

PETROL, DIESEL PRICES AT ALL-TIME HIGH

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: Fuel prices are witnessing a trend of record highs with petrol and diesel prices being hiked again Sunday. In Delhi, petrol was hiked by 29 paise and diesel by 27 paise. With this, a litre of petrol now costs ₹97.22 in the national capital and diesel is retailing at ₹87.97 per litre.



Can't pay ₹4 lakh for Covid victims: Centre

FISHING ON A RAINY DAY: Fishermen cast their nets hoping big catch in the swollen Daya river on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The Centre has told the Supreme Court that ex-gratia compensation of ₹4 lakh cannot be paid to the families of those who have died of Covid-19 as it is beyond fiscal affordability and the finances of the Central and state governments are under severe strain.

In an affidavit filed before the top court last Friday night, the Ministry of Home Affairs said the Centre submitted that it has by ways of

GOVT U-TURN



The Centre told the SC that ex-gratia compensation of ₹4 lakh cannot be paid to the kin of Covid-19 victims as it is beyond fiscal affordability of the Central and state governments

All Covid deaths to be certified

NEW DELHI: All coronavirus deaths regardless of where they take place should be certified as Covid deaths, the Centre has said in an affidavit in the Supreme Court after media reports pointed out huge discrepancy in death figures in at least six states. In a 183-page affidavit filed late last night, the

Draft Cabinet note floated for 100% FDI in oil PSUs

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The Commerce and Industry Ministry has floated a draft Cabinet note seeking inter-ministerial views on a proposal to allow up to 100 per cent foreign investment under automatic route in oil and gas PSUs, which have an 'in-principle' approval for disinvestment, sources said.

The move, if approved by the union cabinet, would facilitate privatisation of India's second biggest oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL). The government is privatisThe scheme has been planned to take care of financial, healthcare and educational requirements of the hapless children

ority basis, the Chief

Minister's Office (CMO) said.

that children covered under

the scheme would be entitled

to the state and Central food

security schemes. In addi-

tion, they will also be in-

cluded in the state govern-

ment's Biju Swasthya

Kalyana Yojana health in-

Under the provisions of

the scheme, the state gov-

ernment will also help in

the education of such kids

and facilitate their admission

to Adarsh Vidyalayas and

other schools. Their higher

education will be covered

under the 'Green Passage

scheme of the government.

children are adopted, they

will not be eligible for the

scheme. The government

has also given its approval_

for providing *pucca* houses

to the caregivers of the chil-

dren under various hous-

However, if the orphaned

surance scheme.

The Chief Minister said

POST NEWS NETWORK Pension Scheme on a pri-

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday announced a special scheme for the welfare of children who have either been orphaned due to Covid-19 or lost their earning parents to the deadly virus. The scheme, christened

'Ashirbad', has been launched to take care of the financial, healthcare and educational requirements of the hapless children. It will benefit children who lost either one, especially the earning parents to Covid.

The scheme will benefit three three categories of children-children who have been orphaned, those who have moved to welfare homes and are under the supervision of a caretaker and, lastly, children who have lost their earning parent.

I ost their earning parent. Children who have been orphaned will be entitled to ₹2,500 per month from the government in the bank accounts of their guardians till they become adults.

ing schemes. The CMO said that the guardians and caretakers of the aggrieved kids may approach the Child Protection Units with requisite documents like death certificates of their wards' parents to avail the housing scheme.

DIESEL ₹95.93 (+0.31)

With the latest revision by the staterun Oil Marketing Companies (OMC), the fuel rates have hiked for the 28th time since May 4. In Mumbai, petrol stood at ₹103.36 per litre and diesel was priced at ₹95.44 per litre. The fuel rates dropped slightly Saturday in the financial capital. Among other metro cities, a litre of petrol and diesel in Kolkata now costs ₹97.12 and ₹90.82 respectively. Witnessing an upward trajectory, petrol has breached the ₹100 mark in at least seven states and Union Territories.

WEATH	IER		
	BHUB	СТК	
MAX	35.6°⊂	35.6°	Ċ
H MIN	26.6°⊂	25.0°	Forecast
Humidity	100%	73%	Light rain
Rainfall	9.6mm	NIL	very likely

"Minimum Standard Relief", under Section 12 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, taken several steps providing for substantial and speedy measures by way of increase in health, infrastructure, ensuring food safety to every citizen.

"The prayer of the petitioner for payment of ex-gratia to all deceased persons due to Covid-19 is beyond the fiscal affordability of the state governments. Already the finances of state governments and the central government are under severe strain due to the reduction in tax revenues and increase in health expenses on account of the pandemic.

"Thus, utilisation of scarce resources for giving ex-gratia may have unfortunate consequences of affecting the pandemic response and health expenditure in other aspects and hence cause more damage than good. It is an unfortunate but important fact that the resources of the governments have limits and any additional burden through ex-gratia will reduce the funds available for other health and welfare schemes," the afOn June 11, the Centre had told the top court that pleas seeking ex-gratia compensation of ₹4 lakh to the kin of Covid victims are "genuine" and are under consideration

fidavit filed by the Centre said.

It further submitted that under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, Section 12, it is the "National Authority" which is empowered to recommend guidelines for the minimum standards of relief, including exgratia assistance and this is the function entrusted to the authority by the law passed by the Parliament.

"It is well settled through numerous judgements of the Supreme Court that this is a matter which should be performed by the authority to whom it has been entrusted and not one where the Court will substitute its own judgement for the decision to be taken by the Executive." Centre also promised action against doctors who fail to comply with this rule. So far, only deaths of coronavirus patients that took place in hospitals were certified as Covid, not the ones that happened at home or even at hospital parking lots, leading to a discrepancy in fatality figures that ran into lakhs.

"Any attempt to second guess may create unintended and unfortunate constitutional and administrative ramifications. It may also be noted that the term 'ex-gratia' itself connotes that the amount is not based on legal entitlement," the affidavit stated.

"A broader approach, which involves health interventions, social protection, and economic recovery for the affected communities, would be a more prudent, responsible and sustainable approach. Globally, the governments in other countries too have followed this approach, and have announced interventions that provide fiscal stimulus. Government of India has followed a similar approach," it said. ing BPCL and is selling its entire 52.98 per cent stake in the company.

Sources said that as per the draft note, a new clause would be added in the FDI policy under the petroleum and natural gas sector. According to the proposal, foreign investment up to 100 per cent under the automatic route would be allowed in cases where an 'in-principle' approval for disinvestment of a PSU has been granted by the government.

For BPCL privatisation, mining-tooil conglomerate Vedanta had put in an expression of interest (EoI) for buying the government's 52.98 per cent stake in the PSU. The other two bidders are said to be global funds, one of them being Apollo Global Management.

After collating the views, the Commerce and Industry Ministry would seek approval of the Union Cabinet on the proposal.

At present, only 49 per cent FDI is permitted through automatic route in petroleum refining by the public sector undertakings (PSU), without any disinvestment or dilution of domestic equity in the existing PSUs.

Children who have lost their earning parent will be eligible for ₹1,500 per month and the mother of the child would be given pension under the Madhu Babu

State targets 3L inoculations per day from today



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The Health department is all set to launch a massive anti-Covid inoculation drive in all the blocks and ULBs from Monday to achieve the target of three lakh vaccinations per day in the state.

The boost to the vaccination drive comes following the Centre taking up the responsibility of procuring vaccines from the manufacturers for all segments of beneficiaries from June 21. Following assurance of constant supply of vaccine doses, the Health department now plans to scale up the inoculation drive.

Bijay Panigrahi, Director; Odisha Health and Family department, said, "We plan to vaccinate three lakh people per day from June 21. All district administrations have been given their vaccination targets in proportion to the local population."

Currently, Odisha has around 1,500 vaccination centres and the government plans to increase the number of such centres. "We plan to scale up the number of vaccination centres to 2,000 to cater to the needs of the people," he said.

"As per plan, each block and Notified Area Council (NAC) will have five vaccination centres. Each municipality and municipal corporation will have 10 and 20 vaccination centres respectively. If the need arises, we will have more centres in each of these areas," he added.

Earlier, state Health Minister Naba Kishore Das had announced that the government wanted to augment the vaccination drive andextend it for people in the 1844 year group to new areas.

Robots may campaign in 2022 Assembly polls in India

A HUMANOID ROBOT CALLED 'DOOT' CAN COMMUNICATE AND DELIVER THE IMPRESSION OF A HUMAN BEING

Gujarat. In the Tamil Nadu Assembly

polls in April, a newly-formed polit-

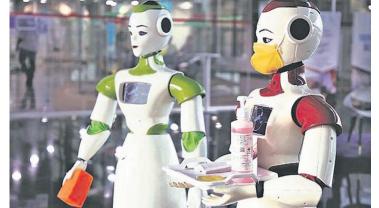
ical outfit India Makkal Munnetra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 20: As mass public gatherings remain an obvious danger in India amid the lethal Covid-19 waves, you may see humanoid robots performing campaigning on behalf of political leaders in the 2022 Assembly elections.

Onestand India Pvt Ltd has developed a humanoid robot called 'DOOT' for this purpose, which can communicate and deliver the impression of a human being with excellent voice recognition, face recognition and gestures.

These robots are likely to be seen campaigning for the Assembly polls next year and, according to the company, they are in talks with different political parties to deploy these robot campaigners for the state elections next year:



The states that go to the polls in 2022 are Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Goa and

Katchi (IMMK) introduced a humanoid robot for campaigning for the first time. Called 'Doozy', the four-foot robot was also the party symbol.

Now, 'Doot' is ready to serve political parties by reaching out to a limited group of people with their messages amid the pandemic.

"The robot's rover has a large wheelbase, with an all-wheel-drive gearbox, which enables it to move easily even on rough surfaces. Through artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled voice recognition, the humanoid robot will address the public on behalf of the politician," Kumar Kanhaiya Singh, Director, Onestand India, said.

Questions and interactions will be reviewed periodically by a team that will have an answer to common queries updated after every review. 'Doot' is equipped with a custom-made servo motor, which enables the full upper body to bend and raise with ease.

It can also twist itself with 140 degrees of freedom, making it the only humanoid in the country to do so.

HD cameras are located in the head of the robot which enables the operator to have a look at the audience and also record the attendees.

"The 4th generation servo motors, which are indigenously manufactured, barely make any noise and are tested to work in hot Indian conditions for long hours without any breakdown or need for servicing," Singh said.

The humanoids are built on an aluminum frame with industrial-grade components. They have 10 axes (joints), which enables it to shake hands or wave at people.





eisure

DICK VAN DYKE, 95, LOOKS FORWARD TO TURNING 100

Actor Dick Van Dyke, 95, is determined to make it to his milestone birthday in 2025. "The point is to enjoy. I'm looking forward to 100. George Burns made it and I'm gonna do it too!" Van Dyke told US magazine *Closer*.

DAD STOP EMBARRASSING ME! **CANCELLED AT NETFLIX AFTER S1**

Hollywood star Jamie Foxx-led comedy sitcom Dad Stop Embarrasing Me! will not be returning for a second season on streaming platform Netflix. According to Deadline, Foxx was involved in the decision to end the series, which debuted on the streamer in April.



FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com

accuracy • reliability • trust

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

Someone new in your life is going to make you smile; remember, however, that it doesn't always have to be fur and diamonds. A song sung straight from the heart makes a greater impact, says Ganesha. Today's the right time to go out and do things which will make you proud later.

TAURUS

This day could be full of surprises, mostly unpleasant, fears Ganesha. Nothing is likely to turn out as planned and expected. There will be sharp and sudden twist and turns, unexpected shocks and setbacks all day long. You will, however, with the grace and blessings of the Almighty, manage to stay steady and unruffled, and move ahead

GEMINI

You will feel the need to pursue your passions today. You will give more time to your family and will spend as much time as possible with your children and will bestow your love and affection on them. You will be in an imaginative and romantic mood today. You need to harness your creativity into creating opportunities for yourself, says Ganesha.

Sometimes acting a little eccentric and adopting an approach that you will usually not helps you redefine your style, says Ganesha. Go ahead and do that today! Although you will be open to adapt and bring in some revolutionary changes, you will make sure to follow a proper pattern.



tion - these are the two words that shall dictate your philosophy for the day. Refurbishing oneself does not always have to be in accordance with something new; taking a look back can be equally enlightening. In any case, it's a small world, and, hence, chances are that you shall revive most of your old contacts either in a social occasion or an official meeting.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that today is

A mixture of the desirable and undesirable is on the cards today. Sentimental people will tend to think of you as a little mmature. However, your sense of humour will be as robust as ever and you will never fall short of jokes.

I am always Daddy's little girl: KRITI

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon took to social media Sunday to express love for her father on

the occasion of Father's Day. Kriti took to Instagram Sunday evening to share a video which is made of a collage of photographs featuring the actress with her father. While some of the photos are a throwback from the actor's childhood. some are recent.

Along with the video, she wrote: "He said 'you can be anything you want to in this great big world', But I'm always gonna be ... Daddy's little girl.. Happy Father's Day Papa. Love you beyond words. @sanonrahul.

On the work front, Kriti will feature alongside Akshay Kumar in the upcoming film Bachchan Pandey which is currently on the floors in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The Farhad Samji directorial film also stars Arshad Warsi, Jacqueline Fernandez, Pankaj Tripathi and Prateik Babbar. IANS

Tahira announces her fifth book

Mumbai: Author and filmmaker Tahira Kashyap Khurrana announced her next book The 7 Sins of Being a Mother Sunday.

Tahira, who is married to actor Ayushmann Khurrana, took to Instagram to announce her fifth book

Posting pictures of herself jumping with joy showcasing her laptop screen, Tahira revealed the title of her second book penned during the pandemic.

The author said, "I love dads (mine and my kids')- but on Father's Day I want to share some special news about my new book!! It's sinful and hopefully delightful... It's called .. THE 7 SINS OF BEING A MOTHER!! Swipe to see my calmness about it. #newbook #comingsoon #author @jug-gernaut.in." Tahira had launched her fourth book 12 Commandments of Being A Woman last year, which received an exceptional response from the audience. Earlier, she has authored books like Cracking The Code: My Journey in Bollywood, and Souled Out

COVID AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Puppetry plays key role in educating people of NE India

THE TRIPURA PUPPET THEATRE TROUPE HAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL FESTIVALS AND WORKSHOPS

he Tripura Puppet Theatre (TPT) group, which has performed in many countries and in states in India, is educating people about Covid-19 through the traditional Putul Nach (puppet dance), garnering people's attention and appreciation.

The TPT, a 47-year-old folk cultural body, since March 21 last year, the World Puppet Day, has started a unique endeavour to make people aware about the danger of novel coronavirus and how to be protected from this disease.

Many videos of the puppet dance on novel coronavirus, prepared by the artists of TPT group, and uploaded on the YouTube platform and other social media are attracting people's attention and admiration

The Covid awareness puppet videos in Bengali, Hindi and other local languages are also being telecast on various channels in Tripura and other north-eastern states.

One of the founders of TPT, Prabhitangsu Das said that since the beginning of the Covid pandemic last year they are continuously undertaking a variety of performances and shows and these are being shown on various platforms to make the people aware.

'The themes of our puppetry

programmes are focused on social distancing, preventive measures, Covid appropriate behaviour, useful food and immunity boosting diet and various other measures and actions announced by the government," added Das.

In Bengali, Hindi and other languages, TPT's 17 seconds to 90 seconds awareness videos with English subtitles show a story where a government official coughs and shows flu-like symptoms and is advised by his wife and daughter to consult a doctor.

Das, son of TPT's founder Haripada Das, said that all the characters (puppets) of the video are made by their members and some of the performances are verbal and some others are non-verbal.

"Puppetry is one of the powerful traditional folk cultural medium and it has numerous examples of efficacy in public health issues," said Das, who was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2016 besides many other awards in recognition of his contribution to contemporary puppetry.

The TPT has participated in various international and national puppet festivals and workshops in India and abroad including Germany AGENCIES



Pandemic takes sheen off celebrations



A file photo of World Music Day celebrations at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar.

I'M GOING OUT TO WATCH

THE SUN RISE ... IF IT'S

THE SUN, I'LL KNOW I'M

URED IF IT'S A BASEBAL

I'M STILL IN TROUBLE ...

YEP, I CAN'T SAY I'M PARTICULARLY

INCLINED TO SHAR

MY FUTURE

MILLIONS WITH

LOOK

YOU. HERE

DINOSAURS

O.

HOBBES AND I

ENT TO THE

IURASSIC TODAY

IND CAME BACK

WITH THESE

DRAMATIC

HOTOGRAPHS

WE'RE GOING TO BE RICH !

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

PEANUTS

PSST, MR. SACK

WHAT ARE YOU

DOING UP 50

EARLY?

CALVIN AND HOBBES

BEG

PARDON

WELL DAD, IT'S

TOO BAD YOU WERENT ANY

NICER TO ME

ALL THESE YEARS

R

BREVITY

Bhubaneswar: A bleak future stares at those work in Odia music industry with the theatres and auditoriums remaining shut for nearly two years. Deaths of eminent musicians like Amarendra Mohanty. Santiraj Khosla and Tapu Mishra

due to Covid-19 has only worsened

the situation. In such difficult times, when many performers are struggling to make ends meet, the celebration of World Music Today is the last thing

Padhi said, "The pandemic has hit the music industry badly as all the live performances are on hold now. Recording of songs has also been stopped at studios as movies don't get release dates these days. The online performance doesn't strike the right chord with the music lovers. It is really tough for all of

HE IS OUR CAMP

PRESIDENT ?!

DIDN'T REALIZE

SO SMALL AND

PLASTIC

NOSAURS LOOKED

Q

HEY

ARE

INSIN-

TAH

us to eke out a living."

Singer Antara Chakraborty said, "Things have gone from bad to worse. While people of other professions manage to save their jobs by working from home, this system doesn't work in the music sector. It is becoming difficult to sustain as there are restrictions in place for live performances and recording of songs.'

Singer Susmita Das was of the view that though the country is going through a difficult phase, people connected with the entertainment industry should come forward to create awareness on the pandemic. This is the only way to keep others safe and survive, added Das.

Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi(OSNA) President Aruna Mohanty said that the Akademi is organising virtual musical performances to help out the artistes. Besides, the government is providing pension and financial as-

IANS

day for all those people who are in love or a romantic relationship. If you plan to propose to your beloved today is a good opportunity for it as success will come easily to you. You will be able to spend a day filled with joy, happiness and enjoyment.

SCORPIO

Retail therapy with your loved ones is a perfect recipe to have a good time! You will be more than willing to buy things of their choice. Haggling will be a trait you have closeted today as you go about being lavish in your expenses, says Ganesha

SAGITTARIUS

Be ready with you bags packed as you may decide to undertake an impromptu trip today. It could be a business trip or simply travel in pursuit of pleasure. Nostalgia will grip you as you run into an old childhood friend today. Sharpen your public relation skills, which will come in handy when you deal with strangers today, says Ganesha.

