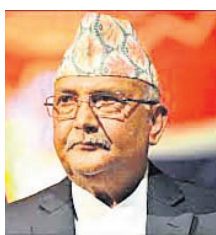




IN HIGH SPIRITS

Actor Rakul Preet Singh has returned to the shooting set and called it her happy mode

LEISURE P2



NEPAL POLITICAL CRISIS

Nepal SC Tuesday ruled that the appointment of 20 ministers by KP Sharma Oli was unconstitutional

INTERNATIONAL P10



DENMARK ADVANCE

Denmark thrash Russia 4-1 in their last group-stage game to qualify for the knockout round at Euro 2020

SPORTS P12

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Tell me who should I send to you for finalising our alliance... CBI, ED or Income Tax?

Lakra chosen hockey team vice-captain

BHUBANESWAR: Birendra Lakra of Odisha and Harmanpreet Singh have been chosen vice-captain in the 16-member Olympic-bound Indian Men's Hockey Team. Hockey India Tuesday named midfielder Manpreet Singh as the captain of the team. Birendra is a veteran defender who was a part of the London Olympic Games but missed playing in Rio owing to knee surgery in 2016. Since his return to the squad following the brief break, Birendra has improved his performance and has consolidated his position in the team.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	52588.71 ↑ 14.25
NIFTY	15772.80 ↑ 26.30
DOLLAR	75.69 ↑ ₹0.45
EURO	88.49 ↑ ₹0.17
GOLD	₹47,055 ↓ ₹19
SILVER	₹67,593 ↓ ₹169

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.2°C	30.6°C
TEMP MIN	28.0°C	26.5°C
Humidity	93%	75%
Rainfall	41.1mm	12mm
Forecast	Generally cloudy sky	



COMMUTERS' NIGHTMARE: Heavy rains and absence of proper drainage resulted in water logging on the road near Bomikhal in Bhubaneswar making vehicular movement difficult

Diesel costs over ₹100/L in Koraput and Malkangiri

NEW DELHI, June 22: After Rajasthan, diesel prices have crossed the ₹100 per litre-mark in Odisha following a fresh fuel price hike Tuesday. The price of petrol was hiked by 28 paise per litre and diesel by 26 paise, according to a notification issued by state-owned fuel retailers.

CITY FUEL PRICES	
PETROL	₹98.33 (+0.29)
DIESEL	₹96.21 (+0.28)

In Delhi, petrol hit an all-time high of ₹97.50 a litre, while diesel is now priced at ₹88.23 per litre. Fuel prices differ from state to state depending on local taxes such as value-added tax (VAT) and freight charges. And, for this reason, first petrol and now diesel have crossed ₹100 per litre-mark at several places. Rates of diesel, the most used fuel in India, had crossed ₹100 per litre in Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh in Rajasthan earlier this month. Now, the price of diesel has crossed the ₹100 per litre-mark in Malkangiri (₹101.12 per litre) and Koraput (₹100.46 a litre) in Odisha. Petrol has already crossed the ₹100-mark in nine states and Union territories - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, and Ladakh. Among metro cities, petrol is already above ₹100 in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

SC approves CBSE, ICSE Class XII appraisal criteria

THE APEX COURT DISMISSED ALL CHALLENGES TO THE NEW ASSESSMENT POLICIES DEVISED BY CBSE AND CISCE

NEW DELHI, June 22: The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed a plea challenging the decision of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) to cancel the board examinations this year owing to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.



The apex court also dismissed all challenges mounted to the new assessment policies that have been devised by CBSE and CISCE for computation of marks. "We hold that there is no need to interfere with the scheme propounded by CBSE and ICSE. It takes into account concerns of all students." A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari said. Regarding the plea challenging the cancellation of exams, the bench said, "Board has taken a conscious decision at the highest level and taken on larger public interest. We are not going to sit in judgement over it." When the petitioner Anshul Gupta asked why board exams have to be cancelled even when competitive examinations like IIT-JEE or CLAT can be held physically, the court said the decision should be left to the discretion of each individual board. "Each board is different and logistical needs are different. Each exam is an independent exam. Board has to take that decision... Individual perception will not decide this case. Decision based on larger interest has to be taken, there are logistical issues and issues with teacher and support staff," the apex court said. Dismissing the petition, the SC said, "In our opinion it is not possible to accept the submission by Mr Anshul Gupta that since other institutions are able to conduct exam it does not mean the boards can hold the exam. Boards have decided to cancel exam in larger public interest. The policy adopted by CBSE was adopted by an expert body of 13 experts." Senior Counsel Vikas Singh, appearing for The Uttar Pradesh Parents' Association, Lucknow, which had moved the Supreme Court against CBSE's assessment policy, said students should be given the option to appear

SNANA YATRA Section 144 to be clamped in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK
Puri, June 22: The Puri district administration has decided to promulgate Section 144 CrPC for the smooth conduct of Snana Yatra (divine bathing rituals of Lord Jagannath and his siblings) scheduled to be performed June 24. The restriction will come into force at 10 pm June 23 and will continue till June 25, Sub-Collector Bhabataran Sahoo said. No unauthorised person will be allowed to enter Puri during the period and violators will be dealt with strictly, he added. The decision has been taken in view of the Covid pandemic so that the ceremonial bath of the Trinities can be held without public participation. The administration appealed to the residents of Puri and devotees to cooperate with the temple authorities for a hassle-free event. People can witness the entire rituals on TV as the Information and Public Relations Department will video-graph the festival and share the feed with various channels.

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Heavy rains to lash Odisha till June 26

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, June 22: Heavy rains are likely to lash several parts of the state till June 26. The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here issued Yellow Warning (Be updated) Tuesday for the next four days. While warning of heavy rains Wednesday, the department said, "Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur and Khurda districts." It further warned of thunderstorms and lightning in different parts of the state Wednesday, while light to moderate rains at many places in north and south Odisha districts. Heavy rains are likely to continue Thursday accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning. "Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Sundargarh and Deogarh districts. One or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhubaneswar, Bargarh, Sundargarh, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Bolangir, Sonepur, Boudh, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nayagarh and Khurda districts are likely to witness thunderstorm and lightning Thursday," the MET said Tuesday. Light to moderate rains and accompanied by thunderstorm may occur in different districts of the state, the weather forecast said, adding that heavy rains, thunderstorms and lightning may occur in some districts of the state. Light to moderate rains would continue in different parts of the state throughout the week. The department, meanwhile, said that the state capital might see one or two spells of rain with thunderstorms Wednesday, while the maximum temperature could go up to 32°C. However, the weather warning does not mention anything about fishermen. According to the MET, maximum rain during Tuesday was reported from Bhubaneswar, which received 41.1mm rains. Keonjhar with 27mm rainfall was second. The maximum temperature in the state (27°C) was recorded at Nayagarh, the minimum temperature (19°C) was recorded at Phulbani.

PAGD leaders to attend PM's all-party meet

POST NEWS NETWORK
Srinagar, June 22: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) will attend the all-party meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi Thursday said alliance chairperson Farooq Abdullah. The announcement came after PAGD leaders met at Abdullah's Gupkar Road residence here Tuesday to discuss the Centre's invitation to leaders from J&K. "We have received the invitation from the prime minister and we are going to attend (the meeting)," Abdullah, who was flanked by other leaders of the alliance, told reporters after the meeting. Fourteen leaders from J&K have been invited to the meeting to be chaired by the Prime Minister to discuss the future course of action for the Union Territory. The meeting is the first such exercise since the Centre announced the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and its bifurcation into Union Territories August 5, 2019. The PAGD chairperson said the alliance was confident that it would be able to put its stand before the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister during the meeting at New Delhi. "When the meeting ends, we will brief you here as well as in Delhi on what we did there, what we said and what was their response," the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference president said. Asked what would be the stand of the alliance, Abdullah said, "You all know our stand and there is no need to repeat it." "Whatever our stand was, is still there and will be there," he added. Various constituents of the PAGD have approached the Supreme Court with a petition asking for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

'World's happiest country' seeks migrants

Workers are needed "to help cover the cost of the greying generation"

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
Helsinki, June 22: Repeatedly dubbed the happiest nation on the planet with world-beating living standards, Finland should be deluged by people wanting to relocate, but in fact it faces an acute workforce shortage. "It's now widely acknowledged that we need a spectacular number of people to come to the country," recruiter Saku Tihverainen from agency Talented Solutions told this news agency. Workers are needed "to help cover the cost of the greying generation", the recruiter explained. While many Western countries are battling weak population growth, few are feeling the effects as sharply as Finland. With 39.2 over-65s per 100



working-age people, it is second only to Japan in the extent of its ageing population, according to the UN, which forecasts that by 2030 the "old age dependency ratio" will rise to 47.5. The government has warned that the nation of 5.5 million needs to practically double immigration levels to 20,000-30,000 a year to maintain public services and plug a looming pension deficit. Finland might seem like an attractive destination on paper, scoring high in international comparisons for quality of life, freedom and gender equality, with little corruption, crime and pollution. But anti-immigrant sentiment and a reluctance to employ outsiders are also widespread in Western Europe's most homogenous society, and the Opposition far-right Finns Party regularly draws substantial support during elections. After years of inertia, businesses and government "are now at the tipping point and are recognising the problem" posed by a greying population, said Charles Mathies, a research fellow at the Academy of Finland. Mathies is one of the experts consulted by the government's "Talent Boost" programme, now in its fourth year, which aims to make the country more attractive internationally, in part through local recruitment schemes. Those targeted include health workers from Spain, metalworkers from

Slovakia, and IT and maritime experts from Russia, India and Southeast Asia. But previous such efforts have petered out. In 2013, five of the eight Spanish nurses recruited to the western town of Vaasa left after a few months, citing Finland's exorbitant prices, cold weather and notoriously complex language. Finland has nonetheless seen net immigration for much of the last decade, with around 15,000 more people arriving than leaving in 2019. But many of those quitting the country are higher-educated people, official statistics show. Faced with the OECD's largest skilled worker shortage, some Finnish startups are creating a joint careers site to better bag overseas talent. "As you can imagine, this is a slow burner," Shaun Rudden from food delivery firm Wolt said in an email, adding that "We try to make the relocation process as painless as possible."

leisure



FAME WAS HARD TO HANDLE WHEN I WAS YOUNG: SOPHIA

Actress Sophia Bush, who gained massive popularity for playing Brooke Davis in the show *One Tree Hill* said she found handling fame hard as a young person because she was expected to be perfect even though she was still growing up.

KIM DOESN'T WANT TO EMBARRASS HER KIDS

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian says she'll hold off on the sexy selfies once her kids are a bit older. "I don't want to embarrass my kids by posing in bikinis if they're in high school. There will be limits," said the star.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will remain undecided today, which is quite unlike you, says Ganesh. This will lead to speculation, which is not a bad thing by itself. Unless you put all your money into the bargain. Also, be careful not to take wild guesses in love and relationships.

TAURUS
Impulsive action kicks in as you work and interact today. Do not let the pressure and strain cloud your thoughts, and instead focus on acting on the things at hand. If you find things spiralling out of control, take a break and listen to some music that soothes your heart, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will be surrounded by conflicts today. However, you will come to realise within a short while the solutions required to troubleshoot your way out of your difficult circumstances. You will desire solitude and peace so much so that you will not find even your family members welcome company, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Today, it is quite possible that you have a presentiment of things that are about to happen. Scarily enough, the premonition may not be too far off the mark. All your senses, especially your sixth sense, are likely to remain highly active today.

LEO
Always dependable, that is what you are. And today, you will just underline this fact in bold strokes through your fine display of commitment to work, and your dedication to your family, says Ganesh. Your company may never find a better person for the job that you are assigned to do.

VIRGO
Ganesh sees you keeping away from a joint venture. You are capable enough to handle big projects yourself. You are most likely to lead and coordinate large teams and extract work from them as you will.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will get the opportunity to lay bare your thoughts and feelings and exchange ideas with others. Your mind will be at ease and more relieved when you have opened up. Your business acumen will be praiseworthy today.

SCORPIO
For you Scorpios, love and intense passion are like a way of life. Today will not be any different, for you will put these on top priority, as you mark today's planner. Well, there is no harm in it, till you know your boundaries. At work, take it easy, for if you fail to resist yourself from making a pass at someone attractive, you may land yourself in serious problems.

SAGITTARIUS
You feel highly balanced today, says Ganesh. Being a family person, you dedicate your time equally at home and carry out responsibilities towards family. When it comes to work, you are at ease today. Enjoy the serenity of nature in the evening.

CAPRICORN
If you are an engineer, you will consider about investing your money in your dream project or a business venture. For sports person, today will be a favourable day for health and wealth, foresees Ganesh. Make every step ahead wisely, otherwise you will have much to regret when something goes wrong.

AQUARIUS
One way or the other, money matters will be the highlight of the day. Working environment at your office will be better than before. Be prepared to work harder as today your bosses may assign you some new projects, foresees Ganesh. Travelling is on the cards for you.

PISCES
You will bump into an old friend or a distant relative today. This rendezvous may be with a person who you were close to long ago and it will warm your heart with nostalgia. You might contemplate taking a break from your daily grind to spend sometime to rekindle your childhood memories or visit your hometown.

Work mode is happy mode: Rakul

Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh is back to work and calls it her happy mode. Rakul Tuesday posted a video on her Instagram Story, where she is seen getting her hair and make-up done.

Alongside the image, she wrote: "Work mode is

happy mode."

The actress did not share what she was shooting for or other details. On the work front, Rakul's latest release was the digital film *Sardar Ka Grandson* co-starring Arjun Kapoor and Neena Gupta.

Rakul's diary is full as she

has several films lined up. She will be seen in *Attack*, *May Day*, *Thank God* and *Doctor G*.

She also has *Indian 2* starring Kamal Haasan. IANS

Shalin helps out sex workers

Mumbai: Television actor Shalin Bhanot is trying to help sex workers in Mumbai's red light area Kamathipura, who find it hard to make ends meet during the on-going second wave of the pandemic. The actor Tuesday revealed the shocking truth that there are women in the area who solicit for as low as Rs 50.

The *Naagin 4* actor took to Instagram to talk

about his social service and said he is inspired by actor Sonu Sood.

In a video Shalin shared, he can be seen handing out masks and other essentials to sex workers standing in a queue.

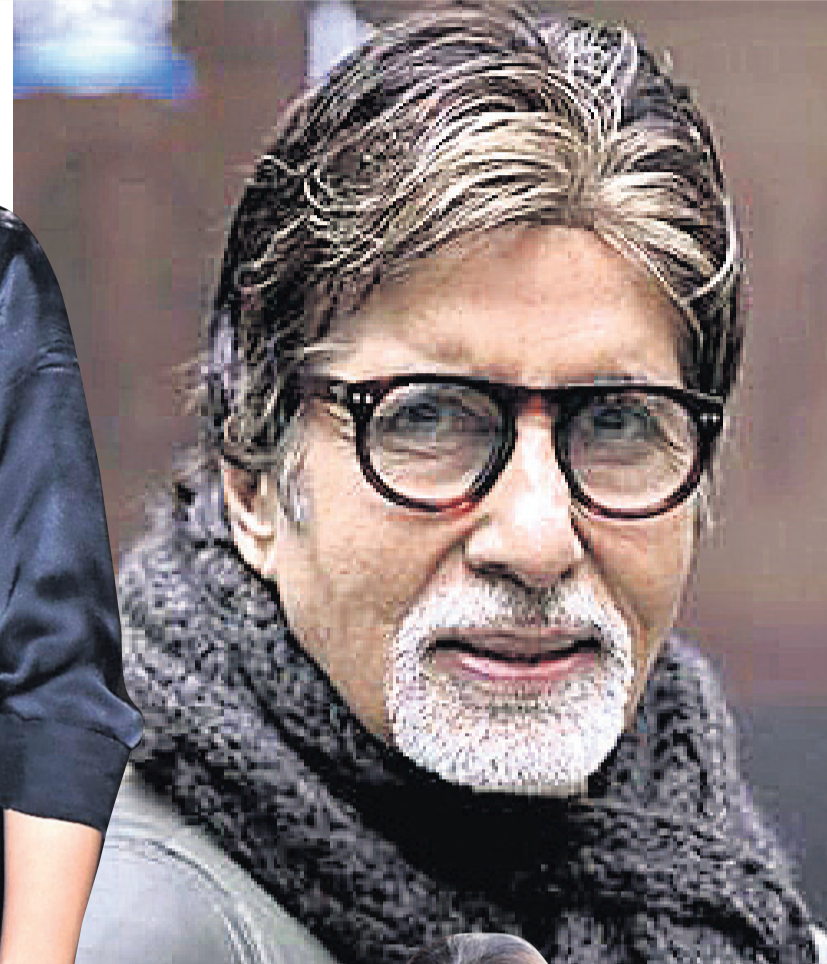
"There is no dearth of generosity & humanity in this era we all call Kalyug. There are civilians moving mountains & helping the needy. Also emerged a massiah in @sonu_sood bhaiya who inspired us to walk the less traveled path," he wrote.

On the work front, Shalin is set to make his OTT debut with the web series *Inspector Avinash* starring Randeep Hooda and Urvashi Rautela. IANS

SONU SOOD EFFECT



Amitabh appreciates author Tisca



Mumbai: Actress and author Tisca Chopra was in for a surprise when she received a letter from actor Amitabh Bachchan. She took to Instagram Tuesday, to share the pleasant news.

Amitabh wrote to Tisca, appreciating her latest book *What's Up With Me?*

Uploading a picture of herself with the letter, Tisca wrote: "Verified. Couldn't have asked for a better recommendation - thank you ever so much for your kind

words @amitabhachchan sir. your words mean the world to me!"

