

## Deadline for Aadhaar, **PAN linking extended**

He is getting bored.

You see, he has nothing much to do.

NEW DELHI: The government Friday extended deadlines for various income tax compliances and said the amount paid by an employer to employees for COVID-19 treatment would be tax exempt. Also, ex-gratia payment received from employer by family members in case of death of an employee due to COVID-19 would be exempt from income tax. The last date for PAN-Aadhaar linking too has been extended by three months to September 30, 2021. The deadline for employers to furnish TDS certificate in Form 16 to employees too has been extended till July 31, from July 15, 2021. **P11** 

POST NEWS NETWORK

97.98 per cent of the students have

passed without appearing for the an-

nual High School Certificate (HSC) ex-

aminations-2021, results of which

were announced by the Board of

Secondary Education (BSE) Friday.

The examinations were cancelled

due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Odisha

School & Mass Education Minister

Samir Ranjan Dash declared the re-

The exam results were published

A total of 5,62,010 students (2,80,352

boys and 2,81,658 girls) have passed the

examinations out of the 5,74,125 ex-

aminees. However, a total of 7,703 stu-

dents failed to get pass marks, the

minister said. Among them 4,412 can-

A total of 2,656 students cleared

the board exams with Grade A1 marks,

22.131 students with Grade A2 marks.

52,299 students with Grade B1 and

Prayagraj, June 25: More corpses are

washing up on the banks of the Ganga in

Uttar Pradesh, as rains swell the river

and expose bodies buried in shallow graves during the peak of the latest wave of coro-

Videos and pictures in May of bodies

drifting down the river, which Hindus

consider holy, shocked the nation and un-

derlined the ferocity of the world's biggest

cally this month, the Uttar Pradesh city of

Prayagraj alone has cremated 108 bodies

found in the river in the last three weeks.

buried very close to the river and have

gone into it with the rise in its water lev-

"These are those bodies which were

said a senior municipal official.

Though cases have come down drasti-

didates were absentees.

REUTERS

navirus infections.

surge in infections.

through special evaluation criteria

announced earlier. The pass per-

centage in 2020 was 78.86 per cent.

sults at the BSE office in Cuttack.

## Anticipatory bail for **Ayesha Sulthana**

KOCHI: The Kerala High Court Friday granted anticipatory bail to Lakshadweep filmmaker Ayesha Sulthana in a sedition case registered against her by the Kavaratti police. A case was registered June 9 under section 124-A (sedition) and 153 B (hate speech) of IPC on the basis of a petition lodged by a political leader hailing from Kavaratti. Granting bail, Justice Ashok Menon said there was no apparent indication in her statement, which amounts to imputations or assertions prejudicial to the national interest, nor does it propagate any class of persons

## Students of Tulasipur Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir in Cuttack checking their results online, Friday. 5.62,010 students pass Bhubaneswar, June 25: A record

## 7.703 students fail 1,71,561 students score above 60%

## 5,945 schools have 100% pass rate

94,475 students cleared the exams with Grade B2 this year. The number of students who scored above 60 per cent marks was 1,71,561.

This year, a total of 5,945 schools have 100 per cent pass rate. None of the schools registered zero per cent pass rate.

As far as the Madhyama examinees are concerned a total of 4,622 have passed the examinations out of the 4,713 students registered with the board. The pass percentage of students stands at 98.07 per cent, an official said

After announcing the results, the minister said that the students, who are not satisfied with their scores, can appear for the examinations later. The process to appear for physical ex-aminations will start July 5 when the students can fill up the forms, informed the minister. The date for the examinations will be decided by the BSE.

OP PHOTO

The students who will appear for improvement examination will not face any inconvenience in admission into Plus II courses, as reservation will be made open for them for Plus II admission till their results are out, the minister made it clear at the presser.

BSE president Ramashis Hazra said the results of the matric examinations were decided as per the assessment policy which was earlier fixed.

"We have tried to ensure that the results are in favour of students. Through various stages of verification. the results were announced today and there have been no irregularities in the publication," said Hazra.

"We will conduct the exams after reviewing the Covid situation. The students will have to fill up forms and the registration process is likely to begin from July 5," said Hazra.

being arbitrary and gross violation of IT rules.

Hitting out at Twitter, Prasad in a series of posts on another social media platform Koo said that Twitter's action is in gross violation of IT rules, as the platform had failed to give prior notice before denying access to his account. The account was subsequently unblocked after a warning.

Confronting Twitter, Prasad said it was apparent that his statements calling out the high handedness and arbitrary actions of the microblogging platform, particularly sharing clips of interviews to TV channels and the powerful impact had "clearly ruffled its feathers." "Friends! Something highly peculiar happened today. Twitter denied access to my account for almost an hour on the alleged ground that there was a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of the USA and subsequently they allowed me to access the account," Prasad said.

The blocking of the IT minister's Twitter account comes at a time when the US digital giant has been engaged in a tussle with the Indian government over the new social media rules.

The government has slammed Twitter for deliberate defiance and failure to comply with the country's new IT rules

Meanwhile, chairman of the Parliamentary Panel on IT Shashi Tharoor said the same thing happened with him and the standing committee will be seeking an explanation from the social media firm over the temporary locking of their accounts and the rules it follows while operating in India.

Tagging Prasad's tweet, Tharoor said, "Raviji, the same thing just happened to me. Clearly DMCA is getting hyperactive."

## **DELTA PLUS** N ODISH

ing, treatment and vaccination also for the Delta

Plus variant, he said that

both Covaxin and Covishield

are quite effective against

The DMET chief, how-

ever, said that the travel history of the patient is yet to be ascertained. "The per-

son must have come in con-

tact with some other patient

said

carrying the Delta

Plus variant," he

Parida,

said, "We have done genome se-

ILS. Bhubaneswar,

quencing of around 700

samples from COVID in-

fected persons. Out of them,

we found one case of Delta

Plus variant. However, this

was an old case. The person, an elderly man, hailed

from Deogarh district and

his sample was taken in

April. We received it for

genome sequencing in the

second week of May.'

Talking to

Orissa POST, Dr Ajay

Director of

this variant.

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Odisha Friday reported its first case of COVID-19 Delta Plus variant in Deogarh district, a day after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik urged the people not to lower their guard against the coronavirus.

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) informed the Odisha government about the detection of the state's first case of Delta Plus variant in Deogarh district, Directorate of

Medical Education and Training (DMET) Chief Professor CBK Mohanty said, Friday. The Delta Plus variant,

also described as the 'variant of concern,' spreads more easily.

"We will undertake contract tracing and keep the patient isolated to prevent the infection from spreading," Mohanty said.

Noting that the state administration will apply its time-tested COVID management formula of test-

Dr Parida also said that as the case was an old one the infected person must have become non-infectious by now.

against another group of persons.

MARKET WATCH				
INDEX VARIATION				
RSES	SENSEX	52925.04		226.04
CURRENCY BOURSES	NIFTY	15860.40		69.90
	DOLLAR	74.94	₽	₹0.03
	EURO	88.59		₹0.64
BULLION	GOLD	₹47,025		₹155
	SILVER	₹68,086	1	₹353

WEATH			
	BHUB	СТК	
<mark>e</mark> MAX	34.6℃	34.8°(	
	25.9℃	24.6°	Forecast
Humidity	84%	81%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Generally cloudy sky

## Swelling Ganga opens up riverside graves

els," Neeraj Kumar Singh told Reuters.

"The municipal corporation has deployed a team of 25 people who are working day and night on this front."

