



POST NEWS NETWORK

opment in the region."

Mahapatra informed.

Kalahandi district ((Sinapali-

Dharmagarh-Ampani) a 69.85-km

stretch will be constructed with 11

highway will connect Sundargarh,

Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh,

Nuapada, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur

The Cabinet has alsp approved ten-

der for construction of box shape

drain in Cuttack city under JICA as-

sisted Odisha Integrated Sanitation

during monsoons are perennial prob-

lems faced by Cuttack residents. So a

drain will be constructed between

Frequent flooding and inundation

Improvement Project (OISIP).

As per plan, the four-lane express

small and two major bridges.

and Koraput districts.

AGENCIES

RREGULAR by MANJUL



OMANT

Before I welcome you to our party dear, show me your covid test result!

PANDEY APPOINTED ECI'S 3RD MEMBER

NEW DELHI: President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed retired IAS officer Anup Chandra Pandey as the Election Commissioner. The appointment restores the three-member Election Commission of India (ECI) to its full strength. It will now oversee the next set of Assembly elections in UP, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand next year. Pandey is a 1984-batch UP cadre officer. He has been appointed to the post with effect from the date he assumes the office. A notification in this regard was issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice late Tuesday night.

₹400Cr for Biju Expressway

174.5KM EXPANSION PROJECT BETWEEN KALAHANDI AND NUAPADA DISTRICTS WITH NEW BRIDGES APPROVED

Bhubaneswar, June 9: The Odisha Cabinet decided Wednesday to expand the Biju Expressway by constructing roads and bridges in Kalahandi and Nuapada districts. Briefing about the Cabinet decisions, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said, "The Cabinet took 11 major decisions today (Tuesday) out of which four are related to con-struction and widening of the 'Biju Expressway' for enhanced connectivity in western Odisha. This will also provide impetus to the industrial growth and overall economic devel-The Cabinet has approved a tender worth ₹448.02 crore for construction of the road of 174.5 km length, passing through the two districts, The total length of the expressway (Ghatipada-Sinapali) in Nuapada district will be 104.65km including six small and six major bridges. In

IDCOL GETS A NEW DEPA

BHUBANESWAR: The State Cabinet decided Wednesday to transfer PSU Industrial Development Corporation of Odisha Limited (IDCOL) from the Industries department to the Steel and Mines department. Since the primary objective of IDCOL has now shifted towards the mining sector from industrial activities, the Cabinet decided to transfer the PSU by amending the Odisha Government Rules of Business. The PSU was set up in 1962 to promote, establish and manage industries for initiating industrialisation in the state and creation of employment. However, it has been involved only in operation of lime stone , iron ore, manganese and chromite mines for the past several years.

Patapola to Matrubhawan in Cuttack at a cost of ₹450.44 crore. Construction will start from July and is expected to be completed by December, 2022. The Cabinet has also decided to

create 220 new Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) posts in order to augment the existing promotional facilities in the mid and senior-level posts. With the addition of the new posts, the

total strength of OAS has increased to 2,123 posts.

The panel has also said yes to the amendment of Odisha Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1959 to execute one of its earlier decisions. All government employees will have to submit their annual property returns to the government.

The Cabinet also decided to amend the Odisha Town Planning & Improvement Trust (OTP&IT) Act, 1956. The amendment will follow the guidelines of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) devised by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India

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Monsoon set to hit Odisha hard

Heavy rainfall expected in state over next 2-3 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 9: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Wednesday that the southwest monsoon is likely to make its presence felt across entire Odisha in the next 2-3 days.

Commissioner (SRC) PK A cyclonic circulation has Jena has asked all collecformed over eastcentral and adjoining northeast Bay of Bengal between 4.5 and 5.8km above mean sea level. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over North Bay of Bengal around June 11. The low pressure area will trigger heavy to very heavy and extremely heavy rainfall in many parts of Odisha during the period June 10 to 14.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Balasore, Bhadrak. Jajpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda,

tors and municipal commissioners to start preparations for tackling the situations after heavy rains. "During such heavy rainfall, flash floods/flood like situation may occur in different rivers, and water bodies. In hilly areas landslides may occur. Waterlogging may happen in different parts including urban and low lying areas," the SRC said in the letter to the dis-

Bargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar,

Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri,

Koraput, Kalahandi,

Kandhamal, Boudh, Sonepur

and Nabarangpur districts Thursday. It will continue

in many coastal, and other districts till June 14.

Special

Relief

trict collectors. They have been asked to take measures to prevent damage to life and property. Authorities have been advised to keep all flood shelters ready to evacuate people, if needed, the letter said

TMC SEEKING PLATFORM FOR PAN-INDIA PRESENCE Mamata promises to

NATURE'S 'BEAUTIFUL' FURY

MARKET WATCH					
IN	DEX	VARIATION			
RSES	SENSEX	51941.64	₽	333.93	
CURRENCY BOURSES	NIFTY	15635.40	₽	104.70	
ENCY	DOLLAR	73.34		₹0.08	
CURR	EURO	88.94		₹0.15	
BULLION	GOLD	₹49,121	₽	₹6	
	SILVER	₹71,791		₹560	

WEATHER					
	BHUB	СТК			
MAX	32.8℃	33.2°C			
	24.8°C	24.0°C	– Forecast		
Humidity	91%	82%	Generally		
Rainfall	Nil	6.2mm	cloudy sky		

other in the country. Recent stats

show that more men in India are re-

ceiving Covid-19 injections than

women. This highlights the gender

disparity in India's immunisation

drive which is also a huge disad-

India has partly or fully vacci-

nated a little over 23 crore people. As

per data available from various

sources, men account for 54 per cent

of the total number of people inoc-

ulated. India, with a population of

over 1.3 billion, has about six per

Many states and Union Territories

including Uttar Pradesh and Delhi

cent more men than women.

vantage to the rural population.

AGENCIES

join farmers' agitation

Kolkata, June 9: In what can be a major headache for the BJP-led government at the Centre, the farmers' stir against the three new agri laws is all set to gain momentum with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee assuring the movement all support. Baneriee met farmer leaders Rakesh Tikait and Yudhvir Singh here Wednesday and had a detailed discussion on how to take forward the agitation. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo said there should be a platform where states could converse on policy issues. "Bulldozing states is not good for the federal structure," Banerjee said after the meeting. Banerjee's support for the north India-based farmers' unions comes within days of TMC's announcement that the party would spread its footprints outside West Bengal's geo-

graphical boundaries.

The Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) led by Tikait and Singh had supported the 'No vote for BJP' campaign ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections and have plans to extend that in other upcoming state elections as well.

Banerjee announced that her 'support for the farmers' movement will be there' and added in an obvious jibe at the Centre that 'India is hungrily waiting for policies which help in fighting Covid-19, assist farmers and industry'. The chief minister rhetorically asked, "...Why is it so difficult to talk to the farmers?

The chief minister said that the agriculturist leaders have requested her to talk to other state leaders on the farmers' issue and organise a dialogue with the different unions. "The farmers' movement is not just for Punjab, Haryana or UP. It is for the whole country," asserted Mamata.



Dense smoke and flames from a wildfire behind the village of Abu Gosh near Jerusalem

Gender disparity mars India's vax drive

More men receiving Covid vaccine jabs in comparison to women

hind in comparison to the number of men vaccinated. Among the states, where the gap is quite large regarding vaccination of men and women, are Odisha (53% men, 47% women), Maharashtra (54%, 46%), Gujarat (54%, 46%), Rajasthan (52%, 48%), Tamil Nadu (55%, 45%), West Bengal and Punjab (56%, 44%).

Some women in the rural parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan have urged the authorities to deliver vaccines at their doorsteps. They stated that they are unable to travel to hospitals leaving their children behind.

"I don't know how to read and write... how will I register for the vaccine," asked Laxmiben Suthar, a mother of four in the town of Vadnagar in Gujarat. "The government must send the medicine to us,'

FUEL PRICES HIKED AFTER ONE-DAY GAP

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 9: Fuel prices were hiked yet again Wednesday reaching new record highs. Petrol and diesel prices were increased by 25 paise each per litre according

CITY FUEL PRICES PETROL ₹96.36 (+0.36) DIESEL ₹94.29 (+0.28)

to a price notification of state-

owned fuel retailers. In Delhi, petrol hit an all-time high of ₹95.31 a litre, while diesel is now priced at ₹86.22 per litre. The hike is the 22nd since May 4 and fifth time in the month of June. It took fuel

prices across India to a historic high. Petrol is now above ₹100 per litre mark in six states and Union Territories. They are Rajasthan, MP, Maharashtra, AP, Telangana and Ladakh. The hike in petrol and diesel prices has been deemed alarming by many as the petrol rate in a major financial hub-Mumbai-had already crossed ₹100 per litre earlier this week, and experienced a further increase in price Wednesday.

Petrol and diesel prices in India are unlikely to come down anytime soon Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra-Pradhan had said earlier this week

have seen some of the worst inequities in vaccination. Only two New Delhi, June 9: It seems that the states. Kerala and Chhattisgarh have vaccination drive against Covid-19 vaccinated more women than men. is beset with one problem or the

'We are noticing that men, especially in towns and villages, prefer to take the vaccine before women as they have to travel for work, while women are relegated to domestic chores," Prashant Pandya, a superintendent of a government hospital in Gujarat, has been quoted as saying by 'Reuters'

Health officials have said rumours about vaccines disrupting women's menstruation cycle and reducing fertility have also contributed to the skewed data. The government has rejected the concerns.

'The government will have to ramp up awareness programmes in rural India to ensure women

STARK FACTS *********

ONLY KERALA AND CHHATTISGARH HAVE ADMINISTERED VACCINES TO MORE WOMEN THAN MEN

RUMOURS LIKE REDUCED FERTILITY ARE LEADING TO WOMEN AVOIDING VACCINATION

understand the importance of vaccines and prioritise themselves in this race to secure the two shots,' said a former bureaucrat of the Health Ministry here. "Women will have to step forward to get vaccinated or the divide will rapWOMEN IN RURAL AREAS DEPRIVED OF THE CHANCE TO VISIT VACCINATION CENTRES

Kerala however, has so far vaccinated 48 per cent men and 52% of the fairer sex while for Chhattisgarh the figure stands at 49% (men) and

idly widen," she added.

51% (women). However, in some of the major states women lag far be-









leisure

TOM HIDDLESTON ALWAYS FEELS AFFECTION FOR 'LOKI'

Actor Tom Hiddleston has opened up about what makes his character, 'Loki', the God of Mischief, the most fun character to portray in the productions of Marvel Cinematic Universe. Hiddleston also shared that he always felt affection for 'Loki' and for his vulnerability.

DERULO OPENS UP ON HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH SMITH

American singer-songwriter Jason Derulo opened up on his friendship with Hollywood star Will Smith. "When Will Smith says something, you want to make sure that you're listening. He gives life advice. I take that and put it right," said Derulo.



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accuracy

You are very apprehensive about your possessions today, and will not like to share them. This mood may be because of someone particular. Affairs regarding love, Ganesha says, are progressing fine, and your married life will bloom.

TAURUS

A short trip could be in the offing today, says Ganesha. Before proceeding, you may, however, be compelled to make changes in your itinerary. If you are not too happy with the new schedules and decide to stick to your original plans, you are likely to feel disturbed, uneasy at the end of the day.

GEMINI

You will find yourself caught in two minds repeatedly, owing to your unpredictable mood swings. This will be the cause of a lot of mental stress. You can reduce you anxiety by talking out your issues with family members and experts.

A day to indulge in fantasy. Your ideas will be fantastic. Your status and prestige go up. People will praise your efforts. (Your efforts will be appreciated). A day of creativity and success, with Ganesha's blessings in tow.

LEO

A challenging day awaits you. You will face some tensions and problems, however this doesn't mean you will not be able to complete all your work successfully Your personal life will proceed as usual however expectations from you at the work-front will increase

VIRGO

Children will be a source of a lot of appreciation today, in and out of the classroom Your logical abilities will become stronger. Ganesha advises you to stay peaceful, flow with the tide and enjoy vourself, regardless of what happens in he day

IBRA

Ganesha says today is a fortunate day for starting new work. You will win the hearts of everyone with your amazing charm. Your house and its arty interio

My marriage was not valid: Nusrat

and it was only a live-in relation-

happened long back.

leading politicians.

ment, the Basirhat

MP said, "Being on

foreign land, as per

Turkish Marriage

Regulation, the cer-

emony is invalid.

Moreover, since

it was an inter-

faith marriage.

it required val-

idation under the Special

Marriage

tended by celebrities and

In a detailed state-

Kolkata: In a surprise developarise. ment, Trinamool Congress MP and

The statement, however, has actress Nusrat Jahan claimed raised eyebrows because Nusrat Wednesday that her marriage to had declared in her affidavit sub-Nikhil Jain was not valid in India mitted to the Election Commission before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls ship, adding that their separation that she was married. "She is a people's representative and she cannot make this kind Nusrat had reportedly got mar-

ried to businessman Nikhil Jain in of a wrong statement. This will Turkey in 2019. A reception was raise questions and she will have to answer them," said a senior lawyer of Calcutta High also held in Kolkata that was at-Court.

Raashii wants people to 'be the miracle'

Mumbai: Actress Raashii Khanna is trying to help the poor, who are the worst affected by the pandemic and its ensuing lockdown, and she requests all to donate towards helping the needy.

"It's really bad out there for a lot of families, and some of them are literally on the brink of starvation. I would really want people to open their hearts and donate because literally, every bit counts. It doesn't have to be an exorbitant amount. We have to

realise that we are all in this together and only to gether can we overcome these difficult times. And together we can be a miracle in someone's life," says Raashii, who runs an initiative called

#BeTheMiracle that aims at helping the needy.

"The ground reality of people suffering through the pandemic is heartbreaking.

#BeTheMiracle is my way of doing as much as I can for them," she says.

Raashii is associating with organisations like Roti Bank and other volunteers who are also helping old age homes, besides animals that have been left out with no food or water during lockdown.

venge travel' is all set to become

a phenomenon, says Dinesh

Kumar Kotha, Co-Founder and

CEO. Confirmtkt, an online des-

tination to get confirmed train

tickets.

Rashmika's pearls of wisdom for fans

Hyderabad: Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who rose to fame with her work in Telugu films and will soon make her Hindi film debut with Mission Majnu, shared a beau-



has lately been posting positive messages to cheer up her fans in the tough times of the pandemic.

Rashmika, who will also be seen with Amitabh Bachchan in the Hindi film Goodbye, wrote on Twitter: "Something a friend of mine told me.. and I think I need to tell you all too..Spend your time on something that gives you either pleasure (happiness- something that makes you smile and feel happy) or money or knowledge.. nothing else!"

Recently, she also launched an initiative called 'Spreading Hopes' to celebrate the Good Samaritans from all across the country, who have gone out of their way to help others during the devastating second wave of the pandemic.

She aims to encourage people to value these superheroes, and get inspired by their work.

'Revenge travel' is the new buzzword

WITH VACCINE ROLL-OUT IN PLACE. ITINERANTS NOW HOPE FOR SOME RELAXATIONS IN **RESTRICTIONS IN REGARDS TO TRAVEL BY THE END OF THIS YEAR**

Tith trains and flights suspended, all those struck with wanderlust could do is dive into good old travel memories. But thanks to vaccine roll-out at the start of 2021, there's optimism among travel enthusiasts towards the prospect of travelling to their desired destinations again.

Post-pandemic travel could revive the travel industry with a whopping surge in bookings in the latter part of the year. After being advised not to step out of the confines of homes for over a year, stepping out into the world could be vengeance for those 'lost' days. This is where the concept of 'Revenge Travel' sprouted from.

Defining 'Revenge Travel'

After the dreadful hiatus of



staying at home, travel enthusiasts are planning longer and more Boom in the offing luxurious vacations. Thus, 're-

Experts feel that travellers, all across the world, laying out their plans for 'revenge travel' would stimulate a massive boom in the travel industry. However, post

hotel fares. The increasing cost is due to the additional safety gears and accessories while travelling such as the cost of PPE kits for air travel and sanitisation of the hotel

Guidelines and safety standards

With the beginning of these efforts to sustain the new normal, the certification of the vaccination status of the travellers is important. Besides, the passenger would also need to show an RT-PCR test negative report and undergo health screening at the airport/railway station. Another notable change would be the absence of meal services on flights/trains, which only means that one must plan a trip taking





decoration will impress people

SCORPIO

Do your deeds and don't expect returns is what Indian mythology has

taught us since time immemorial. Now. it's time to implement it, especially at work. You may have to wait a little longer in terms of your business and joint venture. However, don't lose hope as the fruits of patience are sweet.

SAGITTARIUS

The cloud of worries is likely to keep you gloomy today. Try to burst that cloud, and take a decision that would help you to solve your troubles. There may be some delay, if you want the situation to get back to normal. However, as Ganesha says, you would be the one who would benefit at the end of the day!

CAPRICORN

If you are planning to fly to foreign shores for further studies, start documenta tion and other preparations today, says Ganesha. Whether you are a student or not, on this favourable day, all you need to do is to make a priority list, follow it and finish off your work one by one.

AQUARIUS

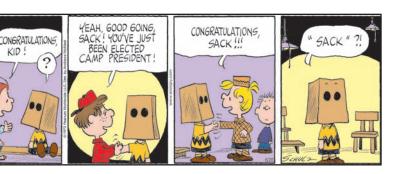
Are you facing a roadblock in your path? Make a minor change in your route, you will find a smooth and clear road once again, advises Ganesha. The efforts you have made in the past will come to fruition, today, Don't get satisfied with your current achievements, you still have a long way to keep working hard.

PISCES

Do not commit yourself to any large investments today. It is best to avoid speculative activities. For those who have a job, the co-operation of your colleagues will help you progress, says Ganesha.





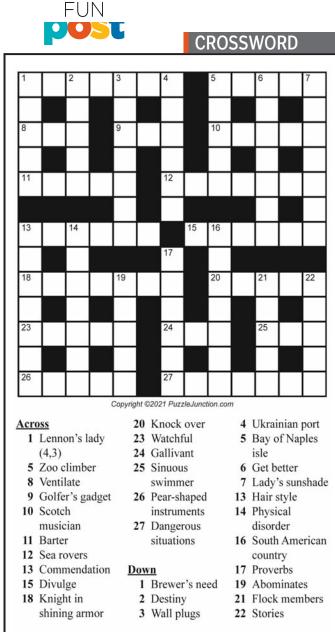


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

pandemic travel might be costly due to the rising air/train and

into account such aspects. AGENCIES

SUDOKU

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

		2		5				
						1		
		3	1			6		
			9		3	Ĩ	7	
	4	8	7	ан сан	2			
6						4		
				7				
	5	1	3	2			9	
9		6				1	8	

SOLUTIONS







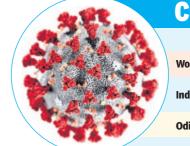


downtown



VENDORS' PLEA

Fish and meat vendors of Jobra in Cuttack hold a demonstration seeking a permanent place for their business, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

60% nCoV-infected kids

asymptomatic: Expert

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
ld	17,49,29,866	15,84,36,474	37,70,945
a	2,90,89,069	2,75,04,126	3,53,528
sha	8,31,129	7,64,673	3,123

Judges' strength in HC to dip below 50% in July

THE ORISSA HIGH COURT ALREADY HAS A BACKLOG OF OVER 1.75 LAKH CASES

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, June 9: The Orissa High Court is heading towards an unprecedented situation wherein justice delivery would receive a major jolt as the working strength of judges in the HC will be less than 50 per cent by mid-July this year

The HC, which is currently functioning with only 15 out of sanc tioned strength of 27 judges, will bid adieu to two more judges within a month. As per sources, Justice Pramath Patnaik would retire by June 11 while Justice Sanju Panda will bid adieu to the apex court of the state by July 10, 2021 after attaining the retirement age of 62. Following the retirement of these two judges, the HC's working strength will come down to 13, which is less than 50 per cent of its sanctioned strength of 27.

