

STUDENT ACTIVISTS

He's seen almost all the

places at such a young age! You see, he's an honest officer

WALK OUT OF PRISON NEW DELHI: Student activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha who were granted bail Tuesday finally walked out of prison Thursday after a Delhi court ordered their immediate release. The court slammed the police for holding the three in detention even after the Delhi High Court had granted them bail.



ASSESSMENT OF CLASS XII STUDENTS TO BE DONE ON 30:30:40 FORMULA FOR FINAL RESULTS

Even though sweet shops and confectionaries opened in Bhubaneswar after a gap of close to a month-and-a-half, most of them wore a deserted look with only a few customers

SC approves CBSE, CISCE plans

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 17: There will be no roll back of the decision to cancel Class XII board exams, the Supreme Court said Thursday. The apex court also approved the assessment schemes of CISCE and CBSE. Both the boards have adopted the 30:30:40 formula for evaluation of marks for students. This evaluation will be based on results of Classes X. XI and XII respectively. Both the boards said they would declare the results on or before July 31. The CBSE, in its assessment scheme. referred to components to be evaluated and the weightage in percentage to arrive at final results. CBSE said it will evaluate Class XII students for theory based on 30 per cent marks from Class X boards, 30 per cent from Class XI and 40 per cent from marks based on the performance in unit, mid-term and preboard tests in Class XII.

CHSE DECISION NOT FINALISED

BHUBANESWAR: The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE). Odisha might award marks to the Plus-II students this year on the basis of their performance in the Matric/Class-X exams. Marks secured in the Matric exams are the best criteria for awarding marks to the Plus-II students. The expert committee will submit a report in this connection to the CHSE soon. It will then be given to the state government and a final decision will be taken accordingly, CHSE vice-chairman Tushar Kanti Tripathy said Thursday. The Odisha government had cancelled the 2021 Plus-II exams in view of the Covid-19 situation. A 14-member expert committee was then formed to suggest alternative evaluation criteria for awarding marks.

as uploaded by schools on the CBSE cision taken by the Boards. In any



EVALUATION to be done on the basis of Class X boards, Class XI and XII exam marks

PROVISIONS for dispute resolution must be incorporated in the



The package will benefit landless farmers, construction workers, urban poor, tribal people, state food security scheme (SFSS) beneficiaries, MGNREGA workers and Dibyang students.

Patnaik, while announcing the package said that the entire gamut of society has been affected due to Covid-19. However, those who have suffered the most, are socially and economically weaker sections of the people. Due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the state had to face extended periods of lockdown. It

had a tremendous impact on the livelihood of daily labourers. Hence the government has come up with the special package.

The government will provide special assistance of ₹1,000 per beneficiary to the farmers under the Kalia scheme. Over ₹207 crore will

amount of ₹50 per day above their daily wages from April to June this year. The government will spend ₹300 crore for this. The beneficiaries of the SFSS scheme will be provided with 5kg_ extra rice free of cost for which the state will spend ₹ 92.86 crore. Patnaik said it is the duty of the state to

departments of the state gov-

offices will function with 50 per

cent strength (officers of the

rank of deputy secretary and

above who shall attend office

heads of the departments have

been given the power to choose

employees not fully vaccinated

However, essential offices /ser-

vices such as police, fire, health

and municipal departments will

who will attend office.

function at full strength.

daily) till June 30, 2021. The

ernment and sub-ordinate

look after the people There are 66.214 famil

CUR	EURO	88.41		₹0.53
NO	GOLD	₹46,785	₽	₹1721
BULLI	SILVER	₹46,785 ₹67,725	₽	₹3743



It also said the marks obtained by Class XII students in practical and internal assessment on actual basis

portal will be also considered in deciding final results.

A special vacation bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari rejected the plea of senior advocate Vikas Singh that there should be a relook of the decisions of CBSE and CISCE to cancel Class XII board exams in view of the fact that tests like Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) would be conducted in physical manner.

We have no manner of doubt that this cannot be taken forward. We have already accepted in principle the decase, students who want to appear can do so for improvisation of marks. In other words, no prejudice will be caused to students who want to appear in exams," the bench said.

"However, the (assessment) scheme must incorporate the provisions for dispute resolution in case students want correction of final results declared and the second is for declaration of results and when the timeline for optional exams would be declared," the bench told Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the CBSE and senior

- BOTH CBSE AND CISCE to follow same method of assessment
- SC ISSUES NOTICE to all states yet to cancel Class X, XII board exams

advocate JK Das, representing CISCE. Both the Boards agreed to the suggestions of the bench.

The Supreme Court also issued notice to all states who are yet to cancel Class X and XII board exams. Among the states are Assam, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

be provided to 17.83 lakh members in 13 particularly landless farmers covered vulnerable tribal groups under the scheme in three (PVTGs) in Odisha. The govinstallments. For the urban ernment would provide poor, ₹260 crore has been al-₹5,000 per family for their located to all the 114 urban livelihood and the money local bodies (ULBs) under will be deposited directly to their bank accounts. A 'Mukta Yoiana'.

The MGNREGA worktotal of ₹33.10 crore will be ers will get an additional spent for this. MORE P4

EXTRA 25% QUOTA FROM CENTRE 18-44 year group set for vax boost

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: With the Centre announcing free vaccination for all adults in the country June 21 onwards, the Odisha government is all set to increase coverage in the 18-44 vears age group. The state is banking on the additional supply of vaccine doses it will get from the Centre. The Centre has announced that it will provide 75 per cent of Covid-19 vaccines to states from June 21 while

the remaining 25% will be

quantity of Covid-19 vac-

cines from the Centre from

June 21. Banking on it, we

are planning to spread the

inoculation drive all across

the state and include more

and more people from the 18-

44 years age group. We are

also planning to conduct

vaccination in the remotest

of areas as our aim is to in-

oculate as many people as we

can in the shortest possible

time," Bijay Panigrahi, di-

rector, Health and Family

Welfare (H&FW) depart-

"We are expecting ample

for private hospitals.

Our aim is to vaccinate the maximum number of people in the shortest possible time. Hopefully we will be able to do that June 21 onwards when the quota from the Centre will go up to 75 per cent

BIJAY PANIGRAHI DIRECTOR, H&FW

ment, told **Orissa POST**. The Health department earlier under the liberalised policy was utilising the vaccine doses from the Centre to inoculate persons in the age group of 45 and above. For vaccination of the 18-44 years age group, the department was procuring the injections directly from the

manufacturers. The Health department is also planning to conduct a detailed study on the various reactions due to vaccination, including deaths. "This is a time taking process. Many states have started this and we will also do the same," said Bijay-Kumar Mohapatra, direc-

tor Health Services.

SURVEY CARRIED OUT AT TWO PLACES AAI team visits **Puri airport sites**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, June 17: The process to built an international airport in this town started Thursday with the visit of a six-member team of the Airport Authority of India (AAI). The group visited a couple of proposed sites earmarked for the airport and carried out a survey of the area.

The AAI team visited locations at Girala on Puri-Brahmagiri Road and Sipasarubali on Puri-Konark Marine Drive Road. The Odisha government has proposed four sites for the airport here. After surveying the two sites, the AAI team had a meeting with district administration officials.

It should be stated here that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had requested the Centre a couple of years back for the building of an international airport here keeping in mind the huge number of international and national visitors to the pilgrim city.

Patnaik had written a letter January 1. 2021 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him that the up-

6-member AAI team visits 2 of the 4 proposed sites Odisha government feels airport will boost tourism, hospitality sectors

Airport to be named after Lord Jagannath

coming airport in Puri be named after Lord Jagannath.

Earlier, January 12 this year, a meeting was held by the Union Civil Aviation Secretary with officials of the Odisha government, AAI and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to discuss the details about the project. The AAI was asked to carry out pre-feasibility study for the project based on the data provided by Odisha government

Beautification of this city is being carried out to project it as a world class heritage site. The Odisha government feels that an airport in pilgrim town will boost the travel, tourism and hospitality sectors.

Novavax trials on kids from July US FIRM HOPEFUL PRODUCTION IN INDIA WILL START BY SEPT

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 17: Serum Institute of India (SII) plans to start clinical trials of 'Novavax' vaccine on children July onwards, sources informed Thursday. The SII also hopes to introduce 'Covavax', which is a version of US firm Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine candidate, in India by September.

Novavax has a vaccine manufacturing agreement with SII. It had earlier said Monday its Covid-19 vaccine candidate was highly effective with 90.4 per cent efficacy overall and also showed high success rate against predominantly circulating variants. The vaccine demonstrated 93 per cent efficacy against predominantly circulating variants of concern and variants of interest.

The government had earlier said Tuesday the efficacy data of Novavax vaccine against Covid-19 is promising and encouraging and its clinical trials are in an advanced stage of completion in India. NITI Aayog member (Health) VK Paul said the data available in the public domain also indicates the vaccine is safe and highly effective.

What we are learning from the available data is that this vaccine is very safe and it is highly effective but what



makes this vaccine relevant for today is the fact that it will be produced in India by Serum Institute," he had said during a press conference.

Paul said there is preparatory work already accomplished by the SII and that they are also conducting a bridging trial which is in advanced stages of completion

"I am also hoping that they will also start trials on children which is of special interest to all of us. The pace of vaccination should see a renewed energy from next week onwards when we will realign our efforts, state efforts and effective scale-up at ground level are expected," Paul had said.

Upon regulatory approvals, 'Novavax' remains on track to reach a manufacturing capacity of 100 million doses per month by the end of the third quarter and 150 million doses per

VITAL MEET OVER COVAXIN

HYDERABAD: Bharat Biotech will hold its pre-submission meeting June 23 with the World Health Organisation (WHO) regarding the approval of Covaxin. The pharmaceutical company has been facing hurdles in getting Covaxin approved in some foreign countries since it lacks Phase-3 trial data. It is essential for a WHO nod to export the vaccine and make it a part of the much-coveted coronavirus 'vaccine passport'. The US' top health regulator – Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - recently rejected Covaxin's application for emergency use authorisation, citing the lack of data on clinical trials.

month by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021.

Government sources said that the results of the trials on kids will be keenly watched. India is yet to start vaccination of the under-18 age group and there is still no definite plan on this issue. The sources also informed that the Centre is banking on these trials and if the results are positive, then the vaccination of kids above two years will start very soon.



leisure

DIANA'S FIRST ALBUM IN 15 YRS SET FOR SEPTEMBER RELEASE

Diana Ross has shared details of her first album in 15 years, titled Thank You. It is the follow-up to Ross's 2006 album I Love You, and was recorded entirely in her home studio during the pandemic, reports bbc.com.

CARDI B OFFICIALLY JOINS FAST & FURIOUS FRANCHISE

American rapper Cardi B is officially joining the Fast & Furious franchise in the upcoming ninth film of the series. The rapper opened up about her character Leysa and how she came to be involved with Fast & Furious 9. She said the franchise hero Vin Diesel was instrumental in roping her in.



When Ekta was called FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com 'poster girl of misfortune' accuracy • reliability • trust 💪

date.

or a social gathering, or some monetary Ekta recalled the profit. You always give your best, amount of stress she and Ganesha says today it will lead to had to go through with the film being leaked onand line awaiting clearance

from the

Central

Board of

Film

stopped running from your problems and stand up and face them, suggests Ganesha. Your loved ones will bask in your material generosity today. You will be magnanimous with the wallet to impress members of the opposite sex. Don't forget that time is also money, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

Some cheerful news could

put you in really high spirits

either be of a personal or professional

nature - perhaps about your career,

today. The news could

.

It is about time that you

rich dividends.

TAURUS

A fun and frolic filled day awaits you. You will have a lot of fun with your family members, especially children. You will help your children with their work. Marital life will be blissful. Relations with your spouse will be romantic today. A leasure filled day awaits, says Ganesha

CANCER

You have always been quite prudent when it comes to spending your hard-earned moolah, yet today you may feel stingier. And, you will rightly be so, for there may be unnecessary burdens and demands made on you be your near and dear ones. Although you will be aware of this, you will still be able to keep them happy, affirms Ganesha. There is also a high probability of some changes in either nature or scope (or both) of your work.

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You may not get the desired results inspite of working hard. You need to keep your weaknesses in mind, and your mistakes, before starting anew again. You will need to do more than necessary, if required, to make sure that your business relationships stay strong. Finances will improve, savs Ganesha.

VIRGO

You will charm people with your flexibility of thought and willingness to adjust today. Those under the spell of love will see an unexpected turn of events; but don't panic, as things will eventually work out in your favour. Some quality family time is also on the cards. Strengthen the family bond by adopting your responsibil ities and paying respect to family tradition and conventions, advises Ganesha

LIBRA Ganesha says that for peo-

MUMBAI: Ekta Kapoor, one of the producers of the 2016 film Udta Punjab, took to social media Thursday to celebrate five years of the film's release

being called the 'poster girl of misfortune'. 'Censor issues n then the film leaked! D max-

Certification (CBFC) and

imum stress I had was that year! Second film that leaked was a month later!! Both stuck at d censors! Five flops n being called 'poster girl of misfortune' by my fav director. I think d only professional high point was d love #udtapunjab got! Even after the madness to d release. A movie that weaved stories of many and dropped brutal truth bombs. Celebrating #5Years Of Udta Punjab," Ekta wrote on Instagram. The Abhishek Chaubey-directorial starred Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Shahid Kapoor and Diljit Dosanjh in lead

roles

Shilpa's candid confession

MUMBAI: Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra made a candid confession on reality TV -- the fact that her husband

can't sing. The subject came up on Super Dancer: *Chapter 4*, a show that Shilpa judges. In an episode featuring

singer Kumar Sanu, the actress will be seen opening up about her husband Raj Kundra.

In the episode, the contestants will dance to Sanu's hit songs from the nineties. The ace singer will also croon a few of his popular songs to add nostalgia.

Shilpa then requests Sanu to sing Woh toh hai albela from the

film Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa, saying it is one of her husband's favourite tracks.

'Raj is perfect, but he can't sing. The moment my husband tried singing this song, I figured that singing is not and will never be his forte. So, now I hope he takes away the message of how he should actually sing," the actress said. IANS

Akshay donates for J&K's school building

SRINAGAR: Top actor Akshay Kumar Thursday donated Rs 1 crore for a school building in remote Tulail village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The actor reached Neeru village by a helicopter around noon and thereafter

started

inter

tion

ac-

with locals and the deployed security forces. "Akshay Kumar has do-

nated Rs 1 crore for the construction of the school building in Neeru village of Tulail. He visited the area to boost the morale of the deployed army soldiers and the BSF troopers with whom he interacted for a long time.

"He also danced with the locals in the village who turned out to see and meet the actor. The function was organised by BSF troopers posted on an LoC post in Neeru village. He has appreciated the army, BSF and the locals for leading hardy lives in the area braving heavy snowfall and extreme inaccessibility", sources

created all the illustrations, in-

cluding the covers. The cover de-

signs incorporated colourful geo-

metric and floral patterns in

saturated primary colours with

lines and textures similar to wood

lustrations, he created four comic

strips for Sandesh, However, these

comic strips were 'silent', the char-

acters did not converse with each

other, leaving the narrative to the

To mark Ray's 100 years, a se

readers imagination.

Experimenting with creative il-

block printing.

Exhibition on Ray as magazine illustrator

n online exhibition pre A prolific illustrator, Satyajit Ray had painted and designed every cover of Sandesh. This apart, he contributed his own stories,

BOUNCE

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AGENCIES

senting a selection of Sandesh covers, illustrated by Satyajit Ray, is on view from June 14-27, as part of the centenary year celebrations of the legendary filmmaker, writer, illustrator and music composer. Sandesh (meaning both information as well as sweetmeat), is the iconic Bengali children's magazine started by Ray's grandfather, Upendrakishore Raychaudhury in 1913.

Presented by India International Centre, New Delhi, the exhibition is titled Aap Kya Sandesh Laya.

Ray and Sandesh



FUN

A file photo of Satyajit Ray drawing sketches for a film

telling prowess. He was a great artist first, well before he made his name as a filmmaker. He de-

new fonts in Bengali and four Roman fonts, receiving an award for designing the typeface for Ray

both local and foreign, without compromising on aesthetic or authenticity. Throughout his career, sketching, graphic design and calligraphy merged seamlessly with his filmmaking



ries of programmes will be or-Illustrations drawn by Ray for ganised in virtual and physical mode throughout the year. The children magazine Sandesh programmes will include exhi-

In 1961, Satvajit Rav re-launched

ple you may appear to be a miser but when it comes to your closed ones you will never hold back or hesitate to spend. Today is a good day to take your loved ones shopping. You may overspend your budget but the spending will give you a feeling of happi ness and contentment. Ganesha showers you with his blessings.

SCORPIO

If you have recently started a joint business venture, today you may take you first step towards sealing a profitable deal. However, you should buy some time before signing any contract today; also, be cautious that you do not get the short end of the stick. The best thing is to go through the finer prints of the deal in order to avoid any misgivings in the future, suggests Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Your far-sightedness and brilliance will not only impress your peers, but also help you to rope in big clients and huge projects. Cheers to that! Thanks to your systematic and disciplined approach, you are entitled to be the 'mos desirable' employee of the company. Business may look forward to huge prof its, predicts Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Now is the perfect time to showcase your talents and skills. You are all geared up to hit your target and do everything that is needed to be done. Your efforts will not go in vain as they will bear fruits for sure, says Ganesha. You will spend quality time with your family member and catch with old friends.

You zoom in on research and development today. Your fabulous work speaks volumes and your commitment pays off. You're keen to play Romeo today, and all your gimmicks and surprises will work wonders! Love on, says Ganesha

PISCES

You set irreproachable standards for vourself, but what keeps your subordinates from grumbling about it is the efforts you make to help them achieve perfection in their endeavours, says Ganesha. You inspire, they aspire.



BOUNCE

BOUNCE

BOUNCE

PEANUTS

puzzles, and

created riddles,

Satyajit Ray was a multifaceted

genius who will be remembered as much for his graphic designing and illustrations as for his story-

signed book covers, film posters, and illustrated children's books and had a mastery over calligraphy and typography creating numerous

IT UNNERVES YOUR OPPONENT IF YOU BOUNCE THE BALL A LOT BEFORE YOU SERVE!

Roman.

Ray's artistic work reflects a sophisticated experimentation with various artistic styles and traditions,

the children's magazine Sandesh that was originally founded by his grandfather. To make the magazine more appealing to children, Ray

itions, films -- documentary and features, talks and discussions to try to present both the known and lesser known aspects of Satyajit Ray.

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.

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I	6	7	3	9	5	1	8	2	

- E







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown



MOTHER WORSHIP

A woman worships mother earth after the completion of annual Raja festival in Alisha Bazar area of Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	17,79,62,510	16,24,84,184	38,51,704
dia	2,97,00,313	2,84,91,670	3,81,903
disha	8,66,692	8,23,599	3,471
	.,,.	.,,	

Tale of Odia woman who faced sedition charge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: Close on the heels of Delhi High Court grant ing bail to student activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha, who were detained under various sections of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for their alleged involvement in the Delhi riots case it has come to the fore that a woman advocate from Odisha had also faced sedition charges but was acquitted due to lack of evidence.

Laws are primarily made to counter and prevent anti-national activities. However, both the Centre and various state governments use these very laws to their advantage to crush dissent.