She further wrote in the caption, what Big B had written to her: "I hope *What's Up With Me?* Will reach many

young girls and their parents. And will help shape a different - less stifling, more scientific narrative around menstruation in India." IANS



Shamita's pep talk to her followers

Mumbai: Actress Shamita Shetty uploaded a picture from her childhood days on Instagram Tuesday, looking cute in a frock, with a message for her followers.

"Throwback. Don't let people discourage you... Just fluff out your confidence and dance any-

way," she wrote with the image.

Shamita often entertains her fans with her content on social media, from posting reels to pictures with Shilpa Shetty Kundra.

The actress started her journey in Hindi film industry with the multi-starrer blockbuster

Mohabbatein in 2000. She was then seen in films such as *Cash*, *Zeher*, *Fareb* and *Bevafaa* among others.

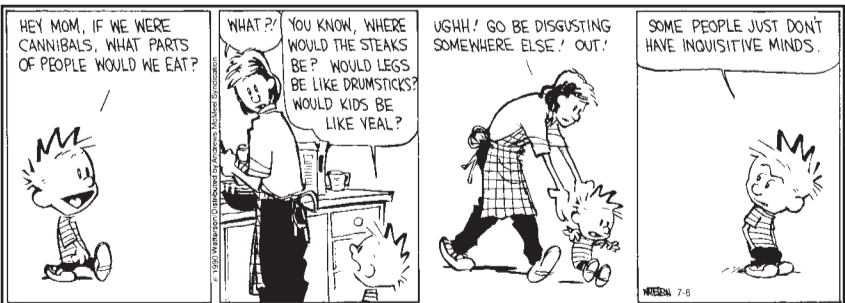
Two decades later, she was seen in the web series *Black Widows*, which released in 2020 and was received well. IANS



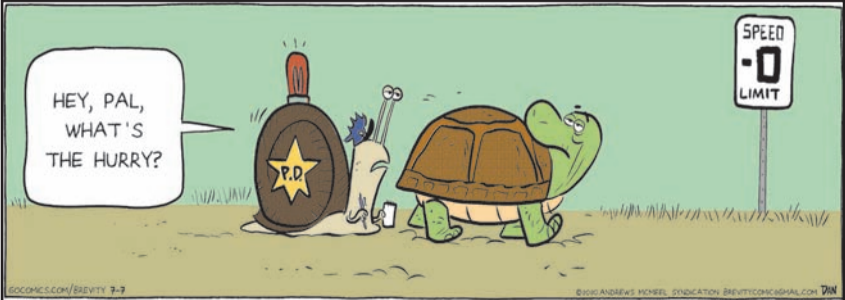
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

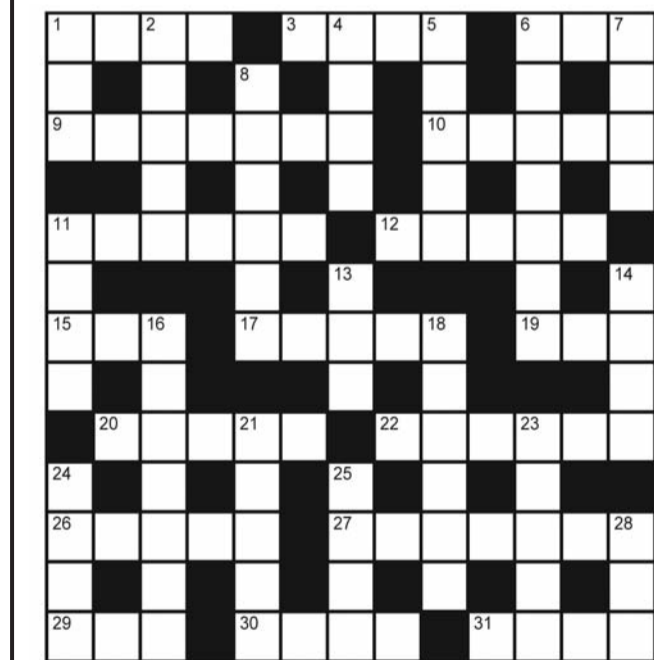


BREVITY



FUN post

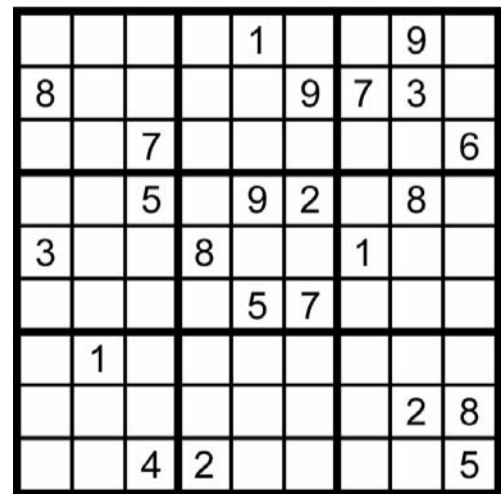
CROSSWORD



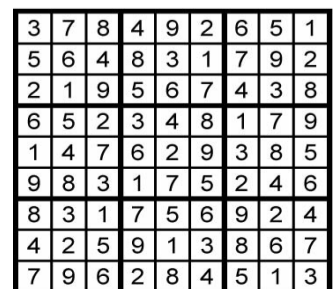
- Across**
- 1 Heavy load
 - 3 Lyric poet
 - 6 Burgle
 - 9 Kind of crab or musician
 - 10 Camera adjustment
 - 11 Bullfighter
 - 12 Neighbor of Turkey
 - 15 Puppy's bite
 - 17 Wept
 - 19 Pinnacle
 - 20 Give voice to
 - 22 Prospector's box
 - 26 Have the throne
 - 27 Reversal of fortune (3-4)
 - 29 Word of possibility
 - 30 Chipping choice
 - 31 Terrarium plant
 - Down**
 - 1 Clodhopper
 - 2 Beneath
 - 4 Haywire
 - 5 Bonkers
 - 6 Proof of purchase
 - 7 Wild party
 - 8 Church figure
 - 11 Prong
 - 13 High spirits
 - 14 Fencing sword
 - 16 Fossilise
 - 18 Erase
 - 21 The blahs
 - 23 Fatuous
 - 24 Streetcar
 - 25 Nurse capital
 - 28 Relatives

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



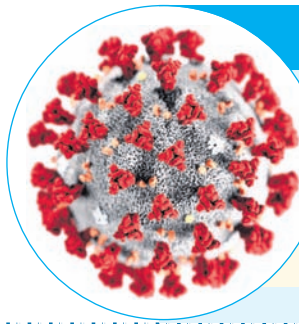
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



A STITCH IN TIME...

A vendor repairs umbrellas near the RDC office in Cuttack as monsoon rain lashes the Silver City, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	17,96,85,172	16,43,76,216	38,91,175
India	2,99,77,861	2,89,26,038	3,89,302
Odisha	8,83,490	8,48,960	3,671

5% interest subvention for MSMEs run by women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: In a bid to ease interest burden on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) due to Covid-19 pandemic, the state government has issued operational guidelines to provide interest subvention to such units under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

Under the scheme, the government will provide 5 per cent interest subvention to women-owned MSMEs and 2 per cent to men-owned MSMEs of the state to lessen the burden of interest on additional loan extended under ECLGS for regular/timely repayment of loans.

The interest subvention will be effective for financial year (FY) 2020-21. Extension of the scheme for further period may be decided by the state government considering the pandemic situation, said the guidelines.

The MSMEs that are assisted under ECLGS and continuing production/operation will get the benefit, which will not be extended if an MSME shuts operation.

However, if a unit is closed due to situations like natural calamities, shutdown/lockdown due to pandemic situations, lack of electricity, labour issues and for the reason which is beyond the control of entrepreneur, it can avail the benefits after resumption of pro-



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

duction/operation.

As per the guidelines, a woman enterprise means an enterprise managed by woman in proprietary concern or in which she/they individually or jointly has/have a share capital of not less than 51 per cent as partner(s).

The bank or financial institution concerned will charge applicable rates of interest on the additional loan. An interest waiver of 5 per cent will be allowed for women-owned MSMEs and 2 per cent for men-owned enterprises while the beneficiary will have to pay the remaining amount of interest.

The nodal bank will release the interest subvention amount to the

financing bank branch in favour of the loanee MSMEs. If any amount of the interest subvention is not utilised, the financial institution will have to refund the amount to the nodal bank within 15 days of receipt of funds. Then, the nodal bank will refund the same to the Director of Industries in next 15 days.

In case the government finds any irregularities or fraud, the paid amount will be recovered from the beneficiary. The Aadhaar number of the beneficiary will be linked for extending interest subvention under this scheme.

The Director of Industries has been asked to estimate the requirement of funds and furnish

EASING LOAN BURDEN

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The nodal bank will release the interest subvention amount to the financing bank branch in favour of the loanee MSMEs

If any amount of the interest subvention remains unutilised, the financial institution will have to refund the amount to the nodal bank within 15 days of receipt of funds

The MSMEs that are assisted under ECLGS and continuing production or operation will get the benefit

the requisition to the MSME department for placement of funds well in advance for the year.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced a stimulus package of ₹289.42 crore including the interest subvention for MSMEs in December, 2020.

7 OAS officers transferred

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: In a minor reshuffle among Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officers, the state government has transferred seven officers.

According to a notification issued by General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) department, Registrar of Gangadhar Meher University Girish Chandra Singh has been transferred and posted as additional secretary to Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) Northern Division (Sambalpur). Similarly, Registrar of Berhampur University Ranjan Kumar Biswal has been appointed as additional secretary to RDC Southern Division (Berhampur).

Likewise, OAS officers Prasant Kumar Nayak, Akshaya Kumar Rout and Rabi Narayan Tripathy have been posted as additional project director (Admin) in the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) of Cuttack, Nayagarh and Dhenkanal, respectively.

Baranyendu Mohanty is the new additional sub-collector, Anandapur in Keonjhar district. Moreover, the service of OAS officer Pitambar Bhoi has been placed at the disposal of the Kalahandi University, Bhawanipatna. Bhoi will work as Registrar of the university for which a separate notification will be issued from the Governor's Secretariat.

STF QUIZZES FAKE COVID DRUG KINGPIN IN MUMBAI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: A team of Special Task Force (STF) of the state Crime Branch in Mumbai reportedly interrogated Sudeep Mukherjee, accused in the interstate spurious anti-Covid drugs racket. The team has also moved a petition before a local court in Mumbai to bring Mukherjee to Odisha on remand.

Sources revealed that Mukherjee has been currently under the custody of Samta Nagar police which was allowed by the court to take Mukherjee on a five-day remand. Meanwhile, another team of STF has been in Kolkata as the fake Covid drugs were allegedly mar-



The STF has also been probing into possible involvement of some persons in procurement and sale of spurious drugs in the local market.

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possible involvement of some persons in procurement and sale of spurious drugs in the local market.

Notably, following the recovery of the drugs like Favipiravir tablets from a wholesaler in Cuttack June 10, seizures were also made in places such as Bolangir, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Kalahandi and Bhubaneswar.

The Odisha government launched the raids following a tip-off from the Food and Drugs Administration, Maharashtra, on spurious Favipiravir tablets allegedly manufactured by a company in Himachal Pradesh. However, a probe has revealed that the company does not exist in the north Indian state.

AT LORD'S SERVICE



Artisans busy drawing 'Patti Dian' for the Anasara ritual of Srimandir deities while security personnel conduct a mock drill for the upcoming Snana Yatra in Puri, Tuesday

India second-largest source of FDI for UK

AGENCIES

London, June 22: Indian companies invested in 99 projects and created 4,830 jobs in Britain to retain India's position as the second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) after the US in the past year, according to new UK government figures released Tuesday.

The Department for International Trade (DIT) inward investment statistics for 2020-2021 reflect an impact of Covid-19 pandemic and post-Brexit changes as the number of projects and jobs dropped in comparison to the 2019-20 figures of 120 projects and 5,429 jobs.

The US data also registered a drop, with its 389 projects and 19,301 new jobs in 2020-21 lower than the 462 projects and 20,131 jobs it had clocked in the previous year.

"The UK economy showed its underlying strengths, attracting investment from around the world. The USA continues to be our biggest investor, with India second," said the Department for International Trade (DIT).

"France, Germany and Canada all continue to invest strongly in the UK. Meanwhile, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands and South Africa increased the number of FDI projects last year compared to 2019-20," it said.



Foreign investment into the UK created 55,319 new jobs across the country last year, with 48,000 of those a result of direct DIT intervention

France, Germany and Canada all continue to invest strongly in the UK

Indian companies invested in 99 projects and created 4,830 jobs in Britain to retain India's position as the second-largest source of FDI

According to the data, foreign investment into the UK created 55,319 new jobs across the country last year, with 48,000 of those a result of direct DIT intervention with the investing companies helped

Purhoit wanted to know from the state govt under whose direction the farmers are being deprived of their legitimate rights

The BJP leader said that the state government had been shedding crocodile tears on the issue of the plights of farmers. He said that the team found resentment among the farmers over the token system.

"The farmers in the past have also protested against this system. The system exists across the state where their tokens lapse with time and they fail to sell off their produce due to the wrong decisions of the local authorities. In Bijepur at Sai Pali mandi, a society was asked to procure 7,000 quintals of rice but it procured less than 3,000 quintals," he said

Purhoit also said that the erring millers in the case said they would not lift the paddy. "They had demanded their cuts for the same. Collectors and local officers remained mute spectators to the issue as government officials and corrupt mandi workers are hand in gloves. The farmers were left with no option but to go for distress sale. While the farmers of Odisha are deprived of their legitimate dues, Chhattisgarh farmers get the access to the mandis and sell their produce here because of the bad system of paddy procurement here," he said.

Purhoit wanted to know from the state government under whose direction the farmers are being deprived of their legitimate rights.

"I want to ask the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department as to why the state government is adding to the woes of the farmers," he said. BJD leaders could not be contacted on the issue.

BJP's salvo at govt over 'faulty' paddy procurement system



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday attacked the state government over alleged 'faulty' paddy procurement policy and drew the attention of the government towards the farmers who want to sell their produce at minimum support price (MSP).

Addressing a presser here, BJP leader Pradeep Purohit Tuesday cited the recent report of a central government team which visited the state to review the paddy procurement system of the state.

"A team of Union government officials had recently visited different mandis in the state to take a stock of the situation of the overall paddy procurement. The officials visited four PACS (Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society) in the state and revealed about the massive irregularities in the system," he said.



State logs below 3,000 daily nCoV cases after 2 months

38 FRESH COVID-19 FATALITIES PUSH STATE TOLL TO 3,671

Bhubaneswar, June 22: Odisha Tuesday registered 2,957 new Covid-19 cases, the lowest in the past two months, with the caseload in the state surging to 8,83,490, a Health department official said.

Thirty-eight fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 3,671, the official said.

Khurda district, of which the state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of fresh cases at 408, followed by Cuttack at 270, Jajpur at 260 and Balasore at 247. Jharsuguda registered the lowest number of new cases at three.

Eighteen of the state's 30 districts reported less than 100 cases each, the official said.

Khurda also accounted for six fresh fatalities, followed by Cuttack



Khurda district reported the maximum number of fresh cases at 408, followed by Cuttack at 270, Jajpur at 260 and Balasore at 247. Jharsuguda registered the lowest number of new cases at three

Khurda also accounted for six fresh fatalities, followed by Cuttack and Bargarh at five each, Mayurbhanj and Puri at four each, Sambalpur at three and Jagatsinghpur and Jharsuguda at two each

and Bargarh at five each, Mayurbhanj and Puri at four each, Sambalpur at three and Jagatsinghpur and Jharsuguda at two each. One patient each succumbed to the disease in Angul, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Koraput, Sundargarh and Ganjam.

This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients in the state have died due to

comorbidities.

As many as 8,44,801 patients have recovered from the infectious disease, including 4,587 Tuesday.

Odisha currently has 34,965 active cases. The positivity rate stands at 6.68 per cent, the official said.

The coastal state has thus far conducted over 1.32 sample tests, including 61,608 Monday, he added.

SI recruitment process begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: The Odisha Police Tuesday started the online process for recruitment of 477 Sub-Inspectors (SIs) to address the crippling staff crunch. The recruitment drive this time is unique on many aspects.

According to sources, the state police force is conducting the recruitment drive through online mode for the first time.

"Computer-based written exam is being held for the first time by Odisha Police," claimed the state police sources. The force has created online application portal for smooth submission of applications. The process of evaluation will also be carried out online ensuring minimum human interface. There will be no viva voce.

The state police also claimed in the notification that Odisha has become the second state after Tamil Nadu to allow the recruitment of transgenders for SI level posts.

As many as 2,831 applicants have registered themselves in the portal.

HC rejects bail to accused in Cuttack synthetic paneer case

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 22: Asserting that the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution includes right to healthy food, the Orissa High Court has declined to grant bail to a person who has been arrested on the charges of food adulteration.

While rejecting the bail plea, a bench of Justice SK Panigrahi noted that the accused was involved in the sale and marketing of spurious paneer. The bench also held that unscrupulous activities carried out with a profit motive is detrimental to the society and those need to be viewed seriously.

"The Right to Life, the most important fundamental right of every citizen guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, includes in it the right to healthy food and therefore, any food article which is hazardous or injurious to public health is a potential danger to fun-



damental right to life," the bench observed. It has been stated that the accused along with his accomplice had brought synthetic paneer from Kolkata to Cuttack. The police had arrested the accused in December last year. However, his accomplice managed to escape.

The court further noted that the colour, texture and odour of the paneer did look deceptive. The police seized the paneer and questioned the accused, who disclosed that he had purchased the product from Kolkata to sell it in Cuttack market. The police sent a sample

of the seized paneer to the food safety officer in Cuttack for examining its genuineness.

Taking into account the report of the food analysts, the health officer of Cuttack Municipal Corporation informed the police that the seized paneer was not fit for human consumption as per the definition of the term 'substandard quality' as defined under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Paneer as a food item is required to contain at least 50 per cent of milk fat to be safe for human consumption, but it was found to have only 10.8 per cent of milk fat, indicating thereby that it was some substance other than paneer which render it not fit for human consumption.

