



KRITI'S ADIPURUSH

Kriti Sanon says the ambitious upcoming period drama Adipurush is one of her most exciting projects yet

LEISURE P2



KULBHUSHAN CASE

Kulbhushan Jadhav can now appeal against conviction in court as Pakistan approves ICJ ordinance 2020

INTERNATIONAL P10



BELGIUM FACE RUSSIA

Belgium to miss Kevin de Bruyne, Eden Hazard when they face Russia in their Euro 2020 campaign opener today

SPORTS P12

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Lakshadweep filmmaker faces sedition charges

AGENCIES

Kochi, June 11: The Kavaratti police have served a notice on leading Lakshadweep film personality Ayesha Sulthana to appear before them June 20, in connection with her remarks made on a Malayalam TV channel about the spread of Covid-19 in the island.

This unfolds amid the already prevailing local sentiments against the new Lakshadweep administrator Praful Khoda Patel. The notice that has been served on Sulthana by Sub Inspector Ameer Bin Mohammed contains charges under 124 A and 153 B of the CrPC, both of which are non-bailable offences. The complaint was registered by Lakshadweep BJP unit president Abdul Khader following the TV channel debate June 7, where she had alleged that the 'Centre used biological weapons for the spread of Covid in Lakshadweep', which according to the complainant was anti-national.

Sulthana who hails from Chelath Island in Lakshadweep is based here and besides being a model, she has worked in numerous films in Malayalam. Ever since the new administrator took charge, the Congress and the ruling Left, here have been up in arms and have alleged that Patel is trying to implement the Sangh Parivar agenda in the otherwise calm and peace loving island.

The Kerala Assembly earlier this month also saw a unanimous resolution being passed demanding the removal of Patel. Just the other day the island administrator following a protest was forced to withdraw an order which said that all the fishing boats that venture out for fishing in the island will have a security official.



PHOTO: TWITTER/KARMAAMINISTANT

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It's not COVID second wave alone, we also had no idea about one of our senior leaders joining opposition ranks!

Noted environmentalist Radha Mohan dies at 78

BHUBANESWAR: Padma Shri awardee environmentalist and Odisha's former information commissioner Professor Radha Mohan died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital here Friday.



family sources said. He was 78 and is survived by three daughters. The Gandhian was in the ICU for the last few days after being diagnosed with pneumonia, hospital sources said. President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik were among those who consoled his death. Radha Mohan and his daughter Sabarmatee were conferred the Padma Shri last year for their 30-year-long efforts to transform barren lands into a lush green forests in Nayagarh district. The father-daughter duo had formed a social organisation to create awareness among farmers on sustainable organic farming.

Ultra killed in gunfight

BARGARH: A member of the proscribed CPI (Maoist) was killed in an exchange of fire with security personnel in Bargarh district Friday. The incident took place in a forest near Bhanjagunda in Padampur, Odisha DGP Abhay said. The ultras opened fire on a police team during a combing operation in the forest and one Maoist was killed in the ensuing gun-battle, he said.

Fuel prices on fire across India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 11: The common man continues to face the heat from rising fuel prices as oil marketing companies once again decided to pass on the rise in global oil rates to consumers Friday.

Accordingly, retail price of petrol and diesel got dearer by 29 paise per litre and 28 paise per litre to touch new highs of ₹95.85 and ₹86.75 per litre respectively in Delhi.

In the city of Mumbai, where petrol prices crossed ₹100 mark for the first

CUTTACK FUEL PRICES	
PETROL	₹96.92 (+0.35)
DIESEL	₹94.84 (+0.36)

time ever May 29, the fuel price reached a new high of ₹102.04 per litre Friday. Diesel price also increased in the city to reach ₹94.15 a litre, the highest among metros.

Across the country as well petrol and diesel prices increased between 26-36 paise per litre Friday but the retail prices varied depending on the level of local taxes in different states.

Sri Ganganagar, a small city in northernmost part of Rajasthan near the India-Pakistan border, is all set to get the dubious distinction of becoming the first city in the country where retail prices of both the auto fuels - petrol and diesel - will be hitting the century mark.

Fake Favipiravir now in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: A special unit from the office of the Drugs Controller in the state conducted raids in Cuttack over the last two days and seized a huge quantity of spurious anti-viral drug Favipiravir, now used in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

The joint operation of the department in the Cuttack zone was done with the help of 12 officials after getting a tip-off on the issue. The department raided the wholesaler based in the city and busted the illegal racket.

The department is said to have seized more than 30 boxes containing about 17,000 spurious tablets of the anti-viral drug. "We got a tip-off that the drug was procured by a local wholesaler in Cuttack from a Noida-based supplier in Uttar Pradesh. We raided the site and seized the drugs and booked them under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The supply was worth ₹69,60,000," said Jagannath Mallick, Drug Inspector, Cuttack. He added, "We will enquire into the matter and book others too who are involved in this racket. We have registered a case and an investigation is on. This was our team's investigation and we raided with the help of other officials in a joint operation."

- MORE THAN 30 BOXES** containing about 17,000 spurious tablets of the anti-viral drug seized from Cuttack-based wholesaler
- THE CONSIGNMENT** was procured from a Noida-based supplier in Uttar Pradesh
- SEVERAL CASES** of illegal sale of Remdesivir were reported in the state during the peak of the pandemic when the demand for the drug was high due to higher cases and more hospitalisations

According to the sleuths, the labels of the seized drug claimed that it was manufactured by a firm named Max Healthcare based at Solan in Himachal Pradesh but when they communicated with the drug controller department of Himachal Pradesh, they got to know that there was no such manufacturer in that state. It is also said that the

wholesaler has sold some portions of the consignment to other states.

"We have contacted the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana on the issue and are working with them and sharing key information to trace more links," Mallick said.

This comes after the special unit of the Odisha police earlier found several cases of illegal sale of Remdesivir during the peak of the pandemic when the demand for the drug in the country had been soaring due to higher cases and more hospitalisations.

Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008 and Rules thereunder, it is the joint responsibility of Central and state governments through their respective Drug Control Organisations to regulate manufacture and sale of drugs as well as to keep surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs. In the amendment of the original Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940, the government has enhanced the period of jail which could go on till 10 years and also liable for fines upto ₹10 lakh in cases of sales, production of spurious drugs.

Ghar wapsi: Mukul Roy back in TMC

AGENCIES

Kolkata, June 11: In a big blow to the BJP in West Bengal, its all-India vice president and MLA Mukul Roy joined the Trinamool Congress Friday along with his son Subhrangshu Roy almost four years after deserting the TMC camp for the saffron brigade.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who was present at the Trinamool Bhavan during the meeting to induct Roy back into the party fold, said that more people will come out of the BJP and join the TMC.

Roy and his son were greeted back into the Trinamool by its all-India general secretary, Abhishek Banerjee. "Mukul (Roy) is our old member and he has come back. He was not in a good condition in the BJP because the saffron party created pressure on him through agencies, as a result he



I am having a nice feeling for being among familiar people again. This has a kind of homely atmosphere

was not in mental peace. I was watching that his health condition had also deteriorated because one cannot stay in the BJP. It is a heartless party and

Four investment proposals worth ₹1637cr cleared

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The state government Friday approved four investment proposals envisaging investment of ₹1,637.41 crore and direct employment opportunities for 1,116 persons.

The state-level single window clearance authority headed by Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra accorded in-principle approval to the four industrial projects during a meeting held on virtual mode. The proposals are mainly from the sectors like downstream manufacturing, metal and power sector. Mahapatra asked the IPICOL to conduct realistic assessment of land and water requirement for the projects. **MORE P3**

₹50cr for Covid care in W Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday dedicated Covid care equipment worth Rs 25 crore and announced another ₹25 crore package for 11 western Odisha districts.

He dedicated the Covid-19 intervention by Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) and announced another assistance of ₹25 crore to the WODC for Covid-19 management.

The districts to be benefited under this assistance are - Sambalpur, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Bargarh, Nuapada, Jharsuguda, Angul, Boudh, Deogarh, Sonepur and Sundargarh.

Under the ₹25 crore aid that was allocated earlier, various critical care equipment like ventilators, oxygen pipelines, CBC machines, and oximeters have been supplied to the western Odisha districts.

The Chief Minister said this additional financial assistance of ₹25 crore will further strengthen the medical infrastructure in these districts.



He thanked the WODC for taking the lead in strengthening health infrastructure in 11 districts. More funds will be given to the Council so that it can implement more developmental projects in the area, Patnaik said. He hoped the WODC would carry out its responsibilities successfully. He further said the state government has been providing free medical care to all Covid-infected persons. Odisha has created a new identity in the supply of oxygen to various states during the pandemic and saved a lot of precious lives. The state government will continue its work on the mission 'every life is precious' during this pandemic, Patnaik added.

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State seeks paddy MSP @ ₹2930/qlt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: Following the Centre's decision to hike the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy to ₹1940 per quintal, the state government has once again demanded a hike in MSP for paddy to ₹2930 per quintal.

Addressing a press conference here Friday, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo said the Centre has hiked paddy MSP by ₹72 to ₹1,940 per quintal for 2021-22 crop year while the MSP of Grade-A variety has been hiked to ₹1960. This will not help Odisha farmers, especially the marginal and small ones, he said.

Odisha farmers frequently face natural calamities like cyclones, floods, droughts (in some places) and pest attacks. Therefore, it shouldn't be treated like other states, Sahoo said.

Though the state government is taking all welfare measures for the farmers, the Centre is providing the MSP. Therefore, the Centre should increase the MSP of paddy to at least ₹2930 per quintal, the Minister demanded.

While many other states including Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are providing bonus of ₹400 to ₹600 per quintal of paddy in addition to the MSP, the Odisha government is doing *Katni Chatni* (cutting down some amount of paddy citing its quality), the BJP leader said. Two days ago the Centre had approved an increase in the MSPs for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2021-22 to ensure remunerative prices to the growers.

have written letters to the Union Agriculture Ministry many times over the past few years for the MSP hike. Today also I have written a letter to the Union Agriculture Minister in this regard," Sahoo said.

The Centre has claimed it will double the income of farmers by 2022. But, it won't be possible if the MSP is hiked at such a rate as was done two days ago, he said. Stating that Odisha is the fourth-largest rice producing state in the country, the Minister said, "The Centre should take measures on a serious note and hike the MSP to ₹2930 per quintal at least for Odisha considering the above aspects."

Reacting to Sahoo's statement, state BJP farmers' wing president Pradip Purohit said, "The state government has failed to procure paddy from the farmers whatever they have harvested during the last crop year. The government is yet to provide the bonus it had announced during a public meeting."

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	52474.76	↑ 174.29
NIFTY	15799.40	↑ 61.60
DOLLAR	73.21	↑ ₹0.01
EURO	88.88	↓ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹49,057	↓ ₹141
SILVER	₹72,510	↑ ₹511

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.7°C	32.5°C
MIN	25.6°C	25.0°C
Humidity	81%	82%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Generally cloudy sky	



TOM GIVES OWEN WILSON 'LOKI LECTURES'

Hollywood actor Owen Wilson has shared that English star Tom Hiddleston gave him Loki lectures and that there were in-depth looks at the God of Mischief and his history. Wilson said: "Yes, I knew the Marvel movies and had a general knowledge but it was great when I first got down to work in Atlanta because Tom (Hiddleston) would give what we called 'Loki lectures'."

NOEL GALLAGHER IS LOVING LOCKDOWN LIFE

Oasis legend Noel Gallagher says he has had a great time being at home during lockdown induced by Covid-19. Despite lockdown, Noel has managed to get exercise, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are creative, and today you will prove to be resourceful and thereby successful! Okay, you are ambitious, says Ganesh. But don't bite off more than you can chew. Be confident of your abilities, work hard and have faith in providence.

TAURUS
You will feel the burden of financial responsibilities on your shoulders today, says Ganesh. Do not let expenses bother you. Money will come to you from unexpected sources later in the day. If you can maintain an impartial judgement, then you will yield wonderful results on the financial front, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you would love to spend as much time alone as possible with your sweetheart, says Ganesh. A casual conversation between the two of you may culminate into a sensuous consummation.

CANCER
If you are a stockbroker, you may feel that things are not going too well for you. Today, you may regret being a stockbroker. Manufacturers must delay the launch of a new product. However, after a waiting game, you may go on to launch the product with a fanfare. Ganesh wishes you a good luck.

LEO
The travel bug inside you is itching to be let loose, but things are not so simple when it comes to finding new destinations, says Ganesh. With you, holidaying goes hand in hand with delays. So, although you might be excited at the prospect of going to new places, this excitement will be somewhat curtailed thanks to postponements of travel plans.

VIRGO
Today you may understand the utter uselessness of your dogged efforts and feel extremely anxious about success eluding you constantly. However, Ganesh advises you not to lose hope, but to re-energise your mind, give a boost to your curiosity and pay attention to long-term goals.

LIBRA
It sure is tiring to run with the herd. You may feel the desire to get away from the rat race at work today. Maybe it is the monotonous and stressful environment in office that is pushing you to your limits. But you may seek a new direction and lifestyle, one that is less taxing. Sometimes, it becomes imperative to make a few changes.

SCORPIO
You shall follow all things to the dot today. Your approach will be methodical and robotic. It is likely that you shall symbolise the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words'. Your powers of persuasion will help you amass the confidences of many, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Cupid is hunting and you are the game today. Cupid's arrows will have you adrift on the ocean of love and turbulent emotions. Your rescue is imminent, when a member of the opposite sex answers your SOS calls.

CAPRICORN
The work load may take away all your vigour, leaving you lethargic and dull, but you will come out of the sluggish phase before it can do any harm to your reputation, says Ganesh. Being observant and attentive while in meetings will help you in the long run, and in more ways than you can imagine.

AQUARIUS
Good news from across the seven seas brings cheer! If you're seeking a visa, you may get one today. Everything looks positive and it reflects in your mood. Share your happiness with your family, says Ganesh, and you will find it multiplies manifold.

PISCES
Conflicts galore will come your way at the workplace today. Keep a calm head over your shoulders and do keep tabs on your tongue. Differences only crop up if there are substantial thought processes involved, and keeping this in mind ought to give you the perspective needed to get ahead, says Ganesh.

KRITI CALLS ADIPURUSH HER MOST EXCITING PROJECT

Mumbai: Actor Kriti Sanon says that the ambitious upcoming period drama *Adipurush* is one of her most exciting projects yet.

At an interactive session with fans, a user asked her to talk about the film. "One of my most most exciting projects! Totally different experience loving every bit of it," Kriti replied, along with a note for the film's director Om Raut: "@omraut can we resume soooooon."

The film is an adaptation of the *Ramayana*, where Telugu star Prabhas features as Lord Ram while Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan essays Ravan.

A fan also asked her to describe Telugu star Mahesh Babu in one word. Incidentally, Mahesh Babu was her co-star in her debut film, the 2014 super-hit *Nenokkadine*. Kriti replied: "Best! My first ever co-star! So humble and so amazing. I hope I get to work with him again (Sorry thats 19 words)"

On handling success and failure, she said: "My Mantra: Never let success go to your head. Never let failure go to your heart." A fan asked about the release of her film *Mimi*, to which the actress said she cannot reveal but it will happen soon.



'I wasn't first choice for Haseen Dillruba'

Mumbai: Taapsee Pannu has revealed that she was not the first choice of the upcoming mystery thriller *Haseen Dillruba*. The actress claims the film came to her after all options were exhausted.

"*Haseen Dillruba* was a film I had a very gut feeling about the day I heard the basic idea from (writer) Kanika (Dhillon). Unfortunately, I wasn't the first choice for the film and it came to me after all their options were exhausted," Taapsee said.

She calls the film a candy in an actor's hand. "The good old saying that, if it's meant for you it will come to you stands true for this case. It's not just a beautifully written mystery, it has such wonderful characters, which is candy in an actor's hands," Taapsee said. She added: "I am glad I got to experiment with my look and performance with this one because I am definitely not the go-to person for this kind of character conventionally, and we all love to take risks."

The film, which also stars Vikrant Massey and Harshvardhan Rane, is about a woman

whose heart longs to live like the words captured in a novel, but who finds herself entangled in the murder of her husband.

Vikrant calls the film a perfect blend of humour, quirk, revenge and romance. "I hope it surprises the audience as much as it surprised me when I heard it first. It was an enthralling experience shooting for," he said.

Harshvardhan feels honoured to be in the same frame with some of our country's finest talent.

"Taapsee and Vikrant, have one thing in common I could never make out if they were joking or if they were serious," he added. IANS



'CHECKMATE COVID - CELEBRITY EDITION'

Aamir to play against chess grandmaster Viswanathan Anand

All the proceeds of this charity event will go towards serving individuals and families from vulnerable communities who are at high risk of hunger during this devastating second wave of the pandemic

NEW DELHI: Indian chess grandmaster and former world chess champion, Viswanathan Anand will play a 'simultaneous exhibition' match against the country's renowned celebrities and businesspersons to raise funds for The Akshaya Patra Foundation's COVID-19 relief feeding efforts.

Checkmate COVID series will have 5-time world champion, Viswanathan Anand, play ten Indian celebrities and business leaders five at one go in one-hour simul games. These include Bollywood celebrities Aamir Khan,

Kiccha Sudeep, Riteish Deshmukh, singer Arijit Singh, singer-songwriter Ananya Birla, cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal, Manu Kumar Jain - MD of Xiaomi India, Nikhil Kamath - Co-founder of Zerodha, producer Sajid Nadiadwala and Prachura Padakannaya.

All the proceeds of this charity event will go towards serving individuals and families from vulnerable communities who are at high risk of hunger during this devastating second wave of the pandemic.

The charity event is a part of



Checkmate COVID Celebrity Edition by Chess.com India and Prachura Padakannaya, CEO - Xetra Talent Management, in association with Akshaya Patra. It will be held 13 June, 2021, at 5.00

pm, and live-streamed on Chess.com India's official YouTube channel.

Padakannaya said, "Despite being at the forefront in the International chess circuit, India

has not received the recognition and prominence it deserves. Events like Checkmate COVID can draw the attention of public and celebrities to the chess fraternity and thereby, support social causes."