That you are affectionate towards your loved ones will be more noticeable today than ever before, says Ganesha. In fact, you will enjoy their company and will do everything in your capacity to make them feel wanted. Long-term relationships will also thrive.

AOUARIUS

Fortune favours the brave, and who knows it better than you? Your performance may come under scrutiny, but your bosses will come away pleased as punch. Want to make some money? Ganesha points to real estate and the construction business

PISCES

The focus today is on touching base with your near and dear ones, says Ganesha. It is likely that you will renew some old associations in a social function, or in matters related to business. You are likely to surge ahead of your competitors when it comes to work related matters

that comes to mind, said eminent music director Prem Anand. Popular singer Swayam Pravash

?? HE DIDN'T HAVE

A SACK OVER HIS

HEAD ??!??

sistance to the needy under Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana, added Mohanty.

FUN

12

15

Across

7 Auto body part

8 Apparition

9 Grotesque

ornament

10 Mystique

11 Frenzied

13 Photo tint

15 Earth tone

17 Buy, buy, buy

16

CROSSWORD

4 Title holder

5 Outbuilding

6 Silver type

12 Unearth

14 Geysers

18 News item

spouses

19 Upright

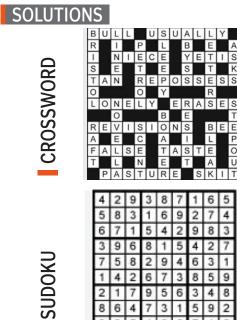
22 Former

16 Chafe

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.

SUDOKU

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



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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

24

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20 Bread maker

21 Barren ground

caribou

24 Accumulate

1 Star in Lyra

3 Swiss cheese

2 Saws

23 Typeface

Down











8 6 4 7

13

5 4

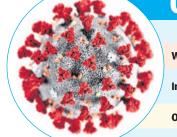


downtown



GETTING A SPLASH

Boys enjoying a bath under the water fountain at Bindusagar tank in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	17,90,75,360	16,36,08,515	38,77,769
dia	2,98,81,965	2,87,66,009	3,86,713
disha	8,77,502	8,40,214	3,590

The Snana Purnima ritual will

start with the Pahandi procession

of the presiding deities at 1am

and end by 8pm June 24

procession for

the Rath Yatra

8.30am, while

will start at

The deities will 1 The Pahandi

later be

adorned with

Gajanan Besha

or Hati Besha

Rath Yatra schedule out RITUAL TIMETABLE

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, June 20: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Sunday finalised schedule for the annual Rath Yatra and other related rituals.

The SJTA, at a meeting with members of the Chhatisha Nijog (the apex body of Srimandir servitors), decided that all those, including servitors, to be involved in the rituals, will have to undergo RT-PCR tests or complete two doses of Covid-19 vaccines.

All the events will be held without devotees as large congregations could trigger the further spread of Covid-19. Only servitors and temple officials will participate in the rituals, the meeting said.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC will be imposed around the temple on Snana Yatra, the bathing festival of the deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra, and nobody would be allowed to congregate on the Grand Road in front of the 12th century shrine, said Puri Collector Samarth Verma.

The Snana Purnima ritual will start with the Pahandi procession at 1am and end by 8pm June 24.

The Chhera Pahanra (sweeping of the bathing place) ritual by Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb, the titular king of Puri, is scheduled to be held at 10.30am.

Barricades being put up near Srimandir ahead of the Snana Yatra, Sunday

The deities will later be adorned with Gajanan Besha or Hati Besha (elephant attire) between 11.00am and 12noon

The trinity-Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra, and Lord Jagannath—will be taken to the Anasara Ghara (asylum for the sick) as it is believed that they fall ill after taking the bath.

The return procession of the deities from the bathing pandal to the Anasara Ghara inside the temple will take place between 5pm-8pm. The Anasara rituals will begin from that day and continue for the next 15 days.

between chariot pulling 11.00am and will begin at 12noon 3pm July 12 The Lords' Suna Besha (golden attire) will be held between 4pm-11pm July 21 The Niladri Bije, the return of the Trinity to the main temple, will be held July 23. The procession will start at 4pm and end at 10pm

Krishan Kumar said the world-faritual of the deities will be held on their chariots between 4pm-11pm July 21.

The Niladri Bije, the return of the Trinity to the main temple, will be held July 23. The procession will start at 4pm and end at 10pm. The rituals will be performed with bare minimum servitors this year, Kumar said.

The administration of Srimandir in Puri is under the Law department of the state government and the SJTA is responsible for the day-to-day management of the shrine

LoP to be discharged in 3-4 days: AIIMS **CM LAUDS MEDICINAL** to the intensive care unit (ICU) and

car festival.

3pm July 12.

SJTA chief administrator

On the Rath Yatra day, the char-

iots of Lord Jagannath and his divine siblings are pulled along the

Grand Road and taken to Gundicha

Temple (aunt's place), 3km from the

12th century shrine, and kept there

for a week till the day of the return

The Pahandi procession for the

Rath Yatra will start at 8.30am,

while chariot pulling will begin at

The Suna Besha (golden attire)

mous Rath Yatra will be held with-

out devotees July 12.

PLANT CENTRE POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Following a pat behind the back by the state government, the Medicinal Plant Knowledge Centre here stated that creating awareness about the herbal value of the medicinal plants is the way forward in their conservation and preservation.

Spread over 150 acres in Patrapada, the Medicinal Plant Knowledge Centre has more than 100 different tree species having medicinal values. With more than 73 herbal and 72 shrub species, the institute aims to create a focus on the medicinal plants sector while catering to the requirements of Ayurvedic practitioners and people relying on various local health traditions.

Appreciating the efforts put in to transform the institute into a place prospering and preserving na-

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, June 20: The All

in next 3-4 days.

was on life support. He was soon taken out of ventilator and other life support and was shifted out of the India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar Sunday in-ICU ward. AIIMS medical superintendent formed that the health of Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik has im-

Dr Sachidananda Mohanty in his proved and he could be discharged interaction with the media Sunday said, "There is very good im-The BJP leader was earlier adprovement shown by Naik in the mitted to the hospital due to his past few days. A special team was formed to take care of his health. deteriorated health post Covid infection. Naik was earlier admitted Two doctors from the All India

Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and two from the state government are now working together to monitor his health every day."

He also added, "His examinations and health reports are discussed with the team every day. He is now walking on his own and has also started eating semi solid food. As per our assessment, he could be discharged from the hospital soon."

JAWAN ATTACKED BY COLLEAGUE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; June 20: In a shocking incident, a sepoy at the 7th battalion of Odisha Special Armed Police (OSAP) force here Sunday sustained injuries after a colleague attacked him with a knife. The victim constable has been identified as Bashir Khan.

According to sources, both the accused, Parameswar Nayak and the victim got into a heated argument over some petty issue Saturday evening. The argument soon turned violent and an enraged Nayak reportedly attacked him with the sharp weapon. The victim later lodged a complaint with the police against Nayak who was detained by police.

On the other hand, police claimed that the incident was the result of a friendly banter between the sepovs. The victim also sustained minor injuries only. Police Sunday released the accused after giving him a notice under section 41 of the CrPC.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Cuttack man kills

wife's paramour



Accused Kalandi Bishwal during the recreation of the crime scene

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 20: A daily wager allegedly killed his wife's paramour in College Square area of the Silver City here on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

Accused Kalandi Bishwal also tried to kill his wife Malati Biswal over her alleged extramarital affair, police said.

Malati sustained grievous iniuries in the attack and was rushed to SCB Medical College Hospital here, they added.

According to sources

According to police, accused Kalandi **Bishwal also tried to** kill his wife Malati **Biswal over** her alleged extramarital affair

area in Jagatsinghpur district. He attacked Sanatan and Malati with a sharp weapon when they were asleep on the verandah of a shop at College Square. Sanatan died on the spot, police said.

ture, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday tweeted, "Glad to see Medicinal Plants Knowledge Centre, Bhubaneswar transform into a thriving 'Garden of Life', preserving our rich legacy of medicinal plants, known for their healing qualities. Careful nurturing has turned it into a unique bounty of nature, hosting rarest flora & fauna.

Acknowledging the Chief Minister's plaudits, Divisional Forest Officer of the city forest division, Ashok Mishra said that concerted efforts had been made to transform large swaths of barren lands into plush greenery.



POURING WOES

People travel on the waterlogged Rasulgarh-Bomikhal road in Bhubaneswar soon after heavy rain lashed the city, Sunday

ple had been residing in a slum in CDA area of the city for last several days. Around a fortnight ago, Malati had deserted Kalandi over a marital dispute and started living with her lover Sanatan Das at College Square.

"The couple's one-year-old daughter was staying with Malati at College Square. However, the child succumbed to some health complications five days ago. Malati's alleged extramarital affair and the death of their only child had infuriated Kalandi," said a source.

Kalandi had hatched a plot to eliminate Malati and her lover Sanatan, 40, a resident of Rahama

On being informed, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Amarendra Panda and Malgodown police in-charge Truptiranjan Navak reached the spot and began a probe into the incident.

Police later nabbed Kalandi from CDA area. "Kalandi has confessed to the crime during interrogation. We have registered a case in this regard under Sections 302 and 307 of the IPC. Our investigation is on. A scientific team has been pressed into service. The accused was taken to the spot to recreate the crime scene," said a police officer.

MeT predicts heavy rain for 4 days YOGA A BOON TO MANKIN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Sunday said that the state is likely to experience moderate to heavy rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning across districts for the next four days. The authorities have been directed to stay updated on the change in weather conditions.

The department issued a Yellow Warning for Monday and said that thunderstorms and lightning could be witnessed in different parts of the state during the day.

It forecast light to moderate rains in different parts of the state Monday but refrained from issuing heavy rainfall warning for Monday.

"Thunderstorms with lightning very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Nuapada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati, Ganjam and Bargarh," the department said while issuing the warning for Monday.

It, however, also said that light to moderate rains could be felt in a few places of north and south Odisha.



The department has meanwhile issued warning of heavy rains for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The department while issuing warning of heavy rains for Tuesday said, "Heavy rainfall very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Nuapada and Sonepur.'

It also said, "Thunderstorms with lightning very likely to occur Tuesday at one or two places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput,

Sambalpur, Sonepur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Angul, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore.³

Similar situation is likely to remain in the state Wednesday.

The department while issuing the warning of heavy rains for Wednesday said that heavy rains could lash Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Bargarh, Bolangir, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Jharsuguda and Nuapada districts. Thunderstorms and lightning could also be seen during the day, the IMD said.

The department meanwhile said that the minimum temperature Sunday was recorded at Phulbani which saw 19 degree C temperature while the highest of 33 degree C temperature was recorded in Chhatrapur Sunday.

The department also said that the state capital might see rains or thunderstorms towards afternoon or evening Monday while the maximum temperature in the city could go upto 36 degree C.

The department has also asked the fishermen not to venture into deep sea areas during the next 24 hours

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

BHUBANESWAR: With the Covid-19 pandemic taking a psychological toll on all, many people have been embracing yoga to keep the body and the mind fit. As the world observes International Yoga Day Monday, Orissa POST speaks to experts on yoga's pivotal role in rejuvenating the mind as well as the body, leading to a healthier lifestyle, especially during the hour of crisis.

Priyanka Singhdeo, a certified yoga instructor, says yoga plays a key role in promoting both the physical and mental well-being of the people.

"I have personally realised the benefits of yoga. Considered as a holistic approach and targeting the different systems of the body and the mind, yoga rejuvenates the mind with confidence. It calms the mind and improves concentration as well as patience. Practising asanas and pranayama regulates the purification of the organs, reducing body fat," Singhdeo says.

As children are mostly indoors and glued to gadgets during the pandemic, yoga can help the future citizens learn to be in the present moment while relaxing and gaining

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

OP PHOTO



a peaceful state of mind, which ultimately improves their emotional regulation, Singhdeo adds.

Sasmita Pattnaik, another yoga teacher, highlights the importance of asanas and pranayama.

"Our health is usually overlooked in the hustle-bustle of everyday life. However, regular pranayama and asanas can take care of it as they help maintain a healthy nervous system, which in turn affects our emotional, psychological and physical well-being. One may initially find it difficult to practice pranayama and asanas. But things will go smoothly once you are into it. After a few days, one can experience improved mindbody coordination and consciousness," Pattnaik pointed out.

Amrit Pattojoshi, a psychiatrist, points out that yoga can help revitalise the mind and the body,

Theme 2021

The theme for this year's International Yoga Day is 'Yoga for well-being' and how the practice of yoga can promote the holistic health of every individual.

leading to a healthier lifestyle.

"Yoga not only provides physical and mental relaxation but also develops strength and resilience. The energy generated in the body through yoga provides peace, stability and calmness to the body as well as the mind. It has unmatched benefits, especially during the pandemic, in reducing depression, anxiety, stress, substance abuse, and addressing sleep as well as eating disorders," the psychiatrist says.

According to Gazal, a yoga enthusiast, yoga is a boon to mankind, especially during the pandemic.

"I have been practising yoga for at least five years now. It's a boon to mankind. Yoga plays a significant role in the psycho-social care and rehabilitation of Covid-19 patients as it helps to allay a pa-+tient's fear and anxiety," the yoga enthusiast says.

Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Nuapada,

Bolangir, Bargarh, Boudh,





OrissaPOST MONDAY JUNE 21 2021 BHUBANESWAR

downtown

State loses 40 more lives to nCoV

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Odisha's Covid-19 tally surged to 8,77,502 Sunday as 3,577 more people tested positive for the infection, while 40 fresh fatalities pushed the coastal state's coronavirus death toll to 3,590, a Health official said.

As many as 2,039 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 1,538 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing, said the official.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of fresh cases at 571, followed by Cuttack at 407 and Jajpur at 337. Bargarh and Cuttack districts recorded the highest number of fresh fatalities at five each, followed by Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Rayagada (four each), and Ganjam, Jharsuguda and Khurda (three each).

As many as 53 other Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities so far, the official pointed.

The coastal districts of Khurda, Cuttack, Jajpur and Balasore continue to remain hotspots—report-

tinue to remain hotspots—report-



Swab sample being collected from a Srimandir servitor ahead of the Snana Yatra

ing a high number of daily infections and accounting for over 43 per cent of the state's 38,727 active cases—while the western districts bordering Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are registering a declining trend.

Similarly, the southern districts are also reporting fewer fresh infections, with many of them al-

nandir servitor ahead of the Snana Yatra ready in the 'green zone' for having less than 1,000 active cases each, the official said. The four coastal districts of

Khurda, Cuttack, Jajpur and Balasore have a total of 16,656 active cases. "Khurda has the highest number of active cases at 6,178, of which 2,106 are in Bhubaneswar, while neighbouring Cuttack has 3,759 ac-

IN A NUTSHELL

ODISHA'S POSITIVITY RATE STANDS AT 6.7 PER CENT Of the 3,577 new Bargarh and **Cuttack districts** infections. Khurda district, recorded the under which highest number of Bhubaneswar fresh fatalities at falls, reported five each, followed the highest by Koraput, number of fresh Mayurbhanj and cases at 571, Rayagada (four followed by each), and Ganjam, Cuttack at 407 Jharsuguda and and Jajpur at 337 ¹ Khurda (three each) THE STATE HAS SO FAR TESTED OVER 1.30 CRORE SAMPLES FOR COVID-19,

INCLUDING 66,382 SATURDAY

tive cases. Jajpur and Balasore have 3,492 and 3,227 active cases respectively." said the official.

As many as 8,35,132 people have recovered from the disease thus far, including 5,281 Saturday. The state has so far tested over 1.30 crore samples for Covid-19, including 66,382 Saturday. Odisha's positivity rate stands at 6.7 per cent.



THE WAR IS ON

Passengers register their details with the civic officials upon their arrival at Bhubaneswar railway station amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Sunday

CRPF constable held GAMBLING RACKETS ACTIVE for duping SI of ₹8.89L ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PURI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The Commissionerate Police Sunday arrested one constable of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for duping a senior official of around Rs8 lakhs to invest in share market. The accused was identified as Priyabrata Priyadarshi Pati of Kalapada under Cuttack Sadar police limits.

According sources, the victim identified as Raj Pal, a sub-inspector in the CRPF, was staying alone inside the campus while his family members are residing at his native village in Jhajjar area of Haryana. Raj recently underwent piles surgery at the dispensary in the campus of the CRPF in Nayapalli area. He came in contact with the accused who was the attendant for him. Rai also used to give his debit card to Pati whenever he was in need of cash. Pati reportedly withdrew money to the tune of Rs 8.89 lakh from the account of Raj between May 4 and 15 June.



Meanwhile, Raj's son informed him about the withdrawal of huge amount of money from his account June 15. Subsequently, Raj filed a complaint with the police in this regard. Nayapalli police soon swung into action and arrested the accused who confessed to the crime. The accused revealed that he had withdrawn the amount to invest in share market and clear his debts.

The court Sunday sent the accused to judicial custody.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, June 20: Several gambling rackets are active on the outskirts of the Holy City here amid the pandemic-induced lockdown.

The gambling rackets are operating from Kanthapur, Khadipada and a few other villages under Puri Sadar police limits, sources said.

"Many rich and influential people from Puri city are involved in the gambling activities. These people are participating in the illegal activities through their representatives. Lakhs of rupees are being transacted at the gambling dens

every day," said a source. According to sources, a gambling den has been active inside the casuarina forests at Kanthapur since last many days. The gamblers gather inside the forests immediately after noon and they continue the illegal activities till the evening every day.

"Many rich people are booking slots in advance to participate in the gambling. Even some hardcore criminals and murder accused



are involved in the gambling activities," said a villager.

It is learnt that the racketeers have deployed several informers in the localities to get advance information on the movement of police. The informers are also escorting the gamblers to the casuarina forests. "Several gambling rackets have been operating from Puri Sadar area since last many days. A police patrolling party had visited Kanthapur some days ago. But, it could not trace THE GAMBLING RACKETS ARE OPERATING FROM KANTHAPUR, KHADIPADA AND A FEW OTHER VILLAGES UNDER PURI SADAR POLICE LIMITS

MANY RICH AND INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE FROM PURI CITY ARE INVOLVED IN THE GAMBLING ACTIVITIES

THESE PEOPLE ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

LAKHS OF RUPEES ARE BEING TRANSACTED AT THE GAMBLING DENS EVERY DAY

the racketeers," said a social activist. Puri Sadar police inspector incharge Sumati Mohanty said they did not have any information on gambling dens at Kanthapur or any other village under their jurisdiction. "We will take appropriate action if there is any information on gambling activities in the locality," she added.