Kalita, Narwal and Tanha were detained in May last year. However, the Delhi High Court granted them bail with the observation that the authorities must realise 'the difference between terrorism and dissent'. Odisha's advocate Pratima Das is also a similar case. "I was falsely implicated in two cases under various sections of IPC related to sedition charges and UAPA in 2008. Along with my family, I had to undergo severe mental trauma and humiliation after reports about my arrest appeared in the media. Police tried their very best to prove that I



was a Maoist," Pratima rued.

"However, they failed to produce any evidence and I was acquitted by the court in both the cases in 2010. But who will compensate me for the trauma and humiliation me and my family went through," said Pratima, who has moved court against the Odisha government seeking compensation. The cases were lodged in Jagatsinghpur and Kuchinda

in Sambalpur. High Court lawyer Prasant Kumar Jena, said, "The police and political parties have been trampling upon basic rights of citizens through acts like UAPA, POTA or TADA. We don't need any new stringent act as the existing laws are sufficient to deal with illegal activities. Many innocent tribals in Odisha booked under UAPA and sedition charges have been lodged

I was falsely implicated in two cases under various sections of IPC related to sedition charges and UAPA in 2008. However, I

was acquitted by the court in both the cases in 2010. But who will compensate me for the trauma and humiliation me and my family went through PRATIMA DAS ADVOCATE

in prisons across the state for years as getting bail in these cases is very tough.

Advocate Manoj Mishra said, "In my opinion, Delhi High Court appears to be correct based on sound reasoning. The prosecutions ought to have collected more evidence to prove that in the garb of protest the accused were doing anti-national activities." Noted human rights activist

Biswapriya Kanungo said, "The students and activists protesting against government policies and announcements are being termed as 'anti-nationals'. Subsequently, the governments are implicating them in various cases under sedition charges. They are also being framed under stringent UAPA to stifle their voice of dissent.

shift warrior-horse replica in City POST NEWS NETWORK

Oppn flays plan to

Bhubaneswar, June 17: Opposition parties Thursday raised their voice against the proposed shifting of iconic warrior-horse statue from Master Canteen Square for Smart City project.

The Congress party opposed the move terming it as a threat to the architecture heritage of the city. "The statue has been established and patronised by several former chief ministers and legendary leaders. We are their followers. We cannot tolerate the shifting of a living example of our architectural heritage situated at the heart of the city," Congress leader Suresh Routray said.

He also urged the government to consider any alternative plan to do away with relocation of the warrior-horse replica. The BJP workers in the state capital also held a protest at the site Thursday and urged the government to consider some alternate way to develop the area without removing the statue from the site.



to payment of annual composite tax,

The validity of stage carriage per-

manent permits of vehicles on in-

terstate routes has also been ex-

tended. The documents for

reservation of notified fancy reg-

istration number or other than the

notified number on or after

February 1 last year will also remain

However, the transport com-

missioner has not extended the

validity of insurance certificate, pol-

lution control certificate, temporary

permit and the authorisation issued

under Central Motor Vehicles Rule,

1989 for goods carriage and tourist

Notably, the state is under lock-

down since May 5 this year fol-

lowing resurge in the Covid-19

cases. As per latest order, partial

lockdown restrictions will remain

valid till September 30.

vehicles.

the order said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



46% ICU beds vacant in state as nCoV cases drop

HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR BIJAY MOHAPATRA SAID THE EFFICACY OF COVID-19 VACCINES VARIES BETWEEN 71% AND 91% BUT **URGED PEOPLE NOT TO BECOME** COMPLACENT

OMANJ

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: The state Health department Thursday said that the burden on ICU beds in the state has been declining with the drop in Covid-19 cases but attributed the deaths to the existing infection cases.

Interacting with the media Thursday, state health services director Bijay Mohapatra said, "Currently, around 54 per cent ICU beds are occupied while the 56 per cent ventilators are in use. The high Covid deaths are due to the existing infection cases. However, fresh demand for ICU beds and ventilators is going down with decrease in new infections.



tricts which reported more number of Covid cases initially were first to show improvement and thus were given more relaxations during the lockdown.

'Many of the 17 districts which got more relaxations in the lockdown initially showed more cases and attained their peak before other districts. The condition is improving and more relaxations could soon be given to other areas too. Now, the positivity rate stands at 5.7 per cent. The overall situation is likely to improve by the end of June," he said.

He also said that the efficacy

71 per cent and 91 per cent but urged people not to become com-

placent. "You may get antibodies through vaccination but you cannot prevent the exposure of virus if you do not practice Covid-appropriate behaviour." Mohapatra also said that ECMO

machines are likely to be available in several medical colleges soon as the procurement process for the same has already been started. "We have been told that a few of such machines would be installed at AIIMS. Bhubaneswar by the end of this month and thus people would not need to travel to other

Panel formed to study post-vax infection

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar: June 17: As part of its planning to tackle the possible third wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the state government Thursday constituted an eight-member technical committee to study the cause of coronavirus infections among people even after complete vaccination.

The technical committee headed by Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar Director Ajay Parida will have experts as its members.

"The technical committee will report its observation to the state for guidance and further action,' Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, PK Mohapatra said. The state government set up the panel after noticing that a number of coronavirus infections are being reported among people who have completed the full vac-

POST NEWS NETWORK



the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the state transport commissioner has issued an order in this regard,

Thursday. The validity of fitness, permit (all types), driving licence (DL), registration certificate and other documents has been extended.

As per the order, the fitness certificate, registration certificate of non-transport vehicles and DLs. which had expired since February 1,2020 or would expire by September 30, 2021, will now be treated as valid till September-end 2021.



Vehicle papers valid till Sept 30

Similarly, the lerners' licenses (LLs) which had expired March 18 last year or would expire by September 30, 2021, would be treated as valid till September 30. Notably. the DL tests have remained cancelled in the state since March 18, 2020. Goods carriage, contract carriage, private service vehicle and

educational institution bus permits which had expired in February 1 last year or would expire by September 30, 2021, will now remain valid till September 30. However, the permit of tourist ve-

cination schedule.

hicles is not extended as it relates

force in the state till July 1.

Covid-19 vaccines varies between

states for treatment," he said.

35 platoon forces for **Snana Purnima ritual**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri. June 17: As many as 35 platoons of police personnel would be deployed to ensure smooth conduct of Snana Purnima and Hati Besha rituals of Srimandir deities June 24.

"The Holy City has been divided into seven zones for security arrangements for the twin rituals June 24. Srimandir and its adjacent areas would be placed under a three-tier security cover during the rituals," said Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) Kanwar Vishal Singh after reviewing the security arrangements for the rituals, Thursday.

Singh claimed that the administration would be extra careful for the smooth organisation of the rituals amid the Covid-19 pandemic

"The rituals would be performed in strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols. As per the earlier decision. the devotees would not be allowed to witness the rituals," Singh said.

At least 10 CCTVs would be installed near the Snanabedi of Srimandir. No unauthorised entry would be allowed into the shrine and its surroundings, said the SP

According to Singh, Srimandir and its immediate surroundings would be placed under the first laver of security for the twin rituals while the localities near the shrine would be placed under the second layer. The parking lots and a few other strategic places on the Grand Road would be placed under the

third layer of security, he said. "At least 10 CCTV cameras would be installed near the Snanabedi of Srimandir. No unauthorised entry would be allowed into Srimandir and its surroundings. There would be restrictions on the entry of vehicles into the Holy City," said the SP.



A Roopakar servitor etches figures on a newly-built chariot in Puri, Thursday

CHARIOT WORK

Nod to ₹103-Cr projects under Mo School Abhiyan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: The 25th executive council meeting of Mo School Abhiyan held under the chairmanship of School and Mass Education principal secretary Satyabrata Sahu here Thursday approved projects worth Rs 103 crore in 23 districts.

In the last month, as many as 17,512 alumni have joined the Mo School Abhiyan and contributed Rs 5.02 crore for the development of their respective schools.

While the alumni contributed Rs 2.28 crore in Balasore, Rs 35.81 lakh has been collected in Bhadrak. The alumni have contributed Rs 25.01 lakh in Mayurbhanj, Rs 25 lakh in Jagatsinghpur and Rs 21.88 lakh in Nayagarh. This apart, Rs 30 crore has been granted to Mo School Abhivan from various CSR

funds for the development of the state-run schools," said a source highlighting the minutes of the meeting. As many as 5.24 lakh alumni have been associated with the Mo School Abhiyan till date, while more than 34,000 schools have joined the campaign.

A host of measures have been undertaken recently to make the School Adoption Programme (SAP) more successful. A virtual orientation programme for the head teachers of all SAP was conducted and a guidance note on SAP implementation was shared with them, added the source. Keeping up with the technological advancements. teachers shall be imparted training under the 5T High School Transformation programme on smart classrooms. Special training sessions will be conducted for mathematics and science teachers

OP PHOTO

CBSE's 30:30:40 formula may not give justice to all

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: Soon after the Supreme Court of India approved the 30:30:40 formula for assessment of CBSE Class XII students, many students in the Capital city have expressed their displeasure over the formula.

However, the educationists and experts claimed that the 30:30:40 formula is the only option before the board to evaluate the Class XII students in the prevailing scenario.

Subhransu Dash, a Class XII student of DPS Kalinga, said, "I am not at all happy with the decision taken by the CBSE. The plan to evaluate Class XII students on the Very Bood Close <

basis of their performance during the last three years is a bad decision. Even though Class XI and XII have some common sub-

Educationists and experts claimed that the 30:30:40 formula is the only option before the board now to evaluate the Class XII students

jects, the chapters and the con-

tents are totally different. The

CBSE should assess the students on

the basis of the marks scored by

them in the pre-board, practical and internal exams. It can give some weightage to the marks scored in Class XI exams. The final percentage for the Class XII will be affected by the inclusion of Class X results in the assessment process." Sarthak Vedant Mohanty, a Class XII student of KIIT International School, said, "We had five compulsory subjects in Class X but we got the flexibility to choose subjects in Class XI and XII. Allotting 30 per cent weightage to Class X

marks is unfair. Again, many students do not take the Class XI exams seriously

Pratistha Panda, a Class XII student of DPS Kalinga, said "Many

students might not have performed well in Class X and XI exams, but there is possibility that they can do well in the Class XII exams. So, the 30:30:40 formula will not give justice to all students.

However, ODM Public School principal Satyabrata Minaketan said the 30:30:40 formula is the only solution in the prevailing situation

KIIT International School Chairperson Monalisa Bal said, "Some students reach their full potential in the later part of their school career. The results of these students would be affected by the-30:30:40 formula. There should be more debate on this particular issue."

A review meeting on security arrangement underway in Puri, Thursday



downtown

Singer Tapu Mishra shifted to ICU

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: Noted Odia playback singer Tapu Mishra, who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital here for Covid-19, was shifted to the ICU as her condition deteriorated, family sources said.

Mishra tested positive for the virus and was under home isolation. As her condition deteriorated May 19 evening, she was rushed to a private hospital and admitted to the ICU. Later, she was shifted from the ICU to ward and was undergoing treatment there. However, she was again shifted to the ICU after her condition deteriorated Wednesday evening

Notably, her father had succumbed to Covid-19 May 10 while undergoing treatment.

6 Odisha ITIs in top 100 ranking

Bhubaneswar: At least six Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) from Odisha have featured in the top 100 ITIs in the country as per the Phase II grading conducted by the Directorate General of Training under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). As per the grading of 12,352 ITIs that participated in the grading, six ITIs of the state are among the best 100 ITIs in the country. ITI-Berhampur stood first in the state having all India rank of 12. The other ITIs are those in Hinjlicut, Jaipur, Cuttack, Jharsuguda and Puri,

Rajdhani Special for 4 days a week

Bhubaneswar: The Railways has decided to run Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Special for four days in a week till June end. Earlier, due to upsurge in Covid-19 cases and very poor patronization, it was decided to run this train twice a week. As per the decision, 02823 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express Special via Tata will run every Tuesday and Thursday. This train from Bhubaneswar will

remain cancelled Monday and Friday during the period. Similarly, 02824 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express Special via Tata will run Wednesday and Thursday during the period. This train from Bhubaneswar will remain cancelled Tuesdays and Saturday. Also, 02825/02826 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express Special via Adra will run Sunday and Wednesday and from New Delhi Monday and Friday during the period.

Vax drive at City's **CGHS** centre

Bhubaneswar: A vaccination drive against Covid-19 has kick-started at the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) facility here, an official said Thursday. The drive has been organised by CGHS authorities in coordination with the Health and Family Welfare department as well as the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. said the official thanking the state authorities for their cooperation in the noble initiative. Senior healthcare experts including Dr BP Panda, Dr Santosh Kumar Sahoo, Dr PK Choudhury and Dr D Nanda were present at the vaccination camp.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Thursday launched two portals, e-Pathshala and e-Mulyankan, for providing online education to schoolchildren.

The minister said, "In Covid-19 situation, it is necessary for us to evaluate students who have attended classes online. Through this portal, we have developed the system so that we can ascertain what extra can be done to provide education and conduct examinations online. This will help in assessing the students properly."

After the meeting, Bhupendra Singh Poonia, project director of Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) said that with little possibility of schools reopening from the current academic session due to the pandemic, Odisha government plans to live-stream classes for school students on YouTube from June 21.

Poonia said the officials in the district have to arrange two class-



S&ME department and Central Square Foundation officials during the MoU sianina event

rooms preferably in centre of excellence schools/transformation high schools or schools located near to district headquarter towns for YouTube livestreaming virtual classes. The trial run has to be over by June 17, Poonia said. On the occasion, School and Mass Education department signed

an MoU with Central Square Foundation to achieve Foundational

Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)

among children of Classes I-III. Empowering them with these crucial basic skills is the key to their future and nation building.

After the meeting with district education officers (DEOs) Thursday, the minister said, "Last year, due to various reasons and situations, we were unable to reach out to all the students through online. This

RUSH AMID LOCKDOWN Plot no

Bapuji Nagar market in Bhubaneswar witnesses a rush even during the lockdown, Thursday

NEED OF THE HOUR

State government plans to livestream classes for school students on YouTube from June 21

Officials have to arrange two classrooms preferably in centre of excellence schools/transformation high schools or schools located near to district headquarter towns for YouTube livestreaming virtual classes

S&ME dept signed an MoU with Central Square Foundation to achieve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy among children of Classes I-III

year, we aim to reach all the students in every corner of the state."

S&ME principal secretary Satyabrata Sahu said that the focus is to bring all the dropout students back to education and directed the DEOs to bring back all the students who have dropped out of schools. The minister also directed the officials to secure school infrastructure during the monsoon.

CP to launch 2 apps to check property offences

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: The Commissionerate Police is all set to launch two software applications to rein in rising property of fences and identify the real owners of the booty recovered by the police for smooth disposal of the same.

Speaking to media persons, Police Commissioner Soumendra Priyadarshi said, "We have set up a special organised crime and property offence cell at the DCP office here. We are planning to develop a computer application by amalgamating all the available data related to the property offenders in the city. One can get the detailed case history of an accused involved in any property offence through the app 'Kundali'.

The police commissioner also said that there is a plan to develop another application named 'Sandhan' to identify the rightful owner of cellphones.

OP PHOTO

e-Pathshala, e-Mulyankan for schools Below 40 Covid deaths after almost a fortnight

Doc succumbs to virus at Puri IDH

PURI: The medical officer in charge of the Covid care unit functioning at the Infectious Disease Hospital here succumbed to the infection Thursday.

According to sources, Susant Kumar Panda tested positive for the infection a few days ago. Later, he was admitted to a healthcare facility in Bhubaneswar after his health condition deteriorated.

"However, he succumbed to the infection Thursday morning. His body was brought to Puri and placed on the district headquarters hospital campus where a guard of honour was presented by the administration in presence of doctors and paramedical staff," said a source.

It added that Puri Collector Samarth Verma, superintendent of police KV Singh and CDMO Sujata Mishra among others offered tributes to the Covid warrior.

Later, Panda's body was consigned to flames amid Covid protocol at the Covid designated cremation ground at Sipasarubali area in the Pilgrim City.

(RMRC), a unit of the ICMR, in association with the Health department, launched sero-survey in the districts of Ganjam, Rayagada and Koraput, as part of its nationwide initiative to assess the prevalence of antibodies in people for fighting Covid-19.

Official sources said 10 clusters have been selected in each district for sample collection.

"For the first time, we have included children in the age group of 6 to 14 years in the survey," Dr Sanghamitra Pati, the director of RMRC-Bhubaneswar, said.

In a related development, the state government, abiding by a new directive of the Health Ministry, has included ration cards with photograph as one of the identity proofs for verification of beneficiaries during Covid-19 vac-

₹360 CRORE FOR COVID-HIT OMC contributes ₹500 crore to CMRF **CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: The Chief Minister Thursday announced Rs 1,500 special assistance for each of the registered construction workers for which Rs 360 crore will be spent.

The government will continue its Banishree scholarships for the Dibyang students who are not studying in special schools. The students will be given an amount ranging from Rs 200 to Rs 350 (depending on class) for three months (April to June). As many 26,465 Dibyang students will be benefited from this while Rs 3.62 crore will be spent on this purpose.

be provided to each of 6,471 special POST NEWS NETWORK

school students who are doing on-Bhubaneswar, June 17: The line study from home. A total of Rs 2.41 crore will be spent for this. Odisha Mining Corporation Besides, the Chief Minister has (OMC) Thursday contributed Rs 500 crore to Chief Minister's announced that non-residential students will be given a monthly Relief Fund (CMRF).

The Odisha Agro Industries Corporation (OAIC) and Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation (OSCDC) have paid a dividend of Rs 3.76 crore to the state government. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik graced the occasion through videoconferencing. OMC chairman Surendra Kumar handed over the cheque of Rs 500 crore to Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra while OAIC chairman Debashis



5.42 per cent during last finan-

porting many state-run welfare schemes. It is funding 10 dedicated Covid hospitals in eight districts.

Similarly, the OAIC paid an amount of Rs 3,29,76,362 at 30 per cent of net profit for the year 2017-18. while the Cashew Development Corporation paid a dividend of Rs 46,51,200 at 30 per cent of net profit for the year 2018-19.

Among others, Agricultur



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 17: After

witnessing 40-plus Covid fatalities

daily for almost a fortnight now,

Odisha registered 39 deaths due

to the infection in a day, taking the

toll to 3.471, an official said Thursday.

3,631 fresh Covid-19 cases in the

past 24 hours, pushing the tally to

Lockdown curbs were eased

across the state, starting 5am, after

taking into consideration the av-

erage test positivity rate (TPR)

which has dropped to 5.72 per cent,

8,66,692, added the official.

The state, meanwhile, registered

47,796 Wednesday to 45,809. Of the 3,631 new cases 2,069 were registered in quarantine units and the rest detected during contact tracing. Khurda district, of which the state capital Bhubaneswar is a

part, reported the maximum number of new cases at 506, followed by Cuttack at 438 and Jajpur at 305. Taking to Twitter, the Health department said, "Regret to inform about the demise of 39 Covid patients while under treatment in

hospitals." Six deaths were reported from Khurda district, four each from Cuttack, Jharsuguda, Puri and Sundargarh, and three each from Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur and Kalahandi.

Over 1.28 crore samples have been tested in the state thus far, including 63,421 Wednesday. Meanwhile, officials of the Regional Medical Research Centre cination.