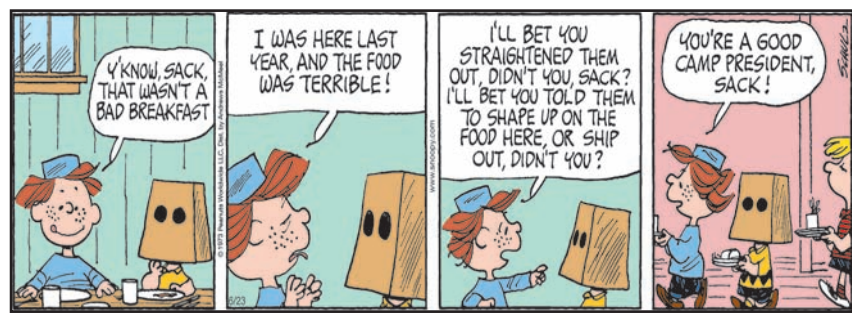
Shridhar Venkat, CEO Akshaya Patra, said, "Both, sports and business fraternities have always stepped up to help the people of this country whenever needed. It is heartening to see the stalwarts from both fields once again come together for a cause.

I am immensely grateful to Viswanathan Anand and these distinguished celebrities and businesspersons for understanding the criticality of the situation and extending their support to Akshaya Patra's COVID-19 relief feeding efforts through this charity event.

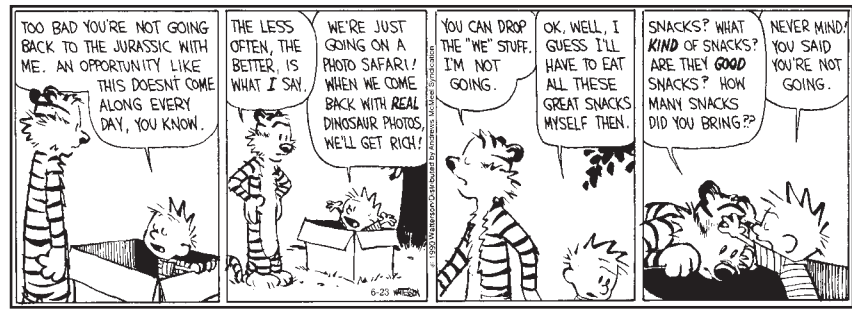
I am also thankful to Chess.com India and Prachura Padakannaya for bringing all these personalities together for a common cause. We, as a country, are going through an unprecedented crisis, and therefore, it is important that all of us work together to ensure that nobody goes hungry even in these difficult times."

Akshaya Patra has been undertaking relief feeding in 19 states and one union territory through its network of kitchens. Since March 2020, the Foundation has served over 128 million meals to people from vulnerable communities who are facing difficulty arranging food for themselves due to the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures to curb the outbreak. IANS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

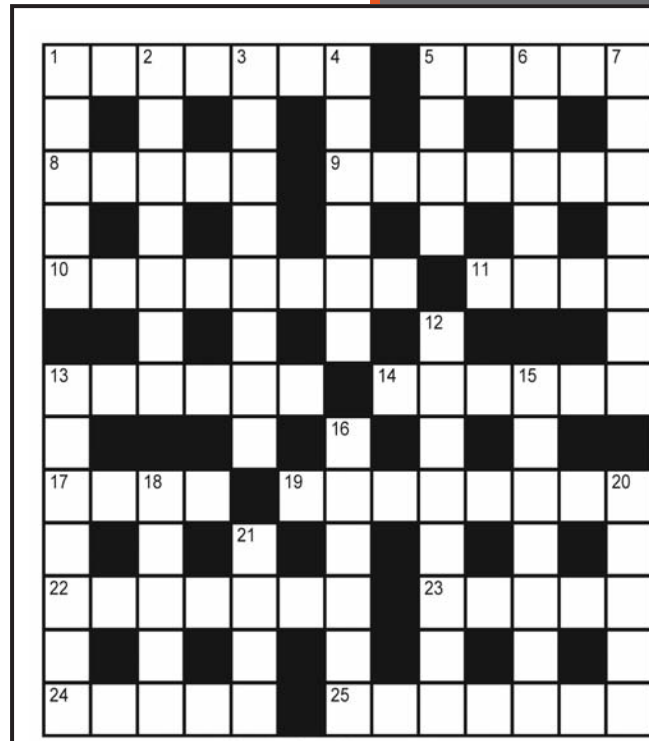


BREVITY



FUN post

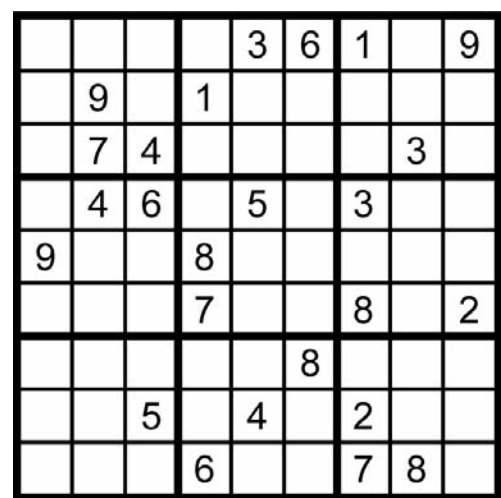
CROSSWORD



- Across**
1 Egyptian paper reed
5 Come to pass
8 Blatant fabric
9 Suppress
10 Antelope types
11 European erupter
13 Overnight case
14 Shade provider
17 Unfeeling
- 19 Age of Reptiles
22 Risk taker
23 Small egg
24 Synthetic fabric
25 Persecute
- Down**
1 Antler point
2 Salty snack
3 Cruel
4 Black eye
5 Narcissus spurned her
6 Wooden shoe
7 Firth
12 Lover
13 Salad oil's pal
15 Muddy
16 Castle part
18 Pharaoh, maybe
20 High point
21 Scheme

SUDOKU

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

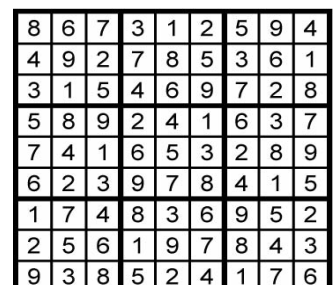


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



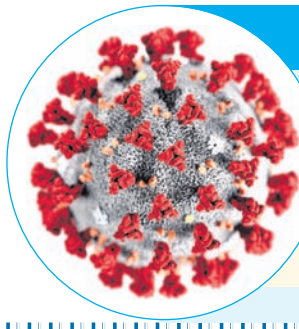
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



IN FLAMES

A sand-laden truck catches fire near Satichaura cremation ground in Cuttack, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	17,57,68,197	15,93,39,471	37,91,778
India	2,92,74,823	2,77,90,073	3,63,079
Odisha	8,42,461	7,81,488	3,210

Govt okays four investment proposals worth ₹1637.41Cr

The projects are likely to create employment opportunities for 1,116 persons



FILLIP TO INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

The govt approves the expansion plan of Tata Steel Limited's iron ore beneficiation plant at Joda in Keonjhar district from 12 MMTPA to 17.6 MMTPA with an investment of ₹946 crore. The expansion plan is likely to create employment opportunities for 803 persons

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited to set up a 50 MW solar PV power generation plant with an investment of ₹254.71 crore was also approved by the panel. The plant that would be set up in Boudh will provide employment to 36 persons

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT WAS ASKED TO ENCOURAGE THE UPCOMING UNITS FOR SOURCING POWER FROM GRID INSTEAD OF SETTING UP SEPARATE CAPTIVE POWER PLANTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The state government Friday approved four investment proposals envisaging investment of Rs 1,637.41 crore and direct employment opportunities for 1,116 persons.

The state-level single window clearance authority (SLSWCA) headed by Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra has accorded in-principle approval to the four industrial projects during a meeting held on virtual mode. The proposals are mainly from the sectors like downstream manufacturing, metal and power sector.

Mahapatra asked the Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) to conduct realistic assessment of land and water requirement for the projects on the basis of scientific parameters for optimum utilisation of the resources.

He also directed Industries department to encourage the up-

coming units for sourcing power from grid instead of setting up separate captive power plants. Sourcing of power from the grid would be economic and environment-friendly, the Chief Secretary said.

The departments concerned were asked to facilitate early ground-up of the projects through proactive support.

The government has approved the expansion plan of Tata Steel Limited's iron ore beneficiation plant at Joda in Keonjhar district from 12 MMTPA (million metric tonne per annum) to 17.6 MMTPA with an investment of ₹946 crore. The expansion plan is likely to create employment opportunities for 803 persons.

Similarly, the proposal of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited would set up a 50 MW solar PV power generation plant with an investment of Rs 254.71 crore was also approved by the panel. The plant that would be set up in Boudh will provide employment to 36 persons.

Railway wagon manufacturing plant with a capacity of 1,500 wagons per annum by Shyam Metalics and Energy Limited also got the government nod. The plant will be set up at Hirakud in Sambalpur district at an investment of ₹381.60 crore. It would provide employment opportunities to 115 persons.

The SLSWCA has further approved the proposal of the Shyam Metalics and Energy Limited to set up an oxygen cylinder manufacturing plant of capacity of 10,80,000 cylinders per annum. The firm has committed to invest Rs 55.10 crore in the plan to be set up in Rengali Industrial Estate in Sambalpur. Over 162 persons are likely to be employed in the plant.

IPICOL managing director Nitin Bhanudas Jawale said, "Because of the improved ease of doing business and facilitating promotional policies of state government, major investors are now considering Odisha as a flourishing investment destination."

CM releases Bishnupada's compilation of poems



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday released a collection of poems 'Beyond Here and Other Poems' written by senior bureaucrat Bishnupada Sethi. The work by the senior IAS officer is a compilation of 61 poems published by Har Anand Publications, New Delhi.

The poems are a reflection of a spectrum of experiences of life, perception of death and a philosophical contemplation. In all, it's a journey that searches for myriad hues of life and the realm beyond. Renowned writer Haraprasad Das has written the preface. The cover design of the 161-page book has been made by eminent artist Gajendra Sahu.

Shun self-financing mania, focus on quality of courses: HE dept



The HE dept issued directions to BJB Autonomous College and other degree colleges in the state to strive for improving quality of education being imparted in self-financing mode, instead of proposing for introduction of new self-financing courses

Last year, after failing to get desired response from students and affiliation problems, Sambalpur University had discontinued as many as six self-financing PG courses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The Higher Education department Friday rejected a request made by the BJB Autonomous College to open a self-financing master's degree course in agri-business management.

The department's Principal Secretary Saswat Mishra in a letter to the college principal said that considering the existing scenario, your proposal for opening a new self-financing (PPP) master's course in agri-business management is hereby rejected. The department advised the college to rather take steps for quality improvement in the existing self-financing courses run by the college with special emphasis on gainful employment of the students completing such courses.

The department also issued directions to other degree colleges in the state to strive for improving the quality of education being imparted in self-financing mode, instead of proposing for introduction of self-financing courses. Colleges not having any self-financing courses need not open any such courses for now.

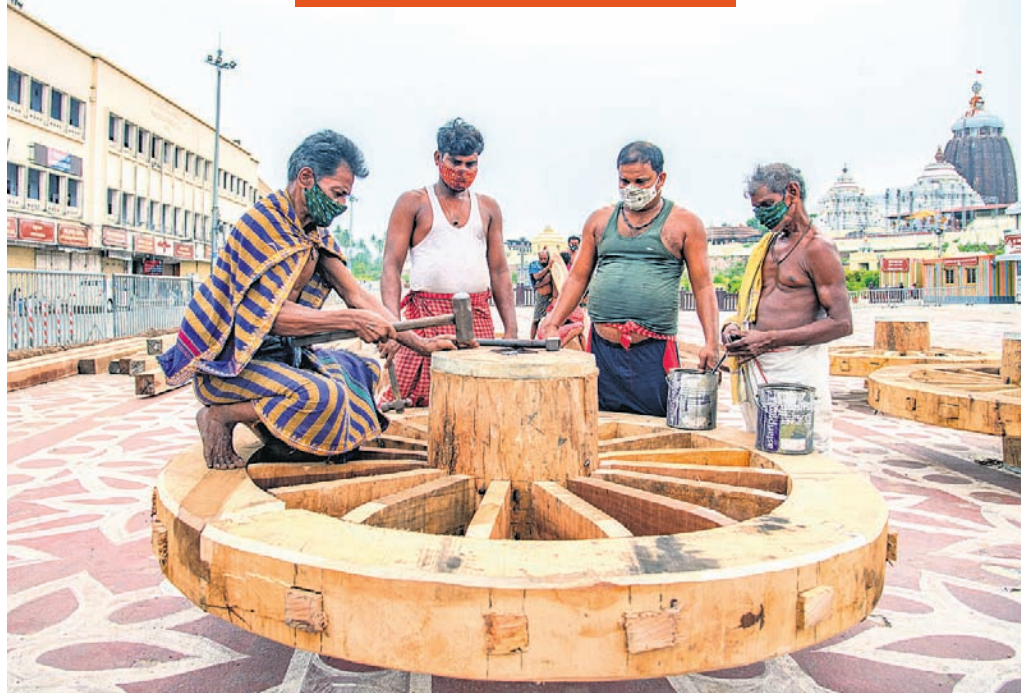
In recent times the self-financing courses are not attracting students in a bigger way. Last year, after failing to get the desired response from students and affiliation problems, Sambalpur University

had discontinued as many as six self-financing post-graduate (PG) courses in the academic session 2020-21. The courses are: MBA in Rural Management, MBA in Agri Business, MBA in Financial Management, Nanotechnology, Medical Physics and Sanskrit.

Earlier, the department had asked the principals of all government and aided degree colleges in the state to ensure collection of equal fee for regular subjects. At present, a few colleges have dual mode of fee structure in regular subjects where some seats are filled in self-financing mode. The colleges take normal admission charges as fixed by the government and reserve some seats for self-financing mode to collect more money as admission fee. Sources said huge disparity in fee structure between normal courses and self-financing courses had led to additional burden on some of the students who had to pay more for the same subject in the same college.

Self-financing courses shouldn't be allowed in government and government-aided colleges as it adds burden on the students, said an education activist. The government should regularise all subjects and provide special grant towards remuneration to the faculty to avoid financial burden on students pursuing higher education in these colleges in self-financing mode, sources said.

THE WHEELS OF FAITH



Blacksmiths fixing an iron ring on a chariot wheel at Rath Yard in Puri, Friday

OP PHOTO

FUELLING ANGER



Congress workers put a car on fire during their protest against the Centre over frequent hikes in the prices of petrol and diesel, in Amritsar, Friday

Cong stages stir at petrol pumps over fuel price hike

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 11: Congress activists Friday held demonstrations in front of all petrol pumps across the state demanding rollback of the hike in prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

The Congress activists led by senior party leaders held the demonstration from 7am to 11am in response to a call given by the AICC.

In the Capital city of Bhubaneswar, the demonstration was held in front of petrol pumps at Unit II, market building, Ram Mandir, Kalpana, Vani Vihar, Rasulgarh, Samantarapur, Ravi Talkies, Chandrasekharpur, Patia, Ainginia, Kalinga Stadium and CRP square.

Senior Congress leader Suresh Kumar Routray, district Congress president Biswajit Das and around 10 party block presidents participated in the agitation. The demonstration was also held in front of petrol pumps in all the districts of the state, party sources here said. Odisha Pradesh Congress



OIL BOIL

THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ALSO HELD IN FRONT OF PETROL PUMPS IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE STATE

THE CONGRESS LEADERS SAID IN CERTAIN AREAS THE PRICES OF PETROL PER LITRE HAS CROSSED RS 100 MARK

Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik dubbed the oil price hike 'very unfortunate' while the people were suffering a lot due to the second wave of coronavirus. The Congress leaders said in certain areas the prices of petrol per litre has crossed Rs 100 mark. It has pained the people as the rise

in oil prices has also escalated the prices of essential commodities and household articles. They said during the last 13 months petrol price per litre has increased by Rs 25.72 paise and diesel price by Rs 23.93 and the oil price has increased 43 times during last five months.

Monsoon to cover entire state in 48 hrs: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The southwest monsoon that hit some parts of the state Thursday will cover the entire state in next 48 hours, IMD said here Friday.

In a bulletin, the Bhubaneswar Centre of IMD said the southwest monsoon has further advanced to some parts of the state Friday and conditions are favourable for further advance of the monsoon to remaining parts of Odisha during next 48 hours. Meanwhile, a low pressure area has formed over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal coasts Friday morning. It is likely to become more marked



during the next 24 hours and move west north westwards across Odisha, it said.

The weather office predicted that heavy to very heavy rainfall along with extremely heavy rainfall would occur at a few places in

City's Class IV student donates ₹10K to CMRF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Prithvi Sarathi Routroy, a Class IV student of Sai International School, donated Rs 10,351 to CMRF through Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra at the Lok Seva Bhawan here Friday. After presenting the cheque, Prithvi said, "Our Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has undertaken many initiatives for children like me. His government has created parks and playgrounds for us. He is also making Special Covid hospitals for children. I saved from my pocket money and also cancelled my birthday feast to arrange this tiny contribution." His mother Niharika and Father Partha Sarathi Routroy were present on the occasion.

The district Collectors have been asked to keep a close watch and remain prepared to meet any eventuality. The control room at the district level and state level will function round the clock.

Morning vax session only for 18-45 group

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: People in the age group of 18 to 45 years in the state capital will now be administered the first dose of anti-Covid vaccine in the morning session and the second dose in the afternoon session.

Speaking to media, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Sanjay Singh Friday stated that vaccination of people in the 45-plus age group will continue during the afternoon session. He further said that a notification in this regard will be issued soon.

Notably, those in the 18-44 age group, who had received the first jab between May 3 and May 14, are currently being administered the second dose. This will continue till June 12. Moreover, drive-in vac-

ination will also continue in all 10 centres in Bhubaneswar with citizens aged 18-44 and 45+ taking their first dose in the morning session, and 45+ taking the second dose from 3 pm to 6 pm.

Meanwhile, the BMC Friday began a vaccination drive of online food delivery personnel such as Swiggy and Zomato. Aiming to vaccinate those involved in service sectors the drive was conducted at 7th Battalion High School, Gajapati Nagar. The drive was conducted after the BMC began a similar initiative for the hotel employees earlier, Wednesday. It can be mentioned that slot booking under the drive is not mandatory.