The government of Uttar Pradesh. home to 240 million people, acknowledged in May that bodies of COVID-19 victims were being dumped into rivers in a practice likely stemming from poverty and families abandoning victims for fear of the disease."Instructions have been passed to every district magistrate to cremate the bodies with proper respect," said Uttar Pradesh government spokesperson Navneet Sehgal.

"There are bodies buried on the river bank and it is because of a local tradition." The state reported 224 COVID-19 infections overnight, taking its total caseload to 1.7 million, while total fatalities are at 22,366.

## Covid in China since Oct '19: Study

#### REUTERS

Shanghai, June 25: The virus that causes COVID-19 could have started spreading in China as early as October 2019, two months before the first case was identified in the central city of Wuhan, a new study showed Friday.

Researchers from Britain's University of Kent used methods from conservation science to estimate that SARS-CoV-2 first appeared from early October to mid-November 2019, according to a paper published in the PLOS Pathogens journal.

The most likely date for the virus's emergence was November 17, 2019, and it had probably already spread globally by January 2020, they estimated. China's first official COVID-19 case

was in December 2019 and was linked to Wuhan's Huanan seafood market.

Researchers from Britain's University of Kent used methods from conservation science to estimate that SARS-CoV-2 first appeared from early October to mid-November 2019

However, some early cases had no known connection with Huanan, implying that SARS-CoV-2 was already circulating before it reached the market.

A joint study published by China and the WHO at the end of March acknowledged there could have been sporadic human infections before the Wuhan outbreak. In a paper released in preprint form this week, Jesse Bloom of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle recovered deleted sequencing data from early COVID-19 cases in China.

The data showed that samples taken from the Huanan market were "not representative" of SARS-CoV-2 as a whole, and were a variant of a progenitor sequence circulating earlier, which spread to other parts of China.

The US National Institutes of Health confirmed to Reuters that the samples used in the study were submitted to the Sequence Read Archive (SRA) in March 2020 and later deleted at the request of Chinese investigators, who said they would be updated and submitted to another archive.

Critics said the deletion was further evidence that China was trying to cover up the origins of COVID-19.



27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (Sunday) Time: 10.00 a.m. Venue: KIIT Convention Centre, Campus - 6

## **Honoris Causa Degrees** will be conferred on:

Prof. Ganeshi Lal Hon'ble Governor of Odisha

### Shri Girish Chandra Murmu

Hon'ble Comptroller and Auditor General of India

### Hon. Swarup Ranjan Mishra

Member of Parliament for Kesses Constituency, Kenya and Founding Chairman, Mediheal Group of Hospitals, Kenya

### Shri Bibhu Mohapatra

Fashion Designer and Costume Designer, New York

	—— In the presence of -	
Shri Satya S. Tripathi Chancellor	Dr. Upendra Tripathy Pro-Chancellor	Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera Vice-Chancellor
ISS, a fully free and fully resid	lential institute, is the only un	iversity exclusively for tribal stud

Join the programme live from: www.kiss.ac.in Watch live on Kalinga TV from 10.00 a.m. onwards



Hon'ble Governor of Odisha



eisure

## **DREW HAD A 'HUGE CRUSH' ON ANDREW McCARTHY**

Hollywood actress Drew Barrymore has revealed she had a 'huge crush' on actor Andrew McCarthy. The actress made the confession on her chat show The Drew Barrymore Show".

## PARIS HILTON MAKES 'GREEN' WITH ENVY IN NEW POST

Socialite Paris Hilton shared a picture on social media and tagged it as living a 'lime green dream'. "Living a lime green dream. What's your favorite color to wear for #Summer? #ThatsHot #TBT #ThrowbackThursday," Paris wrote as caption.



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

You have decided to give more importance to your inner voice, and Ganesha feels it's a good thing. It supports you to strive for perfection in whatever you do. You will remain your sensible and realistic self. A little adventure will not hurt, says Ganesha.

### **TAURUS**

In all probability, you will come across as extremely prudent today, feels Ganesha. Your common sense will prevail over your intellect this afternoon. Things will probably change for the better during the course of the day. Loved ones will shower you with

care and concern in the evening

### GEMINI

You will realise that to stay strong and focused, you need the aid of all your loved ones and close relatives. You need to take time out and nurture these special relationships. Your emo tions towards these people will

## CANCER

You will how more interest in spirituality and philosophy. An ordinary day on the career and business front. It means there will be no major incidents. You will get support from subordinates. Keep an eye on rivals and foes in the afternoon and their actions, so that you can thwart their moves

## **LEO**

You will be in the mood to dig up old happenings and problems. You need to let go of the past and concentrate on your future. Academic pursuits will increase and love is likely to bloom. You need to bring a measure of understanding into your personal relationships, says Ganesha.

Ganesha warns that you will find yourself in troubled waters as far as your love life is concerned. You will have to exercise great care and caution in everything you do today, more so in the afternoon. If you are betting on money matters, bet wisely Ganesha says hold your head high and be



## Samantha keen on working with Rajkummar

Mumbai: After proving her mettle in the Tamil and Telugu industry, Samantha Akkineni impressed one and all with her performance in the recently released web-series, The Family Man 2 with Manoj Bajpayee. Now, the actress has revealed the name of one actor she admires and is keen on

working with. In one of her recent interviews with a news portal, Samantha was asked to name one actor whose works she admires. Replying to the same, the southern beauty revealed that she admires Rajkummar Rao's 👔 works and finds him absolutely fantastic. According to her, the films he chooses

to do are very interesting. The actress also added that she is always waiting to see what he does

next Samantha added that she would love to work with the *Roohi* actor if a good story comes their way. Well, we are sure it would definitely be a treat to watch these

screen together. AGENCIES

assuring them this too shall pass

Mumbai: The Oscar-winning duo of AR Rahman and Gulzar, along with seven eminent singers, have come together to bring out a song touted as an anthem of hope and healing. The track, titled Meri pukaar suno was released Friday. The track, featuring the voices of Alka Yagnik, Shreya Ghoshal, KS Chithra, Sadhana Sargam, Shashaa Tirupati, Armaan Malik and Asees emerge through this bravely." Speaking about genesis of the

sing, Gulzar said: "This is a story about Maati Maa, our Mother Earth, as she appeals to us to listen to her. She gives us hope with her bountiful resources, cool breeze, flowing streams and endless sunshine; asking us for a promise to look after our gift of life. Rahman sahab has given my words a truly magical composition as always.

The music video is a narrative of a child as he struggles to find inspiration.

ing anthem that encourages one and all, to stand tall in the hope of

## Chinese food tastes better when we eat together'

Mumbai: Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan took to social media Friday to share an observation for her elder sister, actress Karisma Kapoor, as the latter celebrates her 47th birthday.

Calling Karisma her 'second mother' and friend'. 'best

Kareena said her favourite Chinese food tastes better when she is dining with her sister!

"Happy Birthday to the bravest, strongest, and the most precious woman I know ... my sister, my best friend, my second mother and the centre of our family... Chinese food tastes even better when we eat it together. I love you like no one else... I also do wonder sometimes who the older sister is but that is the best part of having one... My lolo," Kareena shared in an Instagram post. The actress also shared a video collage of moments shared by the two sisters, from

their childhood till now. In a separate Instagram post, Kareena shared a photo from Karisma's birthday party, which she attended with husband Saif Ali Khan and son Taimur.

"Happy Birthday to the centre of our universe," Kareena captioned the photo.

Mumbai: Actress Pooja Hedge is back to work after lock down. She posted a video Friday that shows her boarding a flight, to report on the set of the upcoming Prabhas-star rer Radhe Shyam.

"Time to get back to work #RadheShyam," she wrote with the clip she shared on Instagram story.