An amount of Rs 1,245 per month (for the period of April to June) will

given a monthly grant of Rs 390 from April 21 to June 21. It is estimated to cost Rs 7.5 lakh. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled

stipend of Rs 360 for the period of

April to June this year. Rs 3.92

crore will be spent on this. Similarly,

36 non-residential students will be

Tribe students will get their pre-matric scholarships for the period of April to September in two phases. It will cost Rs 252.35 crore to the state exchequer.

Amarendra Mohanty handed over the cheques to Mahapatra for their respective corporations. The Chief Minister thanked all the three corporations for the support during the pandemic.

Briefing on the activities of the OMC, Kumar said that the corporation has made a growth of cial year despite the pandemic. The total mineral production last vear was 17.12 million tonnes. The OMC, during last financial year, has achieved total sales to the tune of Rs 5,592 crore - an increase of 36.60 per cent as compared to the previous fiscal. The corporation is also sup-

Farmers Empowerment Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo, Agriculture Production Commissioner (APC) Raj Kumar Sharma, Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian, Agriculture Secretary SK Vashisth, OMC managing director Balwant Singh and senior officials of the three PSUs attended the event.

BMC for 45% reduction in meals at Aahar centres

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has reportedly decided to reduce its daily preparation of meals at Aahar centres to 45 per cent in the wake of state government's decision to continue with the lockdown in the city, with partial relaxations, until July 1.

As per sources, the civic authority, which has 11 Aahar centres across the city, was preparing about 9,000 meals every day. The Odisha government allowed only takeaways at Aahar outlets during announcement of lockdown. May 5. However, sources at the BMC said that while it was preparing 4,800 meals per day, May 5, it will further reduce it to only 4,000 meals until normalcy is restored.

"Observing lesser footfall during lockdown, quantity of meals at each outlet has been restricted to prevent wastage of food. Based on consumption pattern at different outlets, meal quantity has been



fixed for the lockdown days. This will continue until the government allows dine-ins which will eventually see an increase in demand.' said a BMC official.

It can be mentioned that out of 11 Aahar outlets, five are near major hospitals. Three of these are at Capital Hospital, Kalinga Hospital and SUM Hospital. These centres remain open during evening hours and weekend shutdowns. Meanwhile, the other two centres near AIIMS provide service only

LOCKDOWN & LOW FOOTFALL

The civic authority, which has 11 Aahar centres across the city. was preparing about 9,000 meals every day

The Odisha government allowed only takeaways at Aahar outlets during announcement of lockdown, May 5

However, sources at the BMC said that while it was preparing 4,800 meals per day, May 5, it will further reduce it to only 4.000 meals until normalcy is restored

during weekdays and morning hours

As per the information provided by the BMC, the two Aahar outlets near AIIMS will now serve 350 meals each. Meanwhile, 450 meals will be prepared at Capital Hospital and 400 at SUM Hospital outlet every day. Similarly, about 350 meals will be made at Chandrasekharpur, Nayapalli Durga Mandap at State Museum outlets

Moreover, the BMC will also operate all Aahar centres near hospitals even during weekend shutdowns. As provisioned, 150 meals at each Aahar centre nearby AIIMS, 250 in Capital Hospital outlet and 200 each in Aahar outlets near SUM and Kalinga Hospital will be made each day. During evening hours of weekend shutdowns, only three Aahar outlets - at Capital Hospital, near SUM Hospital and Kalinga Hospital - will provide 150 meals each.

"Meal consumption report is being reviewed and is regularly discussed. Recently, the number of meals at Chandrasekharpur Aahar centre was increased following such analysis. Similarly, per day meal preparation is reduced during Raja festival due to low footfalls. However, we increased the quantity this year observing the continued lockdown," said Deputy Commissioner, Welfare. Kamlakanta Behera.

Priority vax for PLHIV

Bhubaneswar: The Health department Thursday asked all the Collectors to ensure priority vaccination for people living with HIV (PLHIV). This comes after the recommendations of the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO). The Collectors have been asked to ensure on-site vaccination of the group too.

Miscreants damage properties

Bhubaneswar: Unknown miscreants wielding sharp weapons went on a rampage and vandalised several vehicles parked at residential area of Gandamunda under Khandagiri police station during the wee hours of Thursday. The whole episode was caught on CCTVs installed in the locality. The residents whose properties were ransacked by the armed miscreants have lodged a complaint with the police. Police collected the CCTV footage and launched a manhunt to arrest them.

DEFT HANDS

A girl weaves a bamboo basket in Meria Bazar area of Cuttack, Thursday

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OrissaPOST FRIDAY | IIINE 18 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAI

state

GPS installed in 90 boats; prawn gheries yet to be demolished

TURTLE PROTECTION

MEASURES

Protection of rare Olive Ridley

backseat in Kendrapara district

with the district administration

orders delivered by Orissa High

Orissa HC had ordered installation of GPS in fishing

boats and trawlers moving in

marine sanctuary and clear the

area of illegal prawn gheries for

however, lamented that the demo-

lition work of the prawn gheries is

There have been reports of many

turtles dying after getting stuck

in fishing nets. Many dead turtles

sustain injuries, which points the

possibility of them being trapped

in a trawl or gill nets, said Hemant

Rout, environmentalist and sec-

retary, Gahirmatha Marine Turtles

and Mangrove Conservation Society.

well as illegal prawn gheries have

mushroomed in the 15,000 hectares

of the marine sanctuary posing

Toxic gases and wastes ema-

nating from the gheries are dis-

charged into the sea resulting in the

death of the turtles. He said the dem-

olition work of the gheries in the

district is quite disappointing and

grave threats to the sea animals.

He said that both fishing boats as

and around the Gahirmatha

protection of the rare turtles

not satisfactory.

yet to fully implement the

Court in this connection

sea turtles has taken a



POST NEWS NETWORE

Kendrapara, June 17: Protection of rare Olive Ridley sea turtles has taken a backseat in Kendrapara district with the district administration yet to fully implement the two orders delivered by Orissa High Court in this connection, March 16, a report said.

Reports said that Orissa High Court had ordered installation of GPS (Global Positioning System) in fishing boats and trawlers moving in and around the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary and clear the area of illegal prawn gheries for protection of the rare turtles. However, the district adminis-

tration has only partially implemented the first order, while it is yet to take any step regarding the second order, the report said.

Meanwhile, over 90 fishing boats and trawlers have been installed with GPS and plans are afoot to install more boats with the system in phases. The GPS system will prevent the boats and trawlers from entering the prohibitory zone of Gahirmatha.

Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is the world's largest rookery of the sea turtles which is visited by thousands of these rare turtles for mating and mass nesting.

Moreover, the High Court had also directed the authorities to identify the illegal prawn gheries through satellites, demolish them and register cases against the prawn farmers. Locals and environmentalists,

Noted tribal poet Purnamasi Jani hospitalised

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Phulbani. June 17: Padma Shri awardee tribal poet from the state, Purnamasi Jani, has been admitted to a Covid-19 hospital after contracting the disease, an official

He alleged that administrative negligence is leading to coastal erosion as well as the death of ma-

initiate strong actions.

rine and wild animals. Turtles also die as many fishermen dump damaged fishing nets, plastic bottles, polythene and other hazardous materials into the ocean, he said

the district administration should

Manas Ranjan Sahu, Director of Marine Fisheries department, said over four lakh turtles visit Gahirmatha every year for mating and mass nesting. During this period, restrictions on fishing is imposed on over 1435 sq.km in the sea extending from Dhamra in Bhadrak district to Hukitola island in Kendrapara district.

Initially, it was difficult to demarcate the mating and nesting sites of the turtles in the sea due to the fishing boats, trawlers and gill nets entering the sea and lead to death of the turtles.

Later, floating buoy barriers were installed from the coast up to 20 km in the sea. However, these floating buoys failed to be any use as they were not installed in properly.

As a result, fishing boats and trawlers continued to enter the prohibitory zone. To prevent such influx, installation of GPS has been made mandatory for every boat, he added.

Haladhar Sethy, president of Kendrapara Fishermen's Congress, so far GPS has been installed in 90 boats and the remaining boats and trawlers will have the facility soon. The work is progressing at a slow pace due to Covid restrictions in the state. Even as fishing ban has been

lifted from June 15 normal fishing activities are vet to resume in the area. Only a handful of 30 to 40 fishing boats and trawlers have gone into the sea for fishing at this time.

DFO Bikash Ranjan Dash said illegal prawn gheries are being identified and demolished at regular intervals, while action is being taken against the fishing boats and trawlers entering the prohibitory zone in Gahirmatha.

Berhampur, June 17: Ganjam district Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange visited the historical site at Potagada Thursday morning to review the ongoing restoration work.

POST NEWS NETWORK

According to official sources, the restoration work was halted for several months owing to lockdowns and surge in Covid-19 cases in the district.

The Collector was accompanied by Sub-Collector, tehsildar, block development officer (BDO), executive officer of Notified Area Council (NAC) and several other senior officials.

Kulange ordered the tehsildar to expedite the work. He also advised the officials to carry out construction work of a proposed smart park on priority basis. The proposed park is being constructed to attract more tourists to the Potagada historical site, a senior official informed.

The Collector also instructed a contract firm engaged for cleaning the surrounding areas, to complete the remaining work at the earliest.

DTVINE WEDDING



Women carrying the divine couple Shiva and Parbati in palanguins to the temple after solemnisation of their marriage during Sital Sasthi festival at Ibaduanada in Sambalpur, Thursday OP PHOTO

Letter No. 3388

GANJAM COLLECTOR VISITS POTAGADA HISTORICAL SITE

No. B-147 1. The Executive Engineer, Ghatagaon (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate Bids in Single cover system in online mode from the eligible contractor's for road works as mentioned below. Nature of work : Civil Works 3. Numbers of work : 01 (One) No. : Rs.25.06 Lakhs (Approx.) Estimated cost Period of completion : 2 (Two) Calendar Months. . Date & Time of availability of : From 11.30 A.M. of dt.22.09.2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No.E.E. GTN(R&B) - 01/2021-22

E-mail address- eeghatagaon2015@gmail.com

- bid document in the portal to 05.00 P.M. of dt.28.06.2021 Last Date/Time for receipt of : 05.00 P.M. of dt.28.06.2021
 - bids in the portal Date of opening of Bid : 11.00 A.M. of dt.29.06.2021 . Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/
 - cancellation of tender can also be seen in the same website only. Sd./- Executive Engineer, Ghatagaon (R&B) Division OIPR-34140/11/0002/2122

ENDER CALL NO

No.E-160:- Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed publisher's/ suppliers for supply of Medical Books (For the Department of Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Psychiatric Social work & Psychiatric Nursing) quoting the discount on publishers price on previous and latest editions which are to be purchased for the Library of Mental Health Institute, SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack- 753007 vithin 23.06.2021 to 20.07.2021 and will be opened on 23.07.202 at 12.30 P.M. The authority reserves the right to cancel or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The details of tender papers along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days on payment of Rs.1,000/- (Rupees one thousand) only or from the website www.scbmch.nic.in. The tenderers/their authorized Representatives should be present at the time of opening of tender. The tender paper should be reached in the office of the undersigned through Speed Post/Regd. Post only.

Woman gives birth to rarest of rare baby

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 17: In a first for the MKCG Medical College and Hospital (MKCGMCH) in Ganjam district, doctors and nurses delivered a bizarre baby girl Wednesday evening.

The newborn not only did not have a nose, but both her eyes were in a single socket. Informing that the birth of such a strange baby was the first of its kind at MKCGMCH, senior paediatrician Dr Sunil Kumar Agarwal attributed genetic disorder to such anomalies found in newborns



Body of woman fished out from Baitarani

POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, June 17: Decomposed body of an unidentified woman was found floating in mysterious circumstances on Baitarani river Thursday at Girigaon ghat under Nandipada police

said Thursday.

The 83-year-old fell ill at her native Charipada village in Kandhamal district two days ago. She underwent a Covid test and the result returned positive with mild viral load, hospital sources said.



The health condition of Jani is stable. Chief District Medical Officer Rajasri Patnaik said.

Jani, who was awarded the Padma Shri for her contributions to tribal culture and art, is popularly known as 'Tadisoru Bai' for her deep knowledge of tribal spiritual activities.

Jasmin Deep, wife of Goutam Deep of Damerakia village under K Nuagaon police limits in Kandhamal district, was admitted to the O&G department few days ago. She complained of labour

pain Wednesday noon and was shifted to the labour room. The doctors, after conducting some examinations, did not notice any movements of the foetus. This led them to believe that it could be a stillborn case.

Later, trying to save the mother's life, the doctors had to go for cesarean delivery. The doctors declared the baby as a stillborn one.

No patient at Covid-19 hospital in Bargarh DHH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, June 17: With most districts in Odisha reporting fewer cases of fresh Covid-19 cases and the number of active cases coming down substantially, the load on Covid-19 hospitals have also reduced considerably.

Bargarh is one such district. At present no patient is admitted to the Covid-19 Hospital on the premises of the district headquarters hospital (DHH) at Khedapali on the outskirts of Bargarh town. Talking about the Covid-19 situation in the district, district information and public relations officer (DIPRO) Kalvani Dash said the Covid-19 Hospital at the DHH is sans any patients.

"However, 86 and six Covid patients in the district are undergoing treatment at Vikash Multi Speciality Hospital and Bargarh Covid Care Centre respectively," she informed.

Notably, the Covid-19 situation in Bargarh district had been grim in May when it reported more than 500 cases daily for several days. The district is presently in the green zone with only 886 active cases. On Thursday the district reported 50 fresh cases and one more fatality. With this, the tally and toll in the district have gone up to 29,624 and 82 respectively.

Man on foot march to generate green awareness

The march started June 7 – two days after the World Environment Day – and will continue for at least a month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, June 17: A sexagenarian green activist has been undertaking a solo 10-km foot march in Berhampur city of Ganjam district every day to create awareness about the need for environmental conservation.

The march started June 7 - two days after the World Environment Day – and will continue for at least a month, the academic said.

Every morning, Sudhir Kumar Rout holds the silent march carrying placards espousing the cause of his 'padayatra'

"The foot march aims to spread awareness among the people to save Mother Earth. It can be possible by massive plantations, saving water bodies from pollution, and getting rid of single-use plastics," Rout said.

Wearing a kurta-pajama and wrapping his head with a towel, the green



activist walks alone for the mission in the city, 168 km south of Bhubaneswar. "Every day, I take different routes. It takes me around two-and-a-half hours to cover the stretch and return before the relaxation period of the

lockdown ends at 11 am," he said. Notwithstanding the Covid-induced lockdown and shutdown, the response from the people has been very good, the green activist claimed.

Even though some of his friends wished to be part of the initiative, Rout said he refused to involve them in this endeavour.

He is the founder of Arvabhatta Foundation, an organisation that works in the field of environment and climate change. Rout and other members of the Aryabhatta Foundation had planted thousands of trees and turned barren hills into greenery and cleaned the ponds in the silk city over the past decade.

They had also organised marches and bicycle rallies earlier to create awareness among the masses not to pollute ponds by dumping waste generated from traditional rituals.

The organisation had also scattered around three lakh seed balls in 12 hills in Ganjam district in the last two years and the survival rate of the plants grown from the seed balls are around 20-30 per cent in the hill areas, the green activist said.

Rout said when youngsters approach him on the streets during the 'padayatra', he displays the placards.

"I think they have realised the cause and are trying to work towards saving the environment and Mother Earth, Rout added

limits in Keonjhar district, sources said.

According to an eyewitness, some local residents first noticed the woman's body early in the morning and informed Nandipada police about the incident. Police rushed to the spot and recovered the decomposed body from the water. The cops sent the body to a nearby hospital for post-mortem.

Meanwhile, a case has been registered in this connection. The identity of the deceased woman has not been ascertained yet, a police official said. A probe is underway to ascertain the identity of the deceased woman.

1.	Date of sale of tender paper		23.06.2021 to 20.07.2021		
2. 3. 4.	Last date for receipt of tender paper		22.07.2021		
3.	Date of opening of tender		23.07.2021 at 12.30 P.M.		
4.	Place of opening of tender - Of	fice	of the Director-cum-Medical		
	Superintendent, Mental Health In	sti	tute, S.C.B. Medical College		
	Hospital Cuttack-753007 (in case th	IA (due date is declared as holiday		

the tender can be opened on next working day) Sd./- Director-cum-Medical Superintendent Mental Health Institute, S.C.B. Medical College Hospital, Cuttack OIPR-10051/11/0003/2122

Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan)

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Important dates for Admission into BPT/BOT/BPO:

1. Starting date of submission of Online Application Forms	14th June, 2021 (Monday)
2. Closing date of submission of Online Application Forms	16th July, 2021 (Friday)
3. Date of entrance Test	8th August, 2021 (Sunday)
4. Contact email id	pdunippdadmissions@gmail.com
Important dates for Admission into MPO:	
1. Starting date of submission of Online Application Forms	19th July, 2021 (Monday)
2. Closing date of submission of Online Application Forms	7th August, 2021 (Saturday)
3. Date of entrance Test	29th August, 2021 (Sunday)
• Candidates are advised to keep visiting the website www.iphr	newdelhi.in, www.pdunippd.in for any
further information in this regard.	
DAVP 38103/11/0003/2122	Directo

DAVP 38103/11/0003/212









as "a spiritual catastrophe.

tiple layers of the past.

elided almost completely.

solve one imbalance by creating another.

Part of the challenge is America's unusually

binary culture, at least in terms of its prevail-

ing national narrative. In the 1950s, the domi-

nant narrative featured a country uniquely

driven by freedom, middle-class prosperity,

democracy, and a voice for all. The story of

slavery was a redemptive one, with the Civil War

and the Emancipation Proclamation demon-

strating that the US had morally strayed but ul-

timately returned to the righteous path. The end

This was a triumphant narrative whose

brief appearances to reinforce the story.

In the late 1960s and 1970s, there was an al

now crowding back in. As Malcolm X memo-

The consciousness of the seer is a greater power for knowledge than the consciousness of the thinker.

SRI AUROBINDO

Flawed search

ecently, the US podcaster-provocateur Joe Rogan made headlines by

saying that, given America's current cultural trajectory, straight white

Learning will eventually no longer be "allowed to go outside." On the other

hand, the University of North Carolina denied tenure to Nikole Hannah-Jones,

the Pulitzer Prize-winning leader of the New York Times' influential, and

not uncontroversial, 1619 Project about America's history of slavery. In an-

other twist, the historically Black Howard University disbanded its classics

department, a decision that the Harvard philosopher Cornel West described

What these headlines demonstrate is that, in today's woke age, Americans

have yet to find an equilibrium for evaluating who they are. Recognising the

country's legacy of flawed, incomplete national stories does not entail re-

placing one lopsided narrative with another. After all, in an ideal world, US

citizens of all colours, ethnicities, and classes would honour and discuss mul-

them to grapple with their whiteness. Although much of the United States'

past has been racially whitewashed. Americans can't simply erase that

whiteness or treat it primarily as a problem to be overcome. We cannot re-

The problem for many Americans is that embracing "wokeness" requires

The perceptual power of the inner sight is greater and more direct than the perceptual power of thought...