Moreover, about 4,000 slots were issued for the 18-44 age group. The vaccination will begin June 15 and will continue until June 19.

Lowest one-day nCoV spike in 50 days

Cyber crooks create minister's fake FB a/c

The tricksters have reportedly created a fake Facebook account of School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The pandemic has led to a surge in cybercrimes due to a significant rise in digital activities in the country. The police officials have also warned netizens of getting trapped in the net of the cybercriminals.

Not only gullible common men but also political leaders or high profile bureaucrats are falling prey to the cybercriminals. The criminals used to dupe common people or the followers of the politicians of lakhs by creating fake accounts in the name of the leader and the bureaucrats.

In a similar incident, some cyber fraudsters have reportedly created a fake Facebook account of School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash. The fraudsters have been demanding

money from the netizens following the minister on facebook, the popular social media platform. Dash came to know about the mischief after some of his followers informed him about the same.

Speaking to Orissa POST, Dash said, "I have recently created a Facebook account after the earlier one was blocked around three months ago. However, some miscreants have been sending false messages using this account seeking money in my name. I had filed a complaint with the Commissionerate Police when I encountered the issue with the first account."

Sources also said about an Odisha-cadre IAS officer Rajesh Patil alerting his followers on twitter about the fraudsters demanding money by creating a fake ID on facebook in his name.



Cuttack DCP Prateek Singh asks roadside vendors in Link Road area to follow Covid appropriate behaviour, Friday

QUICK FACTS

THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS STRENGTHENED THE ENFORCEMENT DRIVE ACROSS THE STATE WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF 161 PLATOONS OF FORCE AHEAD OF THE RAJA FESTIVAL

Since April 1, the government has initiated proceedings against 4,76,000 violators of Covid guidelines, collected fine to the tune of ₹14.58 crore, sealed 3,500 shops and other institutions, seized 29,000 vehicles and arrested 1,332 people in Odisha

The BMC has launched a special vaccination camp for agents of app-based food delivery companies

Altogether, 86,98,105 vaccine doses have been administered to health professionals, frontline workers and people in the different age groups till Thursday

Balasure, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara, Puri and Rayagada. One patient each succumbed to the infection in Dhenkanal, Kandhamal, Nayagarh and Sambalpur.

Fifty-three other Covid-19 patients have also died due to comorbidities, said the official.

Odisha now has 66,226 active

cases, and 8,299 people were cured of the disease Thursday, taking the total number of recoveries to 7,72,972. The coastal state has so far tested over 1.25 crore samples for Covid-19, including 65,635 Thursday. The positivity rate stands at 6.72 per cent.

Of the 30 districts of Odisha, 10 are in the green zone where the test positivity rate is below

five per cent.

Altogether, 86,98,105 vaccine doses have been administered to health professionals, frontline workers and people in the different age groups till Thursday, the official said.

Meanwhile, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has launched a special vaccination

3-tier security for Lord's Snana Yatra



Preparations on in full swing for Snana Yatra at Srimandir in Puri, Friday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, June 11: A three-tier security system will be put in place to ensure smooth conduct of Snana Yatra (bathing ceremony) of the Srimandir deities June 24, district superintendent of police (SP) Kanwar Vishal Singh said Friday.

While reviewing the security arrangements for the upcoming ceremony, Singh said that localities surrounding the 12th century shrine will be barricaded to make sure that none from the public take part in the ceremony.

"A curfew will also be imposed in Puri for the festival. Only essential and emergency services will be allowed. The Grand Road will be divided into eight to nine zones for better security arrangements. Roads connecting the Holy City will be sealed for the rituals," Singh said.

The development came a day after the state government announced that the Rath Yatra will be conducted only in Puri and that too without participation of the devotees.

Only servitors who are fully vaccinated or have tested negative in RT-PCR test done within 48 hours prior to the Rath Yatra will be permitted to participate in the rituals in Puri, the state government said in view of the prevailing Covid crisis in the coastal state.

Rituals associated with the Rath Yatra such as Snana Yatra, Gundicha Yatra, Bahuda, Nabami Darshan, Suna Beshha, Adhar Pana and Niladree Bije will only be performed by servitors found nega-

- A CURFEW WILL BE IMPOSED IN PURI FOR SNANA PURNIMA FESTIVAL
- ONLY ESSENTIAL AND EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL BE ALLOWED
- THE GRAND ROAD WILL BE DIVIDED INTO EIGHT TO NINE ZONES FOR BETTER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

tive in RT-PCR test or who are fully vaccinated.

Most important festival at Srimandir preceding Rath Yatra

As per the rituals of Snana Yatra, the three deities were taken out of the main temple soon after midnight in a procession by a select group of priests to the bathing pedestal called Snana Bedi on the shrine premises.

The priests pour 108 pitchers of aromatic water mixed with turmeric, sandalwood and flowers on them amid chanting of hymns. While 33 pitchers of water were poured on Lord Balabhadra, it was 35 for Lord Jagannath, 22 for Devi Subhadra and 18 for Lord Sudarshan.

After completion of the bathing ceremony, the deities were then decked up in Hati Beshha (a form of Lord Ganesha).

At night, the three main deities—Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra—retire to the Anasara house.

During this Anasara period, the devotees are forbidden to see the idols of the Lord, which appear for public viewing only after 15 days, on the day just before the famous Rath Yatra.

4.82 kg pangolin scales seized; 1 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The special task force (STF) of Odisha Police arrested Friday a person for possessing pangolin scales from a place near Balichua village under Sarat police limits in Mayurbhanj district. Pangolin scales weighing 4.82 kilograms were seized from his possession. The arrested has been identified as Suren Purty, son of late Dubala Purty of Balichua village.

Acting on a tip-off, the STF team with the help of personnel from Baripada Forest Division conducted a raid during which the pangolin scales and other incriminating materials were seized from Suren's possession. Since the accused could not produce any valid document in support of possessing of pangolin scales. He was arrested and subsequently handed over to Forest officials for necessary legal action.



Kalpana Square in Bhubaneswar witnesses a heavy traffic amid the lockdown, Friday

Govt for rainwater harvesting in group housing projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The state government Friday asked commissioners of five municipal corporations to implement rooftop rainwater harvesting system (RRHS) in the group housing construction under RAY & PMAY-U schemes.

Odisha Urban Housing Mission (OUHM) director Suresh Chandra Dalai has written a letter to commissioners of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela in this regard.

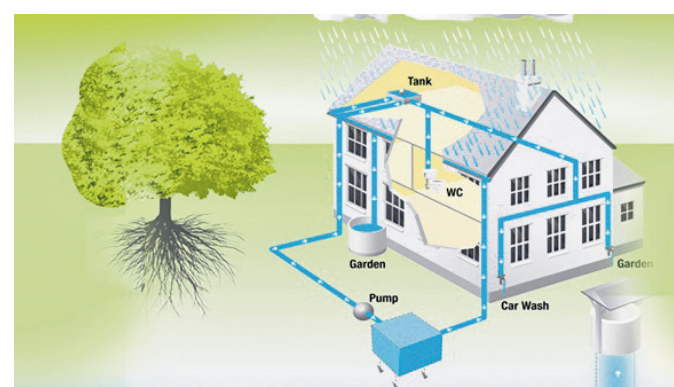
The government has decided to implement rooftop rainwater harvesting system in private and government buildings in all urban areas. Under the Odisha Ground Water (Regulation, Development and Management) Bill, 2011, the government has also made rooftop rainwater harvesting mandatory for new government buildings.

Therefore, Dalai has urged the municipal commissioners to construct such rooftop rainwater harvesting structures in the group housing construction under Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) schemes.

Rainwater harvesting involves collection, filtering and use of rainwater, which falls on the rooftops of the houses, he added.

A few days ago, the Housing and Urban Development department has decided to construct about 18,000 rainwater harvesting structures under the Urban Wage Employment Initiative (UWEL) in each ward of all 114 urban local bodies (ULBs) of the state.

All the 114 ULBs were directed to immediately identify the open spaces like parks, playgrounds and other areas where rainwater harvesting structures can be constructed in the first phase. They were directed to immediately ensure issuance of work orders to Mission Shakti Group, sensitise them about the initiative and start execution of the work.



OUHM DIRECTOR SURESH CHANDRA DALAI HAS WRITTEN A LETTER TO COMMISSIONERS OF BHUBANESWAR, CUTTACK, BERHAMPUR, SAMBALPUR AND ROURKELA IN THIS REGARD

DALAI HAS URGED THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS TO CONSTRUCT SUCH ROOFTOP RAINWATER HARVESTING STRUCTURES IN THE GROUP HOUSING CONSTRUCTION UNDER RAJIV AWAS YOJANA AND PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA-URBAN SCHEMES

RAINWATER HARVESTING INVOLVES COLLECTION, FILTERING AND USE OF RAINWATER, WHICH FALLS ON THE ROOFTOPS OF THE HOUSES

Odisha sends 29,158 MT O2 to 17 states in 50 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 11: The state government has sent 1,569 tankers with 29,158.249 metric tonne (MT) medical oxygen under active surveillance of the state police to at least 17 states facing acute shortage of the life-saving gas in treating Covid-19 patients during the second wave, an official said Friday.

While 125 tankers carrying 2036.562MT oxygen were sent from Angul, 337 tankers carrying 5603.5 MT oxygen left Dhenkanal to states where oxygen is a dire need. As many as 308 tankers were sent from Jajpur with 6285.58 MT of the life-saving gas and 799 tankers carrying 15232.607 MT of the gas were sent from Rourkela to the needy states.

"Andhra Pradesh received 460 tankers containing 9022.867 MT of oxygen, while 385 tankers reached Telangana with 6850.609 MT of the gas. Tamil Nadu has so far received 239 tankers filled with 4416.418 MT of medical grade oxygen," official sources said.

Haryana, on the other hand, has received 182 tankers filled with 3331.793 MT of oxygen. While Maharashtra received 41 tankers with 660.051 MT of oxygen, 836.711 MT of the life-saving gas filled in 50 tankers have been dispatched to Chhattisgarh.

As many as 68 tankers have carried around 1319.962 MT of oxygen to Uttar Pradesh. 67 tankers with 1182.6 MT of the gas have been sent to Madhya Pradesh, added the sources.

While 22 tankers with 410.24 MT of oxygen reached Delhi, four tankers with 107.89 MT of medical grade oxygen have been sent to Punjab in the last 50 days. Karnataka, Bihar and Chandigarh have received 424.99 MT, 66.14 MT and 25.29 MT of oxygen respectively in the period. Around 21 tankers reached Kerala with 405.068 MT of the gas. West Bengal and Jharkhand received 29.1 MT and 29.1 MT of oxygen. Moreover, two tankers carried 39.42 MT of the life-saving gas to Rajasthan in last 50 days, the sources pointed out.

A special cell, led by ADG (Law & Order) YK Jethwa, has been supervising the transportation of the life-saving gas.

Andhra Pradesh has received 460 tankers containing 9022.867 MT of oxygen, while 385 tankers reached Telangana with 6850.609 MT of the gas

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Central team finds anomalies in PMAY-G implementation

THE UNION SECRETARY ASKED THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF ODISHA TO FILE FIRS AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE IRREGULARITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 11: A team of officers from Union Ministry of Rural Development, which visited Odisha in February to inquire about the allegations of irregularities in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme, observed several instances of indiscretion.

In a letter to the state Chief Secretary, the Union Rural Development Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha stated that the Central team observed several irregularities during its visit to Odisha and found that PMAY-G logo was missing from houses constructed under the scheme, lack of quality in construction of houses and houses that were shown as completed on AwaasSoft were found to be incomplete during the inspection.

According to the letter, the Central team observed that in some cases houses have been allotted to both father and son. The Union ministry asked the state government to probe such cases and recover the amount released to the beneficiary.

The team, which had visited the state from February 9 to 11, also found that some beneficiaries have started construction of houses on government land. The secretary asked the state government to allot suitable land to the beneficiaries and if the state government does not agree to this then it should recover the amount released to the beneficiaries.



The Central team observed that in some cases houses have been allotted to both father and son

The Union ministry asked the state government to probe such cases and recover the amount released to the beneficiary

The team, which had visited the state from February 9 to 11, found that some beneficiaries have started construction of houses on government land

beneficiaries. The team also observed some cases of defalcation. The Union secretary asked the Chief Secretary to file FIRs against the authorities involved in the irregularities.

In another letter to BJP MP Jugal Oram, Union Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that the state government has been asked to submit an action taken report to the Union ministry.

The Union minister also said that once they received from the state government the action taken report from the state, they would share it with the BJP MP.

It may be mentioned here that the BJP MPs had earlier submitted a letter to the Union Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar alleging irregularities in the implementation of PMAY-G scheme.

WOMAN KILLED, 2 CRITICAL IN ROAD MISHAP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Thakurmunda, June 11: A woman was killed while her brother and his daughter sustained grievous injuries after a car in which they were travelling by skidded off the Thakurmunda-Karanja road and turned turtle at Sunariposi locality in Mayurbhanj district.

According to eyewitnesses, the brother of the deceased woman was driving the ill-fated vehicle, when it skidded off the road. The man was identified as Dushmant Mahala (35), the woman as Soumya Ranjita Mahala (30) and the child as Mukta (5). The trio was on their way from Banitia locality of Bhadrak to Banasahi in Karanja area of Mayurbhanj.



Dushmant lost control over the vehicle (bearing registration number OD-11 C-9041) leading to the accident. Locals rescued the injured trio in critical condition and rushed them to Thakurmunda community health centre (CHC). Later, the woman died while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

On being informed, Thakurmunda police reached the spot and launched a probe. Police have sent body of the deceased woman for post-mortem. The two other injured persons have been shifted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after their conditions deteriorated.

Steep rise in price of iron ore sparks fear of job loss, closure of plants

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 11: Exorbitant rise in price of iron ore six times in a year as well as a drop in the production of the mineral has sparked fears of closure of the steel plants at Kalinganagar in this district and also in some other parts of the state.

According to reports, experts are hopeful that the steel industry will help in recovering the economy which has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the unusual rise in price of iron ore during last one year and drop in the mineral production has hit the steel plants operating in the state.

The worst hit is the steel plants that do not have their own captive mines. These plants are finding it difficult to purchase iron ore at the enhanced price and run their plants. This has triggered fears of closure of these plants and lay-off among the employees, the report said.

Iron ore production has been 142 million tonnes in the 2019-20 fiscal and it declined to 111 million tonnes in the 2020-21 fiscal. The state has exported 17.4 million tonne of iron in the 2019-20 fiscal, while exports increased to 29 million tonnes in the 2020-21 fiscal. As a result, the shortfall has been 42 million tonnes this year compared to last year. This has led to an exorbitant rise in the price of ores which is now a cause of concern among the steel plants as well as their employees.

Reports said that the price of iron ore was Rs 2,200 per tonne in June 2020 while it witnessed a sharp rise next year with the price reaching at Rs 12,000 per tonne in June 2021.



Steel companies like Tata Steel, SAIL, JSW Steel, Arcelor Mittal and JSPIL who have their own captive mines have produced 65 million tonnes of iron ore out of the total production of 111 million tonnes in the 2020-21 fiscal. The state-owned OMC produced 13 million tonnes, Rungta Mines 10 million tonnes, Essel Mining 6 million tonnes and DR Patnaik 4 million tonnes during the last fiscal. On the other hand, firms like Sirajuddin, Foment, Tarna and Vishal LPG, which have acquired mines through auctions, are yet to start production.

As a result, there has been a shortfall of 44 million tonnes of iron ore sold in the open market through e-auction process. The plants which do have their own captive mines are suffering heavy losses and are buying ores via e-auction process. Recently, steel firms in West Bengal and Chhattisgarh participated in the e-auction floated by the OMC to meet the ore requirement of their plants.

Surprisingly, even the plants having their own captive mines participated in the e-auction. It is alleged that these plants participated in e-auction with an aim to increase the iron ore price. The claim seems to be true as the price of iron ore put up for auction rose to Rs 11,612 per tonne, which is Rs 4,000 more than the price in the last auction.

This has dealt a heavy blow to the steel firms that do not have their own captive mines. In addition, it has severely affected the steel plants like Adhunik Ispat, Concast Ispat and MSP Ispat, NINL, MESCO Steel and Maithan Ispat in the Kalinganagar Industrial Complex. Some of these plants have downed their shutters unable to compete in the market owing to the rise in the price of iron ore.

The members of Kalinganagar Silpa Sangha have demanded before the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Steel and Mines Secretary to intervene in this matter.

Woman forced to marry paramour in Dhenkanal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hindol, June 11: A married woman and her paramour were forced to tie the knot after they were found in a compromising position at the former's residence in Kukuta area under Balimi police limits of Hindol block in Dhenkanal district Friday.

According to sources, the woman has been married for six years. Her husband works with a company in Mumbai and visits home occasionally.

The woman's husband works in a company in Mumbai and visits home occasionally

Meanwhile, back in the village, the woman had developed an affair with another man from the same area. They had been in a relationship for two years.

The woman's paramour entered her house through the window Thursday night. The family members doubted the presence of someone else in the woman's room and caught them in a compromising position. The family members Friday morning took the matter up with the elders in the village and a decision took to get them married. As per the elders' decision, the couple married at the Basudev Temple in the village in presence of others.

Youths opting for fish farming amid pandemic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, June 11: Many youths in Ganjam district are taking up fish farming amid the Covid-19 pandemic which has dealt a body blow to almost all sectors of the economy.

These youths are availing benefits under the Matsya Pokhari Yojana (MPY) or Fish Pond Yojana of the state government to opt for fish farming as a source of livelihood.

Under the MPY scheme, a person with the required land can avail bank loan to the tune of Rs 8.5 lakh per hectare for digging a new pond for fish farming. The state government will provide up to 50 per cent subsidy on the loan amount to boost fish production in Odisha.

This apart, some youths are also obtaining benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to choose fish farming as a source of income and livelihood.



Fish farmer Sushant Pradhan at his farm

The MPY and PMMSY are being implemented successfully in Bhanjanagar, Belguntha, Sorada, Jagannathprasad, Buguda, Polsara, Aska, Purusottampur and Beguniapada blocks of Ganjam district, sources said.