The actress flew to Hyderabad Friday morn ing at 6.30 am.

In another clip she posted, she's seen getting her hair and make-up done. "Back with my favourite people at the best job in the world," she wrote.

Besides Radhe Shyam, Pooja will also share screen space with actor Ranveer Singh in the upcoming film Cirkus.

## AR Rahman & Gulzar drop anthem of hope and healing

FUN

The track, featuring the voices of Alka Yagnik, Shreya Ghoshal, KS Chithra, Sadhana Sargam, Shashaa Tirupati, Armaan Malik and Asees Kaur, is essentially a call from Maati Maa (Mother Earth) to her children to reunite,

> and reassurance. Meri pukaar suno is like Mother India singing to her

Talking about the song's direction and composition, Rahman said: "This time, this period of the pandemic, is an extraordinary phase in everyone's life. There is so much uncertainty and pain, and yet, so much resilience and healing. Gulzar ji and I wished to create a song of hope because we all need comfort

"Meri pukaar suno is an inspir-



# become more concrete and strong.

ace actors on

## VIRGO





members. Ganesha says that it is a good idea to plan the trip and go forth with it as soon as possible. Towards evening you will be able to visit a lovely place

### **SCORPIO**

You may call it an 'awesome' day, while Ganesha may call it just perfect.

Unexpected financial gains on cards today. Academically and professionally, you may push your limits higher, proving your expertise. You may be on an emotional high, express yourself freely.

## **SAGITTARIUS**

Stress, tension, pressure are miles away from you today. Peace and harmony are like ly to join you today. You have a wavering mind today. But, no issues as you have nothing serious to decide. You take up most of the things in good humour, says Ganesha, Keep smiling!

## **CAPRICORN**

In the fast paced life of today, rarely anyone gets time to spend with their old friends Today, you're one of those rare people. Also, you will have a blissfu love life, blesses Ganesha, You will develop a better level of understanding with your partner

## **AQUARIUS**

You will now deal with issues which you have brushed under the carpe for some reasons. Keep your affairs neat and tidy so that can avoid further complications, advises Ganesha. If you are seeking a job, you will pass the day scanning through job advertisements and applying for interviews.

### PISCES

The day will start on an energetic and enthusiastic note, says Ganesha. Your day will be enjoyable up to afternoon but there will be some unexpected reasons that will make you fidget in your seat after that. Make sure to take a deep breath and do not let small problems overwhelm vou



children through her daughters. It's to say that human beings have survived and thrived through different periods of time and that we'll

a better tomorrow," says Rajat Kakar, Managing Director India, of Sony India, Music which unveiled the song





## **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



## BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

### 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.

	5			7			3	
3	6		8					
			6	4				
	2	8					1	
							2	
7		9		3				
	4		9			0		
6		7	5		1			9
2					6	5		



6







## downtown



## **HEALTHCARE BOOST**

Dignitaries pose with a Covid testing-cum-vaccination van donated by Health & Wellness Group of Odisha Society of the Americas in Bhubaneswar, Friday



Capital grabs 2 awards in Smart City contest

SOCIALLY-SMART PROJECT IS A JOINT INITIATIVE OF BSCL,

BMC AND UNITED NATIONS

BHUBANEWAR.ME PROJECT AIMS AT BRINGING

PROVIDES A COMMON SERVICE

PLATFORM TO ITS USER BASE

OF MORE THAN 4 LAKH PEOPLE

Bhubaneswar and Bhubaneswar.me

grabbed second and third prize re-

spectively under social aspect and

governance category. Tirupati

(Andhra Pradesh) and Tumakuru

(Karnataka) got the first and third

prizes in social aspect category

while Vadodara (Gujarat) and

TRANSPARENCY IN THE

GOVERNANCE SYSTEM. IT

POPULATION FUND

## **COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
rld	18,08,84,540	16,55,11,346	39,18,462
ia	3,01,34,445	2,91,28,267	3,93,310
isha	8,93,508	8,60,142	3,801

Bhubaneswar, June 25: After

being adjudged one of the top five

most liveable cities in the country,

Bhubaneswar, the Capital city of

Odisha, Friday received two more

awards under social aspect and

governance categories at the India

Smart City Awards Contest (ISAC).

Conducted by the Ministry of

Housing and Urban Affairs

(MoHUA), during the sixth an-

niversary celebration of Smart

City Mission, AMRUT and PMAY

(Urban), the virtual event saw par-

ticipation of all 100 smart cities

The event saw Bhubaneswar

Smart City Limited's (BSCL) two

projects: Socially Smart

POST NEWS NETWORK

## NGT seeks reports on Mahanadi, **Kathajodi riverbed degradation**

OST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 25: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued a notice to the Odisha government. Cuttack Collector and others while hearing a petition alleging construction work by the administration on Mahanadi and Kathajodi riverbeds in violation of environment norms

A bench of the tribunal comprising Judicial Member B Amit Sthalekar and Expert member Saibal Dasgupta asked the respondents to submit their counter affidavits, within four weeks, specifying whether they have complied with the direction issued by the NGT earlier.

The tribunal also directed the Cuttack district Collector to file an affidavit explaining why the order of the green body has not been complied with and why six months monthly reports have not been filed.

Significantly, environment activist Biswajit Mohantv had moved the NGT alleging that in spite of the order of the tribunal dated October 2017, the district administration is establishing a park, parking area, approach road and re-cleaning of Mahanadi riverbed and thereby occupying 421 acres of land for beautification project in the name of 'Baliyatra River Front Improvement Project'.

The applicant also claimed that a new campus of the SCB Medical College and Hospital has been established on Mahanadi riverbed in violation of environmental norms



### **GREEN NORM** VIOLATION

he NGT asked the respondents to submit their counter affidavits, within four weeks, specifying whether they have complied with the direction issued by the NGT earlier

The tribunal directed the Cuttack Collector to file an

affidavit explaining why the

order of the apex green body

and why six months' monthly

has not been complied with

reports have not been filed

asked to take strict action against the violators. The tribunal had also asked the

illegal encroachments on the river banks/beds of Mahanadi and Kathjodi at Cuttack and file an action-taken report in every six months in the Registry. While allowing Baliyatra festi-

Unit I market shut

certain restrictions in order to save the riverbeds. The green body had asked the administration to ensure that the distance of the river flow from the border of the extended site remains at least 50 metres. It had also asked the administration to declare the festival site as a plastic free zone. The tribunal had also directed the authorities to restore the Baliyatra site comBhubaneswar, June 25: The

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Domestic quarrel ended on a tragic note as a man killed his wife by slitting her throat on the outskirts of Capital city Friday morning. The accused later surrendered to Jatni police.

The accused husband identified as Sukanta Mallick belongs to a village in Pipli area of Puri district. Mallick was staving along with his wife Puja and two daughters at Paikarapur under Jatni police limits for the last few years.

Sukanta, an auto-rickshaw

Thane (Maharashtra) were adjudged first and second respectively under governance category. "We have achieved these awards

with our innovations and ideas. The city will come up with more citizen-centric projects in future. The Smart City project work will be expedited in the Capital city. We hope that the city will win more such awards during Smart City challenge," said BSCL CEO Sanjay Kumar Singh. It can be mentioned here that

the Socially-Smart project is a joint

initiative of BSCL, BMC and United

Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The project aims at developing a

youth-centric and youth-led inte-

grated social intervention model to

support citizens-connect initiative.

It also promotes safety and security of girls and women in Bhubaneswar with special focus on slum areas through community partnerships. Initiated at eight slums in 2017, the project now covers 100 slums and around 80 educational institutions in the city.