FOCUS BANK SALES & MIDDLE CLASS

FOLKS HIT, RETHINK APPROACH

The middle class is supposed to be the backbone of the Indian economy. It is shrinking and in the midst of it, the government chooses to announce sale of two major public sector banks. Central Bank of India (CBI) and the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB). Should India privatise critical assets when it needs the finances most? The sales instead would be used for one-time financing of budgetary deficits.

Both the banks, like many other public sector banks, have shown improvement in their balance sheets of late and no sooner their privatisation is announced got impressive quotes at the stock market. On June 8, shares of Central Bank and IOB soared 7 to 14 per cent soon after Niti Aayog announced their privatisation. Both the lenders are currently under the prompt corrective action (PCA) imposed by the Reserve Bank of India and have shown marked improvements. This shows that the market is ready to lap up assets worth ₹9.7 lakh crore -CBI ₹3.56 lakh crore and IOB ₹2.44 lakh crore. Another asset of United Insurance is ₹3.7 lakh crore – a good sum for a race to a multi-tril lion dollar economy

The banks' health is mysteriously linked to the growth of the middle class. Since 1969 nationalisation of banks for development purposes has helped both the banks and the depositors, largely from the middle class. As they grew, so have the bank deposits and industrial and economic activities risen. But as the middle class got a jolt after the 2008 Lehman Brothers meltdown due to incentivisations by the UPA government causing erosion in bank assets, because of non-payment of huge sums (over ₹50 lakh crore by large lenders i.e. corporate). shrinkage of jobs and activities the middle class took the hit.

This has been exacerbated by the introduction of a low-interest, high prices and high-tax-on-deposit regime. This may marginally buff-up government revenue figures, but has caused impoveri-

The banks' health is mysteriously linked to the growth of the middle class. Since 1969 nationalisation of banks for development purposes has helped both the banks and the depositors, largely from the middle class. As they grew, so have the bank deposits and

> now lower incomes and capacity to consume and savings are down. The first officially declared recession has left its middle class fearful of future. This means the future growth

corrective steps, banks that were nationalised with great 'political will' are sold back to the private. it would mean social assets would decline, leading to further economic chaos. Often it is justified that PSBs are unable to cope up with private banks. This is a misnomer.

India's private banks such as Axis, ICICI, HDFC and others have a record of being eroded by its own bosses. Axis has asset quality problems, ICICI was motheaten by its Chief Executive Chanda Kochhar and HDFC was fined ₹10 crore for wrongfully selling third-party non-financial products to its auto loan customers. There are many complaints against HDFC insurance as well. By privatising some of the biggest financial institutions, would the nation be forcing these also to go the unethical chaotic way?

It mustn't forget that during demonetisation and the pandemic. the PSBs have given services to the people, even with a dwindling number of employees. The CBI has

33,481 employees in 4,685 branches IOB 26,334 in 3,400 branches and UIA 14,322 in 2,271 branches. Once privatised, one-third or more of their employees would lose jobs

Despite the PCA curbs, both lenders have managed to grow their loan books. Central Bank's gross advances rose nearly three per cent between March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2021 to ₹1.77 lakh crore. IOB's advances stood at ₹1.37 lakh crore as on December 31, 2020, up two per cent year-on-year.

Being state-owned banks, they continued to enjoy the trust of depositors despite being under over five per cent in a year to ₹3.3 lakh crore as on March 31, 2021 and IOB's deposits also increased by a similar degree to ₹2.34 lakh crore

Since nationalisation, the Indian banking sector expanded at an unmatched level but it made banks prone to political interference for many purposes including the 2008 incentivisation of the rich corporate or Jan Dhan accounts that raised operational costs. Largely, the financial woes of the PSBs are not due to corruption and nepotism. Many loans of banks such as Bank of India, Punjab National bank, Bank of Baroda Axis bank and IDBI Bank were written off to shore up balance sheets. The quantum of PSB loan stood at ₹32.853 crore higher than recoveries of ₹23.894 crore. Such

This also does not justify the

It is not easy to create ₹10 billion asset. It might go to one or the other defaulters? Instead, retaining the asset would help government create these more economic activities and boost jobs. An empowered mid dle class with lower taxes and TDS exemptions on their deposits can do wonders. Mere change in approach could strengthen the economy and open up many avenues for the government

INFA

SPECTRUM OLYMPICS & PANDEMIC An Olympic-size Covid risk

model of effective pandemic response. While Western countries endured harsh lockdowns and soaring infection and death rates, Asian countries largely kept the coronavirus under control. But the tables have turned, with East Asia now lagging far behind the United States and Europe on vaccinations. This does not bode well for this summer's Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. As of June 15, Japan had the second worst vaccination record among the 38 OECD countries, with 20.9 doses per 100 people. Contrast that with the United Kingdom's 106.1 doses per 100 people, and the US rate of 93.3 doses per 100. Why is Japan lagging so far behind the rest of the OECD? For starters, the government was late in securing purchase agreements with vaccine producers, not least because the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare was reluctant to provide rapid emergency approval to the new vaccines. Japan has a history of controversy over vaccine side effects. For example, the government approved human papillomavirus vaccines in 2009 and listed them for regular administration in 2013. Just two months later, the government withdrew its recom-

n 2020, Asia – especially East mendation to use the vaccine in Asia – was often touted as a girls, after a series of alleged adverse post-immunization events

While the state of emergency is sals, the public is unconvinced. It scheduled to be lifted June 20, this may have to be pushed back, given the painfully slow decline in coronavirus infections. Even if it is lifted as expected, there is no guarantee that another wave will not demand new lockdowns soon. With the Olympic Games scheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, and the Paralympic Games from August 24-September 5, such a wave could be more like a tsunami. During the Games, a significant share of Tokyo's medical resources will be diverted away from the Covid-19 response, in order to meet the needs of competitors and their supporting staff. Moreover, a huge number of people from all over the world will travel to Tokyo-potentially bringing dangerous coronavirus variants with them. It should come as no surprise that 83% of Japan's residents now oppose holding the Games as scheduled.

does not help that, just 37 days before the opening ceremony, the government still has not decided whether to allow spectators into the Olympic Stadium. The Suga government's best hope for regaining the public's trust is to scale up its vaccination drive rapidly. This will require, among other things, expanding significantly the number of people permitted to administer doses. But even if Japan follows the trajectory of the US, which was in the position Japan is in today four months ago, it will not achieve widespread vaccination until about mid-October - long after the Olympic and Paralympic athletes have gone home. Without herd immunity in Japan, hosting the Tokyo Games is a risky bet. Suga could win big: if the Games are a success, and infections do not rise, he is more likely to be re-elected as the leader of his Liberal Democratic Party, at which point he might even call a snap general election. But that doesn't change the fact that he is willing to gamble with people's health, livelihoods, and lives.

of post-Civil War Reconstruction and the subsequent Jim Crow era of legally enforced racial segregation in the former Confederate states were

heroes were, by and large, white men. Native Americans were visible, if at all, only in brief benign cameos at the first Thanksgiving and then as enemies on the frontier. A few African-Americans – such as George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington - made whiteness. Although most complete reversal of that narrative, and one-time heroes became villains. This narrative discovered new heroes like the abolitionists Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, and the women's rights activist Susan B Anthony, and brought out of the shadows buried injustices, including widespread lynching of Blacks and the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre (100 years ago last month). The oppression that America had conveniently and purposethat whiteness fully air-brushed from the historical picture was

rably put it, "Our forefathers were not the Pilgrims. We didn't land on Plymouth Rock; the Rock was landed on us." Today, rejection of the "whitewashing of American history" and efforts to confront structural racism have triggered a conservative backlash, with Republican lawmakers pushing bills through state legislatures that ban the teaching of "critical race theory" in school curricula.

One way through this morass is to recognise - though not necessarily celebrate - that white men made much of American history and that no understanding of who we are can be complete without integrating that. Of course, what it means to "make history" is itself a fractious issue; but in terms of who exercised the levers of power – political, social, and economic – white men are, to say the least, overrepresented.

I recently wrote a history of America and money as seen through the lens of one family investment firm - Brown Brothers Harriman - over more than two centuries. Their story is in many ways a microcosm of American history and the yin-yang of how our narratives have oscillated. They represent a more sustainable form of capitalism, but they also rose to prominence largely because they funded the cotton trade, which was based on the labor of enslaved men and women. They spoke of public service as a moral imperative, but they also helped engineer the US occupation of Nicaragua in order to ensure repayment of their loans to that country's government. Though the firm long epitomised white male privilege, it began - like much of American history - as an immigrant story, with the Irish linen merchant Alexander Brown fleeing sectarian violence in Belfast in 1800 to settle in Baltimore. The company he founded shaped America's economic development by helping to fund not only the cotton trade but also the first US railroad (the Baltimore & Ohio) and transatlantic steam lines. Cotton trade notwithstanding, the partners were founding members of the anti-slavery Republican Party, Brown Brothers Harriman later came to exemplify the East Coast WASP establishment that built the post-1945 international system still in place today, and helped to promote a more equitable, and more riskaverse, form of partnership capitalism. That elitist, hierarchical world, closed to all but a privileged few, fell out of favour in the 1960s and 1970s. But, in stark contrast to today's supposedly more egalitarian elites, yesterday's titans of business and finance also believed in public service and serving the public good. Although firms' leaders wanted to make money, they were content to make 30 times more than the average employee, compared to the 300-to-1 ratios now prevalent in large companies across multiple sectors. Although the notion that with great power comes great responsibility might seem platitudinous, they practiced it. But it's perilously easy to reduce everything to stick figures and stock characters. Of course, we must constantly and critically question the breezy, arrogant belief that the US is a most perfect union of freedom, democracy, and openness. Yet, another form of American exceptionalism - the notion that the US is not the best of countries but the worst - is equally distorted and in its way just as toxic and conceited.



"wokeness" requires them to grapple with their much of the United States' past has been racially whitewashed, Americans can't simply erase

MANY LOANS OF **BANKS SUCH AS BANK OF INDIA**

Shivaji Sarkar

THE FINANCIAL

WOES OF THE

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WE OPPOSE Ø PRIVATISATION OF

industrial and economic activities risen

sation of the middle class. Majority of this class is paying income tax on a skewed higher income as interest were not considered as hedging against inflation but un-

wisely as "income". This erodes savings. The process started durwould be delayed and if instead of ing the UPA and the NDA never heard or paid heed to the people's pleas. It condescended by 2018 with the middle class slipping. This and the poor were also hit by unwise demonetisation that had shaken the economy in 2016, when

PCA. Central Bank's deposits grew as on December 31, 2020.

figures are gradually coming down.

process of privatisation. Even the United Insurance is preferred to most private insurers as its claim settlement process is more realistic and ethical.

Confronting our complex history and ultimately embracing a more equitable, balanced, and humble culture may be a tall order in these fractious times. But that makes it even more imperative that we fully reckon with who we are and who we are capable of becoming.

The writer is Founder of The Progress Network and the author, most recently, of 'Inside Money: Brown Brothers Harriman' and the 'American Way of Power'. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WORDS**WORTH**

Cadastral

cadastral survey is one on a scale sufficiently large to accurately show the extent and measurement of every field or other block of land. The most common reason for such a survey is as a basis for taxation, but in some countries, particularly the US, it is associated at least as strongly with the need to accurately identify land boundaries; for example, there is an active Cadastral Survey within the Bureau of Land Management in the USA, which is responsible for maintaining records of all public lands. Such surveys often required detailed investigation of the history of land use, legal accounts and other documents, so it often includes a fair amount of detective work in matching physical surveys with records. The word came into English by way of French and Italian from the Greek katastikhon, a list or register, from kata stikhon, "line by line".



WITHOUT HERD **IMMUNITY IN JAPAN, HOSTING THE TOKYO GAMES IS A RISKY BET. SUGA COULD WIN BIG: IF THE GAMES** ARE A SUCCESS, AND INFECTIONS **DO NOT RISE**

etters

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

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send in their valuable comments, opinion

101

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

stoked public concerns about the vaccine's safety.

it was just about turning around.

now looking into the severe pan-

demic lockdown and says that 3.3

crore people during the last one

year have slid into poverty of a 9.9

crore supposedly middle class,

defined as people with \$10 to \$20

a day earners. Its report states

the poverty rate in India rose by

9.7 per cent in 2020, up from

January 2020 forecast of 4.3 per

cent and projected to have reached

13.4 crore. If food dole is a standard.

then the pandemic has hit 80 crore

people. Despite large bankisation

of the poor, the banks have not got

that boost in actual deposits

though the operational cost has in-

The size apart, the class that is

stated to be the key to growth has

creased manifold.

The Pew Research Centre is

During the Covid-19 crisis, the authorities insisted that a clinical trial for vaccines be conducted in Japan before approval, even though large-scale randomised controlled trials, involving more than 40,000 people, had already been undertaken elsewhere. The Japanese clinical trial provided little useful information: it involved only 160 people and researchers checked only for antibodies, not asymptomatic infections. Yet it delayed the immunization drive by three months.

Another obstacle for Japan's vaccination programme is the rule that only medical doctors and nurses may administer doses. The US began with a similar rule, but municipalities quickly expanded eligibility to include dentists, veterinarians, emergency medical technicians, and clinical laboratory technicians. In New York, pharmacists, dental hygienists, podiatrists, and other medical workers and medical students are eligible to administer jabs. So, while New Yorkers return to pre-pandemic life, Japanese are facing a new surge of Covid-19 infections and lockdowns

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's administration has attempted to assuage people's fears, pledging to bring in additional medical resources and keep all visitors in a "bubble" that covers hotels, event facilities, and transportation between them. But Opposition parties accuse the government of failing to produce a convincing safety plan. And, after more than a year of strict rules and sharp rever-

The writer is a former Japanese Deputy Minister of Finance. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

G-7 and trade war

Sir, Recently the G-7 summit was held in England from June 11 to 13. The main purpose of the meeting was to show how the world can be saved from the Covid-19 epidemic but, the main talk was how to weaken China from a financial point of view. The G-7 countries have come together to unite against China because now they no longer have the financial strength to compete with the Communist nation. The world knows that the US and China engaged in a trade war since July 6, 2018, when the US imposed a 25 per cent tariff on \$34 billion of Chinese imports – the first in a series of tariffs imposed during 2018 and 2019. It was formally signed January 15, 2020, with its provisions taking effect February 15, 2020. The cause of trade war was US businesses also use Chinese labour to assemble or manufacture products to reduce production costs. In a nutshell, the trade deficit with China is caused by the country's lower costs of labour and American demand for the goods produced there. Then the Covid-19 epidemic ruined the economic situation of all the countries, especially the financial strength of the G-7 countries. At this point, China was able to regain its financial strength and put itself at the forefront of the world. In fact the G-7 countries have united to grab the world market occupied by China now.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Mental health

Sir, I am writing to you to highlight the issue of mental illness of people during the pandemic and draw the attention of concerned authorities and the general public towards it. As the country fights the pandemic due attention has not been given to mentally ill patients and there is a considerable surge in the numbers of these patients after this pandemic. Due to lockdown protocols and Covid-19 guideline and lack of availability of psychological counseling centers in many cities as well as lack of mental health support groups such patients are facing lots of problems. Getting online appointments through applications likes Practo/Apollo 24/7 were helpful to some extent but the availability of LMHC wasn't satisfying. The role of family members and neighbours is also important in considering social reasons. In some cases the behaviour of family members and neighbours worsens the patient's condition. So they need to be aware of it and be cognitive in their behavioral approach and help them get an early diagnosis

Chinmayee Beura, CUTTACK







TRIAL RUN SUCCESSFUL'

THE TUNNEL'S OPERATIONALISATION WOULD REDUCE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN BANIHAL IN JAMMU PROVINCE AND QAZIGUND IN SOUTH KASHMIR BY 16 KM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Banihal/Jammu, June 17: The two-hour-long first trial run of vehicular traffic through the double-tube four lane Banihal-Qazigund tunnel along the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was conducted successfully, officials said Thursday.

The 8.5-km-long tunnel, built at a cost of Rs 21,00 crore in 10 years, is at present going through the testing and commissioning process and is likely to become operational in coming weeks, they said.

It will bypass the Jawahar Tunnel and Shaitan Nalla, which is prone to heavy snowfall and slippery conditions during winters and results in a bottleneck in the strategically important road linking Kashmir to the rest of the country.

"The first trial run from both sides was conducted successfully from 4pm to 6pm Wednesday," Muneeb Tak, Chief Manager of Navayuga Engineering Company, which began working on the tunnel in June 2011 said.

The tunnel's operationalisation would reduce the distance between Banihal in Jammu province and Qazigund in south Kashmir by 16km. Deputy Superintendent of



Traffic, National Highway, Shemsher Singh said no disruptions were faced during the trial run as the movement of traffic from both sides remained smooth.

The Navayuga company officials said the trial run would continue on alternate days and the timing might also be extended without interfering with the ongoing work.

Tak had said June 6 that the company was engaged in the testing commissioning process after the the Banihal pass often witnessed traffic congestion that affected movement on the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, due to its elevation of 2,194 m and limited traffic capacity.

The officials said a corridor be-

tween the two tubes after every

500 meters has been built that could

be used in case of any emergency

The existing road tunnel below

tubes of the tunnel.

in either tube.

The new tunnel's average elevation at 1,790 m (5,870 ft) is 400 m lower than the existing Jawahar tunnel's elevation, which would make it less prone to avalanches and fulfills the dream of expressway between Srinagar and Banihal.

On June 8, Union Secretary, Road Transport and Highways, Giridhar Aramane, visited Banihal to assess the status of construction work and said most of the civil, mechanical and electrical works have been completed while the toll plazas on both the terminals are also ready.

He said only security gadgets are pending due to Covid-19 restrictions on flights as they are being procured from Singapore, assuring the mega project will be thrown open for public within weeks.

Yediyurappa's detractor alleges phone-tapping

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 17: Karnataka BJP MLA Arvind Bellad, who is said to be from the faction of the party that is seeking Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's replacement, Thursday alleged that his phone was being tapped and attempts were on to fix him as part of some conspiracy, in order to defame him.

The MLA from Hubli-Dharwad West said he has petitioned Home Minister Basavaraj S Bommai and Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri in this regard for an inquiry and to get the matter investigated.

A few days ago when I returned a call that I had missed, a person said his name was Yuvraj Swamy and wanted to speak to me about political developments and my name being heard in it.. As I could not recognise who he was, I had cut short the discussion and disconnected the call. Again after three four days he called claiming that he was unnecessarily put in jail and was in hospital now, Bellad said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said there was a conspiracy behind sudden calls to him in recent days from Yuvraj Swamy, a person who is facing cases and someone whom he has not known or spoken to in the past.

Despite my father Chandrakant



Bellad being a five time MLA, his political life was without a black mark...As his son I'm also following in his footsteps...Unable to find any fault in me, I feel attempts are being made to fix me by making such people call and talk to me...Big hands are behind it, he added.

Yuvraj Swamy, who Bellad is referring to, is said to be the same person who had reportedly claimed to have ties with central political leaders and a powerful right-wing organisations and had allegedly conned several people taking money with assurances that he would get them plum positions.