"More than a hundred youths in Ganjam have chosen fish farming as a source of employment and livelihood since the outbreak of

A fish seedling production centre at Bhanjanagar in Ganjam has planned to produce around 20 crore seedlings in this financial year

novel coronavirus. The fish seedling production in the district has also gone up in recent days," said a source in the district administration.

A fish seedling production centre at Bhanjanagar in Ganjam has planned to produce around 20 crore seedlings in this financial year. Till date, the centre has supplied 5 crore fish seedlings to various farms, sources said.

The district administration had set a target to create fish ponds on 145 hectares under the MPY in

Ganjam in the 2020-21 fiscal. "We have achieved the target as many youths are coming forward to take up fish farming. The fisheries sector in Ganjam is doing well amid the pandemic," said the official.

According to him, Sushanta Pradhan, a fish farmer from Jagannathprasad is also producing good quality fish seedlings. "Pradhan is now supplying seedlings and fish to many places in Odisha. Earlier, the district was depending on Andhra Pradesh to meet its demand for fish. Now, the trend has changed," he added.

Bhanjanagar Assistant Fisheries Officer Sudhanshu Sahu said the state government is providing several incentives to fish farmers. "Now, educated youths have realised that fish farming can be a good source of income. We hope that more and more youngsters will take up fish farming in coming days," Sahu added.

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TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 1683, Dt. 03.06.2021
No. C-382:- Bid Documents consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tenderodisha.gov.in

1. Tender Reference	: EO/JMC/02/2021-22
2. Tender ID No.	: 2021 ORULB 68886
3. Name of the work	: Works as mentioned in website.
4. No. of works	: 01 No.
5. Estimated cost	: As per DTCN
6. Date & Time of availability of Bid Documents in the Portal.	: 05.06.2021 at 11.00 AM
7. Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 15.06.2021 at 5.00 PM
8. Bids received online shall be opened on.	: 17.06.2021 at 3.00 PM
9. Name and address of the Officer inviting	: Executive Officer, Jharsuguda Municipality

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal i.e. www.tenderodisha.gov.in
Sd./- Executive Officer, Jharsuguda Municipality
OIPR-13165/11/0003/2122

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER No. B-144
DEOGARH (R&B) DIVISION, DEOGARH
E-mail ID - eepwdddeogarh@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Lr. No.-2286 Dtd. 09.06.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS
BID IDENTIFICATION No. EE PWD DGR No. 02 of 2021-22

- The Executive Engineer, Deogarh (R&B) Division, Deogarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single/double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building & Road works as detailed below.
- Nature of work :- Building works
- No. of works :- Building 04 Nos.
- Bid Cost. :- Rs.10,000/-
- Class of Contractor :- "B" & "A" Class
- Availability of Bid documents in :- From dt.18.06.2021 to 17.00 hours of dt.03.07.2021
- Date of opening of Technical bid :- Dt. 05.07.2021 at 11.30 AM.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd./-Executive Engineer, Deogarh (R&B) Division
OIPR-34061/11/0001/2122

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. 11-KUR-TRD-OT-2021-22, Dtd. 08.06.2021

NAME OF THE WORK: PROVISION OF 2nd BAY AT GORAKHNATH TRACTION SUB STATION (GRKN TSS) IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTRIFICATION WORK OF PROPOSED NEW RAILWAY TRACK CONNECTING TO NEW DEEP DRAUGHT IRON ORE AND COAL BERTH TERMINALS UNDER BOT PROJECT OF Ms PARADEEP PORT TRUST AT PARADEEP (PRDP) STATION.

Approximate Value (₹) : 72,33,658.20
Tender Closing Date and Time : Upto 1300 Hrs. of date : 30.06.2021
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website <http://www.irps.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Khurda Road
PR-152/M/21-22

Spl train between Puri, Kamakhya

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: A day after deciding to run a special train between Puri and Kamakhya with effect from June 20, the Ministry of Railways Friday decided to run another special between the

two places. The second special train between Puri and Kamakhya - 05644/05643 Kamakhya-Puri-Kamakhya Special - will leave Kamakhya at 23:45 hrs every Thursday w.e.f. June 24 and leave Puri at 22:05 hrs every Saturday

w.e.f. June 26 until further advice. This train will have stoppages at Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Bhadrak, Howrah, Katwa, Malda Town, New Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar from both the directions.

This sleepy village in Mayurbhanj is nCoV-free

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kuamara, June 11: At a time when the entire nation reels under the raging second wave of Covid-19, there is a village in tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district that is yet to report a single case of the highly infectious virus. The village was also corona-free during the first wave of the pandemic.

Kasibani is a sleepy village under Kuamara panchayat in Gopabandhu Nagar block. Located on the upper end of Naluha River, the village is inaccessible on four-wheelers. In order to go out of the village, it has only a beaten path.

It seems development has made a detour around the village as it has been constantly neglected in all spheres, be it health, education or communication.

The village's population is around 100 and only 10 per cent of them are literate. But not even one educated person is employed in organised sector - be it government or private. The breadwinners of all families are daily labourers. None of the families has a television set, nor does any newspaper reach their village. While they don't have any source to keep them



REMOTENESS AS BLESSING!

THE VILLAGERS SAID THEY HAVE BEEN TAKING SOME TOUGH DECISIONS TO STOP THE DISEASE FROM ENTERING THEIR VILLAGE

THEY HAVEN'T ORGANISED ANY MARRIAGES OR ANY COMMUNITY FEASTS SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE PANDEMIC

ACCORDING TO THE VILLAGERS, WHENEVER THEY VISIT WEEKLY MARKETS, THEY WEAR MASKS AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING THERE

informed about what is going on around them, all depend on one or two mobile phones in the village for the same.

The villagers said they came to know about Covid-19 from the mobile phones and are taking all possible measures to keep the disease away from the village. "Our village is yet to report a single Covid-19 case. That doesn't mean that we are not afraid of the pandemic. All of us are in fear and apprehension since we came to know about the fatalities caused by the pandemic. But at the same time,

we are strictly following the Covid norms," said an elderly villager Laxmidhar Marandi.

The villagers said they have been taking some tough decisions to stop the disease from entering their village.

"We haven't had any marriages or any community feasts since the outbreak of the pandemic. If we go to weekly markets, we take a mental note to wear masks and maintain social distancing there. We have not received vaccine doses as yet. Our strict adherence to the guidelines has been protecting us. We know how

catastrophic a slight mistake would be," another villager Baidyanath Majhi added.

Stating that Kasibani is still a Covid-free village, sarpanch Sasmita Nayak said, "We have never thought of carrying out a health check-up drive in the village. But we should not be complacent at this point of time. Since Covid-19 cases are being reported everywhere in the second wave, the villagers are of the opinion that the administration should take precautionary measures to keep the village safe."

Love is the keynote, Joy is the music, Knowledge is the performer, the infinite All is the composer and audience.

SRI AUROBINDO



Babus caught in a political bind

The instances of bureaucrats getting caught in the middle of political battles is a growing and dynamic list. Those in the know say that after the Centre recently amended the empanelment policy for IAS officers, young officers fear that their careers will be jeopardized if there is no political consensus between the Centre and the concerned state government.

Under the revised policy, the Centre has made the Central deputation of two years mandatory for IAS officers before they complete the first 16 years of service in their cadre state to be eligible for joint secretary's post in Delhi in the future. This would not be a problem if the Centre and state were ruled by the same party. The problem arises, as in the case of West Bengal, when the Centre and states are ruled by bitter political foes. The babus are caught in a bind. Whether this is an inevitable feature of federalism isn't clear yet, but babu nervousness isn't something that helps with better administration in these perilous times.

Home and the world

It's not just the Vice President and the Prime Minister who are getting new residences in Lutyens' Delhi. Though not included in the Central Vista project underway in the heart of the capital, officials, or at least some lucky ones, at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) too may get spanking new residences by 2023.

The ministry is building 97 state-of-the-art residences in the Gole Market area, known these days mostly for its nondescript and low-cost *sarkari* housing, into a high-powered diplomatic enclave replete with the modern bells and whistles that matches the lifestyle the IFS mandarins are accustomed to when serving abroad.

Perhaps the residential project is a belated move by the Modi sarkar to signal that it does not ignore the Indian Foreign Service. While in recent years other services have gained ground eroding the exclusivity enjoyed for decades by the IAS club, the IFS is too is now getting its share. A *sarkari* house in Delhi, as any government babu will tell you, is all about availability and location. The IFS seems to have scored a diplomatic victory on both.

An avoidable fracas

Even as Karnataka grapples with the Covid-19 pandemic, two women IAS officers have stirred up an avoidable controversy, given the current circumstances.

Shilpa Nag, the Mysore corporation commissioner, reportedly resigned from the IAS after accusing her senior, Rohini Sundari Dasari, deputy commissioner of the district, of interfering in her efforts to manage the pandemic. The state government has indicated that Nag's resignation has not been accepted nor will it be. But sources say that Nag has gathered several voices in her support, with other city corporators demanding that Dasari be transferred out. Dasari has denied the allegation and said that she had merely asked Nag to explain the "contradictory data" on Covid-19 from her ward.

It is believed that the root of the dispute between the two senior IAS officers is Dasari's insistence on the deployment of CSR funds for the entire district rather than limiting the funds for managing Covid in the city area only. Meanwhile, to allow tempers to cool down, the state government has transferred both officers. Dasari will be the new Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, while Nag has been named Director of E-governance in Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department. Sources say that the fracas was wholly avoidable and the disputed issue could have been dealt with within the government without a fuss.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](#). Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

- I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.' **MUHAMMAD ALI**
- Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you. **NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE**
- If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away. **HENRY DAVID THOREAU**

WORDSWORTH

Cagmag

Cagmag is an intriguing item of British regional dialect that starts to be recorded in the eighteenth century. It has had several senses, all of them disparaging. The oldest references are to geese: Vast numbers are driven annually to London, to supply the markets; among them all the superannuated geese and ganders (called here Cagmags) which serve to fatigue the jaws of the good Citizens, who are so unfortunate as to meet with them. A century later, the English Dialect Dictionary lists a number of meanings, starting with this one and moving on to tough, inferior meat or carrion; unwholesome or bad food; worthless items; inferior or spurious things; an animal that is coarse or mongrel bred; and "a term of opprobrium applied to persons", typically an old woman. Correspondents have told me that elderly relatives have also used it for cheap sugary foods, including sweets and shop-bought cakes, so your father's sense is certainly known. It was widely used in Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and other counties, but nobody has the slightest idea where it is from. In his Slang Dictionary in 1864, John Camden Hotten notes a suggestion from a correspondent at Trinity College, Dublin, that the word was a corruption of the Greek *kakos* magesiros, a bad cook, a learned slang term once known in university circles. Nobody now believes this, but there's nothing to put in its place. It's still around in Lincolnshire and also in Nottinghamshire, the Birmingham area and the Black Country (where in 2003 it was said to mean a gossipy old woman). I've also found references in Australian English.

LOL

ALLIGATOR SHOES

A blonde was on vacation in the depths of Louisiana. She wanted a pair of genuine alligator shoes, but didn't want to pay the high prices. After unsuccessfully haggling with one of the shopkeepers, the blonde said, "Maybe I'll just go out and catch my own alligator, so I can get a pair of shoes at a reasonable price." Later in the day, the shopkeeper



spotted the young woman standing waist deep in the water, shotgun in hand. She took aim at an alligator, killed it and hauled it onto the swamp bank. Lying nearby were several more of the dead creatures. The shopkeeper watched in amazement as the blonde flipped the alligator on its back and shouted in frustration, "Damn, this one isn't wearing any shoes either."



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

CRYPTOCURRENCY WAS MADE TO KEEP THE VALUE OF ONE'S MONEY OUTSIDE THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. INDEED IT IS TRUE THAT THE VALUE OF CRYPTOCURRENCY IS NOT IN THE HANDS OF THE CENTRAL BANKS

Think of 100 computer professionals sitting in separate cubicles in a hall. They are solving a Sudoku puzzle with 50 rows and 50 columns. One who solves the puzzle first shouts that he has solved it and shares his solution with all participants. The others check his solution and, if found correct, confirm his "win" and give him a Bitcoin as a prize. Then all the 100 participants give their suggestions for the next stage of the Sudoku which would now be made with, say, 70 rows and 70 columns. A master computer mixes up these suggestions and makes a new Sudoku puzzle. The same 100 participants again try to solve this puzzle. Once again, whoever solves the new puzzle is given a Bitcoin by all the participants. These 100 participants use this Bitcoin to make trade amongst them. One participant can sell and another can buy, say, 10 apples for 1 Bitcoin. This trade is possible because both participants recognise the Bitcoin as their own currency. It is like children trading with marbles as a currency. One can sell and another can buy one postage stamp for two marbles, for example.

Bitcoin is only a number that is generated by the master computer. Whoever has the number is the owner of the Bitcoin. This number is encrypted, hence the name cryptocurrency.

It would be obvious that the acceptability of such a cryptocurrency, say Bitcoin, would be only among the 100 participants who participated in the competition. Let us say, 200 computer professionals were sitting in another hall nearby and they were solving their own Sudoku puzzles; and they gave their own cryptocurrency as a prize by the name, say, Twocoin. The 200 professionals sitting in the second hall may not recognise the solution of the Sudoku made by the 100 professionals sitting in the first hall. They may recognise the solution made by the 200 participants sitting with them in the second hall only. In this way, more the numbers of halls, more the numbers of cryptocurrencies. If you want,

FOCUS CRYPTOCURRENCY

BAN BITCOIN



Cryptocurrencies are harmful for the environment because they consume resources like computers and electricity and do not produce tangible goods that could lead to social welfare. They are harmful for the society because they are leading to increase in crime

you too can assemble 100 or 1,000 participants in a hall or a computer network and start your own cryptocurrency. No wonder about 1,500 cryptocurrencies are in existence in the world today. The acceptability of these currencies depends entirely on the number of participants who recognise that currency. Now, if a currency is accepted by sufficiently large numbers of players, then any individual owner is assured that he would be able to sell his Bitcoins and buy, say, a car. In such a situation the banks also recognise these currencies. Many banks across the world accept these currencies though, thankfully, the Reserve Bank of India has not allowed Indian banks to accept them as valid means of payments.

The original idea behind starting cryptocurrencies was that the value of the currencies issued by the governments was controlled by their central banks. You may have hard-earned and deposited ₹1 lakh in a bank. But the government could have increased the inflation and real value of your deposit could be reduced to, say, ₹90,000. Cryptocurrency was made to keep the value of one's money outside the control of the government. Indeed it is true that the value of cryptocurrency is not in the hands of the central

banks. However, the computers in which the cryptocurrencies are made and stored are located in some country and are under the control of that government. Most cryptocurrency enthusiasts are located in China. The Chinese government can, therefore, seize the computers and the value of the currency will evaporate in a few minutes.

The intricacy of the Sudoku puzzles increases with every puzzle that is solved. We may now have a Sudoku puzzle of 2,000 lines and 2,000 rows. It would not be possible to solve such puzzles manually. Therefore, Bitcoin enthusiasts have established "factories" to solve these puzzles. Large computers are installed in these factories that try to solve the most complicated Sudoku puzzles set by the master computer. They consume huge amounts of electricity in the process. These "business persons" make investment in computers and electricity and get returns in the Bitcoins that they win. The manufacture of Bitcoins uses electricity just as the Reserve Bank of India uses paper and ink to print notes. The first problem with cryptocurrencies, therefore, is the huge use of electricity - which is a burden on our environment. We are using electricity to solve puzzles that have no tangible use.

The cryptocurrency is only a number though a very complicated one. Incidents have taken place that an owner's computer crashed and the cryptocurrency number stored in it was lost forever. The Bitcoin was extinguished and the owner was put to loss as if he lost a diamond on the street. Hackers have also entered the owner's computer and stolen the number and became the owner of the Bitcoin.

Most importantly, today criminals are seeking payments in cryptocurrencies. Recently the computers of the United States' Colonial Oil Company were hacked. The hackers introduced a malware in the computer that could only be removed by the hackers.

The company had to pay \$5 million or about ₹40 crores in ransom to keep its pipelines running. Reportedly, the US government has recovered one-half of the ransom. It is not clear how the recovery was made. Be that as it may, in the main, the ransom paid in cryptocurrency does not leave a visible trail of bank transactions or even the numbers printed on the currency notes that could be tracked by the police. It is believed that crime is increasing across the world because it is become easier to receive the ransom anonymously in cryptocurrencies.

These currencies are harmful for the environment because they consume resources like computers and electricity and do not produce tangible goods that could lead to social welfare. They are harmful for the society because they are leading to increase in crime. Lastly, its value is uncertain and can disappear anytime. Therefore, governments across the world should ban the trade in cryptocurrencies. If banks do not recognise the currencies, then the owners would not be able to use that money for any useful purpose in the economy and this harmful game will die a natural death.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore.

SPECTRUM PANDEMIC

The Virus Next Time

As more developed countries begin to feel as though they have made it to the other side of the Covid-19 crisis, two striking realities are coming into view. First, one can clearly see just how vulnerable many developing countries still are to rapidly escalating outbreaks of the type we are witnessing in India. The results of failing to distribute the most effective vaccines equitably and strategically are being laid bare.

Second, with more dangerous and contagious variants continuing to emerge, we do not have the luxury of delaying work toward a new international system for pandemic preparedness and response. We must start that project immediately. And fortunately, the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR), chaired by former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has just published a blueprint for how to do it. The question now is whether governments are ready not just to listen but to act. The answer will determine whether we can prevent future epidemics from becoming global catastrophes.

Chief among the panel's proposals is a call for pandemic preparedness and response to be elevated to the highest level of political leadership through a new Global Health Threats Council, which should be based at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The panel has also proposed an International Financing Facility for Pandemic Preparedness and Response to help share the burden in future global health crises.