"In India, we are too lenient with health issues. In fact, food safety is crucial for both progress and economic development of a country," the bench said.

Vax supply improved in state: Health dir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: The state Health department Tuesday said that the supply of anti-Covid vaccines in the state has improved and urged the public to go for the vaccination drive to keep the virus at bay.

Health Services Director Bijoy Mohapatra Tuesday said that the state is ready to fight the third wave. He said, "The Covid-19 cases have been declining and it will continue to come down but we should not be complacent. We have to stay prepared for the third wave too. We will focus on mass vaccination and ensure better surveillance. The supply of vaccines has improved a lot now." He also said that the government needs community

cooperation in tackling the cases of Covid-19 in future. "The state government is now fully prepared to tackle the threat of the third wave. The system of treatment and other resources are ready," he said.

He also added, "The state government is readying the health-care system for kids, adults and adolescents. There is possibility of a third wave but it's not confirmed. We are working with different organisations to fight against the disease together."

He also tried to allay the fears of Delta-Plus strain. "There is no need to panic about the Delta Plus strain of Covid-19. The cause of concern in such pandemic is mutations which have resulted in spread of the disease and loss of lives," he said.

Drop in meals at Aahar centres kicks up row

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 22: Several Aahar centres in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar are allegedly providing less number of meals than their mandated capacity to the poor and needy, hinting at irregularities in the ambitious scheme of the state government.

The officials concerned and the private agency, roped in by the state government to provide subsidised meals at Aahar centres, are making some easy bucks through the irregularities, it is alleged.

The Aahar centre at Sishu Bhawan in the Silver City here is mandated to serve 500 meals for the lunch. However, an enquiry by Orissa POST found that the centre provided 433 meals to the



needy Tuesday.

At least 30 people including Krishna Rao of Satichaura area and Rajesh Swain of Brajabiharipur could not get the subsidised meals at the Sishu Bhawan Aahar centre. Similarly, the newspaper had

REPORT FROM GROUND ZERO

The Aahar centre at Sishu Bhawan in the Silver City here is mandated to serve 500 meals for the lunch

However, an enquiry by Orissa POST found that the centre provided 433 meals to the needy Tuesday

Similarly, the newspaper found that an Aahar centre near the Odisha State Museum in Bhubaneswar provided 295 meals against its mandated capacity of 350 June 17

the balance amount.

As per the existing guidelines, the Aahar centres in Cuttack area are supposed to provide 3,020 meals daily while the outlets in Bhubaneswar are mandated to give 4,050 meals.

"We are supplying the mandated number of meals to various Aahar centres in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. We have no idea on the allegation," said Rabindra Kumar Jena, the operations manager of Touchstone Foundation, which has been roped in by the state government to provide the meals at the Aahar centres in the twin cities.

When contacted, Housing and Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena said, "We will take strict action if the allegation is found to be true."

Laid off computer teachers stage stir for reappointment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: Braving heavy rains in the Capital city, many computer teachers, who were laid off in 2019, and members of ICT School Coordinators Association, Tuesday gathered near Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) office demanding reappointment of 4,000 computer teachers in government-run high schools.

They also demanded proper online education for the students and pitched for engagement of computer teachers in live-streaming of classes on YouTube.

ICT-School Coordinators' Association president Deepika Manjari Mishra said that the government should immediately take steps for recruitment of computer teachers as the High Court has ordered for immediate recruitment of the laid off computer teachers.

They also presented a memorandum to OSEPA project director Bhupendra Singh Poonia.

In 2019, Odisha government had said that it will recruit as many as 2,000 computer teachers soon for students in schools but till now precious little has been done, they alleged.

FIGHTING PANDEMIC



A newspaper hawker gets inoculated against Covid-19 at a vaccination camp organised by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation at Unit-IX Boys' High School in the City, Tuesday

Chandaka jumbos to be radio-collared soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, June 22: If things go well, authorities of Chandaka-Dampada Sanctuary, in coordination with the Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Centre in Bangalore, will soon start radio-collaring of elephants in the sanctuary here with an aim to keep

tabs on their movement and also to reduce man-animal conflicts, an official said Tuesday.

According to sources, Ramu and Kamena, two elephants in Chandaka, were giving sleepless nights to the locals by foraging into human habitations and raiding standing crops. On several occasions, villagers have highlighted the jumbo menace with

Forest department officials. But a little has been done so far, said a source.

"By radio-collaring elephants, we can easily monitor their movements with the help of satellites. We can get their exact location and arrive there to push them back," said the official, adding it will not only help prevent man-animal conflicts but also save standing crops.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit through Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak Laxmi Nayak, W/o. Gangadhar Nayak of At/P.O.- Sandado, P.S.- Agarpada, Dist.- Bhadrak and Ahalya Nayak, D/o. Panchanana Behera is the same person.

Contactless ticket checking at City rly stn

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: In a bid to ensure contactless checking of tickets, body temperatures and facemasks of passengers entering and exiting the railway station, an Automatic Ticket Checking and Managing Access (ATMA) system has been installed at the railway station here, Tuesday.

Facilitated by Paradip Phosphates Limited (PPL) under its corporate social responsibility, the system, which has been installed near the station's entrance, is equipped with a barcode scanner, a thermal scanner, a speaker and a camera.

"Passengers are required to show their tickets in front of the barcode scanner which captures the image and sends it to the monitor

TECH BOOST

FACILITATED BY PARADIP PHOSPHATES LTD, THE SYSTEM IS EQUIPPED WITH A BARCODE SCANNER, A THERMAL SCANNER, A SPEAKER AND A CAMERA

PASSENGERS ARE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR TICKETS IN FRONT OF THE BARCODE SCANNER WHICH CAPTURES THE IMAGE AND SENDS IT TO THE MONITOR FOR VERIFICATION



whether the passenger is wearing a facemask or not," said an East Coast Railway (ECOR) official, highlighting the modus operandi of the system.

During the pandemic, it is a challenge for the railway authorities to ensure screening of passengers for temperature and also make sure that only bona fide passengers enter the railway station by maintaining social distance between themselves as well as the ticket checking staffers.

"The new system will go a long way in addressing the issue," added the ECOR official.

While PPL plans to install one such facility at Puri railway station, VISA Steel of Jajpur's Kalinganagar will set up an ATMA system at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road railway station, said a source.

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UT prisoner kills self in Jaipur sub-jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur, June 22: An under-trial prisoner Monday evening allegedly committed suicide by hanging in Ragadi sub-jail in the district, police said Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Sk Hanif Sheikh, 23, a native of Sishatala-Charanatanpura village in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. He allegedly hanged himself from a tree on the jail. He was rushed to Korei community health centre where doctors pronounced him dead. According to reports, Sheikh was arrested June 13 for using a stolen bike and was produced in court. The court scheduled the date of hearing of his bail application to June 18 and remanded him to 14-days judicial custody. However, his bail application was rejected June 18.

He was in quarantine as per Covid protocol. Some jail inmates found him hanging in the toilet and alerted the authorities.

Later, the jail authorities filed a complaint at Korei police station, based on which the police registered an unnatural death case and launched a probe into the matter.

Children's park unveiled in Kesinga

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, June 22: A newly-constructed Children park here in Kalahandi district was inaugurated Tuesday.

This park coming up on a land measuring 1.5 acres has been developed at a cost of ₹50,00,000. The fund was allocated from Green Mahanadi Yojana, it was learnt.

This park has several facilities for visitors including an open gymnasium and a track for morning walk.

While the park was inaugurated by Kalahandi MP Basant Kumar Panda and Rajya Sabha member Sujit Kumar, many dignitaries like Zilla Parishad, chairperson, Namita Rani Sahu, DFO, Nitish Kumar, regional forest conservator Malay Kular Kalo attended the event. Ranger Dinabandhu Meher conducted the event.

Keonjhar BYJD leader tears tender DD, held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, June 22: Police Tuesday arrested Keonjhar district Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BYJD) vice-president on charges of tearing up the demand drafts (DDs) of a tender holder, on Saharpada block office premises Monday.

The accused, Karuna Sagar Khatua (33), a resident of Dubeipent village of Saharpada panchayat under Patana police limits in Keonjhar district, was produced in a local court.

According to sources, Monday was the last day for submission of tender for the construction of 47 school buildings and boundary walls, amounting to over ₹10,00,000.

Taking all by surprise, Khatua reached the block office Monday afternoon, picked up 11 demand drafts worth ₹66,000 from the table of head clerk Hadibandhu Patra and tore them into pieces.

On the basis of Patra's allegation, Saharpada block development officer (BDO) Lambodar Khuntia lodged a report at the Patana police station.

Informing about the arrest, Ghatagaon sub-divisional police officer Rabintra Kumar Mallick said Saharpada outpost officer

Saharpada block has been infamous for corruption in contract works. Monday's incident capped them all, exposing the involvement of the BJP and the BJD in tender fixing

Siba Prasad Aich arrested Khatua under Sections 451, 379, 186 and 332 of IPC and produced him in court.

Notably, Khatua has many cases including causing obstruction in government work pending against him at Patana police station.

Meanwhile, a section of the BJD leaders is learnt to be creating pressure on district and state level leaders to expel Khatua from the party as he has often been tarnishing the party's image.

Saharpada block has been infamous for corruption in contract works. Monday's incident capped them all, exposing the involvement of the BJP and the BJD in tender fixing.

Tussar farming in Mayurbhanj shrinking

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, June 22: Not long ago a profitable avenue for many, the Tussar farming in Mayurbhanj district has lost its sheen.

Tussar farming got importance in the district as it was meant to bring members of the scheduled tribes of the district to the mainstream of the society.

In order to help Tussar farmers take up the farming and improve their financial condition, the Central Silk Board established a Research Extension Centre at Bangiriposhi in 1975. Subsequently, the local residents started taking up Tussar farming as a way to earn their livelihood. Things were running smoothly till the outbreak of pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns and shutdowns. The cottage industry came to a halt. As of now, Tussar cocoons worth ₹75,00,000 are lying unsold at Bangiriposhi Tussar Cooperative Society.

Similarly, cocoons worth ₹5,44,00,000 are rotting at 21 units in Morada, Shuliapada, Kuliiana, Saraskana, Baripada, Biso, Thakurmunda, Shamakhunta and Kaptipada blocks in the district.

"Tussar cocoons reared here are of high quality. This is the reason why weavers' societies from different districts come here to buy



FACT FILE

Tussar farming got importance in the district as it was meant to bring members of the scheduled tribes of the district to the mainstream of the society

Things were running smoothly till the outbreak of pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns and shutdowns. The cottage industry came to a halt

Cocoons worth ₹75,00,000 are lying unsold at Bangiriposhi Tussar Cooperative Society

Similarly, cocoons worth ₹5,44,00,000 are rotting at 21 units in Morada, Shuliapada, Kuliiana, Saraskana, Baripada, Biso, Thakurmunda, Shamakhunta and Kaptipada blocks in the district

the cocoons," claimed Mangala Soren and Kanhu Charan Marandi, farmers of Ambadiha and Uparabada respectively.

Trading of cocoons is done only at government level in the state. The weavers' societies buy them through the Central Silk Board's Bhubaneswar-based marketing department. At present, weavers' co-operative societies do not come to buy the stored cocoons as all the activities relating to buying and selling have been stopped. With these cocoons lying in heaps for a long period, their quality has taken a beating.

However, buying and selling of Tussar is going on in open market of West Bengal and Bihar.

In view of the pandemic, the Odisha Tussar and Silk Federation

has cleared the farmers' dues in advance. According to information available, a total of 30,000 farmers in the district benefit from Tussar farming. While 92 per cent of the total farmers belong to scheduled tribes, the rest are of other tribes.

Meanwhile, Tussar production has fallen. "The production has been affected due to various natural disasters that have visited the district. There was a time when hundreds of families took up Tussar farming as the main source of earning their livelihood. In those days students and researchers from Shri Ramchandra University, Fakir Mohan University and even from Central Tussar Research Centre in Ranchi used to visit the Research Extension Centre. Now the farmers

are turning their face away from Tussar farming due to reasons like natural calamities and labour issues," observed Mukul Naik, a Tussar farmer from Danadar village. "Out of 30,000 farmers, only 7,000 work as full time farmers. Despite being a profitable farming, its production is decreasing by the day. It is only a matter of time before the Tussar farming here loses its identity. For the development of Tussar farming and growth of farmers, starting from production to marketing need to be taken care of and systemized," maintained some farmers including Mahendra Singh of Jamukunda, Panika Singh and Samaya Singh of Kalapani and Ramesh Hansda of Ambadiha village.

Maoist arms, ammunition seized after gun battle with security forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 22: A cache of arms and ammunition was seized after an exchange of fire between security personnel and Maoists in Kandhamal district, a senior police officer said Tuesday.

One .303-calibre rifle, 12-bore country-made guns, INSAS magazine and seven electric detonators were among the things that were recovered, he said.

Acting on credible inputs, an anti-Naxalite operation was



(SP) Vinit Agarwal said. According to the Kandhamal SP, the Maoists resorted to heavy firing from an advantageous position when the pilot team was combating the area Monday morning.

The team immediately took cover and asked the Naxals to surrender. As they refused to calm down, the security personnel fired in a controlled manner in self-defence, the SP said, adding, the Naxals fled the area, taking advantage of the dense jungle and difficult terrain.

launched Sunday near Kumbhaharu village in the Gochhapada area by a joint team of the Odisha Police Special Operation Group and the Kandhamal District Voluntary Force, Superintendent of Police

Police arrest 11 for clash in Ganjam dist



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, June 22: Eleven people were arrested Tuesday for their alleged involvement in a clash in Ganjam district. The group clash had led to the death of two persons, police informed. The 11 suspects, including a teenager, who were arrested belong to Polasara area, a police officer said. The bamboo sticks and wooden logs used in the clash were seized from them, Polasara police station inspector in-charge Jeetendra Pradhan said.

Two groups from Madhupalli and Polasara towns had gone for a picnic at Riamal near Dhanei dam Sunday. They clashed at the picnic spot after indulging in arguments over a petty matter. Soon the arguments escalated into a free-for-all, police said.

Babula Pradhan (42) died Sunday at a hospital here, while Sanyasi Polai (37) succumbed Monday to his injuries at a healthcare facility in Cuttack, Pradhan said. The condition of two others, who were injured in the clash, is stable, added the police official.

He also informed that interrogation of the 11 arrested persons is on to find out the real cause behind the fight. Police are also trying to find out whether Covid-19 protocols were flouted by the two groups when they went for the picnic.

He also informed that interrogation of the 11 arrested persons is on to find out the real cause behind the fight. Police are also trying to find out whether Covid-19 protocols were flouted by the two groups when they went for the picnic.

MOTORISTS' NIGHTMARE



A stretch of Joda-Bamebari Express Road in Keonjhar district has turned into a death trap with no signs of improvement in road condition despite works going on for years

OP PHOTO

Another masterpiece from Vidya Balan's mathematical saree weaver

SUBARNAPUR DISTRICT IS FAMOUS FOR ITS HANDLOOM TEXTILES WOVEN BY SCORES OF WEAVERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, June 22: A weaver of Subarnapur district, who had shot to fame by designing a hand-woven Bandha (tye and dye) saree for Bollywood actresses Aishwarya Rai and Vidya Balan, has once again left everyone mesmerized with his artistry, this time with a special saree dedicated to 'Maa' (mother), a report said.

Rajesh Meher of Patbhadi in Sonepur has utilized the ample time available during the lockdown and made this beautiful creation. Bandha artisan Himanshu Meher and weaver Binod Meher have helped him in this initiative. Last year, Vidya Balan had worn the Mathematics saree designed by Meher during the promotion of her film 'Shakuntala Devi'.

In his latest innovation to please the handloom lovers, Meher has designed an awe-inspiring saree, titled as Maa Saree. The saree is available in white and cement colour and is priced at ₹20,000 per piece.

In his new experiment, Meher has intricately woven the thread by hand with 'Maa' written on the body and pallu. The most interesting aspect of the saree is that the word Maa has been crafted on it in 13 different languages of the country.

Meher said he adopts innovative ideas to create special design to win the hearts of our saree lovers. He does not see any business aspect in his creation. The specially designed saree with Maa woven on thread is dedicated to all mothers



WORK OF ART

MEHER HAS DESIGNED AN AWE-INSPIRING SAREE, TITLED AS MAA SAREE. THE SAREE IS AVAILABLE IN WHITE AND CEMENT COLOUR AND IS PRICED AT ₹20,000 PER PIECE

Meher said he adopts innovative ideas to create special design to win the hearts of our saree lovers. He does not see any business aspect in his creation. The specially designed saree with Maa woven on thread is dedicated to all mothers

The weavers in Subarnapur always try to weave something new in their designs in weaving beautiful artworks on their sarees, crafting Bandha works, colouring and graphic designing

pect in his creation. The specially designed saree with Maa woven on thread is dedicated to all mothers.

People can gift the saree to their mothers, goddess or any woman. He said his efforts for propagation of art, culture and tradition through clothes will continue in future.

Reports said Subarnapur district is famous for its handloom textiles woven by its scores of weavers, a report said. The weavers here always try to weave something new in their designs and have extraordinary expertise in weaving beautiful artworks on their sarees, crafting Bandha works, colouring and graphic designing.

Most of the stylish saree are embodied with captivating color to give the gracious look to the woman wearing the saree. The most charming part is its thread work in the designs of the border and the pallu.

SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED
CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264
Regd. Office: Dinalipi Bhawan, Plot No. A-54/1 & A-55/1, Nayapalli, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003, Odisha, Email: suryofoods.industries@gmail.com, website: www.suryofoods.com

NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulation 29 under Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 30th June, 2021 at 12.30 P.M. at Regd. Office: Dinalipi Bhawan, Plot No. A-54/1 & A-55/1, Nayapalli, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003, Odisha, inter-alia to consider and approve the Audited Financial results of the Company for the year ended 31st March, 2021.

For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
Sd./- Manisha Satapathy
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Date: 22.06.2021
Place: Bhubaneswar

MCL MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
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Tel. (EPABX) : 0663-2542461 to 469 Website : www.mahanadicoal.in

GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Only through Electronic Tender)

The following Global Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIT) of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has been published on the Coal India Ltd. E-Tender portal (<https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>) and also mirrored on Central Public Procurement portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in>). Kindly visit these websites for further details:-

Tender ID	Name of Work /Service	Estimated Total Project Cost (₹ in Million)
2021_MCL_209071_1 (Global e-Tender)	Development and Operation of Subhadra OCP (West of Gopalprasad west & Utkal-A Block) as per Part-II (scope of the Project) of Contract Agreement and other requirements specified in the Contract Agreement [for the period of 25 (Twenty-five) years].	22618.40

Documents Download Start Date & Time: 15.06.2021, 6.55 PM, Documents Download End Date & Time: 16.08.2021 05.00 PM Bid Submission Start Date & Time: 07.07.2021, 10.00 AM, Bid Submission End Date & Time: 16.08.2021, 05.00 PM & Bid Opening Date & Time: 18.08.2021, 11.00 AM.

MCL e-Procurement Help desk (Ph.0663-2542695/2542264, email : hip-eproc.mcl@coalindia.in)

R-5060

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SUNDARGARH
No.3411/Date 18.06.21

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No.C-434:- Sealed quotations are invited from the intending quotationers for "Supply and Installation of MS Door, Window, MS Grill & Rolling Shutter in different areas of Sundargarh Municipality". The detail quotation documents will be available in the district website of Sundargarh i.e. www.sundargarh.nic.in from dt.23.06.2021 to dt.29.06.2021. The quotation document must be submitted to the Office of the Executive Officer, Sundargarh Municipality, Sundargarh through Regd. Post/ Speed Post/ by hand only. The bidder should subscribe "Supply and Installation of MS Door, Window, MS Grill & Rolling Shutter in different areas of Sundargarh Municipality" on the top of the envelope.

Last date of receipt of quotation: 29.06.2021 upto 12.00 P.M.
Date of opening of quotation : 30.06.2021 at 11.30 A.M.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Sundargarh Municipality
OIPR-13130/11/0021/2122

e-Procurement Notice for Road Work Identification No.03/EERW/ BLS / 2021-22

No.O-361:- 1. Name of the work: Roads. 2. Total No. of works: 32 Nos. 3. Estimated cost: Estimated cost Rs. 4.86 lakh to Rs 43.32 lakh. 4. Class of contractor: 'D', 'C', 'B' & 'A' Class. 5. Time of completion: 1 month (One calendar month). 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender in the Office of the Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Balasore
		From	To		
1 Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Balasore	2 03/EERW/BLS/2021-22	3 01.07.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	4 08.07.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	5 07.07.2021 upto 1.00 P.M.	6 09.07.2021 at 10.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
OIPR-25108/11/0003/2122

Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Balasore

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

A NEW COLD WAR?



Despite both the American and Russian leaders calling each other 'pragmatic,' the US looking for a 'predictable and stable' relation with Russia could be hard to come by. Russia's encroachment into the eastern region of Donbas and amassing huge number of troops on Ukraine's south-eastern border have raised hackles in all European capitals though energy issues could still drive their relations further

Old wars need not be symmetrical. They could vary with change in actors, circumstances and time. To assess the aftermath of the recent Biden-Putin summit meeting June 16 as a 'cold peace' or a full-fledged cold war in the making, is immaterial. It is important to analyse the background against which it happened, the timing of the event and the principal actors involved in the coming together in person of the two leading powers. Remark that exactly 36 years ago the same venue, the 18th century Villa La Grange on Geneva lake-side, had hosted the historic Reagan-Gorbachev summit which ushered the US-Soviet cold war leading finally to the dismantlement of the Soviet empire with the US remaining the sole superpower, a position that it maintained until the early 1990s until the gradual advent of China.

The general assessment that the American president meant business and nearly accomplished the two-fold objective in his mission is realistic. These were reassuring its European allies that America was back and strengthening the badly-damaged Atlantic Alliance, and second, confronting Russia to address Europe's (as well as its own) concerns while conveying a powerful sign to the world that America was now ready to regain its rightful place in the free world. In both Biden was largely successful. His posture as a seasoned statesman was at full play. He had asked for this meeting and wanted to meet his Russian counterpart even after calling him a 'killer' earlier this year and imposing a series of further sanctions, including sending a few Russian diplomats back to Moscow. This had triggered the return of the two ambassadors to each other's capitals. Consequently relations between the two powers had sunk to 'the lowest point' by the leaders' own admission.

Both positives as well as negatives emanated from the summit. The positives included an agreement to restart the strategic nuclear talks abruptly called off by Trump, exchange ambassadors back and

insurrection on the Capitol and rising Black American sentiments.

The three previous summits which Biden attended, the G-7, NATO and EU had exposed another adversary of America, China. The European allies had to play along though it was clear that there was lack of a broad consensus in aiming their guns at China with whom the major European powers have important technology, trade, business and investment ties. Besides geopolitically Russia is a bigger threat to Europe than China. Thus when the 'Bring Back a Better World' (BBBW) was discussed in the EU forum as a pushback against China's BRI it did not have many takers. Comprehensive Agreement on Investment's (CAI's) ratification in the European Parliament has stalled because of increasing concerns at China's human rights abuses in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, naval incursions in the Taiwan Strait and South and East China Seas as well as sanctions on persons and entities on both sides. The demand for further investigation into the origins of Covid-

19 was an expected addition in which Biden received wholehearted support.

Despite both the American and Russian leaders calling each other 'pragmatic,' the US looking for a 'predictable and stable' relation with Russia could be hard to come by. Russia's encroachment into the eastern region of Donbas and amassing huge number of troops on Ukraine's south-eastern border have raised hackles in all European capitals though energy issues could still drive their relations further.

How does all of this play out for India? Note that there are three important summits lined up for later this year, the Quad Summit and the 'Summit of Democracies' in the USA and the BRICS Summit in Delhi. All three would see India taking positions on vital geo-political issues where interests diverge. The Quad grouping based on the US-led 'international-rules based order' has not found favour among important BRICS members, China and Russia. The 'Summit of Democracies' will take Delhi's voice seriously as the largest democracy of the world. India had called itself 'a natural ally' of EU, defending 'freedom of thought and expression' and fighting authoritarianism, violence and repression.

It needs to be noted that barely a few days after the Summit, commenting on India's human rights record, the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, stated, "Some of the Indian government's actions have raised concerns that are inconsistent with India's democratic values..." Two days later UNHRC Special Rapporteurs in a report raised concern about India's recent IT rules not conforming to international human rights norms on right to privacy and freedom of expression. India's close relations with both the USA and Russia could land the country in further difficulties. The Summit could have been the beginning of a long haul ahead.

The writer is a retired ambassador.

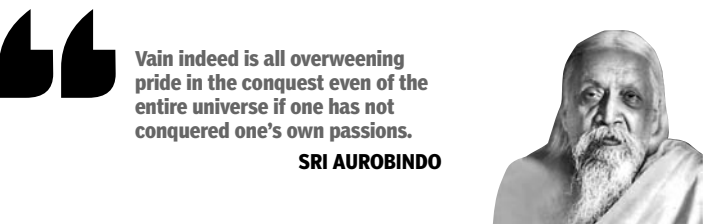


Malay Mishra

COLD WARS NEED NOT BE SYMMETRICAL. THEY COULD VARY WITH CHANGE IN ACTORS, CIRCUMSTANCES AND TIME

continue the dialogue process, while the major points of differences, with the US threatening 'devastating consequences,' were on alleged cyber attacks and attacks on US utilities (Biden listed 16 such utilities on which America drew the 'red line'), interference in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, and the safety and life of Russian dissident Alexei Navalny. A few regional issues were also discussed.

Having met four American presidents after his coming to office in 2000 (Biden was his 5th), Putin, the versatile judo player, had to first play defence and then hit the opponent as the rules of the game provide. He did exactly that. While denying all charges of Russian intelligence agencies spying in America's elections he counter-charged that it was America rather which was indulging in cyber attacks on other countries. He also dismissed allegations of increasing dissent in Russia with the counter charges of interventionism of America's foreign policy and domestic chaos in the country where he named the January 6



Vain indeed is all overweening pride in the conquest even of the entire universe if one has not conquered one's own passions.

SRI AUROBINDO

Yoga Vs Covid

The government, it appears, is continuing to take a cavalier approach to the colossal pain and loss the Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked on the country. Instead of making good for its inept handling since the outbreak early last year, it is still propagating unscientific and unfounded beliefs in the country's traditional knowledge that has no answer to this lethal virus.

That alone can explain Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inanities on International Yoga Day extolling the supposed powers of yoga to help Covid-hit people fight the disease better. There is no doubt that yoga is a great means of achieving physical, mental and spiritual balance. Unfortunately, propagating and singing paens to the virtues of yoga during a pandemic such as the one the world is witnessing right now is foolhardy. This is similar to the earlier messages dished out by the Prime Minister about banging thalis or switching off electric lights at 9 pm for nine minutes that were supposed to protect people from the coronavirus. It has to be understood that when a leader with a mass following purposefully utters such misleading guidance to her or his people, the outcome could be devastating as has been proven in India. Concern could be cast on a completely different thought also. When the goodness of yoga is spoken about publicly at a wrong time in history, where people will not benefit by following those directions in relation to the pandemic, the ensuing damage could create mistrust for yoga itself in the minds of the younger generation.

Also, the government's backtracking on the issue of paying compensation of ₹400,000 to kin of victims who succumbed to coronavirus speaks of the hollowness of the governance system. The first problem arose when the Supreme Court put up uncomfortable questions in its quest for finding out true Covid related deaths in the country. The Centre, in its affidavit to the court in the second week of June, had said that the demand for ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh to the families of Covid victims is 'genuine'. However, that statement about genuineness on the part of the government depended solely on the unfounded death figures that had been fed to the people. The query by the SC resulted in an enormous growth in number of deaths. The Centre came back to the SC in the third week of June and submitted its inability to pay the compensation that it had earlier committed simply because the true death figures are very high.

The lack of concern of the government for the health of its citizens got exposed when it was reported that a meagre allocation of less than 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was marked for health.

The Centre has no compunction in allocating over ₹30,000 crore for constructing buildings under the Central Vista Redevelopment Project in Delhi to satisfy some people's bloated ego and rewrite history while it expresses inability to compensate kin of Covid victims. This proves that buildings appear to be more valuable and important for this government than human lives perishing in the pandemic.

WISDOM CORNER

- Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. **DESMOND TUTU**
- What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us. **HELEN KELLER**
- Every man has his own destiny: the only imperative is to follow it, to accept it, no matter where it leads him. **HENRY MILLER**

WORDSWORTH

Nomophobia

Our times are hardly short of issues that can induce fear, anxiety and dread, so do we need any more, let alone words to describe them? These worried musings were induced by an online survey in 2008 for the Post Office in the UK. It found that 55 per cent of the 2,000 people who contributed said that they never switch off their mobile phone as they want to keep in touch with friends or family; 9 per cent said that having their phone switched off makes them anxious. The Post Office's survey firm coined a term for this fear: nomophobia, which only makes sense in a country that calls the devices mobile phones, as it's short for "no mobile phobia". It's dreadful faux-Greek, but then there's no classical term for being without a telephone that could have been used. The term cellphobia, better suited to Americans who describe their devices as cellphones, is known online but hasn't reached print media. When the 2008 survey results came out, Stewart Fox-Mills of the Post Office was quoted in the Glasgow Daily Record as saying that "Being out of mobile contact may be the 21st century's latest contribution to our already hectic lives. Whether you run out of credit, lose your phone or are in an area with no reception, being phoneless can bring on panicky symptoms." The Post Office press release claimed hyperbolically that nomophobia "now ranks alongside traditionally stressful situations such as getting married, starting a new job and going to the dentist." At the time, it looked as though it was fated to vanish like other neologisms coined to encourage publicity for survey results, but it confounded its critics - including me - to become a minor item in British journalists' vocabularies, though usually with humorous intent. It achieved some significant usage in February 2012 and August 2013 following further surveys on phone usage. The derived form nomophobic, for a person afflicted with nomophobia, has also achieved some UK press coverage. Since Greek nomos means "law", a more etymologically appropriate sense of nomophobia is of a neurotic fear of the law; this has some currency, in moral or spiritual writing in particular in which the law is that of God.

Nonce

It's an uncommon word outside dictionary making. It usually turns up in the fossil phrase "for the nonce", meaning temporarily. It's recorded right back into medieval times but was originally created by mistake. It was at first then anes, meaning for the one purpose or occasion, where anes is a variant form of one and then is a defunct form of the. But people misunderstood where the break between words came, and turned then anes into the nanes. Eventually this evolved into the nonce. The use of nonce in the sense seems to have begun with the compilers of the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary. In fact, the entry under nonce in the Second Edition cites the editors themselves: "nonce-word, the term used in this Dictionary to describe a word which is apparently used only for the nonce". It's mainly a term of trade among lexicographers and linguists and turns up also in phrases like nonce compound, nonce borrowing and nonce formation. There's almost certainly no connection by the way, with the British criminals' slang use of the word for a sexual offender, whose origin is uncertain, though it may be connected with nancy.

LOL

Tough rats

Three rats are sitting at the bar talking bragging about their bravery and toughness. The first says, "I'm so tough, once I ate a whole bagful of rat poison!"



The second says, "Well I'm so tough, once I was caught in a rat trap and I bit it apart!" Then the third rat gets up and says, "Later guys, I'm off home to harass the cat."

IN JEST THIS

Don't let your cellphone control your life



Melvin Durai

HEARING A BIRD'S TWEET IS IMMENSELY MORE PLEASANT THAN ALL THE ANGRY TWEETS ON THE INTERNET

Cellphones have become a necessity for many people, including me. I enjoy many of the features of my phone, including talking, texting, taking photos and browsing. But I have to constantly resist the temptation to use my cellphone at inappropriate times. It's not just a question of physical safety, but also etiquette and mental well-being.

Many people are aware of the dangers of distracted driving, but seemingly unaware of the dangers of distracted walking. Even while crossing a busy street, they're talking, texting or reading on their cellphones. And next thing you know, they're lying in a hospital bed, with plenty of time to talk, text and read.

Doctor: "You're very lucky to be alive, Mr. Johnson. Do you remember anything about the accident?"

Johnson: "Yeah, I was just crossing a road while reading an article on my cellphone and this car came out of nowhere and hit me."

Doctor: "I heard that the driver was texting someone when he hit you."

Johnson: "Texting and driving? What an idiot!"

Doctor: "Please speak softly. He's in the next room."

A study published in the Journal



of the American Medical Association in 2019 found that injuries related to cellphone use had increased gradually from 1998 to 2017 and many of them "were associated with common activities, such as texting while walking."

In India, almost 5,000 people were killed in 2019 in motor vehicle accidents attributed to the use of mobile phones while driving, according to data from the transport ministry. The actual number of people whose deaths can be blamed on cellphones is probably much higher, especially since it's often hard to determine after an accident whether the driver was using a cellphone or whether the cellphone just happened to get lodged in the driver's skull.

Aside from putting physical safety at risk, the use of cellphones

can also violate etiquette and common courtesy. That's why, a few years ago, Pope Francis, the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics, decried the use of cellphones during Catholic Mass.

Speaking to tens of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, the Pope said, "It makes me very sad when I celebrate (Mass) here in the piazza or in the basilica and I see so many cellphones held up. Not only by the faithful, but also by some priests and even bishops! The Mass is not a show ... so remember, no cellphones!"

The crowd broke out in laughter and applause - and some folks probably pulled out their cellphones to capture the moment.

Whatever your religion, using a cellphone during a religious ceremony is usually inappropriate.

Even if your friends dare you do it while visiting the temple, you probably should not take a selfie with Lord Ganesha.

It's also rude to look at your cellphone while someone is talking to you. If there's something important you need to do on your phone, you can say, "Excuse me, I just received a text from the Prime Minister and need to respond to it."

But if it's not the Prime Minister or Chief Minister texting you, you can probably wait to respond.

When my wife texts me, I know it's her because I've assigned a unique notification sound to her texts. She may not be the Prime Minister, but if I wait too long to respond to her texts, I may find myself waiting too long for dinner.

Even when cellphones can be used safely and politely, they can keep us from enjoying our surroundings and enhancing our mental well-being. When I take my dog on long walks, I'm often tempted to read something on my cellphone or listen to a podcast. But I've found that the most peaceful, relaxing walks occur when my phone is tucked away in my pocket, allowing me to absorb the sights and sounds around me. Hearing a bird's tweet is immensely more pleasant than all the angry tweets on the internet.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Right priorities

Sir, The Centre's reluctance to part with a one-time compensation of ₹4 lakh each to families of people who succumbed to Covid-19 shows it in poor light. When queried by the Supreme Court whether the Union government has taken a decision to not pay ex-gratia to families who lost their loved ones to Covid-19, the latter clarified though it had money the focus was on utilising funds for food, medical care, oxygen, vaccination and pumping up the economy. Tens of thousands of families that have lost their breadwinners to the pandemic are staring at a bleak future and the government would do well to get its priorities right.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Saving Eriksen

Sir, Time is too precious to be ignored. The small organ called heart is notorious for failing a person. Even when the heart arrests a person from performing his duties and puts his life at risk, there is something called as 'golden hour' that can save a life. That is, a proper CPR at the spot of the heart attack, followed by rushing the person to a hospital can help. Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen collapsed in the Euro 2020 football opening game against Finland. The 29-year-old has since had an implant inserted into his heart to control and regulate his heart beats. Eriksen would not have been with us but for the extraordinary presence of mind exhibited by his Danish football colleagues on the field, the Finland players and the big crowd at the stadium in Copenhagen. All Denmark players formed a cordon around Eriksen, shielded him away from the noise, gave him the required first aid with the help of a German doctor, and transported him to the hospital for further management. The doctor was able to revive the footballer and, according to him, talk a few words with Eriksen.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Be empathetic

Sir, The government reduced GST from 12 per cent to 5 per cent on Covid essentials like medicines, testing kits, pulse oximeters and ventilators that too for a limited period of three to five months. The situation prevailing now warrants GST waiver completely on Covid essentials. Even the 18 per cent GST on health insurance should be waived. The GST of 28 per cent on purchase of ambulances should be waived completely. If the government does not empathise with people during this time then when will it?