Bellad said he has submitted a letter to the Assembly Speaker, Home Minister and DG and IGP seeking an inquiry and action, and also providing him with police protection. He claimed his movements were also being monitored. Several times I have noticed that

everal times I have noticed that

Army's Northern Command

marks its 50th Raising Day

Leopard.

when I go to some place all of a sudden some people follow me there, how are they coming, how do they get to know about my movement. All these things makes me feel that my phone has been tapped and it is being monitored, he said, adding that he has no suspicion on any one and inquiry should be conducted to find out who is behind it, the

MLA said, Reacting to Bellad's phone tapping allegations, Chief Minister's political secretary and MLA MP Renukacharya termed it a cheap publicity and said, no one's phone is tapped, people are daydreaming about becoming Chief Minister...

BJP state general secretary N Ravi Kumar said, "There is no question of tapping Bellad's phone, he is our legislator. I don't know why he has made such a statement, the party won't accept it, the party will talk to him."

Leadership change issue lingers in K'taka



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 17: Hectic political activities continued for the second consecutive day in the ruling BJP in Karnataka Thursday as Legislators who met at Renukacharya's residence questioned the need for leadership change, while asserting that Yediyurappa will complete the term and will lead the party in the next

J&K govt to reach out to 50K youths for financial assistance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

ment including ventilation and

engineering and has been con-

structed with the Austrian tun-

neling method. It has been built

on the build-operate-transfer base

with a state-of-the-art exhaust sys-

tem to remove gas and bring in

CCTV modern cameras and a fire-

fighting system installed in both

There are 126 jet fans, 234

the fresh air," he had said.

'The tunnel is a masterpiece of

electric system

Srinagar, June 17: Riding high on the success of ambitious 'Back to Village initiative, J&K government is planning to reach out to 50,000 youths for financial assistance under the next leg of Back to Village program, the details of which would be finalised soon, officials said Wednesday.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during his visits to various villages in the third phase of 'Back To Village' program had underscored the need to involve youths in the developmental process to make them financially independent, and

job providers instead of job seekers. Taking his vision forward.

Jammu and Kashmir Bank ad-

vanced more than Rs 340 crore to

as many as 19.600 youth from across

the UT, against the target of about

8,800 youth. These youth were



this opportunity to more than 19,000 boys and girls. This year our aim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, June 17: Army's Northern Command Thursday paid homage to the gallant soldiers on its golden jubilee Raising Day which was celebrated at Udhampur headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir amid strict Covid protocol, a defence spokesman said.

Chief of Staff (COS), Headquarter Northern Command, Lt Gen S Harimohan Iyer, on behalf of General Officer Commandingin-Chief, northern command, Lt Gen Y K Joshi and all ranks laid wreath at the Dhruva War Memorial and paid homage to the gallant soldiers of Northern Command who have made the supreme sacrifice for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, the spokesman said. He said the Northern Command numerous accolades. "In addition, our firm yet peoplefriendly sub-conventional operations have not only thwarted attempts by our Western adversary to destabilise the nation but also won the hearts and minds of the local populace," he said.

of Northern Command in 'Op

Meghdoot', 'Op Parakarm', 'Op Vijay' 'Op Rakshak' and 'OP Snow

The resolute response of the

Indian Army against aggression on

the Line of Control (LoC) and Line

of Actual Control (LAC) has won

Lt Gen Joshi said the Northern Command has been at the forefront to assist the administration_ and people of UTs of J&K and Ladakh during natural calamities like snow blizzards, earthquakes, cloudburst at Leh (2010), floods in Jammu & Kashmir (2014) and frequent avalanches.

party's national General Secretary in-charge of the State Arun Singh started meeting leaders and legislators individually, in the backdrop of speculations over replacing Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa.

Singh, who landed in the city Wednesday evening, had already held a meeting with Ministers along with Yediyurappa and state BJP President Nalin Kumar Kateel.

The individual meeting with legislators, MPs and leaders that was scheduled at the city's Kumarakrupa Guest House, was at the last minute shifted to state BJP office Jagannath Bhavan at Malleshwaram, in view of maintaining secrecy of the interaction and to avoid large number of workers from gathering comsidering Covid situation, sources said. Kateel too is present at the meeting, they said.

Even as Singh is meeting legislators and leaders individually, activities were on in the camp that wants Yediyurappa to continue, to put forward their case before the national General Secretary and to send a message they were firmly behind the Chief Minister.

In what appeared to be a show of solidarity, several Ministers including Basavaraj S Bommai, JC Madhuswamy and S Angara and a host of legislators made a beeline to Chief Minister's residence, while 10 to 15 legislators met at Yediyurappa's political secretary MP Renukacharya's residence for breakfast, sources said. Hubli-Dharwad MLA Arvind Bellad, MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and others who are seen as a faction opposed to Yediyurappa, have reportedly held discussions regarding their strategy last evening itself. Tourism Minister CP Yogeshwar was also said to be in touch with them.

Another faction of MLAs who claims to be neutral and swears to abide by the party decision on the leadership issue are likely to use the opportunity of individual meetings to express their concerns on the functioning of the government and the party; also implications of the recent development in the future. assembly polls due in two years. They demanded action against

those who are making public statements on the issue and creating confusion. Renukacharya had invited a

present their case before Singh,

but he had to drop it, with the lead-

ership making it clear that the

General Secretary would meet only

Calling Yediyurappa a tall and

undisputed leader of the party and

questioning the morality of those

questioning his leadership, he de-

manded action against those caus-

ing embarrassment and are indulging in dissidence activities,

and warned if it is not put to an end it will hamper the party in the fu-

ture during upcoming local body

BJP was under Yediyurappa, an-

other BJP MLA Madal

Virupakshappa questioned the

need for leadership change when

the Chief Minister is functioning

effectively, said, he (Yediyurappa)

will continue as CM for remaining

two years and lead the party in

next polls. Party should take action

against those involved in dissi-

Another MLA M P Kumara-

swamy too, questioning the need

for leadership change at the time

when only one year is left for de-

velopment, as the remaining one

year will go into poll preparation,

said Yediyurappa brought BJP to

power in South India. He is a good

leader and all of us are with him.

Meanwhile, MLC A H Vishwa-

nath, who has been embarrassing

the government with his state-

ments against the functioning of the

government and the Chief Minister,

after meeting Singh, said, like in

other parties family politics and

demon politics is seen in BJP

too and advised that Yediyurappa

become margdarshak and make

dence activities.

Noting that the 2018 mandate to

polls and next assembly polls.

individually and not in groups.

Renukacharya had invited a large number of legislators who are in support of Yediyurappa to his residence for a breakfast and thereafter had planned to go together and

The Lt Governor during a highlevel meeting of DDC Chairpersons, Administrative Secretaries, and District Development Commissioners Wednesday announced that this year, the UT administration should aim to provide financial assistance to 50,000 unemployed youth in order to make them enunderscored the need to involve youths in the developmental process to make them financially independent, and job providers instead of job seekers

trepreneurs.

Last year, our target was to pick up two unemployed boys and girls from each Panchayat to make them Entrepreneurs. The youth of Jammu & Kashmir have immense talent and till date, we have provided should be to reach out to 50,000 youths with all the assistance so that they can become entrepreneurs, the Lt Governor observed.

Besides this, 18,000 posts have been advertised by SSB for recruitment in various departments. More posts are being identified.

Another significant decision taken by the government is that no work will be taken up by any department without following due procedure of tendering. Avoiding laid down procedures has been found leading to pilferages and quality issues. Tendering process will ensure transparency, accountability, and quality of works. was raised 17 June 1972 and completed its 50th Raising Day.

In his message to the troops, the Army Commander stated that these glorious years are testimony to historic operational achievements "The current Covid-19 pandemic is yet another example when the Indian Army has gone out of its way to support the people, in their times of need," he said.



In this Jammu village, the deceased live on in the trees

Surrounded by lush green trees and rugged

mountain slopes, villagers in Kalihand

have a unique culture of commemorating the dead by planting a fruit tree and watering it for at least a year or longer till it bears fruit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, June 17: In the lush green village of Kalihand, residents commemorate their deceased by planting trees, the fruits of which are meant for friends, neighbours and travellers.

When someone dies in our family, we plant a tree, said Nath Ram (75), a resident of Kalihand village in Doda, a remote district in Jammu and Kashmir. Spread over 572 hectares, the village is located 25 km away from Doda town.

Surrounded by lush green trees and rugged mountain slopes, villagers in Kalihand have a unique culture of commemorating the dead by planting a fruit tree and watering it for at least a year or longer till it bears fruit. Nearly a third of the population in the village is Hindus who follow this tradition.

Shastron mei likha hai (it is written in the scriptures) and punya ka kaam (it is virtuous work) are two phrases repeated by the priest and locals alike while explaining the origins of this practice and its link to funerals.

Pandit Daya Ram, the village priest, referred to Garuda Puran (a Hindu religious text that speaks of heaven and hell, karma and rebirth and ancestral rites, among other things) to describe how this culture is deeply rooted in religious beliefs. Those who follow the Sanatan Dharma, the priest explained, believe that there is life even after death. And the deeds you do in your life, or those done in your name after your death, decide your path - either leading you to heaven or hell.

When someone rests under the shade of the tree or the fruit satiates someone's hunger, it becomes punya ka kaam that would help



in the salvation of the one who has died, he said. Planting a tree also ensures that the soul of the deceased would have shade to rest and fruit to eat, he continued while adding that the tradition has been around for generations and has become part of the village's culture and identity.

There is a shared understanding among the villagers about what a funeral entails. For economically weaker families, the villagers who come to mourn the deceased contribute financially in order to offer support and sympathy to the bereaved, said Babu Ram Sharma (45) who planted apple trees in his backyard in honour of his deceased family members.

The actions lead to afforestation on a community level, with apple, saadiyan (wild apricot), and pear trees surrounding the hamlet. The tree can be planted in a field, on one's own land or anywhere nearby since one needs to water it daily. Forests are not safe because of the wild animals, said Sunil Kumar, the Naib Sarpanch of Kalihand. The backyards of homes are filled with trees, a bittersweet reminder of the many generations of bereavement the family has endured.

The tradition has evolved over the years with the inclusion of various types of trees, plants and shrubs but one thing that remains common is that the fruit born by the tree is freely available for everyone except the family members themselves, who are forbidden from picking the fruits.

Grapevines and shrubs of aakhein (golden evergreen raspberry) are also planted but it is forbidden for the family to eat the fruit from such a tree or plant or profit from it. We have to give it away or any traveller can take the fruit if they desire, Kumar said.

The practice, whether derived from mythology or passed through tradition, is not restricted to just this village anymore. It is being adapted in nearby villages and also in other regions in the union territory. Krishna Dev, a resident of Bhaderwah, Jammu said, Planting of trees after the death of a familymember is a recent phenomenon here, dating back nearly ten years.

way for others.



national

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

India

countries.

New Delhi, June 17: Active since

2014, RedFoxtrot predominantly

targets aerospace and defense, gov-

ernment, telecommunications, min-

ing, and research organizations in

among

The other countries are

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan,

and Uzbekistan, aligning with the

operational remit of PLA Unit

69010. Recorded Future, the world's

other



I condemn it. They (Centre) can't control Twitter, so they are trying to bulldoze it. They are trying to do so with everyone they are unable to manage. They can't control me, and that is why they are trying to buildoze my government, too MAMATA BANERJEE CM, WEST BENGAL

EKA.CARE INTEGRATES WITH COWIN FOR VAX BOOKING

Eka.Care. a connected healthcare platform, has gone live with CoWIN-approved vaccination slot booking to help people get vaccinated in an efficient and orderly manner



People's Liberation Army has

largely been a black box for the in-

telligence community. Being able to

provide this rare end-to-end glimpse

into PLA activity and Chinese mil-

itary tactics and motivations pro-

vides invaluable insight into the

global threat landscape. The per-

sistent and pervasive monitoring

and collection of intelligence is

crucial in order to disrupt adver-

saries and inform an organization

or government's security posture,"

said Christopher Ahlberg, CEO

and Co-Founder, Recorded Future.

Guv meets Amit Shah

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep

Dhankhar Thursday met Union

believed to have briefed him

in the state, where several

incidents of violence were

reported after the recent

Home Minister Amit Shah and is

about the law and order situation

uote 77 India targeted by RedFoxtrot linked to Chinese military

The seroprevalence was 55.7 % in the below 18 years

age group and 63.5 % in the above 18 years age

group. There was no statistically significant

difference in prevalence between adult and children

ELISA kit

the most.

study stated.

This is the result of GOI's pandemic mismanagement. But we must look at the future now. Rebuilding our country will begin when PM acknowledges his mistakes and seeks help from the experts RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

The capacity of the BRO in construction of world-class roads despite challenges in tough and hilly terrain demonstrate

the mantra of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' RAJNATH SINGH DEFENCE MINISTER



SHORT TAKES

Rebel AAP MLAs meet Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi: The three rebel MLAs of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) who formed Punjab Ekta Party, Thursday, met Rahul Gandhi in Delhi and announced the merger of their outfit with the Congress. The MLAs who met Rahul Gandhi include former Leader of **Opposition (Punjab) Sardar** Sukhpal Singh Khaira (MLA, Bholath); Sardar Jagdev Singh (MLA, Maur); and Pirmal Singh (MLA, Bhadaur). The merger is seen as a shot in an arm of Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh who is at the target of Navjot Singh Sidhu led camp in the state.

Choksi planned escape says CBI

New Delhi: Absconding diamantaire Mehul Choksi had prior knowledge of the impending Enforcement Directorate (ED) enquiries

against him in 2017 which triggered him to plan his escape from India and cover

his tracks by concealing evidence, the agency has said. The CBI in its supplementary charge sheet has invoked

Section 201 of the IPC among

to the destruction of evidence

Pashupati Kumar

elected LJP prez

tussle between Chirag Paswan

president of the Lok Janshakti

Patna: Amid the ongoing

and his uncle Pashupati

been elected as national

Kumar Paras, the latter has

Party (LJP). "I had filed the

nomination for the post of president and I have been

elected unanimously. There

was no other candidate who

filed the nomination for the

post," Paras said here. The

executive committee of the

LJP has 76 members and the majority of them are with

Paras, electing him as the president of the LJP. The election was held at the official residence of strongman leader Surai Bhan

Singh in Patna.

other charges which pertain

by a suspect as part of criminal conspiracy.

COVID 3RD WAVE

states.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 17: The SARS-CoV-2 sero-positivity rate among children is high and comparable to the adult population and hence, it is unlikely that any future third wave of the prevailing Covid-19 variant would disproportionately affect children aged two years and above, according to the interim findings of an ongoing study con-

ducted in the country. The interim findings that have

largest provider of intelligence for enterprise security, Thursday, revealed cyber espionage activity attributed to a suspected Chinese state-sponsored threat activity group, named RedFoxtrot by Recorded Future's threat research arm Insikt Group. Insikt Group identified specific

ties between RedFoxtrot's activity and the Chinese military intelligence apparatus, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Unit 69010 within the Strategic Support Force (SSF), offering a rare glimpse into

appeared on medRxiv, a pre-print

server, are based on a mid-term

analysis of the data of the 4,509

participants -- 700 children in the

2-17 years age group and 3,809 aged

18 years and above -- from five

The data collection period was

from March 15 to June 10 from five

sites -- Delhi Urban Resettlement

Colony, Delhi rural (villages in

Faridabad district of Haryana

under Delhi-NCR), Bhubaneswar

rural, Gorakhpur rural and



SSF operations since the PLA's restructuring in 2015.

The findings are part of an on-

going multi-centric, population-

based, age-stratified prospective

Covid-19 sero-prevalence study

under WHO (World Health

Organization) Unity studies con-

ducted by experts, including doc-

tors from the AIIMS -- Director

Randeep Guleria and Professors

from the Department of Centre

for Community Medicine Puneet

Misra, Shashi Kant and Sanjay K

Rai -- in the five selected states

with a proposed total sample size

of 10.000. "The seroprevalence was

55.7 per cent in the below 18 years

age group and 63.5 per cent in the

above 18 years age group. There

was no statistically significant dif-

ference in prevalence between adult

RedFoxtrot maintains large amounts of operational infrastructure and has employed both bespoke and publicly available malware families commonly used by Chinese cyber espionage groups

Recorded Future's large-scale, automated network traffic analytics and expert analysis detected intrusions targeting sectors across bordering Asian countries.

It is assessed with high confidence that RedFoxtrot is a Chinese

and children," the findings stated.

the SARS-CoV-2 virus was assessed

qualitatively by using a standard

The study findings come amid

concerns raised in the country re-

garding a probable third wave of

COVID-19 where children and

youngsters are likely to get affected

sero-positivity rate observed among

female children. This finding was

in contrast to the meta-analysis

where it was shown that the preva-

lence is higher in men. This may

be a chance finding due to small

number of data available at the

time of mid-term analysis," the

"There was a slightly higher

The total serum antibody against

state-sponsored threat activity group based on identified links to a specific PLA unit and the use of shared custom capabilities considered unique to Chinese cyber espionage groups.

The recent activity of the

'Have written thrice to PM to withdraw Dhankhar as Guv'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 17: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday took a dig at Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar's New Delhi visit as she said a "child can be cajoled into silence" but not an elderly man, noting that she has thrice written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw him

Calling the governor a "Centre's man", Banerjee refrained from commenting much on his meeting with President Ram Nath Kovind and several other union ministers in Delhi.

cajoled into silence. In this case, speech is silver; silence is golden,' she said.

Prime Minister seeking his withdrawal from the state," she said. Asked about media reports sug gesting that the governor might be removed. Baneriee said she is not

Dhankhar, who has shared a strained relationship with the TMC government since taking charge as the governor of the state in 2019. aware of any such development. "How do I know? When a govis in the national capital on a fourmor is appointed, the state govday trip. He has not specified any ernment is consulted. That, howreason for the visit.

Govt notifies common format for issuance of PUC

'Kids unlikely to get disproportionately hit'

Agartala rural.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 17: The Central government has issued a notification for a common format of the Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate to be issued across the country

Under the new format, the Ministry has introduced uniform PUC format across the country by linking the PUC database with the National Register.

The concept of rejection slip is being introduced for the first time under the new format ber (only the last four digits to be

slip is to be given to the vehicle owner in case the test result value is more than the maximum permissible value, as mandated in the concerned emission norms. This document can be shown at the service centre for getting the vehicle serviced or can be used, in case the PUC centre device is not working properly when tested at another centre," mentions the notification.

There will be confidentiality of information like Vehicle owner's mobile number, name and address, engine number and chassis num-



visible, the other digits shall be masked).

The owner's mobile number has been made mandatory, on which an SMS alert will be sent for valida-

If the enforcement officer has reason to believe that a motor vehicle is not complying with provisions of emission standards, he may communicate in writing or through electronic mode to direct the driver or any person in-charge of the vehicle to submit it for conducting the test in any one of the authorized PUC testing stations.

Thus, enforcement would be ITenabled and would help in better control over polluting vehicles. The QR code shall be printed on the form, and it will contain the complete information about the

from the state.

assembly elections. This is the first meeting between Dhankhar and Shah after Mamata Banerjee retained power in West Bengal following the Trinamool Congress' victory in the in the state assembly polls.

'What can I say? A child can be ever, was not done in this case... I have written twice or thrice to the

"A common format of rejection

tion and fee.

PUC Centre.