Sex racket busted in City, 3 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The Commissionerate Police Sunday busted a sex racket running at a house in Laxmisagar area here. Three persons were arrested by Laxmisagar police in this regard. The accused were identified as Bibhuti Das (38) of Gobindpur in Cuttack Bijay Kuman Das (42) of

Bibhuti Das (38) of Gobindpur in Cuttack, Bijay Kumar Das (42) of Birtunga under Gop police limits in Puri and Binay Mohapatra of Kishannagar in Cuttack.

According to sources, a team of Laxmisagar police following a tipoff carried out a raid at a house in Buddheswari colony area here Sunday morning. The police found three customers along with the victim in compromising position in a room during the raid. Police sources also revealed that the illegal activities in the house had been tak-

ing place for the last couple of days. The victim, a resident of Bhadrak district, was brought to Bhubaneswar by a pimp who allegedly contacts the customers

Many of the rural areas of the state still don't have proper infra-

structure to provide online classes. Also it is not possible for students

to sit for five-six hours without interruption in online teaching as

there will be connectivity problems.

ment should collaborate with tel-

evision channels for the classes

and after that they can organise re-

medial classes online for solving the

stream classes for school students

on YouTube from June 21.

Bhupendra Singh Poonia, project

director of Odisha School Education

Programme Authority (OSEPA)

said that the officials in the dis-

trict have arranged two classrooms,

preferably in centre of excellence

schools/transformation high

schools/schools located near district

headquarters for YouTube live-

streaming of virtual classes. The

trial run has been done June 17,

Poonia said.

The state government will live-

problems of the students.

Mohanty said that the govern-



THE VICTIM, A RESIDENT OF BHADRAK, WAS BROUGHT TO THE CITY BY A PIMP

through phone. Later, he shares photos of various girls with the prospective customer through social media platforms like Whatsapp. A case has been registered at the Laxmisagar police station.

Police will produce the accused persons before the court Monday.

AKSHAY KUMAR-(LAUDS ODISHA MAN FOR HELP

ROADS, TRAFFIC JUNCTIONS AND MARKET PLACES IN THE TWIN CITIES OF BHUBANESWAR AND CUTTACK WERE BEREFT OF PEOPLE DUE TO THE COVID-INDUCED WEEKEND SHUTDOWN, SUNDAY

SHUTDOWN EFFECT

State should impart edu through TV, says OSSTA

P4







MANY RURAL AREAS IN ODISHA STILL LACK PROPER INFRA FOR ONLINE CLASSES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20 : Odisha Secondary School and Teachers Association (OSSTA) Sunday demanded from state government that during Covid-19 pandemic they should focus on use of television for education rather than online education as the reach of television is far greater than internet in the state.

Prakash Chandra Mohanty secretary of OSSTA said that the government recently decided to use YouTube for providing education from Class I to X. Taking lesson from last year's online education debacle, the state government should use television channels for the education, he said

The state government last year had failed to reach all the students due to lack of online infrastructure. Now, during the second wave of the pandemic, the state government should not be dependant again on online format.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar appreciated Subash Chandra Moharana of Odisha's Berhampur for assisting his househelp during difficult times. Moharana had helped the wife of the househelp get required treatment at MKCG Medical College & Hospital.

In a letter to Moharana, Akshay said, "I would like to take this opportunity to convey sincerest appreciation for the massive help that you extended towards my househelp during these difficult times."

Akshay further said, "As you are aware, it was an emergency situation and with your family help an unpleasant situation was made bearable. Thank you once again and wishing you all the best."

In April this year, Akshay Kumar was admitted to Mumbai's Hiranandani Hospital after testing Covid positive. After being hospitalised for a few days, the actor was discharged from the hospital.

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OrissaPOST MONDAY JUNE 21 2021 BHUBANESWAF

state

Ganjam's cancer care centre in need of 'care'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 20: At a time when the number of cancer patients is increasing in the district by the day, the Cancer Palliative Care Centre on the premises of Ganjam district headquarters hos pital (DHH) lying nonfunctional makes the situation only worse.

A Cancer Chemotherapy Centre was started on the DHH premises around two and a half years ago. Here patients from different parts of the district would get not only chemotherapy but also consultation. One and a half years later, a Cancer Palliative Care Centre was set up on the same premises, close to the orthopaedic building.

The centre had all the facilities for patients who have already undergone operation and received the complete chemo treatments.

Even though the centre has six beds, due to the second wave of Covid-19, it did not receive any patients till recently when a cancer patient, a youth of Berhampur, visited the palliative care centre after receiving 30 chemo treatments outside the state. After spending four days there, he has returned home recently. He alleged that he had not received proper treatment at the centre since it is devoid of health workers and doctors.

According to a source, the nurses

Kendrapara, June 20: The po-

lice have registered criminal cases

against 141 persons for allegedly en-

croaching upon protected forest

land by erecting prawn dykes at the

internationally acclaimed

Bhitarkanika wetland site in

The cases have been registered

On the Orissa High Court's di-

rections, the revenue, forest, and po-

lice departments in a joint opera-

tion have undertaken the demolition

of the earthen prawn dykes that

have unlawfully come up along the

After the areas are cleared, au-

thorities have decided to take up a

mangroves regeneration pro-

against the encroachers in the last

Kendrapara district.

15 days, the police said.

wetland site.

AGENCIES



to be appointed at the centre haven't received required training as yet due to Covid's second wave. At the same time, air conditioner, a facility must for cancer patients, and other necessary equipment are yet to be installed, owing to the same reason. As per rules, a cancer palliative centre must have all facilities those of an ICU. But this cen-

tre is devoid of all such facilities. Moreover, none except centre in-charge Dr Prashant Kumar Patra has received the necessary training to treat patients. Last year, the training programme for nurses in Bhubaneswar had to be postponed due to the outbreak of Covid-19. And posts of a trained doctor and two para-medical staff are also lying va-

Criminal cases registered

against wetland encroachers

gramme on those denuded patches,

141 persons in this connection on

the complaint lodged by Kendrapara

Sub-Collector. Criminal cases have

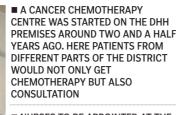
been registered under the relevant

section of the Prevention of

Damage to Public Property Act,

'We have registered cases against

an official said.



■ NURSES TO BE APPOINTED AT THE CENTRE HAVEN'T RECEIVED REQUIRED TRAINING AS YET DUE TO COVID'S SECOND WAVE. AT THE SAME TIME AIR CONDITIONER, A FACILITY MUST FOR CANCER PATIENTS, AND OTHER NECESSARY EQUIPMENT ARE YET TO BE INSTALLED, OWING TO THE SAME REASON

cant. When the centre was established many thought it would go a long way in treating cancer patients. The present state of affairs has left them dejected. Local people demanded immediate steps for appointment of required number of staff and equipment. Chief district medical officer

(CDMO) Dr Umashankar Mishra said the process of appointment of trained nurses and doctors would have been completed by now had not there been the second wave of the pandemic.

For the same reason, the process of installation of equipment has got delayed. "Our efforts are on to make the centre functional soon,' he added

1984," Inspector Rajnagar police

station, Tapan Kumar Nayak, said.

ordered the authorities to demol-

ish all illegal prawn gherries at

the eco-sensitive wetland areas of

The court also directed the au-

thorities to destroy the materials

and machinery seized from the

prawn farm owners apart from fil-

ing criminal cases against the

into a case registered suo motu by

the court based on the Supreme

Court's order regarding the pro-

"Acting on the order of the High

Court, we filed FIRs against the

illegal prawn farm owners." Sub-Collector of Kendrapara, Niranian

tection of wetlands.

Behera, said.

The directive came after hearing

Chilika and Bhitarkanika.

squatters.

The Orissa High Court, May 30,

Two youths meet watery grave

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 20: Two youths were swept away by underwater current while taking bath in the Brahmani River Sunday morning at Sankarkul ghat under Bari block in Jajpur.

According to a police source, the deceased youths were identified as Jitendra Panda and Sunil Mishra, who were known to be residents of Mishra Sahi in Balia village of the district. The duo was just a few meters away from the riverbank. However, they were swept away by strong underwater current of the river a few minutes after they entered into it, an eyewitness stated

Some locals, who noticed the duo drowning, soon plunged into the river and tried to rescue them but in vain. On being informed, a team of fire personnel immediately rushed to the spot. A frantic search was launched by the team to trace out the duo. Later, they fished out the bodies from the river. Local police registered a case

and sent the bodies for post-mortem. An investigation is underway.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 20: The construction work on the left bank canal (LBC) of the Rengali Multipurpose Project across Brahmani river in this district is progressing at a snail's pace. It is so because of delay in getting forest clearance and land acquisition process

Envisaged in the 1980s, this project's main objective is to control flood, to generate hydro-power and help in irrigation. As of now, construction of two canals-right bank canal (RBC) and left bank canal (LBC) is going on.

The LBC passes through Jajpur district. It has been estimated that this 141 kilometre-long canal will irrigate 1,14,300 hectares

It was in March, 2015 that the JICA had signed an MoU to provide a loan amounting to ₹2,250 crore. It was then estimated that the canal would irrigate 39,416 hectares of land in Dhenkanal, Jajpur and Keonjhar districts.

However, out of 2,129 hectares, only 1,700 hectares have so far been acquired.

This apart, a decision with respect to compensate the loss of vegetation over 177 hectares of



sion has remained stuck for 18 years now even though the water resource department of the state government applied for it way back in 2003. This is why the hope of farmers of Sukinda, Danagadi and Korei blocks in Jajpur district of getting irrigation facility is

drying up. The water resource department had sought permission to convert the category of 2159.43 hectares of forested land in 1993. Out of this, permission was granted for 2107.404 hectares in the first phase November 21, 1996. Then, the department had again applied for 21 riders to give permission. So, meeting all the conditions, the water resources department once again applied for permission for converting 1295.3862 hectares of forested land in Angul, Dhenkanal, Athagarh, Cuttack and Keonihar divisions in 2014. And the permission for the same has since not been granted.

Chief engineer, Rengali Multipurpose Project, Deeptiranjan Panda said. "Efforts are on to irrigate 6.000 hectares of Bhuban area in Dhenkanal district. But. it will take two more years for the land in Korei block to get water. The delay in getting environment permission has affected the canal construction work.



SUGAR- FREE PADDY

A farmer receiving sugar free paddy seeds at a programme organised at the agriculture office under Mathili block in Malkangiri district. The paddy grown from these seeds is nutritious, low in carbohydrates and can even be consumed by diabetics

Land acquisition delay spells doom for Rengali project

Man kills father-in-law over property dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, June 20: A man allegedly killed his father-in-law at Patrabhaga village under Sadar police limits here late Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Purnachandra Pradhan, a native of Bilisahi in Patrabhaga village. The accused son-in-law Girish Dehury was arrested by the police after a complaint was lodged by the son of the victim.

Police said the victim and his son-in-law Girish were not on good terms and had a long-standing dispute over sharing of property. The incident occurred when Girish visited his father-in-law's house with his family, Saturday. Late in the night, Girish locked the other members of the family in a room and then killed Purnachandra.



Members of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch staging a demonstration in front of the Sahid Stambh in Sambalpur demanding total vaccination of people and supply of medicines to Covid patients on the occasion of Viswa Jagruti Diwas, Sunday

Purusottampur in Ganjam now Covid free

AGENCIES

Berhampur, June 20: Purusottampur is the first block in Ganjam district to become coronavirus-free as the migrant-prone block did not have any active case

as of now, official said. During the second wave, 183 people in Purushottampur block have been infected with the virus since March 1, Block **Development Officer**

(BDO) Bijay Behera said. The block has 96 villages in 26 panchayats and a notified

area council. The highest active case in the

block was recorded May 11 with 21 cases. The numbers of infections

have started to decline since then, Behera said.

Of the 22 blocks in the district, Purushottampur is the first block in the second wave of the pandemic that became coronavirus-free as there was no active

We have launched 'mission zero', Ganjam targeting villages as a District Collector unit to make the entire Vijay district as free from Covid. Kulange **Block staff have been** said. working to achieve the Around goal 35,000 out of VIJAY AMRUTA KULANGE I the 1.40 COLLECTOR

lakh population in the block had undergone coronavirus tests in the first and second wave, sources said The BDO said the administration

case in the entire block Saturday,

> was now focussing on the vaccination drive in the block, which has achieved an inoculation rate of 62 per cent

A total of 6.92 lakh eligible people have taken the first dose in the district, while 1.16 lakh people have received the second dose so far.

"We have launched 'mission zero', targeting villages as a unit to make the entire district as free from Covid," the collector said,

adding that "Block staff have been working to achieve the goal.

Over the next week, at least seven more blocks in the district are expected to be Covid-free as they have less than 10 active cases at present, another officer said.

As many as 367 out of 503 panchayats and 3,030 out of 3,155 villages in the district have become Covid-free till now as the panchayats and villages have not a single active case, sources said.

Similarly, seven out of 18 urban local bodies in the district have also become COVID-19 free. These are Aska, Belaguntha, Digapahandi, Gopalpur, Purushottampur, Rambha and Sorada.

At least five more urban bodies are likely to be Covid-free in the next week as they have only one or two active cases at present, sources said.

forested land is getting delayed. According to a source, the second phase environment permis-

permission for the second phase. But the Ministry of Forest and Environment had fixed as many as

Farm ponds help farmers script success story

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, June 20: At a time when farmers in most places are facing problems related to irrigation and groundwater depletion, their counterparts in Sundargarh district have found the 'Farm Pond Project' as a solution to address both issues. Many of them are now earning enough to lead a happy life.

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, which is under Odisha government's 5-T initiative, Directorate of Horticulture and 'Jala Bibhajika Mission', the

project is being implemented in 17 blocks of Sundargarh district.

Project director, DRDA, Bhairab Singh Patel said as per the direction of the Odisha government, the 'Farm Pond' initiative is being

implemented in the district. "Agriculture Department, Directorate of Horticulture and Jala Bibhajika Mission have been entrusted with the responsibility of selecting the beneficiaries. They are being permitted to dig up ponds in their lands. The size of the ponds varies according to the area of land owned by the beneficiaries. These ponds have gone a long way in helping farmers," informed

Patel. According to the size of their land, large, medium and small farmers are getting ponds that measure 20, 15 and 10 square metres respectively.

According to information available, a total of 431 farm ponds have been dug up in the 2020-21 fiscal. Another, 1,840 are in the pipeline. With the implementation of this project, the farmers are no longer facing problems to irrigate their crops. The quantity of the harvest has increased and along with it their financial conditions.

With an aim to provide work opportunity to labourers, the project has been connected with MGN REGS. So the daily wagers are also being able to earn. At the same time, self-help groups are being strengthened by engaging them to oversee the work.

Jal Bibhajika Mission, project director, Haribandhu Sethi said the farmers are now in a better situation. They have started harvesting on land where cultivation used to be impossible due to lack of irrigation.

Lokeshwar Pradhan, a farmer from Chatakpur area under Hemgiri block, narrated how the project has changed his life. "I have five acres of land. It was lying useless. After digging up a pond of 15 square metres, I am growing varieties of vegetables. My financial position has improved considerably. The district administration has provided all the support to dig up the pond," said Pradhan.

FOCUS MARGINAL FARMERS

Hidden nature is secret God. Sri Aurobindo



Liars All

It is said, since time immemorial, that once you tell a lie, it will invariably come back to you. You then have to take the immense trouble to remember what it was exactly that you had said at a certain point of time in your past. It can be a harrowing experience if you fail to recollect your precise lie. On the other hand, if you tell the truth, life becomes easy and relaxed. You most likely would upset people momentarily at that time but your life becomes stress free later. The truth is easy to remember not only for you but for others also.

India and its government are in a similar kind of fix currently. All data dished out by the Establishment regarding handling of the coronavirus induced pandemic was being swallowed lock, stock and barrel by citizens. No one dared to question the meagre death figures portrayed daily by government agencies while everyone was a spectator watching hundreds of bodies being cremated or interred every day. People did not wish to contradict government's data primarily because an atmosphere of fear was created. The official effort was that if any one tries to question anything that the Establishment announced on television or through Twitter then it would be considered rumour mongering and that would and did attract heavy penalties against those individuals. Many journalists and social activists were arrested and put behind bars to silence their quest for truth. The clear indication that such actions gave out was that the government, at the Centre as well as the States, wanted to be the BEST. Every state wanted to show it had the lowest death figures and that would be proof enough of a wonderful handling of the pandemic by that party and its Chief Minister. This perverted desire of the people in power in each State to cut down death figures resulted in unofficial communications to hospitals, both state owned and privately run, to show whatever other reasons for deaths they wished to but not certainly coronavirus related. This mindset was supported by the Central government which too was trying to show that it had not only handled the pandemic in the best manner but India had defeated the disease. The Prime Minister

had publicly announced such a claim at the World Economic Forum meet at Davos early this year. This set in motion one of the biggest efforts by the Indian government to make doctors and health workers repeatedly tell lies and hoodwink the country.

Today, the situation has turned murky Now, when the Supreme Court has asked for the actual death figures of each State, the government is in a fix. Till yesterday it was threatening citizens with punishment under sedition law should any one publicly challenge Piate Tathagata Satpathy

any governmental initiatives to tackle the pandemic. However, the tide seems to be turning. For example, the Ministry of Home, in an affidavit to the Apex Court late last week, has said that the State governments are not in a position to pay the ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the families of those who have died of Covid-19 as it is beyond fiscal affordability and the finances of Central and State governments are under severe strain.

It would be worth noting that earlier, as recent as on 11 June 2021, the Centre had told the top court that 'issues raised in the pleas, seeking directions for ex gratia compensation of Rs 4,00,000 to the families of those who have died of Covid-19 are 'genuine' and are under consideration of the government.' In these intervening few days, there has occurred a major volte face. The financial stress mentioned in the affidavit existed then and exists now too. The situation has changed only because of the Court seeking to know the honest death figures. Nothing else has been altered.

The other serious aspect is that this search for truth will necessarily put more pressure on doctors and health workers who had happily gone about their duties lying through their teeth. The Centre, in its efforts to dig into the past to get at the true figures, will now start a relook into all deaths that occurred at hospitals or at homes. As part of the same affidavit, the Centre has told the Apex Court that 'death of all coronavirus patients to be classified as Covid-19 fatalities.' Imagine the predicament of any doctor who, very 'wisely', had issued a death certificate of a Covid-19 patient and had given some other reason for the mortality but not due to coronavirus. If the same doctor is compelled to change the reason(s) for the death of a patient and contradict the earlier official certificate, it could have far reaching effects on her or his carrier and credibility.