On the other hand, the Bhubanewar.me project aims at bringing transparency in the governance system. It provides a common service platform to its user base of more than 4 lakh people. The platform disseminate information regarding amenities like safe public transport, access of high-speed Wi-Fi system, citizen services, city events, maps, and online payment among others from 16 government organisations.

## Woman dies as hubby slits throat over family discord

years ago

driver in Capital city, had tied the nuptial knot with Puja around 12

by then Sukanta had already married another woman and had two children out of the wedlock. His first wife and children have been staying at his native place in Pipli.

Deceased Puja was unhappy with a spendthrift Sukanta, who never bothered to take loans from different sources.

The couple often engaged in heated arguments over this. Puja had also reportedly warned

Sukanta of deserting him if he

did not mend his ways. The quarrel over the issue had again escalated a few days ago and it also Sources, however, claimed that

turned violent Thursday night. Friday morning, the exchanges between Sukanta and Puja turned worse and an angry Sukanta killed Puja by slitting her throat with a knife.

Later, he surrendered to Jatni police who arrested him by registering a case (303/21) under Section 302 of the IPC.

The body of Puja was handed over to her relatives after postmortem. Sukanta will be produced before the court Saturday.

## **Ex-AG Jayanta Das** passes away at 77

Cuttack: Former Advocate General and former Orissa High Court Bar Association president Jayanta Das. 77, breathed his last at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar Friday, family sources said. Das had complained of chest pain and was rushed to the hospital where he died. sources added. Das, a great grandson of Pandit Gopabandhu Das, was born in Salipur. He had completed his higher education from Delhi and joined Audit and Accounts service. He had left the iob and begun his career as a lawyer in 1981.

## Below 3K nCoV cases for 2nd time in 4 days

#### AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 8.93.508 Friday as 2.912 more people tested positive for the infection, while 40 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 3,801, an official said. As many as 3.486 more people were cured of the disease, 🖡 taking the total number of re-

coveries to 8,56,498. The count of daily po while 1,237 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing.

Khurda reported the highest number of new cases at 401, followed by Cuttack (382) and Jajpur (292). Khurda also registered the highest number of fresh fatalities at nine, followed by five each in Bargarh, Cuttack and Nayagarh, and three in Angul. The state has thus far tested -0 over 1.34 crore samples for Sovid-19, including 64,255 Thursday, Odisha's cumulative positivity



**CAR FEST REHEARSAL** 

district administration to evict all

val on the stretch between Barabati stadium and Gadagadia temple (upper ground), the NGT had put

Significantly, the tribunal had in October 2017 directed the Cuttack district administration to ensure that no construction debris, municipal waste are illegally dumped pletely by the ninth day of the comon the riverbeds. The tribunal had mencement of the festival.

## POST NEWS NETWORK

across the country.

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday ordered closure of Unit I market till July 1 following reports of blatant violation of Covid norms

"In view of mass violation of Covid appropriate behaviour as reported June 23 by BMC enforcement squad and police personnel and with a view to containing possibility of spread of Covid-19 virus, the Unit I haat (wholesale & retail) is hereby closed until July 1,2021," BMC order read.

It is pertinent to mention here

that people are indulging in panic

buying of essential commodities es-

pecially before the weekend shut-

down in the smart city.

cases dipped below 3,000-mark for the second time in four days. The previous low of 2,957 cases was registered June 22

Odisha now has 33,156 active cases, while the daily test positivity rate (TPR) has dipped below 5 per cent. he said.

As many as 1,675 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, rate stands at 6.65 per cent.

Meanwhile, Health Services director Bijay Mohapatra said, "We would be in a better position this time after learning from second wave experiences to tackle the cases and prepare for less infections and casualties if at all a third wave comes." He also said that the positivity rate is declining.

A mock drill for pulling of chariots during this year's Rath Yatra underway at Puri police ground, Friday

## Naveen lays stones for 7 oxygen plants

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday laid foundation stones for establishment of liquid medical oxygen plants in seven more districts through virtual mode.

With this, now, all 30 districts will have medical oxygen plants. The plants will start functioning within next two months.

He laid the stones for oxygen plants of Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) technology in Angul, Boudh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Bhawanipatna and Nuapada. Each plant will have storage and distribute system for 6 kilolitres of liquid oxygen.

The Chief Minister has also inaugurated oxygen supply through pipeline to Covid ward of Athamallik sub-divisional hospital. Pallahada sub-divisional hospital and community health centres at Madhapur & Kishornagar. Covid isolation wards with piped oxygen supply have also been inaugurated at the PHCS of Thakurmunda and Bainda. Besides, vaccine store house was inaugurated at the DHH in Deogarh district.

Patnaik said protection of public health is the top priority for the state government during this Covid-19 pandemic situation.

## Model jail at Khuntuni to house 500 prisoners

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Khuntuni, June 25: Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain Friday inaugurated a model prison at Radharamanpur of Khuntuni area in Cuttack district which can accommodate 500 inmates.

The new jail has been constructed on 28-acre land with an expenditure of ₹15 crore, Prisons department sources said.

The Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation Limited had started construction work for the model jail in 2014 and completed the project in 2018, sources added.

"The newly-inaugurated model prison will house convicts facing life terms. The new jail can accommodate 450 male and 50 female prisoners. The state government has spent ₹12 crore on building the model prison while ₹3 crore has been spent on construction of quarters for the superintendent and warders of the jail," said Director General of Prisons Santosh Kumar

Upadhyay. The new jail has 18 wards for male and two for female prisoners. Each ward can accommodate 25 prisoners, Upadhyay added.

The model jail has 48 toilets for male prisoners and 12 for female prisoners. There is proper dining facility for the prisoners. Two



model schools have been built to cater to the needs of the prisoners' children. Besides, there are two industry halls in the jail," Upadhyay said.

Prison department sources said the model jail has a 40-bed hospital and 12 special cells for the prisoners

Among others, Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab and superintendent of the model jail Soubhagya Ranjan Bal were present on the occasion.

Minister of State for Home department Dibya Shankar Mishra attended the event through videoconference.

'The model prison at Radharamanpur will help decongest the circle jails in the state," Mahatab said.

Some inmates from the overcrowded jails would be shifted to the model prison, Bal said.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: With the implementation of malaria elimination programmes like DAMaN, the state has been able to reduce malaria cases by 90 per cent over a period of three yearsfrom 2016 to 2019.

This was revealed at an inter-departmental coordination meeting on prevention of vector-borne diseases held on digital mode under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Friday.

The reduction rate of malaria infection in Odisha between 2018 and 2019 has been 40 per cent against the national average of 17 per cent during the same period.

Presenting the updates at the meeting, Public Health Director Niranian Mishra said the state had reported around 4.44 lakh malaria cases and 77 deaths in 2016 which came down to 39,556 cases and 9 deaths in 2019.

Similarly, there was reduction in positivity rate in 2020 with 9 deaths. The annual parasite index (API) was less than one in eight districts in 2016. With improvement in the disease situation, the API index dipped to less than one in 23 districts. he said.

Mishra further said because of



DAMaN in hand, malaria

cases dip 90% in 3 years

### STING MENACE

WHO documented Odisha's model as 'Best Practice' in malaria elimination

Odisha had reported around 4.44 lakh malaria cases and 77 deaths in 2016 which came down to 39,556 and 9 respectively in 2019

he reduction rate of malaria I infection in Odisha between 2018 and 2019 has been 40 per cent against the national average of 17 per cent

rapid reduction in positivity rate, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has recorded Odisha Model as a Best Practice in World Malaria Report of 2020. Sources said the programme named Durgama Anchlare Malaria Nirakarana (DAMaN) has brought this success to Odisha.