K Lakshman Rao, GURUGRAM

Vaccination certificates must for opening shops in Ganjam



Collector has urged grocery, vegetable and street vendors to take their vaccines which will protect them and their family members from the deadly virus. People visiting their shops will also not get infected

An enforcement team from the district administration will monitor this from July 1 in both urban and rural areas in the district. Currently, vaccination of people aged between 18 and above is underway in the district. Arrangements have been made in every block and civic bodies like NACs and municipalities

AN AWARENESS DRIVE HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO SENSITISE PEOPLE THROUGH PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS ON TAKING THE JABS. ANGANWADI WORKERS, ASHA WORKERS, ANMS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS HAVE BEEN ROPED IN FOR THE EXERCISE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, June 22: The district administration has asked shopkeepers and vendors to display Covid certificates (provisional or final) to customers while they visit their shops to buy goods.

This will create confidence among customers visiting their shops to buy goods. The message issued by the District Collector came as the district administration launched a mega Covid vaccination campaign from Monday. Those found not displaying the certificates will not be allowed to open their shops.

As many as 32,739 people received their jabs Monday. The Ganjam team is prepared to vaccinate over 50,000 people daily, stated Ganjam Collector Vijaya Amruta Kulange to mediapersons Monday.

The Collector has urged grocery, vegetable and street vendors to take their vaccines which will protect them and their family members from the deadly virus. People visiting their shops will

also not get infected.

Shopkeepers after taking first and second doses should display the certificates in front of their shops which will inspire confidence among customers. It has become necessary for the owners and support staff at business establishments in the markets to get vaccinated which will help in battling the likely third wave of Covid-19

In a tweet post, the Collector said, "All shops, vendors and stakeholders in the district are requested to show their Covid vaccination certificates (first/final) when selling goods at the shops. This will motivate the consumers and will help in preventing the spread of the virus."

An enforcement team from the district administration will monitor this from July 1 in both urban and rural areas in the district. Currently, vaccination of people aged between 18 and above is underway in the district. Arrangements have been made in every block and civic bodies like NACs and municipalities.

The Collector has urged vari-

ous trader outfits and chambers of commerce to ensure that all shopkeeper get vaccinated and display the vaccination certificates in front of their shops and business establishments.

This will help in economic recovery of the district, the Collector said. An awareness drive has been undertaken to sensitize people through public address systems on taking the jabs. Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, ANMs and healthcare workers have been roped in for the exercise.

The Collector said the state government has made relaxation in lockdown. People should step out of their houses only when it is necessary and follow the five point formula like wearing masks, keeping sanitisers and maintaining social distancing

Notably, Odisha June 21 crossed the landmark of vaccinating one crore doses of Covid vaccines, informed the health department Tuesday. As many as 81.84 lakh people received their first doses while 18.21 lakh people have got second doses.

WATER SCARCITY



Women collecting water from pits for their homes at Nuagaon in Nayagarh district

OP PHOTO

Sanitation workers' stir hits Angul town

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, June 22: Door-to-door garbage collection and cleaning of colonies have severely been affected with some contractual sanitation workers launching an agitation against the Angul municipality.

This over two-week-long problem started after municipality authorities sacked three contractual workers, including the secretary of 'Safai Karmachari Sangha'.

A source informed that 131 sanitation workers were engaged on a contractual basis for 23 wards in this town. This apart, the regular employees of the municipality were also involved in cleaning work.

A few days back, acting on complaints lodged by residents of this town, the municipality had sacked three employees of the contractual firm. Most of the allegations were against the secretary of the 'Safai



Karmachari Sangha'. Drivers and 'Swachh Sathis' had also alleged about the misbehaviour meted out to them by the secretary. There were allegations that he was earning a lot of money by selling 'garbage'.

Initially, the administration had not taken any steps over the allegations fearing it might affect sanitation work. However, when the secretary and two others threatened other sanitation workers, the authorities lodged a police com-

plaint against the trio. This irked some of the contractual workers who then staged a demonstration demanding withdrawal of the police complaint. The municipal authorities agreed to withdraw the complaint on the condition that the secretary will not be allowed to resume his duties. However, the contractual employees did not agree to it and are continuing their agitations.

In these circumstances with no other option left, the regular em-

ployees of the municipality and 'Swachh Sathis' are visiting door to door to collect garbage.

When contacted, supervisor of the contractual firm, Shantanu Swain said some new persons have been roped in to carry out the job. "The agitating workers have not come to us as yet. If they come, they will be reinstated," he added.

Executive officer of Angul municipality, Girijja Shankar Mallick said the cleaning work is being carried out in a proper manner. He asserted that non-cooperation would not be tolerated.

Angul district Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said the contractual firm had been awarded the sanitation work through tender. It is the responsibility of the firm to keep the city clean. The administration is providing all kinds of support. If it fails to perform the job as expected, necessary action would be taken against it.

7 SHGs identified for faulty procurement of paddy



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, June 22: The Civil Supplies department has identified seven SHGs for irregularities in paddy procurement. According to a source, the seven SHGs had showed that they procured paddy from farmers during the 2020-21 fiscal.

However, during investigation, the department came to know that the organisations had not procured any paddy from farmers

Later, the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation wrote a letter to the director, of 'Mission Shakti', asking for stringent action against the SHGs at fault. After that another letter (No-8216/18-06-21) was sent to the civil supplies officer in which, he was instructed not to in-

clude the seven SHGs in future procurement of paddy. The letter written by MD of Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation has sought information as to whether the farmers mentioned by the SHGs have received minimum support price (MSP) and if the SHGs have received their commissions for this.

A copy of the letter has also been sent Ganjam District Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange, it was learnt.

Rising air pollution suffocates Talcher coal town

POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher, June 22: Even though wearing masks inside homes is desirable under the Covid protocol, the practice has been forced upon people in Talcher area of Angul district. The residents of this industrial town are doing so not because of Covid-19, but because of severe air pollution.

Talcher's air pollution problem is as old as the coal industries here. The central and state governments get hundreds of crores of revenue from this town. But, when it comes to taking measures to control air pollution, they maintain a stoic silence.

That apart, neither the industrial houses engaged in coal production nor those firms generating thermal power take steps to give the town residents a clean atmosphere. Owing to this, air, water and soil of this town have been polluted to a great extent.

The residents alleged that thousands of coal-laden trucks ply on NH-53 which passes through the town. These vehicles make the matter worse. But steps like spraying water are hardly taken. Similarly, no step is being taken to repair the national highway which is dotted with craters and potholes.

Had the industrial houses properly managed the coal ash, the sit-



uation would have been different. A thick blanket of coal dust has enveloped the entire town. While dust in the air makes it difficult for people to commute on roads in summer, slushy roads in rainy season give commuters a nightmarish experience.

Air pollution has not only affected the productivity of the farmlands but has polluted the water sources.

Having been forced to live in such a polluted atmosphere, over half of the population suffer from respiratory problems. Many have lost their lives. Owing to this, most

of the residents are forced into wearing masks even when they are inside their homes.

What irks the people here is that the local administration, pollution control board and the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) are not taking any steps to solve the problem. The elected leaders also remain silent on this issue.

At a meeting held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Finance at Bhubaneswar May 16, 2013, it was decided to set up a Bio Park each in Angul, Talcher, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Sukinda. But the

AIR POLLUTION HAS NOT ONLY AFFECTED THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE FARMLANDS BUT HAS POLLUTED THE WATER SOURCES

decision has not been translated into reality thanks to lack of will power on the part of the administration and elected leaders.

With nothing being done to check the problem, a kind of resentment is brewing among the residents.

"The administrative officers are not discharging their duties properly. Even though the issue has been taken up with the administration and political leaders on several occasions, nothing has been done in this regard. If the problem is not solved at the earliest, the situation will be serious in coming days," observed Nimain Pradhan, an educationist.

Chairperson, Pragati, Jyotirmayee Sahu said diseases like TB, asthma, bronchitis have started claiming lives. Yet, the district administration, political leaders, the Odisha State Pollution Control Board and the authorities of industrial houses are not taking steps.

Man kills 70-yr-old, arrested in Boudh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh/Baghiapada, June 22 : Police arrested a person for allegedly killing a 70-year-old person over a long-standing past enmity at Boelbeda village of Ambajhari panchayat in Boudh district Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Bira Manhira and the accused as Budu Jhankar (65), who is a village priest.

According to a source, Bira and Budu had developed enmity due to some long-standing dispute. Budu had sacrificed a goat on his agricultural land to worship Mother Earth. While on his way back home, he found Bira sitting in his backyard. With an aim to eliminate Bira, Budu attacked him with an axe he was carrying. He hacked Bira repeatedly leading to the death of the latter on the spot.

Hearing Bira's agonising cries, other villagers rushed to the spot and caught Budu who was about to flee. On being informed, Boudh inspector-in-charge Tapaswini Kanha, Baghiapada outpost officer Tapan Kumar Swain along with police personnel reached the spot. The villagers handed over the accused to the police. The cops seized the body and sent it for post-mortem.

A detailed investigation is under way to find out the cause of the past enmity between the accused and the deceased, it was learnt.

DEMO FOR RATH YATRA



BJP members, opposing the state government's ban on Baripada Rath Yatra, staging a sit-in outside the district collectorate, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

17 Angul villages suffer due to poor connectivity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, June 22: At a time when emphasis is developing 'Digital India', a total of 17 villages in Kishorenagar block of Angul district are without mobile connectivity. Most of the villages are just 15 kilometres away from NH-55. Yet there is no proper mobile network, villagers complained.

These 17 villages belong to three panchayats in the district - namely Handapa, Kanteikolia and Jambunali. Residents of these 17 villages suffer a lot as without proper mobile connectivity, they do not get any information about government-run schemes and programmes. Hence they lose out on benefits.

Most of these villages are located in hilly areas and the residents work as daily labourers. They fail to keep a tab on their bank accounts because of network issues. On many occasions they travel close to 30 kilometres to the bank in Boinda to withdraw money but return empty-handed. This is because they do not get regular updates on their mobiles regarding deposit of money.

Similar is the case for the vil-



AT RECEIVING END

Residents of these 17 villages suffer a lot as without proper mobile connectivity, they do not get any information about government-run schemes and programmes. Hence they lose out on benefits

Most of these villages are located in hilly areas and the residents work as daily labourers. They fail to keep a tab on their bank accounts because of network issues

Similar is the case for the villagers in getting their rations. It has to be obtained by linking the Aadhaar card to the distribution centres

lagers in getting their rations. It has to be obtained by linking the Aadhaar card to the distribution centres. However, on most occasions that does not happen due to lack of connectivity.

Youngsters in these 17 villages also suffer as they fail to attend online classes due to poor network. Locals said that there are many intelligent students in the villages. However, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, their studies have suffered

as they have failed to attend online classes on a regular basis.

Similar is the case for medical emergency. When such a situation develops, the villagers fail to contact hospitals and ambulance centres. Residents also complained that Maoists have become rampant in the locality as they know they can move without fear as there is no one to track their movements.

Residents of villages under Jambunali panchayat have been

demanding a mobile tower for a long time. They have submitted letters to officials of the district administration on this issue. They have also written to the Telecom Ministry as well as Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in May 2017 and June 25, 2019 respectively. However, there has been no response till date. Locals have urged the district administration to provide an immediate solution to their problems.

CONVERSION RACKET

Yogi orders NSA against accused

The two men were allegedly running an outfit involved in converting deaf students and other poor people to Islam in Uttar Pradesh with funding from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 22: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered action under the Gangster Act and National Security Act (NSA) against those involved in the conversion of deaf and dumb and physically challenged children and youth.

Two persons had been arrested from Delhi Monday for forcibly converting over 1,000 people to Islam, police said.

The Chief Minister has ordered stringent action and asked the agencies to further probe the racket and dig deeper to arrest all those who are involved.

The state government has also ordered the authorities to seize the properties of the accused.

The two men in Delhi's Jamia Nagar were allegedly running an outfit involved in converting deaf students and other poor people to Islam in Uttar Pradesh with funding from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

The arrests were made by Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terror Squad following the registration of an FIR in the case at Lucknow's ATS police station.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar identified the arrested ac-



cused as Mufti Qazi Jahangir Alam Qasmi and Mohammad Umar Gautam, both residents of Jamia Nagar in New Delhi.

The ADG said Gautam, who is himself a convert to Islam from Hinduism, boasted to the police of having converted at least 1,000 people to Islam, luring them with marriage, money and jobs.

I converted at least 1,000 non-Muslims to Islam, marrying them all to Muslims, Kumar quoted Gautam as saying.

The outfit that they ran is Islamic Dawah Center, having access to funds from Pakistan's ISI and other foreign agencies, said the ADG.

He further said that the ATS had been working on the intelligence inputs that some people were getting funds from the ISI and other foreign agencies for converting poor people to Islam and spreading communal enmity in the society.

The ATS probe has resulted in the duo's arrest and they have been booked on various charges, including those under the Indian Penal Code and Uttar Pradesh's stringent anti-conversion law. The ADG said the arrested accused would be produced before the court and the police would seek their custody for further probe into the case.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 22: Several ethnic groups, which had spearheaded agitations for creation of separate states in north Bengal over the past few decades, have now rejected a BJP MP's controversial demand for a union territory comprising all districts of the region, calling it an 'unrealistic' and 'vindictive' move.

John Barla, the saffron party MP from Alipurduar, recently sparked a political debate in the state when he called for bifurcation of Bengal, drawing sharp retort from the TMC and other parties.

Ironically, Barla's demand did not find resonance with the prominent identity-based groups in the region - the Gorkha Jana Mukti Morcha (GJM), Greater Cooch Behar People's Association (GCPA) and those backing the Kamtapur movement.

They said it was an attempt to create unrest ahead of the next Lok Sabha polls in 2024.

Barla, during an interaction with the party's north Bengal leaders, had said he would take the matter up in Parliament during the upcoming Monsoon session.

His views were endorsed by BJP MP from Alipurduar Jayanta Roy and some other leaders.

The state unit of the BJP, however, has distanced itself from the demand and said "it was not the official stand of the party and more of a personal opinion of Barla".

Barla, who had earlier led an agitation for an autonomous tribal area in the region, reasoned that north Bengal has long been neglected and its separation from the TMC-led state could be the only way to usher in development.

"There have been movements here in the past for a separate Kamtapur, a greater Cooch Behar and Gorkhaland. That prompted me to raise this demand... And to be honest, north Bengal region has faced neglect for a long time. It should be made into a separate union territory," the BJP MP, who has stayed firm on his stance, said.

The tribal leader from Terai-Dooars also said he and other leaders from the region would be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on this issue.

His remarks have kicked off a political storm in the state, with



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the ruling TMC vehemently opposing it.

"We are opposed to any division of Bengal. We will never allow any such thing," she said.

The TMC, which had used the sub-nationalism card to trounce the BJP in the March-April assembly polls, was quick to brand the saffron party as an "anti-Bengali" organisation which wants to divide the state to avenge its defeat.

North Bengal, with its eight districts including picturesque Darjeeling, is economically important for West Bengal as it houses the money-minting tea, timber and tourism industries.

The place is strategically important for the country for its Siliguri corridor, commonly known as 'chicken neck', as it connects the mainland with the northeastern states.

The region, which shares border with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, has witnessed several violent statehood movements since the early eighties by various ethnic groups such as Gorkhas, Rajbanshis, Koch and Kamatapuri communities.

GJM general secretary Roshan Giri, rejecting Barla's stance, said, "What purpose would a union territory or a separate state comprising all north Bengal districts serve? We wanted a separate state of Gorkhaland. We have been fighting for it since the 1980s. We don't trust the BJP; they have fooled us since 2009."

The demand for Gorkhaland was first made in the 1980s, with the Subhas Ghising-led GNLFF launching a violent agitation in 1986, which dragged on for 43 days, resulting in the deaths of hundreds.

The movement led to the formation of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in 1988. After the TMC took over the reins in Bengal in 2011, the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) was formed with GJM supreme Bimal Gurung as its chief.

But peace was short-lived in the region as Gurung rekindled the agitation in support of Gorkhaland in 2013, and engineered a 104-day-long strike in 2017, accusing the TMC government of trying to "wipe out" Gorkha identity. Giri, who belongs to the Gurung

faction of the GJM, claimed that the BJP was making "false promises" and his outfit, which joined hands with the TMC just ahead of the assembly polls after years of rivalry, now, has full faith in Banerjee as she has promised a permanent political solution.

Echoing him, Bangshi Badan Barman of GCPA said a separate UT was not the same as the demand for an independent state for Rajbanshis, who make for the largest chunk of Scheduled Caste population in the state.

"The Cooch Behar princely kingdom was merged with India after Independence with a promise of a C-category state. But that promise was not fulfilled, and part of the Cooch Behar kingdom was divided between Assam and West Bengal. So carving out north Bengal as a state or UT won't be of much help," he told PTI.