Either through direct contributions or a kind of assessed contribution, this mechanism would fund both ongoing preparedness and rapid-response measures in low- and middle-income countries. The IPPR has offered the kind of emphatic, dispassionate, and actionable guidance that governments need and - in this case - have demanded through the World Health Organization. Four years ago, the Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM, which I chaired) tried to raise the alarm about the growing threat of pandemics in its report Global Pandemics and Global Public Health. We were aghast at the poor state of the global health architecture at a time when cross-border health crises were becoming more frequent and posing unprecedented risks. Those risks have since materialised in the

form of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to issuing a clear warning, the commission's report made a series of bold recommendations to strengthen the multilateral system in the face of potential global health crises. Its proposals for clearer rules for verification and early-warning mechanisms have now been echoed in the IPPR's recommendations, as has its call for a more empowered independent WHO secretariat. We are still waiting for progress on all of these fronts. We cannot afford to let the IPPR's report fall on the same deaf ears. And yet, that is exactly what seems to be happening. The 74th World Health Assembly just voted to spend six months studying the panel's report before even considering taking any action. Such delays are simply unacceptable.

The Covid-19 crisis has borne out an uncomfortable truth that is emphasised in the IPPR's report: namely, that many of the national and global institutions established to deal with global pandemics are not fit for purpose, or have not been properly activated. From the moment in late 2019 and early 2020 when the existing International Health Regulations failed, the Covid-19 outbreak became a global catastrophe. And since then, our

national and global economic responses have been too slow, tepid, and uncoordinated - a failure that the post-2008 G20 architecture was supposed to prevent.

The current crisis could still become much worse before it gets any better. We are already witnessing a breakdown of global supply chains, which will lead to terrible economic, political, and public health outcomes. We need to get back on track now so that we can fight not only future pandemics but also this one.

The IPPR's report could not be timelier. The G7 summit in Cornwall is an opportunity to concentrate our efforts with backing from the highest political levels. Covid-19 has been costly for all of us. The ICM's 2017 report anticipated that we would be here one day and identified the solutions we would need to implement. Let us use the IPPR's findings to enact meaningful reforms and show real leadership, so that this pandemic will be the last one to catch us off guard.

The writer, a former Prime Minister of Australia, is President of the Asia Society and Chair of the International Peace Institute.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Kevin Rudd

THE G7 SUMMIT IN CORNWALL IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS IN COMBATING PANDEMICS WITH BACKING FROM THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVELS

Eradicate child labour

Sir, Schools should be a child's workplace. Unfortunately, children are being forced into labour against their will. Any type of work that prevents a child from going to schools, forces a child to abandon school at an early age or work that requires a child to attend schools with heavy workload is child labour. Since child labour is a fertile breeding ground for social ills like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and population growth, the governments have stepped in to stem the menace. According to the 2011 census, there were about 10 million child labourers in India in the age group 5 to 14. No government can claim to have perfectly enacted legislation or brought-in an amendment - there are bound to be dissenting voices. In a country like India, which has the highest number of child labourers in the world, the task to eradicate child labour becomes all the more daunting. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, amended in 2016 as Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits employment of a child (below the age of 14) in any employment including domestic work. Adolescent (14 to 18 years) labour was permitted except in hazardous occupations. The government obviously kept the country's socio-economic situation in mind while amending the law. The biggest challenge, however, was to define the employment that fell under the ambit of family-owned enterprise. But the dangerous and risky working conditions are still not too precisely defined. The government should direct all Collectors and the Superintendents of Police to do an extensive study on why the conviction rate is abysmal for child labour offenders.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Working woman's woes

Sir, First and foremost is a woman's sense of self-worth, which goes a long way in building confidence among women. Unlike the caged parrots of yore, modern women are free to go out and achieve things in various fields with their confidence and conviction. Women rule the roost in offices, companies and, at the same time, make our dreams come true in our households as well. They are confident beings and they work and achieve targets. But in this pandemic situation, their position is changing and the will to work for women is slowly diminishing. To tackle the realities of workplace bias, business leaders need to embrace innovative approaches - changing mechanics rather than the mindsets to design the bias out and bring the equity in. Accelerating gender equality matters now more than ever.

Saipriya Senapati, CUTTACK

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

DOOR-TO-DOOR VACCINATION

Bombay HC asks Centre to look at Kerala, J&K pattern

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 11: The Bombay High Court Friday said the Union government should look at the door-to-door vaccination programme carried out "successfully" by Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir, and take a "sound decision" on its present policy that states door-to-door vaccination was not done.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice GS Kulkarni noted that it was unable to understand what the Centre's problem was in starting door-to-door vaccination when states such as Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir were already carrying out such drives.

Responding to a query raised by the court earlier this week, as to how a senior politician got vaccinated at his residence in Mumbai, Anil Sakhare, counsel for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Friday said the job was not given by the civic body.

The bench then asked additional government pleader Geeta Shastri, appearing for the Maharashtra government, about who administered the vaccine to the politician. Shastri sought a week's time to respond.

"To this, Chief Justice Datta said, 'One week to take information on this? This is alarming. There is an old saying 'You show me the man and I will show you the rule.'"

The court was hearing a public interest litigation filed by advocates Dhruvi Kapadia and Kunal Tiwari, seeking door-to-door vaccination for senior citizens above the age of 75 and persons who are specially abled, wheelchair bound or bed ridden.

The court asked how the Union government policy says door-to-



A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice GS Kulkarni noted that it was unable to understand what the Centre's problem was in starting door-to-door vaccination when states such as Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir were already carrying out such drives

door vaccination was not possible presently, when individual states such as Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir were carrying out the drive.

"How is it that individual states like Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir have introduced and are successfully doing door-to-door vaccination? What is the Centre's comment on the Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir pattern?" the bench asked.

"We are not able to understand what the Centre's problem was. Why don't you (Union) communicate with these states and if it appeals to you, then you can ask

other states also to start the same drive," the court said, asking the government to take a "sound decision".

The court also noted that it was very happy with the good job being done by the BMC during the pandemic and asked why the civic body was hesitant to introduce door-to-door vaccination.

To this, BMC counsel Sakhre pointed out a letter written by civic commissioner Iqbal Chahal to the Centre stating that the civic body was willing to carry out door-to-door vaccination and requested the Union government to provide guidelines for the same.

UP braces for health challenges in monsoon

CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH HAS ALREADY ASKED OFFICIALS TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SURVEILLANCE AND KEEP THE SPREAD OF THESE DISEASES IN CHECK

AGENCIES

Lucknow, June 11: With the second wave of Covid-19 receding and the monsoon season around the corner, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is now gearing up to combat water-borne diseases, such as encephalitis and malaria.

"From June 15, a special campaign to send medical kits door-to-door to children will be started. In this regard, the administration is making all the necessary preparations," said a government spokesman.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has already asked officials to make special efforts to improve surveillance and keep the spread of these diseases in check. He directed that medicines should be purchased at company rates and transparency



should be maintained.

Special attention should be paid by the Medical Corporation to the quality, packing, and convenience of supply.

He also asked officials to ensure regular sanitation and fogging drives to curb the threat of water-borne diseases.

"Uttar Pradesh will be using its

experience of controlling the Japanese encephalitis. Our experience in tackling this disease will also help us in curbing the spread of the third wave of Covid-19. For this, the government has prepared an action plan to effectively check the third wave," the spokesman said.

The Japanese encephalitis death

rate has been reduced to 95 per cent and now there are hundreds of health wellness and encephalitis treatment centres, which will help control the diseases that get triggered in the rainy season.

The action plan is also being made by the Yogi Adityanath government to increase dialysis units in every district on the PPP model.

The state government is also planning to establish blood banks so that patients do not face trouble in getting blood.

It has also ramped up the health infrastructure for better treatment of children as facilities have been provided in PICU (Paediatric Intensive Care Unit) for children above one month, NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) for children below one month, and SNCU (Sick New-born care Unit) that have been established at maternity hospitals.

MONSOON MUSINGS



Sea waves crash ashore near the Gateway of India during high tide in Mumbai, Friday

PTI PHOTO

IIT-K improves ranking in world's best varsity list

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur, June 11: The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) has climbed to an astounding 73 notches over its previous year's ranking amongst the best universities in the QS World University Ranking-22.



This year, IIT-K has been ranked as the 277th position in the list of world's best university compared to the 350th position in the last edition.

"No other Indian University has been able to achieve such a significant growth in this year's rankings. Amongst the best universities in India, IIT-K has been ranked number 4, improving its performance by a rank.

According to last year's survey,

IIT was ranked number 5," according to release issued by the institute.

Further, IIT-Kanpur is among top 100 universities of the world in terms of citations per faculty, where it bagged 93rd position in QS World University Ranking-2022 and India's 4th best university in terms of the employer reputation as judged by 2021 ranking survey.

QS 'Quacquarelli Symonds' is the world's leading provider of services, analytics, and insight to the global higher education sector; whose mission is to enable motivated people anywhere in the world to fulfil their potential through educational achievement, international mobility, and career development.

The QS Intelligence Unit - QS's research and professional services division - provides universities across the world with spoke comparative performance analysis according to metrics central to each institution's mission: teaching, research impact, reputational standing, student employability and internationalisation.

Ripples in Maha as poll strategist meets Pawar



PRASHANT KISHOR



SHARAD PAWAR

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 11: Maharashtra politics saw a flutter Friday as much sought-after polls mastermind Prashant Kishor called on Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar and the duo broke bread over lunch here.

After the luncheon, both Pawar and Prashant Kishor, oft referred to as 'PK' in political circles, kept mum on their meeting, further fuelling speculation.

However, senior NCP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar brushed aside all gossip, noting that Kishor has already made it clear he will not be designing poll strategies for political parties in future.

Similarly, Shiv Sena Chief Spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut said many political leaders are in contact with Kishor while other NCP and Congress leaders feigned ignorance over the discussion menu or the outcome.

This morning, Kishor called on Pawar at the latter's Mumbai residence around 11 a.m. and the duo was closeted for nearly 3 hours before the NCP chief saw off his high-profile visitor.

The meeting triggered guesswork whether this could signal a preparation for the 2024 Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly elections amid calls for putting up a united front of all Opposition parties to tackle the Bharatiya Janata Party challenge.

This was Kishor's first meeting with a prominent Maharashtra leader after his poll strategies succeeded in handsome victories in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu for the Trinamool Congress and the DMK respectively, particularly since the NCP and Sena had thrown their weight behind Mamata Banerjee.

Kishor had met the Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray here shortly before he became the Chief Minister and enjoys close rapport with several leaders across parties in the state.

MOBILE-FOR-GIRLS REMARKS

UP women's panel chief mulls show-cause notice to member



VIMLA BATHAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 11: UP State Women's Commission chairperson Vimla Batham Friday said she is contemplating to give a show-cause notice to a panel member, who had suggested that girls should be kept off mobile phones by families who don't want them "running away" with boys.

"Girls should not be given mobile phones and if given, families should keep tabs on them. Girls talk with boys over the phone and later run away with them," commission member Meena Kumari had told reporters in Aligarh on Thursday when asked about the rise in crime against women.

"The statement was unfortunate and should not have been issued. I had asked her to apologise for it and she tendered an apology for it before the media Thursday," Vimla Batham told PTI over the phone.

Batham said Meena Kumari said her statement "was not intentional and was in the context of the cases which had come before her and were linked to mobile phones".

The commission chairperson said she is contemplating giving a show-cause notice to the member to ensure that such things are not repeated in future.

Batham said in the present times, mobile phones have become a necessity as even classes are being held online. "It was wrong to say such things," Batham added.

Apart from asking people not to give mobile phones to their daughters, Meena Kumari had asked mothers to keep tabs on them.

She had said such incidents occur due to their "negligence".

Maha to accord 50-yr-old urban trees 'heritage' tag

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 11: In a novel green initiative to conserve nature, the Maharashtra government has decided to give 'heritage' tags to all trees which are 50-years old and more in urban centres, officials said here Friday.

The state cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Thursday approved a proposal to amend the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975, and incorporate the concept of 'heritage trees'.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government has also decided to form a 'Maharashtra Tree Authority' which will be empowered to take all decisions regarding protection of trees.

"In order to maintain and foster the green cover in the state's urban



centres, we have passed the amendment that will safeguard the environment in all cities and pro-

vide a robust mechanism to protect heritage trees," said Tourism and Environment Minister Aditya

In order to maintain and foster the green cover in the state's urban centres, we have passed the amendment that will safeguard the environment in all cities and provide a robust mechanism to protect heritage trees

ADITYA THACKERAY | TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Thackeray. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat for consistently giving weightage to sustainable development by amending existing laws to address the worldwide climate emergency or global warming.

"Any tree with an estimated

age of 50 years or above, shall be classified as a heritage tree'. They may belong to specific species, which would be notified periodically," an official said.

The move comes barely 18 months after Mumbai witnessed a staggering 2,141 big and small trees being chopped off in less than 40 hours - or roughly one tree/per minute - by the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (MMRCL) inside the Aarey Colony, in October 2019.

The Thackeray father-son duo, both nature lovers, was instrumental in drafting the proposed changes in the law to ensure safety of all old trees in urban landscapes.

The Environment and Climate Change Department along with the Forest Department will shortly prepare formal guidelines to determine the age of a tree.

HC denies anticipatory bail

AGENCIES

Lucknow, June 11: The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Samajwadi Party MP Mohd Azam Khan in connection with appointment of 1,300 engineers, clerks and stenographers at Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam during the previous regime. The recruitment was carried out when Khan was the Urban

Development Minister. Khan is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Lucknow after he tested positive for coronavirus.

Passing the order, Justice Rajeev Singh said Khan is already in judicial custody in the case as he was served a warrant on November 19 last year in the Sitapur jail and as such the anticipatory bail plea was not maintainable.

national

of the day quote

Rahul Gandhi has not uttered a word over the issue so far though he is the sitting MP from here. Nobody knows whether it is yet to be brought to his notice or he has abandoned this constituency



V MURALEEDHARAN | UNION MINISTER

We are getting prepared for a possible third wave and to tackle that, if it happens, we are increasing the health infrastructure at all our facilities, as the virus mutations are taking place



PINARAYI VIJAYAN | CM, KERALA

Such bad days have come for the head of the largest state that he has to wander from door-to-door in Delhi to retain his post



AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

CBI starts probe in ₹134cr bank fraud

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Friday carried out searches at six locations in Mumbai after registering a case of bank fraud worth Rs 134 crore against Gujarat-based Associate High Pressure Technologies Pvt Ltd and its directors. A CBI spokesperson here said that the agency has booked Associate High Pressure Technologies, its directors Ramchand K Issrani, Mohammad Farouk Suleman Darvesh, Srichand Satramadas Agicha, Ebrahim Suleman Darvesh, Manoharal Satramdas Agicha, and Satish Sunderdas Agicha, and other unknown public servants and others on a complaint from Union Bank of India.

One more held in stadium brawl case

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Friday arrested another wrestler in connection with the May 4 Chhatrasal Stadium brawl that led to the death of Sagar Dhankar, an official said. The Delhi Police official said the arrested wrestler has been identified as Anirudh. This is the 10th arrest in connection with the case, including that of two-time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar who was arrested May 24 by the Special Cell sleuths after being on the run for over 18 days.

Goa to launch Tika Utsav 3.0

Panaji: The Goa government will launch 'Tika Utsav 3.0' from June 13 with the objective of ensuring 100 per cent coverage of the first vaccine dose for those above 18 years of age, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said Friday. Sawant said vaccination centres will be set up in every panchayat and municipal area to ensure that nearly 250 persons are vaccinated every day at each centre during the utsav. "Seventy five per cent people above 45 years have been vaccinated. As many as 30 per cent people have not taken their first dose yet," the Goa Chief Minister added.

Pb police seizes 48 foreign-made pistols

Chandigarh: Punjab Police Friday said it seized a cache of 48 foreign-made pistols and arrested an arms smuggler allegedly having links with Pakistan-based terrorist outfits and pro-Khalistani elements based in the US, the UK and Canada. The alleged smuggler was operating on the directions of a US-based handler, Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta said. He said the weapons were meant for carrying out terrorist activities in various parts of the country.



In order to make the state systemically stronger and "Atmanirbhar" (self-reliant), it is imperative that Andhra Pradesh is accorded Special Category Status

Y S JAGANN MOHAN REDDY | CM, ANDHRA PRADESH

SC POSTPONES AIIMS INI CET EXAMINATION

The Supreme Court Friday ordered postponement of AIIMS INI CET Examination, 2021, scheduled June 16, by one month. The court said: "We direct the exam to be postponed by one month. Needless to say, exam can be held any time after the expiry of one month"



PM Modi meets Shah, Nadda amid Cabinet reshuffle speculations



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday held deliberations with Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda amid speculation about a reshuffle in the Union cabinet, an exercise Modi has not undertaken since forming the government for a second time in May 2019.

There is also a growing buzz about the Cabinet expansion in Uttar Pradesh after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met the BJP top brass during his two-day visit to the national capital.

Sources, however, added that Modi has been meeting Union ministers in different batches of late, and Nadda has also been present there. The deliberations among the top BJP leaders at the Prime Minister's residence came a day after Shah also met party allies from Uttar Pradesh, including Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel who was a minister in the first Modi government but was not inducted in the next.

There has been no official word from the party on these deliberations. The BJP has of late engaged in the review of its organisation and government works in different states.

Nadda had also held a meeting

with the party general secretaries where, besides the relief work carried out by the saffron organisation during the Covid-19 pandemic, its performance in the recent assembly polls were reviewed.

With the party now gearing up for the next round of assembly polls in five states early next year, including in all important Uttar Pradesh, it is expected to take various measures to bolster its social equation.

Of these five states, the BJP is in power in Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur besides Uttar Pradesh, while the Congress is at the helm in Punjab. BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh, who has often been part of the conflagration among the BJP top brass, had recently visited Uttarakhand and Goa besides Uttar Pradesh.

Besides Adityanath, another state leader who had recently met Modi, Shah and Nadda is Suwendu Adhikari, the leader of opposition in West Bengal, a key state in the BJP's political schemes where it suffered a setback Friday as its national vice president Mukul Roy joined the Trinamool Congress.

Sources said the party leadership may move to take a series of measures to reinvigorate its state organisations and governments, and a reshuffle of the Union cabinet can be a part of the larger exercise.

FUEL PRICE HIKE

Cong protests all over India, 150 party workers detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: The Congress Friday demonstrated in several parts of the country against the rising fuel prices, during which over 150 members were detained in Gujarat, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh for allegedly violating Covid protocol and protesting without permission.

The protests, in response to a call given by the Congress leadership, came on a day when another hike - the 22nd since May 4 - pushed the fuel prices across the country to historic heights.