A total number of 16,088 malaria eradication camps were organised in different parts of the state between 2018 and 2020. Around 2.8 crore people were protected with distribution of 1.57 crore long lasting insecticidal mosquito nets (LLIN) received from the Union Health Ministry, the source said.

Moreover, 48,455 ASHAs were trained and engaged in diagnosis and management of malarial cases. Special eradication projects were run in four OMBADC districts namely Mayurbhani, Keonihar, Sundargarh and Jajpur.

Reviewing the progress over the last years, the Chief Secretary directed the departments concerned to take preventive measures against possible outbreak of the disease during the current year. He directed for ensuring preventive steps proactively in industrial and mining belts.

Information and Public Relations Secretary Bishnupada Sethi said, "There are about 10,000 Kalakara Sangathans (artistes' associations) and nearly 500 forms of different loka kalas (folk arts) that can effectively communicate with people at community level." It was decided to undertake intensive awareness building activities by involving the district and block level Kalakar Sangathans.

### **Onus on teachers** for UG, PG exams

Bhubaneswar: Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo Friday said that college and university authorities have been asked to entrust teachers with the responsibility of mentoring UG and PG students for the upcoming online exams to be held in July or August. Through a virtual meeting with university vice-chancellors and principals of degree colleges, the minister said that elaborate arrangements are being made to ensure that hassle-free online examinations in the state.

### **Contractor dupes** man of ₹40 lakh

Bhubaneswar: A contractor has allegedly duped an elderly person of over Rs 40 lakh on the pretext of constructing a residential house on the plot owned by the victim at Dhauli. The victim, Basanta Kumar Mohanty of Unit IX area, has lodged a complaint with Dhauli police in this regard. Mohanty had paid Rs 34, 63,600 to the contractor as per an agreement for construction of the house at a cost of Rs 1,400 per square feet. However, the accused neither completed the project nor returned the money. He had also taken another Rs 5.50 lakh from Mohanty on the pretext of some emergency.

## **Realtor nabbed**

Bhubaneswar: A realtor was arrested Friday for duping an elderly depositor of over ₹15 lakh on the pretext of providing him a landed plot in the residential housing project Dibyam City near Mancheswar Railway station here. The accused was identified as Amiya Ranjan Ratha, 50, of Sahid Nagar. Ratha is the MD of Singha Dwara Eastcon Private Limited.









#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT No. FE-DIV-FLD-0051-2020-10882/F&E, Bhubaneswar, dated the 22.06.2021 10F (Cons) 77/2020 ORDER

Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 360.01 ha of forest land (160.838 ha of Sabik kisam land and 199.1720 ha of RF & KF land) within the total lease area of 403.3238 ha in favour of M/s Tata Steel Limited for Katamati Iron Ore Mining Project in Keonjhar District, Odisha.

WHEREAS, M/s Tata Steel Ltd in Keonjhar district, Odisha had applied for diversion of 199.1720 ha of forest land and 160.838 ha of sabik kisam forest land for mining and allied activities in Katamati Iron Ore Mines within total mining lease hold area over 403.3238 ha of Katamati Iron Ore Mines under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (FC Division), Government of India, had granted in-principle approval for diversion of 360.01 ha of forest land [160.838 ha of Sabik kisam forest land + 199.1720 ha of forest land (RF& KF)] located within the total mining lease hold area over 403.3238 ha of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Limited under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 in Keonihar District. Odisha subject to fulfillment of certain conditions vide its letter F.No.8-01/2018-FC dtd.20.08.2018 (Annexure-IA) & thereafter in supersession of the said order granted revised in-principle approval vide letter F.No.8-01/2018-FC dtd.13.03.2019 (Annexure-1B).

And whereas, the MoEF & CC, Government of India, New Delhi in consideration of the compliance of the conditions of the in-principle approval, have accorded final approval for non-forestry use of 360.01 ha of forest land (160.838 ha of Sabik kisam land and 199.1720 ha of RF & KFD land) within the total lease area of 403.3238 ha in favour of M/s Tata Steel Limited for Katamati Iron Ore Mining Project in Keonjhar District, Odisha vide its letter File No.8-01/2018-FC dated 09.06.2021 (Annexure-II) subject to conditions as stipulated therein.

Now therefore, the Government of Odisha, do hereby allow diversion of above mentioned 360.01 ha of forest land in favour of user agency as per approved land use pattern subject to fulfillment of the conditions of final forest clearance order as stipulated by the MoEF & CC, Government of India, New Delhi.

#### area shall be borne by user agency.

(IX) User agency shall maintain Safety zone as per MoEF & CC guideline. The complete detail of safety zone around the mining lease shall be submitted prior to stage- II approval.

Following activities shall be undertaken by the user agency (X) at the project cost and:

(a) Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of stage- II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;

(b) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;

(c) Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme ;

(d) Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/ benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to

ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°, and (e) No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.

(XI) The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India Topo- sheet of 1:50,000 scale;

(XII) The State Govt. may note for future reference that the proposals for diversion of 160.838 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land and diversion of 199.1720 ha of forest land for mining and allied activities in Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. located in Keonjhar district, Odisha within total Mining Lease hold area over 403.3238 ha of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata steel Ltd. in Keonjhar district Odisha as received from the State Govt. vide their letters no. 10F(Cons)-18/2016.26364/F&E dated 19.12.2017 and 10F(Cons)-136/2014/102/F&E dated 01.01.2015 respectively, shall be dealt for diversion of 360.01 ha of forest land in F.No. 8-01/2018-FC;

(XIII) The non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of the Stage-II clearance. The nonforest land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as RF under Section-4 or PF under

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Copy to:

Yours faithfully, Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma) Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

The Collector, Keonjhar and Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division as the case may be are hereby authorized to handover the forest land as has been finally diverted and coming within their jurisdiction, after compliance of Conditions-A i.e. Conditions which need to be complied with before handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department following due procedure of law. Before handing over the forest land to the user agency, it shall be ensured that Net Present Value of forest land for this project as well as for any other projects, belonging to same user agency, is deposited, in full, at applicable rates. Conditions as laid down in condition-B i.e. Conditions which need to be complied on field after handing over forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department should also be complied.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division & Divisional Forest Officer, Dhenkanal Forest Division are also directed to monitor compliance to the conditions stipulated for such diversion in the respective forest/wildlife clearance order and to report violations, if any, to the Nodal Officer. O/o Principal Chief Conservator Forests, Odisha and to the Forest & Environment Department

Execution of project activities will be subject to availability of all other statutory clearances required under relevant Acts/Rules for this mining project, deposit of requisite funds and compliance of Court's order, if any,

Section-20 of the Indian forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section

maintaining the compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate

hoc CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme

(XV) The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net present Value (

NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal, as per

the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008,

24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and

the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC

dated 05.02.2009. The requisite funds shall be transferred through

online portal into Ad-hoc CAMPA account of the State Concerned;

(XVI) At the time of payment of the Net present Value (NPV ) at the

pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final

decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;

then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to

(XVII) Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area [

7.5 meters strip shall be kept within the mining lease boundary and

area of the safety zone shall be part of the total area of mining lease

as per the Ministry's guidelines dated 27.05.2015 ] shall be done

Clearance. Besides this afforestation on degraded forest land to be

selected elsewhere measuring one & a half times the area under

safety zone shall also be done at the project cost; The degraded

with the approved plan in consultation with the State Forest

proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (

forest land (DFL) so selected will be informed to the MoEF & CC with

shape files and afforestation will be done within three years from the

date of Stage -II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance

(XVIII) Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval

shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease

Development and Regulation ) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules

(XIX) Any fund received from the user agency under project and

F. No. 8-01/2018-FC

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

within three year at the project cost from the issue of Stage -II

in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of Ad-

may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for

(s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be, within a period of six

months. The Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation) shall report

(XIV) The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising and

By order of Governor

Sd/-(Lingaraj Otta)

**Special Secretary to Government** 

compliance in this regard;

Department;

framed there-under;

works scheduled for subsequent years;

F. No. 8-01/2018-FC **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS** AND CLIMATE CHANGE (FC DIVISION)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bag Road, New Delhi - 110003, Dated: 20th August, 2018

The Principal Secretary (Forests),

Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Diversion of 360.01 ha forest land [160.838 ha: Sabik Kisam forest land plus 199.1720 ha forest land (RF & KF)] located within total mining lease hold area over 403.3238 ha. of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, in Keonjhar district Odisha.