All these complexities have arisen and all these lies have been vomited on the very people who helped install individuals to lead the government by those very individuals just because they wanted to show their peers as also the world that they are the best. It is now proven that the people ruling this country are liars, all of them.

UNMITIGATED ANGUISH

ndia is going through an unprecedented economic crisis, with the estimated GDP growth being scaled down to 8 per cent from an earlier estimate of 15 per cent. The wholesale price index has gone up to 12.94 per cent and consumer price index to 6.30 per cent. The shortfall in tax collection is expected to be Rs 1.5 lakh crore, with fiscal deficit widening. The scenario is further muddled by very high level of unemployment, of around 8 per cent during April, estimated by the CMIE. The labour force participation rate is estimated to be an all-time low of 40 per cent. In this kind of a bleak economic scenario, the real patch of sunshine is the agricultural sector, with the promise of a bumper crop and a handsome buffer stock of 75.2 million tonnes. However, there are disturbing reports that farmers in Muzaffarnagar have been burning their tomato crops due to a glut in production, with price of tomato (Re1perkg) not covering even the cost of production. Farmers in Haryana are also destroying capsicum crops as the prices have crashed. JM Keynes had termed this kind of situation to be one of

'poverty in the midst of plenty.' In this backdrop, it's necessary to understand the myriad problems being faced by small and marginal farmers, who produce 70 per cent of the vegetables and 50 per cent of cereals. Of the 121 million agricultural holdings, as per latest NSSO data, 99 million are small and marginal farmers. They have a land share of 49 per cent. As per a report of NABAPD 50

As per a report of NABARD, 50 per cent of the marginal famers are indebted, with average loan amount being Rs 47,000, with 50 per cent of the marginal farmers taking loans from non-banking sources at exorbitant rates. Assured irrigation support which is the key to agricultural productivity is asymmetrically distributed in India, with states like Punjab having close to 98 per cent land irrigated, while states like Odisha languish with 29 per cent and all-India av-



There is a definite need to embrace a pragmatic agricultural policy so that small and marginal farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and are protected against unforeseen vagaries as is being witnessed in several states during bumper crop

erage being 35 per cent. While large farms have access to pumps, and grow water guzzling crops like wheat, too little water is left to small and marginal farmers.

The agricultural strategy of India after Green Revolution in the 60s has centered around HYV seeds, subsidising inputs like fertilisers, and providing high MSP for procurement of wheat and rice. This has made Punjab. Harvana and Western UP the food basket of India, with large farmers having a whooping bonanza, while a large number of small and marginal farmers of East and North East have been left to the mercy of monsoon, uncertain price, and debt trap. Realising the vulnerability of the poor and the enormous potential of populist schemes to garner votes, PDS scheme and Right to Food Act had been unleashed. Loan waivers by several states have also helped poor farmers to come out of debt traps temporarily and invariably achieved electoral bonanza. The APMC Act & market yards are supposed to ensure fair price for farmers. The latest gambit by the Centre is PM Kissan Card and Odisha government's KALIA scheme which provides

Rs 10,000 a year to the marginal farmers so that they come out of the quagmire of indebtedness.

But the central concern of remunerative price and improving

productivity of small and marginal farmers has remained unaddressed, as the government pampers the kulaks in Punjab and neglects the poor farmers in BI-MARU states. The farmers' agitation is a shining proof of this huge dichotomous approach, with 8 per cent of farmers clamouring for MSP, while farmers in states like Odisha are more concerned about timely disbursement of KALIA payment and loan waiver.

There is thus a definite need to embrace a pragmatic agricultural policy so that small and marginal farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and are protected against unforeseen vagaries as is being witnessed in several states during bumper crop of vegetables and fruits. The existing cold chain arrangement in the country is awfully inadequate and essentially caters to non-perishable cereals, potatoes, onions and fruits. Perishable vegetables like tomatoes and mangoes do not have the benefit of either being preserved in the cold chain or being converted to manufactured products. As per estimates by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, around 13 per cent of vegetables were lost during harvesting, postharvest activities, handling and storage as against 3 per cent loss for cereals.

Besides building more cold chains and investment in agro industries. the government must encourage use of drip irrigation, which improves productivity two fold and reduces usage of fertiliser by 30 per cent. The focus of ICAR has been on HYV rice and wheat and not on coarse cereals. This has impacted coarse cereal production severely. A working group on marginal farmers in 2013 had suggested that marginal farmers must join farm pro ducer organisations (FPOs). Such collectivisation of farms will make finance accessible from formal sources and achieve economy of scale. The Budget of 2020 had envisaged creation of 10,000 FPOs and allocated around Rs 6,865 crore for facilitating collectivisation of small and marginal farming. Further, the Central government must invest more in agricultural R&D (0.2 per cent of GDP) and scale it up to 1 per cent at least. Contract faming through collectivisation of small and marginal farmers, handholding between corporates, banks and farmers can be a game changer in assuring remunerative price to the farmers.

The farmers' strike tries to highlight how corporates are going to hijack the interests of the farmers, by denying them a handsome MSP. But it does not address the unmitigated anguish of small and marginal farmers, whose real challenge is how to get remunerative price, improve productivity and enjoy the fruits of shared prosperity. Appropriate public policy and Centre-state synergy can bring positive change in the lives of marginal farmers.

The writer is a leading voice in Development Economics.

SPECTRUM WORLD MUSIC DAY

Harnessing musical power for human welfare

usic has ever been integral to social, cultural and religious ethos of mankind. In wintry nights early men gathered around fire, danced and sang in accompaniment to music as a re-



By drifting one from depressing. frustrating and negative thoughts, music rejuvenates mind, body and spirits, lets us visualise feelings we never cherished in past. Spiritual reiuvenation apart. enormous health benefits of music in correcting emotional, psychic and physiological disorders are uncontroversial. By triggering endorphin formation, music creates 'feel good' effect, boosts immunity and minimises dependence on drugs. particularly pain killers. It makes one happier, enhances performance, wards off anxiety, improves concentation and strengthens learning and memory. Studies have demonstrated clear improvements of musical intervention in autism. schizophrenia, frozen parts in Parkinson's and several mental diseases. Also, participation in community celebrations with music joins hearts, so direly needed today. Music served as handy modality to bring succour to the home-bound conditions during lockdown period by alleviating the ennui of people and keeping them constructively engaged. "Music is moonlight in the gloomy night of life", said Jean Paul. Wide exchange of popular movie songs of yore or favourite bhajans through social media helped people keep their poise. A suggested area in music research is exploring new techniques for human welfare. The author writes on health, spiritual and social issues.



SN Misra

THE EXISTING COLD CHAIN ARRANGEMENT IN THE COUNTRY IS AWFULLY INADEQUATE AND ESSENTIALLY

CATERS TO NON-PERISHABLE CEREALS, POTATOES, ONIONS AND

FRUITS

WISDOM CORNER

- If you learn from defeat, you haven't really lost.
- That man is a success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much.
- We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men.

WORDS**WORTH**

Nitty-gritty

his belongs in the same class of folklore which holds that a picnic was a slave lynching party. There is the very slightest of links, in that nittygritty was originally a Black American English expression, and some writers have guessed that nitty-gritty is a euphemism for shitty. Apart from those tenuous associations, the evidence is all against the theory. The first known example in print has recently been found by Fred Shapiro of Yale University, in the Pittsburgh Courier of 29 June 1940: "Any convention goes lacking when that Joe Louis clenches his fists, put on the gloves, and steps into the ring in his pretty satin trunks and whips another guy down in the 'nittygritty." The expression is almost certainly older. But it's inconceivable that it should have been around since slave-ship days without somebody writing it down. Its meaning - the fundamental issues, the heart of the matter, or the most important aspects of some situation - also doesn't suggest a connection. Its origins are elusive. One explanation is that it is a reduplication - through the same mechanism that has given us nambypamby and itsy-bitsy — of the standard English gritty. This has a literal sense of containing or being covered with grit, but figuratively means showing courage and resolve, so a link with the modern sense is plausible. A less probable explanation was suggested, in a 1974 issue of American Speech, the journal of the American Dialect Society, that nits refers to head lice and grits to the corn cereal. None of these are supported by any firm evidence, and it's this lack of a clear origin that has contributed to the wide distribution of the slave-ship story.



Animals go to Heaven

A cat and a mouse died on the same day and went up to Heaven. At the top they met God and he asked them "How do you like it so far?" The mouse replied: "It's great, but can

I get a pair of roller skates?" God said

"Sure," and he gave him a pair of roller skates. The next day God saw the cat and asked him "How do you like it up here so far?" and the cat replied: "Great, I

didn't know you had meals on wheels

Harish Barthwal

ZIG ZIGLAR

THE IMMENSE, ABSTRUSE POTENTIAL OF MUSIC HAS BEEN WIDELY USED TO PACIFY TURBULENT MINDS AND SOULS freshing relief from drudgery of diurnal life. This energised them to take up next day's tasks with verve and cheer. "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life," said German-Jewish author Berthold Auerbach. The immense, abstruse potential of music has been widely used to pacify turbulent minds and souls. Till a few decades ago, mothers sang lullabies, enabling their nagging children to sleep. Most endearing to us is the sound of our favourite music. A line in John Dryden's poem, A

Song for St. Cecilia's Day, "What passion cannot music raise and quell?" appears to be the unwritten guiding principle of healers, motivators, preachers, marketing professionals. Understanding the charismatic impact of music, the businessman uses, rather abuses musical power to sell his products, leader to woo voters, religious guru to captivate devotees and magician to mesmerise the crowd. No festivity or celebration is considered complete without musical inputs of some description. When bangs from a band or other instrument trigger the soldiers at war front, their dormant strength coming to fore, they exert their best and defeat the enemy.

Without knowing Bhupen Hazarika's wording, "Dil hoom hoom kare...", one is overwhelmed with romantic ecstasy and reflexively driven to the exotic land. In contemporary society fraught with conflict, discord, fragmentation, suspicion and misunderstanding, love for music implies faith in an order that can assuage the omnipresent mental and emotional hurts.

The mystique surrounding music can be attributed to its divine origin. One theory about origin of universe says, it all began with music, "From harmony, from heavenly harmony, this universal frame begun." So, in Indian culture a God or Goddess is often depicted holding a certain musical instrument: lord Shiva with Damaru, Saraswati with Veena, Krishna with Bansuri. Not just that; words are believed to have evolved by symbolically codifying each differently emanated sound beat of Damaru played by

Shiva. The mystic element in music is in sync with essentially divine nature of man. Ringing of bells, playing of musical instruments or chanting mantras during Hindu rituals serves to invoke higher powers that bless the devotees. "The vibrations in the air are the breath of God speaking to man's soul," said Ludwig van Beethoven.

The magical power of music has been personally attested by Napolean Hill in 'You Can Work Your Own Miracles' in the case of his son born without ears who, the doctors declared, shall never be able to hear all his life. The author took it as challenge, and restored his hearing capacity to thirty per cent in few months, a dream come true at which same doctors wondered. He did it by reciting music to the sleeping child for months, thus inculcating in him the craving to listen to it. With time, his hearing capacity improved consistently.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Order of the day

Sir, Political party defections have become the order of the day. It is not very surprising that, after serving a party for so many years, politicians change the party in a jiffy. A person changes his job or profession, frequently, if he is not secure about his future or dissatisfied with perks and remunerations. Similarly, it is not sin or immoral to change a party for better future and perspective. If a politician is sidelined and overlooked for long and his grievances are not heard inside the party, then the change of party is obvious and plausible. A politician's dharma is to serve and render service to the public and party affiliations are immaterial to him. But, party defections should not be done with the sole motive of personal benefits and self-aggrandizement. Frequent changing of political parties for no reason is both repulsive and creates public indignation. Then, it becomes a dirty practice and an act of moral impropriety. It should be done only for public good and for the benefit of the society

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Right step in right direction

Sir, In a first political engagement since the August 5, 2019 move by the Centre to end Jammu and Kashmir's special Constitutional position, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give an audience to the mainstream leadership, including those who were incarcerated for opposing the Centre's move, from the region June 24. The Union Home Secretary extended an invitation to the leadership of the J&K-based political parties, including the National Conference, the Peoples Democratic Party and the CPI(M). PM Modi will chair the meeting. All the leaders have been asked to go for RT-PCR tests before attending the meeting. The invitation has been extended to various leaders. At the same time, this will be the second major peace move in J&K after the successful renewed ceasefire agreement in February this year with Pakistan, which has been demanding a roadmap on J&K to expand the engagement with New Delhi. The sudden move by the Centre also comes in the wake of pressure from the international community, especially the United States, to restore democratic and electoral processes in J&K, which remains under the Centre's rule since 2019. It is a right step in the right direction but how far this move will bring further peace and prosperity of the state remains to be seen.

CK Subramaniam, MUMBAI

up here!"

OrissaPOST MONDAY | JUNE 21 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

state

Timber mafia destroying Sambalpur forests

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 20: For timber mafias, the Sambalpur forest range has turned into a haven. They, in collaboration with some unscrupulous Forest department staff, are felling trees from lands of record holders as well as from forested areas. In the last four years, over 1,00,000 trees measuring over 10,00,000 CFTs have been felled by the timber mafia. As per rule, the DFO gives per-

mission for felling trees only when the Sabik RoR (previous RoR) and Hal RoR (present RoR) of a particular piece of land are get matched. Various other factors are also taken into consideration before permission to fell trees is granted. This apart, the Revenue and Forest departments prepare separate reports. They inspect the girth of the trees, distance between them and types and areas of the land. The local tehsil also gives a similar report. Then only, permission is given to cut trees. Thereafter, either a ranger or an ACF rank officer measures the cut down trees. If the logs are to be sold, then they are loaded in presence of forest department officials and a transit pass is also prepared

But here in Sambalpur forest division, these rules are allegedly being tweaked to favour mafias.

The modus operandi of these timber mafias is to acquire permission for cutting down trees in the name of the land owner.



THE LAND OWNER

THE MODUS OPERANDI OF THESE TIMBER

MAFIAS IS TO ACQUIRE PERMISSION FOR

bers mafias from various districts

of Jharkhand and Rourkela are

carrying out the nefarious act

with the help of some political

leaders. They buy timbers from

land owners at the rate of ₹50 per

CFT and sell those at ₹500 to ₹600

per CFT. The profit is then shared

among the political leaders,

forest department staff and

range of Sambalpur forest divi-

sion has suffered extensive dam-

age due to the rampant cutting of

A source said that Padiabahal

timber mafia.

CUTTING DOWN TREES IN THE NAME OF

DFO GIVES PERMISSION FOR FELLING TREES ONLY WHEN THE SABIK ROR (PREVIOUS RoR) AND

TIMBER FROM THESE FELLED TREES IS THEN HAL RoR SMUGGLED TO ROURKELA, BHADRAK, CUTTACK (PRESENT RoR) OF A BHUBANESWAR AND ANGUL. IT IS ALSO SENT TO PARTICULAR PIECE OF LAND ARE GET THE STATES OF BIHAR, JHARKHAND, WEST BENGAL, CHHATTISGARH AND MADHYA PRADESH MATCHED

After obtaining it, they start cutting down trees of the earmarked area. However, in the process they also cut trees from nearby-forested land. In spite of not having the permission to cut trees from forested land, they do so with impunity.

Timber from these felled trees is then smuggled to Rourkela, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Angul. It is also sent to the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

It has been alleged that tim-

have been detained and are inter-

rogated in connection with the at-

tack. The attack on the elderly men

has surprised many as the village

has remained crime free in the

last few years. In fact 'model village'

tag has been given to the locality

because it has remained

crime free

trees. Felling of trees is also quite noticeable in the Sadar, Dhama and Rengali ranges. Barring a few roadside trees, most of the costly plantation in the ranges mentioned has completely disappeared. On one hand the Forest de-

partment is taking up afforestation programmes spending crores of rupees to protect the environment. However, on the other hand due to the support of some corrupt officials, the timber mafia is having a field day.

When asked, DFO Sanjit Kumar said that land owners are seeking permission to cut trees citing flimsy pretexts. "Permissions for the same are granted only after the local tehsil and the Forest department complete their survey and present reports. There are allegations that middlemen are ac tive in some places, but unless land owners lodge a complaint we cannot do anything. There is a provision by which we can cancel permission which has been granted, but for that land owners will have to come forward."

Notably, since 1930 rules of the 'Sabik Settlement' were used to cut trees. This went on till 1982 when 'Sabik Settlement' was changed into 'Chaka Settlement'

It should also be stated that according to the Indian Forest Act, permission cannot be given to cut trees from lands if they are mentioned as 'Patara jungle type', 'village jungle type' or 'jungle type' in the previous RoR.

Man killed, 2 injured in attack over sorcery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, June 20: A man was killed while two persons sustained grievous injuries in an organised attack by villagers over practice of suspected witchcraft and sorcery at Rameyapalli village under Chamakhandi police limits in Ganjam district Saturday night.

The deceased has been identified as N Venkat Raman 50, of Subhash Nagar at Ankuli locality in Silk City. An elderly man P Bhimaraju, 70, of Rameyapalli village and P Dhabaleswar Reddy of Lanjipalli main road in Berhampur sustained serious injuries in the attack. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

On being informed, a police team raided the village and arrested 13 persons in this connection, Ganjam SP Brijesh Kumar Rai said. They



takin refuge inside their homes with children and bolting doors from inside

Chamakhandi police registered a case in this connection over a complaint filed by the injured Bhimaraju. Post-mortem of the deceased was carried out at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Sunday.

The number of arrest might go Reports said that Bhimaraju up as all the male members in the village have fled their homes fearwas staving with his wife in the viling arrest. The village road wore lage. However, his son and daugha deserted look with all the women ter-in-law were residing at some other place. Villagers grew suspi cious when Bhimaraju invited Venkat Raman and Dhabaleswar to conduct some rituals at his place. They had in the past also had issues regarding rituals practiced by Bhimaraju.

The situation went out of control when Venkat Raman and Dhabaleswar started conducting the rituals. Irate villagers dragged the three out of Bhimaraju's residence and thrashed them mercilessly. On being informed, an ambulance rushed to the spot and took Venkat Raman to the hospital. He however, succumbed during treatment.

Later, the additional SP, Chhatrapur SDPO as well as Chamakhandi, Chhatrapur and Marine police officials rushed to the spot with force and took stock of the situation.



LIVELIHOOD MATTERS

A minor rag picker rides his trolley rickshaw with his sister sitting atop a heap of rags at Rambha in Ganjam district

1 dead, 2 hurt in

Cop suspended for demanding liquor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, June 20: An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police posted at Bhadrak Town police station was suspended Sunday after a video of him allegedly demanding liquor from a youth here went viral. In the video, it is also seen that the cop finally accepts a bottle of the liquor provided by the youth.