Pak asked to mark shortcomings in Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 17: India Thursday asked Pakistan to address the "shortcomings" in a bill brought out to facilitate reviewing the case of Indian death row convict Kulbhushan Jadhav, saying the proposed law does not create a mechanism to reconsider it as mandated by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Arindam Bagchi criticised the provision in the bill to invite municipal courts to decide whether any prejudice has been caused to Jadhav by Pakistan on account of its failure to provide consular access in accordance the verdict of the ICJ.

He said the Review and Reconsideration Bill 2020 does not create a mechanism to facilitate



effective review and reconsideration of Jadhav's case as mandated by the judgement of the ICJ, adding municipal courts cannot be the arbiter of whether a state has fulfilled its obligations in international law. "This is clearly a breach of the basic tenet that municipal courts cannot be the arbiter of whether a state has fulfilled its obligations in international law. Not

only this, it further invites the municipal court to sit in appeal, as it were, over the judgement of the ICJ," Bagchi said. Jadhav, a 50-yearold retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. After India approached it, the

Hague-based ICJ ruled in July 2019 that Pakistan must undertake an "effective review and reconsid-

eration" of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav and also to grant consular access to India without fur ther delay.

Tuesday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) adjourned the hearing of the government's plea to appoint counsel for Jadhav till October 5 at the request of the Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Khalid Javed Khan, according to Pakistani media reports.



Commuters wade through a waterlogged road after heavy rain in Howrah, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

India collaborates with UNICEF to tackle youth employment

THIS EFFORT WILL BE SPEARHEADED BY YUWAAH, UNICEF'S MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ALLIANCE IN INDIA. GLOBALLY KNOWN AS GENERATION UNLIMITED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thursday signed a Statement of

Intent (SoI) with the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF) to co-cre-

ate and implement solutions at

scale to tackle the employment

and skilling challenges for ado-

A particular focus will be on the

vulnerable population, including

young people with special needs, mi-

grant youth, victims of child labour,

violence, child marriage and traf-

Minister of State for Labour and

Employment (Independent Charge)

Santosh Kumar Gangwar an-

lescents and youth in India.

Covid +ve baby saved by ECMO Hvderabad: Doctors at KIMS

hospitals in Hyderabad saved life of a nine-month-old infected by Covid-19 through successful ECMO. The paediatric intensive care (PICU) team headed by Nanda Kishore, at KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad and the PICU team of KIMS Cuddles, Kondapur headed by Parag Shankarao Dekate carried out the successful Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO).

nounced the collaboration soon after the SoI was signed between his New Delhi, June 17: India ministry and the UNICEF.

The State of Intent to highlight the partnership was signed by Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary Ministry of Labour and Employment and Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF Representative in India and Co-Chair, YuWaah, in the presence of Dhuwarakha Sriram, Chief of Generation Unlimited, Youth Development and Partnerships, UNICEF India and Abhishek Gupta, Chief

Operating Officer of YuWaah. Launched in 2019, YuWaah aims to prepare India's young people to transition from education and



learning to productive work and ac tive citizenship.

By 2030, YuWaah aims to build pathwavs for 100 million young people to aspirational socio-economic opportunities, facilitate 200 million young people to gain relevant skills for productive lives, partner with 300 million young people as active change-makers and create spaces for leadership development.

Towards achieving these goals, MoLE, UNICEF and YuWaah will create linkages between young people and aspirational economic opportunities, upskilling young people with 21st-century skills and supporting direct dialogue between youth and policy stakeholders.

Delighted to announce this partnership, Gangwar said, "We are committed to improve employment outcomes for all youth in India, including females and vulnerable ones too, through an enduring, long-term commitment for better opportunities.

'By leveraging the strengths of MoLE, YuWaah (UNICEF) and associated network members, we hope to enable abundant choices for our young generation to contribute and shape our country's future."

Labour Ministry Secretary Apurva Chandra, said, "To effectively harness capabilities of our youth, interventions must reflect labour market demand and the needs of employers, as a well as the aptitude and aspirations of youth. With this partnership between MoLE, YuWaah (UNICEF), we are committed to make an inclusive and participatory association by establishing a feedback mechanism between youth and policy stakeholders to ensure that schemes andprograms are consistent with young people's priorities and aspirations.'

ficking.







national



No stone would be left unturned in strengthening the health infrastructure and in making the healthcare and medical facilities easily accessible to common people even in the remotest of the areas in state BHUPESH BAGHEL | CM, CHHATTISGARH

PARIDA NEW HEAD OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AUTHORITY

Senior Indian Administrative Service officer Manoj Kumar Parida was Thursday appointed as Chairman, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention, in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Union government, under the Cabinet Secretariat



uote

being the chairman of MANSAS Trust in 2016 managed to procure a fake order and sold 115 acres illegally. In 2010 also, he appropriated 500 acres

Raju while

V. VIJAYASAI REDDY VSRCP LEADER

Pending dues to farmers are as much as Rs 4,000 crore. Despite most of the farmers selling their food grains in Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam districts, money hasn't been credited to them

NARA CHANDRABABU NAIDU TDP CHIEF, ANDHRA PRADESH

There is failure of government. the CM does not know what he is doing, his Covid administration was pathetic, people have suffered economy is suffering, youth don't have jobs, environment is being harmed DINESH GUNDU RAO CONGRESS IN-CHARGE, GOA

SHORT TAKES

AIIMS to resume in-patient entry

New Delhi: The AIIMS in New Delhi has decided to resume routine inpatient admissions and elective surgeries at its general and private wards and in all its centres with immediate effect, according to an order by the hospital administration. The order, issued Wednesday, stated that the decision has been taken in view of a decrease in the need for hospitalisation of Covid-19 patients and also considering the relaxation of the lockdown by the Delhi government.

4 held for selling antigen kits online

Siddhartha Nagar: Four ad hoc health workers in Siddhartha istrict of Uttar Prade

Student activists released from prison

The HC while granting them bail June 15, had observed that "in an anxiety to suppress dissent, the state has blurred the line between right to protest and terrorist activity" and if such a mindset gains traction, it would be a "sad day for democracy"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 17: Student activists Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita walked out of Tihar prison Thursday, hours after a court here ordered their immediate release in the north-east Delhi riots "conspiracy" case.

The order came two days after the Delhi High Court granted bail to Narwal, Kalita and Asif Iqbal Tanha, who were arrested in May last year under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

A senior jail official said Kalita and Narwal have been released from the Tihar prison as per court orders received.

Asif Iqbal Tanha will be released around 7.30 pm after completion of formalities, he said.

The three student activists were not released from the prison on time over delays in verifying their addresses and sureties.

In its order for the immediate release of the trio, the Delhi court said the delay in the verification process



by the police could not be a plausible reason for the accused to be kept imprisoned. After securing bail from the high court, the activists had moved the trial court, seeking immediate release from prison. When the trial court deferred

the order on their plea for Thursday they moved the Delhi High Court, which ordered the lower court to proceed with the issue with "promptitude and expedition"

The three student activists were arrested in May 2020 and are accused of being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 violence, which left 53 people dead and more than 200 injured. The Delhi Police has, however, moved the Supreme Court, challenging the

'Got tremendous support inside

jail, will continue our struggle' Student activist Natasha Narwal Thursday said they had received "tremendous support" inside Tihar Jail in Delhi and would continue their struggle. JNU students Narwal and Kalita thanked their friends and wellwishers, many of whom gathered outside the jail, for supporting them during their year-long stay behind bars. "We have received tremendous support inside jail and we will continue our struggle," Narwal told reporters. Hitting out at the government, Kalita said people are in jail for raising their voice. "They are trying to suppress the voice of people and dissent. We got a lot of support from people which helped us survive inside (jail)," she said.

high court judgement granting them bail in the case.

Defence employees' bodies reject plans to corporatise OFB



New Delhi, June 17: The Employee Federation of Indian Ordnance Factories rejected the government's decision to create seven corporations stating that it will completely destroy the fundamental concepts of strategic management by vertical integration and war insurance and reserve "due to its misguided ideology"

Throughout the country in all the Defence establishment, the employees has decided to burn the effigy against the government decision of corporatisation June 19, 2021.

In a landmark decision, the Union Cabinet Wednesday had approved the plan to corporatize the 41 Ordnance Factories into seven fully government-owned corporate entities, based on their production type.

The Narendra Modi-led Cabinet gave its go-ahead to the long pending corporatization of OFB, which has an annual turnover of around Rs 19,000 crore, into seven 100 per cent government-owned entities.

In a statement three defence employees association -- All India Defence Employees' Federation, Indian National Defence Workers' Federation and Bhartiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh -stated that the entire workforce of Ordnance Factories and four lakh defence civilian employees reject the decision of the government as it is against the past written agreements and assurances given by the successive government in the past more than more than 20 years.

The defence employees associations were in shock at how that government can splinter the fourth Arm of the Indian Defence. the 220 years old Indian **Ordnance Factories**, into seven pieces

"This decision of the Government to destroy the Ordnance Factories will make the nation repent," said the associations adding that the breaking up of the OFB organization in to smaller entities will reduce the capacity of a unified conglomerate to produce everything under one roof.

"It is such a great news for the Private Corporates and Foreign Arms Manufacturers who have been finding it difficult to face the might of Ordnance Factories for its end to end amazing capability," the association claimed.

They stated that the present government taking advantage of the Covid-19 pandemic, in the name of "Covid-19 Relief Package" announced its decision to corporatize and subsequently privatize the Ordnance Factories.

Against this decision of the Government, the Trade Unions of the Employees started fighting back and since the Government was adamant issued a strike notice for indefinite strike, commencing from the October 12, 2020

GOVT AMENDS CABLE TV NETWORK RULES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICES

New Delhi, June 17: The Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting said in a statement Thursday that the government has amended the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, adding a statutory mechanism to redress citizen's grievances/complaints.

The rules have been amended in accordance with the provisions of the Cable Television Network Act, 1995, the ministry said.

It also said that the notification is significant as it paves the way for a strong institutional system for redressing grievances while placing accountability and responsibility on the broadcasters and their selfregulating bodies. "The Cable Television Network Rules have been amended to provide for a statutory mechanism, which would be transparent and benefit the citizens. At the same time, self-regulating bodies of broadcasters would be registered with the Central government," the statement said.

At present, there is an institutional mechanism in the form of an



Workers spread maize grain for drying, on a hot summer day in Jalandhar, Thursday

SUV-HIRAN CASE

ARMY TOP BRASS DISCUSS THREATS FROM CHINA, PAK

have been arrested for selling government antigen kits online. The kits were being dispatched to Patna through courier when police raided their hideout at the railway crossing area in Uska Bazaar police circles. Over 2,000 kits worth Rs 20 lakh were seized from their possession. The four accused are Shiv Shankar Choudhary, Vinod Kumar Tripathi, Mukhtar Ali and Omkar Tripathi.

Custom seizes 8 kg of peacock feathers

New Delhi: Around 8 kg peacock feathers, that were being smuggled to Hong Kong, were seized at the Foreign Post Office in New Delhi, the Delhi customs zone said Wednesday. The peacock is the national bird of India and it is protected under Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act that prohibits its hunting. The Air Cargo Commissionerate (Export) seized 10 unregistered parcels destined to Hong Kong containing peacock feathers weighing approx 8 kg at Foreign Post Office, New Delhi.

inter-ministerial committee to address the grievances of citizens relating to violation of the Programme/Advertising Codes under the Rules. Similarly, various broadcasters have also developed their internal self-regulatory mechanism for addressing grievances.

Some broadcasters had also requested for giving legal recognition to their associations/bodies.

While expressing satisfaction over the existing mechanism of grievance redressal set up by the Central government, the Supreme Court in its order in the matter of 'Common Cause Vs Union of India & Others' in 2000 had advised to frame appropriate rules to formalise the complaint redressal mechanism. At present, there are over 900 television channels which have been granted permission by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and all of them are required to comply with the Programme and Advertising Code

NIA nets ex-cop Pradeep Sharma

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 17: In a major development, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Thursday raided and arrested former Maharashtra Police 'encounter specialist' Pradeep Sharma, in connection with the ongoing probe into the cases of planting of explosiveladen SUV at Antilia and businessman Mansukh Hiran murder. He was produced before a Special NIA court which remanded him to

the agency's custody till June 28. Early this morning, an NIA team along with the Mumbai Police, swooped at his Andheri home, carried out searches, and took away files, laptops, and other material. Meanwhile, Sharma was picked up from the Lonavala hill station in Pune district and detained for

questioning after which he was laid down under the Cable placed under arrest this afternoon. The NIA action - the fifth in-



volving a former policeman and the 8th so far - came in the sensational case of the SUV with 20 gelatin sticks and a threat note abandoned near Antilia, home of industrialist Mukesh Ambani, February 25. Sharma, a controversial former Senior Police Inspector and later a Shiv Sena activist, had been earlier interrogated by the NIA a couple of times in April in the same cases.

Earlier, the NIA had arrested five other persons including former cops like Sachin Vaze, Riyazuddin Kazi, Sunil Mane, convicted excop Vinayak Shinde and cricket bookie Naresh Gor.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

PTI PHOTO

New Delhi, June 17: Amidst border standoff with China, the Indian Army holds a commanders' conference led by General Manoj Mukund Naravane from Thursday to review the operational situation at the border with China and Pakistan. Indian Army Commanders' Conference is an apex level biannual event, which formulates important policy decisions through collegiate deliberations.

The conference is attended by senior officers of the Army including the vice chief of the army staff, all commanders, principal staff officers (PSOs) of the Army Headquarters and other senior officers.

In the two-day conference, the Army top brass will discuss the

pregnant animals and animals

under 3 months of age - therefore,

the use of serum obtained by



three sectors of Line of Actual

Control -- western (Ladakh), mid-

dle (Uttarakhand, Himachal) and

eastern (Sikkim, Arunachal) sectors.

India has enhanced military infrastructure, increased troop deployment to 50,000 to 60.000, and constructed better roads connectivity for quick mobilisation

current position of Chinese People's During the commanders' con-Liberation Army positions in disference meeting, Army top brass puted areas at Gogra, Hot Springs, discuss how to be better prepared Demchok and Depsang at Line of to face Chinese belligerence in Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh. Ladakh over the last year as a final China has enhanced troops, arresolution seems far off. India has tillery and armour deployment in

enhanced military infrastructure, increased troop deployment to 50,000 to 60,000, and constructed better roads connectivity for quick mobilisation.

PETA urges DCGI to replace NBCS for vax production

THE USE OF ANIMAL-DERIVED COMPONENTS SUCH AS NBCS IN VACCINE PRODUCTION COMPROMISES THE QUALITY AND REPRODUCIBILITY OF **RESEARCH AND IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE RISK OF CONTAMINATION BY NON-HUMAN PROTEINS AND PATHOGENS**

29 held after raids at hookah bars

New Delhi: Delhi Police Thursday said that it has apprehended 29 people, including four cafe owners in its crackdown against illegal hookah bar. RP Meena, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) south east Delhi, said that the staff of Kalkaji police station apprehended twenty five customers and four owners from cafe and bars. Meena said, four hookahs have also been seized from their possession.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

India (DCGI) to replace Newborn

Calf Serum (NBCS) with animal-

free chemical solution, in the pro-

duction of the Covid-19 vaccine,

PETA wrote a letter Thursday

morning to DCGI's Dr VG Somani,

to direct vaccine manufacturers, to

consider its proposal following re-

port that Covaxin, India's indige-

nous Covid-19 vaccine developed by

Bharat Biotech in collaboration

Covaxin.

Television Network Rules.

New Delhi, June 17: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India. Thursday, requested the Drugs Controller General of

tion of this serum are taken away from their mothers shortly after birth, which traumatises and distresses both the mother and calf," says PETA India Science Policy Adviser Dr Ankita Pandey.

"PETA India looks to the Drugs use of animal-derived serum.

with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), uses NBCS during the production stage, which is extracted from the blood of slaughtered calves under 20 days old.

'The calves used in the extrac-

Controller to ensure that vaccine manufacturers switch to available animal-free media that overcome the limitations associated with the



The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughterhouse) Rules, 2001, prohibits the slaughter of

slaughtering a calf younger than 20 days of age for vaccine production should also not be allowed.

"Animal-free media are already commercially available and can be used to grow Vero cells for virus production instead of using NBCS extracted by slaughtering calves,' PETA India said in the letter.

PETA India argues that modernising methods of vaccine production is an immediate necessity -- particularly in a country like India, whose public has religious, cultural, and emotional connections with cows and calves and where harming them is a punishable offence. PETA India's request comes a day after the Central government released a clarification that Covaxin does not contain newborn calf serum at all.

Noting that "facts have been twisted and misrepresented", the government said: "Newborn Calf Serum is used only for preparation or growth of vero cells."

Noting that different kinds of bovine and other animal serum are standard enrichment ingredient, and they are used globally for vero cell growth, the Union Health Ministry said vero cells are used toestablish cell lives, which help in production of vaccines.



international 🔐



Humanity is waging a relentless, selfdestructive war on nature. **Biodiversity is declining,** greenhouse gas concentrations are rising, and our pollution can be found from the remotest islands to the highest peaks ANTONIO GUTERRES UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

MASSIVE WILDFIRE

A massive wildfire raging in the US state of Arizona had scorched 148,299 acres of land with 59% containment, according to the latest information updated by Inciweb, an interstate incident information system



an end to lockdown restrictions, cit-

ing the rising number of cases of

the Delta variant-first identified

in India. "These findings high-

light the stark context in which

we took the difficult decision to

delay Step 4 of the roadmap out of lockdown," said UK Health

to our incredible vaccination pro-

gramme and enhanced response

package including surge testing, we

have the tools to curb the spread of

this virus. We all must hold our

nerve that little bit longer as our

vaccine rollout continues and I

urge everyone to keep observing

hands, face, space and fresh air,

and make sure you receive both

doses of the vaccine for the best pos-

The Imperial study scientists

sible protection," he said.

"Cases are now rising, but thanks

Secretary Matt Hancock.

uote

Relations between Russia and the European Union (EU) are at the lowest possible level and a renewed partnership

allowing for closer cooperation is a distant prospect JOSEP BORRELL HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF

THE UNION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANI SECURITY POLICY

Washington retains the option to impose retaliatory tariffs on countries that don't remove **Digital Service Taxes** (DST)

JANET YELLEN US TREASURY SECRETARY

Efforts to rebuild economies after COVID-19 setbacks must aim at a future with decent and dignified working conditions POPE FRANCIS

SHORT TAKES

Over 270 migrants detained in Libya

Cairo: Over 270 Europe-bound migrants were rescued by a commercial ship off Libya's Mediterranean shores and handed over to the Libyan coast guard who sent them to detention centres, the UN migration and refugee agencies said. The migrants were rescued in international waters Monday by the "Vos Triton," sailing under the flag of Gibraltar, said the International Organisation for Migration and the UNHCR in a joint statement Wednesday evening.

23 Afghan troops killed

Kabul: At least 23 members of an Afghan Armys special unit were killed during fierce clash with the Taliban in the northern province of Faryab, a security official said Thursday The clash took place in Dawlat Abad district after the commandos and local troops launched a clearing operation TOLO News quoted the official as saying, adding that six policemen were also injured ir the violence. The security forces have retreated from the centre of the district following the heavy clashes are now stationed in Oaramgol district the official said.

Republican challenge dismissed

The law's major provisions include protections for people with pre-existing health conditions, a range of no-cost preventive services and the expansion of the Medicaid program that insures lower-income people, including those who work in jobs that don't pay much or provide health insurance

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 17: The Supreme Court has dismissed a challenge to the Obama era health care law, preserving insurance coverage for millions of Americans.