Sir.

To,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. 10F (Cons)-18/2016.26364/F&E dated 19.12.2017 and 10F (Cons)-136/2014/102/F&E dated 01.01.2015 submitting the above subject proposals for diversion of 160.838 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land

and diversion of 199.1720 ha of forest land for mining and allied activities in Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. located in Keonjhar district, Odisha within total Mining Lease hold area over 403.3238 ha of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar district Odisha seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the said proposals have been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful consideration of the proposals of the State Government of Odisha and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, In-principle approval is hereby granted for diversion of 360.01 ha forest land [160.838 ha; Sabik Kisam forest land plus 199.1720 ha forest land (RF&KF)] located within total mining lease hold area over 403.3238 ha. of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 in Keonjhar district Odisha subject to the following conditions:

Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain (1)

deposited in the State Forest Department account, except the funds realized for regeneration/ demarcation of safety zone, shall be transferred through online portal into Ad-hoc CAMPA account of the State Concerned;

(XX) User Agency should ensure that the Compensatory levies (CA cost, NPV, etc. ) are deposited through challan generated online on web portal and deposited in appropriate bank online only. Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.

(XXI) The User agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;

(XXII) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;

(XXIII) The User agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;

(XXIV) The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;

(XXV) The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government; (XXVI) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;

(XXVII) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

(XXVIII) No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused:

(XXIX) Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;

(XXX) The user agency will abide by the applicable recommendations of the State Government;

(XXXI) User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture

total mining lease hold area over 403.3238 ha. of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 in Keonjhar district Odisha subject to the following conditions:

(I) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged:

Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over equal (11) identified non-forest land (NFL) land excluding the area of safety zone within three years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency, At least 1000 saplings per hectares shall be planted over

#### unchanged;

(II) Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over equal identified non-forest land (NFL) land within three years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. At least 1000 saplings per hectares shall be planted over 360.01 ha. (360010 plants). If this is not possible to plant these many seedlings in the Identified NFL, the balance seedlings will be planted in degraded forest land as per the prescriptions of the Working Plan at the cost of the User agency. In such case CA cost will be revised and duly approved by competent authority and deposited online in the CAF managed by CAMPA.

**P4** 

(III) 25% of the CA cost additionally will be spent towards Soil and Moisture Conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement and deposited in CAF.

(IV) From the documents it is learnt that the lease has been executed for entire forest area on 27.11.2016 having full knowledge that the mining lease has Sabik forest land for which Clearance under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) act 1980 was not obtained. State Government shall initiate action for violation as per the provisions of Government of India Guidelines 11-42/2017-FC dated 29.01.2018.

(V) State Government shall submit cost benefit analysis as per MoEF & CC guideline prior to stage- II approval.

(VI) Complete compliance of FRA certificate for entire forest land within mining lease as per MoEF & CC guideline shall be submitted. Thus, the state Government shall complete settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof;

(VII) Felling of large number of trees shall not be done at a single point of time. As far as possible the trees should be felled in phased manner only when it is unavoidable.

(VIII) User agency shall not clear the natural vegetation of about 50 meter width in the periphery in the southern boundary of mining lease area. The area shall be demarcated with the help of forest department prior to stage- II approval. It shall be maintained and supplemented as green cover. The cost of maintaining it as green

conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests ( having crown density less than 0.40 ), if any, located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF & CC before Stage-II Clearance;

(XXXII) The user agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed

(XXXIII) The User agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km. from the mine lease boundary. The list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/ water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF & CC before Stage-II approval;

(XXXIV) The User agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;

(XXXV) Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and

(XXXVI) The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court order (s) and NGT order (s) pertaining to this project. If any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

guideline. The complete detail of safety zone around the mining lease shall be submitted prior to stage- II approval.

(IX) Following activities shall be undertaken by the user agency at the project cost and:

(a) Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved plan in consultation with the State Forest Department: (b) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and

sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease the approved sch

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS** AND CLIMATE CHANGE (FC DIVISION) Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,

3. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar 4. User Agency 5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC 6. Guard File Sd/- (Sandeep Sharma) Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC) (s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be within a period of six months. The Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation) shall report compliance in this regard;	<ul> <li>Sub: Diversion of 360.01 ha forest land [160.838 ha: Sabik Kisam forest land plus 199.1720 ha forest land (RF &amp; KF)] located within total mining lease hold area over 403.3238 ha. of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/S Tata Steel Ltd. under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 in Keonjhar district Odisha.</li> <li>Sir,</li> <li>In supersession of this Ministry's Stage-I Clearance dated 20.08.2018, I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. 10F(Cons)-18/2016.4252/F&amp;E dated 25.02.2019 submitting the information as sought vide this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 06.02.2019 in connection with above subject proposals for diversion of 160.838 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land and diversion of 199.1720 ha of forest land for mining and allied activities in Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. located in Keonjhar district, Odisha within total Mining Lease hold area over 403.3238 ha of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar district Odisha seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the said proposals have been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.</li> <li>2. After careful consideration of the proposals of the State Government of Odisha and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, Revised In-principle approval is hereby granted for diversion of 360.01 ha forest land [160.838 ha Sabik Kisam forest land plus 199.1720 ha forest land (RF&amp;KF)] located within</li> <li>proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. As amended and the Rules framed there-under;</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>CAF managed by CAMPA.</li> <li>(III) 25% of the CA cost additionally will be spent towards Soil and Moisture Conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement and deposited in CAF.</li> <li>(IV) State Government shall submit cost benefit analysis as per MoEF &amp; CC guideline prior to stage- II approval</li> <li>(V) Complete compliance of FRA Certificate for the entire forest land within mining lease as per MoEF &amp; CC guideline shall be submitted. Thus, the state Government shall complete settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof;</li> <li>(VI) Felling of large number of trees shall not be done at a single point of time. As far as possible the trees should be felled in phased manner only when it is unavoidable.</li> <li>(VII) User agency shall not clear the natural vegetation of about 50 meter width in the periphery in the southern boundary of mining lease area. The area shall be demarcated with the help of forest department prior to stage- II approval. It shall be maintained and supplemented as green cover. The cost of maintaining it as green area shall be borne by user agency.</li> <li>(VIII) User agency shall maintain Safety zone as per MOEF &amp; CC</li> <li>(XXVIII) Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;</li> <li>(XXXIX) The user agency will abide by the applicable recommendation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>(d) Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading /benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°, and</li> <li>(e) No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.</li> <li>(X) The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India Topo- sheet of 1:50,000 scale;</li> <li>(XI) The State Govt. may note for future reference that the proposals for diversion of 160.838 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land and diversion of 199.1720 ha of forest land for mining and allied activities in Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. located in Keonjhar district, Odisha within total mining lease hold area over 403.3238 ha of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata steel Ltd. in Keonjhar district Odisha as received from the State Govt. Vide their letter no. 10F(Cons)-18/2016.26364/F&amp;E dated 19.12.2017 and 10F(Cons)-136/2014/102/F&amp;E dated 01.01.2015 respectively, shall be dealt for diversion of 360.01 ha of forest land in F.No. 8-01/2018-FC;</li> <li>(XII) The non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of the Stage- II clearance. The nonforest land identified for raising compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as RF under Section-4 or PF under Section-20 of the Indian forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>(XIII) The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;</li> <li>(XIV) The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal, as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal into Ad-hoc CAMPA account of the State Concerned;</li> <li>(XV) At the time of payment of the Net present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of the NPV, if so determined, as per final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;</li> <li>(XVI) Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area [7.5 meters strip shall be kept within the mining lease boundary and area of the safety zone shall be part of the total area of mining lease as per the Ministry's guidelines dated 27.05.2015] shall be done within three years at the project cost; The degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere measuring one &amp; a half times the area under safety zone shall also be done at the project cost; The degraded forest land (DFL) so selected will be informed to the MoEF &amp; CC with shape files and afforestation will be done within three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;</li> <li>(XVII) Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>(XVIII) Any fund received from the user agency under project and deposited in the State Forest Department account, except the funds realized for regeneration/demarcation of safety zone, shall be transferred through online portal into Ad-hoc CAMPA account of the State Concerned;</li> <li>(XIX) User agency should ensure that the Compensatory levies (CA cost, NPV, etc.) are deposited through challan generated online on web portal and deposited in appropriate bank online only. Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.</li> <li>(XX) The User agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;</li> <li>(XXII) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;</li> <li>(XXIII) The User agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;</li> <li>(XXIII) The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;</li> <li>(XXVI) The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;</li> <li>(XXVI) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;</li> <li>(XXVII) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;</li> <li>(XXVII) No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>of the State Government;</li> <li>(XXX) User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil &amp; moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forest (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF &amp; CC before Stage-II Clearance;</li> <li>(XXXI) The user agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the user agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forest (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed.</li> <li>(XXXII) The User agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km. from the mine lease boundary. The list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The user agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/ water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF &amp; CC before Stage-II approval;</li> <li>(XXXIII) The User agency shall submit the annual self-compliance</li> </ul>	(XXXIV) Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and (XXXV) The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court order (s) and NGT order (s) pertaining to this project. If any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project. After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard. Yours faithfully, Sd/- <b>(Sandeep Sharma)</b> Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC <b>Copy to:</b> 1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar 2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar 3. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar 4. User Agency 5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC 6. Guard File Sd/- <b>(Sandeep Sharma)</b> Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 13th March, 2019

## state

implement the afforestation measures in the blanks within the lease

area, as well as along the roads outside the lease area diverted under

technically feasible, in consultation with the State Forest Department

ix. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the period of

period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease granted under

the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as

diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a

x. The State Govt. shall ensure that user agency either himself or

through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate

the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if

mining lease as per scheme submitted along with the compliance

xi. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that the

water used for processing shall be discharged only after proper

xii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the activities proposed in the

approved scheme for fencing, protection and regeneration of the

mining lease area as recommended by the State Govt.) shall be

xiii. Safety Zone Management: Following activities shall be

safety zone area (7.5 meters strip all along the inner boundary of the

implemented within three year at the project cost from the issue of

undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone:

a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of boundary of safety zone

and its protection by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC

boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire

fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the

b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to

2. Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office of the

3. Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneshwar.

5. Monitoring Cell of FC Divisions, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;

supervision of the State Forest Department;

MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar

4. User Agency

6. Guard file.

(7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area),

any, located in the area within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the

this approval, as per approved scheme, wherever possible and

at the project cost by involving local community;

amended and the Rules framed there-under;

report;

treatment;

Stage-II Clearance;

#### File No.8-1/2018-FC

#### **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (FOREST CONSERVATION DIVISION)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110003 Dated: 9th June, 2021

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswa

Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 360.01 ha of forest land (160.838 ha of Sabik Kisam land and 199.1720 ha of RF& KFD land) within the total lease area of 403.3238 ha in favour of M/s Tata Steel Limited for Katamati Iron ore mining Project in Keonjhar District (Odisha) - reg.

#### Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No 10F (Cons) - 18/2016.4252/F&E dated 25.02.2019 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, 'in-principle' approval to the proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 13th March, 2019 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the

c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; and

d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;

e. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that no mining shall be carried out in the land required to be maintained as safety zone all around the mining area;

f. Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Afforestation will be done within three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department:

xiv. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken by the User Agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department:

a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department

b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;

c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme:

d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°; and

e. Top-soil shall be managed the top soil management plan. xv. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;

compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. 20151/9F (MG)-26/2007 dated 18.11.2020 and letter no. No. 4501/9F (MG)-26/2007 dated 22.02.2021, final approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 360.01 ha of forest land (160.838 ha of Sabik Kisam land and 199.1720 ha of RF& KFD land) within the total lease area of 403.3238 ha in favour of M/s Tata Steel Limited for Katamati Iron ore mining Project in Keonjhar District (Odisha), subject to following conditions:

#### A. Conditions which need to be complied with before handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department

i. The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, SMC works area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to handing over forest land to user Agency; B. Conditions which need to be complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department

i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged; ii. Compensatory Afforestation

a. The State Government shall ensure that compensatory afforestation over the non-forest land equal in extent to the forest land being diverted shall be raised within three years from the date of issue of Stage -II Clearance and maintained thereafter as per approved plan by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. At least 1000 saplings per ha shall be planted over admissible CA land. If this is not possible to plant these many seedlings in the identified NFL, the balance seedlings will be planted in degraded forest land as per the prescription of the Working Plan at the cost of the User Agency. In such cases CA cost will be revised and duly approved by the competent authority and deposited online in the CAF managed by the CAMPA

b. 25% of the CA cost additionally will be spent towards soil and moisture conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement and deposited in CAF.

iii. Net Present Value

xvi. Felling of large numbers of trees shall not be done at a single point of time. As far as possible option of translocation of as many trees as possible should be exercised. As far as possible the trees should be felled in phased manner only when it is unavoidable that too under the strict supervision of the Forest Department

xvii. The user agency shall not clear the natural vegetation of about 50 meter width in the periphery of southern boundary of the mining lease area. The area shall be demarcated with the help of Forest Department and it will maintained and supplemented as green cover as per approved scheme at the project cost;

xviii. The State Govt. may note for future reference that the proposals for diversion of 160.838 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land and diversion of 199.1720 ha of forest land for mining and allied activities in Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Tata Steel Ltd. located in Keonjhar district Odisha within total Mining Lease hold area over 403,3238 ha of Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar district Odisha as received from the State Govt. vide their letters no. 10F(Cons)-18/2016.26364/F&E dated 19.12.2017 and 1OF (Cons)-136/2014/102/F&E dated 01.01.2015 respectively, shall be dealt for diversion of 360.01 ha of forest land in F. No. 8-01/2018-FC;

xix. The State Govt. ensure that the User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;

xx. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land;

xxi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;

xxii. The user agency will abide by the applicable recommendations of the State Government

xxiii. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government

xxiv. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the a. The State Government has realized the NPV of the forest area diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008 & 09.05.2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and guidelines issued by this Ministry in this regard. Additional NPV if becomes due as per final order of Hon'ble Supreme Court, shall be paid by the User Agency:

b. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

iv. Compensatory levies for this project, if any to be realized in future from the User Agency, shall be deposited to into the account of CAMPA of the State concerned through e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in):

v. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall carry out mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed.

