Messi was among the Argentina players and coaches who paid tribute to Diego Maradona in a statue unveiling cere mony before their World Cup qualifier against Chile. Maradona died November 25 in Buenos Aires afte cardiac arrest. He was 60. Davs later, Messi paid his respects by celebrating a goal for Barcelona with the shirt of Argentine club Newell's Old Boys, where the 1986 World Cup winner had also played. Argentina's last official match took place weeks before Maradona died. Messi, his teammates and coach Lionel Scaloni watched the unveiling of a bronze statue of the football great at the Unico Madres de Ciudades stadium, in Santiago del Estero Thursday. The statue depicts a defiant Maradona, hand on his waist and a ball at his feet. An inscription on it reads 'Diego Maradona, 1960-2020' and a symbol representing infinity. Later players also entered their match against Chile wearing a shirt featur ing Maradona.



3-DAY QUARANTINE FOR INDIA Players not allowed -(to meet each other

confirm partaking ASSOCIATED PRESS



Koeman retains Barca job

mediately confirmed as the coach PRESS TRUST OF INDIA for next season

Brazil stars yet to

<u>COPA AMERICA ON HOME SOIL</u>

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, June 4: Brazil's star players have debated whether or not they should play in the Copa America on home soil but don't plan to make any public statements on the matter until after their World Cup qualifying games against Ecuador and Paraguay.

The Copa America, awarded to defending champion Brazil after Argentina and Colombia were dropped as co-hosts, has become a contentious issue amid surging COVID-19 cases in the region.

Brazil coach Tite Thursday said the players had spoken to national football confederation president Rogerio Caboclo. "They have an opinion, they exposed it to the president. And they will expose it to the public at the appropriate time. That is why our captain Casemiro is absent today," Tite told a news conference when asked if his players had requested permission to skip the June 13-July 10 continental championship.

Brazil are set to play Ecuador Friday and Paraguay next Tuesday in South American qualifying for the 2022 World Cup.

The South American football confederation (CONMEBOL) chose Brazil as a replacement host earlier this week after Argentina was dropped because of the spread of COVID-19. Colombia was removed as a co-host last month amid street protests against President Ivan Duque.

Brazil players, executives and coaching staff haven't spoken to the media since the decision was announced. "We asked our athletes to focus only on the match against Ecuador," Tite said Thursday.

'We have a priority now, to play well and beat Ecuador. We understand that after the two rounds these situations will be clear. I am not avoiding answers and I am giving facts, with the understanding that I have," Tite added. "Copa America is very important. But our match tomorrow is more important

Brazil counts about 470,000 deaths by COVID-19. Health experts are expecting a third wave of infections later this month.

Madrid, June 4: Barcelona's doubts about Ronald Koeman are gone. After taking some time to analyze Koeman's performance last season, Barcelona announced on Thursday that it will keep the Dutch coach in charge for another year.

The decision was announced after a meeting of the club's board of directors. "I'd like to announce that, after a period of reflection, we have decided to continue with Koeman," club president Joan Laporta said.

We are very satisfied with how everything went during this period. We had some very direct conversations. Koeman's behavior was impeccable. He showed that he is a great professional."

Koeman has another year left on his contract but Laporta had said the club was considering whether to keep him after a disappointing season in which Barcelona only won the Copa del Rey and squandered several chances to win the Spanish league. 'We needed this period to get to

know each other, we needed to find solutions to whatever disagreements we might have had." Laporta

immediate talks about extending the coach's contract beyond next season because the focus of the negotiations was to decide whether he would stay.

He dismissed the notion that Koeman only stayed because the club is struggling financially and can't afford to end his contract ahead of time. He said he disagrees that Koeman became a weak figure within the club after not being im-

"We could have ended the contract if we wanted to," Laporta said. "He has been reinforced. We are very satisfied to be able to continue this relationship. We see a coach who is very motivated and who already has a year of experience with the club. I think that he comes out of it reinforced. He is the coach we want.

Koeman arrived last season with the difficult task of retooling a team that had gone without a trophy for the first time in over a decade. He took over not long after the club's embarrassing 2-8 defeat to Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

"I hope Barcelona will be a more competitive team, with a winning mentality and a style of game that is more attack-minded," Laporta said.