The court already has huge back log of cases – over 1.75 lakh. With the scarcity of judges, the backlog of cases would pile up further resulting in delay in providing justice to the people of the state



Earlier, the HC Registrar had ing situation, the High Court colstated in the Supreme Court that legium, sources said, has sent a the vacancies in the High Court batch of names as recommendation are to be filled from two sources to the government and the Supreme 18 from the Bar and nine from the Court Collegium for appointment as judges in the HC. However, how Higher Judicial Service of the state. By mid-July, the vacancy much time the entire process will position from the Bar segment take is anyone's guess. Earlier, it will be 10 and from service has been noticed that the entire process of appointment used to segment will be four. take more than six months

In order to address the emerg-



Justice Pramath Patnaik would retire by June 11 while Justice Sanju Panda will bid adieu to the High Court by July 10, 2021

Following the retirement of these two judges, the HC's working strength will come down to 13, which is less than 50 per cent of its sanctioned strength of 27

The SC had ruled that to mitigate the high pendency of cases, the high courts should consider appointing retired judges as ad hoc judges for the tenure of around two years

Ad hoc judges as alternatives

The Supreme Court had in April this year activated the provision of the Constitution, Article 224-A that deals with the appointment of ad hoc judges. The apex court ruled that to mitigate the high pendency of cases, the high courts should consider appointing retired judges as ad hoc judges for the tenure of around two years

to clear the backlog of cases.

The Article 224-A says, "If by reason of any temporary increase in the business of High Court or by reason of arrears of work therein, the Chief Justice of the High Court, with the previous consent of the President. can request duly qualified persons to be additional Judges of the court for such period not exceeding two years as he may specific.

The apex court has also issued certain guidelines for the appointment of ad hoc judges. The top court held that the trigger point for activation of Article 224-A can arise when the vacancies are more than 20 per cent of sanctioned strength and more than 10 per cent of backlog of pending cases are over five years old.

Significantly in the case of Orissa High court, the vacancies will be more than 50 per cent in July.

Similarly, 25.14 per cent (44,215) of backlog of pending cases in the HC are over five years old. The apex court also ruled that the process of recommendation of ad hoc judges should be completed in three months

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 9: A paedia-

trician in a government sponsored

health bulletin Wednesday said

that around 60 per cent of Covid-in-

Dr Sebaranjan Biswal, a paedi-

atrician at Kalinga Institute of

Medical Sciences (KIMS),

Bhubaneswar said, "In the first

wave, we saw the kids least infected

by the novel coronavirus. However,

the third wave could pose a big

threat to them. For, the infectivity

rate of the virus could see escala-

He also said that the kids un-

like others are vet to be inoculated

and thus remain vulnerable to the

killer virus. The physician said

that while the incubation period

among adults and kids were al-

most same, some kids developed

unique health ailments like mul-

tisystem inflammatory syndrome

(MIS) which were not seen in Covid-

and kids are the same. However, in

kids diarrhoea and gastritis are

also seen. In some kids, after two

'Most of the symptoms in adults

infected kids.

tion with more mutations.

fected kids are asymptomatic.

also seen which is peculiar to kids,' Dr Biswal said. He, however, said that unlike

to four weeks of infection, MIS is

adults, youths are better protected. "In most of the kids, severity is not seen as they hardly have any co-morbidity. They also do not damage their lungs with bad habits like smoking. Meanwhile, the aceto receptors, to which the virus binds, are also negligible as compared to adults," he added. According to Biswal, 50-60 per cent of Covid-infected kids are often asymptomatic who do not require any treatment while in kids with mild symptoms

paracetamol and common cold

drugs could be used. Dr Aditya Kumar Mohapatra a paediatrician from National Health Mission (NHM), said, "There are concerns regarding pregnant women due to Covid. However, there should not be any worries as transmission of the disease from pregnant women to the unborn does not happen normally. Post delivery, as the disease is airborne, proper safety measures can prevent the transmission of the virus from mother to kid," he said

CM lays stones for oxygen plants in seven districts



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. June 9: In an aim to ensure adequate availability of gen for treatment of

medical colleges in Balasore, Koraput, Bolangir, Burla and Cuttack and Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar & district headquarters hospital at Nabarangpur. The Chief Minister also inaugurated an additional health facilitation centre, dengue and diarrhoea ward, blood grouping unit at Balasore, Excellence Centre for treatment of lungs diseases at Cuttack and a RT-PCR test laboratory at Nabarangapur. The total

₹20Cr for Covid mgmt in City

Chief Minister's Relief Fund

(CMRF), said a statement issued by

the Chief Minister's Office. It can

be mentioned here that earlier the

civic body had received Rs 77 crore

for efficient Covid management in

the state capital. With this, the BMC

has now received the highest amount

from state government.

he plants would With the be set up in inauguration medical colleges of the **RT-PCR** at Balasore Koraput, Bolangir, testing Burla and Cuttack laboratory in and Capital Nabarangpur, now 17 Hospital districts of Bhubaneswar & district the state headquarters have the hospital at testing Nabarangpur facility

cost of these projects is estimated to be Rs 29.41 crore.

Patnaik said that the demand for medical oxygen has substantially been increased during the second wave of Covid-19. However, the state has not faced any problem with the supply of oxygen. In addition to meeting its own demand. Odisha has saved valuable lives by supplying oxygen to 17 states,

"Bhubaneswar houses the high-

est number of Covid Hospitals in the

state and the number of patients

being treated here is also the high-

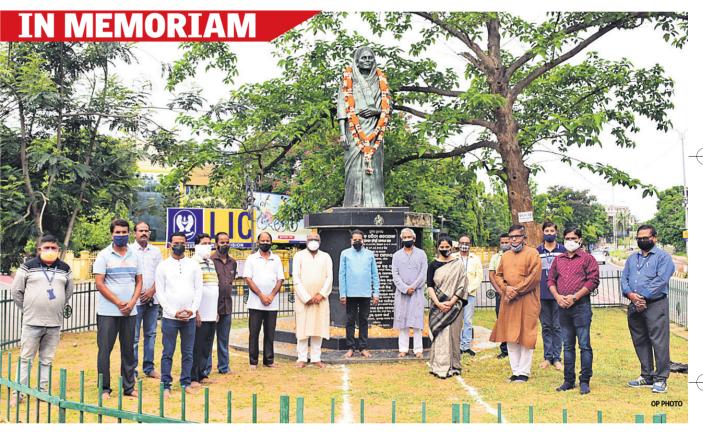
est. Patients from different parts of

the state come to Bhubaneswar for

treatment. Therefore, the fund has

been sanctioned keeping in view

the needs," the CMO statement said.



Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, Odisha Sahitya Akademi President Hrushikesh Mallick and activists of Utkal Sammilani among others pay floral tributes to former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy on her 90th birth anniversary in Bhubaneswar, Wedne

Covid-19 patients, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday laid the foundation stones for seven Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) plants and as many Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) systems in seven districts of the state.

The plants would be set up at

Bhubaneswar, June 9: Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday

granted an additional Rs 20 crore to

Corporation (BMC) for the smooth

management of Covid-19 pandemic.

The fund was sanctioned from the

Municipal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar

With the inauguration of the **RT-PCR** testing laboratory in Nabarangpur, now 17 districts have the testing facility. RT-PCR laboratories would be set up in all remaining districts soon, said Additional Chief Secretary, Health, PK Mohapatra said.

he said

Bhubaneswar, June 9: Former Wednesday.

Prusti, Prabir Kumar Das, Pradeep Rath, Birakishore Das, Priyabrata Mohanty, Gadadhar Rath, Manoj Kumar Deo, Bibhudutta Pradhan, Patnaik, Pranab Kumar Das, Bishnu

Plea to name Utkal ladies' hostel after ex-CM Nandini

POST NEWS NETWORK

students of Utkal University have urged the varsity authorities to name one ladies' hostel of the institution after Odisha's only woman Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy on her 90th birth anniversary

Former students Raghunath Bishwa Bhusan Suar, Sangram



sonalities of Odisha.

Now, the university has seven

boys' hostels and as many women's

hostels in its campus. Many of

Prasad Dash, Harekrushna Siala and Umashankar Satpathy claimed that the varsity has a tradition to name its hostels after eminent perthese hostels have been named after eminent personalities like Gopabandhu, Madhusudan, Fakirmohan, Godabarisha. Nilakatha, Kuntalakumari, Rama Devi, Sarala Devi and Malati Devi.

However, the varsity authorities are yet to name one ladies' hostel after former Chief Minister and noted writer Nandini Satpathy.

The former students urged Utkal University Vice-Chancellor Sabita Acharya to take the necessary steps to name one ladies' hostel after Nandini Devi, who is an epitome of women empowerment.

FESTIVAL AHEAD

Mangroves key to reduce wrath of cyclones



Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh (R) reviews security arrangements for upcoming Snana Purnima ritual of Srimandir deities in Puri, Wednesday OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 9: Many environmentalists have urged the state government to take measures for creation of mangrove forests on Odisha coast to protect the coastal regions from natural calamities like cyclones and tidal surges

In a letter to the state government, the environmentalists said that Odisha has a long history of facing natural disasters. The memory of the colossal devastations caused by the Super Cyclone of 1999 is still fresh in the minds of many. However, the Super Cyclone had forced the government as well as the people to think of the natural calamities seriously and take appropriate steps to deal with them.

Environmentalist and president of Odisha Environmental Society (OES), Sundara Narayan Patro, said the state government has aptly formulated a well-thought-out disaster management policy in the aftermath of 1999 Super Cyclone. The



state government has effectively managed several natural calamities in recent years by adopting advanced technological measures.

"Now, we are facing a challenge of reducing the impacts of cyclones and tidal surges in the coastal regions of Odisha. A protective wall in the form of mangrove forests would be able to reduce the intensity and severity of the cyclonic storms. Kendrapara district had witnessed less damage as compared to Jagatsinghpur during the Super Cyclone. This proved that mangrove forests of Bhitarkanika

played a significant role in resisting the intensity and severity of the

cyclonic storm," Patro added. The mangroves can also act as a good repository of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, apart from playing an important role in soil conservation, flood control and providing livelihood to the local population, he opined.

Another environmentalist Jaya Krushna Panigrahi said Odisha has around 220 sq km of mangrove forests. Out of this, 192 sq km of forests exist in Kendrapara district only. Bhadrak has 19 sq km mangroves while Balasore has 3 sq km and Jagatsinghpur has 5 sq km.

"Taking into account all these is-

sues, government should conduct a survey by a committee of experts on the 480-km coastline of Odisha and identify potential areas for creation of saline or mangrove forests." Panigrahi said.

SUNDARA NARAYAN PATRO I ENVIRONMENTALIST

He said that the government can opt for the creation of casurina forests in sandy areas of the Odisha coast to protect the regions from cyclonic storms.

"The state government should take immediate steps to create mangroves on the coastal areas as we all know that more such disasters are likely to occur in the future ing and climate change," Panigrahi said.









A protective wall in the form of mangrove forests

witnessed less damage in comparison with Jagatsinghpur

resisting the intensity and severity of the cyclonic storm

during the super cyclone of 1999. This had proved that mangrove forests of Bhitarkanika played a significant role in

would be able to reduce the intensity and severity of the cyclonic storms. Kendrapara district had

downtown

EOW nabs 2 for siphoning off ₹5Cr govt funds 43 more succumb Global tender bid date extended to Covid in 24 hrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 9: The state government, which was scheduled to open price bids for procurement of Covid-19 vaccines from international market Wednesday, has extended the global tender process by another two weeks.

The bid date was extended in view of Centre's announcement to provide free vaccines to all states from June 21. If the Centre will provide adequate amount of vaccines, there will be no need of any procurement, said sources.

Odisha was among the first few states that floated global tender through Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited for procurement of vaccines from the international market. However, it had received only two bids.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 9: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch has arrested two persons for allegedly siphoning off around Rs 5 crore from the account of Subarnapur's Zilla Swasthya Samiti in April this year, sources said Wednesday.

Rajkishore Nayak of Bhawanipatna and Ananta Charan Pradhan of Pipli have been taken into custody in connection with EOW case registered May 1, 2021 under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the IPC and 66C as well as D of Information Technology Act, 2008, said an EOW release, adding that the case was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Subarnapur chief district medical officer (CDMO).

SONEPUR ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI FRAUD



of Information OF THE SWINDLED AMOUNT, AROUND Management ₹3.30 CRORE HAS BEEN FROZEN Technology Act. 2008 DURING INVESTIGATION

According to the agency, the accused purportedly diverted Rs 5,01,50,000 from the account of Zilla Swasthya Samiti, National Health Mission (ZSS, NHM), Subarnapur

The accused purportedly diverted Rs 5,01.50.000 from the account of Zilla Swasthva Samiti. National Health Mission (ZSS, NHM), Subarnapur to the account of M/s NATURALS April 7. 2021 by hacking the Public Financial

System (PEMS) of NHM

> to the account of M/s NATURALS April 7, 2021 by hacking the Public **Financial Management System** (PFMS) of NHM.

"Navak served as an account-

ant with Sonepur NHM on a temporary basis between April 18, 2016

and December 24, 2020. It was in March when Nayak and Pradhan along with a few others managed to hack the PFMS of NHM and generate an e-cheque amounting to Rs 5,01,50,000. Later, they used fake seals of Sonepur ADMO and CDMO on the e-cheque before presenting it for clearance at a State Bank of India branch in Sonepur," the agency said, pointing out that the amount was diverted to the account of M/s NATURALS in April this year.

Of the swindled amount, around Rs 3.30 crore has been frozen during investigation, it added.

Earlier, Samir Kumar Pati, who was the employee of M/s NATURALS was arrested in connection with the fraud May 5, 2021.

CAR FEST

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 9: Odisha Wednesday reported 6,019 fresh Covid-19 cases and 43 more deaths, a Health department official said The state has so far reported 8.31.129 cases and 3.123 fatalities, said the official.

Of the new infections, 3,397 were reported from quarantine centres and the remaining 2,622 were local contact cases. There are 71,312 active cases in the state at present. In the last 24 hours, 8,836 patients recovered, taking the total re-

The Cuttack Municipal coveries to 7,56,641. Corporation, on the other hand, Khurda district, where state capstarted a special vaccination drive ital Bhubaneswar is located, refor students going abroad for higher ported the highest 796 new cases, studies.

DMs told to vaccinate drugstore staffers POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; June 9: The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department Wednesday directed all district Collectors and commissioners of municipal corporations to vaccinate the staffers and employees of chemist shops against the novel coronavirus.

Additional Chief Secretary, H&FW department, PK Mohapatra, said the staffers and employees chemist shops are providing uninterrupted service to the general public during the pandemic.

"In view of their nature of work. the H&FW department directs the Collectors and municipal commissioners to vaccinate the employees of drugstores on priority basis. The employees aged 45 years and above shall be administered vaccines supplied by the Government of India while employees within 18-44 age group shall be vaccinated with state procured vaccines,'

Mohapatra said

Earlier, the Utkal Druggists and Chemists Association had threatened to shut down the drugstores if the state government did not declare the association members as Covid warriors

"Medicine retailers have been providing seamless services to the public during the pandemic and resultant lockdowns or shutdowns. In the first wave, the disease claimed over a hundred employees of chemist shops. We had then raised

Vax drive for hotel employees

n an aim to inoculate the people employed in service sector, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday launched a special vaccination drive for hotel and restaurant staffers in the Capital city. The drive which was conducted

in collaboration with Hotel & Restaurant Association saw 500 staff members from more than 30 hotels taking the vaccines at OSAP 7th Battalion High School, Gajpati Nagar.

"Hotels' staff needs to be immediately vaccinated as they are the ones who will provide service to those who will visit the state and stay in hotels once the lockdown restrictions are lifted. We are very much thankful to the BMC," said JK

the demand for frontline Covid warrior status to our employees. We are yet to get any assurance in this

Mohanty, President of hotel & restaurant association of Odisha. It can be mentioned that a staff member of the association here

doesn't need to book a slot to get the jab under this special drive of BMC Moreover, sources said that the civic authority has also planned to vaccinate the staff of online delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato.

Meanwhile, the civic authority also carried out a special doorstep vaccination drive for those who are bedridden. "Citizens of Bhubaneswar who are bedridden & completely immobile, Don't worry for Vaccination! Just call 1929 to register yourself, BMC will arrange Vaccination for you," BMC tweeted.

regard from the government," said association president P Satyanarayana.

Maharana servitors build wheels of the chariots at Rath Yard in Puri, Wednesday

SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN PURI, BIKANER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 9: The Ministry of Railways has decided to run a special train between Puri and Bikaner.

According to sources, 04709/04710 Bikaner-Puri-Bikaner Special will leave Bikaner at 19:35 hrs every Sunday w.e.f. June 13 and leave from Puri at 06:35 hrs every Wednesday w.e.f. June 16 till further order.

This train will have stoppages at Khurda Road. Bhubaneswar. Dhenkanal, Talcher Road, Angul Rairakhol, Sambalpur and Jharsuguda Road in East Coast Railway (ECoR) jurisdiction. It will have stoppages at important stations like Raigarh, Bilaspur, Katni Murwara, Kota and Jaipur in both the directions. Earlier, the Railways had decided to run two pairs of special trains through ECoR jurisdiction. They are: Shalimar-Secunderabad-Shalimar special and Howrah-Yesvantpur-Howrah special. The Shalimar-Secunderabad-Shalimar special will have stoppages at Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Berhampur, Palasa, Srikakulam Vizianagaram and Road. Visakhapatnam in ECoR jurisdiction between Howrah and Yesvantpur from both the directions. While, Howrah-Yesvantpur-Howrah special train will have stoppages at Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Berhampur, Palasa, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam in ECoR jurisdiction between Howrah and Yesvantpur from both the directions This apart, the ECoR had cancelled six pairs of daily special trains till June 20, 2021. They are: 8493/08494 Bhubaneswar-Bolangir-Bhubaneswar Special, Bhubaneswar-Kenduihargarh-Bhubaneswar Special, Bhubaneswar-Bhadrak-Bhubaneswar Special, Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special, Cuttack-Paradip-Cuttack Special and Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special II.