The ASI has been identified as Birabhadra Behera. As news of the viral video spread. Bhadrak SP Charan Singh Meena suspended Behera from service

In the video, Behera along with a policeman were seen taking liquor from the youth and hurling slangs at him over the issue. Moreover, a telephonic conversation between the ASI and the youth had also gone viral in which the he is heard threatening the youth. Efforts to elicit the reaction of Town police station officials on the issue ended in vain as they were not



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairakhol, June 20: A person was trampled to death and two others sustained grievous injuries after they were attacked by an elephant Saturday evening. The three were sleeping when the rampaging elephant attacked them inside a kendu leave godown at Gadumunda village under Rairakhol wildlife division of Sambalpur district.

Forest department sources said that six workers were engaged in the godown. They had finished dinner and gone off to sleep. They were taken by surprise when the

in the godown managed to escape from the spot and saved their lives. Both the injured were initially taken to a hospital in Rairakhol for treatment. Later, they were shifted to Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and

their conditions deteriorated, a senior forest official said. Tension ran high in Gadumunda after villagers staged a protest over the issue and barred entry of forest officials. The team members managed to pacify the agitators by promising adequate compen-

sation for kin of the victims.

Man, son beat villager to death in Bolangir 🚄

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantabanji, June 20: A man and his son allegedly killed a man at Jamaki village under Turekela

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

available for their comments. Youth mercilessly thrashed for theft in Bhadrak district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, June 20: A video of a



elephant attack

elephant burst through the ramshackle door and attacked them. The deceased worker has been identified as Bimbadhar Mahakud while the two injured are Binavak

Dehury and Pabitra Dehury Bimbadhar died on the spot while both Binayak and Pabitra suffered fractures in their legs due to the attack. Three others present

Research (VIMSAR) in Burla after



MLA Narasingha Mishra inaugurating a beautification project at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital Square in Bolangir, Sunday

youth with his hands tied being dragged to the Dhamnagar police station in Bhadrak district has gone viral. In the video it is also seen that a couple of people are mercilessly thrashing the captive person. The video has gone viral on a number of social media platforms.

A source said that a woman who works as a contractual staff at Dhamnagar CHC lodged a complaint with the police station alleging that a youth of Nayaksahi area had withdrawn money using her ATM card. The police arrested the youth and subsequently produced him in a local court.

However, prior to the youth's arrest. he had to face inhuman torture. In the video the youth is seen tied to an electricity pole near Burbazaar area in Dhamnagar. The woman and an associate are seen slapping and kicking the youth mercilessly

Even though there were hundreds of people present in the mar-

ket, they chose to remain mute spectators. None of them could muster courage to come to the help of the youth and rescue him.

When asked, Dhamnagar IIC Pradeep Mahanta said the youth has been arrested on charges of theft. He however, did not comment on the treatment meted out to the youth before his arrest. However, he said that if any complaint is lodged, the matter would be investigated.

police station limits in Bolangir district, police said Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Dasarath Putel.

Reports said that the deceased and his friend Atmasitak had consumed alcohol together and were roaming in the village Saturday afternoon. However, Dasarath did not return home last Saturday night and his body was found hanging from a tree in front of Atma Sitak's house Sunday morning.

The deceased's kid lodged a com-

plaint with the police alleging that the Atma and his son had killed his father and then hung it from a tree so that it would like suicide. The family members of the deceased meanwhile alleged that Atma and his son had mercilessly beaten up Dasarath over some past enmity.

On being informed, police reached the spot and initiated a probe into the matter after sending the body for post-mortem.

Crater formation on river banks sparks flood fears

Reports said that over 50,000 peo-

ple reside in more than 25 pan-

chayats close to the Luna and

Chitrotpala rivers flowing through

this block. Few years back, floods

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nischintakoili, June 20: Formation of large craters on banks of the Luna and Chitrotpala rivers flowing through this block in Cuttack district has sparked fear of imminent floods in riparian villages, a report said Sunday.

With monsoons having entered the state, residents fear that embankments might cave in due to the craters and floodwater may completely inundate the villages They alleged that preventive measures are not being taken by concerned department officials. This has sparked sharp resentment among the residents. They have demanded that the Water Resources department should step in to save lives and properties of people living on the river basins.

Sources said a large crater has appeared on the Chitrotpala river



embankment near Bilakana village and another on the bank of the Luna river near Asureswar. At many places, the embankments of these two rivers have also become weak turning the situation very occurred and inundated over 15 panchayats due to breach on Luna embankment at Tilakanaand and at Nahalpur on Chitrotpala embankment

Later, Odisha government had to spend crores to repair the embankments of these two rivers. The heights of these two river embankments were raised but people are still apprehensive of their durability.

Residents alleged that the north division office of Water Resources department at Cuttack is responsible for repairing and maintaining the embankments. However. they are not concerned at all about the problems people are facing. The sub-division office of the department at Pundala has not taken up any work on repairing the embankments yet.

Locals alleged that the embankments have become weak also due to rampant sand mining from the riverbeds. Earlier, mining was only permitted from the ghat at Nemalo. However, this year sand is being excavated from 12 places of the two riverbeds. It is then sent to various locations in trucks and dumpers. The constant movement of heavy vehicles on the embankments is leading to the formation of craters, locals informed.

They recalled that two breaches on the embankments in recent past exposed the efficiency of the Water Resources department.

When contacted, Amarendra Mohapatra, executive engineer of Water Resources department, north division in Cuttack said he has no information regarding formation of large craters on the river embankments. He however, assured that corrective measures will be taken if a proper complaint is lodged.

Nayagarh rape accused confesses to crime

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, June 20: The main accused in the sensational Nayagarh minor rape and murder case has confessed to his crime, a police source said Sunday. The source informed that the 22-year-old Sagar Dalei - who was taken on remand by Banigochha police Saturday afternoon - has confessed to have raped and murdered the six-yearold girl from Dhundugadia village in Nayagarh district.

Sagar was taken on a threeday remand for investigation of the rape and murder incident. Sources said that in police custody, the accused is repentant for his misdeeds. He has said so during the initial stage of the interrogation. Sources said that the accused

has confirmed he took the victim to a banana orchard near the village on pretext of showing her his mobile phone. The youth then raped the minor girl and strangled her with a plastic rope, the sources informed.

Sagar is also known to have said that he hid the body of the victim as he did not want to disclose the incident before his brother.

Nayagarh SP Sidhharth Kataria had earlier said in a press conference June 17 that the minor girl was raped prior to being murdered

It may be mentioned here that the minor girl went missing June 12, 2021 while playing in front of her house in Dhundugadia village under Nuagaon panchayat in 💈 Dasapalla block of Nayagarh district. After an FIR was lodged with Banigochha police, the cops started a probe into the matter and the mutilated body was found atan isolated location near the village June 16.











Bar & restaurant raided

Delhi Police conducted a raid at a bar and restaurant in East Delhi

the DDA Complex located in New Rajdhani Enclave. According to the

received a raid was conducted at a bar in the name and style of Scon

King Cafe and restaurant situated at 1st floor, DDA Complex, New

Raidhani Enclave, Preet Vihar, "A team under the instructions of DM

East/Chairperson, DDMA East, was headed by SDM Preet Vihar along

with SHO of the area." Joint raid was conducted and it was found that

Sunday for violating Covid norms and serving liquor to minors. The

bar and resturant named 'Scon King Cafe and restaurant' was running in

information shared by the Delhi Chief Minister's office, "On information

Public parks, gardens to open from today

AGENCIES

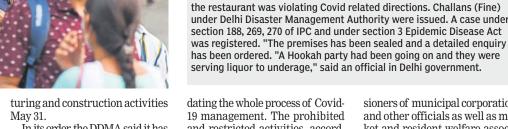
New Delhi, June 20: The Delhi government has allowed reopening of bars, public parks and gardens from Monday under a phased easing of restrictions imposed due to the second Covid wave.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in an order on Sunday stated that bars will be allowed to reopen with 50 per cent seating capacity, from 12 pm to 10 pm, from next week.

The owners of restaurants and bars will be responsible for strict adherence to Covid safety measures and all official guidelines and norms, it said. Public parks, gardens and golf clubs will be reopened and outdoor voga activities will also be allowed, the DDMA stated in its order. Prohibited activities and services, including schools, colleges and educational institutions, cinemas, gyms, spas, all kinds of po litical, social, cultural, religious gatherings among others will re-

DELH UNLOCKS

main closed till further orders or 5 am June 28. The lockdown was imposed in Delhi amid a surge in second wave of Covid-19 April 19. Many restrictions have been lifted in a phased manner with improvement in the Covid situation, starting with allowing manufac-



In its order, the DDMA said it has been observed that the number of coronavirus patients and positivity rate has declined considerably and the overall situation has improved, but due caution and care has to be maintained for consoli-

dating the whole process of Covid-19 management. The prohibited and restricted activities, according to the DDMA order, will continue with effect from 5 AM Monday till 5 AM June 28 or further orders, whichever is earlier. Concerned district magistrates, district DCPs, deputy commissioners of municipal corporations and other officials as well as market and resident welfare associations will be responsible for ensuring Covid-19appropriate behaviour and other guidelines at the markets, malls, restaurants, bars, public parks and gardens, the order said

FAKE VACCINE RACKET BUSTED

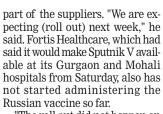
An official had earlier said the hospital would start giving Sputnik V jabs by June 20

Sputnik V roll out delayed

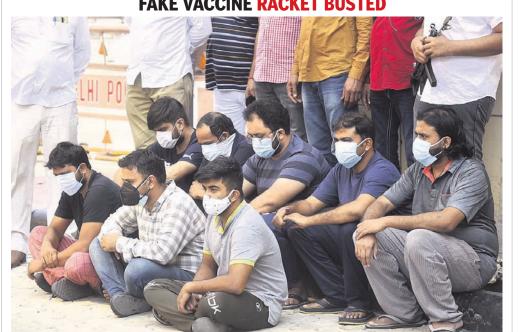


New Delhi, June 20: The roll out of Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V at Indraprastha Apollo and Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital in Delhi has been delayed for some days, officials said Sunday.

A spokesperson of Apollo Hospitals said the facility in Delhi will tentatively start administering the two-dose vaccine by June 25. An official had earlier said the hospi tal would start giving Sputnik V jabs by June 20. According to an official of Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital, there is a delay on the



"The roll out did not happen on Saturday. We expect there will be some clarity Monday," an official said. The Centre has fixed the price of the vaccine at Rs 1,145 per dose. The maximum price of Covishield for private COVID-19 Vaccination Centres (CVCs) has been fixed at Rs 780 per dose, while that of Covaxin is Rs 1,410 per dose. Russia's Gamaleva National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology has developed Sputnik V and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) is marketing it globally.



Delhi Crime Branch officials arrested ten people involved in fake injections and drugs in Covid-19 and black fungus treatment, at PHO in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

INTERNATIONAL TOUCH RAJ SOON TO GET **OPEN MODERN**



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, June 20: Rajasthan will soon house one of the worlds largest open modern art galleries, the Mandawa Art Village, which will bespeak the stories of desert, beautiful 'havelis', colourful dresses, camels, sands and much more.

The idea is to offer an alternative choice to the people who live in the village through creative economy," said Amita D'Alessandro, the French co-founder of Mandawa Art Village, along with Virendra Singh Shekhawat, the director and founder of DPC, a Delhi-based photography club.

Through art, art workshops art experience, creation of open-air gallery, we are developing a new form of artistic tourism which will generate jobs in the village, offering a better life to the villagers," D'Alessandro added.

'We want to transform it into an international art village to offer another attraction to the tourists who visit Mandawa. Restoring. preserving and promoting local old art forms is also one of our aims," Shekhawat said, adding that foreign tourists coming to the art village will be taught pottery making, photography and many more forms of art and craft.

One of the major attractions of the art village is the walls painted by international street artists, which will immediately strike a chord with the tourists.

New street art in the art village and heritage frescos of Mandawa are perfect combinations for Indian and foreign tourists, Shekhawat

Rocio Del Perez Solar, an artist from Peru, visited the village in the end of 2019 and painted four walls. Eva Potacka is another artist from Morocco who painted the walls here and her style of painting is using colourful pastels and extensive use of stencils to give a Moroccan feel to the art works.

One of her artworks is inspired by the cows in India, said Shekhawat.

Artists from across the globe will be invited for collaboration and they can even adopt the village and showcase their country in the village, he added.

The village, situated 4 km from Mandawa, is well known for its painted havelis and the project will ensure that the rural economy gets a boost, Shekhawat said, adding that "reverse migration is the need of the hour and we are working in that direction".

The Mandawa Art Village will offer a lot to the tourists: Art in public spaces depicting India's rich culture and art forms created by renowned foreign artists, photog raphy exhibitions, art installations and sculpture, photo and heritage walks, photography and art workshops, folk music concerts, folk dance etc.

The idea is to create sustainable art villages in the spokes of the tourism hubs so that the villages also get a fair share of the tourists and are able to earn livelihoods by the additional opportunities created, said Shekhawat, adding that the villagers have already started donating their rooms to run photography classes, pottery classes, etc.

If Sachin is asset, why Gehlot not listening Progress of monsoon over Delhi likely to be slow: IMD INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE mittee, but now half of the term is

Jaipur/New Delhi, June 20: The Congress has termed Sachin Pilot as an asset to the party, but almos



gone, and those issues haven't been resolved. It is unfortunate that so many of the party workers gave their all for getting us the

a year after Pilot revolted against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot along with his MLAs and subsequent return after intervention from Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, no issue has been resolved yet and the ministers sacked at that time had not been rehabilitated.

The supporters of the former deputy Chief Minister have been putting pressure on the party to listen to their grievances.

Sources say Kamal Nath has been roped in to resolve the issue, as he is a senior party leader and former Madhva Pradesh Chief Minister. He is expected to prevail upon the Rajasthan Chief Minister to expand the council of ministers and appoint political leaders in Boards and Corporations as almost half the tenure of the Gehlot government is over. The importance of Sachin Pilot lies in the statement of Ajay Maken, the Congress general secretary in-charge of Rajasthan, who Friday said, "Priyanka Gandhiji and I have spoken to Sachin Pilotji. As he is senior leader of the party and an asset, so it's impossible that if he seeks appointment and he will be denied. KC Venugopal has also spoken to him."

He also said that he is an asset and party leadership is in touch with him and dispelled rumours that 'no leader was engaging with

Pilot', as he was in Delhi but did not meet anyone. Maken clarified that Priyanka Gandhi is out of Delhi from the last week.

Maken had said last week, "Vacant positions in the cabinet, boards and commissions would be filled soon and we are in talks with all." Pilot has raked up the issue of non-resolution of commitments made to him. "It has now been 10 months. I was

given to understand that there would be swift action by the commandate, are not being heard,' Pilot had said.

However, the issue is not with the Congress high command but the chief minister who is not willing to give space to the leaders and MLAs close to Pilot.

There is twist in the politics of the state after Sachin Pilot camp sought fulfilment of their demands for political and ministerial appointments. The BSP MLAs, who joined the Congress around two years ago, Monday, also demanded their "due reward" for saving the Rajasthan government after last year's rebellion, contending that had they not been there, the Ashok Gehlot dispensation would have been observing "its first death anniversary". These MLAs have shown faith in Gehlot leaving again the party guessing about next move of the Chief Minister.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The progress of the southwest monsoon over parts of Rajasthan, western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi is likely to be slow as "largescale features are not favourable" for its advance, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Sunday.

Wind pattern by numerical models does not indicate any favourable condition for sustained rainfall over the region during the forecast period, it said. The IMD had Thursday said the impact of midlatitude westerly on the monsoon is likely to continue till June 23 and hence its advance into Rajasthan, remaining parts Punjab, Haryana and Delhi is not likely during the period. It had said the monsoon flow pattern is likely to



organise and strengthen gradually between June 26 and June 30, and the further advance to most parts of northwest India is likely during the same period. The weather department had earlier predicted that the wind system may reach Delhi by June 15, around 12 days early. Normally, the monsoon reaches Delhi by June 27 and

i ne wind pattern by the numerical models also do not indicate any favourable condition for sustained rainfall over the region

covers the entire country by July 8. Last year, the wind system had reached Delhi June 25 and covered the entire country by June 29, according to Skymet Weather, a private forecasting agency.

Mahesh Palawat from Skymet Weather said chances are that Delhi will get monsoonal showers only around the usual date of June 27.

Now, politics over orphaned kids in Rajasthan MONKEY TAKES 'RIDE' IN METRO INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE MP Meena demanded that or-5 lakh once they attained the age

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 20: A video showing a monkey travelling in the Delhi Metro along with other commuters has gone viral on social media.

The two-minute-long video attracted over 1,500 views till Sunday afternoon since it was uploaded on Twitter. The monkey, seen in the video, was roaming inside a coach of a Delhi Metro train. The video surfaced on Twitter Saturday. The video clip showed the monkey first roaming around in the

carriage and eventually settling on a seat next to a commuter. In the video of the purported

incident, a person can be heard saying Yamuna Bank Station, which falls on the Blue Line of the Delhi Metro.



The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) could not immediately confirm the incident, but in response to the video shared on Twitter, the authorities have asked to furnish coach details.

Jaipur/New Delhi, June 20: Politics, these days, seem to be centred around the orphaned kids in Rajasthan with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot criticising the package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for children orphaned due to Covid and praising the package announced by Rajasthan government.

Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha BJP MP Kirorilal Meena Saturday surprised all by staging a 'dharna' near the Chief Minister's residence Saturday with 30 orphaned kids and their families demanding a well-defined economic package for them. His dharna came a day after

Gehlot said the Centre's welfare measures for children who lost their parents to Covid-19 were 'defective' and demanded their revision as they did not provide immediate relief.



Gehlot also claimed the Centre did not announce any scheme to help women whose husbands succumbed to Covid

"The Centre's package did not provide immediate relief, which was of utmost importance, to the children who lost their parents to Covid-19. The package of the government of India is defective and

there is confusion about it. The government will provide financial help after a child reaches the age of 18. Who knows who will be where after 18 years? Package means instant help," said the Rajasthan Chief Minister, adding that he would speak to the Prime Minister about the scheme. A day after his criticism, Rajya Sabha

phaned children in Rajasthan should be given aid of Rs 1 lakh each, free college education and Rs 7,000 a month till they turn adults. Their requirements related to food and rations should be arranged by the state government, he said. If the orphaned children were in school, they should be provided Rs 25,000 annually in one go, he demanded. Meena's protest at the Chief

Minister's residence caught the security apparatus by surprise as neither intelligence officers nor or security officers had information about it.