Barman also questioned the timing of Barla's proposal and sought to know why the BJP leadership did not raise the matter during the assembly polls.

The leaders of the Kamatapuri movement in north Bengal, which also led to the formation of militant outfit Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), feels the demand is "unrealistic" and an attempt "to settle scores after assembly polls drubbing".

"It is not only diversionary but also unrealistic. The needs of people in north Bengal vary from district to district.

There have been movements here in the past for a separate Kamtapur, a greater Cooch Behar and Gorkhaland. That prompted me to raise this demand... And to be honest, north Bengal region has faced neglect for a long time. It should be made into a separate union territory

JOHN BARLA | BJP MP

SIMIEN SPECTATOR



Monkeys roam around amid low footfall at Taj Mahal in Agra, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

AIMIM invites applications for 2022 Assembly polls

The applicants will also have to pay an application fee of ₹10,000 along with the form

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 22: The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has started inviting applications from candidates willing to contest the 2022 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The application will be in the prescribed form and will also include a loyalty contract.

The 'loyalty contract' says that the applicant will campaign for the party in the election, working honestly for the party even in the event of not getting the ticket.

The applicants will also have to pay an application fee of ₹10,000 along with the form.

AIMIM state president Shaukat Ali said, "We have made up our mind to contest on 100 Muslim ma-

ajority seats in Uttar Pradesh and there has also been a discussion about a possible alliance with like-minded parties. Although no final decision has been taken on this yet, the doors of both SP and BSP are open for us."

He said that AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi will take the final decision on the ticket distribution, for which he will visit the state soon.

In the recent panchayat polls in UP, AIMIM has done well in Akhilesh Yadav's constituency Azamgarh and deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's hometown Prayagraj.

Meanwhile in 2015, the AIMIM had won four seats in the zila panchayat polls. The rise in the graph of AIMIM in the UP panchayat elections has boosted the morale of the party workers.

Earlier in 2017, AIMIM had fielded its candidates on 38 seats in the assembly elections but did not win a single seat.

The party got 2,05,232 votes in entire Uttar Pradesh, which was only 0.2 per cent of the total votes polled.

Food processing sector gets going in UP

Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the country, yet less than 10 per cent of the fruits and vegetables produced in the state were being processed previously due to lack of a visionary leadership

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 22: With initiatives that include 35 per cent subsidy on loans to encourage smaller businessmen, a number of food processing units costing up to ₹10 lakh, are being set up in Uttar Pradesh.

Several proposals seeking to modernise small scale industries in the villages and increase the capacity of food processing have been received by the Horticulture Department and are likely to be approved soon.

The Yogi Adityanath government has set a target of promoting 9,301 micro food processing enterprises in the current financial year that will employ 20,000 people.

The state government has taken several steps under the central government's Pradhan Mantri Micro Food Industries Upgradation Scheme, which will see setting up of a large number of food processing units in UP's countryside as well as in small towns in the coming years.

The steps are aimed at helping the farmers get the best price for their produce in their neighbourhood, and at the same time, encouraging entrepreneurship and benefiting smaller businessmen. The scheme is part of the Yogi Government's ongoing drive to accelerate development of the state through agriculture and agro-based industries.

Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the country, yet less than 10 per cent



of the fruits and vegetables produced in the state were being processed previously due to lack of a visionary leadership.

Large quantities of perishable food items were wasted almost every year, denying a fair price to the farmers for their crops.

According to the government spokesman, Yogi Adityanath took cognizance of this and soon after taking over as chief minister of UP, he implemented several key decisions to overcome problems faced by farmers.

The chief minister not only waived off the loans of farmers and ensured provision of fair price to those cultivating sugarcane, paddy and wheat by buying the crops from them, but also prepared and implemented the Food Processing Policy 2017 to encourage investment in the sector.

The Food Processing Policy 2017 features several concessions for an entrepreneur setting up a food

processing unit. This has resulted in growing interest among people in establishing a food processing unit, which is reflected through the number of applications submitted for the same.

Since 2018 till now, altogether 803 applications worth ₹4,109.74 crore have been received by the government from entrepreneurs for setting up a wide range of factories including 81 for fruit-vegetable processing, 232 for consumer products, 397 for food milling, 3 for herbal processing, 35 for milk processing, 27 for oilseeds processing, 15 for pulses processing, 8 for meat processing and 10 for referrer vans.

There is also a proposal for establishing a mega food park and agro-processing unit. The government has already provided land for the proposed units to the entrepreneurs while production has also started in many of them.

SC to hear pleas of CM, Law Minister June 25

NARADA CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: The Supreme Court Tuesday decided to hear June 25 the appeals of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the state Law Minister Moly Ghatak against the June 9 order of the Calcutta High Court which had refused to take on record their affidavits on the CBI's transfer plea related to the Narada scam case.

The appeals, initially listed before a vacation bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Aniruddha Bose, were referred to another bench by Chief Justice NV Ramana during the day itself after Justice Bose recused from the hearing without citing any reason.

A bench of Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheswari, to which the cases were referred, took up the matter in the afternoon.

At outset, Justice Saran said that the matters are fresh for the bench and they needed to go through the files before the hearing.

On being pointed out that earlier the top court had requested the high court to defer the hearing till it decides the appeals, the bench said that it would pass the same order urging the high court to postpone the scheduled hearing there on June 23 and wait for two more days.

The bench then enquired from Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, and senior Advocates Rakesh Dwivedi and Vikas Singh, whether they will be able to conclude the arguments on Friday. The lawyers answered in the affirmative.

The Supreme Court had noted earlier on June 18 that the High Court may not take up the matter on 21 and 22. Since the matter could not be taken up today, we hope the High Court will not take up the matter on any date prior to the 25th, the bench said in the order.

The top court was scheduled to hear three appeals including that of the state government challenging the high court's denial for filing of affidavits by Banerjee and Ghatak in their role on the day of arrest of four Trinamool Congress leaders May 17 by CBI in the case.



national

of the day quote

State with the highest case fatality rate - Congress ruled state. States with maximum noise against vaccines creating vaccine hesitancy - Congress ruled states. States which had an astronomical positivity rate during the second wave - Congress ruled states

SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

I expected them (BJP) to mediate and try to sort whole things out. Their silence definitely hurts. If you do not give me recognition and respect, then eventually as party president I will have to take a decision in future

CHIRAG PASWAN | LIP LEADER

We are over-prepared for the third wave. By bad luck if the third wave comes, we are fully prepared for it

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

PM hails 'Centre state partnership'

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said the economic response to the Covid-19 pandemic was formulated to ensure that solutions do not follow a 'one size fits all' model, and asserted that "reforms by conviction and incentives" were undertaken on the back of "Centre-state bhagidari (partnership)".

Pawar hosts Oppn leaders

New Delhi: Leaders of several opposition parties including TMC, SP, AAP, RLD and the Left assembled at NCP chief Sharad Pawar's residence here Tuesday and discussed various issues facing the country, amid intense speculation about the possibility of a third front against the ruling BJP.

NIA arrests 2 KLF terrorists

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Tuesday said two Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) terrorists absconding in the 2020 murder case of Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh Sandhu have been arrested.

BSF draws public ire on social media

Jaipur: The BSF team in Rajasthan is facing flak for performing yoga asanas on the back of camels which were laid on floor with their feet tied with ropes.



The Prime Minister's tears cannot wipe the tears of those who lost the lives of their dear ones. The families know that when their father, mother, brother, sister died, the Prime Minister was not there. The PM's tears did not save the lives of those who died, but oxygen could have saved them

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

INDIAN TRIBAL PRODUCTS TURN HEADS AT NY TIMES SQUARE

Stalls showcasing tribal products, including immunity boosters, flutes and bamboo candles, were the centre of attraction at an event organised by the Consulate General of India in New York to celebrate the International Day of Yoga



DELTA PLUS MUTANT

22 cases in India; not yet a variant of concern: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Twenty-two cases of the Delta plus variant of the coronavirus have been detected in India, with 16 of them being reported from Maharashtra and the remaining from Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, the government said Tuesday.

India is among the nine countries where the Delta plus mutation has been found so far, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a press briefing, underlining that it is currently a variant of interest and has not yet been classified as a variant of concern.

Besides India, the Delta plus variant has been found in the US, UK, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan, Poland, Nepal, China and Russia.

The Delta variant has been detected in 80 countries, he said.



Cases of the Delta plus variant have been detected in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri and Jalgaon and parts of Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

Any variant's transmissibility and virulence decides whether it is a variant of concern or interest. Delta variant is found in 80 countries around the world, including India and it is a variant of concern.

Delta plus variant has been detected in nine countries including India. In India, 22 cases of Delta Plus variant have been found and it is in the category of variant of interest, (and) yet not a variant of concern, Bhushan said.

He said the Health Ministry has released an advisory on the kind of public health response that Maharashtra, MP and Kerala should initiate to address this issue which presently looks fairly small in terms of number but we would not want this to assume significant proportions.

He further said that INSACOG has 28 laboratories and they have sequenced 45,000 samples, of which 22 cases of delta plus variant have been found.

The labs of INSACOG bring this information to the notice of Health Ministry which then in timely and prompt manner indicates to the concerned states what are the activities that have to be initiated to curb the spread. The public health response is standardised for the

variants, he said.

INSACOG, or Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics, was set up to conduct genome sequencing of the coronavirus.

Bhushan said, Broadly speaking, both the Indian vaccines - Covishield and Covaxin - are effective against Delta variant but to what extent and what is the proportion of antibody titers they produce, that information we would very shortly share.

Speaking on the overall pandemic situation in the country, NITI Aayog Member (Health) V K Paul said there is a consistent improvement in the pandemic situation but stressed that people must continue to follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and avoid crowds and parties. Uptake of vaccination has to be increased, he said.

Mumbai, June 22: The Editor-in-Chief of Republic TV Arnab Goswami, who is one of the accused in the alleged TRP scam unearthed last year, has been named in a massive 1,800-page supplementary charge sheet filed by the Mumbai Police, here Tuesday.

Goswami and the TV channel were added as accused in the TRP scam and a first information report (FIR) was lodged against them during the tenure of former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh, creating a nationwide sensation.

Besides Goswami, the other accused include some staffers/employees of the ARG Outlier Media, the COO Priya Mukherjee, Shiva Sundaram, Shivendu Mulekar, Ranjit Walter, Amit M Dave and Sanjay S Verma, in the supplementary charge sheet filed with the Esplanade Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

The police have chargesheeted at least 15 persons so far in the case who include the ex-CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council Partho Dasgupta and Republic TV CEO Vikash Khanchandani, invoking charges of cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy, destroying evidence and criminal breach of trust, etc.

In March this year, the Goswami had filed a plea in the Bombay High Court alleging serious malafides against the Mumbai Police, especially the former CoP Singh and was granted temporary reprieve from arrest.

TRP SCAM

Goswami named in charge sheet



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

'Vaccination pace likely to dwindle from day-1 record'

REUTERS

Bangalore, June 22: India's vaccinations over the next few weeks could fall short of the pace set on the first day of a federal campaign unless it makes inroads in its vast hinterland and bridges a shortage of doses, experts said Tuesday.

The 8.6 million doses injected Monday represented a record two-fold jump as India kicked off free inoculation for all adults, reversing a policy for individual states and hospitals to buy vaccines for those aged 18 to 44.

"This is clearly not sustainable," Chandrakant Lahariya, an expert in public policy and health systems, told Reuters.

"With such one-day drives, many states have consumed most of their current vaccine stocks, which will affect the vaccination in days to follow."

The inoculation effort in the world's second most populous nation had covered just about 5.5% of all the 950 million people eligible, even though India is the world's largest producer of vaccines.

A devastating second wave of infections during April and May overwhelmed medical staff and facilities, killing hundreds of thousands. Images of funeral pyres

blazing in car parks and open spaces spurred questions over the chaotic vaccine rollout.

Since May, India has distributed an average of fewer than 3 million doses each day, far less than the 10 million health officials say is crucial to protect the millions vulnerable to new surges.

Particularly in the countryside, where two-thirds of a population of 1.4 billion lives and the health-care system is often overstretched, the drive has faltered, experts say.

Maintaining the pace of the vaccination effort will prove particularly challenging when it comes to injecting the younger population in such "underserved" areas, Delhi-based epidemiologist Rajib Dasgupta said.

Widespread vaccine shortages since May have worsened the divide between urban and rural areas, as many younger people in cities turned to private hospitals, paying between \$9 and \$24 a dose in the rush to protect themselves from the virus.

Such regional gaps in health-care are exacerbated unless comprehensive data is made available on vaccinations, among others factors, said Bhramar Mukherjee, a professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan.



37% excess rainfall so far this monsoon: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: India has received 37 per cent excess rainfall during the monsoon season so far, the India Meteorological Department said Tuesday.

The country gauged 13.78 cm precipitation against the normal of 10.05 cm till June 21, it said.

The cumulative rainfall during this year's Southwest Monsoon season till June 21 has been excess by about 37 per cent above Long Period Average (LPA), the weather department said in a statement.

It said that northwest India has received 71.3 mm rainfall against the normal of 40.6 mm rainfall during the period, a surplus of 76 per cent. Central India has registered 145.8 mm rainfall against the normal of 92.2 mm, an increase of 58 per cent. The southern peninsula has received 133.6 mm rainfall, which is 24 per cent more than normal, while east and northeast India witnessed 253.9 mm rainfall against the normal of 224.8 mm during the period.

Tikait gives '3T' formula to intensify farmers' stir

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 22: Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, who is one among those leading the protests on Delhi borders against three farm laws for the last seven months, has given 'Triple T' formula to intensify the agitation.

Tikait has said, "Three things are necessary to save the country. Tanks on the borders, tractors in the fields and Twitter in the hands of the youth."

Explaining it further, Rakesh Tikait, spokesperson of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), told IANS, The farmer who works in the field and drive tractor, the same farmer also goes to the borders to drive the tank. We have a lot of soldiers, who run tractors in the fields, and tanks on the borders. The same farmer also has Twitter in the phone. This is the 'Triple T' formula. This will



Three things are necessary to save the country. Tanks on the borders, tractors in the fields and Twitter in the hands of the youth

RAKESH TIKAIT | FARMER LEADER

benefit not only the farmers movement but also the country. If the farmer does not drive the

tractor, then what will happen to agriculture? And if he forgets to run the military tank on the borders, how will there be peace and security in the country? The way farmer produces the grain and runs tanks on the borders, he will have to learn to use Twitter also, to express his point of view, he further explained.

He said, "All soldiers are sons of the country. This formula will be of great help in future."

The BKU leader said, the government has given a tool to the corporates to loot the farmers by implementing three farm laws. He said these are not laws made for the farmers, but for corporates, and that is why the government is ignoring the interest of the farmers.

Meanwhile, crowds on the borders have begun to swell once again as thousands of farmers from different states have joined the agitation.

Immunisation officers brave odds to inoculate remote India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Whether it is trekking for several kilometres through hilly terrains, grappling with poor network connectivity or vaccine hesitancy, teams running vaccination drives in far-flung tribal areas of the country are doing whatever it takes to ensure that every citizen gets their Covid jab.

Arunachal Pradesh state immunisation officer Dimong Padung has a team of five, including porters, nurses and volunteers, who have journeyed to remote areas to ensure that the state is completely vaccinated. One such place is the Luguthang village located in Tawang district.

The village is remotely situated, over 60 kms away from the nearest Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC), and is extremely difficult to reach.

It is one of the remotest areas that my team has been to for vaccination. There are no motorable roads, so after travelling a little

distance in a vehicle, we have to walk for 2-3 days.

The only consolation is that the area is at such a high altitude, the temperature is zero almost all the time. This helps in the vaccination process as the vaccine has to be kept at 2-8 degrees celsius, Padung told PTI over phone.

But for vaccination teams, successfully managing to reach such remote villages is only half the battle won. Getting people to register themselves for Covid vaccination is also challenging. For this, ASHA workers and local volunteers come in handy who use interpersonal communication and innovative methods to help people overcome vaccine hesitancy.

Quoting Tawang district immunisation officer Rinchin Neema, officials gave the example of a nursing assistant who went from door to door in Mago village with a picture of the Dalai Lama to convince locals to get vaccinated, and it did the trick.



Everyone in the village, except a 95-year-old, readily got jabbed.

The farther the place, the more challenges the immunisation teams have to face.

The remotest that Nagaland state immunisation officer Ritu Thur's team has been to is the Kiphire district that borders Myanmar.

There is Internet problem. In certain districts, the immunisation teams have to go for offline vaccination. It is troublesome, Thur said. In the case of offline vaccination, the data has to be uploaded on the COWIN portal latest by 5 pm the following day. For this, the teams have to travel to the nearest PHC which sometimes is 40-60 km away.

However, Thur's team has been fortunate about encountering almost negligible vaccine hesitancy among the people in the state.

There are a few groups who may be hesitant, but as of now there is largely no vaccine hesitancy as far as Nagaland is concerned. Rather, I have seen that vaccine eagerness is there, the officer said.

Earlier this month, the government said that more walk-in vaccinations were being witnessed in tribal districts as compared to the national average. While the walk-in and online vaccination ratio nationally is 8119, it is 8812 for tribal districts. Himachal

Pradesh is proof of this. There are many areas in the hilly state with limited network connectivity, making it difficult for people to register on the CoWIN portal. So the immunisation team came up with a unique idea to get the job done.

Quoting Himachal state immunisation officer Hiten Banyal, the officials said that his team kept ballot boxes in different parts of districts and people were asked to drop a chit in these boxes with their names, and contact and identity details, in case they wanted to be vaccinated.