SP, Railways (SRP), Cuttack respectively. Meanwhile, the Forest and Environment department has also issued a notification transferring 25 IFS officers

As per the order, SK Popli has een transferred as PCCF (Kendu ferred to the office of PCCF, Odisha as chief conservator of forests while Sudarsan Patra was posted as CF (kendu leaf), Cuttack circle.

Officers including Mihir Biswal. KK Swain, PK Sahoo, DK Swain and HB Udgata have been posted in the office of PCCF, Odisha.

Aswini Kumar Kar has been posted as in-charge of RCCF, Bhawanipatna circle, Arun Kumar Mishra as in-charge of RCCF, Rourkela, Prasanna Kumar Sahoo as conservator of forest (kendu leaf), Sambalpur and Sudeep Nayak as director of Odisha Forest Rangers' College (OFRC), Angul. Among others, Bikash Ranjan Das and Satyanarayan Behura have been transferred to the office of the PCCF (wildlife). Sanjit Kumar has been appointed as deputy director of Nandankanan.

Diptesh Pattanayak posted as BJP for amendment to Prisons IG in IPS reshuffle MLALAD fund norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 9: Several MLAs of Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) Wednesday wrote to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Speaker Surya Narayan Patro requesting an amendment to the MLALAD fund norms.

The legislators said that in the light of Covid-19 and the likely threat of the third wave the pandemic, the norms needed amendment to widen the ambit of areas

KIIT among top Indian varsities POST NEWS NETWORK

followed by Cuttack (531) and

accounted for five deaths. Angul,

Cuttack, Jharsuguda and

Sundargarh reported four

The state tested 68.778 samples

Meanwhile, the Bhubaneswar

Municipal Corporation started a

door-to-door vaccination drive for

bedridden persons. So far, 51 such

persons have registered to avail

Of the latest fatalities. Khurda

Jajpur (406).

deaths each.

Tuesday

the service.

Bhubaneswar, June 9: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University, has been ranked 30th in the 'Overall Category' among Indian universities by the Times Higher Education



It

posted as IG, Eastern Range, Balasore. On return from Central deputation, 2004-batch IPS officer Deepak Kumar has been appointed as DIG, northern range at Sambalpur. Similarly, two senior Odisha Police Service (OPS) officers RK Paikray and DP Tripathy have been posted as SP, Deogarh and

According to a notification issued

by the Home department, 1997-

batch IPS officer Diptesh Kumar

Pattanavak has been appointed as

IG. Prisons while 2002-batch IPS

officer Narasingha Bhol has been

posted as IG, central range, Cuttack.

Himanshu Kumar Lal has been

POST NEWS NETWORK

officers

leaf), Uma Nanduri as additional PCCF (forest coverage) with additional charge of chief executive **Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas** Development Corporation (OM-BADC) and Prem Kumar Jha as additional PCCF (PP&A) with additional charge of CEO, CAMPA. Ramesh Chandra Sethy was transthrough which the MLAs could utilise the funds in treatment of Covid-19 patients

The MLAs said that the funds were earlier used in procurement and distribution of masks with the ceiling of Rs 50 lakh for each constituency. However, the MLAs said there were more areas that

Follow safety norms at rly

level crossings: ECoR GM

needed attention especially in rural areas. The legislators of BJP demanded that the norms need to be amended to include spending of MLALAD funds for works like setting up of Covid isolation wards, oxygen beds, ambulances and works which could help them in localized medical assistance

The legislators said

that the norms needed

amendment to widen

the ambit of areas

through which the

MLAs could utilise

Covid-19 patients

the funds in

treatment of

every year, KIIT has re-

tained its position among top institutions in India, such as IITs, NITs and a few private universities

The performance of KIIT-DU in the rankings is more laudable as it offers more than 200 academic programmes with many subjects.

Cong trains guns on **Centre over Covid** 'mismanagement'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. June 9: Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Niranjan Patnaik Wednesday lashed out at the Centre over the alleged mismanagement of the Covid crisis.

Patnaik said that 27 million people were pushed to the BPL category between March 2020 and May 2021

He also accused the Centre of delaying the vaccination drive.

The Congress leader said that it is the poor governance of the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for which India recorded the highest Covid-19 cases in the world.

He also accused the Centre and the state government of burdening the people with higher fuel prices.

Rainwater harvesting projects to boost job opportunities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 9: In a bid to generate employment opportunities, the state government Wednesday stated that it would ramp up construction of Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) structures across urban local bodies (ULBs) under the Urban Wage Employment Initiative (UWEI)

In a letter to all the ULB heads, the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department said that around 18.000 rain water harvesting structures will be constructed under the UWEI in all 114 ULBs of Odisha.

The initiative will be carried with help of Mission Shakti groups who will be engaged as implementing partners

All the ULBs were directed to immediately identify the open spaces like parks, playgrounds and others where the RWHs shall be installed during the

first phase.

"The authorities have been di-

rected to immediately ensure issuance of work orders to Mission Shakti groups, sensitise them and start execution of work. As of now, 13.060 sites have been selected with 12,996 plans and an estimate amounting Rs 70 crore have been prepared. Construction of 4,196 RWH sites has completed and works for about 80% of the ongoing RWH sites are nearing completion. We are also planning to add another 5000 RWH sites to the planned target," the letter read

It can be mentioned that the state government had earlier decided to construct 5,000 RWH structures across Odisha.

A state level task force was prepared which was headed by principal secretary, H&UD, to oversee execution of RWHs before the onset of monsoon.

Bhubaneswar, June 9: General Manager of East Coast Railway (ECoR) Vidya Bhushan Wednesday appealed to the road users to adhere to safety protocols while passing

through railway level crossings. His message came on the eve of International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD), which is being celebrated June 10 this year.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhushan said that Indian Railways is participating in this global campaign to sensitise the road users for inculcation of safe behaviour among commuters at level crossings.

The ILCAD is a worldwide initiative to improve awareness of level crossing safety. The theme of ILCAD this year is 'Distraction' with the motto "Distraction kills!" Road users are requested to be

very careful while crossing the



manned level crossing gates. "Stop your vehicle when the gate is closed. Do not cross the gate forcefully Wait for the train to pass and gate to be opened. Then cross the railway line. Violation of any of the above is punishable offence under Section 160 of Indian Railways," he added. Last year, the ECoR had signed

an MoU with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) for construction of six road over bridges (ROBs) in Odisha at a cost of Rs 436.87 crore

The agreement signed is part of the zonal railways' commitment to ensuring safety of both railway passengers and rail users.

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OrissaPOST THURSDAY | JUNE 10 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAF

state

Armed Striking Force to check minor mineral smuggling in Jajpur



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 9: Jajpur Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore has announced the formation of Armed Striking Force (ASF), a special armed force, to contain smuggling of minor minerals in the district.

The special force has been formed on the direction of Additional Director General (ADG-Law and Order)) of Police.

Jaipur sub-collector: Dharmasala and Darpan tehsildars, the regional officer of the state pollution control board (SPCB) in Kalinganagar, the deputy director of mines (DDM) in Jajpur Road, the range officer of Dalijoda forest range and the police IICs of Dharmasala, Jenapur and Barchana are members of the ASF.

DSP Prafulla Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the nodal officer of the force by the SP. The special force will help and cooperate with

Master plan ready for development projects in Angul



POST NEWS NETWORK Angul. June 9: The district ad ministration of Angul has prepared a master plan with the purpose to take up massive development and beautification under different projects, a source said Tuesday. According to a senior administrative official of Angul, the ambitious development and beautification projects include health and heritage corridors, an ultramodern stadium, renovation of Prajamandal Bhawan, protection of Rani Park and construction of a coal museum.

revenue officials to check smuggling of minor minerals and their transportation

However, people have raised doubts on the success of the new armed force in curbing smuggling of minor minerals. They alleged that several taskforces have been constituted in the past to check smuggling of granites, sand, murram and laterite stones as well as to raid illegal crusher units operating in Dharmasala, Darpan, and Vyasanagar tehsils. However, these taskforces have failed to make any impact due to lack of proper implementation, they alleged.

The smuggling of minor minerals goes on unabated in the district as some unscrupulous officers and officials are hand in gloves with the stone mafia. The smugglers carry out their business with impunity after greasing the palms of dishonest officials

Reports said the then revenue sec-

retary in 2018 directed the formation of a special task force in every district comprising the Collectors and SPs to check and take appropriate steps on smuggling of minor minerals. The then Jajpur Collector and SP displayed promptitude for some time in taking action against the stone smugglers.

The duo conducted midnight raids in various sand ghats and sand lease area in the district. However, smuggling continued unabated in Dharmasala and Darpan tehsils despite the raids.

Former Collector Ranjan Kumar Das also formed several taskforces. However, with passage of time these taskforces became dormant and redundant. Collector Rathore issued an order

for immediate closure of crusher units which are illegally operating in violation of norms, June 2, 2021. The sanctioned crusher units will have to install CCTV cameras on their premises

The crusher units will also have to maintain a register to keep record of raw materials coming to the premises and materials transported outside. The concerned tehsildar of the area will check the CCTV footage and registers every fortnight and submit a report to the district administration.

Any discrepancy observed in the register and CCTV footage will be strictly dealt with. The Collector has issued around 10 orders to streamline the business of minor minerals in the district.

Oxygen tanker in train leaks in Kalahandi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhawanipatna, June 9: A liquid oxygen-laden tanker attached to a special train to Chennai developed a leakage in Kalahandi district Wednesday, a railway official said.

The train with 10 oxygen-filled tankers was going to the inland container depot at Tondiarpet in Chennai from Jharsuguda in Odisha, the official said. The station master of Kesinga railway station detected the leakage at around 4 am and the train was stopped.

He informed the fire brigade and its personnel tried to plug the leakage but failed, the official said.

Engineers from Rourkela reached the spot in the afternoon and rectified the snag. However, by that time the container was almost empty.

The train left for Chennai at around 5 pm. the official added. The oxygen was to be used for medical purposes.

TIME FOR CULTIVATION

Farmers preparing the land for cultivation ahead of the arrival of monsoon at Kenghati area in Sambalpur district, Wednesday

HC stays holding tax hike in Berhampur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 9: The Orissa High Court has ordered the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) not to collect hiked holding tax from the denizens.

The high court has issued the interim order after hearing a petition filed by Congress leader Pitabas Panda against holding tax hike in the city

The high court while issuing the order has asked the civic body to collect holding tax from the denizens as per previous rate. Notably, the civic body without conducting a public hearing as per rule hurriedly made a cent per cent hike in holding tax in 2020-21. Protesting the order, Panda first

staged an agitation but later filed



Panda also opposed the collection of user fees from various parks in the city. The high court in its ruling has issued notices to the state

> **OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER.** P.H. DIVISION. BERHAMPUR Mail ID: eephbam@gmail.com/eephbam@nic.in **Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice** NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Bid Identification No. EEPHBAM-10/2021-22 to EEPHBAM-13/2021-22 Dt.01.06.2021 No. C-378:-1. Name of work Replacement of age old pipes and Metering in households at different ULB's under PH Division Berhampur (04 nos. of works) Ranging from Rs.58.78 lakh Estimated cos (approx.) to Rs.83.51 lakh (approx.) Period of completion 06 (six) months for each work Date & Time of availability of From 11.00 hrs. of Dt.16.06.2021 to bid document in the Portal 17.30 hrs. of Dt.01.07.2021 Last date/Time for Bidding in 17.30 hrs. of Dt.01.07.2021

a petition in the high court after the legal. He prayed before the high civic body did not take any steps in court to direct the civic body to this regard. In his petition, Panda stop collecting the hiked holding tax stated that it is illegal for the civic from the denizens. body to increase the holding tax without the consent of the municipal council and its collection

government and the BeMC to explain and cite the reason why user fees are being collected in the city.

After receiving a copy of the order Wednesday, Panda said that the term of the elected municipal council has expired two and a half years ago and the management of the civic body is vested with the state government.

He said the financial status of people in the city has gone down due to the pandemic. He alleged that the civic body has hiked the holding tax when the people are in trouble due to Covid-induced lockdowns and shutdowns. Panda welcomed the high court decision saying it was a victory of the Silk City residents. Advocate Siddharth Das pleaded the matter on behalf of the petitioner.

from the house owners is totally il-Man, wife killed in road mishap; 3 relatives critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, June 9: In a fatal road mishap that took place in wee hours of Wednesday, a man and his wife were killed on the spot in Boudh



dent, an eyewitness said.

Surendra, his wife and three relatives were on their way from Berhampur to Rourkela when the driver lost control over the car. The vehicle rammed into a roadside tree at around 3.00am, a

Surendra, his wife and three relatives were on their way from

The district administration has planned to issue a tender notice soon and complete the projects within one year. The Palace Road here will be restored and get converted into a health and heritage corridor, the senior official added.

Swain wrote, "Under the 5T Initiatives for Talcher, 5 Transformative Projects of Urban Landscape are being undertaken for this Financial Year. 1. Health and Heritage Corridor 2. Library, Coal Museum and Smart Park. 3. Talcher Stadium. 4. Protection of Rani Park. 5. Renovation of Prajamandal

Taking to his official Twitter

handle, Collector and District

Magistrate Siddharth Shankar

Campus.' Moreover, a large gate will be constructed at the main approach road to the palace. A coal museum which was previously proposed to be constructed at Angul headquarters will now be done in Talcher. It will also consist of a library and a smart park. After completion, the new museum will be the first of its kind in India, the official stated

2 minor girls drown in pond

BASUDEVPUR: In a tragic incident, two minor girls drowned in a pond in Brajanandpur village under Nayakanidihi police limits in Bhadrak district Wednesday. Reports said that the two minor girls who were cousins had gone to take bath in the pond. Locals rescued the girls and rushed them to the community health centre (CHC) at Basudevpur where they were pronounced dead by a doctor. The deceased were identified as a 12-vear-old Laxmipriva Ghadei of

According to a source, the ill-fated car in which five persons were travelling met with an accident after the vehicle rammed into a roadside tree at Chari Chhak under Purunakatak police limits in the district.

The deceased were identified as Surendra Nayak and his wife Namita, residents of Mandar village under Belaguntha block in Ganjam district. Three relatives of the couple also sustained grievous injuries in the inciinto a roadside tree

local man added.

The injured were rescued by locals and rushed to Purunakatak hospital in critical condition. Later, they were shifted to Boudh district headquarters hospital as their condition deteriorated

Purunakatak police sent the bodies for postmortem. Police registered a case and launched a probe. The driver might have dozed off leading to the accident, an officer said

Berhampur to	6. Date of opening of Tender : On Dt. 02.07.2021 at 11.00 hrs.			
Rourkela when the	7. Name and address of the : Executive Engineer, P.H. Division,			
driver lost control over	Officer inviting tender Berhampur. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement Portal: https://tendersodisha.gov.in			
the car and rammed	Sd./- Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Berhampur			
into a roadcido troo	OIPR-13020/11/0002/2122			

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. 03 of 2021-22 No. O-311:-

1	Number of Works:	7 Nos. of Roads
2	Estimated Cost (Approx):	₹ 3.22 lakh & ₹ 35.55 lakh (Approx.)
3	Period of Completion:	2 Calendar months
4	Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal:	21.06.2021 at 11.00 hrs
5	Last date & time for receipt of Bids in the Portal:	28.06.2021 at 17.00 hrs
6	Date of Opening of Tender:	29.06.2021 at 11.00 hrs
7	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid:	Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jagatsinghpur

Further details can be seen from the Government website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jagatsinghpur OIPR-25056/11/0003/2122

e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE Tender Reference No. BNJNAC_1/2021_22 Tender Call Notice No.1118/2021 Dt.07.06.2021

Bid documents consisting of the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in the Govt. website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in

- 1. Name of the work: Civil works as mentioned in website.
- 2. No. of works: 12 Nos.
- 3. Bid value: Rs.2.00 Lakhs to 17.82 Lakhs. 4. Period of completion : 90 days to 180 days
- 5. Date and time of availability of the bid documents in the portal: 10.06.2021 at 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. of dt.21.06.2021.
- 6. Last date of / Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 21.06.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
- 7. Bids received online shall be opened on 25.06.2021 at 8.00 A.M.
- 8. Name and address of the officer inviting bid: Executive Officer, N.A.C., Bhanjanagar.

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./- Executive Officer N.A.C., Bhanjanagar

Women's SHG scripts success story in mango processing

Brajanandpur village and 9-year-old

had come on a visit to her maternal

Ballabhi Barik of Ghanteswar who

uncle's house.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 9: The establishment of a mango processing unit by the district administration has helped women self-help groups battling the Covid-induced lockdown earn a livelihood and become self-reliant.

The Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) and the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) and the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) are aiding the district administration in this initiative.

As a result, a women's self-help group in this district, which is involved in mango processing, has set a successful an example for others.

The members of Maa Parbati Producer Group (SHG) of Tainsar panchayat under Kuchinda block have come forward to produce various mango-based products through mango processing.

The women are producing mango pickle, dried mango pulp called 'Ambasadha', dried mango powder called 'Amchur', and dried salty mangoes called 'Ambula' in this unit.



A pickle firm in Berhampur has been roped in to provide necessary training to the women in mango processing. It is expected that they will reap the benefits of their efforts in three phases.

Reports said the state government is laying stress on women empowerment and has established a separate department for the purpose. The state government, with an aim to make the women self-reliant, is providing them vocational training and financial assistance under the Mission Shakti Programme.

When contacted, Srimant Hota, district coordinator of ORMAS, said the district has witnessed a bumper harvest of mangoes this year but it is very difficult to sell the mangoes due to the lockdown imposed in the

he Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) and the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) and the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) are aiding the district administration in this initiative

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Apickle firm in Berhampur has been roped in to provide necessary training to the women in mango processing. It is expected that they will reap the benefits of their efforts in three phases

state.

Therefore efforts are being made to process the mangoes and sell them in the market by involving women's self-help groups. The move has helped in making the women self-reliant as it has provided them with an earning opportunity.

In the first phase, the Kuchinda based-Maa Parbati Producer Group having strength of 35 members has been roped in for this programme. The women are selling mangoes cultivated in their orchards and also purchasing from other farmers to run the business in the mango processing unit.

The processing work is being done in utmost hygienic conditions, observing all safety norms and precautions. The products are packed in hygienic packs and pasted with labels carrying the logo of the district administration and ORMAS for sale in the market.

Hota said priority will be given for sale of pickle in the Aahaar Kendras in the urban areas. Later, efforts will be made to sell the other products in the market on the basis of their demand.

In coming days, efforts will be made to involve other women selfhelp groups in the district in this business and increase the production of mango-based products. Moreover, plans are afoot to prepare pickles from chilli, ginger, lemon and garlic, he said.





Genius discovers a system; average talent stereotypes

SRI AUROBINDO

Facing Veganophobes

have this problem, because almost everyone at the top of society/media/gov-

ernment/sport/films is vegetarian. But all over the world hundreds of ve-

gans/vegetarian can tell you horror stories about the reactions of 'conser-

vatives'. One study found that more than half of vegetarians had experienced

discrimination, and nearly 10 per cent of vegetarians said that family had

severed contact with them because they didn't eat meat. About the same per-

Why are carnivores threatened by the rise of veganism? I would have thought

that being a gentler approach to society and all its beings, a movement to-

wards better environment and better health would have appealed to all.