The justices, by a 7-2 vote, left the entire law intact Thursday in ruling that Texas, other Republicanled states and two individuals had no right to bring their lawsuit in federal court. The Biden administration says 31 million people have health insurance because of the law popularly known as "Obamacare." The law's major provisions include protections for people with pre-existing health conditions, a range of no-cost preventive services and the expansion of the Medicaid program that insures lower-income people, including those who work in jobs that don't pay much or provide health insurance.

Also left in place is the law's now-toothless requirement that people have health insurance or pay a penalty. Congress rendered that provision irrelevant in 2017 when it reduced the penalty to zero. The elimination of the penalty had become the hook that Texas and other Republican-led states, as well as the Trump administration, used to attack the entire law. They argued that without the mandate,



passed in 2010, the rest of the law should fall, too. And with a more conservative Supreme Court that includes three Trump appointees, opponents of Obamacare hoped a majority of the justices would finally kill off the law they have been fighting against for more than a decade. But the third major attack on the law at the Supreme Court ended the way the first two did, with a ma-

iority of the court rebuffing efforts to gut the law or get rid of it altogether. Trump's three appointees to the Supreme Court -Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh split their votes. Kavanaugh and Barrett joined the majority. Gorsuch was in dissent, signing on to an opinion from Justice Samuel Alito.

Justice Stephen Breyer wrote for the court that the states and people who filed a federal lawsuit "have failed to show that they have standing to attack as unconstitutional the Act's minimum essential coverage provision.' In dissent, Alito wrote, "Today's decision is the third installment in our epic Affordable Care Act trilogy, and it follows the same pattern as installments one and two. In

all three episodes, with the Affordable Care Act facing a serious threat, the Court has pulled off an improbable rescue." Alito was a dissenter in the two earlier cases, as well. Because it dismissed the case for the plaintiff's lack of legal standing — the ability to sue — the court didn't actually rule on whether the individual mandate is unconstitutional now that there

is no penalty for forgoing insurance. Lower courts had struck down the mandate, in rulings that were wiped away by the Supreme Court decision. With the latest ruling, the ACA is "here to stay for the fore seeable future," said Larry Levitt, an executive vice president for the non-profit Kaiser Family Foundation, which studies health care. "Democrats are in charge and they have made reinvigorating and building on the ACA a key priority," Levitt said. "Republicans don't seem to have much enthusiasm for continuing to try to overturn the law." Republicans pressed their argument to invalidate the whole law even though congressional efforts to rip out the entire law "root and branch." in Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell's words, have failed. The closest they came was in July 2017 when Arizona Sen. John McCain, who died the following year, delivered a dramatic thumbs-down vote to a repeal effort by fellow Republicans.

Chief Justice John Roberts said during arguments in November that it seemed the law's foes were asking the court to do work best left to the political branches of government.

The court's decision preserves benefits that became part of the fabric of the nation's health care system

Delta variant fuelled 50% rise in infections in England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 17: The number of people infected with the coronavirus is increasing rapidly in England, doubling every 11 days, which coincides with the Delta variant of COVID-19 becoming dominant in the country, a new study reports Thursday.

The Imperial College London led Real-time Assessment of **Community** Transmission (REACT-1) analysis, based on over 100,000 home swab tests taken between May 20 and June 7, estimates that 0.15 per cent of people have the deadly virus, or roughly 1 in 670.

It found that the link between infections, hospitalisations and deaths had been weakening since February, but since late April, the trend has been reversing for hospitalisations.

"We found strong evidence for exponential growth in infection from late May to early June in the REACT-1 study, with a doubling time of 11 days on average for England," said Professor Paul Elliott, director of the REACT programme from Imperial's School of Public Health.

"These data coincide with the Delta variant becoming dominant and show the importance of continuing to monitor infection rates and variants of concern in the community," he said.

estimate that the reproduction number, or R number, of the deadly virus is now well above one at 1.44, meaning 10 infected people would The findings come days after pass the virus on to 14 others on average, resulting in fast growth of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a month-long delay to the epidemic.



Courts can't appoint PM: Oli-

PRIME MINISTER OLI IS HEADING A MINORITY GOVERNMENT AFTER LOSING A TRUST VOTE IN THE HOUSE

AGENCIES

Kathmandu, June 17: Nepal's embattled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Thursday defended his government's controversial decision to dissolve the House of Representatives and told the Supreme Court that it is not up to the judiciary to appoint a premier as it cannot undertake the legislative and the executive functions of the state.

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



mentary system and the Constitution does not imagine party-less practices." he added. Oli also defended the involvement of the President in this whole issue, saying Article 76 of the Constitution grants the sole right to appoint a Prime Minister to the President only.

Appointment of a Prime Minister is absolutely a political and_ an executive process," he underlined "As per Article 76 (5), there is no such provision of a person gaining or losing a vote of confidence in the House being examined by the legislative or the judiciary," he said. On May 21, Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba had submitted signatures of as many as 149 lawmakers before President Bhandari, requesting her to appoint him the new prime minister as per Article 75 (6). As many as 29 members of the Madhav Nepal faction of the CPN-UML had provided their signatures show-







Visitors enjoy a roller coaster ride at Cinecitta World amusement park on the outskirts of Rome in the day of its reopening. Amusement parks have been closed since October 25 2020, when Italy's second national lockdown started

On June 9, the apex court issued a show-cause notice to the Office of the Prime Minister and the President's Office to furnish a written response within 15 days. Furnishing a written reply to the Supreme Court Thursday as demanded by the Constitutional Bench. Oli said the court cannot ap

undertake the legislative and the executive functions of the state.

point a Prime Minister as it cannot

The apex court received Oli's response via the Office of the Attorney General. "The Court's duty is to interpret the Constitution and the existing laws, it cannot play the role of the legislative or the executive bodies," 69-year-old Oli said in his response.

"Forming governments on the basis of parties is the fundamental characteristic of the parlia-

ing support to Deuba. US to spend \$3.2B for antiviral pills for Covid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 17: The United States is devoting \$3.2 billion to advance development of antiviral pills for Covid-19 and other dangerous viruses that could turn into pandemics.

part of a new "antiviral programme for pandemics" to develop drugs to address symptoms caused by potentially dangerous viruses like the coronavirus. The pills for Covid-19, which would be used to minimize symptoms after infection, are in development and could begin arriving by year's end, pending the completion of clin-

B'desh extends Covid-19 curbs

Dhaka: The Bangladesh government has extended the nationwide coronavirus restrictions on public movement and transport for a month from Thursday. The ongoing restrictions, which were to expire Wednesday midnight after having been extended several times, will now run through the midnight of July 15, reports Xinhua news agency. The country's Cabinet Division in its latest order Wednesday made the announcement and urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps so that tourist spots, resorts and communities remain closed during the period.

13 killed in China mine mishap

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Beijing: All 13 workers, who were trapped in an iron mine in north China's Shanxi Province, have been confirmed dead, according to the local authorities. The bodies of the workers were lifted out of the well that flooded the Dahongcai iron mine in Daixian County June 10. A rescue team comprising 1,084 people worked for six straight days. The DNA confirmation has been completed, according to the local rescue headquarters. Police have detained 13 suspects.

Editors of HK newspaper held under security law

AGENCIES

PTI PHOTO

that more than 30 articles published by Apple Daily played a "cru-Hong Kong, June 17: Hong Kong police used a sweeping national security law Thursday to arrest five editors and executives of a prodemocracy newspaper on charges of colluding with foreign powers – the first time the legislation its reporting. has been used against the press in

one of the most outspoken de-

cial part" in what they called a conspiracy with foreign countries to impose sanctions against China and Hong Kong. Apple Daily said in a statement that the move left it "speechless" but vowed to continue The newspaper has long been

fenders of Hong Kong's freedoms and in recent years has often criticized the Chinese and Hong Kong governments for walking back

promises that the territory could retain those freedoms for 50 years after the former British colony was handed over to China in 1997. The newspaper has thus found itself a frequent target.

Apple Daily founder Jimmy Lai is currently serving a 20-month prison sentence after being convicted of playing a role in unauthorised protests in 2019, when Hongkongers took the streets in massive antigovernment demonstrations in response to a proposed extradition law that would have allowed suspects to stand trial in China.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, announced the investment during a White House briefing as ical trials.

China launches astronauts into space station

AGENCIES

Beijing, June 17: A Chinese spacecraft carrying three astronauts successfully docked with the country's nascent space station Thursday, hours after blasting off from the Gobi Desert, in a major milestone for the Communist giant's space exploration plans and its ambitious bid to establish itself as a leading

yet another sign of an intensify-

ing crackdown by Chinese au-

thorities in the city long known

Police said they had evidence

for its freedoms

space power. According to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), Shenzhou-12 manned spaceship successfully docked with the space station core module Tianhe Thursday afternoon. The spaceship, launched

Thursday morning, completed orbital status setting after entering the orbit and conducted a fast autonomous rendezvous and docking with the front docking port of Tianhe at 3:54 pm (Beijing Time), forming a three-module complex with the cargo craft Tianzhou-2, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported

The whole process took approximately 6.5 hours. This is Tianhe's first rendezvous and docking with a Shenzhou spaceship since it was sent into orbit on April 29. the report said.

Earlier, the spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, was



launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China's Gobi Desert at 9:22 am (Beijing Time). In a textbook launch, telecast live by the official television channels, spacecraft Shenzhou-12 sent the three astronauts into the same orbit of the core module of the space station Tianhe launched in April. Billed as the most presti**HISTORIC MISSION**

gious and strategically important

space project for China after the

country's recent Mars and previous

Moon missions, the low orbit space

station would be the country's eye

clock bird's-eye view for its astro-CHINA LAUNCHES SHENZHOU-12 nauts on the rest of the world. IN FIRST CREWED MISSION SINCE After docking with Tianhe, the

astronauts. commander Nie Haisheng, 56, Liu Boming, 54 and Tang Hongbo, 45, will stay there for a three-month long mission to carry out the painstaking work of building the space station, which is expected to be ready by next year.

from the sky, providing round the

"It feels great," Nie, a veteran who took part in two previous manned space missions, said after reaching the near earth-orbit.

It will be China's longest crewed space mission to date and the first in nearly five years.



MERCEDES-BENZ ROLLS OUT 7th GEN OF S-CLASS

Luxury car manufacturer Mercedes-Benz Thursday launched the seventh generation of its flagship limousine, the S-Class, in India. The new vehicle is launched in two variants; Diesel S 400d 4MATIC and Petrol S 450 4MATIC with more than half of the 150 units of the 'CBU Launch Edition' being booked before the flagship's India debut



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OrissaPOS

FRIDAY | JUNE 18 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

Indians' funds in Swiss banks rise to over ₹20K cr

The funding would support the Indonesian government's plan to carry out reforms so as to attract investment and to

sharpen the economic competitive edges. The reforms are intended to boost the economic sectors with higher added value, and help with the economic recovery in the post pandemic time

SATU KAHKONEN COUNTRY DIRECTOR (INDONESIA AND TIMOR LESTE), WORLD BANK

A major migration from offline to online took place last year. Everyone had to make do with

whatever was accessible online. Work, studies, and shopping all shifted to digital. As lockdown restrictions eased and people started stepping out, our focus again was on expanding touchpoints with smartphone users

NAKUL KUMAR | COO AND CO-FOUNDER, CASHIF

FY 2020-21 was a great year for us, as the nandemic turned out to be a game changer for the payments and financial services industry. This. along with the company's entry

into the credit business, helped it grow manifold SUHAIL SAMEER GROUP PRESIDENT, BHARATPE

SHORT TAKES

Drone survey must for NH projs

New Delhi: Initiating measures to enhance transparency, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Wednesday said it has made mandatory the use of drones for monthly video recording of national highway projects during all stages of development, construction, operation and maintenance.

'Flipkart, Amazon challenge HC order' New Delhi: Walmart, Flinkart

The increase in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks, from 899 million Swiss francs at the end of 2019, reverses a two-year declining trend and has taken the figure to the highest level in 13 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Zurich, June 17: Funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through India-based branches and other financial institutions, jumped to 2.55 billion Swiss francs (over ₹20,700 crore) in 2020 on a sharp surge in holdings

via securities and similar instruments, though customer deposits fell, annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed Thursday. The increase in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks, from 899 million Swiss francs (Rs

6,625 crore) at the end of 2019, reverses a two-year declining trend and has taken the figure to the highest level in 13 years. It stood at a record high of nearly

6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2006, after which it has been mostly on a downward path, except for a few vears including in 2011, 2013 and 2017, as per the Swiss National Bank (SNB) data

The total amount of CHF 2,554.7 million (Rs 20,706 crore), described by the SNB as 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to' their Indian clients at the end of 2020, included CHF 503.9 million (over ₹4,000 crore) in customer deposits, CHF 383 million (over ₹3,100 crore) held via other banks, CHF 2 million (Rs 16.5 crore) through fiduciaries or trusts and the highest component of CHF 1,664.8 million





While the funds classified as 'customer account deposits' have actually declined from CHF 550 million at the end of 2019 and those through fiduciaries also more than halved from CHF 7.4 million, the

money held via other banks rose sharply from CHF 88 million in this period.

However, the biggest difference has been a surge in 'other amounts due to customers' from India, which

rose over six times from CHF 253 million at 2019-end. All four components had declined during 2019. These are official figures reported by banks to the SNB and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland.

These figures also do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in names of third-country entities. According to the SNB, its data for

'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises. This includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India, as also non-deposit liabilities.

'CarDekhoGaadi' starts ops in city

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: CarDekhoGaadi, India's leading retail auction model for pre-owned cars, launched operations in the city. Foray in the eastern region is a part of the company's expansion plan of launching 'Gaadi' operations across the whole country within FY22.



CarDekhoGaadi already oper ates in75 cities covering 14 states. Last week, the company entered West Bengal, opening its first store in Kolkata.

CarDekhoGaadi has aggressive expansion plans and targets to cover the entire eastern region in next 6 months. Umesh Hora, CEO (Used Car Business), CarDekho Group, said, "Bhubaneswar is a modern city rapidly developing into a progressive metropolis and we will strive to provide the best price for their cars and world class service to the people.

We are hopeful that our Bhubaneswar operations will witness encouraging response from customers"

SBI donates Covid safety items to CISF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: State Bank of India (SBI), Bhubaneswar These new commitments build

funding that was announced by Google in April for Covid-19 rewith their everyday expenses, and

testing equipment. In addition to this, Google emplovees worldwide have donated

and helped raise USD 7 million for

Inspector BK Pradhan, Insp. Chakraborty were also present in the occasion. Sudhir Kumar, Senior Commandant expressed his thanks to SBI Bhubaneswar Circle for sup-

port during the pandemic.

Cll pegs India's FY22 GDP growth at 9.5% EIETY AUDE

New Delhi, June 17: Industry body CII Thursday pegged India's GDP growth rate for 2021-22 at 9.5 per cent. "Ultra-high frequency indicators strongly presage growth recovery following the second wave of the pandemic, said TV Narendran, CEO and Managing

AGENCIES

entrenched.' Besides, he called for a strong fiscal stimulus and government's expenditure programme.

"CII estimates that there is fiscal headroom of up to ₹3 lakh crore and this amount can be channelised towards direct cash transfers

to the vulnerable peo-As ple, higher allocation the economy for 'MNREGA, reopens post the short-term GST second wave, a rate cuts and dual-pronged government lower excise strategy is required to boost duty on fuel." consumption and support Furthermore, industry till demand is he said that de-

Google announces ₹113Cr grant to set up 80 O₂ plants in India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 17: Tech giant Google Thursday said Google.org - its philanthropic arm - has announced a grant of ₹113 crore (USD 15.5 million) to support procurement and installation of about 80 oxygen generation plants and upskilling of healthcare workers in rural parts of the country in partnership with various organizations.

These 80 oxygen generation plants will be implemented in healthcare facilities in high-need and rural locations with new grants of about ₹90 crore (USD 12.5 million) to GiveIndia and about ₹18.5 crore (USD 2.5 million) to PATH.

It will also finance efforts of Apollo Medskills to help upskill 20,000 frontline health workers through specialised training in Covid-19 management and strengthen the stressed rural health workforce and rural health systems

Towards this, Google.org will make a ₹3.6 crore (USD 500,000) grant to ARMMAN to run skilling programs for 180,000 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and 40,000 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) in 15 Indian states.

ARMMAN will also use the grant



to set up a call centre to provide additional help and advice for ASHAs and ANMs where required.

"As India slowly emerges from the crisis of the past few months, it's been humbling and inspiring to see individuals, communities, institutions, and governments work together to manage the impact on a scale we haven't expe-

"Our focus at Google has been on making sure people have the information and tools they need to stay informed, connected, and safe." Google India Country Head and Vice President Sanjay Gupta said.

The company is broadening its Covid-19 support efforts to help strengthen India's healthcare infrastructure and workforce, especially in rural areas, he told re-

The company is broadening its Covid support efforts to help strengthen country's healthcare infrastructure and workforce,

especially in rural areas our partners as they build a bigger,

better-equipped healthcare system, help India steady itself after the second wave, and lay the foundations for a sustainable and futureready healthcare system," he said.

on the ₹135 crore (USD 18 million) sponse. These included two grants from Google.org, totalling ₹20 crore (USD 2.6 million) to GiveIndia to provide cash assistance to families hit hardest by the crisis to help UNICEF to help get urgent medical supplies, including oxygen and

organisations supporting high-

risk and marginalised

Circle Thursday donated Covid safety items to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at their office (BPIA).

located at Bhubaneswar Airport The items consist of sanitiser, hand gloves, face shield and mask. From SBI, Anup Sinha, Dy. GM & Circle Development Officer, Eudith

Ekka, Asst. GM, (PR&CSB) and other officials were present while handing over the equipment to Sudhir Kumar, Senior Commandant, CISF, BPIA. Other officials of CISF including



rienced before

porters in a virtual briefing.

"With these new commitme

and Amazon have filed legal challenges against the resumption of an antitrust investigation into their business practices, a global news wire reported. The **Competition Commission of** India (CCI) launched an investigation in January last vear after a complaint accused Flipkart and Amazon of promoting select sellers on their e-commerce platforms and using deep discounts to stifle competition.

Exim Bank extends LOC

Chennai: The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) Thursday said it has extended a \$100 million line of credit (LOC) to the Sri Lankan government. The bank said that the line of credit extended on behalf of Indian government is for funding projects in solar energy in the island nation. With this, it has till date extended nine LOC to Sri Lanka for a cumulative \$1.68 billion, it said.

.....

HDFC Bank, PHEO sign MoU

Bhubaneswar: HDFC Bank signed MOU with Public Health Engineering Organization (PHEO) Government of Odisha for collection of Water Bill across the state. The bank has committed to provide 1,500 Integrated MPOS device for collection of Water Bill. The Integrated MPOS will be used by Jalasathi for collection of Water bill from the citizens. This was done on the Charter of 5T to use technology to provide ease of service to citizens. Senior officers from PHEO and HDFC Bank are present on the occasion.