The protesters pulled bullock carts, rode horse carts, staged a street play, pulled a car using a rope and set another on fire to highlight their concerns.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked as to how much will the BJP



"loot". "GDP crashing, Unemployment soaring, Fuel prices skyrocketing. In how many more ways is #BJPLootingIndia," he asked on Twitter.

The protesting leaders said the rising fuel prices and inflation have compounded the problem people were already facing due to the pandemic. An official party statement later claimed the protests were held across the country. It said that barring a few incidents of "police highhandedness" in UP

and Gujarat where Congress workers were stopped and detained these protests were peaceful.

The party said 140 crore people of India are suffering the "Modi-made disaster" of inflation, unemployment, economic recession and the coronavirus pandemic.

In the last 13 months, the BJP government raised petrol and diesel rates by Rs 26.25 and Rs 24.46 respectively, the Congress alleged.

More than 100 Congress workers, MLAs and leaders were detained in different parts of the BJP-ruled Gujarat too for staging the protest without a police permission, an official said. Responding to the protests, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "International crude price is at its place. People asking us questions should get VAT reduced in the states ruled by them. This will provide relief."

MAN-MADE DISASTER

HC orders probe into house crash

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 11: Terming the house-crash in Mumbai's Malad late Wednesday - which claimed 12 lives - a "man-made disaster" and that "citizens lives are not cheap", the Bombay High Court Friday ordered a judicial probe into the tragedy to be completed within a fortnight.

Taking suo moto cognizance of the incident, a division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Girish Kulkarni admonished the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), observing that lives of citizens are not "so cheap that they can be left to die in such incidents".

Soon after the house crashed around 11.30 pm Wednesday, the Mumbai Police booked the tenement owner Rafique Siddiqui on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, while building contractor Ramzan Shaikh has been nabbed in connection with the incident that claimed 12 persons, comprising 9 members of a single family, and including eight minors, including a toddler.

When BMC counsel Anil Sakhare argued that the land in Malvani, Malad west where the tragedy occurred, belongs to the Collector, the Chief Justice asked if a government directive can over-ride a constitutional mandate since it obliges the BMC to work against illegal constructions.

Noting that in the past 25 days alone, there have been four building crashes - two each in Mumbai and Thane, killing a total of 24 and injuring 23 more, the bench asked: "How many more lives will be lost?"

Ordering the Commission of Enquiry to probe the tragedy and submit its report by June 23, the court warned all corporations that it would come down heavily on them if any more lives are lost in future.

RAIN SPLASH



People carry umbrellas as the monsoon season begins, at a market at Station Road in Thane, Friday

PTI PHOTO

ED slaps FEMA breach notice against largest crypto exchange

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday said it has issued a show cause notice to the country's largest cryptocurrency exchange for undertaking transactions worth over Rs 2,790 crore in alleged violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Mumbai headquartered WazirX is as a domestic crypto currency and bitcoin exchange start-up registered under the company name Zanmai Labs Pvt Ltd that was incorporated in December, 2017.

The notice issued by the central probe agency under various sections of the FEMA names the exchange (WazirX), the company and directors Nischal Shetty and Sameer Hanuman Mhatre.

The exchange and its promoters denied any wrongdoing and said they are "in compliance with all applicable laws".



The show cause notice is for transactions worth Rs 2,790.74 crore, the ED said.

"It was seen that the accused Chinese nationals had laundered proceeds of crime worth about Rs 57 crore by converting Indian Rupee (INR) deposits into cryptocurrency (USDT) and then transferred it to Binance (exchange registered in Cayman Islands) Wallets based on instructions received from abroad," it said.

The ED issued a statement saying that it stumbled upon the transactions of the exchange during an ongoing money laundering probe into "Chinese-owned" illegal online betting applications

"WazirX allows a wide range of transactions with crypto currencies (CC), including their exchange with INR and vice-versa, exchange of CCs, person to person (P2P) transactions and even transfer/retether of crypto currency held in its pool accounts to wallets of other exchanges, which could be held by foreigners in foreign locations," the ED alleged.

7 MONTHS OF PROTEST

Farmers announce dharnas at Governor houses June 26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: Protesting farmer unions Friday announced they will organise dharnas at governor houses across the country June 26 to mark the completion of seven months of their agitation against the three new Central agri-marketing laws.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of over 40 farmer unions, said they will show black flags during their June 26 protest and send memorandums to President Ram Nath Kovind.

Farmer leader Inderjit Singh of SKM told a press conference that the day will be observed as "Kheti Bachao, Loktantra Bachao Diwas (save farming, save democracy day)".

"We will protest by showing black flags at Raj Bhavans and



giving memorandum to the President through the governor of each state, who is the President's representative.

"It (June 26) is also the day when Emergency was declared in 1975 and we will complete seven months of our protest. Along with farming, democratic rights of the people have also been attacked in this environment of

dictatorship. This is an undeclared emergency," Singh said.

Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, have been camping at Delhi's borders for more than six months now in protest against the three laws that they say will leave them at the mercy of big corporates and end the MSP regime.

India's best mythological theme park near Vaishno Devi soon

THE PROJECT WILL ALSO ALLOW OTHER PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING HOTELS AND STAYS, F&B, SHOPS, RIDES AND GAMING, ADVENTURE, ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: The Jammu and Kashmir government is seeking a partner for a public-private partnership (PPP) to set up India's best mythological theme park in Katra.

The project vision entails that J&K government will provide all the support to help build a state-of-the-art theme park that helps increase economic activity, generates direct and indirect local employment as well as increases the overall experience of the tourists and citizens of the Union Territory.

The theme park will include adventure, mythology, education and

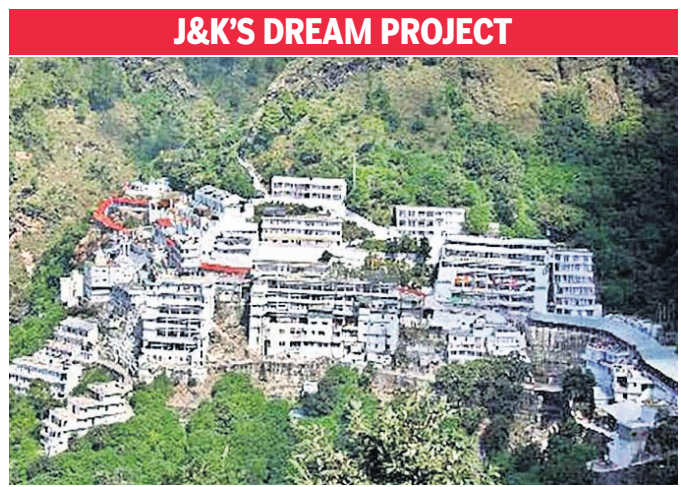
entertainment.

The project location is prime, on the way to and from Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan with full connectivity. There is guaranteed footfall with 8.5 million footfalls in Katra in 2018, spread across all months of the year.

It caters to the existing gap as white space for recreational activities to be done post 'darshan'. It also provides conduciveness for economic activities in J&K.

The J&K government and the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board have handpicked three prime locations for the project.

The J&K government will also provide other benefits including



all UT level clearances to be provided within 30 days of filing the application.

It will also provide support on other clearances and approvals, such as water at Rs 0.50 per cubic metre, power starting at Rs 3.85 per unit, additional incentives on stamp duty green industrialisation etc. with the robust Infrastructure of Katra, which is well connected through air, rail and road.

The project will also allow other permissible activities, including hotels and stays, F&B, shops, rides and gaming, adventure, art and entertainment.

The J&K government is look-

ing for a PPP partner who can join in this dream project.

The requirement for a PPP partner includes engagement with an international partner with the experience of running a theme/amusement park with annual footfall of 5 lakh. International safety standards must be adhered to throughout the project.

In addition, the business operations should commence with specified minimum requirements within three years of signing the MoU. The final theme must be passed through the DIC, J&K, and the project should generate direct and indirect employment opportunities.



BJP is a sinking boat, whoever wants to ride on it is welcome to do so, but I will not ride on it. Whenever elections are near, the BJP remembers the deprived and the backward sections of society
OM PRAKASH RAJBHAR | PRESIDENT, SBSIP

BIOPHORE SEEKS DCGI NOD TO AVIPTADIL FOR COVID TREATMENT

Hyderabad-based Biophore India Pharmaceuticals announced Friday that it has applied for DCGI emergency use approval of Aviptadil Inhalation for marketing in India for the treatment of moderate to severe cases of Covid-19



of the day quote

It's with absolute surprise that such a request has come from a responsible group, which is headed by the Chief Secretary of the state, who have to implement steps against the menace of liquor and drug abuse

VM SUDHEERAN | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

Political parties in J&K can individually decide on their participation in the ongoing delimitation process. As far as the PDP is concerned, we have no MP or MLA at present so we cannot participate in the delimitation process

SUHAIL BUKHARI | SPOKESMAN, PDP

It is unfortunate that senior officers of the Punjab government are ignoring the notices issued by the NCSC, a constitutional body set up under Article 338 of the Constitution of India

VIJAY SAMPLA | CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

'ICMR to start nat'l sero surveys'

ACCORDING TO THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, THE SERO SURVEY WILL BE HELD ACROSS 70 DISTRICTS IN 21 STATES AND WILL INCLUDE CHILDREN AGED 6 YEARS AND ABOVE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: The ICMR's fourth round of national-level sero survey to assess the intensity of the spread of Covid-19 in India will begin this month, but all states/UTs should also be encouraged to conduct them so that information from all geographies can be collected, the Centre said Friday.

At a press conference, NITI Aayog member (Health) V K Paul said the Covid situation in the country appears to be stabilising with decline in daily and active cases and the positivity rate coming down to almost 5 per cent.

He, however, urged people to continue following the Covid appropriate behaviour and social distancing norms.

"The ICMR will begin work for the next sero survey this month which will help assess the intensity of spread of Covid-19. But if we want to protect our geographies, we cannot depend on one national sero survey alone and will have to encourage states/UTs to do sero surveys at their levels also," Paul said.

Speaking about the improving Covid scenario in the country, Lav



Agarwal, Joint Secretary, health ministry said almost 78 per cent decline in daily new Covid-19 cases has been noted in India since the highest reported peak in daily cases May 7.

He also said that there has been a 74 per cent decrease in weekly Covid-19 positivity rate since the highest such rate was reported between April 30-May 6 at 21.6 per cent.

The official noted that there has been 70 per cent decrease

in active cases, by more than 26.2 lakh, since the peak was reported May 10.

The Centre underlined that breaking the chain of transmission ensures lesser strain on the health infrastructure and better quality of care.

"There should be no laxity. Gatherings have to be avoided and partying time has not yet come," Paul said.

Commenting on the development, Paul said each country has

its own regulatory system which India respects and hoped that the manufacturer will be able to comply with it by doing whatever requires to be done.

Paul said in the next six months, Biological E's vaccine can come and Zydus Cadilla's DNA vaccine is likely to come too, and Genova RNA vaccine and J&J production can take place here.

"The vaccine development uses cutting edge technology which has helped in increasing Indian scientific community's grasp over the subject and two specific examples are mRNA technology and this is a very significant development and BioE has adapted technology with a Canadian firm, and these mRNA vaccines will be made and they can also tackle the variants. This technology is not of a company, but of the country, and as and when need arises it will be cloned," he said.

"Then there is DNA technology which is being brought forward by Zydus. The whole trial has been done and it is path breaking and if it succeeds then a new platform will emerge. So this effort made in the country is extraordinary, exceptional and unprecedented," he added.

'Working for full FDA approval of Covaxin'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 11: A day after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) denied approval for emergency use of Covaxin, the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech Friday said that it is following the recommendation for additional data and will work for full approval.

The process will extend Covaxin timelines for seeking US approvals, the company said in a statement. The FDA had Thursday recommended Ocugen, the US partner of the Indian vaccine maker, to "pursue a Biologics Licence Application (BLA) submission instead of an EUA application" and "requested additional information and data".

"Our US partner, Ocugen, has received a recommendation from the FDA to pursue Biologics License Applications (BLA) path for COVAXIN which is full approval instead of EUA. All applications have to follow the BLA process, which is the standard process for vaccines," Bharat Biotech said in a statement.

"Therefore, for BLA, data from an additional clinical trial will be required to support the marketing application submission for COVAXIN. This process will extend our timelines," it added.

"Thus, it will be a Great Leap



Covaxin studies show that it effectively neutralised the Brazil variant of SARS-CoV-2, the alpha variant first identified in the UK, as well as the delta variant, B1617 first identified in India

Forward for vaccine innovation and manufacturing from India when approved."

"With good herd immunity and a significant percentage of the population vaccinated, the pandemic is reducing in the United States (US). On the sidelines of this, the USFDA had earlier communicated that no new emergency use authorization (EUA) would be approved for new Covid-19 vaccines," the statement noted.

SHORT TAKES

Delhi nod to home delivery of liquor

New Delhi: The Delhi government has allowed home delivery of liquor through mobile apps and websites under the amended excise rules, which will come into force from Friday. According to a notification issued by the Finance department of the Delhi government late Thursday, "18 of 21 amendments to the rules will come into effect from June 11, Friday." Home delivery of liquor through mobile apps and websites has now been formally allowed from Friday, however, the excise department is yet to issue L-13 licence.

HC brushes plea to end CCI probe

New Delhi: In a major blow to e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart, the Karnataka High Court has dismissed their plea to quash an anti-trust investigation by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Consequently, both the companies will face investigation under Section 3 of Competition Act. In January last year, the fair market watchdog had ordered an enquiry into the operations of both Amazon and Flipkart on multiple counts, including deep discounts and exclusive tie-up with preferred sellers.

Drowning listed as disaster in UP

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has listed 'death by drowning' as a disaster, making the victim's family eligible for a compensation of Rs 4 lakh under the state disaster relief fund (SDRF). Death by suicide, however, will not be considered for compensation. According to an order issued by additional chief secretary (revenue) Renuka Kumar, this is in addition to nine situations considered disasters under the SDRF.

Manipur girl killed grappling thieves

Thane: A 27-year-old Manipur resident was killed when she fell out of an autorickshaw while fighting off mobile thieves. Police said Friday that they have nabbed the two culprits from their hideout in Bhiwandi town. The victim, Kanmila Arangsew Raising and her friend Lalngursangi Cheuchema Famchun, were working with a spa salon in the Viviana Mall here. Planning to returning home after work around 8 pm Thursday, the duo caught an autorickshaw.

BJP, AAP continue sparring over doorstep ration scheme



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 11: The issue of delivery of subsidised food grains at the doorstep, which has sparked a political war between Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led Central government, again brought both the parties to

a confrontation Friday.

The fresh standoff between the AAP and the BJP began after Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad Friday attacked Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, calling his doorstep delivery of food grains scheme a 'jumla' and accused the AAP of links to the 'ration mafia.'

Addressing a press conference, the Union Minister also accused the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government of not implementing the Centre's 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme under which economically weaker sections get subsidised food grains.

"This ration delivery to homes sounds like a novel idea. But, if you check the details you will find loopholes and possibilities for corruption. Is this what Arvind Kejriwal wants? Do you (Kejriwal) want to break the law and fool the people?" Prasad said. He also accused the Kejriwal government of failing to provide oxygen to the people of Delhi during the peak of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We introduced 'One Nation, One Ration Card' based on Aadhaar. People can get their ration at fair price shops anywhere in the country, and can even divide portions with the family back home.

MP CONTROVERSY SNOWBALLS INTO POLITICAL POTBOILER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 11: The now controversial marriage of Trinamool Congress MP and city-based businessman Nikhil Jain has taken a political hue as the BJP has jumped into the squabble alleging that the film actress has cheated people by showing off her wedding as a happy inter-religious marriage.

The issue sparked debate after BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya posted a video on Twitter showing the oath taking ceremony of Jahan where is seen married with a dollop of sindoor on her forehead and wrote: "TMC MP Nusrat Jahan Ruhi Jain's personal life, who she is married to or who she

is living in with, should not be anyone's concern. But she is an elected representative and is on record in the Parliament that she is married to Nikhil Jain. Did she lie on the floor of the House?"

State BJP President Dilip Ghosh was quick to respond. "She has asked for a vote showing that she was married. She had created the impression of a married Bengali woman and won the election. She has cheated the people," Ghosh said.

Jahan had won the election from Barasat assembly constituency on a Trinamool Congress ticket. She defeated BJP's Sayantan Basu by a margin of more than 3.5 lakh votes.

INDIA-KUWAIT BILATERAL TIES

Pact signed to recruit Indian workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuwait City, June 11: India and Kuwait have signed an MoU that brings Indian domestic workers in the Gulf nation within the ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them with the protection of the law.

The MoU was signed Thursday by Indian Ambassador Sibi George and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait Majdi Ahmad Al-Dhafiri in the presence of visiting External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-



Mohammad Al-Sabah. Mr Jaishankar arrived in Kuwait on his first bilateral visit to the Gulf nation early Thursday, according to a press release issued by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait City. Both ministers welcomed the

The MoU will introduce an employment contract ensuring the rights and obligations of both the employer and the domestic workers

signing of the MoU which will introduce an employment contract ensuring the rights and obligations of both the employer and the domestic workers.

The MoU brings the Indian domestic workers in Kuwait within

the ambit of a legal framework that streamlines their recruitment and provides them with the protection of the law.

The MoU seeks to establish a mechanism for 24-hour assistance to domestic workers. It provides for the establishment of a joint committee for periodic review and assessment and to follow up the implementation of the MoU which will conduct annual meetings. Around one million (ten lakh) Indians reside in Kuwait.

India is amongst the largest trading partners of Kuwait and the Gulf nation is a major supplier of oil to India.

Dalai Lama, other faith leaders call on G7 for vax equity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dharamsala, June 11: Faith leaders from around the world, including Tibetan spiritual head the Dalai Lama, have written an open letter to Boris Johnson and G7 leaders ahead of their summit Friday, calling for vaccine patents to be waived and an increase in funding to ensure vaccines reach the poorest countries and prevent the spread of further Covid variants.

The letter was also signed by former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, who now chairs Christian Aid; Emmanuel, the Elder Metropolitan of Chalcedon who represents the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate; Martin

Junge, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation; and Thabo Makgoba, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town.