But apparently not. Those that stuff dead bodies into their faces every day

In 2019 protesters against veganism turned up at a vegan market and started

eating raw dead squirrels, in order to 'shame' those that didn't eat meat. To

eat or not to eat meat: this has become a vitriolic debate, a battleground be-

tween conservative meat-eaters and those that venture into a brave new world

of peace and good health for all. From robbing pigs from shelters and throw-

ing deer legs into the houses of vegans, to vicious articles on "Is veganism

centage say they were not hired for jobs because of their diet

are genuinely resentful that this change has come.

keeps calling you crazy.

worthy of backlash

that the reasons aren't rational.

against vegetarians in order to preserve their

positive self-image. Many people, who are po-

litically conservative, see this as straying from

the status quo – which is clearly eating and

using animal products. In many nations, holi-

day meals and barbeques centre around family

and friends cooking and eating meat like turkey,

steak, or hamburgers. Vegetarians are seen as

countering important social traditions and thus

But much more importantly, studies show

that conservatives are more likely to have a "so-

cial dominance orientation," meaning that they

believe in economic and political superiority

for certain groups. This includes the belief that

human animals have supremacy over other an-

hen Britain's largest bakery, Greggs brought, a vegan sausage roll

into the market, it was attacked by a senior reporter as 'Stalinist',

and the idea of having a vegan roll as 'nauseating'. In India we never

it till it is shattered by fresh genius

FOCUS SOCIETY

MEASURING MORAL PROGRESS

he greatness of a nation and its moral progress," Mahatma Gandhi said, "can be judged by the way its animals are treated." If we apply that test to the world as a whole, how much moral progress have we made over the past two millennia?

That question is suggested by The Golden Ass, arguably the world's earliest surviving novel, written around 170 CE, when Emperor Marcus Aurelius ruled the Roman Empire. Apuleius, the author, was an African philosopher and writer, born in what is now the Algerian city of M'Daourouch. He learned Latin and Greek, completing his education in Athens and visiting Rome before returning to the region of his birth. The Golden Ass is a first-per-

son narrative told by Lucius, whose interest in magic takes him to Thessaly, a province of Greece renowned for the ability of its sorcerers. But his quest to learn the dark arts ends badly when he is turned into a donkey. In that guise, Lucius describes, from the animal's viewpoint, the life of a lowly working animal in Roman times.

The various forms of mistreatment inflicted on the donkey fall into three categories. There is sadism: a slave boy for whom he carries wood gathered from the mountainside loves to torment him by beating him with clubs, adding rocks to make his load even heavier, tying stinging thorns to his tail, and finally, when he has a load of dry kindling on his back, dropping a live coal into it and igniting an inferno from which the donkey barely escapes with his life.

There is also brutality: he falls into the hands of a band of robbers who beat him mercilessly, not because they enjoy making him suffer, but to compel him to carry their stolen silver up end less rough and steep mountain paths to their hideout. Finally, there is exploitation,

Mahatma Gandhi's criterion for judging the greatness of a nation and its moral progress was its treatment of animals. By that standard, we cannot claim to have made much moral progress over the past two millennia

> cruelty. Across North Africa, only Egypt has such legislation. In West and Central Africa, an-

Compassi

imals are protected by law only in Ghana and Nigeria. Saudi Arabia, Iran, and China have no national animal welfare laws. In contrast, there is at least some level of legislative protection for animals across the whole of Europe (with the sole exception of Belarus). on the Indian sub-continent, in Japan, much of Southeast Asia (where Vietnam is the major exception), Australia and New Zealand, and most of the Americas Typically, these laws prohibit both sadistic cruelty and brutal

beatings, although there is wide variation in enforcement. And because attitudes to animals also vary widely, animals may be bet ter treated in some countries with no legal protection than they are in other countries where cruelty is illegal.

Consider developed countries, where the exploitation of animals for commercial purposes is a far larger problem. Worldwide, more than 70 billion land-based vertebrates are killed for food each year

and 90 per cent of them live their entire lives inside factory farms. Although a few jurisdictions, especially the European Union, do prohibit the most extreme forms of confinement, in most of the world there are no barriers to treating animals in whatever manner maximises profit. A proposed United Nations Convention on Animal Health and Protection would help to remedy that situa tion.

scribes, profits were maximised by working donkeys, horses, and but stopping just short of that slaves) did drop dead, well, it was

ness corporations decide how many animals to crowd inside their huge sheds, they know that the level of crowding that causes the fewest animals to die before reaching market weight will not be the most profitable level - and it is the latter benchmark that they will choose. As a result, more than 60 billion animals a year live miserable lives crowded into factory farms before being trucked to slaughter.

Gandhi's criterion for judging the greatness of a nation and its moral progress is not limited to maltreatment of animals that is sadistic or brutal. It refers only to the way that the nation's animals are treated. By that standard, as long as we keep most of the animals whose lives we control from birth to death in such appalling conditions, we cannot claim to have made much moral progress since Apuleius's time

The writer is Professor of **Bioethics at Princeton** University and founder of the non-profit organisation The Life You Can Save. ©PROJECT SYNDICATI

SPECTRUM COVID VACCINATION A genuine act of global solidarity needed



Ithough we have come a long borders of specific countries. In the pandemic decisively is a genuine

way in the fight against face of an evolving virus that will COVID-19, the only thing continue to acquire new mutathat will alter the course of the tions, a rise in cases anywhere threatens us all.

But this collective effort is not nearly enough given the work that still lies ahead of us. To vaccinate the entire world as quickly as possible, international organisations.

not-for-profit pricing commitment and technology transfers. This offers a way not only to scale up production immediately, but to do so to consistently high safety and ef-

ficacy standards globally. We have

built more than a dozen regional

supply chains around the world,

both relying on our own manu-

facturing capacity and sharing

our know-how with more than 20

partners. Each will now be fully

equipped to start adding to our

ence how important these forms of

collaboration are. Many attempts

to produce more vaccines will face

technical logistical and even po-

litical obstacles, especially where

expertise is limited, or trade re-

strictions create ripple effects

through supply chains. But what-

ever the hurdles, close coopera-

A year ago, many world lead-

ers came together in solidarity

and established the COVAX facil-

ity to help distribute vaccines to the

entire world. We hope the next

phase in the journey will be marked

tion can overcome them.

We know from our own experi-

total output.

People love to moan that vegans are annoying: research has shown that only drug addicts inspire the same degree of loathing. Now, psychologists are starting to understand why – and it's clear According to psychologists, the presence of veg etarians makes some carnivores feel that their meat consumption is unethical. They lash out

Maneka Gandhi

Vegetarians, and now treatment from conservatives that blacks and women now – after all they too are seen as a lower species

imals, and that animals are only relevant in as much as they provide food, entertainment and articles of usage. People who lean to the right are more likely to hunt and support testing on animals and circuses with animal acts. They are likely to have dogs (not rescued, but bought) that sit at their feet and complete their self-image as masters of the household and realm. Vegetarians are seen as rebels that ideologically counter these beliefs and hold animals to be on par with humans and as worthy of consideration. Vegetarians, and now vegans, get the same treatment from conservatives that blacks and women have been getting till now - after all they too are seen as a lower species. People who are bigoted toward other humans are likely to be bigoted toward animals as well. It is the same conservatives who are critical of environmentalists (climate change is a myth), NGOs (all are anti-national and in it for the money), social welfare for the poor (they should work harder). Social psychologists call this the moral schizophrenia of meateaters. "If you bring your cod and chips home to eat in front of your beloved goldfish. or tuck into a rabbit stew mere moments after cooing over various #rabbitsofinstagram, you're likely to encounter 'cognitive dissonance', which occurs when a person holds two incompatible views, and acts on one

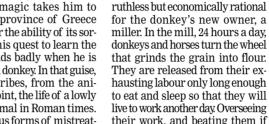
of them. In this case, your affection for animals clashes with the idea that it's OK to eat them." In the Western world there is more and more evidence

vegans, get the same have been getting till

good for you." Veganophobes call vegans smug, hypocritical (plants have life WHERE HE WAS too), psychopaths. As one vegan put it "Being vegan is like being the main character in a horror movie who keeps trying to warn the others that there is a monster in the room who will destroy them - but no one will listen and **FIND LAWS TO**

ANIMALS FROM

In the mill that Apuleius dehuman slaves nearly to death point. If some of the animals (or cheaper to replace them than to ameliorate the working conditions that killed them. Similarly, when giant agribusi-



led feet

they slacken off, are similarly ex-

ploited human slaves, clad in rags

with tattooed foreheads and shack-

All of this makes The Golden Ass

a remarkably progressive text. We

have to jump forward 17 centuries

before we find, in Anna Sewell's

Black Beauty, a comparably vivid

and empathetic presentation of

the life of an animal mistreated by

humans. But what can we learn

from this Roman work about moral

In many countries, the sadis-

tic cruelty of the slave boy and

the brutality of the bandits would

be illegal. That is progress, but it

is far from universal. If Apuleius

were to return today to the area

where he was born, he would not

find laws to protect animals from

progress since it was written?



Peter Singer

WERE TO

BORN, HE

PROTECT

CRUELTY

WOULD NOT

IF APULEIUS

RETURN TODAY

TO THE AREA

about how eating meat is bad. To continue to eat meat requires some serious mental gymnastics. Luckily, our brains are extremely good at protecting us from realities we don't want to face – and there are a number of psychological tricks at our disposal. So, the first thing that meat-eaters do is not to think of meat eating as an ideology. Then they pretend that meat has no link to animals, then they pretend they are eating less and less, or they are only eating animals that are "humanely farmed and happy farm animals".

Unfortunately, most of these excuses and evasions are derailed by the presence of vegans. Suddenly meat-eaters are confronted by an ideology which makes them have to choose sides as 'meat-eaters' and stop making excuses. By their mere existence, vegans force people to confront their schizophrenia. And this makes people angry.

So, they look for rational sounding explanations for why eating animals is the correct decision. And one of these is that vegans are bad. In a study done by psychologists from the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University, meat eating participants were surveyed about their attitudes towards vegans, and then asked to think of three words that they associated with them. Most came up with these words: 'weird', 'arrogant', 'preachy', 'militant', 'uptight', 'stupid', and - mysteriously - 'sadistic'.

How strange that these people would reject and attempt to demean groups that had made laudable choices. As the psychologists dug deeper into this group they found a common fear of their being judged by vegetarians, and that fear far outstripped any respect they might have had for any superior moral integrity. Those who had thought about being judged by vegetarians first, tended to associate vegetarians more strongly with negative words. The finding also explains why ethical vegetarians are more irritating to omnivores than those who choose the lifestyle for health reasons.

The end of an era and a way of life always frightens people. And the new age, where veganism is glamorous, will bring these reactions from those who feel inadequate.

To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in. www.peopleforanimalsindia.org

WORDS**WORTH**

Niggardly

Despite the similarity in spelling, this word has no connection with nigger, the one word which these days it is almost impossible for white Americans to say or write publicly. At the beginning of 1999, David Howard (the head of the Office of Public Advocate in Washington, DC) used it during a discussion with a black colleague in describing a budget allocation which he considered to be inadequate. He was reported as saying: "I will have to be niggardly with this fund because it's not going to be a lot of money". In large part the uproar came about because the word is not especially common: even Howard said that he had learned it while studying, rather than by hearing it used. Misunderstandings and misapprehensions are much more likely under such circumstances. The adverb form niggardly, miserly or stingily, was formed in the sixteenth century from niggard, a miser or stingy person. In Wycliffe Bible of 1384 it was spelled nygard; earlier still it can be found as nigon, and another form nig also existed. We are sure this was borrowed from a Scandinavian source, because there are related words in several Germanic languages, for example, the Old Norse hnøgger, meaning "stingy".

Pascal Soriot

IN THE FACE OF AN EVOLVING VIRUS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO ACOUIRE NEW MUTATIONS. A RISE IN CASES

ANYWHERE THREATENS US ALL

act of global solidarity.

The science and healthcare communities have mobilised on a scale never before seen in our lifetime, taking the fight to a deadly virus that is still sweeping the world and leaving a trail of personal loss and economic devastation in its wake. This unprecedented global response has led to the development of multiple highly effective vaccines in record time, allowing for more than 2 billion doses to have been administered globally as of this writing. AstraZeneca has contributed 500 million doses to this global effort.

The vaccination effort has been nothing short of extraordinary. Thousands of lives are being saved every day as a result of urgent and committed global collaboration. But while some countries have begun to breathe a sigh of relief and imagine a post-pandemic world, the overwhelming majority of the world's population remains unprotected.

Death rates remain unacceptably high, and the continued spread of the virus threatens the progress we have made. Our goal must be to eradicate COVID-19. That means reducing its incidence to zero everywhere, not just within the

Moreover, despite our best efforts, the world's poorest countries are still bearing the heaviest burden. The leaders of the IMF, the World Bank, the WHO, and the WTO have noted the world is increasingly at risk of creating a twotrack pandemic, with richer countries getting quick access to vaccines, while the poorest are left behind.

At AstraZeneca, we have always viewed the pandemic as a global challenge, which is why we have already shipped our vaccine to more than 160 countries. Moreover, when we established our partnership with the University of Oxford to develop the vaccine, we decided to provide it at no profit, because our top priority was to protect global health.

It has now been one year since we became the first vaccine producer to commit to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment, a global initiative to impel manufacturers to produce enough doses to protect developing countries. COVAX is a unique coalition. Anchored in a shared commitment to science, innovation, and collaboration, it is driven by a desire to fight the pandemic in the fairest

governments, health leaders, industry, and civil society must do more. The IMF and others have called on the governments of advanced economies to contribute \$50 billion more to the global vaccination drive. Vaccine donations are also needed. In recent weeks, Japan, Spain, Sweden, and the US. among others, pledged more doses to COVAX, but unlocking additional supplies will require con-

tinued work with other

governments. Those of us in the private sector need to devise new ways to ensure vaccines are reaching those in need. The waiver of intellectual-property rights under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) is not, as some have suggested, a quick fix to immediately increase the supply of vaccines. In fact, this approach will take many months to vield any extra doses, which is far too late for mil-

Iweala has called a 'third way.' Our

model at AstraZeneca rests on our

communities.

by even greater ambition and collions of people in underserved laboration. We still need to reach billions of people, and the world is We have set out a different apcounting on us to deliver. proach, similar to what WTO The writer is CEO of Director-General Ngozi Okonio-

AstraZeneca. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

and fastest way possible. Corona billionaires Sir, Vaccination has emerged as the only weapon in the fight against Covid. Vaccine manufacturers are taking full advantage of this. The world has got nine new billionaires from this business. Stéphane Bancel, Ugur Sahin, Timothy Springer, Noubar Afevan, Juan Lopei, Robert Langer,

Hazardous workplaces

Sir, The recent chemical factory tragedy in Pune district is another in a list of similar ones in the not too distant past. That seventeen poor labourers lost their lives in the deadly fire in Pirangut town points to the gravity of the tragedy. The gory incident shows how safety norms are thrown out of the window in such establishments. Safety measures seemed so brittle that no lessons were learnt from a fire of a small magnitude that reportedly broke out in the same factory a few days ago. The water purification plant used chlorine diox ide as a disinfectant, and the making of the latter by sodium chlorite or sodium chlorate, must have sparked the inferno. The factory owners may not have taken note of the permissible levels of chlorine dioxide in air. The alcohol in the sanitisers, stocked in the factory, would have help spread the fire entrapping hapless workers. Evidently, safety rules were flouted with disdain. Top officials of the district have lamented the absence of emergency exit in the establishment. Thousands of poor labourers earn their bread and butter in hazardous chemical factories. It is high time precautionary steps are taken on a war footing. Erring chemical and gas companies have to be closed down while reallocating the employees suitably. It is also imperative to have a relook at the National Factories Act of 1948 to provide it more teeth. Most of our 'Acts' remain only on paper, and the authorities wake up from their slumber after a major tragedy to go to sleep again, and the incident – fades from public memory.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

etters

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 105 requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

TO THE EDITOR Zhu Tao, Qiu Dongxu and Mao Huinhoa are the nine billionaires the system has produced dur-

ing the pandemic. Most importantly, almost all people living in the world can be vaccinated with their total assets. According to a report released by the People's Vaccine Alliance, the assets of the nine have increased by \$19.3 billion (Rs 1.41 lakh crore). With this money, the poor-

rissapost



est countries can get 13 times more vaccines. The

whole health system has been taken over by the

capitalists. People have to raise their voices

against it.





Is Centre planning 'something big' in J&K?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 9: With rumours becoming rife over New Delhi planning 'something big' in J&K, top sources told IANS Wednesday that the focus of the central government is on two important issues whether the suspended Amarnath Yatra can be resumed and whether assembly elections can be held before the year end.

Much depends upon the Covid situation which has shown a steady improvement during the last one week. If the situation permits, you can have assembly elections before the year end, a top source in New Delhi told IANS.

Asked whether these elections can be held till the delimitation commission completes its work, the source said, "Why do you think the delimitation commission cannot complete its work during this year?" The commission has started its ground level process of collecting data and population break-up etc from various district development commissioners.

Once the statistical back-up is ready, the commission will start its final duty of delimitation of new assembly segments depending upon the guiding principle that both the regions and various races. tribes and communities get an equitable deal, the source asserted.



The developments on the ground also indicate that various political parties have started coming out of hibernation.

Leaders of the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peoples Conference (PC), Apni Party and others have started activating their ground level cadre. NC patron and former chief min-

ister Farooq Abdullah is scheduled to meet PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti later Wednesday.

Sources in these two parties suggest the meeting is likely to decide on the participation of these parties in the meetings of the delimitation commission to put forth their viewpoint on the new de-

Tribals like Gujjars, Bakarwals, races like the Paharis, Dogras etc and communities like the **Kashmiri Pandits expect** that the delimitation commission would end their under-representation in the J&K Assembly

limitation and increased representation to some tribes, races and communities. The sources added that the NC

patron is underlining the impor-

tance for the regional parties to take part in delimitation deliberations.

The extended term of the delimitation commission ends in March 2022, but those connected with the working of the commission suggest it would give its final report before the end of its extended term

Tribals like Gujjars, Bakarwals, races like the Paharis, Dogras etc and communities like the Kashmiri Pandits expect that the delimitation commission would end their under-representation in the J&K assembly

Given the present political sce nario in J&K it is logical to assume that no political party would choose to remain out of the electoral process.

"Out of hustings would mean out of politics," said a senior NC leader requesting not to be named.