"With recent uptick in mobility indicators, traffic congestion index and daily railway passenger movement, we

Director of Tata

Steel, who took

President CII

May 31, 2021

charge

PRESIDENT, CII

believe that 9.5 per cent growth rate can be achieved this year." According to Narendran, growth

needs to pick up to 9 per cent by 2024-25 with public expenditure, reforms and vaccination as key levers. "The cumulative impact of the two waves on incomes and consumer sentiment, coupled with the increase in household medical expenses in the second wave, is likely to affect consumer demand for some time.

"As the economy reopens post the second wave, a dual-pronged Government strategy is required to boost consumption and support industry till demand is well-

well-entrenched mand can be revi-TV NARENDRAN talised through a time bound tax concession of interest rate subvention for home buyers, a LTC cash voucher scheme as done last year and ex-

tending the Atmanirbhar Bharat Yojana Rozgar till March 31, 2022. Additionally, CII urged for ex-

pansion in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) balance sheet to meet the demand exigencies of the pandemic. In addition. Narendran called for support to industry through increase in 'Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to ₹5 lakh crore along with extension of the scheme to March 31, 2022 and inclusion of more distressed sectors such as retail

Ultra-HNIs may invest \$30bn in tech startups

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 17: Indian ultra high net worth individuals (UHNI) are likely to invest up to \$30 billion in tech start-ups in India by 2025. According to newly-launched report titled, "Turning Ideas to Gold," jointly prepared by 256 Network and Praxis Global Alliance, India expects to add 95 new tech unicorns to its 56-strong unicorn pool bv 2025

As per the report, India is expected to have around 10,000 UHNIs, which will include business lead

ers, celebrities, NRIs, and digital entrepreneurs with a cumulative wealth of \$700 billion by 2024.

Family Offices are being set up as full-service private wealth management services to cater to one, or a small clutch of these ultra-highnet-worth individuals. it added.

Currently, India has over 140 Family Offices catering to Indian UHNIs and heavily investing in the Indian start-up space. They have been pro-actively involved in more than 50 such deals every year since 2015.

Infosys co-founder Kris



Gopalakrishnan said: "Investments in innovative startups have emerged as a lucrative alternate asset class when compared to traditional investments like equity, debt, commodifies, and real estate

"However, it is difficult to get exposure to high-growth portfolios that use innovations to solve

Investments in innovative startups have emerged as a lucrative alternate asset class when compared to traditional investments like equity, debt, commodities, and real estate

KRIS GOPALAKRISHNAN I CO-FOUNDER, INFOSYS

real challenges and build large companies in a relatively short period of time. Backing such companies requires deep expertise, strong networks, patience, and sufficient capital," he said.

'Aluminium to play key role in realising dream of self-reliant India'

Tapan Kumar Chand,

the former CMD of Nalco, believes that aluminium will play a pivotal role in realising the dream of an AatmaNirbhar Bharat and also expected the metal's domestic demand is likely to double in next five years. *He has also authored the* book 'Aluminium: The Strategic Metal'. During an interaction with **Orissa POST**, TK Chand expressed his opinion on aluminium's future in the country. Excerpts:

Aluminium is called the 'Metal of the Future' and India has vast reserves of bauxite. Yet its import continues to rise. Why?

■ India has the world's 5th largest reserves of bauxite, yet there has not been a single successful auction of any Metallurgical Grade Bauxite Mine in last five years since the inception of the auction regime. Bauxite mines not being successfully auctioned has led to a surge in the import of bauxite, one of India's most abundant ores, to meet increasing domestic consumption. Bringing India's 3.8 billion tonne of bauxite reserves into auction and increasing the capacity of existing mines by at least 50% will be the

key in moving India towards becoming 'Aatma Nirbhar', by improving the global competitiveness of the Indian Aluminium Industry. Since the inception of the auction

regime in 2015, there has been no fresh auction for bauxite. What could be the reason?

This is mainly due to unviable Average Sale Price (ASP) of Metallurgical Grade of Bauxite. The present pricing structure links the selling price of the end-product (aluminium), to determine the ASP of metallurgical grade bauxite and ends up including costs such as transportation, quality control, rehandling cost etc., which should not be done.

ology of the calcula tion of the ASP of bauxite, if continued in its current form. will have a

negative impact on the overall growth of

The method-

the domestic aluminium indus-The try. price determined from the current ASP system is artificially increased up to 300%. 400% by in-

cluding

ex

penditures incurred beyond the mining lease, rendering production of aluminium unviable in India. This has resulted in a pause to additional investment of over ₹50,000 crore in the aluminium sector due to the futility of the current bauxite ASP determination methodology.

What sort of positive impact does the opening up of mining operations have in communities around the site in Odisha?

■ Sizeable investments of over ₹1.5 lakh crores in the bauxite mining and aluminium sector have created over 20 lakh livelihood opportunities. A single developed mine potentially generates over 10,000 jobs and brings in over ₹5.000 crores worth of state revenue. This industry has also developed over 4.000 MSMEs in the hinterland where there were limited opportunities, thereby connecting them to the economic mainstream of the country. This industry has potential to create additional employment opportunities for 1 million people, particularly for people in areas that yield rich socio-economic dividends for all stakeholders

What is the scope of growth for aluminium in India?

■ Aluminium is set to play a pivotal role in realising the dream of an 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat'. India continues to be the 3rd largest producer of aluminium globally, with domestic aluminium demand expected to double in next five years from the current 4 million tonne to 8 million tonne per annum. For this, India needs to increase the production capacity of bauxite from 20 million tonne to 50 million tonne per vear. This will strongly place India on the globalmap as a one-stop shop for sourcing the metal.

TAPAN KUMAR CHAND



Google is proud to be supporting communities



FRIDAY | JUNE 18 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

sports

Deep Grace named in squad for Tokyo **LOCATELLI LIFTS ITALY** amassed a total experience of 1,492





uel Locatelli wheels away in celebration after one of oals as the other Italian scorer Ciro Immobile looks on

Turkey has zero.

Locatelli's first goal was an of-

fensive masterclass. He started it

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, June 17: The wingers sprint forward like Ferraris. The midfielders are just as capable at scoring as the forwards. And the reserves look like starters. A new-look Italy is impressing with its offensive flair at the Euro 2020.

Midfielder Manuel Locatelli scored two goals Wednesday and the Azzurri beat Switzerland 3-0 to become the first team to reach the last 16 at Euro 2020, and they did it with a game to spare. They also did it with their 10th consecutive victory. As usual — and perhaps the only characteristic carried on from Italy

teams of the past — the defense was impenetrable. It's quite a turnaround for a team that failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup. Italy extended their unbeaten

streak to 29 matches — one shy of the team record — and kept their 10th clean sheet in that run. Coach

Roberto Mancini, however, suggested that Italy still trails France Portugal and Belgium on the list of tournament favorites.

off with a long pass from within Locatelli's first goal came fol-Italy's half to Berardi streaking down the right flank. Berardi then lowing a textbook exchange with Sassuolo teammate Domenico cut inside and crossed back to the Berardi midway through the first onrushing Locatelli, who tapped in half. His second came with a long, from close range And to think that Locatelli only low shot shortly after the break that gained his starting spot because of left Switzerland goalkeeper Yann

Sommer immobile. Ciro Immobile an injury to the more experienced added the third with another long-Marco Verratti, who is expected range effort in the 89th for his secback for the next game against Wales. ond score of the tournament. At age 23, Locatelli became the tour-Giorgio Chiellini had a goal nament's youngest scorer so far. waved off by video review early Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi in the match because of a handball.

Donnarumma preserved the Then the Italy captain exited with shutout with a double save on a left thigh injury. Steven Zuber late in the second Italy lead Group A with a six half. The Azzurri have now scored points after overwhelming Turkey 30 unanswered goals over their 3-0 in the tournament opener. Wales last 10 matches.

In the final group games, Italy remain in Rome to face Wales while Switzerland will face Turkey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 17: Deep Grace Ekka is the only player from Odisha to find a place in the final squad for the Tokyo Olympics as experienced troika of Lilima Minz, Sunita Lakra and Namita Toppo have been left out.

India Thursday named eight Olympic debutants and as many veterans in a 16-member women's hockey squad for the Tokyo Games to be held from July 23 to August 8.

The squad is a perfect mix of youth and experience and includes as many as eight players who had represented India in the 2016 Rio Olympics

Although, star striker Rani Rampal has been the captain of the side in the lead up to the Olympics, the national selectors are yet to name the leader of the



Tokyo-bound team. However, as per officials in the knowhow of developments. Rani is expected to lead the side in Tokyo but a confirmation is still awaited.

The eight Olympic debutants include drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur, Udita, Nisha, Neha, Navneet Kaur,

THE SQUAD

Goalkeeper: Savita; Defenders: Deep Grace Ekka, Nikki Pradhan, Guriit Kaur & Udita: Midfielders: Nisha, Neha, Sushila Chanu Purkhrambam,

Monika, Navjot Kaur & Salima Tete; Forwards: Rani Rampal, Navneet Kaur, Lalremsiami, Vandana Katariya & Sharmila Devi.

Sharmila Devi, Lalremsiami, the first player hailing from Mizoram in the team, and Salima Tete.

The eight experienced players. who were part of the last Olympics. include Rani, goalkeeper Savita, Deep Grace, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Monika, Nikki Pradhan, Navjot Kaur and Vandana

Katariya. These eight players have

Since Rio 2016, the women's team has been on a steady rise and won the Asian Champions Trophy that same year, the 2017 Asia Cup and silver medal at the 2018 Asian Games. They also created history by entering the

Smriti

Mandhana (L)

and Shafali

Verma run

during their

partnership

between

wickets

The selected squad has just one

goalkeeper in Savita, four defend-

ers, six mid-fielders and five for-

wards. This will be the Indian

women's hockey team's third ap-

pearance at the Olympic Games

and their second consecutive out-

ing, with previous appearances

coming in 1980 and 2016.

quarterfinals of the 2018 Women's World Cup for the first time.

The squad is currently preparing for the Games at the ongoing national camp at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centre here.

caps between them.

Ukraine edge past North Macedonia 2-1 at Euro 2020

AGENCIES

Bucharest, June 17: Andriy Yarmolenko and Roman Yaremchuk struck apiece again as Ukraine kept their hopes alive at Euro 2020 edging past North Macedonia 2-1 in thrilling clash here, Thursday.

Yarmolenko (29th minute) and Yaremchuk (34th) found the target in the first half as they became the first duo to score in each of their team's first two matches in European event history, having both found the net in their 2-3 de feat to the Netherlands. Ezgjan Alioski pulled one back for North Macedonia in the 57th minute.

Ruslan Malinovskyi missed the chance to wrap up the win for Ukraine when he saw his 83rd-minute penalty awarded for handball saved.

India derailed post openers' show

BRIEF SCORES:

England Women

396/9d (Sophia

Dunkley 74 n o,

Anya Shrubsole 47;

Sneh Rana 4/131,

3/65); India Women

Heather Knight 2/1)

Match to continue.

Deepti Sharma

187/5 (Shefali

Mandhana 78:

Verma 96, Smriti

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bristol, June 17: Shefali Verma hit a brilliant 96 (152b, 13x4, 2x6) on debut, while Smriti Mandhana made 78 (155b, 14x4) before five quick wickets derailed India Women as the visitors slumped to 187/5 in their first innings in reply to England's 396/9 declared at stumps on the second day of the one-off Test here Thursday.

Verma and Mandhana shared a solid 167 runs off 48.5 overs for the opening stand before both departed in quick time as the collapse started for India.

If that was not enough, Shikha Pandey, skipper Mithali Raj and Punam Raut too got out in quick succession as India lost five wickets in a span of just 16 runs to hand England the upperhand. At the close of play, Harmanpreet Kaur was batting on 4 in the company of

Deepti Sharma with India still shared valuable 70 runs for the trailing England by 209 runs. ninth wicket.

Earlier resuming at the overnight Debutant off-spinner Sneh Rana score of 269/6, England lost two was the pick of the bowlers for quick wickets before Sophia India with figures of 4/131, while Dunkley (74 n o, 127b, 9x4) and Deepti Sharma (3/65) too impressed Anya Shrubsole (47, 33b, 6x4, 1x6) with the ball.

KOHLI EYES LEGACY, WILLIAMSON AIMS FOR ICC CROWN FOR KIWIS AS WTC FINAL GETS UNDERWAY TODAY IN SOUTHAMPTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Southampton, June 17: Virat Kohli carries the expectations of a billion while cricket romantics will pin their hopes on Kane Williamson when India and New Zealand engage in a battle to create a lasting legacy in pristine whites in the inaugural World

with a USD 1.6 million windfall. There are a number of cricketers, who wouldn't practically have a shot at any other global trophy and for them it's their 'World Cup' which they want to lay their hands on. Cheteshwar Pujara would be ready to take more bruises on his body if Neil Wagner starts bowling short. Aiinkya

are next with four points earlier

after beating Turkey 2-0 in Baku.

Switzerland have one point and



OVERALL STATS

Only one player has won an ICC Trophy as captain both in U-19 and senior level. Pakistan's Sarfaraz Ahmed won the U-19 WC as captain in 2006 and Champions Trophy in 2017

This will be the 11th time India will be playing a final in ICC event going past Australia (10). This

Ishant Sharma a wicket away from 200 scalps in away Tests and to become third Indian pacer to achieve the feat after Kapil Dev (215) and Zaheer Khan (207)

Runs required for Ross Taylor to complete 18.000 runs in international cricket and become the first player

Test Championship (WTC) final starting here Friday.

For the connoisseurs of the glorious game, Test cricket is the ultimate format and despite its aura, the 144-year-old history needed a facelift along with a context which the WTC provided despite various bottlenecks, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Kohli, India's most successful Test captain, a trophy-less cabinet doesn't do justice to the champion performer that he has been for a decade. Lest one forgets, he has been a fine leader in his own right even though MS Dhoni may forever remain a sentimental favourite.

Kohli needs a global triumph. Every captain needs it but perhaps the Indian captain wants it more. It's how history will remember him just like it remembers Dhoni with a lot of respect and utmost fondness for those heroic World title wins.

Williamson stands in his way with a bunch of fine cricketers and the most amiable set of players that one would come across in international cricket.

They are India's rivals but when Williamson hits those cover drives, Devon Conway teases a Ravichandran Ashwin or Ravindra Jadeja, Trent Boult gets one banana inswinger aimed at Rohit Sharma's bootlaces, the crazy fans of a cricket-mad nation wouldn't possibly be able to hate them.

These are 'Gentlemen Cricketers' who have grown on the fans bit by bit with their cricket and their conduct. It's difficult not to love them, especially after their gutwrenching World Cup defeat at the Lord's two summers back.

If Williamson happens to stand with the ICC Test Mace on the Hampshire Bowl balcony, one might just smile and think that perhaps "Nice guys don't always finish last".

But after two years and half a dozen series later, a battle-hardened Indian team will give its all in a match, from which the winning team will also walk away Rahane has grown in stature after a series for the ages and he will squeeze that extra ounce of energy to make it count.

Ashwin is unlikely to play a white ball World Cup again and wouldn't mind one bit if he can fool Williamson, Ross Taylor or the dogged Henry Nicholls with a carrom ball or a slider.

Ishant Sharma has grown 14 years older since that epic WACA spell to Ricky Ponting and India's senior-most player deserves to win a World Championship as much as anyone else.

Man to man, there is very little to choose between the two teams even though playing New Zealand in conditions that aid seam and swing isn't the easiest of tasks.

England found it out recently by losing a Test series and India have had a torrid experience, albeit in New Zealand where they lost two Tests inside three days.

But a final has its own set of pressures and no one would feel it more than Rohit and Shubman Gill, who would have the hardest job currently in Test cricket.

They would face the most underrated but perhaps the best new ball pair in the business in Boult and Southee, who would make the new ball jag around and the old ball talk. This match could be one for the keeps unless pacers from either sides engineer an anti-climax.

THE TEAMS

D<mark>IA (PLAYING XI):</mark> Virat Kohli Iptain), Rohit Sharma, Shubi Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra a. Ravichandran Ashwin, asprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammad Shami.

NEW ZEALAND: Kane Williamson (C), Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Devon Conway, Colin de Grandhomme, Matt Henry, Kyle ieson, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, BJ

Things are as potent for New Zealand as they are for us. If you want us to board the flight from here feeling like New Zealand has got the edge, then there's no point taking that flight. We're going to board that flight knowing that we're on equal terms and whichever team performs well session by session, hour by hour, is going to win that championship

VIRAT KOHLI

MATCH OFFICIALS

On-field Umpires RICHARD ILLNGWORTH & MICHAEL GOUGH Third umpire **RICHARD KETTLEBOROUGH** Match Referee **CHRIS BROAD**

It is exciting. We are looking forward to that when we are taking on India. We know how strong they are and the depth they have. They have got a fantastic (bowling) attack. Throughout we have seen the depth they have as well, certainly saw that in Australia as well. So exciting to be playing against each other at a neutral venue KANE WILLIAMSON

PITCH/WEATHER REPORT

🔽 hough the final nature of the pitch is yet to be revealed, it has been learned that the first three days of play will see the Southampton surface producing great pace, bounce and carry. It is only in the final two days that the spinners are expected to have some help. With the Sun also not expected to shine much throughout the five days of play, the pitch will not dry up easily which will prevent spinners from having an early impact too. Seamers are likely to have a huge say in the game.

includes 2 matches for Champions Trophy 2002 when a different ODI was organised on reserve day due to rain on the first day

from NZ to achieve the milestone

This will be the 61st Test for Virat Kohli as the Indian skipper going past MS Dhoni (60)

AT WTC

TEAM W М L D 12 IND 17 4 1 NZ 11 7 4 0 9 5

Runs scored by Ajinkya Rahane in 17 Tests (28 innings) at WTC, most by any player from both the finalists, with Kane Williamson (817 in 9 Tests/14 innings) leading the chart for the Kiwis. Australia's Marnus Labuschagne leads the overall chart with 1675 runs in 13 Tests (23 innings) **67** Wickets bagged by R Ashwin in 13 Tests (24 innings) at WTC, most by any player from both the finalists, with Southee leading the chart for the Kiwis with 51 scalps (10 Tests/20 innings). Pat Cummins of Australia leads the overall chart with 70 dismissals (14 Tests/28 innings)

Wickets required for R Ashwin to go post Stuart Broad (69) and Pat Cummins (70) and become leading wicket-taker in the inaugural WTC

Sixes required for Rohit Sharma (27) to go past Ben Stokes (31) and be on top in the table at WTC

43 Wickets taken by Ashwin against NZ in 11 Test innings,

most by an Indian from current squad,

including 6 fifers at an average of 16.97

39 Wickets taken by Tim Southee against India in 15 Test innings,

including 2 fifers at an average of 24.46

most by a Kiwi from current squad,

HEAD-TO-HEAD

59 Tests played between these two teams with India sealing 21 wins compared to New Zealand's 12, while 26 ended in draws

In the last 5 matches in ICC events, all matches have been won by New Zealand. This includes two matches of WTC, two matches of World T20 and 2019 World Cup semifinal. India last won against New Zealand in an ICC event in World Cup 2003

Runs scored by Kohli 773 against NZ in 17 Test innings, most by an Indian from current squad, including three 100s and as many 50s with an average of 51.53

812 Runs scored by Ross Taylor against India in 25 Test innings, most by a Kiwi from current squad. including three 100s and one half century with an average of 33.83

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Watling & Will Young