The Rajasthan government had announced immediate relief of Rs 1 lakh to children whose parents had died of Covid and women, who had been widowed during the pandemic, apart from monthly financial assistance. Additionally, these children would get Rs 2,500 per month till the age of 18 and Rs of 18 years while widows would get a monthly social security pension of Rs 1,500. Meena demanded a similar package for other orphaned kids in the state. State Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khariyawas reached the Chief Minister's residence and spoke to Meena. He ensured that quick action will be taken on his demands. Meena eventually ended the protest.

Sangeeta Beniwal, chairperson, Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said, "There should be no politics over children who have been orphaned. There are many other wavs to reach out to the Chief Minister and convey the message but getting these children to stand on roads with placards in hand is not right. We will write a letter to Meena. We will ask him for the whereabouts of such childrenwho need help and connect them with our schemes.'







Every human being on the planet should take charge of their health and well-being rather than relying on healthcare and doctors. Health is not something that will ever come to us from a doctor or a medical professional. It is something that has to come from within us SADHUGURU JAGGI VASUDEV | ISHA FOUNDATION FOUNDER

MP GETS 94 PER CENT EXCESS RAINFALL IN JUNE

Madhya Pradesh has received 94% more rainfall than average so far since June 1 this year, an official of the India Meteorological Department said Sunday





OrissaPOST

MONDAY | JUNE 21 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

People of a certain ideology started targeting unarmed Muslims on the basis of their religious identity

Even the elders are not being forgiven, their beards are being cut. It is unfortunate that the miscreants did this to the elders to spread religious hatred which is regrettable

MAULANA ARSHAD MADANI JAMIAT ULAMA-I-HIND PRESIDENT

There are complaints emanating from different parts of the state regarding

laxity in vaccination. Due to the narrow politics of the BJP, the speed of the Covid-19 vaccination has become slow. The BJP government has declared that it has set a target to vaccinate everyone by Diwali. But it seems that this will not be achieved AKHILESH YADAV SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

All essential government departments will be allowed to function with 100 per cent attendance and the remaining

departments will be allowed to function with 50 per cent of their staff. Sub- registrar offices will be allowed to function and all private companies can function with 33 per cent of their staff

M K STALIN TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Haryana extends lockdown till June 28

Chandigarh: The Haryana government Sunday extended the Covid-19 lockdown in the state by another week till June 28, but eased restrictions imposed on weddings and funerals, and allowed corporate offices to operate with full attendance. According to an order issued by Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan, up to 50 guests can now attend weddings and funerals or cremations, up from 21 earlier, subject to strict observance of Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and social distancing.

J&K parties get into invite for discussions

This will be the Prime Minister's first interaction with all

the political parties of Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, 2019 when the **Central government** abrogated the state's special status and

bifurcated it into UTs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/New Delhi, June 20: Hectic political consultations were on in Jammu and Kashmir Sunday within mainstream regional parties including the National Conference (NC) and the PDP over an all-party meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi June 24, while the Congress raised the pitch for immediate restoration of statehood to J&K.

The deliberations came ahead of a joint meeting of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of six political parties including the NC. PDP. CPM. Awami National Conference, CPI and JK People's Movement, to be held on Tuesday to discuss their stand on

the Centre's invite As the day began, a two-hour-long political affairs committee meeting of Mehbooba Mufti's PDP was held.

"The party unanimously authorised the party president to take a final decision on the matter." PDP chief spokesperson Sved Suhail Bukhari told reporters outside Mufti's residence after the meeting.

Bukhari said a meeting of the PAGD will take place Tuesday

where the member parties will discuss the issue and then a final decision will be taken on whether to participate or not in the meeting called by the prime minister. "After two days, the PAGD is meeting, this issue will be discussed.

The members of the alliance will give their suggestions and a decision on the way forward will be taken there and afterwards, a decision will be taken over the participation of the meeting," he said. However, the release of

Mehbooba's uncle Sartaj Madani from preventive detention after nearly six months and her party's jailed vouth president Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, charge-sheeted by the National Investigation Agency and the Jammu and Kashmir police, being brought back to Jammu from Kashmir is seen as a move to ensure that Mehbooba participates in the meeting. The PM's meeting with all political parties from Jammu and Kashmir is part of the

Centre's initiatives to bolster political processes, including holding assembly elections, in the union territory. Former chief minister Farooq Abdullah also started the process of consultations with senior leaders of the NC including party general sec-

retary Ali Mohammad Sagar and provincial president of Kashmir Nasir Aslam Wani. Others who attended the meeting were Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan, Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Mian Altaf, Mubarak Gul, Sakina Itoo, Khalid Najeeb Suhurwardy and two Members of Parliament Mohammad

Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi. "The consultations are on. After the party president is done talking to party leaders, a meeting of the PAGD will take place where the member parties will discuss the issue and take a collective decision," Wani told reporters after the meeting

Lakshadweep admin wants to

shift legal jurisdiction to K'taka

LAND PURCHASE IN AYODHYA huddle over Centre's Cong alleges another scam



The Congress had earlier alleged that land purchased for ₹2 crore was sold for ₹18.5 crore to the Trust 'within

minutes', as per the land deed registered March 18 this year, and demanded an SC-monitored probe

into the 'scam'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: The Congress Sunday alleged a scam in the purchase of land by the Ram Temple Trust in Ayodhya and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Supreme Court to "fulfil their responsibility" by ordering a courtmonitored probe to find the truth.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that a BJP leader bought 890 square metres of land in Avodhva for ₹20 lakh in February and sold it to the Temple Trust for a whopping ₹2.5 crore, making a profit of 1250 percent in only 79 days. "BJP leaders are clearly complicit in this 'loot' of

donation collected for the construction of Ram Mandir. The everyday revelations reflect brazen plunder of crores of donations with active abetment of the BJP Government," the Congress leader alleged. He said the people will never forgive anyone who misappropriates donations in the name of Lord Ram and questioned the "silence" of the prime minister and the Supreme Court.

"Lord Ram's temple is being constructed as per the orders of the Supreme Court. Is it not the responsibility of the Supreme Court and its judges and the prime minister, who formed the Trust, to find out the truth and investigate this.

"Shouldn't the Supreme Court take cognisance of the matter? The Supreme Court should discharge its duty. Hold an audit of the entire transactions under its monitoring and punish the culprits," he told reporters when asked if the party would move the court.

"Now the question is whether the Supreme Court and the prime minister will discharge their duty, we leave it to their discretion," he said in a statement.

Surjewala said if it is anyone's responsibility, it is Prime Minister Modi's as he formed this trust. "It is not only a question of morality, but it is also a question of constitutionality," he said, adding that the ball is now in the prime minister's court on what action he takes.

BJP leaders had hit back at the Congress, claiming those who were opposed to the Ram temple constructions were now trying to derail it by making false and misleading allegations. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust had also dismissed the allegations as politically motivated.

Surjewala said with the "facts' now in the public domain, an investigation is required under the supervision of the Supreme Court to ascertain the truth. Posing five questions to Prime Minister Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he asked. "What is the reason for the intriguing silence of Modiji Adityanath on the brazen loot of crores and why no action is being taken against the sinners who openly looted funds for the construction of the Ram temple.

"The Modi-Yogi Governments should know that they cannot escape their bounden duty i.E. Raj Dharma to punish the culprits, Suriewala said.

Chirag announces yatra across Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Paswan Sunday announced 'aashirvaad yatra" from July 5, the birth anniversary of his father and party founder Ram Vilas Paswan, from Hajipur in Bihar, as he seeks popular legitimacy in a battle with the rival faction headed by his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras for the party's ownership.

Accusing his family rivals of "stabbing" him in the back, Paswan made the announcement following a meeting of the LJP national executive which endorsed his leadership and hit out at the faction headed by his paternal uncle for working against the party's constitution.

Paras, in turn, dismissed the meeting as an assembly of "rented crowd" and claimed that it held no legitimacy. The Election Commission will now decide whether his group is the real LJP or whether the Chirag-led faction is right, he told reporters.

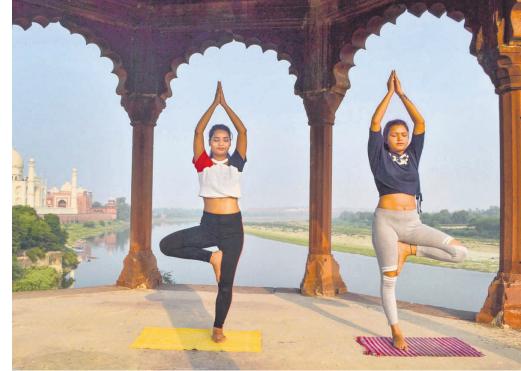
The meeting chaired by Chirag Paswan also urged the Modi government to confer Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, on Ram Vilas Paswan, a popular Dalit leader from Bihar who died last vear.

He asserted that over 90 per cent of the national executive members were in the meeting.

The decision to launch the yatra from Hajipur is significant as Paswan's father was elected to Lok Sabha from there for eight times, and Paras represents the seat now in the House



STEP TOWARDS HEALTHY LIFE



ssam to increase forest cover

Guwahati: The Assam government has launched afforestation drives in different parts of the state with a focus on degraded land, Forest and Environment Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said Sunday. Alongside the plantation drives, conservation measures are also being pursued with multi-pronged strategies. Altogether 35,916 hectares area is being covered by the afforestation schemes under the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and the State Owned Priority Development (SoPD) of Social Forestry.

Quake hits Delhi

New Delhi: A low-intensity earthquake with a magnitude of 2.1 hit west Delhi's Punjabi Bagh area Sunday, said the National Center for Seismology. The earthquake hit the area at 12.02 p.m. However, there was no report of any immediate casualty or loss of property. According to the National Center for Seismology, the epicentre of the quake was at 28.67 degrees North latitude and 77.14 degrees East longitude. with a depth of 7 km.

3 lynched in Tripura

Agartala: Three people were allegedly lynched in the Khowai district of Tripura on suspicion of cattle theft in the early hours of Sunday, police said. Villagers of Namanjoypara spotted a mini-truck heading towards Agartala, carrying five cattle, around 4.30 am, Superintendent of Police Kiran Kumar said.

Kochi/New Delhi, June 20: The Lakshadweep administration, which has been facing widespread protests from the islands' people over some of its policies, has mooted a proposal to shift its legal jurisdiction from the Kerala High Court to the Karnataka High Court, officials said.

The proposal was initiated by the administration after several litigations were moved before the Kerala High Court against the decisions taken by the islands' new administrator Praful Khoda Patel. These decisions included revising standard operating procedures for Covid appropriate behaviour, introduction of the "goonda act" and demolishing hutments of fishermen for widening of roads. Patel, who is the administrator of Daman and Diu, was given the

additional charge of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep in the first week of December last year,

AISHA QUESTIONED

Filmmaker Aisha Sultana, facing sedition charges in Lakshadweep, today appeared before the Kavaratti police in connection with the case. She reached the Kavaratti police headquarters at 4 PM and was allowed to leave at 7:15 PM after questioning. In a video message to reporters, Ms Sultana said the police were cooperative and she has been directed to stay on the islands for three to four days. It has been alleged that the filmmaker, while participating in a debate telecast by a Malayalam news channel on June 7, had said the Centre used "biological weapon" against the people of Lakshadweep.

when the former administrator Dineshwar Sharma died after a brief illness. This year, as many

writ petitions, have been filed against the administrator of Lakshadweep and also against the alleged high-handedness of either the police or the local government of the islands.

However, for reasons best known to the island's administration, which is under the spotlight over its handling of these issues, it has made a proposal for shifting its legal jurisdiction from the high court of Kerala to Karnataka. Efforts to seek comments from the advisor of the administrator, A Anbarasu, and Collector of Lakshadweep S Asker Ali did not fructify.

Mails to their official e-mails and WhatsApp messages did not elicit any response to a question asking the rationale behind mooting of the proposal for shifting of legal jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of a high court can be shifted only through an act of Parliament, according to the law.

Two girls perform yoga near Taj Mahal ahead of International Yoga Day in Agra

Azad, Mukul Wasnik may get RS seats

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mukul Wasnik AICC general secretary of the Congress are likely to enter Rajya Sabha soon. The bye-elections for eight RS seats in five states are due to be held anytime now. The Congress high command has decided to bring back Ghulam Nabi Azad to RS either from Tamil Nadu. M K Stalin. Chief Minister has offered one out of three seats to Congress and spoken to Sonia Gandhi too. R Vaithilingam and KP

Munusamy of AIADMK quit RS to become MLA while third A. Mohammedjan died during campaigning. One RS seat in Maharashtra fell vacant due to the demise of Rajiv Satav. It will also go to the Congress. The Maharashtra seat may go to Mukul Wasnik. The Maharashtra seat fell vacant due to the demise of Rajiv Satav, a Rahul Gandhi loyalist. His wife is also under consideration. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also has to send two persons in the Rajya Sabha who fit into her scheme of things.

Decks cleared for Cabinet reshuffle

wo years into his second stint in the government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed the marathon exercise of reviewing the performance of at least 20 Cabinet Ministers and others. Those whose performance was reviewed include Rainath Singh (Defence), Amit Shah (Home), Nitin Gadkari (Road

Transport) and others. Others like External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank could not make it so far due to a variety of reasons. This exercise is considered to be a prelude to midterm mega reshuffle and expansion of the Cabinet that the PM is likely to undertake during the next few weeks. Informed sources in the PMO say that a major expansion was undertaken in 2016 when similar exercise was undertaken. The strength of the Union Council of Ministry rose to 78 (Cabinet 27 and Independent charge-12 and MoS 39), one short of the ceiling of 79 ministers in 2016. Presently, there are 55 ministers including the PM. Thus, 23 ministers can be added to the kitty. It is said that this performance review is critical to stay in the Council of Minister as every Cabinet Minister and MoS with Independent Charge has been given a written road-map to complete the task assigned. If there are bottlenecks, then no political clout would matter. Interestingly, in

this exercise, BJP president J P Nadda was also invited to look into some of the key areas in the government. Considering the importance of UP, more representation may be given to the state as it has only 8 ministers including three Cabinet and two (MoS-IC). The names from UP, West Bengal, Assam, Maharashtra will be finalized after the current exercise.

BJP looking for Maha booster dose

he BJP leadership is getting desperate for a "booster dose' after drubbing in West Bengal. In order to turn the tide against it, the government took a U-turn on its vaccination policy. The PM himself announced cancelation of board exams for schools and extended the free food scheme until next Diwali. It was a huge booster but the party is looking for a political dose before Assembly polls in five states. It was part of this mission that fresh initiatives began at

various levels to win back Maharashtra. The first initiative was taken by former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis who called on NCP Chief Sharad Pawar at his residence. The meeting was termed cordial and it was asserted that no politics was discussed. But it's the timing that matters in politics. Pawar's surgery took place in March and Fadnavis called on him on May 31 after the BJP's drubbing in early May in West Bengal. What transpired between the two is shrouded in mystery. Insiders say the mission was aimed at wooing Pawar to re-consider re-joining the NDA after the first attempt ended in a fiasco two years ago. Then came the Thackeray shocker.

Shah proposes trifurcation of UP

ontrary to reports in the 'Godimedia', a term used for progovernment private media outfits, all did not go down well between Yogi Adityanath and party high

command when he visited Delhi for two days. The high command is extremely worried over reports emanating from UP and several surveys by credible agencies that the BJP may face a stiff challenge. The Assembly polls may be polarized between the BJP and Samajwadi Party relegating BSP, RLD & Congress on the margins as was witnessed in West Bengal. It was in this context that Union Home Minister Amit Shah reported to have floated the idea of trifurcating UP. Yogi was taken aback when Shah unfolded the plan on June 10. He said it should be implemented by passing a resolution by calling the Assembly session. The trifurcation plan of UP, West Bengal and other large states has been part of Sangh Parivar's vision as it feels nearly 20% of the population does not vote for BJP at all. The high command feels that this will be the win-win mantra to retain UP. But Yogi is reported to have expressed his unwillingness saying the party should have faith in his leadership

for the next eight months.

PTI PHOTO







international

The international community came here 20 years ago with this clear objective of fighting extremism and bringing stability...But extremism is at the highest point today. So they have failed HAMID KARZAI | FORMER PRESIDENT. AFGHANISTAN

EX-UK SPEAKER JOINS LABOUR

Former UK House of Commons Speaker John Bercow, who gained international fame refereeing the country's political drama over Brexit, said Sunday that he has guit the governing Conservatives to join the opposition Labour Party



uote

Saudi seeks religious reset as clerical power wanes

I assert Egypt's support for the interim executive authority represented in Libyan presidential council and the national

unity government in performing their tasks during the transitional

SAMEH SHOUKRY FOREIGN MINISTER, EGYPT

As President Rivlin approaches the end of his term, this visit will honour the dedication he has shown to strengthening the friendship between the two countries over the course of many years

JEN PSAKI PRESS SECRETARY, US



IMRAN KHAN PRIME MINISTER, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Russian envoy returns to US

Washington: Russia's ambassador to the US has flown back to Washington DC, saying he hoped to build "equal and pragmatic" ties after a US-Russia summit in Geneva aimed at reducing tensions. The plane transporting Ambassador Anatoly Antonov, who was recalled in March for consultations, left Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport Sunday for New York, where he will travel on to Washington, Russian news agencies reported.

Claudette storm kills 12 in Alabama

Atlanta: Tropical depression Claudette claimed 12 lives in Alahama as the storm swent across the southeastern US. causing flash flooding and spurring tornadoes that

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Riyadh, June 20: Muezzins issuing high-decibel calls to prayer have long been part of Saudi identity, but a crackdown on mosque loudspeakers is among contentious reforms seeking to shake off the Muslim kingdom's austere image

Saudi Arabia, home to the holiest Muslim sites, has long been associated with a rigid strain of Islam known as Wahhabism that inspired generations of global

extremists and left the oil-rich kingdom steeped in conservatism The role of religion faces the biggest reset in modern times as Crown Prince Mohammed bin

Salman, spurred by the need to diversify the oil-reliant economy, pursues a liberalisation drive in parallel with a vigorous crackdown on dissent. Chipping away at a key pillar of its Islamic identity, the gov-

ernment last month ordered that mosque loudspeakers limit their volume to one-third of their max-

NUCLEAR TALKS



imum capacity and not broadcast full sermons, citing concerns

mosques, the move triggered an online backlash with the hashtag "We demand the return of mosque speakers" gaining traction. It also sparked calls to ban loud music in restaurants, once taboo in the kingdom but now common amid liberalisation efforts, and to fill mosques in such large numbers that authorities are forced to permit loudspeakers for those gathering outside.

'Post-Wahhabi era'

that began even before the rise of Prince Mohammed, Saudi Arabia neutered its once-feared religious police, who once chased people out of malls to go and pray and berated anyone seen mingling with the opposite sex.

over noise pollution. In a country home to tens of thousands of

In what was once unthinkable, remain open during the five daily Muslim prayers.