On the other priority, the resumption of the suspended Amarnath Yatra, authorities are of the opinion that while the normal Yatra with thousands of pilgrims might not be possible, yet the Amarnath Yatra must be held with all religious formalities and with minimum participation this year. While Kashmiris are besieged with rumours of statehood for Jammu, declaration of safe areas for Kashmir migrant Pandits and the further truncating of the districts

Gupkar alliance meets in Srinagar

Amid speculations about any possible changes to the status of Jammu and Kashmir, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), a conglomerate of Kashmir based political parties, is currently holding a meeting at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's residence at the Gupkar road in Srinagar Wednesday. Among others, the meeting is being attended by PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti, National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, Awami National Conference leader Muzaffar Shah and CPI-M leader Yusuf Taragami. The PAGD was floated for the reversal of constitutional changes made to Jammu and Kashmir August 5, 2019. National Conference President Farooq Abdullah was appointed as the President of the alliance. PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti is its vice president.

of Kashmir division, the real 'big development' could be restoration of democracy with equitable representation to every community tribe and race and the holding of a subdued Amarnath Yatra this year

HC issues guidelines to be followed when accused plead guilty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, June 9: In a ruling, the Kerala High Court has issued guidelines to be adhered to in cases where persons accused of offences plead guilty and such directions include, explanation of the charge by the trial court and also that the 'guilty plea' should be voluntary and unambiguous.

Mere lip service or a monosyllabic 'yes', in reply to a pointed question by the court, cannot, under any circumstance, be equated with, or accepted as pleading of guilt by the accused, the court held. Setting aside the conviction of a man by a lower court (for obstructing a procession and assaulting

certain volunteers) based on him pleading guilty; a single bench of the court laid down the norms. Justice V G Arun in the guidelines said the magistrate should

frame the charge, specifying the offences alleged against the accused. The charge should be read over and explained to the accused and asked whether he or she pleads

guilty to the offence with which she or he is charged. The accused



should plead guilty after understanding the seriousness of the allegations and the implications of pleading guilty, the court said.

The plea should be voluntary and expressed in clear and unambiguous terms and the magistrate should record the accused's plea of guilty in the words of the accused to the extent possible. The magistrate, after considering all relevant factors, should exercise his discretion and decide whether to accept the plea of guilty or not.

If the plea is accepted, the accused can be convicted and suitable punishment imposed, it said in the order delivered Tuesday.

The petitioner, Raseen Babu K M challenged his conviction contending that the procedure adopted by the judicial magistrate was patently illegal.

SUMMERTIME

SKINNY-DIP

A monkey cools off at a fountain pool on

a hot summer

afternoon, at a park

in Jammu

BJP leaders meet Ker Guv, submit memorandum against state govt

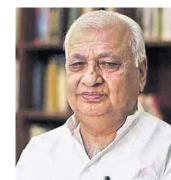
The meeting comes at a time when the saffron party is facing a host of allegations, from using hawala money for the April 6 assembly polls, to bribing a co-candidate for withdrawing his nomination

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 9: A group of BJP leaders in Kerala Wednesday met Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and submitted a memorandum, seeking his intervention against the LDF government's alleged abuse of police machinery to tarnish its image and harass its leaders out of political vendetta.

They alleged that the Left government was targeting the party's state president K Surendran and attempting to implicate him in criminal cases

The BJP delegation, led by former union minister and MLA, veteran O Rajagopal, met Khan at the Raj Bhavan, his official residence here.



Several BJP and RSS leaders had already been questioned in connection with the highway robbery of hawala money at Kodakara in Thrissur district April 3, three days ahead of the elections

said, adding that SIT was continuously giving motivated inputs to the media to give an impression that the money allegedly robbed was unaccounted funds of BJP which is totally incorrect. It also claimed that the SIT was

specifically targeting K Surendran and making efforts to tarnish him and his family.

The memorandum also flayed the state police for registering a case against Surendran for allegedly threatening and bribing BSP candidate K Sundara for withdrawing his nomination for the April 6 polls.

The police, after registering the case for bailable offences, were now making efforts to incorporate non-bailable sections and to arrest



and said that he became a Minister

The meeting comes at a time when the saffron party is facing a host of allegations, from using hawala money for the April 6 assembly polls, to bribing a co-candidate for withdrawing his nomination.

Several BJP and RSS leaders had already been questioned in connection with the highway robbery of hawala money at Kodakara in Thrissur district April 3, three days ahead of the elections.

The ruling CPI(M) and opposition Congress have alleged that the saffron party had used huge amounts of black money in the assembly polls, in which it had failed to win any seat.

However, the BJP, in the memorandum, accused the government of forming a Special Investigation Team with political intention, com-

prising officials having allegiance to the ruling CPI(M), to investigate the highway heist case.

The investigators, instead of probing the offences cited in the FIR in the crime, have been interrogating and 'harassing' BJP activists and leaders and giving an impression to the media that they were probing the financial transactions associated with the robbery incident it alleged

The attempt is obviously to tarnish the image of BJP and to harass the leaders and activists, it

The move to arrest a responsible political leader in such a case is totally unwarranted and was against the directions issued by the Supreme Court for avoiding unnecessary arrests in criminal cases, it said.

it alleged.

The abuse of police machinery to harass political opponents is a matter to be deprecated by constitutional authorities like the Governor. it said.

The memorandum also requested Khan to take note of the oppressive, anti-democratic and illegal actions of the state government and take appropriate remedial measures.

Besides Rajagopal, former Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan and leaders P Sudheer, S Suresh and V V Rajesh were also part of the delegation.

and detain the BJP's state president.

Kochi, June 9: If it was the opposition which took up the case where rosewood trees worth ₹10 crore were cut down in the interior areas of Wayanad in the assembly Tuesday, it was the turn of the Kerala high court Wednesday when it refused to stay the case, after those who were behind it approached the court.

The Kerala government informed the court that what has come out was only the tip of the iceberg and so far 37 cases have been registered in this matter and the probe is going on.

The petitioners who include three brothers alleged to be behind the felling of the rosewood trees argued that they did this based on an order of the revenue department which allowed felling



ROSEWOOD SCAM CASE

of trees with the exception of sandalwood trees in certain areas.

They argued that the land from where the trees were cut was not forest land and hence the forest department has no role, but with the Kerala government taking a strong stand the stay demanded by them was turned down by the court

Incidentally the order for this had come last October and after lapses

were found February 2, 2021, the order was cancelled. This order reached the Wavanad Collectorate February 5, while the felling of trees took place February 3. They were moved to a wood mill hundreds of kilometres away. The Congress led UDF opposition wanted to know from Forest Minister AK Saseendran if this was done by people belonging to his party. Saseendran was quick in denial just a few weeks ago only and promised strong action against those who have broken the law.

The issue was first brought up by senior Congress legislator PT Thomas who pointed out that this was made possible by a suspicious order from the revenue department which came last October and which allowed the felling of trees, except sandalwood trees, in certain areas.

The Kerala Police and the Kerala Forest department have started a probe into this. Joining issue was State BJP president K Surendran. According to sources, to put pressure on the Pinarayi Vijayan government he is likely to take up this case with Union Forest Minister and his party colleague Prakash Javadekar to see if they can also join the probe.

Old Jammu railway station to be developed as heritage site

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, June 9: Old Jammu Railway Station at Bikram Chowk in the heart of Jammu city will be developed as heritage site under Smart City Project.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Raghav Langer Tuesday said that the government is planning to develop historical Bikram Chowk Railway Station as a heritage site to attract tourists visit ing the City of Temples.

He was on a visit to the site of the Railway station which was built in 1897 but was abandoned after the partition as the railway link to Sialkot was broken

The Divisional Commissioner assessed the renovation requirements and issued instructions for starting the preliminary work to materialise the restoration plan.

Development of new attractions and up-gradation and improvement of the existing infrastructure for pro-



motion of tourism is one of the priority sectors of the government,

the Divisional Commissioner said. During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner along with other officers took a round of various blocks of the heritage station and observed that different landmarks and remnants are still available

at the site He said the railway station has a historical and heritage significance and extraordinary efforts should be made for restoring its past grandeur. He said that the refurbishment of the railway station would add another dimension to the

Heritage Tourism in J&K.

My second life: Keralite freed from death row in UAE Becks Krishnan, who was on death row in the UAE for killing a young Sudanese boy in a road accident in 2012, was freed

after prominent NRI businessman MA Yusuff Ali helped pay his 'blood money' amounting to nearly ₹1 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, June 9: The 45-year-old Indian recently freed from death row in the UAE after an NRI businessman paid 'blood money' arrived here Wednesday and said his release was a "second life" for him.

Becks Krishnan, who was on death row in the United Arab Emirates for killing a young Sudanese boy in a road accident in 2012, was freed after prominent NRI businessman and philanthropist M A Yusuff Ali helped pay his 'blood money' amounting

to nearly one crore rupees. The Thrissur resident arrived at the international airport here early Wednesday morning from Abu Dhabi. His wife Veena and son Advaith, along with other relatives and friends, received him at the airport.

"I was relieved when I heard



that Yusuff Ali had intervened...This is my second life. I am thankful to Yusuff Ali. He was holding discussions with the victim's family for many months," Krishnan told the media.

Meanwhile. Ali in a statement said he had deposited 500,000 Dirhams in January at the Abu Dhabi court after convincing the Sudani boy's family to pardon Krishnan.

We had to convince both the parents and the negotiations went on for several months. It was difficult initially because the boy's mother wanted the law to take its



We had to convince both the parents and the negotiations went on for several months. It was difficult initially because the boy's mother wanted the law to take its own course. Convincing them to pardon Krishnan was the

difficult part MA YUSUFF ALI I BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST

own course. Convincing them to pardon Krishnan was the difficult part," Ali said in a statement.

Krishnan was sentenced to death by the UAE Supreme Court after he was found guilty of killing a young Sudanese boy when he recklessly drove and rammed his car into a group of children in September 2012.

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

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

Ultimately in January 2021, the victim's family in Sudan agreed to pardon Krishnan.

Subsequently, Yusuff Ali paid 500,000 Dirhams (Rs one crore approximately) as compensation in the court to secure the man's release.









I won't resign from the Parliament. We will continue to fight for the rights of the people in the Parliament till we are alive FAROOQ ABDULLAH | FORMER J&K CM

variant were recorded in people

who had received a single dose,

and 60 per cent in people who had

indicated that breakthrough in-

fections due to the 'delta' variant

seemed to affect people who took

Covishield. This study showed

'delta' breakthrough infections in

27 patients who had taken that vac-

cine, with the infection rate at 70.3

per cent. Data from both studies in-

dicated the 'alpha' variant is also

proving resistant to Covishield

and Covaxin, but not as signifi-

cantly as the version first reported

while the vaccine's protection

against the 'delta', and even 'alpha',

variants may be reduced, severity

of infection in each case appeared

to be unaffected as a result. This is

in line with scientists' views that

there is, as yet, no evidence the

'delta' variant is causing a greater

Both studies also indicated that

from India.

Data from the NCDC-IGIB study

received both doses.

ANIMAL LOVE

The Madras High Court Wednesday directed the Animal Husbandry department to vaccinate stray dogs and cats in the state



national

OrissaPOST

THURSDAY JUNE 10 2021 BHUBANESWAR



government is examining the viability of implementing the unlock process in 4 to 5 phases since

opening up everything at one go may again aggravate the situation. Chief Minister Yediyurappa will take a call on the modalities of the phased unlock process

R ASHOKA KARNATAKA REVENUE MINISTER

The Modi government is determined to double the income of farmers. Today, in this direction, under the leadership of

Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the Union Cabinet approved an increase in the minimum support price (MSP) of kharif crops, giving another gift to our farmer brothers AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

The Election

Commission has imposed a fungus government (Nitish Kumar government) or Bihar and now people of the state are paying price

TEJASHWI YADAV RJD LEADER

SHORT TAKES

T'gana cancels board exams

Hyderabad: The Telangana government Wednesday announced cancellation of the Intermediate second year (Class 12) annual exams in view of Covid-19 pandemic. Nearly two months after cancelling the annual exams of Class 10 and Intermediate first year (Class 11), the government announced cancellation of Class 12 exams.

Nagaland extends lockdown

Kohima: The Nagaland government Wednesday announced an extension of the ongoing Covid-related lockdown till June 18 with easing of some restrictions.

'DELTA VARIANT CAN INFECT EVEN AFTER VACCINATION'

Data from the AIIMS and NCDC studies indicated the 'alpha' variant is also proving resistant to

Covishield and Covaxin, but not as significantly as the 'delta' version

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 9: The 'delta' variant of COVID-19 - the version first detected in India in October last year - is capable of infecting people even after they have received both doses of the Covaxin or Covishield vaccines, according to separate studies by AIIMS (Delhi) and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

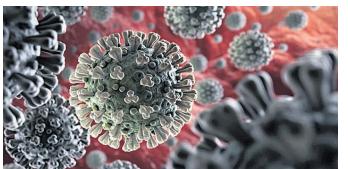
It is important to note that neither study has been peer-reviewed as yet. The AIIMS study suggests the 'delta' variant - which others, including one by British health authorities, say is between 40 and 50 per cent more infectious than the

BHARAT BIOTECH TO CONDUCT **COVAXIN PHASE-4 TRIALS**

Hyderabad: Bharat Biotech will be conducting phase-4 clinical trials of indigenously developed Covaxin to check its real-world effectiveness. It will also apply for full licensure for Covaxin only after it gets final analysis data of phase-3 studies, the company said on Wednesday. According to the company, the phase-4 trials will not just help check the real-world effectiveness but also ensure that "its vaccine met every rigorous scientific standard for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA)".

'Forced to chant Jai Shri Ram inside jail'

The accused, Rashid Zafar, was arrested in 2018 on the allegations of being member of an **ISIS-inspired** group who were planning suicide attacks and



'alpha' version first reported from the UK - is likely behind the majority of breakthrough infections in India. The AIIMS-IGIB (Institute of

Genomics and Integrative Biology) study was based on an analysis of 63 symptomatic patients who reported to the hospital's emergency ward complaining of high fever persisting for five to seven days. Of these 63 people, 53 had been given at least one dose of Covaxin and the rest at least one dose of Covishield. Thirty-six had received both doses of one of these vaccines. 76.9 per cent of infections by the 'delta'

number of Covid-linked deaths or more severe infections

> come up for hearing Thursday, that the incident was disclosed by the accused to his father telephoni-cally from Tihar Jail. "The accused was beaten up and forced to chant religious slogans like 'Jai Shri Ram' by his inmates," the application said. The plea, moved by advocate

Qausar Khan, requested that "appropriate directions may be passed to the Jail Superintendent to look into the matter". The accused were arrested along with nine others in December 2018 after NIA carried out searches, in coordination with Special cell of Delhi Police and Anti-Terrorism Squad of Uttar Pradesh Police, at six places in Jafrabad, Seelampur in Delhi, and 11 places in Uttar Pradesh -- six in Amroha, two in Lucknow, two in Hapur and two in

Day celebrations January 26.

Mehul Choksi's bail hearing adjourned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

High Court has adjourned the bail hearing of fugitive diamond merchant Mehul Choksi till June 11,

Choksi had approached the high court after the magistrate rejected his bail petition. The bail hearing took place before high court judge Wynante Adrien-Roberts through video-conferencing on the plea of Choksi's local legal team comprising Julien Prevost, Wayne Norde, Wayne Marsh and Cara Shillingford-Marsh.

by Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Sherma Dalrymple "strongly objected" to Choksi's plea calling him a flight risk, Dominica News Online reported. The judge adjourned the matter till June 11, it said. The high court is also hearing a separate matter of habeas corpus filed by Choksi's team in which the hearing has also been adjourned.



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

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

Cong continues to lose stalwarts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

of further exists.

New Delhi, June 9: The saga of de-

fections in the Congress which

began ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha

elections continues unabated with

47-year-old former Union minis-

ter Jitin Prasada jumping ship

Wednesday, triggering speculation

Prasada follows in the foot-

steps of his former Congress

colleague Jyotiraditya Scindia

who quit the party to join the

BJP in March last year. Both the

young leaders leave behind a

major vacuum in the Congress,

having served as ministers in

the erstwhile UPA government

and having been part of the inner

circle of former Congress pres-

However, Scindia, the scion of the

Gwalior royal family and once the

youth face of the Congress party

from Madhya Pradesh, is yet to

get a cabinet berth or a position of

power in the saffron party even

Asked about Prasada quitting

the party, Congress spokesperson

Surpriya Shrinate said it is un-

fortunate and it pains her to know

that he has joined those who are re-

sponsible for the death of lakhs of

people during the coronavirus pan-

demic. "Is it politics of conven-

ience or was it any ideological com-

mitment towards the idea of India

that the Congress stood for," she

asked Prasada. The story of senior

leaders leaving the Congress for

the BJP began ahead of the 2014 Lok

Sabha elections when the party

lost Haryana heavyweights

after 15 months of his joining.

ident Rahul Gandhi.

Birender Singh and Rao Inderjit Singh. Both went on to become ministers in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first cabinet.

Rao Inderjit, who was Textile Minister in the UPA government, continues to be the Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation in the present dispensation.

After the Lok Sabha elections, the then Assam Congress stalwart Himanta Biswa Sarma left for the BJP in 2015 and rose up the saffron ladder to become the chief minister of Assam last month.

Some other prominent Congress leaders and former union ministers in UPA rule who quit the party and joined the BJP include S M Krishna and Jayanti Natarajan. Krishna has also been the former chief minister of Karnataka and Natarajan was the Union environment minister in UPA.

The Congress also lost once Gandhi family loyalist and former scion of the former Amethi royal family Sanjay Sinh to the BJP last year. It had suffered a jolt in 2019 in Assam when its chief whip in Rajya Sabha Bhubaneswar Kalita suddenly quit and joined the BJP. He is now a BJP Rajya Sabha member from Assam.

In the Northeast too, the Congress suffered some setbacks when its former chief minister in Manipur N Biren Singh joined the BJP in 2016, citing differences with then incumbent Ibobi Singh.

In Arunachal Pradesh, present Chief Minister Pema Khandu also left the Congress in 2016 before the assembly elections.



New Delhi, June 9: The Dominica

local media reports stated.

The government side represented

The decision was taken by the states High Powered Committee on COVID-19 at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio two days before the current lockdown was to end, state minister Neiba Kronu said. This will be the third extension of the lockdown in the state.

Couple dies by suicide

Mangalore: A middle-aged couple died allegedly by suicide early Wednesday, sources said. The deceased have been identified as Suresh (62) and wife Vani (55), the sources said. The body of Suresh was found in a well near the house while Vani was found hanging in the house, they said. She was working as a clerk in a private college.

10-yr-old raped

Chandigarh: A 10-year-old girl

was allegedly raped inside a village school in Haryana's

Rewari district by a group of

boys, who also filmed the act

on their mobile phones, police

said Wednesday. Barring one,

all accused are minor, police

said. They said some of the

accused filmed the act and

circulated the video locally,

which reached the victim's

Russian arrested

Panaji: A 41-year-old Russian

national has been arrested for

marijuana, valued at over Rs

police said Wednesday. The

accused has been identified

charge of Pernem police

station Jivba Dalvi said.

as Dmitry Boldov, inspector in-

possession of LSD and

8.5 lakh, from the beach village of Morjim in North Goa,

father, who lodged a

complaint.

serial blasts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: An alleged ISIS member arrested for planning suicide attacks and serial blasts across the country, approached a Delhi court Wednesday claiming that he was beaten up by other inmates in Tihar jail and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. Meerut. The searches and the arrests came a month before the Republic

Advocate M S Khan claimed in the application, which is likely to Nomads with their animals walk on a road near Belagavi

Govt issues guidelines on Covid among kids

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: The government has come out with comprehensive guidelines for the management of Covid-19 among children in which Remdesivir has not been recommended and rational use of HRCT imaging has been suggested.

The guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Health

Services (DGHS) under the health ministry also said that steroids are harmful in asymptomatic and mild cases of infection. The DGHS recommended steroids only in hospitalised moderately severe and critically ill Covid-19 cases under strict supervision. "Steroids should be used at the right time, in the right dose and for the right duration. Self-medication of steroids must be avoided," it said. The guidelines also said Remdesivir (an emergency use authorization drug) is not recommended in children. "There is lack of sufficient safety and efficacy data with respect to Remdesivir in children below 18 years of age," the guidelines said. The guidelines suggested rational use of High-resolution CT (HRCT) for seeing the extent and

nature of lung involvement in pa-

tients with Covid-19.

New Delhi, June 9: Noting that everyone is equal in the eyes of law, a Delhi court Wednesday dismissed an application filed by Olympic medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar, an accused in a murder case, seeking special food and supplements in the prison.

DELHI COURT DENIES

SPECIAL FOOD TO

SUSHIL KUMAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNI PHOTO

Kumar had approached the Rohini court with the demands claiming that they are extremely necessary for him to maintain his health and performance as he wishes to continue his career in wrestling.

He sought supplements like isolate whey protein, omega 3 capsules, jointment capsules, pre-workout C4 and hyde, multivitamin GNC and exercise bands in the prison to maintain his physique and physical strength.

Junking his plea, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Satvir Singh Lamba said that special foods and supplements appear to be only the desires and wishes of the accused and are not in any manner the essential need or necessity.

"It is well settled law that all the persons, whether natural or juristic are equal in eyes of law irrespective of caste, religion, sex, class. It also implies absence of any special privilege in any persondue to his rank, status, whether rich or poor," he stated in the order.

Mango varieties from WB, Bihar to be showcased in Bahrain

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 9: For the first time, 4,000 kg kilogram mangoes, spanning 16 varieties from West Bengal and Bihar, will be exported to Bahrain and will be displayed in different stalls there for eight days. The process is a part of the ef-

fort to promote the local and lesserknown mangoes internationally. To promote the lesser-known

mangoes of the state and Bihar, the Agricultural & Processed Food **Products Export Development** Authority (APEDA) has organised the event for the promotion of these kinds of mangoes so that these can develop an international acceptance which eventually will enhance production. The exported mangoes will be showcased at 13 stores in Bahrain from June 11.

Other than a few commercial



kinds, most of these varieties are indigenous, lesserknown and confined to the local areas only.

"One of the APEDA registered exporters from Kolkata is hosting the programme at Bahrain along with their importer client," a senior state Horticulture Department official, who did not want to be identified, told IANS.

All these varieties have been chosen based on their characteristics of being extremely delicious and unique in their own way. The first consignment was shipped Tuesday. The second consignment would be shipped on June 10, depending upon the flight availabil

ity. The Horticulture Department

GREAT INITIATIVE

For the first time, 4,000 kg mangoes, spanning 16 varieties from West Bengal and Bihar, will be exported to Bahrain and will be displayed in different stalls there for eight days

The process is a part of the effort to promote the local and lesser-known mangoes internationally

official said that the mangoes would be sent by the exporter from the Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC) Kolkata Airport on a commercial basis. Considering the fruit's perishability, the export consignment has been divided into two parts.

According to senior government officials, the entire programme was conceptualised and organised

by the exporters and importers themselves.

'We are only working as facilitators. The importer and the exporter have jointly have done all the necessary arrangements to organise the show at their stores which includes live streaming through WEBEX at 5 of its stores, attractive display of the mangoes, preparation and putting up of banners/posters, inviting the local government officials and tries for the launch of the show,'

customers from other Gulf counan official said. "Such export promotion activity

may open new horizons for the farmers and exporters to start sending overseas the indigenous and unique varieties of mangoes and thus help in the mandate of the state government to raise the farmers' income," the official said.











national



We are thinking of starting Tika Utsav 3.0 for the age groups of 18 to 44 years at the gram panchayat level. If everyone co-operates, we will be able to vaccinate everyone

PRAMOD SAWANT GOA CHIEF MINISTER

HEAT WAVE LIKELY OVER **NORTHWEST RAJASTHAN**

Heat wave condition is expected over isolated pockets of northwest Rajasthan, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Wednesday





At the time of the oxygen crisis, the Uttar Pradesh government repeatedly claimed that there was no shortage of oxygen.

Across the state number of people died. In Agra also administration is claiming that there was no shortage of oxygen. Will Uttar Pradesh government bring the reality of Agra medical mock drill and punishment

PRIYANKA GANDHI CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY



SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL SHIROMANI AKALI DAL PRESIDENT



SHORT TAKES

TN runs out of vaccine stock

Chennai: Vaccination in Tamil Nadu has come to a grinding halt as several districts have fallen short of the required doses in the state. 39 out of the 45 health units of the state reported a shortage of vaccines. The state is expecting 63,370 doses of Covaxin Wednesday and another 40.000 doses Thursday. A quantity of 3.6 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine is to be received by the state Friday and health experts feel only after these arrivals would things get back on track.

First monsoon rains disrupt life in Mumbai

The first rains of this year's monsoon season in Mumbai caused water-logging in various parts of the city, prompting the traffic police to shut four subways and forcing motorists to abandon their vehicles on roads



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai. June 9: The south-west monsoon set in over Mumbai and its neighbouring areas Wednesday, the MeT department said, as heavy rains lashed the city and suburbs since early morning, causing waterlogging at many places and disrupting local train services.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a 'red alert' for Mumbai, and neighbouring Thane, Palghar and Raigad districts, warning of very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places there.

The heavy downpour also disrupted local train services, which are running only for personnel engaged in health and other essential services, and are out of bound for general commuters in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. While there were fewer vehicles on the city roads amid the downpour, motorcvclists and other two-wheeler riders were unable to manoeuvre their

vehicles at some of the flooded places The traffic police closed Milan.

Khar, Andheri and Malad subways for motorists due to water-logging at these places. "We have closed the subways due to water-logging of up to two feet at these junctions. However, traffic is smooth on the SV Road, Linking Road and the Western Express Highway. So far, no traffic congestion has been reported," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Western Suburbs, Somnath Gharge told PTI. Heavy rains caused low visibility and increased the risk of accidents, hence the traffic police personnel are on roads to prevent such incidents, the official said. Cranes were used to clear roads on which motorists had abandoned their vehicles due to water-logging, he added. The city police appealed to Mumbaikars not to step out of their homes unnecessarily and cautioned them against travelling to some of the inundated areas. Mumbai and its

suburbs experienced thunder storms along with moderate to intense spells of rainfall during the day, it added. Suburban train services from

Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji MaharajTerminus (CSMT) to neighbouring Thane and Vashi in Navi Mumbai were suspended due to water-logging on tracks, officials said. Routes of some BEST buses, run by the city civic body's transport wing, were diverted to avoid flooded streets, they said. According to the IMD, the western suburb of Santacruz recorded 164.8 mm rain in six hours from 8.30 am to 2.30 pm, while Colaba in south Mumbai) recorded 32.2 mm rain during the same period. "It's monsoon arrival in Mumbai today," Dr Jayanta Sarkar, head of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Mumbai office, said in the morning. The IMD said conditions are favourable for onset of the monsoon in remaining parts of Maharashtra in next two to three days.

CBI carries out searches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: The CBI has carried out searches at 14 locations in Delhi-NCR and three other cities after registering an FIR against Ovster Buildwell Private Ltd, Avantha group promoter Gautam Thapar and others for alleged diversion of over ₹466 crore in Yes Bank during 2017-19, officials said.

Thapar is already being probed

has also booked directors of Oyster Buildwell Pvt Ltd - Raghubir Kumar Sharma, Rajendra Kumar Mangal and Tapsi Mahajan - as well as unidentified executives of Avantha Realty Pvt Ltd and Jhabua

Oyster Buildwell Pvt Ltd (OBPL)

the accused. they said

The complaint by Yes Bank, now a part of the FIR, has alleged that Jhabua Power Limited (JPL), a group concern of OBPL, entered in a operations and maintenance contract for its 600 MW power plant with its holding company Jhabua Power Investment Ltd for 10 years.

OBPL was required to pay an interest-free refundable security deposit of ₹515 crore to JPIL for which Yes Bank had sanctioned a long-term loan of ₹515 crore for 10 years. The company defaulted on payments with the account turning into a non-performing asset October 30, 2019.

could not be ascertained", the

The total outstanding principal dues stand at ₹466.15 crore, it alleged. During its forensic audit, the bank found that only ₹14.16 crore of the total ₹514.27 crore disbursed by the bank were transferred to JPIL in its IndusInd Delhi and NCR, Lucknow (Uttar bank account and "ultimate end Secunderabad use of ₹500.11 crore loan fund

complaint alleged.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE



Girls wade through a waterlogged street at Hindmata in Mumbai

Delhi receives more doses, vaccination to start again

RAJE GOES MISSING OSTERS **FRUM DJI**

Girl refuses to marry as groom chews 'gutka'

PTI PHOTO

is part of Avantha group with over 97 percent stake held by Avantha

in another case related to diversion of public money in Yes Bank allegedly involving the bank's former chief Rana Kapoor, they said. In the present case, the CBI

Power Ltd.

Realty and the remaining by Thapar and Vani agencies, the CBI alleged. The case has been registered on a complaint, dated May 27, 2021, from Chief Vigilance Officer

of the Bank Ashish Vinod YES Joshi. BANK The CBI has alleged that the accused have indulged in a CASE

criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, cheating and forgery for diversion of public money to the tune of ₹466.15 crore, they said. After registering the case, the CBI team searched at 14 locations in

Pradesh), (Telangana) and Kolkata (West Bengal) including the premises of

Ranchi: The Jharkhand government Wednesday extended Covid-related lockdown-like restrictions till June 16 with some relaxations, an official said. This is the fifth time that the curbs, first imposed in the state April 22 for a week, were extended. The ongoing measures were scheduled to end June 10. The decision was made at a meeting of the state disaster management authority chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

Jharkhand extends

lockdown-like curbs

Four kids drown in brick kiln pit

Bettiah: Four children died while bathing in a pit filled with water in Bihar's West Champaran district in the Matiaria police station area. The children had gone to bathe in the water accumulated in the pit. A brick kiln located in Hardi Dalhwa village had dug a pit for brick manufacturing which was filled with water, a police official said Wednesday. On Tuesday evening the four children went for a bath in the water of the pit and drowned

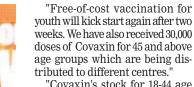
while playing in it.

Vaccine (19ESCOURTLEU)

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 9: Delhiites in the 18-44 age group waiting to get an anti-Covid jab can now book their slot through 'CoWIN' app as the free vaccination for youth will start again after suspension for the last two weeks.

After the two week-long break with no vaccination, Delhi has received 1.25 lakh doses of Covishield and 20,000 doses of Covaxin, said Kalkaji MLA Atishi on Wednesday while presenting the daily vaccine bulletin of the Delhi government.



"Covaxin's stock for 18-44 age groups is available for the second dose. For 45+, we have two days of Covaxin and 27 days of Covishield available," Atishi added.

A total of 48,411 doses of the vaccine were administered on Tuesday, Out of these 25.847 were first doses and 22,564 were second doses. Along with this, the total tally of vaccines administered in Delhi has reached 57,81,988 and 13,40,000 people have been administered both the doses

"From tomorrow onwards, doses of Covaxin will be available for those above the age of 45 years. Whichever government centres where Covaxin was being administered to the 45+, there the second dose will be made available. Right now, we are administering Covaxin only to those who are to be given the second dose, amongst the 45+," she concluded.



ior leaders.

While the earlier posters had

Raje's picture along with state pres-

ident Satish Poonia, leader of op-

position Gulab Chand Kataria,

deputy leader of opposition

Rajendra Rathore's pictures on one

side; the other side projectedd a

picture of PM Narendra Modi and

Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

leadership have issued a guideline

that all BJP posters in state as a rule

should have CM and state presi-

dent's picture along with Modi's

BJP officials said that the central

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, June 9: In a recent development in Rajasthan politics, former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raie's posters have been removed from the BJP state headquarters.

The present posters have Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party national chief J.P. Nadda on one side and Satish Poonia and Gulab Chand Kataria on the other side but no picture of Raje anywhere.

In other posters, they have brought veteran leaders Deendayal Upadhyay and Syama Prasad

Only in India we are liberal with health concerns: SC

are bailable ones and hence, they

"Only in India we are liberal

deserved anticipatory bail

and Nadda's while in states where BJP is in opposition, there shall be picture of state BJP president and leader of opposition with Modi and Nadda and hence comes this change

In last few months, Raje has been seen maintaining distance and difference from state party office and state party leaders and has been seen promoting 'Brand Raje' keeping herself aloof from all state BJP activities.

She has been seen engaged in promoting 'Vasundhara Raje Rasoi' when the party is running 'Sewa hi Sangathan' campaign. Also her followers have been running a 'Team Vasundhara Raje 2023' campaign on social media projecting her as next CM face of Rajasthan for BJP.

Also, she has been running 'Office of Vasundhara Raje' handle on Twitter to help needy during pandemic when BJP was running its own handle to help those who wanted medicines, oxygen, beds etc.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ballia (UP), June 9: After a bride in Pratapgarh district turned away the groom because he came drunk, another bride in Ballia district refused to marry the groom because he chewed 'gutka'.

Last week. a bride in Pratapgarh district had refused to get married after the groom arrived drunk and started forcing her to dance with him

Maniyar police station official. Shailendra Singh, said that the bride, hailing from Mishrauli village, was to get married to the man from Khejuri village June 5.

However, when the groom arrived with the marriage procession, the bride saw that he was chewing 'gutka'. She then refused to get married and the wedding was called off.

After hours of persuasion, when the bride refused to relent, the wedding was called off and the families decided to return the gifts they had earlier received from each other. This is the second such incident within one week in Uttar Pradesh. Last week, a bride in Pratapgarh district had refused to get married after the groom arrived drunk and started forcing her to dance with him. As the situation took an ugly turn, the police was called in and it was on their in-tervention that the groom's family agreed to return the dowry gifts.

2 gangsters shot dead

Chandigarh: Punjab police gunned down two gangsters, who were involved in killing policemen, in an operation in Kolkata, a senior police officer said Wednesday. Gangsters Jaipal Singh Bhullar and Jaspreet Singh, who were wanted in the murder of two Assistant Sub Inspectors in Punjab, were killed by the police force in an operation in Kolkata, the officer said. Acting on a tip-off, the Punjab police team with help from the Kolkata police shot dead Bhullar and Singh.

..... THE CASE PERTAINS TO THE SEIZURE OF 1,20,620 KG OF 'SUB-STANDARD AND MISBRANDED POLISHED WHEAT' VALUED AT ₹27.74 LAKH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: "Only in India we are liberal with the health concerns," the Supreme Court observed while refusing to entertain pre-arrest bail pleas of two Madhya Pradesh-based businessmen who are accused in a food adulteration case.

A vacation bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and MR Shah was hearing the anticipatory bail applications of Prawar Goyal and Vineet Goyal of Neemuch district in Madhya Pradesh. Hearing appeals against dismissal of their pre-arrest bail pleas by the Madhya Pradesh High Court at Indore, the



bench was told by lawyer Puneet Jain that penal provisions relating to offence of food adulteration

with health concerns," Justice Shah said, adding, "Mr Jain, answer this. Will you eat this adulterated wheat". As the bench was disinclined to consider the anticipatory bail plea, the lawyer decided to withdraw the same. "On the prayer of Christi Jain, the Special Leave Petition is dismissed as withdrawn,' the bench noted in its order Tuesday. Besides the offence of cheating,

the accused have been booked under section 272 (adulteration of food or drink intended for sale) and 273 (sale of noxious food or drink) of the IPC which provides for maximum jail term of six months or maximum fine

of ₹1,000 or both. As per the FIR lodged by the

Food Safety department, the businessmen have been accused of using of "non-edible golden offset colour" for polishing wheat at the premises of Darshil Agro Industries situated in Village Kanawati at Neemuch. In the raid conducted on December 3, 2020, the Food Safety Officer of Neemuch seized a 1,20,620 kg of "sub-standard and misbranded polished wheat" valued at ₹27.74 lakh. The high court had March 12 rejected the pre-arrest bail plea of the accused saying that the allegations were serious in nature.







international



Their lives were taken in a brutal, cowardly and brazen act of violence. This killing was no accident. ... Canadians are outraged by what happened on Sunday. And many Muslim **Canadians are scared** JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

MEET GRACE. THE HEALTHCARE ROBOT COVID-19 CREATED

The Hong Kong team behind celebrity humanoid robot Sophia is launching a new prototype, Grace, targeted at the healthcare market and designed to interact with the elderly and those isolated by the Covid-19 pandemic

Under Mladic's leadership,

In 2017, Mladic had been sen-

Demonstrators had gathered in

nounced. "Justice for Bosnia" was

written on some placards



9 killed in S Korea building collapse



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Seoul, June 9: A five-story building being demolished in southern South Korea collapsed Wednesday, sending debris falling on a bus and killing nine people on board, officials said.

Concrete from the collapsed building in the southern city of Gwangju fell on the bus carrying 17 people which had stopped on a nearby street, the National Fire Agency said.

Emergency officers dispatched to the site rescued eight people from the bus, all seriously injured, before discovering the nine bodies, the agency said in a statement.

Fire officer Kim Seok-sun said in a televised briefing from the site that all workers at the building site had evacuated before its collapse. He said some of the workers

told investigators that they had closed a pedestrian walkway near the building before the collapse.

Fire agency officials said emergency officers were still searching for any other people who might be trapped under the debris. The cause of the collapse wasn't

Kim said the bus driver was

Local media showed the debris falling on the bus and engulfing the street in a huge cloud of dust. A video after the collanse showed dozens of rescue workers equipped with stretchers and crowbars searching for survivors while excavators hacked at a huge mountain of crumbled_ concrete and bent steel beams spilling over the motorway.