In the letter they praised the work of the World Health Organisation's Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) which has delivered vaccines to more than 100 countries. But they point out that there remains a huge lack of vaccine equity between rich and poor.

The letter called for additional funding and for bold steps to increase production.

They wrote: "Low-income countries account for less than one per cent of the 900 million doses administered to date. More affluent



countries account for more than 83 per cent. The vaccine gap between

the richer and poorer parts of the world is growing by the day."

They also gave their backing to the calls for vaccine patents to be waived to make it quicker and easier to distribute in countries with low vaccine coverage.

"Waiving intellectual property rules - a proposal which is gaining the support of a growing number of G7 countries - gives us the opportunity not only to boost production but also to diversify the sites of production. This will reduce the period of time before herd immunity is achieved, a period during which potentially dangerous variants can

emerge."

The G7 summit, which begins Friday in Cornwall in England, will be a crucial moment to accelerate the global vaccination effort and is being seen as a key test for the UK government, and G7 as a whole. The faith leaders conclude their letter: "We believe that more equitable approaches to vaccination in the world's poorest countries is both an ethical obligation, and an epidemiological imperative if we are to protect vulnerable people wherever they live, including the citizens of the G7."

"The old axiom that 'our life and our death are with our neighbour' has never been more apt, and we urge you to respond speedily and effectively to this challenge."

Despite the successes of the ACT-A scheme, they warn that without an injection of funding from G7 leaders progress will stall

international

of the day quote

More than 108,000 people have fled their homes in eastern Kayah state in the last three weeks

MICHELLE BACHELET | FORMER PRESIDENT OF CHILE

The polio outbreak in the Philippines has ended. This is a major win for public health and is an excellent example of what collective efforts can attain, even in the midst of the pandemic

DR RABINDRA ABEYASINGHE | WHO REPRESENTATIVE IN PHILIPPINES

India appreciates the copious amounts of aid it has received from Kuwait to help cushion the blow from the coronavirus pandemic

S JAISHANKAR | MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA

SHORT TAKES

18 killed in Pak bus crash

Karachi: An over-speeding passenger bus overturned in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province Friday, killing at least 18 people and injuring 30 others, according to media reports. The bus was travelling from Wadh to Dadu when it met with an accident at Khori in Khuzdar district of the province, report said. Fifteen people were killed on the spot, rescuers said.

638 held for terror acts

Nay Pyi Taw: Myanmar authorities have recently arrested a total of 638 suspects for committing terror acts and illegally possessing firearms, state-run media reported Friday. The report said that the arrested suspects include 49 people for setting fire, 61 people for murder, 256 for illegally holding arms and ammunition and 272 people for terror and destructive acts, reports Xinhua news agency. A total of 50 small arms, 2,502 rounds of assorted ammunition, 914 homemade guns, 5,947 homemade mines, homemade bombs and related equipment were confiscated along with the arrest of the suspects.

Finland polls test for young PM

Helsinki: Finland holds local elections Sunday in a first litmus test for the popular young Social Democratic prime minister, Sanna Marin, who took office a mere 18 months ago shortly before the outbreak of Covid-19 and whose party is behind in polls across the Nordic country. The 35-year-old Marin, who became Europe's youngest government leader in December 2019, enjoys high personal popularity and has won international praise for her handling of the coronavirus crisis in the nation of 5.5 million.

India's noble gesture

Kathmandu: India Friday handed over medical equipment, including ventilators and ambulances, worth over Rs 18 crore to the Nepali Army as a gesture of solidarity and close cooperation with the Himalayan nation in its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Ambassador of India to Nepal, handed over medical supplies from the Indian Army to Nepali Army chief Gen Purna Chandra Thapa during a ceremony at the Nepali Army Headquarters in Tundikhel.



As we look at some of the aggressive behaviour that we have witnessed from China in the Indo-Pacific, I'm concerned about something that could happen that could spark a crisis

LYLLOD AUSTIN | US DEFENCE SECRETARY

MULTIPLE WILDFIRES IN UTAH

Multiple wildfires are currently raging in the US state of Utah, with authorities warning of escalating danger due to extreme drought



G-7 GATHERS TO PLEDGE VACCINE SHOTS FOR WORLD

Leaders of the wealthy democracies club expected to commit to sharing at least 1 billion vaccine shots with struggling countries

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carbis Bay, June 11: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson greeted world leaders on a wooden boardwalk on the freshly raked sand of Carbis Bay to open the Group of Seven summit Friday, offering elbow bumps to dignitaries gathering for the first time since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The virus was set to dominate their discussions, with leaders of the wealthy democracies club expected to commit to sharing at least 1 billion vaccine shots with struggling countries. A commitment from US President Joe Biden to share 500 million doses and one from Johnson for another 100 million shots set the stage for the G-7 meeting in southwest England, where the focus is "Building Back Better From Covid-19."

"We're going to help lead the world out of this pandemic working alongside our global partners," Biden said. The G-7 also includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. The leaders hope the meeting in the resort of Carbis Bay will also energise the global economy. On Friday, they are set to formally embrace a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent on corporations, following an agreement reached a week ago by their finance ministers. The minimum is meant to stop companies from using tax havens and other tools to avoid taxes. It represents a potential win for the Biden administration, which has proposed a global minimum tax as a way to pay for infrastructure projects, in addi-

tion to creating an alternative that could remove some European countries' digital services taxes that largely hit U.S. Tech firms. But the endorsement from the G-7 is just one step in the process; the hope is to get many more countries to sign on, and that could be particularly difficult in nations that depend on a low corporate tax base to survive.

For Johnson, the first G-7 summit in two years — last year's was scuttled by the pandemic — is a chance to set out his vision of a post-Brexit "Global Britain" as a mid-sized country with an outsized role in international problem-solving. It's also an opportunity to underscore the UK-US bond, an alliance often called the "special relationship" — but that Johnson said he prefers to call the "indestructible relationship."

Climate change is also a top issue on the agenda, and hundreds of protesters gathered in Cornwall to urge the leaders to take action. Some activists sent a barge floating off the coast that was carrying large inflatable figures depicting Biden and Johnson. At one protest, demonstrators carried flags that read "G7 drowning in promises" and "Action not words."

The official summit business kicked off Friday, with the customary formal greeting and a socially distanced group photo. Later the leaders will meet Queen Elizabeth II and other senior royals at the Eden Project, a lush, domed eco-tourism site built in a former quarry. The G-7 leaders have faced mounting pressure to outline their global vaccine-sharing plans, es-



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, left, greets European Council President Charles Michel with a fist bump during an EU coordination meeting

pecially as inequities in supply around the world have become more pronounced. In the US, there is a large vaccine stockpile and the demand for shots has dropped precipitously in recent weeks.

Biden said the US will donate 500 million Covid-19 vaccine doses and previewed a coordinated effort for the advanced economies to make vaccination widely and speedily available everywhere. The commitment was on top of 80 million doses Biden has already pledged to donate by the end of June. Johnson, for his part, said the first 5 million U.K. Doses would be shared in the coming weeks, with the remainder coming over the next year. He said he expected the G-7 to commit to 1 billion doses in all. "At the G-7 Summit I hope my fellow leaders will make sim-

ilar pledges so that, together, we can vaccinate the world by the end of next year and build back better from coronavirus," Johnson said in a statement, referencing a slogan that he and Biden have both used. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she hoped the summit would show the world "we're not just thinking of ourselves," while French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed the U.S. Commitment and said Europe should do the same. He said France would share at least 30 million doses globally by year's end; Germany is also planning on donating that amount. The US Commitment is to buy and donate 500 million Pfizer doses for distribution through the global COVAX alliance to 92 lower-income countries and the African

Union, bringing the first steady supply of mRNA vaccine to the countries that need it most.

Biden said the US-manufactured doses will be shipped starting in August, with the goal of distributing 200 million by the end of the year. The remaining 300 million doses would be shipped in the first half of 2022. A price tag for the doses was not released, but the US. Is now set to be COVAX's largest vaccine donor in addition to its single largest funder with a \$4 billion commitment. Humanitarian workers welcomed the donation — but said the world needs more doses and they were hoping they would arrive sooner. Grand statements and promises need to be met with detailed plans backed by timelines for delivery, starting immediately.

Kulbhushan Jadhav can now appeal against conviction



AGENCIES

Islamabad, June 11: The Pakistan government has rushed through the National Assembly a bill to provide the right of appeal to Indian death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav amidst ruckus and boycott by the Opposition.

The lower house of Parliament passed the ICJ (Review and Reconsideration) Bill, 2020 Thursday. The bill is aimed at allowing Jadhav to have consular access in line with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) verdict. Jadhav, the 51-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the ICJ against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence. The Hague-based ICJ ruled in July 2019 that Pakistan must undertake an "effective review and reconsideration" of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav and also to grant

India welcomes move

Indian government welcomed Pakistan's decision to allow Kulbhushan Jadhav to appeal in any High Court of the country on Friday. "But this law will be meaningless if he is not given an Indian lawyer or some neutral legal assistance," the Indian government said. This is a welcome move by Pakistan in the spirit of true justice, the government added. Asking for neutral legal assistance for Jadhav, the government said, "In case Pakistan doesn't want Indian lawyer they should go for the help from some third country lawyer."

consular access to India without further delay.

The ICJ, in its 2019 verdict, had asked Pakistan to provide a proper forum for appeal against the sentence given to Jadhav. The bill was among 21 laws passed by the National Assembly on Thursday evening, ignoring protests by the Opposition lawmakers who wanted the proper reading of bills. But the government suspended rules of business regarding legislation to bulldoze 21 laws in a single sitting. Speaking after the passage of the bill, Law Minister Farogh Nasim said had they not passed the bill, India would have gone to the UN Security Council and could have moved contempt proceedings against Pakistan in the ICJ.

FOR A REASON



Members of Extinction Rebellion are dressed as birds as they sound the alarm while marching through the town of St. Ives, Cornwall, England

ALZHEIMER'S DRUG APPROVAL FDA faces mounting criticism

AGENCIES

New York, June 11: In approving the first new Alzheimer's drug in nearly 20 years, the US Food and Drug Administration is taking its biggest risk yet with a strategy that allows new therapies onto the market without strong evidence that they work, regulatory and scientific experts say.

The Biogen Inc (BIIB.O) drug, Aduhelm, was authorised based on evidence that it can reduce brain plaques, a likely contributor to Alzheimer's, rather than proof that

it slows progression of the lethal mind-wasting disease.

The FDA has granted so-called "accelerated approval" in more than 250 instances since 1992, mainly for rare diseases or small patient populations that have had no effective treatments available to them. In these cases, the agency requires that drugmakers conduct additional clinical trials to prove their therapy works, or face withdrawal from the market.

Aduhelm, however, is in a different league in terms of the number of potential patients and cost



to the healthcare system.

In addition, the FDA approval ignored the recommendation of its outside advisors, who said Biogen did not provide enough evidence of clinical benefit. Three of the advisory panel's members have re-

signed in protest since the FDA decision was announced on Monday.

"This decision has shaken the foundations of the scientific process and methods," said Dr. Jason Karlawish, co-director of the Penn Memory Center in Philadelphia. Karlawish ran one of the trial sites for the Biogen drug.

He said the FDA made its decision "by fiat," and had not asked its advisors to consider whether the drug's ability to remove a type of brain plaques known as beta amyloid would improve outcomes for patients.

Rover 'Zhurong' leaves 'China's imprint' on Mars

China's Mars rover Zhurong, which touched down in May, has since been studying the topography of a vast Martian lava plain known as the Utopia Planitia

AGENCIES

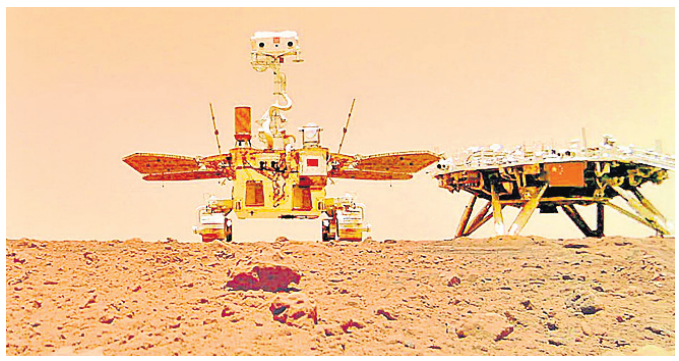
Beijing, June 11: The dusty, rocky Martian surface and a Chinese rover and lander bearing small national flags were seen in photos released Friday that the rover took on the red planet.

The four pictures released by the China National Space Administration also show the upper stage of the Zhurong rover and the view from the rover before it rolled off its platform.

Zhurong placed a remote camera about 10 meters (33 feet) from the landing platform, then withdrew to take a group portrait, the

CNSA said. China landed the Tianwen-1 spacecraft carrying the rover on Mars last month after it spent about three months orbiting the red planet. China is the second country to land and operate a spacecraft on Mars, after the United States. The orbiter and lander both display small Chinese flags and the lander has outlines of the mascots for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

The six-wheeled rover is surveying an area known as Utopia Planitia, especially searching for signs of water or ice that could lend clues as to whether Mars ever sustained life. At 1.85 meters (6



feet) in height, Zhurong is significantly smaller than the U.S.'s Perseverance rover which is exploring the planet with a tiny heli-

copter. NASA expects its rover to collect its first sample in July for return to Earth as early as 2031. In addition to the Mars mission,

4 satellites launched

China Friday successfully sent four satellites into planned orbits that will be used for ecological environment monitoring, asteroid resource exploration, disaster prevention and mitigation among others. The satellites were launched by a Long March-2D rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in northern Shanxi Province at 11:03 am local time, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

China's ambitious space program plans to send the first crew to its

new space station next week. The three crew members plan to stay for three months on the Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, station, far exceeding the length of any previous Chinese mission.

They will perform spacewalks, construction and maintenance work and carry out science experiments.

Subsequent launches are planned to expand the station, send up supplies and exchange crews.

China has also brought back lunar samples, the first by any country's space program since the 1970s, landed a probe and rover on the moon's less explored far side.

business

of the day quote

We wanted to know why you would leave the safety and comfort of your current position, essentially kiss your family good-bye, and get in there to build something from the ground up

RYAN COHEN | CHAIRMAN, GAMESTOP CORP

about ₹32 crore of the IPO proceeds coming into the company will be used for retiring debt and the balance for incremental capex. We will improve milk procurement, invest in chilling plans. We are also looking at inorganic growth

SUNIL REDDY | MANAGING DIRECTOR, DODLA DAIRY

The pandemic has taken a significant toll on our physical and mental wellbeing. For a business like ours, it is extremely important to have a Team, which is not only healthy, happy and safe, but also caring to go, and therefore it is our duty to safeguard their mental and physical health

ARUN BHATTIA | CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER, INOX LEISURE

SHORT TAKES

'Rating outlook remains stable'

New Delhi: Moody's Investors Service Friday said the rating outlook of Tata Chemicals remains stable with a likely recovery in the company's revenue. The rating agency affirmed the Ba1 corporate family rating (CFR) of Tata Chemicals Ltd (TCL). The rating outlook remains stable, it said in a statement. "The rating affirmation reflects the likely recovery in TCL's consolidated revenue and profitability from the trough during the pandemic fallout in the fiscal year ending March 2021," Moody's said.

Forex reserves rise by over \$6bn

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$6.842 billion during the week ended June 4. According to RBI's weekly statistical supplement, the reserves increased to \$605.008 billion from \$598.165 billion reported for the week ended May 28. India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs), and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund. On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by \$7.362 billion to \$560.890 billion.

MaxVIL's Q4 net profit surges

New Delhi: Max Ventures & Industries Ltd (MaxVIL) has reported a multi-fold rise in its consolidated net profit for the January-March quarter at ₹33.6 crore. A company statement said that its consolidated revenue rose 30 per cent to ₹328.6 crore. In FY21, its revenue in FY21 grew 14 per cent to ₹1,172.3 crore, while its PAT rose over 6 times to ₹57.1 crore on adjusted basis.

BEML posts highest ever turnover

Bangalore: Defence Public Sector Undertaking BEML Limited recorded its highest ever turnover of ₹3,557 crore for 2020-21 against the previous financial year's figure of ₹3,029, a 17 per cent growth. In spite of major disruption and slowdown of economic activities caused by the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the Bangalore-headquartered company said it has been able to perform creditably. The company's Profit Before Tax stood at ₹93 crore, it said in a statement.

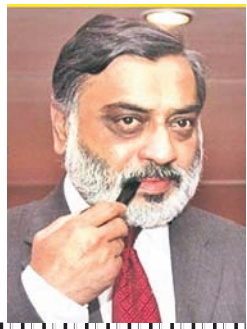


Business owners ... are struggling not because of COVID-19 but because of labor shortages resulting from these excessive federal unemployment programs

MIKE PARSON | MISSOURI GOVERNOR

CHENNAI EOW ARRESTS RAVI PARTHASARATHY

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Chennai Police said Friday that it has arrested Ravi Parthasarathy, the former Chairman of IL&FS Group, in the ₹1 lakh crore scam, which triggered a liquidity crisis in the financial services market in 2018



O₂ CONCENTRATORS

Capping trade margin resulted in consumer savings, says govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: Capping the trade margin on oxygen concentrators by the government has resulted in ensuring consumer savings as the price of the critical device has come down, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers said Friday.

On June 3, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) capped the trade margin on oxygen concentrators at 70 per cent on the price to distributor (PTD) level.

In accordance with it, "a total of 104 manufacturers / importers of oxygen concentrators have submitted revised MRP for 252 products/brands," it said. Downward revision in price by up to 54 per cent has been reported in 70 brands, showing reduction in maximum retail price by up to ₹54,337 per unit. Further, 58 brands have reported price reduction of up to 25 per cent and 11 brands reported price reduction of 26-50 per cent, the statement said.

"Out of 252 products/brands reported, 18 products/brands reported by the domestic manufacturers did not show any decline in prices," it added. The trade margin rationalisa-

tion for oxygen concentrators has resulted in ensuring consumer savings by eliminating unreasonable profit margins in imported products, the Ministry said. The revised MRP effective from June 9, 2021 on all the brands and specifications has been shared with the State Drug Controllers for strict monitoring and enforcement, it added.