In the most significant change

some shops and restaurants now Saudi Arabia is revising school textbooks to scrub well-known

references denigrating non-Muslims as "swines" and "apes".

Israel warns of dangers with Iran's new President



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, June 20: Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett Sunday opened his first Cabinet meeting since swearing in his new coalition government last week with a condemnation of the new Iranian president. He said Iran's presidential election was a sign for world powers to "wake up" before returning to a nuclear agreement with Tehran.

Bennett said at the Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem that "of all the people that (Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei could have chosen, he chose the hangman of Tehran. the man infamous among Iranians and across the world for leading the death committees that executed thousands of innocent Iranian citizens



allowed to have weapons of mass destruction that will enable it to not kill thousands, but millions NAFTALI BENNETT | PM, ISRAEL

Bennett said Raisi's election as Iranian president was "the last chance for the world powers to wake up before returning to the nuclear agreement and to understand who they're doing business with.

"These guys are murderers, mass murderers: a regime of brutal hangmen must never be allowed to

Progress made in Vienna: Diplomats

op diplomats said Sunday further progress had been made at talks between Iran and global powers to try to negotiate and restore a landmark 2015 agreement to contain Iranian nuclear development. Enrique Mora, the European Union official who chaired the final meeting of the sixth round of talks between Russia. China. Germany, France, Britain and Iran, told reporters that "we are closer to a deal, but we are not still there.We have made progress on a number of technical issues," Mora added. "We have now more clarity on technical documents - all of them guite complex - and that clarity allows us to have also a great idea of what the political problems are.'

from obtaining nuclear weapons. Iran insists its nuclear program is intended for peaceful purposes.

Earlier this month, Israel's outgoing Mossad intelligence chief signaled that Israel was behind a string of recent attacks targeting the country's nuclear program.

Bennett heads a broad coalition of parties ranging from Jewish ultranationalists to liberal factions and a small Islamist party. His government convened its first Cabinet meeting since it was sworn in last week, ousting long-time prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu from office and sending him to the opposition for the first time in 12 vears.

Some provinces are offering vac-

cines for free to encourage people

to roll up their sleeves. Residents

in central Anhui province have

been given free eggs, while some liv-

ing in Beijing have received shop-

A recent outbreak of the more

contagious Delta variant of the

virus in the southern city of

Guangzhou has also served as a

wake-up call for many dragging

their feet. China reported 23 new

coronavirus cases Sunday

month

ping coupons.



People hold signs on the Brooklyn Bridge during a Juneteenth march in New York City

SL ship fire caused significant damage to planet, says UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 20: The United Nations Sunday said the Singaporeflagged cargo vessel, which caught fire off the coast of Colombo last month, has caused "significant damage to the planet by the release of hazardous substances" as the world body announced a team of experts to determine the full extent of the disaster and necessary follow-up action.

The UN representative in Sri Lanka said international efforts are being coordinated to help in astown Rio de Janeiro waving flags with slogans such as "Get out sessing the damage, recovery efforts

Brazil tops 5L deaths, protests against Prez

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rio De Janeiro, June 20: Anti-government protesters took to the streets in more than a score of cities across Brazil Saturday as the nation's confirmed death toll from Covid-19 soared past half a million — a tragedy many critics blame on President Jair Bolsonaro's attempt to minimize the disease. Thousands gathered in downAs per critics Bolsonaro's promotion of disproven treatments such as hydroxychloroguine, have contributed to the soaring death toll and a sluggish -(vaccine campaign that has fully inoculated less than 12%

destroyed dozens of homes. Ten people, including nine children, were killed Saturday in a two-vehicle crash. according to Butler County Coroner Wayne Garlock, who said the vehicles likely hydroplaned on wet roads. **Butler County Sheriff Danny** Bond said multiple people were also injured. The victims were not immediately identified.

Nepal fire claims 2 Indian workers

Kathmandu: Two Indian nationals died in a fire that broke out at a steel factory in Nepal's Bara district. The victims have been identified as Pradeep Godh, 40, and Ramnath Mahato, 45, and both are said to be residents of Bihar. The fire at the factory of Jagadamsa Steels Industry erupted Saturday night after a furnace oil tank exploded. Some other workers were also injured in the incident and are undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

US-Mexico border

attacks, 18 dead

Ciudad Victoria: Gunmen

staged attacks in several

Reynosa Saturday, and at

to local law enforcement.

widespread panic, according

The Tamaulipas state agency

coordinating security forces

said in a statement that the

attacks began in the early

afternoon in several

which borders

McAllen, Texas.

neighbourhoods in the

eastern part of the city,

neighborhoods in the

Mexican border city of

least 18 people died in

clashes that caused

aboard a number of vehicles

throughout the years.'

For weeks, Iranian and American diplomats have been negotiating a return to the accord in the Austrian capital through European intermediaries.

Beijing, June 20: The number of

Covid-19 jabs administered in China

has passed the one billion mark,

health officials said Sunday, more

than a third of the doses given

National Health Commission comes

after the number of shots admin-

istered globally surpassed 2.5 bil-

lion Friday, according to an AFP

It is unclear what percentage of

count from official sources.

The announcement by the

AGENCE-FRANCE-PRESSE

worldwide.

have weapons of mass destruction that will enable it to not kill thousands, but millions," he said.

Israel has long stated that it opposes arch-enemy Iran's nuclear program and said it would prevent Tehran

China administers lbn vax doses

COVID MILESTONE

China's population has now been

inoculated but its vaccination drive

got off to a slow start after a suc-

cessful fight against the virus left

little sense of urgency to be jabbed.

vious vaccine scandals have also led

to resistance among residents.

A lack of transparency and pre-

Authorities have set an ambi-

tious target of fully vaccinating

40 percent of the country's nearly

1.4 billion people by the end of this

and prevention of such disasters in the future.

"The UN is coordinating international efforts and mobilising partners to support Sri Lanka in addressing the disaster of the (cargo vessel) MV X-press Pearl, based on a request by the (Sri Lankan) government," said UN Resident Coordinator, Sri Lanka, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy.

A team of oil spill and chemical experts from the UN and the European Union is working with Sri Lankan agencies to assess the impact of the disaster.

The UN report aims to produce key findings and recommendations on short-term response measures and longer-term recovery planning. It will be submitted to the government. It will include technical advisory support, oil spill contingency planning, cleanup operations and environmental impact.

Bolsonaro. Government of hunger and unemployment.'

Other marchers hoisted posters reading: "500 thousand deaths. It's his fault," alluding to Bolsonaro. Similar marches took place in at least 22 or Brazil's 26 states, as well as in the Federal District, Brasilia. They were promoted by left-wing opposition parties who have been heartened by Bolsonaro's declining poll ratings with next year's pres-

idential race looming.

wearing Bolsonaro down for the election," said Leandro Consentino, a political science professor at Insper, a university in Sao Paulo. Saturday's marches came a week

followers in the streets is a way of

"For the leftists, putting their

after Bolsonaro led backers in a massive motorcycle parade in Sao Paulo, though his supporters and critics differ dramatically on the size of that event.



Covid survivors still at risk from Alpha, Beta variants

THE TEAM FOUND AN EARLY IMMUNE SIGNATURE, DETECTABLE ONE MONTH POST INFECTION AND LINKED TO BOTH CELLULAR AND ANTIBODY IMMUNITY, WHICH PREDICTED THE STRENGTH OF IMMUNE RESPONSE MEASURED AT SIX MONTHS POST INFECTION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, June 20: Immune response following a coronavirus infection can vary between individuals and may not be enough to fight Alpha, and Beta variant of Covid-19, finds a study reinforcing the need for vaccination.

The preprint study was led by University of Oxford, in collaboration with the Universities of Liverpool, Sheffield, Newcastle and Birmingham, suggests that whether it is symptomatic or asymptomatic infection, it does not necessarily protect people long-term from Covid-19, particularly against new Variants of Concern.

"Our study is one of the most comprehensive accounts of the



immune response following Covid-19 in both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. It is very important that we all get the Covid vaccine when offered even if you think you may have previously

had Covid-19," said Christina Dold, from the University of Oxford.

"We found that individuals showed very different immune responses from each other following Covid-19, with some people from both the symptomatic and asymptomatic groups showing no evidence of immune memory six months after infection or even sooner," Dold added.

The study examined how the immune system responds to Covid-19 in 78 healthcare workers who had experienced either symptomatic or asymptomatic disease. An additional eight patients who experienced severe disease were included for comparison.

Blood samples were taken monthly from 1-6 months post infection to examine different elements of the immune response. The report details a highly complex and variable immune response following Covid-19 infection.

The team found an early im-

mune signature, detectable one month post infection and linked to both cellular and antibody immunity, which predicted the strength of immune response measured at six months post infection. This is the first time that such

a signature has been found and improves understanding of the development of lasting immunity.

While the majority of people who had symptomatic disease did have measurable immune responses at six months post infection, a significant minority (26 per cent) did not. The vast majority of people who experienced asymptomatic disease (92 per cent) did not exhibit a measurable immune response at six months post infection, the researchers said.

Libyan guards accused of sexually abusing minors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, June 20: When Libyan security forces rescued her earlier this year, the young Somali woman thought it would be the end of her suffering.

For more than two years, she had been imprisoned and sexually abused by human traffickers notorious for extorting, torturing and assaulting migrants like her trying to reach Europe.

'While it is not the first time I suffer from sexual attacks, this is more painful as it was by the people who should protect us," said the 17-yearold said

"You have to offer something 🗎 in return to go to the bathroom, to call family or to avoid beating,' she said. The UN refugee agency has documented hundreds of cases of women raped while in either DCIM detention or traffickers' prisons,with some even being impregnated by guards.











business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

sources said.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: Air India has

time till mid-July to challenge the

lawsuit filed by Britain's Cairn

Energy PLC demanding that a US

federal court force the airline to pay

a \$1.26 billion arbitration award it

had won against the Indian gov-

ernment in December last year,

Indian government so much that

they are "alter egos", Cairn had said

in the lawsuit filed with the US

District Court for the Southern

unanimously in December over-

turned levy of taxes on Cairn ret-

rospectively and ordered refund of

shares sold, dividend confiscated

and tax refunds withheld to re-

mand for a fresh stimulus pack-

age has to be considered against the

backdrop of a host of initiatives

taken by Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman in her budget for 2021-

suggestion made by some industry

bodies that the government needed

to come out with a ₹3 lakh crore

stimulus package to boost the econ-

omy which was badly hit by the sec-

ond wave of the coronavirus pan-

The CEA was responding to a

22 presented in February

the company had said.

Air India is controlled by the



FOUR OF TOP-10 FIRMS ADD ₹68.458.72 CR IN M-CAP

Four of the 10 most valued companies together added ₹68,458.72 cr in market valuation last week, with HUL and Infosys emerging as the biggest gainers. While RIL, TCS, Infosys and HUL were the gainers from the top-10 list, HDFC, ICICI Bank, SBI, Bajaj Finance and Kotak Mahindra Bank witnessed a cumulative erosion of ₹43,703.55 cr



uote

While we cannot predict how quickly we will see the back of this crisis, there is a reason to believe that we will see a

transition out of this pandemic phase. And when it does abate, customer demand should rebound strongly, possibly starting in the second quarter

NOEL N TATA CHAIRMAN, TRENT

As an industry. we were expecting 30 40% sales growth this year taking us closer to 2018 numbers. But nobody had anticipated the second wave at that time. Now with what has happened, it would not be possible to get 30-40% growth. There would

we expect it to be around 20% RAJEEV CHABA PRESIDENT AND MD, MG MOTOR INDIA

be a growth over last year but now



the avoidable activities. There are many things which do not need to happen, many things which need to happen like economic activities. But social events etc can wait for a few months. Why increase the risk

TV NARENDRAN PRESIDENT, CII

SHORT TAKES

Labour Min to extend deadline

New Delhi: The Ministry of Labour and Employment is considering extending the timeline of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) till March next year from the existing June 30, in a bid to boost fresh hiring in the country amid the pandemic said sources. Under the ABRY approved by the Union Cabinet in December last year the government pays mandatory employees provident fund contributions of workers as well as employers for new recruits for a period of two years.

CAIRN LAWSUIT

A three-member international arbitration tribunal that consisted of one judge appointed by

India had unanimously in December overturned levy of taxes on Cairn retrospectively



cover such demand. The government of India, de-

District of New York. The court spite participating in the arbitrashould hold the airline company liable for the arbitration award, tion proceeding over four years, has not accepted the award and has A three-member international filed a 'setting aside' petition in a court in The Netherlands - the seat arbitration tribunal that consisted of one judge appointed by India had of the arbitration.

With Cairn seeking to recover the award from state-owned entities such as Air India, the government has said it will contest any enforcement.

Air India has time till mid-July to file a plea contesting Cairn lawsuit, three sources aware of the mat ter said.

The airline, which is in the process of being privatised, is likely to argue that it is a separate entity and not the alter ego of the Indian government and cannot be forced to pay for any liability of the government, they said. Air India spokesperson declined to comment on the story

Cairn has identified USD 70 billion of Indian assets overseas for potential seizure to collect award, which now totals to USD 1.72 billion after including interest and penalty The assets identified range from Air India's planes to vessels belonging to the Shipping Corporation of India, and properties owned by state banks to oil and gas cargoes of PSUs the sources said. These assets are across several jurisdictions, they said without giving further details.

Cairn plans to move courts in the US to Singapore for seizure of the assets in absence of Indian government's refusal to honour an international arbitration award.

Once a court recognises Air India as the alter ego of Indian government, Cairn can seek attach ment or seizure of its assets in the US such as airplanes, immovable assets and bank accounts to recover the amount it was awarded by the arbitration tribunal

Porsche to set up JV with German batterv maker

REUTERS

Frankfurt, June 20: Volkswagen's

The partnership with Customcells, a company in southern Germany specialising in lithium-ion cells, will aim to produce car batteries with higher energy density than prototypes used in Porsche's current electric cars, the company said in a statement.

European carmakers are push ing to reduce their dependence on Asia for batteries as they roll out all-electric models to meet stricter emissions targets in the European Union. In addition to cutting charging time, improving energy density will mean reducing the amount of raw material needed in batteries to achieve the same range. cells.

Al has time till mid-July to challenge case Centrum-BharatPe JV to pump ₹1,800Cr into PMC on merger



AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 20: The joint venture floated by Centrum Group and digital payments startup BharatPe for launching a small finance bank will infuse ₹1.800 crore capital into troubled Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) on its merger with the proposed bank, a top Centrum official has said

Last Friday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave an in-principle approval to Centrum Financial Services, a step-down arm of the diversified financial services group, to set up a small finance bank (SFB) provided it took over the troubled PMC Bank.

The in-principle approval has been in specific pursuance to Centrum Financial Services' offer February 1, 2021 in response to the expression of interest notification dated November 3, 2020 published by the PMC Bank, the RBI said.

This paves the way for ending nearly two anxious years for the PMC depositors whose over ₹10.723 crore are still stuck in the crippled cooperative bank that has been under RBI administrator since September 2019.

To launch SFB, the Centrum Group has sewed up an equal joint venture with Resilient Innovations, an arm of Gurugram-based

Reliance Group m-cap

BharatPe. But Centrum Capital will be the promoter of SFB, under the prevailing laws, the group said. 'We (the SFB joint venture) have

set aside ₹1.800 crore for the SFB. which eventually will be pumped into PMC once the government scheme for merger is notified. Of the ₹1,800 crore, ₹900 crore will be invested in the first year by the joint venture split equally between the two and the remaining capital in stages," Jaspal Bindra, executive chairman of Centrum Group, said.

Whether they will take over the more than ₹6,500 crore of NPAs of PMC and also the over ₹10,700 crore of its deposits, Bindra said that will be known only after the government notified the merger scheme.

"What terms and conditions the government will set in the merger scheme will decide the fate of huge bad loans and losses. In fact, this is the only little unknown we have as of now," Bindra quipped.

That the groups have allocated nine-times more capital over the RBI mandate of ₹200 crore for the SFB shows the seriousness of the promoters. If it succeeds, this will be the first SFB in nearly six years -the first set of SFB licences were issued in August 2016, when the monetary authority also made such licensing on-tap.

Saudi Aramco announces completion of share sale worth \$12.4bn

Govt open to more measures to boost economy, says CEA Like last year. we do

remain very open to coming New Delhi, June 20: The govup with more measures as ernment is open to coming out well but I think it is really with more measures to boost the important to take into account economy which has been hit by the big differences between last the second wave of the coronavirus

year and this year when we talk pandemic, says Chief Economic about stimulus Advisor (CEA) KV Subramanian. KV SUBRAMANIAN I CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR He, however, added that the de-

demic in April-May.

According to an assessment by the Reserve Bank, the second wave has cost the nation about ₹2 lakh crore in terms of output lost. "Like last year, we do remain very open to coming up with more measures as well but I think it is really important to take into account the big differences between last year and this year when we talk about stimulus." he said



Elaborating his point, the CEA said that unlike the previous budget which was framed before the pandemic, the 2021 budget was presented amid the pandemic and had already incorporated significant fiscal expansion.

The focus is particularly on infrastructure spending which leads to construction activity and subsequently creation of jobs in the informal sector, he added.

BIZ BUZZ

BoM tops PSU bank chart

luxury sports car unit Porsche AG is setting up a joint venture with Customcells to produce high-performance batteries that will significantly reduce charging times

the company said Sunday.

Mahindra eyes sharp growth

New Delhi: Mahindra Logistics saw a "significant" impact on its business in the last two months due to lockdowns in various states, but now it is back on "stronger" recovery path and expecting this momentum to further consolidate during the second half of this fiscal, a top company official said. With lockdowns and restrictions being eased in various states, the company is optimistic to carry on the positivity in business outlook gathered in June.

Adani Power gets Lol for resolution

Mumbai: Adani Power has received the letter of intent (LoI) for the resolution of the bankrupt Essar Power MP Ltd. The development comes after the Committee of Creditors of EPMPL approved Adani's resolution plan to acquire the company under the IBC Code, Adani Power said. Essar Power MP, Mahan is a 1,200-MW (2x600 MW) domestic coal-fired power plant located in MP.

'Demand to outpace supply'

New Delhi: The demand for talent will outpace supply and become a "key dependency" for growth as enterprises globally accelerate digital adoption with virtual, Wipro Chairman Rishad Premji said The Bangalore-based company has effected "bold changes" in the last six months to help serve customers better and is well positioned to enable digital transformations for its clients.

to achieve 'ACP target'

State FinMin urges banks

mediate intervention for increasing CD Ratio through channelising adequate credit to priority sector especially to MSMEs, agriculture & allied sector, and SHGs.