It (China) is the single nation diplomatically, and

politically has the ability to try to disturb the rules-based order that we strongly defend because it's advanced our own security and prosperity for so many years

uotel

ANTONY BLINKEN US SECRETARY OF STATE

state that

militarily economically

In my discussions with many leaders, I've taken great encouragement from the support shown for Australia's preparedness to withstand economic coercion in recent times

SCOTT MORRISON PM. AUSTRALIA

Congratulations to the country of Nigeria, who iust banned Twitter because they banned their President. More COUNTRIES should ban Twitter and Facebook for not allowing free and open speech - all voices should be heard

DONALD TRUMP FORMER US PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

17th Tibetan Parl in exile takes oath

Dharamshala: Newly elected members of Dharamshalabased 17th Tibetan parliament-in-exile conducted oath taking ceremony Wednesday. One of the seniormost members, Dawa Tsering first took oath as Protem/Interim Speaker in front of the Chief Justice Commissioner, Sonam Dagpo and then other MPs followed. All the proceedings were kept indoors and they did not allow any media to cover the oath ceremony due to Covid-19 protocol.

SA's health min on leave over contract

Johannesburg: South Africa's health minister was placed on special leave Tuesday over a corruption scandal involving an irregular government

BUTCHER OF THE BALKANS Mladic gets life sentence for Srebrenica genocide

The Srebrenica massacre, determined to have been genocide by the UN International Court of Justice in 2007. is regarded as the worst atrocity in Europe since the Holocaust INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amsterdam, June 9: Almost 26 years after the Srebrenica genocide, the UN War Crimes Tribunal has confirmed the sentence of life imprisonment handed down to former Bosnian Serb general Ratko Mladic for the Srebrenica geno-

cide, among other crimes. The confirmation was in the last instance and upheld an earlier verdict, meaning Mladic has lost his final appeal against his conviction for genocide

In the first instance, the now 78year-old accused was sentenced to life imprisonment. Mladic, who became known as the "Butcher of the Balkans" during the 1992-95 Bosnian

War, wanted to be acquitted. Mladic, who was captured and handed over to the tribunal in 2011, remained motionless during the reading of the verdict and only shook his head from time to time. He remained silent afterwards, DPA reported.

Chief prosecutor Serge Brammertz welcomed the verdict and told Mladic's supporters that "it's time to accept the truth."

Mladic, he said, was one of the most notorious war criminals in modern history." However, while the verdict marks the end of the last major international Srebrenica trials, the perpetrators are still glorified, said Brammertz, calling for international condemnation.

US Senate approves Bill to



Stacks of unidentified corpses line the walls of an underground shelter at a Bosnian morque in Tuzla March 28, 1997 REUTERS

NEPAL HOUSE DISSOLUTION SC issues show cause notice to Prez, PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, June 9: Nepal's Supreme Court Wednesday issued a show cause notice to the Office of the President, the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers on the dissolution of the House of Representatives and sought a reply within 15 days.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari, at the recommendation of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, had dissolved the House for the second time in five months May 22 and announced snap elections November 12 and November 19.

The five member constitutional bench, headed by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana, has sought clarification from the defendants, according to sources in the Supreme Court.

The proceedings of the politically significant case, which had been disrupted since Sunday, finally resumed Wednesday.

It has been learnt that regular hearings on the case will resume from June 23 after the completion

MARTNF MUCTLAGE

counter China tech threat NAY 32

AGENCIES

Washington, June 9: The US Senate voted 68-32 Tuesday to approve a sweeping package of legislation intended to boost the country's ability to compete with Chinese technology

The desire for a hard line in dealings with China is one of the few bipartisan sentiments in the deeply divided US Congress, which is narrowly controlled by President Joe Biden's fellow Democrats.

The measure authorises about \$190 billion for provisions to strengthen US technology and research and would separately approve spending \$54 billion to increase US production and research into semiconductors and telecommunications equipment, including \$2 billion dedicated to chips used by automakers that have seen massive shortages and made significant production cuts. The bill must pass the House of Representatives to be sent to the White House for Biden to sign into law. It is not clear what legislation

- and research
- \$54 billion to increase US

UK, EU seek to avert 'sausage war'

used by automakers

it might take it up. China-related provisions includ-

on items that could be used to support human rights abuses.

MEASURES AUTHORISED

- \$190 billion for provisions to strengthen US technology
- production and research into semiconductors

\$2 billion dedicated to chips

in the House will look like or when The bill has a number of other

ing prohibiting the social media app

It would also create broad new mandatory sanctions on Chinese entities engaged in US cyberattacks or theft of US intellectual property from US firms, and provides for a review of export controls

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a co-sponsor of the measure, warned of the dire consequences of not funding research to keep up with China.

"If we do nothing, our days as the dominant superpower may be ending. We don't mean to let those days end on our watch. We don't mean to see America become a middling nation in this century,' Schumer said.

Biden praised the bill: "We are in a competition to win the 21st century, and the starting gun has gone off ... We cannot risk falling behind.'

China denounces US bill

Beijing has denounced the US bill aimed at boosting US technology to improve American competitiveness, calling it a thinly veiled attack on China's political system and an attempt to hinder its development. The Foreign Affairs Committee of China's ceremonial legislature, the National People's Congress, issued a scathing statement on Wednesday said, "This bill seeks to exaggerate and spread the so-called China threat' to maintain global American hegemony, using human rights and religion as excuses to interfere in China's domestic politics, and deprive China of its legitimate development rights," the statement said.

court to the defendants to submit

A report said that the apex court

has decided to seek the help of two

senior advocates each from Nepal

Bar Association and Supreme Court

Bar Association as amicus curiae

to decide the case related to the

As many as 30 writ petitions,

including by the Opposition al-

liance, have been filed in the

Supreme Court against the disso-

lution of the House, which they

Oli repeatedly defended his move

to dissolve the House of

Representatives, saying some lead-

ers of his party were attempting to

form a "parallel government".

said was "unconstitutional".

their clarification.

dissolution.

immediately known. of 15-day deadline provided by the

among the injured. Authorities didn't immediately provide details of the other injured or dead people.

An earlier fire agency statement said the debris also fell on two passenger vehicles. But agency officials later corrected that after watching security videos.

contract where USD 11 million was paid to a company connected to two people who used to work for him. Zweli Mkhize has been spearheading the Covid-19 response in South Africa, which has the most cases and deaths in Africa. The move was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in a statement from his office.

Probe into VW in Dieselgate scandal

Paris: France has launched a judicial investigation into German car giant Volkswagen for allegations of fraud relating to the emissions by its diesel cars, the latest legal action to be taken in the global Dieselgate scandal. The proceedings were initiated May 6, judicial sources said Wednesday. Late Tuesday, it was announced that France's iudiciary was investigating Renault on similar charges, dpa reported. French authorities accuse Volkswagen of fraud concerning essential characteristics of a product. leading to a health risk for humans and animals.

TikTok from being downloaded on government devices, and would block the purchase of drones manufactured and sold by companies backed by the Chinese government. It would also allow diplomats and Taiwanese military to display their flag and wear their uniforms while in the United States on official businesses.

POST-BREXIT TALKS

to delay living up to its obligations

heart of every partnership, needs

to be restored," Sefcovic told re-

The EU earlier this year threat-

ened to take legal action against

Britain when it delayed imple-

menting some parts of the accord.

The British government is now

considering further unilateral ac-

tion as new deadlines approach.

"Trust, which should be at the

under the Brexit agreement.

porters after the talks.

Albanian Parliament impeaches President

TIRANA: The Albanian Parliament Wednesday impeached President Ilir Meta for violating the constitution and discharged him from the post. In an extraordinary session, the parliament voted 104-7 to discharge the president. A report of a parliamentary investigation concluded that Meta had violated the constitution with his biased approach against the ruling Socialists during the April 25 parliamentary electoral campaign. The report said Meta violated 16 articles and also incited violence.



An aerial photo of the sea at the Caddebostan shore, in Asian side of Istanbul with a huge mass of 'sea snot', a thick, slimy substance made up of compounds released by marine organisms, in Turkey's Marmara Sea

Pandemic shakes up rankings of world's most liveable cities

AUCKLAND TOPS ANNUAL SURVEY OF THE WORLD'S MOST LIVEABLE CITIES IN 2021 FOLLOWED BY OSAKA, TOKYO, ADELAIDE AND WELLINGTON - ALL OF WHICH HAD A SWIFT RESPONSE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC

3 dead in hosp fire in Russia

Moscow: Three people died and at least eight injured after a fire broke out in the intensive care unit of a hospital in western Russia Wednesday. The fire at the clinical hospital named after NA Semashko in the city of Ryazan, about 190 km southeast of Moscow covered an area of 15 square meters and was later extinguished, according to the regional department of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 9: A senior

European Union official expressed

frustration Wednesday after talks

with the UK broke up without re-

solving differences over the im-

plementation of their post-Brexit

Maros Sefcovic, the EU's chief ne-

gotiator in the talks, said the bloc

had reached a "crossroads" in its

relationship with the UK. After

the British government threatened

to take further unilateral action

trade deal in Northern Ireland.

London, June 9: The pandemic has shaken up the rankings of the world's most liveable cities, a study released Wednesday showed, with metropolises in Australia, Japan and New Zealand leaping ahead of those in Europe.

Auckland tops The Economist's annual survey of the world's most liveable cities in 2021 followed by Osaka and Tokyo in Japan, Adelaide in Australia and Wellington in New Zealand, all of which had a swift response to the Covid pandemic.

The Austrian capital had led the list since 2018 and for years ran



neck and neck with Melbourne at the top of the survey of 140 urban centres. New Zealand's elimination of Covid-19 within its borders, through lockdown measures helped by its geographic isolation, gave its cities a big boost.

The Economist stated its rationale in gentler terms. "New Zealand's tough lockdown allowed their society to reopen and enabled citizens of cities like Auckland and Wellington to enjoy a lifestyle that looked similar to pre-pandemic life," the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said in a statement. In contrast. "European cities fared particularly poorly in this year's edition.'

"Vienna, previously the world's most liveable city between 2018-20, fell to 12th. Eight of the top ten biggest falls in the rankings are European cities," according to the study.

The biggest fall overall among the European cities was the port city of Hamburg in northern Germany, which fell 34 places to 47th.

The trend was motivated by a "stress on hospital resources" which the study said increased for most German and French cities and resulted in a "deteriorated healthcare score".

Pressure on European health systems also had a knock-on effect on culture and overall liveability because of restrictions on movement, the Economist said.

The most notable rise was recorded by Honolulu, Hawaii, in the United States, which came 14th in the ranking and moved up 46 places because of its containment of the pandemic and fast vaccination programme.

Damascus remains the city 🛁 where life is most difficult because of Syria's ongoing civil war.

The EIU generally does not make the full ranking public. The last time Auckland was in the top 10 was in 2017, when it came 8th, a posi-tion Melbourne shared with Geneva this year.



'It (RBI) can (print money) but,

it should avoid doing so unless

there is absolutely no alternative.

For sure, there are times when

monetisation-despite its costs - be-

In recent times, the importance of technology in maintaining social connect and aiding in positive mental health has become paramount. Gaming has emerged as a wholesome activity that the entire family can participate and connect with friends VICKRAM BEDI SENIOR DIRECTOR (PERSONAL SYSTEMS), HP INDIA MARKET

SBI TO WITHDRAW FRAUD TAG

In a strange turn of events, the State Bank of India (SBI) Wednesday chose to withdraw the fraud tag against RComs tower and fibre company Reliance Infratel Ltd by filing an affidavit in NCLT Mumbai, stating that it wanted to remove the fraud tag on the company



uote 77

OrissaPOST

THURSDAY | JUNE 10 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

The efforts of Confederation of Hospitality, Technology and Tourism Industry (CHATT) are highly inclusive and once

the impact of second wave subsides, a group like CHATT will present greater economic impact

ARVIND SINGH | TOURISM SECRETAR)

The pandemic has devastated the hospitality sector, businesses are steadily closing and NPAs are rising. In our meeting with

the ministers, we recommended a well-made sector specific stimulus package that addresses the most critical aspects of reducing financial loss, mobilising loans and retention of employment

GURBAXISH SINGH KOHLI VICE-PRESIDENT, FHRAI



developed attractive products for MSMEs. The MSME clusters are getting created in aerospace, defence and pharma. This is something that we are closely tracking

S RAMANN CHAIRMAN AND MD, SIDB

SHORT **TAKES**

Chopra elevated as co-founder

New Delhi: Online food delivery platform Zomato has elevated its Chief People Officer Akriti Chopra as a cofounder, as the company plans a \$1.1 billion IPO later this year. In an internal email sent to employees and seen by IANS, Zomato Founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal said that Chopra has "mostly been behind the scenes all these years, working hard and building an impeccable finance team which keeps our engines running flawlessly".

'NZ wholesale trade sales rise'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: The central bank can directly print money and finance the government, but it should avoid doing so unless there is absolutely no alternative, former RBI governor D Subbarao Wednesday said while pointing out that India is 'nowhere' near such a scenario.

comes inevitable such as when the government cannot finance its deficit at reasonable rates. "We are nowhere near such a scenario," he said. India's economy contracted by Subbarao suggested that to deal

less-than-expected 7.3% in the fiswith the second wave of Covid-19 cal ended March 2021. For 2021-22, the deficit has been put at 6.8% of induced slowdown in the economy, the government can consider the GDP, which will be further Covid bonds as an option to raise lowered to 4.5% by 2025-26. borrowing, not in addition to bud-The Reserve Bank has lowered geted borrowing, but as a part of

the country's growth projection for the current financial year to



Money printing should be last option: Ex-RBI Guv

9.5% from 10.5% estimated earlier, amid the uncertainties created by the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, while the World Bank Tuesday projected India's Subbarao suggested that to deal with the second wave of Covid-19 induced slowdown in the economy, the government can consider Covid bonds as an option to raise borrowing

economy to grow at 8.3% in 2021. According to Subbarao, when people say the RBI should print money to finance the government's deficit, they don't realise that the

central bank is printing money even now to finance the deficit, but it is doing so indirectly.

For example, he said, when the RBI buys bonds under its open market operations (OMOs) or buys dollars under its forex operations, it is printing money to pay for those purchases, and that money indirectly goes to finance the government's borrowing.

'The important difference though is this when RBI is printing money as part of its liquidity operations, it is in the driver's seat, deciding how much money to print and how to channel it into the system." the former governor noted.

Tech Mahindra plans acquisition in Europe, hire 250 in Nordics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: IT company Tech Mahindra is looking for acquisitions in Europe to upgrade its capabilities in various segments. including cloud computing, 5G, SAP and Salesforce softwares, a senior company official said Wednesday.



Tech Mahindra is also planning to add around 250 people in the Nordic region to support its growth, Tech Mahindra business head for Europe Mukul Dhyani said.

"We are expanding our footprint in the cloud, digital topics like 5G, SAP and Salesforce. These are some of the broader topics we are looking at from an expansion perspective. We are looking at multiple companies (for acquisition). If we get a single entity across four domains or five domains, we will be happy," Dhyani said.

The company is mainly looking at boutique companies specialising in particular domains like SAP, Salesfoce etc with several hundred of employees.

Dhyani said that Tech Mahindra's ability to computerise data and bring operating technology and IT for enterprises and deployment for 5G in organisations is driving the company's business in Europe, especially in the Nordic region.

"We are committed to hiring 250 people only in Nordics in the next 18-24 months. These additions will be in different technologies, but primarily it will be in the case of SAP and Cloud Network and 5G, Dhvani said

Tech Mahindra has over 3,500 workforce in Continental Europe including Nordic Region.

'Quickening vax coverage critical for regaining growth momentum'

The report said that with state-level lockdown restrictions being more adaptive to learnings from the first wave, manufacturing and construction are expected to experience a softer economic shock in the current quarter

AGENCIES

that.

New Delhi, June 9: Quickening the pace and coverage of vaccination of people against Covid is critical for regaining growth momentum as economic activities are inextricably linked to the path of the pandemic. the finance ministry said in its monthly economic report Wednesday.

"As we cautiously recuperate from the second wave, rapidly improving vaccination delivery and frontloading the fiscal measures planned in the Union Budget hold key to invigorating the investment cycle in the coming quarters," it said.

Regarding the impact of the second Covid wave, the report said that with state-level lockdown restrictions being more adaptive to learnings from the first wave, manufacturing and construction are expected to experience a softer economic shock in the current quarter. The report emphasised that



quickening the pace and coverage of vaccination is critical to help India heal and regain the momentum of economic recovery.

Continued vigilance in terms of pandemic preparedness, upscaling health spending and health infrastructure, faster rollout of vaccines and vaccination, investing in research and development to guard against possible mutants of the virus, prudent and pre-emptive restrictions, and strict obser-

BIZ BUZZ

vance of COVID-appropriate behaviour are essential to maintain the delicate balance of lives and livelihoods, it said.

India's second Covid wave situation has been improving lately with a continuous decline in 7-day average of active cases since May 13 2021. Data showed that the second wave reached its peak of 7day average of daily new cases around May 8, with the pace of decline being as fast as the rise.

The daily case positivity rate has plummeted sharply from 24.9 per cent in early May to reach 3.6 per cent as on June 2.

Concomitantly, the report said that high frequency indicators in real and financial sectors like power consumption, E-way bills and foreign portfolio investment flows witnessed slight uptick in the second half of May 2021 after endur ing the second wave-driven contraction during April and the first half of May.

El Salvador becomes 1st country to make Bitcoin a legal tender

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Salvador, June 9: El Salvador President Nayib Bukele Wednesday announced that the country has approved the bill to make Bitcoin cryptocurrency a legal tender in the Central American country. The Central American country is now the first country in the world to make Bitcoin legal tender. "The #BitcoinLaw has been approved by a supermajority in the Salvadoran Congress. 62 out of 84 votes! History!," tweeted Bukele.

Bukele June 5 announced the move in a pre-recorded message played at the Bitcoin 2021 conference in Miami, Florida, during a presentation hosted by Jack Mallers, founder digital wallet company Strike.

"In the short term this will generate jobs and help provide financial inclusion to thousands outside the formal economy," the President had said

Mallers said he has been working with Bukele to determine the logistics of the move

"Over 70% of the active popufinancial system," Mallers said during the presentation.

"They asked me to help write a bill and that they viewed bitcoin as a world-class currency and that we needed to put together a bitcoin plan to help these people."

According to Shivam Thakral, CEO of, BuyUcoin. EI Salvador's decision to make Bitcoin a legal tender will boost financial inclusion in their country as the majority of the population does not have ac-

lation of El Salvador doesn't have a bank account. They're not in the

cess to formal banking channels. DISASTER RESILIENT HOUSING TAL ODISHA NEEI

Wellington: New Zealand's wholesale trade sales rose 3.7% or 1.1 billion NZ dollars (\$US 790 million), in the March 2021 quarter, the statistics department Stats NZ said Wednesday. The increases in the March quarter followed a 1.7% fall in the December 2020 quarter, business insights manager Sue Chapman said in a statement, Xinhua reported. Leading the rise in wholesale trade sales in the March 2021 quarter was the motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts industry, Chapman said.

Vietnam's steel import rises

Hanoi: Vietnam spent over 4.6 billion US dollars importing more than 6 million tons of steel and iron in the first five months of this year, up 37.9% in value and 9.2% in volume against the same period last year, according to the country's General Statistics Office Wednesday. China was the largest supplier, followed by Japan. South Korea and India. the office said.