Koeman will have at least two new signings for next season former Manchester City players Sergio Aguero and Eric Garcia – but it remains unclear if he will still be able to count on Lionel Messi, whose contract ends June 30. Messi had his request to leave denied last season and is yet to say anything about his future.

Southampton, June 4: India spinner Axar Patel has revealed that the team will serve a three-day hard quarantine before it is allowed to train at the Aegeas Bowl here ahead of the World Test Championship (WTC) final against New Zealand.

The final begins June 18 and India have limited time to prepare having arrived here Wednesday. On the other hand, New Zealand are already involved in a two-match series against England.

The India squad was in quarantine for 14 days in Mumbai prior to their departure and is in the middle of another yet shorter quarantine.

"I had a good sleep...The plan is to quarantine. We have been told that we can't meet each other for three days so we will be quarantining for that much time," said Axar in a video posted by BCCI capturing the team's journey to England via a charter flight.

The men's and women's squads were in the same flight. After landing in London, the contingent took a two-hour bus journey to Southampton.

India play five Tests against England following the WTC final while women play a one-off Test, three ODIs and as many T20I against the home team starting June 16.



Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant afterreaching Southampton, Thursday PHOTO CREDIT: ROHIT SHARMA TWITTER

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy. RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159



NASTASIA UPSET

ture of seeded players in the women's tournament continued at the French Open as third-seeded Aryna Sabalenka was upset by Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova Friday in the third round of the claycourt Grand Slam.

jured Thursday. Second-seeded

Naomi Osaka withdrew after the

ASSOCIATED PRESS Paris, June 4: The early depar-

The women's side at Roland Garros is now without its top three seeds after Sabalenka lost 6-4, 2-6, 6-0. Sabalenka had been the highest remaining seed after top-ranked Ash Barty retired from her second-round match in-

first round, saying she is taking a break from competition for mental health reasons.

The fourth-seeded Sofia Kenin is now the highest-seeded player in the fray. Pavlyuchenkova had lost to Sabalenka in straight sets in the

Madrid semifinals last month. Her next opponent will be Victoria Azarenka, who beat 23rdseeded Madison Keys 6-2, 6-2 in 70 minutes. The two-time Grand Slam champion reached the fourth round for the first time since her semifi-

nal run in 2013. Unseeded Tamara Zidansek and 21st-seeded Elena Rybakina also advanced, reaching the second week at a major for the first time.

Late Thursday night, defending champion and eighth seed Iga Swiatek Overwhelmed Sweden's Rebecca Peterson 6-1, 6-1 to set up a third round match against Anett Kontaveit.

said. "We reached the conclusion

that this is what is best for Barcelona

Koeman was signed by former

Barcelona president Josep

Bartomeu at the end of last season.

The 58-year-old former defender

was in charge for 54 matches, with

34 wins, 11 losses and nine draws.

The team scored 122 goals and con-

Laporta said there had been no

ceded 58 under his command.

and for Koeman.

In the men's draw, sixth seed German Alexander Zverev outplayed Laslo Dere 6-2, 7-5, 6-2. Among others, unseeded Federico Delbonis stunned 27th seed Fabio Fognini 6-4, 6-1, 6-3.

Late Thursday night, reigning Roland Garros champion Rafa Nadal outwitted Richard Gasquet 6-0, 7-5, 6-2. The 20-time Grand Slam champion and World No.3 will next face unseeded Cameron Norrie in the third round.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bhubaneswar, June 4: The con-

seater Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, touted to be the country's largest, started in Rourkela, Friday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone of the stadium at the Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) campus in the steel city in February.

'The construction of the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium gains momentum with a

'bhoomi puja' (groundbreaking ceremony)," Sundargarh district Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan tweeted.

Rourkela MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak and Additional District Magistrate Aboli Naravane attended the event, the official said.

The stadium will come up on 15-20 acres of land, for which work is expected to be completed within a year.

It will host the FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 along with Kalinga Stadium in the



capital city.

Construction work begins for

Rourkela Int'l Hockey Stadium



struction work for the 20.000-