"In order to monitor availability, the manufacturers / importers of oxygen concentrators have been directed to submit monthly stock details," the statement said. Oxygen concentrator is a non-scheduled drug and presently under the voluntary licensing framework of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

In February 2019, NPPA had successfully capped the trade margin on anti-cancer drugs.

Steel Authority of India Ltd.	Q4 2020-21		
	MARCH 31 2020	MARCH 31 2021	YoY Growth %
Op Revenue	16171.83	23284.89	43.98
Income	16574.71	23533.19	41.98
Expenditure	11682.12	18829.26	61.18
PBT	4102.95	4660.97	13.60
Net Profit	2647.52	3469.88	31.06
EPS (₹)	6.40	8.40	
<i>Audited, Consolidated</i>			

'Global shipping crisis result of uneven post-Covid recovery'

THE REPORT OBSERVED THAT THIS SECTOR HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH A MORE PROFOUND AND WIDESPREAD CRISIS SINCE THE ONSET OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE RESULTING ECONOMIC CONTRACTION

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 11: The crisis in the global shipping industry has been largely on the back of uneven post-Covid recoveries of the major importing and exporting countries, according to a report by Drip Capital.

Small and medium businesses (SMB) around the world contribute to over 25 per cent of the \$18 trillion maritime trade, said the report, adding that Drip Capital observed that this sector has been going through a more profound and widespread crisis since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting economic contraction. The economic downturn due to



Centre holds back release of complete data of IIP for April

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 11: The government has held back the release of complete data of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for April, as was done for the same month last year due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Last year in June, the National Statistical Office (NSO) had held back the release of complete IIP data due to the effect of the nationwide lockdown on factory output.

This year too industrial production was hit due to lockdown restrictions imposed by states to curb the second wave of the pandemic. According to the partial data released Friday by the NSO, the IIP (general index) stood at 126.6 points in April this year. The IIP was at 54 points in April 2020 and 126.5 points in April 2019. Industrial output had shrunk by 57.3 per cent in April 2020.

As per the partial data, IIP growth works out to be 134 per cent in April 2021 over the same month last year, mainly due to the low base effect.

However, industrial growth was flat in April if we compare the IIP to that in the same month of 2019. This indicates that the nascent economic recovery has been impacted by the second wave of the pandemic.

In a statement, NSO said, "It may be noted that the nationwide lockdown and other measures implemented to restrict the spread of Covid-19 pandemic from the end of March 2020, had led to a major-

SBI launches 'Kavach Personal Loan' scheme for Covid patients

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 11: The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a collateral-free unique loan offering 'Kavach Personal Loan' for Covid patients. The loan covers expenses of Covid treatment of the customer and his/her family members.

Under this scheme, customers can avail loans up to ₹5 lakh at an effective interest rate of 8.5 per cent per annum for 60 months which is inclusive of three months moratorium, said an SBI statement.

This unique product is being offered under the collateral-free personal loan category and comes at the cheapest rate of interest under this segment. Reimbursement of expenses already incurred for Covid-related medical expenses shall also be provided under the scheme, it said. SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said: "With this strategic loan scheme, our aim is to provide access to monetary assistance - especially in this difficult situation for all those who unfortunately got affected by Covid. It's our constant endeavour at SBI to work towards creating financial solutions for customers suiting their requirements."

In these trying times, the SBI is committed towards taking care of customers' financial emergency for Covid treatment and other personal expenses in order to effectively overcome the Covid battle, said the statement.



THIS YEAR TOO INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WAS HIT DUE TO LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY STATES TO CURB THE SECOND WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC

ACCORDING TO THE PARTIAL DATA RELEASED FRIDAY BY THE NSO, THE IIP (GENERAL INDEX) STOOD AT 126.6 POINTS IN APRIL THIS YEAR

ity of the establishments not operating in April 2020 and consequently, there were many units which reported 'Nil' production, affecting comparison of the indices for the months of April 2020 and April 2021."

The Centre had on March 25, 2020 enforced a nationwide lock-

down to curb the spread of Covid-19. The government started easing lockdown restrictions for some economic activities from April 20, 2020.

This year, the second wave of pandemic began in the middle of April, which also affected production in factories due to local restrictions imposed by states.

The NSO stated that for the month of April 2021, the indices of industrial production for the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors stood at 108, 125.1 and 174 points, respectively.

As per use-based classification, the indices were at 126.7 for primary goods, 82.4 for capital goods, 137.9 for intermediate goods and 134.8 for infrastructure/ construction goods for April 2021.

Covid dent: PV sales down by over 61% from May '19 levels

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 11: Covid-induced economic volatility contracted the demand for domestic passenger vehicles in May 2021 from May 2019 levels. However, base effect along with low interest rates and some pent-up demand showed an accelerated rise in domestic demand in May 2021 on a year-on-year basis.

Accordingly, sales of passenger vehicles increased to 88,045 in May this year compared to 33,546 units sold during the same period of 2020.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers said the data does not include sales figures from some key players such as Tata Motors

The May 2021 figures were lower by 61.2 per cent from 2,26,975 units sold during May 2019 levels.

The category includes sub-segments of cars, utility vehicles and vans.

A total of 41,536 passenger cars were sold in the domestic market, up from 14,460 units in the corresponding period of 2020. The sub-



category had an off-take of 1,43,449 units.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said the data does not include sales figures from some key players such as Tata Motors.

Besides, sales of two-wheelers increased to 3,52,717 in May 2021 as compared to 2,79,682 units sold during the same period of 2020.

Nevertheless, the May 2021 figures were lower by 79.6 per cent from 17,25,204 units sold during May 2019.

The overall automobile sectors'

FM asks ministries to explore PPPs for viable projects

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 11: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday asked various ministries to try to spend more than their capital expenditure targets as well as explore public private partnerships for viable projects.

During a meeting with senior government officials to discuss the infrastructure roadmap, she also urged the ministries and their CPSEs to ensure clearance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) dues at the earliest.

This was the fifth review meeting by the finance minister with ministries and departments on the infrastructure roadmap.



Capital expenditure (capex) plans of ministries and their CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises), status of implementation of Budget announcements and measures to expedite infrastructure investment were discussed, according to an official release.

"While reviewing the capital expenditure performance of the ministries and their CPSEs, finance minister emphasised that enhanced capex will play a critical role in revitalising the economy post-pandemic and encouraged the Ministries to front-load their capital expenditure," it said.

Flipkart to conduct drone delivery pilot for vax, med supplies

AGENCIES

New Delhi: E-commerce major Flipkart Friday said it has partnered with Telangana government to lead a consortium tasked with the development and execution of the drone deliveries of medical supplies to remote areas under the 'Medicines from the Sky' project.

As part of the consortium, Walmart-owned Flipkart will deploy drones and enable deliveries of vaccines and medical supplies. These efforts will be complemented with technologies such as geo mapping, routing of shipments and track and trace of location etc, developed by Flipkart over the years in serving millions of customers across the country, a statement said.

A combination of these technologies will then be used to conduct 'Beyond Visual Line of Sight' (BVLOS) deliveries in remote areas of the state where the road infrastructure is not conducive for fast delivery of vaccines, it added.



ARTEM DZUBA (RUSSIA)

RUSSIAN ROULETTE AWAITS RED DEVILS

Belgium set to miss De Bruyne and Hazard for their UEFA Euro 2020 campaign opener against Russia



ROMELU LUKAKU (BELGIUM)

of coach Roberto Martinez's concerns, despite linking up with the squad a week late after fracturing his nose and eye socket during Manchester City's loss to Chelsea in the Champions League final. The playmaker required a minor operation and is likely to be ready to start in Belgium's second game, against Denmark in Copenhagen on June 17, when he might be wearing a face mask. Hazard's health is slightly less clear-cut, with the winger in far-from-perfect shape after an injury-disrupted season with Real Madrid and only being a substitute in Euro 2020 warmup games. Martinez said Hazard still needed to get "match intensity" so is likely to be on the bench again for the game against Russia, whose chances of an upset win suddenly have improved. There's still much to like about Belgium: the goals of striker Romelu Lukaku, the flourishing of midfielder Yuri Tielemans, the foraging runs of wing back Thomas Meunier, the consistency of goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. The experience of more than 1,300 international appearances in the squad should also stand Belgium in good stead when it comes to pressure situations in a major tournament. Yet is there a worry that the Belgians have a squad with one of the oldest average ages, at 28.7 years, at the end of a pandemic-congested season? That Martinez is still relying on a bunch of 30-somethings in defense in Toby

MOSTOVOY TESTS POSITIVE
MOSCOW: Russia winger Andrey Mostovoy was cut from the national team for this year's European Championship Friday after testing positive for the coronavirus. Mostovoy is the first player to be cut from a team at the tournament because of the virus. The team wrote on Twitter that Mostovoy has been replaced by defender Roman Evgeniev "in connection with an unfavorable result of PCR testing." Sweden and Spain have both reported positive results from coronavirus tests but haven't yet opted to replace the affected players. Spain, however, hope captain Sergio Busquets and Diego Llorente will still have an impact on the competition after both players tested positive. Llorente's positive test Tuesday may have been erroneous after further tests came back negative, coach Luis Enrique said Thursday. The Leeds defender was set to undergo another test Friday, and if that comes back negative again, the team said he can return to the squad before Spain's first match Monday against Sweden. Spain's preparations were thrown off after Busquets tested positive last Sunday. Players who test positive must stay in isolation for at least 10 days, meaning Busquets would miss the opener against Sweden.

Not that playing at home did the Russians any good against Belgium in qualifying for Euro 2020, though. In their next-to-last group game, Russia conceded four goals at home for the first time in a competitive match in losing 1-4, also here. Playing in front of a potential 30,000 fans, among the biggest group-stage attendances at the tournament, can only spur on Russia in its fifth straight appearance at the European Championship. A calf injury to experienced defender Fyodor Kudryashov sustained during the warmup match against Bulgaria last week handed coach Stanislav Cherchesov an eve-of-tournament problem. And

Friday, Russia winger Andrey Mostovoy became the first player to be cut from a team at the tournament after testing positive for the virus. Cherchesov will be crossing his fingers no injury befalls Artem Dzyuba, who lost the captaincy last year because of a social-media scandal but remains a crucial member of the team as its main scorer. Indeed, the 32-year-old striker needs one more goal to tie the record for Russia's national team of 30, held by Alexander Kerzhakov, since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

St. Petersburg, June 11: What's being billed by some as the last hurrah for Belgium's "golden generation" begins with two of the team's long-time stalwarts likely missing from its opening match of the European Championship. Injury and fitness concerns mean neither Kevin De Bruyne nor Eden Hazard is set to start against Russia Saturday at Saint Petersburg Stadium, where the Belgians' World Cup hopes in 2018 died in a loss to France. They return to the same venue three years later as the world's top-ranked team — they have been in that position since October 2018 — but with doubts about the availability of their two star attacking midfielders, and maybe a bit more. De Bruyne is probably the least

Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Thomas Vermaelen? That Axel Witsel, the main holding midfielder, is 32 and coming off a four-month absence with a torn Achilles tendon injury that could keep him out of the start of the tournament? There is a widespread acceptance that this might be Belgium's best chance of winning a European Championship or World Cup for the first time, at least for this current generation. "Now is the time for us to win something. Maybe it's now or never," Belgium midfielder Leander Dendoncker said this week. Counting against Martinez's players somewhat is the fact they will have to travel for all of their games in the continent-wide competition. "In terms of logistics, it's

TODAY'S MATCHES

WAL	v	SUI
Time: 06:30 pm		
DEN	v	FIN
Time: 09:30 pm		
BEL	v	RUS
Time: 12:30 am (June 13)		

Telecast: Sony TEN Network

probably the hardest we could've had," Martinez said. Unlike Russia, who play their first two Group B games in here. Remember, it was on home soil that Russia reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup in 2018, beating Spain along the way.

NEW MUSICAL PUTS LATE CRUYFF ON CENTRE STAGE

LEUSDEN (NETHERLANDS): Johan Cruyff's tempestuous life is being made into a musical that reflects the "total football" style of play the Dutch football great pioneered. On the opening day of the pandemic-delayed Euro 2020, the cast and crew of "14 The Musical" Friday raised the curtain on preparations for a new musical eulogizing the Netherlands' most famous footballer. The show, which premieres September 25, tells the story of the rise of Cruyff from a scrawny kid juggling a ball on the sidewalks of a working class Amsterdam neighborhood to the mercurial attacker who led the "Clockwork Orange" team that narrowly lost the 1974 World Cup final to West Germany. It takes its title from the shirt number Cruyff wore for most of his playing career. Cruyff died in 2016. Director and writer Tom de Ket was inspired by the Dutch team's style of play as he wrote the show. The show charts the highs and lows of Cruyff's life, ranging from his sporting achievements with Ajax, the Netherlands and Barcelona to the collapse of his business interests, which forced him to come out of retirement in the 1980s. It also touches on a kidnapping attempt in Spain that is said to have led to his decision not to play at the 1978 World Cup in Argentina.



Dhawan 'humbled to lead India'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: Handed responsibility to lead the Indian team on the Sri Lanka tour, opener Shikhar Dhawan Friday said he feels humbled after being appointed captain of the national side. India will play three ODIs and as many T20s in Colombo starting July 13. The selectors picked a bunch of fresh faces for the Sri Lanka series Thursday as the main team is in the UK for the World Test Championship final and five Tests against England. "Humbled by the opportunity to lead my country. Thank you for all your wishes," tweeted Dhawan. The 35-year-old has played 34 Tests, 145 ODIs and 65 T20s. Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been named Dhawan's deputy. The BCCI announced Thursday a 20-man squad, packed with youngsters, including six uncapped players. With country's top cricketers already in England for the World Test Championship final and the subsequent England series, the selection of a number of youngsters in the squad is on expected lines. Many of them impressed in the suspended IPL and have been rewarded with their maiden India call-up. They included Devdutt Padikkal, pacer Chetan Sakaria, Nitish Rana, Krishnappa Gowtham, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Varun Chakravarty. Prithvi Shaw and Manish Pandey have made a comeback but Shreyas Iyer missing out on selection means he has not yet recovered from his shoulder injury. Out of favour spin duo of



INDIA'S SQUAD: Shikhar Dhawan (C), Prithvi Shaw, Devdutt Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Suryakumar Yadav, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Nitish Rana, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Yuzvendra Chahal, Rahul Chahar, K Gowtham, Krunal Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarty, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini, Chetan Sakariya
NET BOWLERS: Ishan Porel, Sandeep Warrier, Arshdeep Singh, Sai Kishore, Simarjeet Singh.

Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal are also part of the squad that also has Pandya brothers — Hardik and Krunal — apart from two wicket-keeper batsmen in young Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson.

I am just happy. Right from the moment I got to know about it, you know a journey comes in front of your eyes that from where you started and where you wanted to reach. The opportunities would be limited but I'm just looking forward to learn from this journey as much as I can

RUTURAJ GAIKWAD

You live a dream for years and now it has come true and you can't be more happier. Starting off in my career I used to mimic Bhajji Paa (Harbhajan Singh). I don't bowl doosra (like Bhajji) but I bowl the carrom ball. I developed it on my own. If you have to play at the highest level, you need to develop skills on your own

K GOWTHAM

Copa America gets court nod

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, June 11: Brazil's Supreme Court gave its go-ahead for Copa America football tournament to kick off here despite the country's alarming COVID-19 figures. The unanimous vote by the 11 justices provides relief for President Jair Bolsonaro and tournament organizers in Brazil, which is hosting the event after the withdrawal of Colombia and Argentina. The court rejected two suits against holding the tourney in Brazil, considering that authorization of the games is a decision made by officials in the state where they will be played; all four governors in Copa America locations are Bolsonaro allies. The court's ruling is a response to challenges made by the Brazilian Socialist Party and a metalworkers union lodged against Brazil hosting the tournament.

Vinesh bags Poland Open gold



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Warsaw, June 11: Star Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat proved that her preparations for the Tokyo Games were on track by winning the 53kg gold at the Poland Open here Friday, giving herself some crucial 'mat-time' ahead of the Olympics. It is third title of the season for the 26-year-old Vinesh, who claimed gold medals at the Matteo Pellicone event (March) and Asian Championship (April) earlier. The

victory would potentially make Vinesh the top seed at the Tokyo Olympics. Except for her opening bout against 2019 World bronze (50kg) winner Ekaterina Poleshchuk, Vinesh wasn't troubled by any of her other rivals as she conceded only two points en route the top place on the podium. She did not concede a single point to Ukraine's Khrystyna Bereza in the final, winning 8-0. Vinesh took most of her points through double-leg attacks while the 2019 European silver medalist Bereza was on the defensive throughout. The World bronze winner and Asian Games champion had to battle hard against Poleshchuk before prevailing 6-2 but needed only 75 seconds to pin her American rival Amy Ann Fearnside in the semifinals. Earlier in the day, Anshu Malik pulled out of the 57kg competition due to fever.

Tsitsipas enters his first Slam final

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 11: Stefanos Tsitsipas went from way ahead to suddenly stuck in a five-set struggle against Alexander Zverev at the French Open Friday before emerging to earn his first berth in a Grand Slam final. The fifth-seeded Tsitsipas entered with an 0-3 record in major semifinals and it seemed as if he might let this one slip away, too, until a late surge carried him to the 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3 victory after more than three-and-half hours at Court Philippe Chatrier. Tsitsipas will face the winner from the match between 13-time Roland Garros champion Rafa Nadal or top-seeded Novak Djokovic for the championship on the red clay. Tsitsipas regained control of his



semifinal on a cloudy afternoon in the late going thanks to a combination of more solid returning by him and a succession of ground-stroke unforced errors from the sixth-seeded Zverev, a 24-year-old

from Germany. The fifth set began with a key service hold after Tsitsipas double-faulted to fall behind love-40. From there, he won five consecutive points, including one with a cross-court forehand passing winner that he celebrated by shaking his racket as the crowd chanted, "Tsi-tsi-pas! Tsi-tsi-pas! Tsi-tsi-pas!" Then Tsitsipas broke to go up 3-1. Fifteen minutes later, Tsitsipas earned his first match point, and while he needed five of them to close the proceedings, he eventually did convert one with an ace. Tsitsipas will be the first player from Greece in a Grand Slam singles final and youngest man to appear in the title match at the French Open since Nadal won the 2008 championship five days after his 22nd birthday.