The immunisation team then collected these chits to register these people on the CoWIN portal in a better network area and later vaccinated them. Making people feel ready for vaccination is, however, not an easy task. Sikkim state immunisation officer Psumzay Denzong said that his team has made full use of both online and offline resources at their disposal.

international



A Korean proverb says that in a dream, what counts most is to read it, not to have it. It seems that the US may interpret the situation in such a way as to seek a comfort for itself

KIM YO JONG | DEPUTY DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLICITY, N KOREA

PFIZER TO SUPPLY VAX DOSES TO INDIA: CEO

Pfizer is in the final stages of an agreement with India to supply vaccines, CEO Dr Albert Bourla said Tuesday, observing that the vaccines would be the backbone of vaccinating the Indian people



of the day quote

Fauci has blood in his hands, are you kidding me? Here's a guy whose entire life has been devoted to saving lives, and now you're telling me he's like Hitler? You know, come on, folks. Get real

ANTHONY FAUCI | INFECTIOUS DISEASE EXPERT, US

Don't get me wrong. There is a national emergency. If you don't want to get vaccinated, I will have you arrested. And I will inject the vaccine in your butt. You are pests. We are already suffering and you're adding to the burden

RODRIGO DUTERTE | PRESIDENT, PHILIPPINES

We welcome the High Commissioner to come to China to visit Xinjiang. This visit should be a friendly visit with the aim of promoting bilateral exchanges and cooperation rather than to pursue a so-called investigation with the presumption of guilt

ZHAO LIJIAN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, CHINA

SHORT TAKES

Russia bans US NGO Bard College

Moscow: Russian state prosecutor's office said Monday that it banned Bard College, a US non-governmental organisation, after labelling it "undesirable". The Russian foreign ministry said in April it would end the activity in Russia of US funds and NGOs, which it believed interfere in the country's internal affairs, in retaliation to an array of US government sanctions imposed on Moscow. The state prosecutor's office said that the activity of educational NGO Bard College "represents the threat to the constitutional order and security of Russian Federation".

Italy to drop face masks from June 28

Rome: Facemasks will no longer be compulsory in Italy, one of the countries in Europe worst hit by the Coronavirus, from June 28, the health ministry said Monday. The lifting of the mask requirement would come into effect in regions labelled "white" under Italy's classification system for how rapidly the virus is spreading, Health Minister Roberto Speranza wrote on Facebook.

Turtle carcasses wash ashore in SL

Colombo: Nearly a hundred carcasses of turtles with throat and shell damage, as well as dozens of dead dolphins and a blue whale, have washed ashore in Sri Lanka since a container ship burned and sank, raising fears of a severe marine disaster. Ecologists believe the deaths were directly caused by the fire and release of hazardous chemicals while the Singapore-flagged X-Press Pearl burned for 12 days and sank last week.

Taliban holds Afghan Tajikistan crossing

Kunduz: The Taliban captured Afghanistan's main border crossing with Tajikistan, an Afghan provincial official and army officer said Tuesday, with some security forces abandoning their posts and fleeing across the frontier. The seizure of Shir Khan Bandar, in the far north of Afghanistan about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Kunduz city, is the most significant gain for the Taliban since they stepped up operations May 1 when the US began the final stages of its troop withdrawal.

UN says Great Barrier Reef in 'danger', Oz retaliates

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Brisbane, June 22: Australia will strongly oppose a UNESCO plan to list the Great Barrier Reef as "in danger" over its deterioration caused by climate change, the government said Tuesday.

Environmental campaigners said the decision highlighted Australia's lack of action to curb emissions and brought "shame" on the government.

Environment Minister Sussan Ley said Australia would mount a challenge after the "back-flip" on previous assurances from UN officials, ahead of the World Heritage Committee's 44th session hosted



by China next month. "This sends a poor signal to those nations who are not making the investments in reef protection that we are making," she said in a statement.

IN A DRAFT REPORT RELEASED MONDAY, THE UN BODY RECOMMENDED THE REEF'S WORLD HERITAGE STATUS BE DOWNGRADED DUE TO ITS DRAMATIC CORAL DECLINE

Australia has resisted calls to commit to a target of net-zero emissions by 2050, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison saying the country hoped to reach carbon neutral "as soon as possible" without harming its commodity-dependent economy.

The plan to add the reef to the World Heritage "in danger" list prompted environmental groups to highlight Canberra's reluctance to take stronger climate action. Aside from its inestimable natural, scientific and environmental value, the 2,300-kilometre-long (1,400-mile-long) reef was worth an estimated \$4.8 billion a year in tourism revenue for the Australian economy before the Coronavirus pandemic.

Australia's own government had already downgraded the reef's long-term outlook to "very poor" after back-to-back mass bleaching events in 2016 and 2017.

The reef has also been battered by several cyclones as climate change drives more extreme weather and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish - which eat the coral - in recent decades.

Ministers shall continue to act until another Council of Ministers is constituted, the report said. The development comes when the Supreme Court is hearing the case regarding the reinstatement of the 275-member House of Representatives, which was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari May 22 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli. The President had also announced snap elections November 12 and November 19.

NEPAL POLITICAL CRISIS

SC quashes appointment of 20 Cabinet ministers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Kathmandu, June 22: In a major blow to beleaguered Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, the Supreme Court Tuesday ruled that the appointment of 20 ministers by him was unconstitutional, invalidating his two recent Cabinet expansions after the dissolution of the House of Representatives.

A division bench of Chief Justice Chandra Shumsher Rana and Justice Prakash Kumar Dhungana ruled that Cabinet expansions after the dissolution of the House were unconstitutional and hence, the ministers cannot discharge their duties, a report in the Kathmandu Post said.

Two deputy Prime Ministers, Rajendra Mahato from Janata Samajwadi Party and Raghuraj Mahathet from Oli's CPN-UML were among those who lost the posts. Mahathet was also the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

With the order, there are only five ministers left in Oli's Cabinet, including the Prime Minister.

The Supreme Court has cited Article 77 (3) in its ruling to quash the appointments. It states if the Office of the Prime Minister falls vacant after the prime minister fails to win a vote of confidence or resigns, the same Council of

The petitioners had argued that since the government has already turned into a caretaker status, the Constitution does not allow such a PM to appoint new ministers

Ministers shall continue to act until another Council of Ministers is constituted, the report said. The development comes when the Supreme Court is hearing the case regarding the reinstatement of the 275-member House of Representatives, which was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari May 22 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli. The President had also announced snap elections November 12 and November 19.

Spanish Cabinet partially pardons 9 Catalan separatists

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, June 22: The Spanish Cabinet issued pardons Tuesday for nine imprisoned instigators of Catalonia's 2017 secession bid in a move that Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez says is needed to bring reconciliation.

"The government has taken the decision because it is the best decision for Catalonia and the best decision for Spain," Sanchez said in a short, nationally televised appearance. "We hope to open a new era of dialogue and build new bridges."

Former Catalan vice president, Oriol Junqueras, who in 2019 got the heaviest sentence of 13 years in prison for sedition and misuse of public funds, will go free along with his associates after spending three-and-a-half years behind bars.

The other eight included the former Cabinet members of the Catalan government, the former Speaker of the Catalan Parliament, and two leaders of separatist civil society groups who had all received sentences ranging from nine to 12 years.

The pardons lifted the remaining years of their prison terms, while keeping intact their status as being unfit to hold public office.

The government said that the pardons could be revoked if their beneficiaries try to lead another breakaway bid.

Iran's poll rattles Biden's hope for a nuclear deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, June 22: Biden administration officials are insisting that the election of a hard-liner as Iran's president won't affect prospects for reviving the faltering 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran. But there are already signs that their goal of locking in a deal just got tougher.

Optimism that a deal was imminent faded as the latest talks ended Sunday without tangible indications of significant progress.

"I don't envy the Biden team," said Karim Sadjapour, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who has advised multiple US administrations on Iran. "I think the administration now has a heightened sense of urgency to revise the deal before Raisi and a new hard-line team is inaugurated."

Despite Raisi's impending presidency, Biden administration officials insist prospects for reaching an agreement are unaltered. They argue that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who signed off on the 2015 deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, will make any final decisions regardless of



US must lift all unjust sanctions: Raisi

Iran's President-elect Ebrahim Raisi said that the US must lift "all unjust sanctions" on Tehran and abide by their commitments under the 2015 nuclear agreement. Regarding the European partners in the nuclear agreement, Raisi said they should not succumb to the "pressures and foreign policies" of Washington but instead fulfill their commitments under the deal. Iran, he noted, will negotiate neither its regional policies nor its national defense with foreign parties.

who is president.

"The president's view and our view is that the decision leader is the supreme leader," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday. "That was the case before the election; it's the case today; it will be the case probably moving forward."

Critics of the nuclear deal main-

tain that the administration has already given away too much in exchange for too little by signaling its desire to repudiate Trump's repudiation of the nuclear deal. Moreover, they say that even if Iran agrees to some sort of additional talks, the pledge will be meaningless.

Britain aims to join CPTPP trade bloc in Indo-Pacific tilt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 22: As part of its post-Brexit foreign policy focus on the Indo-Pacific region, Britain Tuesday launched negotiations to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), made up of 11 countries belonging to an estimated 9 trillion pounds free trade area.

The CPTPP is made up of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New

Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam, with the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea said to have plans to join.

According to the Department for International Trade (DIT), the UK's exports to CPTPP countries are set to increase by 65 per cent up to 37 billion pounds by 2030 and membership is expected to lower tariffs on key British exports like cars and whisky and should mean tariff-free trade for 99.9 per cent of exports.

In reference to specific sectors,

The UK said joining the trade bloc would give the country's exporters and services firms better access to these dynamic markets and boost growth and support British jobs

the pact is expected to benefit British farmers, helping farmers in Britain sell meat produced into fast-growing markets like Mexico.

In the digital and services sector, an agreement would make it simpler for the UK to sell services digitally and cheaper and easier for tech firms to expand abroad.

Official DIT statistics state that CPTPP countries accounted for 110 billion pounds worth of UK trade in 2019 and UK trade with CPTPP member countries has grown by 8 per cent annually between 2016-19.

TOUGH TIMES



A person sits next to candles lit in honour of the 500,000 people who have died from the Coronavirus in Brazil, at the Largo da Memoria, in Sao Paulo, Brazil

Violations against children in conflict 'alarmingly high': UN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

United Nations, June 22: A new UN report has revealed that there were at least 26,425 grave violations against children in 2020.

The annual Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) report released on Monday said that of the violations, 23,946 were committed in 2020 and 2,479 were committed earlier but verified only last year; Xinhua news agency reported.

The highest numbers of violations were the recruitment and use of 8,521 children, followed by the killing and maiming of 8,422 children and 4,156 incidents of denial of humanitarian access, the report said.

Children were detained for actual

or alleged association with armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups by the UN.

Cross-border spillover of conflicts and inter-communal violence affected children, in particular, in the Sahel and Lake Chad basin regions, said the report.

The highest numbers of grave violations were verified in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

Verified cases of abduction and sexual violence against children increased alarmingly by 90 per cent and 70 per cent, respectively. Abduction is often combined with the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence, said the report.

A STOLEN CHILDHOOD



Grave violations affect boys and girls differently. While 85 per cent of children recruited and

used were boys, 98 per cent of sexual violence was perpetrated against girls.

Sexual violence remained vastly underreported, owing to stigmatisation, cultural norms, absence of services and safety concerns, according to the report.

Escalation of conflict, armed clashes and disregard for international humanitarian law and international human rights law had a severe impact on the protection of children

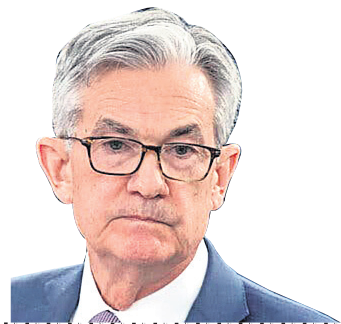
their access to education, health and social services, limiting child protection activities and shrinking safe spaces.

The socio-economic impact of the pandemic exposed these children to grave violations, notably recruitment and use, abduction and sexual violence.

Attacks on schools and hospitals, and the military use thereof, exacerbated the plight of children, said the report.

The protection of children affected by armed conflict is crucial to preventing conflict and sustaining peace, the report said, urging national and regional stakeholders to develop and expand initiatives to prevent grave violations.

business



The Covid-19 pandemic continues to pose risks to the US economic outlook as the pace of vaccination has slowed
JEROME POWELL | US FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR

EU INVESTIGATES GOOGLE'S CONDUCT IN DIGITAL AD TECH

The European Commission has opened a formal investigation into whether Google violated the bloc's competition rules by favouring its own online display advertising technology services at the expense of rival publishers, advertisers and advertising technology services.



of the day quote

We are bringing in artificial intelligence and machine learning that is being leveraged for better forecasting and planning. And we are also redesigning a manufacturing and distribution network to bring in more agility and flexibility

SANJIV MEHTA | HUL CMD

Our government intends to create an international business hub in Visakhapatnam to attract the best IT and ITES and financial services MNCs to start operations in a business friendly environment in the port city

MEKAPATI GOUTHAM REDDY | AP INDUSTRIES & IT MINISTER

Confidence levels of working women and young professionals are amongst the lowest in the workforce today

ASHUTOSH GUPTA | INDIA COUNTRY MANAGER, LINKEDIN

Jet Airways revival plan accepted by bankruptcy court



AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 22: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Tuesday approved the Jalan Kalrock Consortium's resolution plan for the bankrupt Jet Airways, two years after the once-storied airline went into insolvency proceedings.

Financial distress forced Jet Airways, which flew for more than two decades, to suspend operations April 17, 2019 and a consortium of lenders, led by the State Bank of India (SBI), filed an insolvency petition in June 2019, to recover outstanding dues worth over ₹8,000 crore.

An NCLT Mumbai bench, chaired by Mohammed Ajmal and V Nallasenapathy, has approved the resolution plan for Jet Airways that will have to be implemented in 90 days starting from June 22.

In an oral order, the bench also said that if further extension of the effective date is required, the resolution applicant (Jalan Kalrock Consortium) can approach the tribunal again.

On the historicity of slot allocations for Jet Airways, the tribunal said it was not giving a direction and the issue will be handled by the government or the appropriate authority.

Slots will be crucial for the revival of Jet Airways once it restarts operations. The slots that were with the airline prior to the suspension of operations in April 2019, have been allocated to other carriers.

In October 2020, the airline's Committee of Creditors (CoC) ap-

proved the resolution plan submitted by the consortium of the UK's Kalrock Capital and the UAE-based entrepreneur Murari Lal Jalan.

Jet Airways has been undergoing a resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for two years, and its affairs are being managed by resolution professional Ashish Chhawchharia.

After the CoC gave its approval to the resolution plan, Chhawchharia had approached NCLT stating that the "slots are a vital part of the plan, and it is important that DGCA and MoCA submit their stance on the same".

However, in a joint affidavit to the tribunal, DGCA and MoCA had submitted that Jet Airways does not qualify for grant of slots on the basis of historic precedence and the allocation will be based on 'Slot Allocation Guidelines'.

"Jet Airways does not qualify for grant of slots on the basis of historic precedence and the submission of the airline's that it is in operation for the last 25 years is not a criteria for claiming historicity and it can't substitute the requirements for claiming historic precedence. Thus, the claims are wrong and denied," as per the affidavit that was filed earlier this year.

DGCA is the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and MoCA is the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The carrier, which was admitted to the NCLT in June 2019, owes more than ₹8,000 crore to banks, with public sector lenders having significant exposure.

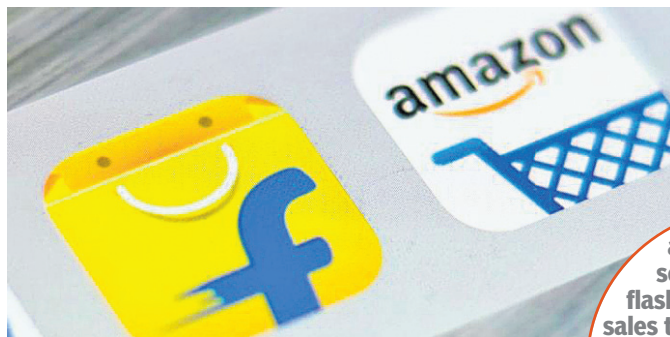
Govt not to seek flash sales disclosure from e-tailers

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 22: The Centre Tuesday said it will not seek disclosure of flash sales from e-commerce players to regulate the fraudulent sale of goods and services but will take appropriate action as per the law on consumer complaints.

Discount sales that benefit maximum to consumers will continue, but not fraudulent flash sales on the e-commerce platforms, the government said, adding that the e-tailers need not be 'anxious' about the draft rules.

Ban on fraudulent flash sales, mis-selling and appointment of chief compliance officer/grievance redressal officer - are among key amendments proposed to the Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rules, 2020, on which the government has sought public comments by July 6.



"We are not going to seek disclosure of flash sales. We are with sales that benefit maximum consumers. If someone wants to complain, there should at least be a provision," said Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary in the Consumer Affairs Ministry.

She also made it clear that the ministry 'will not regulate' the trade on e-commerce platforms. And the e-commerce players need

not be anxious about the proposed changes in the rules.

"We will take action on fraudulent flash sales if we receive any complaints or CCPA (Central Consumer Protection Authority) can take suo motu cognizance," she said while briefing the media on this issue.

Further, Khare said such fraudulent flash sales are also being

evaluated in western countries because many times shell companies organise flash sales without any inventory, which is against the interest of consumers and limits fair competition.

"This is a step taken in time. These markets are evolving, consumer preferences are evolving. We have to keep pace with the changes so that consumers are not duped," she added.

The government assured that discount sales will continue. "Such competition actually helps the business over all to bring goods at better prices to consumers. We are not against that," she said.

We are not going to seek disclosure of flash sales. We are with sales that benefit maximum consumers. If someone wants to complain, there should at least be a provision

NIDHI KHARE | ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Odisha most hit due to forex loss in bauxite import: IIVCC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: The Indian Industrial Value Chain Collective (IIVCC) Tuesday released a report that said Odisha is the most affected state due to the forex loss caused by bauxite import.