AK Goel, MD & CEO-cum-Chairman of SLBC, highlighted the achievement in key indicators under Mudra, PM SVANidhi, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), PMFME and other social security schemes like PMSBY. PMJJBY & APY of the state for the year ended March 31, 2021. Goel also emphasised that banks

will go in restructuring of advances under MSME. Individual & Business sector as per RBI guidelines and additional loans under ECLGS 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 & 4.0 (Sanjeevani Scheme for manufacturing oxygen & oxygen cylinders). HN Panda Regional Director,

RBI, Bhubaneswar, requested all banks to work whole heartedly for increasing state's CD ratio from existing 56% to 60% and also advised that the ACP for FY 2021-22 of all the districts should be 40% or more than the total deposits

in MSME loan growth

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has become top performer among public sector lenders in terms of retail and MSME loan growth during 2020-21. The Pune-based lender

recorded a 35 per cent growth in MSME loans at ₹23.133 crore in 2020-21, according to the BoM data. It was followed by the Chennai-based Indian Bank which posted a 15.22% growth in loan disbursal to MSMEs with aggregate loans at ₹70,180 crore at the end of March 2021. When it came to loans to retail. BoM with nearly 25.61% growth was ahead of even the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI), which recorded 16.47% rise.

Indus Towers to restore 2,800 mobile towers in state



Bhubaneswar: In line with its commitment of 'Putting India First', Indus Towers' Field Staff Engineers and Technicians have made tremendous efforts to restore and maintain seamless connectivity in cyclone Yaashit regions of Odisha including Balasore,

Bhubaneswar and Jajpur Road zones. Indus towers made proactive route plans to ensure that there was no panic after the cyclone landfall and to tackle on-ground challenges usually caused by natural disasters of such scale. A circle war room was set up to track and monitor the sites seamlessly. The team members of Indus Towers worked tirelessly to ensure connectivity restoration within 24 hours in over 2,800 affected sites. As part of the preparedness, over 76 mobile diesel generators, 44 diesel filling vehicles were deployed across the state.

surges 1,000% to nearly ₹8,000Cr



Mumbai: The market capitalisation of Anil Ambani led Reliance Group has surged by over 1.000 per cent in less than 3 months. The market cap of the group, which stood at ₹733 cr in March, jumped to ₹3,890 cr in May 2021, and ₹7,866 cr on the last trading day of this week i.e. June 18, 2021. The market capitalization of the group companies, Reliance Infrastructure, Reliance Power, and Reliance Capital has more than doubled over the last 20 trading days. The market cap of Reliance Power now stands at ₹4,446 cr, Reliance Infrastructure at ₹2,767 cr, and Reliance Capital

at ₹653 cr.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Riyadh, June 20: Saudi Aramco has announced the completion of a \$12.4 billion sale in its natural gas pipeline to an international investor consortium. The consortium consists of a broad cross-sec tion of investors from North America, Asia and the Middle East, in which it acquired a 49% stake in Aramco Oil Pipelines Co, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Saturday



As part of the transaction, first announced in April 2021, Aramco and its subsidiary entered into a 25year leaseback agreement for the oil giant's stabilised crude oil pipelines network, Xinhua news agency quoted the SPA as saying. Aramco Oil Pipelines Co. will receive a tariff payable by Aramco for stabilised crude oil flows, backed by minimum volume commitments.

'Rapid digitisation fuelling market demand in India, overseas'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: State

Minister for Finance & Excise

Niranjan Pujari urged all the

bankers for putting their best effort

to achieve the Annual Credit Plan

(ACP) target of ₹1.10 lakh crore

during the current FY 2021-22.

Pujari addressed the bankers dur-

ing 163rd State Level Bankers'

Committee meeting held through

Pujari in his speech congratu-

lated all the banks for collectively

achieving 88% of the total Priority

Sector Lending in the state despite

the Covid-19 pandemic. He also

raised concerns about the lower

CD Ratio of Odisha and requested

all Controlling Heads to make im-

Video Conference, recently.

New Delhi, June 20: Digital networks integrator Sterlite Technologies Ltd has said that rapid digitisation is fuelling demand for solutions, both in India and overseas, despite the Covid pandemic. Sterlite Technologies Ltd (STL) Group CEO Anand Agarwal said running operations in the backdrop of pandemic gives the company confidence that processes have been strengthened to the extent that it is now better prepared to navigate through the

situation on ground. STL further indicated that it is planning solution hub -- involving some element of downstream manufacturing and assembly -- closer to its customers although modalities for the same are yet to be worked out.

Asked about the business impact of recurring waves of infections sweeping across nations, Agarwal said: "From client side we had lesser issues. The demand continues to be strong because people continue to see a shift happening towards digital".

In India, he said, the demand scenario remains strong when it comes to Indian telcos and ecosystem. The same is the case with the overseas markets like the US and Europe, where clients are looking



for faster deployment of solutions, as economies open up.

While the factory operations did not feel much of an impact this time, there was a bit of bump on the project execution front in April and May on account of curfews and lockdowns, although that too has now entirely recovered since June, Agarwal said.

"The demand is extremely strong and all our factories, fibre,

Running operations in the backdrop of pandemic gives the company confidence that processes have been strengthened to the extent that it is now better prepared to navigate through the situation on ground

ANAND AGARWAL I GROUP CEO, STERLITE TECHNOLOGIES LTD

cable, interconnect etc are running at capacity in India as well as globally. We are doing what is required to be done for the business, and at the same time being very vigilant, not allowing any complacency to set in," he told PTI.

With its portfolio spanning optical fibre and cables, network design and deployment as well as network software. Pune-based STL positions itself as an integrated solutions provider for global data networks, with optical preform, fibre and cable manufacturing facilities in India, Italy, China 🛁 and Brazil.

Agarwal said running operations amid pandemic has given company the confidence that robust business continuity strategv would be crucial in min-imising operational impact, to the extent possible.















JAMIESON'S 5-WICKET HAUL, CONWAY'S 50 PUT INDIA ON THE MAT IN WTC FINAL

Kiwis take control

AGENCIES

Southampton, June 20: Ishant Sharma (1/19) took the vital wicket of Devon Conway (54, 153b, 6x4) a few minutes before play was abandoned on the third day of the World Test Championship (WTC) final, but New Zealand were still in the driver's seat at stumps here Sunday at the Ageas Bowl. After dismissing India for 217 in the first innings the Kiwis ended the day on 101 for two wickets. Skipper Kane Williamson (12 batting) was at the crease in the company of Ross Taylor (0 batting) who just faced two balls before the game ended for the day.

MONDAY JUNE 21 2021 BHUBANESWAR

Earlier Kyle Jamieson (5/31) continued his love affair with the Indian team, tormenting the starstudded line-up with disconcerting bounce and swing. The 6' 8" inch tall Jamieson, who after last year's series in New Zealand, once again turned into a nightmare for the Indian batsmen. He got India skipper Virat Kohli (44) who failed to add to his overnight score with a ball that moved in to trap the batsman in front. The door had been opened for New Zealand and they took full advantage of it. Jamieson then got rid of the dangerous Rishabh Pant (four) having the left-hander caught behind.

The overcast conditions made batting difficult and the likes of Jamieson, Trent Boult (2/47) and Neil Wagner (2/40) indulged in a 'who blinks first' game with the Indian batters and came out

PRIZED CATCH: Kyle Jamieson successfully appeals Sunday for a leg before decision against Indian skipper Virat Kohli on the third day of the WTC final at Ageas Bowl in Southampton

trumps with some incisive seam, swing and short pitched bowling.

Once the 61-run stand with Kohli had ended. Rahane (49, 117b.5x4) sensed that the scoreboard needed a move on and started playing a few shots. But perhaps, the milestone was working on his mind and despite playing a mistimed pull-shot one ball earlier, Wagner with his signature short ball prevented him from reaching a well-deserved fifty.

Ravichandran Ashwin (22, 27 balls) threw his bat around and got some useful runs but was never going to last long as Tim Southee (22-6-64-1) took care of him just before lunch break. Unlike the Kiwi bowlers, the

Indian pacers, even though they were economical, bowled too many wide deliveries. They were guilty of not making the Kiwi batsmen play on a regular basis. As a result

Brief scores India 217 (Ajinkya Rahane 49, Kyle Jamieson 5/31); New Zealand 101 for 2 (Devon Conway 54, Tom Latham 30)

both Conway and Tom Latham (30) easily saw through the new ball. They waited patiently for the loose deliveries and when those came were put away runs.

AGENCIES

Rome, June 20: Italy beat Wales 1-0 here Sunday in a game of Euro 2020 to top Group A with an allwin record. In spite of losing the game, Wales became the second team from the group to qualify for round of 16 stage, which Italy had already done earlier. Both Wales and Switzerland finished on four points each. However, Wales pipped Switzerland because of a better goal difference. Gareth Bale's team scored three goals and conceded two, while Switzerland on the other



other hand scored four and let in five. Switzerland on the day beat Turkey 3-1, but conceding the goal was the nail in their coffin.



Italy's Matteo Pessina (No 12) is mobbed by teammates after scoring against Wales in their Euro 2020 group league match at Rome, Sunday

Italy had won both their previous matches against Switzerland and Turkey by identical 3-0 margins. Before the game against Wales, they had already sealed their last 16 spot. Coach Roberto Mancini rested some key players keeping in the mind the crucial knockout stage. However, even then Italy proved quite a handful for the Wales side in a game which was played at quite a fast pace.

AZZURRI FINISH WITH ALL-WIN RECORD IN GROUP STAGE OF EURO 2020

Wales enter last 16

despite loss to Italy

The only goal of the match was scored by Matteo Pessina in the 39th minute. Wales did try and to force the issue in the second session. However, their efforts received a setback when Ethan Ampadu was

sent off in the 56th minute. More importantly however, Italy kept a clean sheet for the third successive game in the competition and overall they have not conceded now for more than 1,000 minutes.

They however, will have to thank Bale for maintaining a clean sheet. The Wales striker had an open goal in front of him in the 76th minute. However, he shot way over and Italy breathed a sigh of relief.

The only goal of the match came when Marco Verratti found an unmarked Pessina inside the Wales box. The latter coolly tucked the ball past the Wales goalkeeper to give his side the lead.

Ability to learn helped Ashwin attain success

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Southampton, June 20: India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has said competition always brings out the best in him and the day he feels he has lost that urge to improve his craft, he will quit the sport. Ashwin is regarded as a thinking cricketer who always strives to explore something new and extra in his game. Many feel that such an attitude has paid rich dividends for him throughout his career.

SHORT TAKES

Swimmers miss **Olympic marks**

Belgrade: Olympic hopefuls Sajan Prakash and Srihari Natarai won a gold medal each in their respective events at the Belgrade Trophy swimming competition here Saturday. However, they missed the elusive 'A' qualification mark for the Tokyo Games. Prakash clocked 1:56.96s to win the cold in the men's 200m butterfly at the FINAaccredited Olympic qualifier Saturday, However, the 27year-old swimmer from Kerala fell short of the Olympic 'A' cut by 0.48 seconds. Natarai clocked 54.45s in the 100m backstroke event to bag the top honours. But the 20-year old too missed the 'A' mark.

YOUNGEST CRICKETER TO SCORE TWIN TEST HALF CENTURIES ON DEBUT **BEST 21ST CENTURY TEST BATSMAN TAG** Mithali lauds Shafali show SACHIN PIPS SANGA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 20: Former India batsman Sachin Tendulkar, who holds the record for most Test and ODI runs as well as most centuries across the two formats, in the world so far pipped former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara as the greatest men's Test batsman of the 21st

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bristol, June 20: Shafali Verma's spectacular debut has caught the imagination of the Indian women's team Test skipper Mithali Raj. She feels the teenager would be a key member of the side in all the formats of the game in future.

The 17-vear-old, who smashed a stroke-filled 96 in the first



..... Words of wisdom

New Delhi: "Tumhe rukna nahi hai (you cannot stop)." These words from legendary Milkha Singh still inspires Indian football goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu who says the advice from the 'Flying Sikh' helped him fight challenges during his European stint. Gurpreet remembers a ceremony in Chandigarh in 2015 where Milkha gave away an award to him. "He (Milkha) told me 'Hard work has no replacement. I even used to vomit blood at times after training but tumhe rukna nahi hai'," (You simply cannot stop!)," Gurpreet said in an AIFF release. "These words have been a huge motivation for me during my career," Gupreet added.

Matteo in final

London: Top seed Matteo Berrettini of Italy continued his impressive week at the Queen's Club Championships here, defeating Alex de Minaur of Australia 6-4, 6-4, to reach the final in his debut at the tournament. The Italian will next face Britain's Cameron Norrie, who beat Denis Shapovalov of Canada 7-5, 6-3 in the other semifinal. Berrettini won 89 per cent of his first-service points and hit eight aces against De Minaur. The Italian is yet to drop a set in the tournament and has beaten players like Britain's Andy Murray. AGENCIES

1

century in a poll.

"This was a tight one. Both Kumar (Sangakkara) and Sachin (Tendulkar) are icons of the game. but the winner of the 'Greatest Test Batsman' of the 21st century, is my fellow Mumbaikar Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar," Sunil Gavaskar said in a video uploaded by 'Star Sports', who organised the poll in which cricket com-

mentators and fans voted.

Tendulkar's 15,921 runs and 51 centuries are the most in Test cricket history. The man nearest to him in the run-getters' list is former Australia captain Ricky the 150th anniversary of Wisden Ponting who is 2,543 runs behind. In terms of centuries, he is six clear of Jacques Kallis who has

45 Test tons. Sangakkara, who has scored 12,400 runs and 38 centuries in Tests, is sixth in the list of all-

time run-getters and fourth in the list of centurions.

In 200 Tests, Sachin

has scored 15.921 runs

with 51 centuries, the

most by any cricketer

Among the commentators who voted were VVS Laxman, Irfan Pathan, Aakash Chopra among others. One can easily gauge the person they voted for.

Tendulkar made his Test debut at the age of 16 and captivated the world of cricket. In fact, even the great Sir Donald Bradman personally met Tendulkar to complement the Indian.

He was the only Indian in an all-time Test World XI which was announced in 2013 to commemorate

Cricketers' Almanack. In 2002, the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack ranked him as the second greatest Test batsman of all time behind Don Bradman and the second greatest ODI batsman behind Viv Richards.

innings, made 63 in the second, during the India-England women's Test which ended in a draw, Saturday. In the process, Shafali became the youngest woman and

Shafali has shown maturity beyond her years. It is great to have her in the side. I am sure that in the years to come she will be an asset in all formats

MITHALI RAJ

fourth overall to score twin half centuries in her debut Test. She was rightfully adjudged player of the match

"She (Shafali) will be very important to the Indian batting unit in all formats. She beautifully Shafali Verma flicks during her second innings half century against England

adapted to this (Test) format," Mithali said in a virtual media interaction. "She didn't go like how she would go bonkers in the T20 format. She played sensibly against the new ball and it's great to have her in the side," added the skipper.

Mithali was asked what prompted the Indian team management to hand Shafali a Test debut in England. "She has great range of shots, and she can be very, effective in a format like this if

she gets going. Shafali proved it in the game," Mithali pointed out.

"Once we knew that it's a used wicket and there won't be much of a movement, we thought it would be a good time to give her a Test debut and she lived up to it,' Mithali added.

Mithali rated the young opener's knock in the second innings ahead of her first innings score of 96. This is because the teenager showed utmost composure and maturity.

'The beauty about Test cricket is you are always aspiring to be perfect but you can settle for excellence, so that's pretty much I think I do," Ashwin was quoted as saying by the ICC in an interview.

"I think whatever I have achieved so far in my career is because of that attitude. I did not settle for anything and am constantly looking to improve. If I lose the patience to do something new or get satisfied then I might not play the sport anymore," added Ashwin who has 409 Test wickets in his kitty.

Ashwin also said he doesn't enjoy controversy but if poked he doesn't hesitate to give it back on the field with his performance.

Lalremsiami living her dad's dream

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Young India hockey player Lalremsiami said Sunday her selection in the Tokyobound Indian contingent is the biggest achievement of her career as it helped her to fulfill her late father's dream. The 21-year-old created history when she became the first female player from Mizoram to be picked for the Olympics. Due to her selection. Mizoram got an Olympian after 25 long years.

Archer C Lalremsanga was the last Olympian from Mizoram. He represented India at the 1992 Barcelona and 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Very big thing for me (selection). It is the biggest achievement of my short career so far," Lalremsiami, who hails from Kolasib in Mizoram, said. But Lalremsiami had to pay a heavy price to cement her place in

the Indian team and ensure her spot in the Tokyo-bound squad. She lost her biggest supporter, her father just a day before India's semifinal match against Chile in FIH Series Finals last year in Hiroshima, Japan. However, instead of returning home, the young striker braved personal tragedy and decided to stay back with the team. India later went on to win the tournament beating hosts Japan 3-1.

Lalremsiami's only regret is that she couldn't bid a final goodbye to her father. "He was my

Initially my father was apprehensive about hockey as a career. However, once I started doing well, he became one of my greatest supporters LALREMSIAMI

biggest supporter. He had faith in every decision I took in my career. My only regret is that I couldn't bid him a final goodbye. But he definitely would have been proud of my decision," Lalremsiami informed.

'Staying back with the team was the most difficult decision of my life. But I believe my Papa would be happy with my decision as he wanted me to serve the nation and one day play in the Olympics. I wish Papa was alive today to see his daughter playing in the Olympics. It was his dream and I am living that," she added.

TOKYO RULES LEAVE IOA OFFICIALS FUMING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The Tokyo Olympic organisers are working on how to ensure safe stav and seamless training of the Indian athletes inside the Games Village. according to a letter they have sent to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

The Indian athletes and officials travelling for the Olympics have been asked by the Japanese government to undergo Covid-19 tests daily for a week prior to their departure. They have also been asked not to interact with anyone from another country for three days upon arrival. These strictures have left the IOA fuming.

Stricter regulations have been put in place for all travellers - including athletes, coaches and support staff – of 11 countries, including India, where different variants of Covid-19 have been identified

Terming the rules as 'unfair and discriminatory', the IOA had written to the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (TOCOG) to ensure that mechanisms to prevent Covid-19 do not have any 'adverse and detrimental impact' on performance of athletes.

In reply to the IOA letter, TOCOG said: "Tokyo 2020 is working to define how athletes of your NOC as well from other 10 countries and all other 195 NOCs can stay safe in the Villages and have training. We hope to provide you with the information and discuss together as soon as possible we develop it."

The IOA, on its part, said that its president and secretary general were in discussion with TOCOG and seeking clarifications on the conditions imposed on the Indian contingent for Tokyo Olympics.

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