GAIL net profit jumps 28% in Q4

New Delhi: State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Wednesday reported 28% jump in March quarter net profit as petrochemical margins soared and gas marketing business turned around on rise in international prices. Net profit in January-March at ₹1,907.67 crore is compared with ₹1,487.33 crore net profit in the same period a year ago, GAIL Chairman and MD Manoj Jain said. Higher profitability was mainly due to improved performance of the petrochemical business as well as natural gas marketing and LPG segment, he said.

accination drive wednesday against Covid-19 at its Corporate Headquarters in city, in partnership with Apollo Hospitals and FICCI. Aashish Mishra, Vice President & Head - HR said, "We are

IMFA launches vax drive

integrated producer of ferro alloys, launched a

Bhubaneswar: IMFA, India's leading fully-

committed to protecting our Apollo FICCI workforce, and imfa D-19 **NATIO**

shall cover employees and their dependents at all locations at the earliest possible. Vaccination is the best protection against Covid-19, and we urge everyone to get vaccinated whenever possible; however, it is also important to follow Covid appropriate behaviour thereafter.

vaccines. The ordered vaccines were from Serum Institute of India (SII), the manufacturer of Covishield, and will be administered to those in the age group of 18 years and above. The pan-India vaccination drive also kicked off from May 8 at AM/NS India's Pellet Plant in Paradip. The vaccination programme at the Odisha facility began in the presence of PK Mohanty, Head HR and Durlav Singh, Chief Security Officer AM/NS India, Odisha Facility with an aim to vaccinate around 3,000 people. Suresha G, Executive Director, AM/NS India- Odisha Operations, said, "Our main priority is to ensure the safety and health of our employees, their dear ones and our business associates, aiming for 100% vaccination for all."

AM/NS aims to vaccinate 3K in state

Bhubaneswar: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS

India) has privately procured 33,000 doses of Covid-19



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 9: As longterm measure in disaster prone areas, building a disaster resilient housing is the need the hour, said Development PK Jena, Commissioner and Special Relief Commissioner.

In a webinar organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on 'Post Disaster: Cyclone Resilient House Construction in Coastal Odisha - Focusing on Affordable Housing, Jena said, "We need longterm solutions. I ask people to build their houses keeping safety and resilient aspects in mind. All government assisted housing programmes



and public buildings need to focus on disaster resilient aspects.

He urged the need for a 'housing support service hub in all the disaster affected blocks of the state. "The hub can provide technical assistance, ensure credit linkage from the banks and microfinance institutions and undertake reskilling of the construction workers and experts such as masons and engineering professionals,' he added.

Principal Secretary, state finance department Ashok K Meena said, "Interest subvention could be an incentive for government to consider for constructing a disaster resilient house. He called upon the financial institutions including the Microfinance sector to play a major role through innovative products for the affordable housing.'

Jagadananda, Convener CSR & Sustainability Committee, ICC Odisha State Council, stressed the need for a social movement on 'Kucha to Pucca' housing.

SIMPLICITY OF HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT

ovid-19 has changed our lives, one way or another most of us have been impacted by the pandemic. It has once again exposed the fragility of our system and has shown us that calamities can hit us anywhere, anytime. While there is not much that we can do to avert the unforeseen itself, but we can definitely seek cover against

the unexpected. Covid 19 has underlined, yet again the importance of health insurance and has increased the level of awareness for a health cover amongst masses. People between the age group of 25-45 are particularly showing heightened level of interest in health insurance and are looking for right product to cover themselves and their families. The increased level of enquiry for health insurance is a good trend, and I realised there are few myths surrounding the product. One such misinformation is regarding claims

settlement process There are two ways to settle a health claim, cashless and reim-

bursement. In cashless settlement, as the name suggests the payment is made directly to the hospital by the insurance company. However, cashless facility is only available in certain network hospitals, as per the provider's agreement with the insurer. Whilst the majority of network hospitals are present in metros and tier-I cities: tier-II and rural locations have

scarce cashless tie ups and reimbursement becomes a preferred mode of claims settlement.

The general perception is claim reimbursement is a tedious, tiresome and complicated process. Many people believe that health insurance is a product better suited for metros and bigger towns simply because smaller towns have fewer network hospitals. Nothing can be farther from the truth. A reimbursement claim is not as complex as people perceive it. Health reimbursement claim can be filed in just few simple steps

Next few points will give you an overview of how to file a reim-

bursement claim:-1. To begin with, the initial payment

- has to be made by you (the insured)
- 2. Make sure to collect all the original documents, hospital bills, discharge summary and

reports. Please note that original bills are mandatory for claim settlement. Also, it is advisable to keep a copy of **** all the original documents for future reference 3. To initiate the

process.vou have to fill

the health reimbursement claim form along with bank account and NEFT details

. Submit these documents to the nearest branch office of the insurance company

Many times it takes longer to settle a claim because of insufficiency of documents. It is advised that you go through the claim form thoroughly, fill in all the details and submit the required documents. Your claim form has a checklist of these documents. Here is a quick list of some required documents to give vou an overview.

- Duly filled and signed claim form, this is easily available on website of the insurer
- Original discharge summary
- Original hospital bill with de-
- tailed break-up
- Original payment receipts
- Lab and test reports (MRI/CT scan/ECG)
- First consultation letter from doctor
- Bank details
- Photocopy of ID (PAN card /Aadhaar card /Passport)
 - Internal case papers, if available

Make sure to give your correct mobile number and email ID so that the insurer can easily communicate with you, if required. It is prudent to keep a track of all communications with the insurer; hence it is better to send the documents via registered post or courier. Today, most of the insurers have their apps where you can upload your reimbursement document to initiate the process and courier the original documents

later. This is especially helpful during Covid when it is taking longer to courier the documents.

Once you submit the claim form along with the bills, insurer verifies the claim at their end to access the validity of the same. After the claim is verified, it is processed quite smoothly and the payment is made to your registered bank account

To conclude, there is nothing complicated about a reimbursement claim, and one should avoid hearsay. I suggest that you take health cover without worrying about the claim, so long the claim is admissible under your policy and is heldvalid the claim will be paid. As the insurance companies are reaching out to the furthest corner of the country the number of cashless tieups is only going to increase. Till such time one should not wait to buy an insurance cover.

> (The writer is Head of -Health Claims at Bajaj Allianz General Insurance)

BHASKAR NERURKAR



sports

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 9: Rafa Nadal dropped a set for the first time at this year's

French Open but ultimately ad-

vanced to the semifinals for a

set but won nine games in a row to

seal the match. Nadal will be up

against either top-ranked Novak

Djokovic or ninth-seeded Matteo

Zverev will meet each other for a

berth in the French Open final

after straight-set quarterfinal vic-

tories Tuesday. It will be the

voungest matchup in the men's

semifinals at Roland Garros since

a couple of guys named Rafa Nadal

and Novak Djokovic met in 2008.

reached his fourth major semifinal

— and third in a row — by upend-

The No.5-seeded Tsitsipas

Stefanos Tsitsipas and Alexander

Berrettini in the semifinals.

BRAZIL WIN, MESSI Tsitsipas, Nadal in last four stage **& CO SPLIT POINTS**



Neymar celebrates his goal against Paraguay with a teammate, Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, June 9: Brazil moved further ahead in South American World Cup qualifying with a 2-0 win at Paraguay, their sixth in six matches on the road to Qatar.

OrissaPOST

THURSDAY | JUNE 10 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

The Brazilians are now six points clear of second place Argentina. which drew 2-2 at Colombia after squandering a two-goal advantage. Neymar and Lucas Paqueta scored Brazil's goals, marking the team's first win at Paraguay in World Cup qualifiers in 35 years. Earlier, Miguel Borja scored an equalizer for Colombia in the last

seconds of added time against

Argentina in one of the best matches yet in South American qualifying.

The game at the Metropolitano stadium in Barranquilla was attended by 10,000 fans despite the region's alarming COVID-19 figures.

The top four teams in South American qualifiers will advance automatically to Qatar 2022. The fifth-place team will go into an intercontinental playoff. The current standings show Brazil leading the 10-team competition with 18 points, followed by Argentina (12), Ecuador (9) Uruguay and Colombia (8).

The atmosphere in the Brazil camp has been heavy ever since last

record-extending 14th time. The 13-time Roland Garros champion faced a stiff challenge from gritty 10th-seeded Diego Friday's win over Ecuador. Players Schwartzman and prevailed 6-3, 4did not speak publicly amid a pos-6, 6-4, 6-0 on Court Philippe Chatrier sible revolt against Copa America Wednesday. Schwartzman has put in their home nation. And coach an end to Nadal's 36-set winning streak at Roland Garros. Tite didn't answer questions as to whether he would remain in the job Nadal was down 4-3 in the third

despite tensions with the management of the Brazilian football confederation. The president of the confederation, Rogerio Caboclo, was sus-

pended from office Sunday after an accusation of sexual harassment emerged. But none of that affected with the team's mentality for the match against Paraguay.

Neymar opened the scoring in the fourth minute after a cross from Gabriel Jesus. And Paqueta closed the deal in added time with a classy touch that hit the right post before finding the back of the net.

Lionel Messi's Argentina line-up scored twice in the first eight minutes. Cristian Romero headed past David Ospina in the third minute and Leandro Paredes doubled the lead in the eighth after dribbling through the middle of Colombia's defense and gently sliding a shot into the back of the net.

But Colombia lifted in the second half, as Argentina were either failing at the finishing or being stopped by Ospina. Argentina's Nicolas Otamendi conceded a penalty and Luis Muriel scored from the spot at the 51st. But just when it appeared Argentina would take another step closer to the World Cup with an away win, Borja's header triggered

wild celebrations for the hosts. Chile could jump into one of the top positions if they beat Bolivia at home later Tuesday. Peru won their first match in this edition of World Cup qualifiers. Gonzalo Plata scored Ecuador's only goal in added time. Uruguay drew 0-0 at ninthplace Venezuela in a match with few

exciting moments.

Mumbai, June 9: Former India opener Virender Sehwag Wednesday recollected how he copied legendary batsman and his longtime opening partner Sachin Tendulkar after watching him bat for the first time on TV during the

1992 World Cup. "Cricket is played on the ground but a lot can be learned. If I give my own example. I started watching cricket from the 1992 World Cup and at that time used to watch (Sachin) Tendulkar and copy him.

"How he plays the straight drives, how he plays the back-foot punch. In 1992, if I could watch TV and learn a bit, why not," said Sehwag, who is also the founder of 'Cricuru' app.



ing No. 2 Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6(7-3), 7-5 at Court Philippe Chatrier in the last no-spectator night session of this year's tournament. Tsitsipas is a 22-year-old from

Greece. Zverev is a 24-year-old from Germany. Both have won Masters 1000 titles on red clay this year. Both have won the season-ending ATP Finals. Both intend to - and, truth-

fully, are expected to - claim one of the four biggest prizes in their sport.

GS AWAITS NEW CHAMP

Greece's Maria Sakkari beat defending champion Iga Swiatek to reach her maiden Grand Slam semifinal at Roland Garros. She will face Czech Barbora Krejcikova. who won against American teenager Coco Gauff 7-6(8-6), 6-3.

Sakkari, the 17th seed, is now the highest-ranked woman in the draw

after seeing off Swiatek 6-4, 6-4. Krejcikova, meanwhile, saved five set points from 17-year-old Gauff in the opener before the World No.33 went on to seal victory on her sixth match point.

Tuesday, No.31 seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia and 85th-ranked Tamara Zidansek of Slovenia each earned her first berth in a major semifinal.

Pavlyuchenkova entered the day with an 0-6 record in Slam quarterfinals but edged her doubles partner Elena Rybakina 6-7(2-7), 6-2, 9-7. Zidansek got past No.33 seed Paula Badosa 7-5, 4-6, 8-6.

It means all four semifinalists in Paris are into the last four at a Grand Slam for the first time

Viru walks down memory lane **Rohit, Pant share 6th spot in Tests**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sehwag, who was joined by former India opener and co-founder Sanjay Bangar at the app's launch, also stressed on the importance of learning cricket from watching videos shared by great players.

"But in today's time if you have videos of these cricketers whom you admire - AB de Villiers, Brian Lara, Chris Gayle or Virender Sehwag, or other players, then their videos are available. In our time, such videos were not available.

"If in my time such facilities were there like I could speak to someone online or subscribe the videos with ease, then I would have done that and could have learned better and early and could have played for India early," said Sehwag. Stressing the importance of both mental and skill aspects in the

game, Sehwag maintained that Bangar told him how even international cricketers are finding it difficult to find their mistakes.

The curriculum in the 'Cricuru' app for each player has been developed by Sehwag along with Bangar.

"The country's first AI-enabled coaching website aims to offer a personalised learning experience for the younger players and help youngsters learn playing cricket through master classes of 30 player coaches from across the globe with about four hours of curated video content with each coach," a released stated.

The coaches include the likes of De Villiers, Brett Lee, Lara, Gayle, Dwayne Bravo, Harbhajan Singh, Jonty Rhodes among others.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Dubai, June 9: India captain Virat Kohli retained his fifth spot while teammates Rohit Sharma and

Rishabh Pant were joint sixth in the latest ICC Test rankings for batsmen. New Zealand's double centurion

Test debutant Devon Conway entered the Test batting rankings at 77th position in the list headed by his captain Kane Williamson on 895 rating points.

Kohli has 814 points behind England skipper Joe Root (836) in the list headed by his captain Kane Williamson on 895 rating points. Pant and Rohit, who gained one spot, have 747 rating points each

Time (IST)

09:30 pm

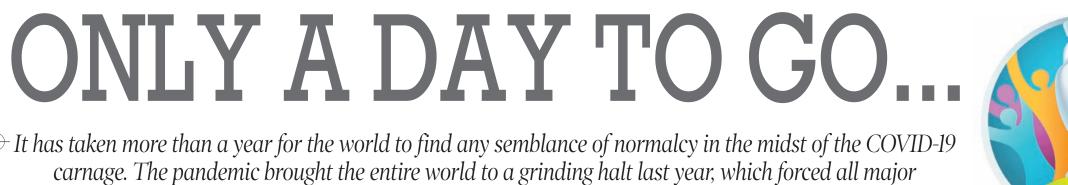
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Date

June 14

June 15

June 18

June 20

June 23

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POL

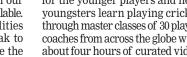
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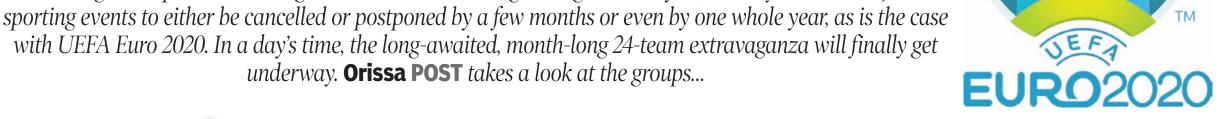
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with UEFA Euro 2020. In a day's time, the long-awaited, month-long 24-team extravaganza will finally get underway. **Orissa POST** takes a look at the groups...



SVK

SWE

SVK

ESP

POL

SVK

GROUP E FIXTURES

Match

GROUP D: Spain, Poland, Sweden, Slovakia

SPAIN (ESP)

FIFA ranking: 6 Euro appearances: 11 times Best result: Champions (1964, 2008, 2012)

B ack-to-back Euro winners in 2008 and 2012 with a World Cup triumph sandwiched in between, Spain haven't been able to sustain their success on the biggest stages. A group stage exit in the 2014 World Cup was followed by Round of 16 eliminations in the previous Euro and the 2018 World Cup, as the giants of Europe continued to falter despite boasting some of the best players in the world. There has been some progress made of late though. Indeed La Roja steamrolled through their qualifiers, going unbeaten in the group with eight wins in 10 to book a place in the Euros while they have also made it to the Nations League finals as well. Nevertheless, consistency is something that has evaded Spain of late, something that will need to be addressed at the earliest. Indeed, four wins in their last 12 games is not good enough a record for a team boasting of the quality that this Spanish side does. On their day they can blow away the best of teams, as was seen in their 6-0 thrashing of Germany.

Coach: Luis Enrique

POLAND (POL)

FIFA ranking: 21 **Euro appearances: 3 Best result: Quarterfinals (2016)**

ed by one of the best strikers in the world in Robert Lewandowski, Poland might not be a team that many might fancy. The presence of the Bayern Munich superstar alone is enough to cause some concern within the opposition camp but the White and Reds have a support squad that can create problems for opponents. Competitive in the last Euro, Poland were disappointing in Russia in 2018, winning just one of their three games and finishing bottom of a group they had expected to challenge for. They did cruise through the

Euro qualifiers, losing just one of their 10 games (win: 8; draw: 1), to finish atop Group G to achieve a fourth consecutive qualification for the tournament. Their form, since, however, has been a bit up and down. In fact, they have picked up just one win in their last six games, which will be a concern heading into the tournament. However, with Lewandowski by their side, they would sure give some hardtime to oppostion sides.



KEY PLAYER

Robert Lewandowski

Coach: Paulo Sous

SLOVAKIA (SVK) FIFA ranking: 36 **Euro appearances: Once** Best result: Round of 16 (2016)

KEY PLAYER Gerard Moreno

S lovakia had surprised all in 2016 when they made it to the round of 16 after gritty displays against Russia and England in the group stages, only to fall to Germany. Having not qualified for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, Slovakia had to make it to Euros the hard way as well, as they finished third in their group and had to make their way through the playoffs based on their UEFA Nations League 2018-19 position. The Sokoli had to see off the challenge from the Republic of Ireland (shootouts), and Northern Ireland (extra-time win) to book a place in the final tournament. Three wins in twelve games

since September 2020 is hardly the kind of form that manager Stefan Tarkovic would be relishing. But Slovakia haven't lost any of their last four games. Squad-wise, Marek Hamsik may have somewhat slipped off the radar since he left Napoli, but the 33-year-old midfielder remains a pivotal figure for Slovakia. Milan Skriniar, fresh after helping Inter Milan to the Serie A crown, will be pivotal in holding the defence together.

Coach: Stefan Tark



KEY PLAYER Marek Hamsek

Telecast: SONY TEN Network

SWEDEN (SWE)

FIFA ranking: 18 Euro appearances: 6 times **Best result: Semifinals (1992)**

S weden's support was just starting to dream a little bigger ahead of the Euros after Zlatan Ibrahimovic ended his fiveyear international retirement in March. A knee injury will keep the 39-year-old out of the tournament, meaning coach Janne Andersson must revert to type, and the entertainment factor for neutrals drops down a notch. However, it may be a blessing in disguise for Sweden. Their form and togetherness without Ibrahimovic was noticeable, and Sweden remain in a good place heading into the tournament. An ever-present in the European Championships since 2000, Sweden have gone past the group stages just once in the last five editions of the tournament and never in the last three. However, their quarterfinal run in the last World Cup showed that they are more than capable of springing a surprise or two. After a disappointing UEFA Nations League campaign, things have picked up this year for them, with four wins in four games in 2021,

which does set them up in good stead heading into the European Championship finals. **Coach: Jan Ander**

KEY PLAYER Alexander Isak

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