IIVCC is a group representing organisations involved in industrial production and consumption supply chain activities across India.

"The state most affected due to this forex loss is Odisha which has nearly 50 per cent of the country's bauxite reserves and 25 per cent of its coal reserves, both of which are the primary raw materials for aluminium production. Odisha is the largest aluminium producer in India, with a production capacity of 2.7 million tonne per annum. Yet, instead of being able to leverage Odisha's rich mineral geology, manufacturers are forced to import bauxite, compromising the viability of the aluminium industry. Further, Odisha's population is yet to see its domestic natural deposit translate into economic development," IIVCC's release said.

The state has attracted investments of over ₹1.4 lakh crore to make it the aluminium capital of the nation.



IIVCC's data revealed the loss resulting from import activities of bauxite. IIVCC claimed, for the first quarter of 2021, this totals to a staggering USD 51.97 million (₹ 390 crore), which otherwise should have belonged to the people of India, with a significant share going to the participants in the value chain of extraction, transport, processing and supply of bauxite and its end output.

Abhay Raj Mishra, member of IIVCC said, "Despite India having the fifth largest bauxite de-

posit in the world, with over 50 per cent of it located in Odisha alone, aluminium industries continue to rely on imported bauxite. This has caused a forex loss of \$ 571 million (₹ 4,400 crore) in the last 6 years alone."

"With bauxite reserves of more than 3.8 billion tonnes, it is baffling that India has to meet its bauxite requirements from imports. For every single mine auctioned, there is potential to garner ₹5,000 crore for the exchequer and create 10,000 livelihood opportunities," he added.

SHORT TAKES

'Green hydrogen buying mandatory'

New Delhi: Purchase of green hydrogen will be made mandatory for certain sectors on the pattern of renewable purchase obligation, New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh said Tuesday. Hydrogen purchase obligations would be in place for fertilizers/refineries involving private sector. Under Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO), bulk purchasers like discoms, open access consumers and captive users are required to buy a certain proportion of renewable energy out of their total consumption of electricity. They can also buy RE certificates from renewable energy producers to meet the RPO norms. Interacting with the media in a virtual curtain raiser press conference on 'India's role as a Global Champion for the Energy Transition theme at the UN High Level Dialogue on Energy 2021', Singh said just like RPO, hydrogen purchase obligation would ensure that product sells.

Hero MotoCorp to hike prices from July

Mumbai: Two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp will hike its vehicle prices by up to ₹3,000 from July to partially offset the impact of the higher commodity prices. Hero MotoCorp will make an upward revision in the ex-showroom prices of its motorcycles and scooters, with effect from July 1, the company said in a statement. The price hike will be up to ₹3,000, it said. The exact quantum of the increase, however, will depend on the basis of the model and the specific market, the company said. The price hike has been necessitated to partially offset the impact of continuous increase in commodity prices, Hero MotoCorp said, adding, it continues to drive cost-saving programme aggressively, in order to minimize the impact on the customer.

Guj announces new EV policy

Gandhinagar: Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has announced the Gujarat Electric Vehicle Policy 2021, with an aim to have over 2 lakh electric vehicles on the roads in the next four years. "Gujarat is renowned in the country as an automobile hub. Now we aim to become the electric vehicle hub in the coming years. The Electric Vehicle Policy 2021 is declared today with an aim to make Gujarat a landmark transportation hub," Rupani said.

Nordic fund divests from Adani Ports over links to Myanmar junta

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 22: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd has been excluded from investment by Norway's largest pension fund, KLP, and the KLP Funds with effect from June 2021.

This due diligence-based divestment has been implemented on the grounds that Adani's operations in Myanmar and its business partnership with that country's armed forces constitutes an unacceptable risk of contributing to the violation of KLP's guidelines for responsible investment.

India's largest commercial port operator, Adani manages 12 ports in India, with logistics accounting for an important part of its business activity. Adani has entered into a business partnership with the military-owned con-



glomerate Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) for the construction of a new container port in the city of Yangon.

KLP was invested in Adani at the time the company was excluded. "When Adani signed the agreement, information about the armed

forces' abuses was publicly available. This should have given Adani reasonable grounds to act with particular prudence with respect to the MEC, which owned the land. The company must exercise particular care when it operates in locations where there is war or conflict. Nor has the company adequately performed the necessary human rights due diligence assessments. There are reasonable grounds to suspect that the company puts commercial considerations before the risk to human rights," KLP said.

The agreement's potential termination was conditional on the financial consequences following from sanctions imposed by the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), and not on the behaviour of the armed forces. Even though no fur-

ther financial transactions are carried out, the agreement is valid for a term of 50 years, which means that the risk of contributing to future violations does exist.

In addition, the agreement's object concerns a permanent and important piece of infrastructure, which may be used beyond the term of the agreement. In KLP's view, the company has failed to take such steps with respect to the agreement as would constitute due diligence but has instead continued its business partnership with the MEC. Adani has therefore not acted with sufficient prudence in its choice of business partner in a country where there has been an ongoing conflict, involving systematic and extremely serious abuses that affect a very large number of people, for many years, it said.

Bitcoin sinks below \$30,000 as China crackdown deepens

REUTERS

London/ Hong Kong, June 22: Bitcoin Tuesday fell below \$30,000 for the first time since January, adding to losses sparked a day earlier when China's central bank deepened a crackdown on cryptocurrencies.

The world's largest cryptocurrency slumped over 7% to \$29,332, its lowest since January 27, after giving up gains made in Asian hours. Its fall pushed down smaller coins such as ether.

Bitcoin tumbled over 10 per cent Monday, its largest one-day drop in over a month, with losses of nearly 30 per cent in the last week alone almost wiping out gains for the year-to-date. It was last down 6.7 per cent at \$29,560.

The sell-off was sparked by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) urging China's largest banks and payment firms to crack down harder on cryptocurrency trading, the latest tightening of restrictions on the sector by Beijing.

Crypto exchanges were effectively pushed out of China by a 2017 rule change, but over-the-counter (OTC) platforms based overseas have sprung up to receive payment from people based in China and buying cryptocurrencies on their behalf.

"It basically says now OTC transactions are not legitimate ... we are not allowed by the banks to transfer money for cryptocurrency purchases and sales," said Bobby Lee, chief of cryptocurrency wallet app Ballet and formerly CEO of



BTC China, China's first bitcoin exchange.

After Monday's PBOC statement, banks including Agricultural Bank of China and Ant Group's ubiquitous payment platform Alipay said they would step up monitor-

ing to root out crypto transactions.

Bitcoin has plummeted by more than half from its April peak of almost \$65,000. Year-to-date, it remains up about 2%.

Either, the second-biggest cryptocurrency that tends to move in

tandem with bitcoin, fell over 6% to \$1,773, its lowest in a month.

Last month, three industry associations issued a similar ban on crypto-related financial services, though market players said it would be hard to enforce as banks and payment firms could struggle to identify crypto-related payments.

"We are definitely in the midst of a correction," said Anthony Wong of Hong Kong-based crypto firm Orichal Partners.

"This time China's iron-fist ban on crypto seems to be more serious than back in 2017 as the directive came straight from the top."

Already in Beijing's sights were cryptocurrency miners. China's State Council, or cabinet, said last month it would tighten restrictions on producers as well as traders of

bitcoin. Authorities in major bitcoin mining hubs including Sichuan, Xinjiang, and Inner Mongolia have issued their own curbs with greater details on the restrictions.

Evidence of the impact of the curbs is emerging. The so-called hash rate of the bitcoin network - a measure of its processing power that shows how much mining is taking place, on Monday hit its lowest level since late 2020.

The crackdown on miners will likely hit prices in the short-term, market players said.

"Some of the miners in China may be more willing to sell their bitcoin now versus when they are able to run their mining operations, because they have to raise cash," said Seth Melamed, of Tokyo crypto exchange Liquid.

Danes crush Russia 4-1 to seal second spot in Group B behind Belgium setting up a round of 16 clash with Wales at Euro 2020

Euphoria for Denmark



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Denmark players celebrate in front of the elated home fans after a goal against Russia in Copenhagen, Monday

Copenhagen, June 22: After scoring a goal to help Denmark advance at the European Championship, Joakim Maehle walked straight to a TV camera and formed a "10" with his fingers. That was for Christian Eriksen. Maehle's 82nd-minute goal put some extra gloss on a 4-1 win over Russia Monday that gave Denmark second place in Group B and an automatic spot in the round of 16. After Eriksen's collapse in the first game and the team's two subsequent losses at home, Denmark finally was able to celebrate in front of their raucous and jubilant supporters at the Parken Stadium.

France test awaits Portugal

Budapest, June 22: France advanced without kicking a ball, and Portugal can move on as well even with a loss Wednesday. Hardly the heavyweight showdown many had hoped for in a match pitting defending champion Portugal against World Cup champions France, and Cristiano Ronaldo against Kylian Mbappe. Tuesday's results guaranteed France a spot in the round of 16. A one-goal loss for Portugal should be enough as long as Hungary doesn't win in Germany in Group F's other game. The winner of Group F will play one of the third-place finishers. Portugal can still win the group by beating France, but it depends on what happens in Munich in the match between Germany and Hungary. Germany and Portugal have three points and the same goal difference, while Hungary are last with one point and must win to advance. Portugal are having no problem scoring goals — five in two games so far, including a tournament-leading three for Ronaldo. But the Portuguese are conceding too easily, conceding four to the Germans. It's the opposite case for France, which shut out Germany in a 1-0 victory but fluffed several chances in a 1-1 draw with Hungary. With an attack that is the envy of most coaches, it seems odd that France is not yet clicking in attack. Mbappe netted a career-high 42 goals for Paris Saint-Germain this season, while Karim Benzema scored 30 for Real Madrid and moved into a tie for fourth on the all-time list of scorers in the Champions League with 71. Yet neither has scored so far at Euro 2020. Benzema is getting more criticism than Mbappe, however, and the players are trying to sound reassuring. France's attacking options have been reduced by a knee injury to winger Ousmane Dembele, who left the squad on Monday and won't be replaced. All's well with Portugal's attack. Ronaldo's goals have taken him to a record 12 over five continental tournaments, three more than France great Michel Platini. A hat-trick against France would see him break the overall men's record for international goals, which is held by for-



Belgium advance

ST. PETERSBURG: Three straight wins, seven goals and their top players with game time in their legs. For Belgium, the group stage at the Euro 2020 could hardly have gone better. The world's top-ranked team beat Finland 2-0 Monday to finish in first place in Group B and join Italy and the Netherlands in qualifying with maximum points. Finland finished in third place in their first appearance at a major tournament. Romelu Lukaku sealed the scores in the 81st minute for his third at Euro 2020. Earlier, goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky had the misfortune of scoring a cruel own-goal in the 74th minute.

game then opened up considerably after the break as Russia had no choice but to push forward. Russia's penalty came when Jannik Vestergaard tripped Alexander Sobolev in the area and Dzyuba slotted the spot-kick straight down the middle. Christensen had only scored one international goal before — in 2017 — but ended Russia's hopes of a comeback by firing in a rising long-distance shot when the ball fell to him shortly after goalkeeper Matvei Safonov had made a double save. The Chelsea defender also paid tribute to Eriksen by forming a "10" with his fingers — and performed a self-mocking celebration by putting his hands to his ears. "It's an internal joke we have," Christensen said. "They call me the guy with the big ears." After the final whistle, the whole Danish team formed a circle at the center of the field to follow the last minutes of the Belgium game before doing a lap of honor in front of their serenading supporters. "It's a relief," Maehle said, "and a redemption".

KIWIS HAVE UPPER HAND

SHAMI, ISHANT RESTRICT NEW ZEALAND TO 249 BEFORE INDIA REDUCED TO 64/2 HAVING A SLENDER LEAD OF 32 RUNS AT STUMPS ON DAY 5 OF WTC FINAL



Mohammed Shami reacts after dismissing BJ Watling (not in pic); Tim Southee is ecstatic after getting rid of Shubman Gill in the second innings at Hampshire Bowl in Southampton, Tuesday

Southampton, June 22: With only a day's play left, the World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand was evenly poised at the end of the fifth day at Hampshire Bowl here, Tuesday. With the opening day being washed out, now it all came to the reserve day to find out a winner. However, at the point of time it seems very unlikely for India to win considering the position — 64/2 in their second innings having a slender lead of 32 runs — they are in. New Zealand, on the other hand, have a good chance to win the game if they somehow managed to restrict India below 150 with one-and-a-half-session of play left. So come Wednesday, the first hour of play will be very crucial for both the sides. After considering a 32-run first innings lead, India failed to get off to a good start as Tim Southee (2/17) set up well to get rid of young Shubman Gill (8) with the scoreboard reading 24/1. Rohit Sharma (30) and Cheteshwar Pujara (12 batting) managed to take India past 50 and when it was looking like the Men in Blue would head into the final day with nine wickets in hand, Southee returned to hunt them. He played the same trick, which dismissed Gill, to get rid of Rohit. After bowling few outswingers, he bowled an inswinger as Rohit failed to read it and tried to leave the ball. The ball hit his back leg and umpire showed no hesitation raising the finger. However, skipper Virat Kohli (8 batting) and Pujara negated the remaining overs with caution. Earlier, Mohammed Shami's artistry was on full display but New Zealand still managed to take a crucial 32-run lead after scoring 249. More than the quantum of the first innings lead, New Zealand gained psychological advantage as their seam attack can go for the kill on the final day to force a result. New Zealand showed more intent on keeping the scoreboard ticking with Kyle Jamieson (21) and Southee (30) throwing their bats around for useful runs which certainly put the pressure back on India going into the final session of the day. Shami (4/76), after a mesmerising morning spell, got a couple of more wickets in the post-lunch session. During the final half-an-hour, India's senior-most player Ishant Sharma (3/48) denied half century to a dogged skipper Kane Williamson (49).

BRIEF SCORES
INDIA 217 & 64/2 (Rohit Sharma 30; Tim Southee 2/17); NEW ZEALAND 249 (Kane Williamson 49, Tim Southee 30, Kyle Jamieson 21; Mohammed Shami 4/76, Ishant Sharma 3/48, Ravichandran Ashwin 2/28, Ravindra Jadeja 1/20). Match to continue.

Argentina seal Copa knockout spot

Sao Paulo, June 22: Papu Gomez scored in the 10th minute as Argentina beat Paraguay 1-0 and secured their place in the Copa America knockout stage. The result at the Mane Garrincha stadium in Brasilia moved Argentina atop Group A with seven points from three matches. The game also gave Lionel Messi a record 147th cap for the national team, equalling the mark of retired defender Javier Mascherano. Chile, who also advanced to the quarterfinals, are second in the group with five points after the 1-1 draw with Uruguay. Paraguay have three points, followed by Uruguay (1) and Bolivia (0). Captain Messi, seeking his first major title with the national team, had to work with a team impacted by six changes in the starting lineup. Defenders German Pezzella and Nicolas Tagliafico, midfielders Rodrigo de Paul and Leandro Paredes; and forwards Sergio Aguero and Angel di Maria started. Nicolas Otamendi, Marcos Acuna, Leandro Paredes, Giovanni Lo Celso, Lautaro Martinez and Nico Gonzalez were left out of the starting lineup. The changes did not stop Argentina from starting strongly.



1ST HURDLE CROSSED: Argentina players congratulate each other after the match for their qualification to the knockouts at Copa America

Early in the game, Messi found Di Maria on the right, and the veteran winger eluded the Paraguayan defense with an assist to Gomez. The striker lifted a shot over Paraguay goalkeeper Antony Silva. Argentina forced Silva to make important saves in the first half but the energy of the team waned in the second half, as it has in several recent matches. Messi had his least impressive performance at the tournament so far, but he still got praise from the previous holder of the record of most matches played for Argentina. "No one better than you to keep making the legend grow and be the player with most caps for our dear national team," Mascherano posted on Instagram. "No one represents us better in the world." Argentina's last group-stage match will be Monday against Bolivia. Paraguay will take on Chile Thursday. The top four in each five-team group will advance.

Suarez lifts Uruguay

CUIBA (BRAZIL): Luis Suarez ended a goal scoring drought for Uruguay that threatened to extend to a fifth straight game. The veteran striker's 66th-minute equaliser helped Uruguay to 1-1 draw against Chile at the Copa America Monday, their first point of the tournament. The result allowed Chile to advance to the knockout stage of the tournament and kept the Uruguayans in contention in Group A. Chile's Eduardo Vargas opened the scoring in the 26th with a powerful crossed shot from the right, and Suarez levelled the score from close range.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Lahiri qualifies for Tokyo Olympics

NEW DELHI: Seasoned pro Anirban Lahiri qualified for his second successive Olympic appearance after finishing as the best-placed Indian golfer in the final Tokyo Games Rankings for men released, Tuesday. The Indian made the cut at the 60th spot, the last available quota in the Games rankings. India was eligible for one spot and Lahiri was the highest-placed in the latest official world golf rankings at the 340th position. "Best surprise I have got in a while. @Tokyo2020 can't believe I will have the opportunity once again to represent the tricolour," Lahiri tweeted. Aditi Ashok is also in contention to make the cut for the Games for a second consecutive time but her qualification will be confirmed after the final Olympic rankings for women are released June 29. Golf was brought back into the Olympics in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games for the first time since the 1904 edition.



Prajnesh crashes out

LONDON: In a forgettable outing, India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran bowed out of Wimbledon Qualifiers Tuesday after losing in straight sets to British wild card Arthur Fery, who is not ranked even inside top 1000. The left-handed Indian, ranked 148, lost 1-6, 6-7(5-7) to his 18-year-old rival, who is ranked as low as 1038. Prajnesh made a comeback after the first-set drubbing but the Briton did not allow the Indian to stretch the contest to a third set. Ramkumar Ramanathan and Ankita Raina are also in action.