vi. The mining lease holder shall, after ceasing mining operations undertake re-grassing the mining area, and any other areas which may have been disturbed due their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc.

vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;

viii. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall

#### proposal;

xxv. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government:

xxvi. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused

xxvii. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, as per detailed de-silting plan approved by the Forest Department, so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies

xxviii. The State Government shall ensure that process for settlement of rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 has been completed as per the relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry in this regard;

xxix. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March every year;

xxx. Any other condition that the concerned Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and

xxxi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(Charan Jeet Sing)

Scientist 'D'

#### Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

## **Arms smuggling a concern in Dhenkanal** No sight of Bolangir

POST NEWS NETWORK Dhenkanal, June 25: Criminal



toting miscreants, who are ruling the highway these days. Similarly, illegal brown sugar business has picked up in Dhenkanal civic body

bypass; funds rotting

POST NEWS NETWORK



**Body of missing minor** boy found in pond

POST NEWS NETWORK

## force, as applicable to the project.

engaging in gang wars on the slightest pretext in Dhenkanal district leaving the common man panicky, a report said.

The criminals engage in gang wars and use explosives like bombs and firearms to settle score with the members of their rival outfits. However, what has surprised many is that how such bombs and firearms could reach the criminals.

Police have no clue about the smuggling of these firearms in the district and the involvement of a possible inter-state gun running racket. While criminal activities are on the rise in the district, use of firearms and bombs by the criminal gangs has sparked concern among the residents

Dhenkanal has witnessed four murders within a week which is indicative of the deteriorating law and order situation in the district.

In a recent incident, guns and bombs were used during a group clash between the residents of two streets in Kamakhyanagar, June 16. A 27-year old youth named Tophan Bag was killed in the melee'. This is not the lone incident as a few years back sophisticated firearms had been used in the much-talked the accused persons and handed about murder of BJD youth leader them over to the police.

Moreover, the seizure of over 60 Later, a 32-year-old youth Mithun country-made guns from the poach-Jena of Baladiabandh village under ers in Kapilas sanctuary over last Sadar police limits was killed over seven months is no less frighten a past enmity, June 19. An elderly ing. The poachers arrested in this man Purnachandra Pradhan at connection are natives of the area. This has led the police to suspect in Kamakhyanagar was killed by his that a gun-running racket is acson-in-law Girish Dehuri, June 20. tive in the Kapilas sanctuary area. Similarly Biranchi Behera under It is suspected that professional

criminals from Bihar and Jharkhand might be involved in the gun-running racket. However, despite efforts, police have failed to bust the involvement of a gun running racket in the district.

This apart, the national highway passing through the district is not safe anymore for the commuters due to the presence of gun-

area and in the outskirts like Shyamacharanpur, Borapada and Bhagabanpur villages

A well-oiled racket is working to foster the brown sugar business in these areas. No matter how much effort they make, police and excise officials have failed to nab the anti-socials involved in these businesses

Moreover, smuggling of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) goes on unabated in various roadside dhabas and hotels despite the closure of liquor shops in the district due to Covid-induced lockdown and shutdowns. Local intelligentsia alleged that these illegal businesses are flourishing due to the failure of the intelligence department of the district police.

Residents have demanded that the district police intervene and take urgent steps as the situation is going out of control.

When contacted, SP K Siba Subramani said police are keeping a close watch on the smuggling of firearms and illegal brown sugar business in the district. It is pondering over various measures to check these illegal businesses.

Bolangir, June 25: Even as people here have been demanding construction of a 12-km long National Highway (NH) bypass in Bolangir for over 20 years now, nothing has come off it. Even a detailed project report (DPR) for the project has not been prepared yet. There is also no sight of the all-important forest clearance.

There is a need for 135 acres of land for the construction of the bypass out of which forest land constitutes six acres. Even though processing and receipt of a forest clearance is a long-drawn process, no headway has been made in this direction.

Sources said, the NH authorities have not gone beyond putting in an online application for the forest clearance. The foundation stone for the bypass had been laid in 2001. In 2013, ₹42 crore was sanctioned for the project. As there were lots of accidents in the area. the government of India had sanctioned ₹190 crore for building of the bypass in 2018.

Even as three years have passed since funds were sanctioned by the Centre, transfer of land and

distribution of compensations have not been completed yet. The project was hanging fire for years, thanks to delay in land acquisition and assessment issues.

Even though the NH authorities have filed an online application, an offline application is yet to be submitted at the DFO office. Forest clearance for acquisition of the six acres of forest land and its survev should have been over by now.

NH executive engineer Hemant Kumar Nayak said permission for the acquisition of the forest land has been sought. He said along with the application for the forest clearance, all other allied activities have been going on in a parallel way. DFO Sameer Satapathy said as

long as there is no patta for the six acres of jungle land under the Forest department, no construction for the bypass can begin.

village under Bahalda block in Mayurbhanj district, Friday. The minor had gone missing since Wednesday night

A resident of Pithakhutuni village, named Rajendra Kisku, was sleeping at his home along with wife Gumi, their three daughters Sumitra (12), Sumati (8) Damavanti (5) and the minor son.

At around 3.00 a.m. Gumi woke up and suddenly noticed that the toddler was missing. The worried family members alerted their neighbours and started searching for the child at all possible locations but failed to trace his whereabouts.

Later, the family lodged an FIR with local police following which a team comprising Bahalda IIC Jogendra Kumar Mallick and sub inspector Sadananda Nayak along with forensic experts reached the spot. They recovered the minor's body from the pond.

## **Decomposed body of** woman JE recovered

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, June 25: The body of a woman junior engineer (JE) was found in mysterious circumstances at her rented house here in Ganjam district Thursday afternoon. The deceased was found hanging from the ceiling. Bhanjanagar police personnel broke open the locked room at Landei Sahi of Unit-III and brought down the body of the deceased in presence of magistrate Bikash Bhoi.

The 34-year-old deceased has been identified as J Anita. She had been working as an estimator in the Rural Development department. She hailed from Berhampur.

Anita's mobile phone was switched off since Wednesday. Her neighbours also found her door locked from inside for the last few days. One of them informed herfamily members following which they arrived in Bhanjanagar.

Hills disappearing in forest-rich Nayagarh district

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, June 25: The forest cover and mountains of this district, known for its dense jungles and hills, has sharply shrunk, thanks to the government's policy to maximize revenues from these sources.

Pokasungha village hills, Badhipatana Baghua hill, Kotagarh Anantagumpha hill along Raja Sunakhela-Ranapur road under Ranapur tehsil have been nearly destroyed. Blasting of stones using dynamites has been random here. Roads have been laid through jungles by the nearby leaseholders and crusher owners. This has resulted in fast erosion of the hills and denudation of the forests

Jashobant Parida.

condition, June 21.

Patrabhaga village

Rasol police limits killed his friend

Kumbha Behera in an inebriated

Recently, a poultry farm owner

and his henchmen attacked the

villagers with bombs following a dis-

pute over encroachment of a rural

forest road under Gondia police

limits in the district. The villagers

managed to overpower three of

Environmentalist Biswajit Dash said, just because the government gets good revenue by leasing out these hills, this should never be encouraged. Crusher owners and leaseholders cut down hundreds of trees to make roadways for transportation of stones. There should be an inquiry as to who gave the permission for such massive damage to local forests and the environment.

The role of the forest department in this is crucial. Mining beyond the permissible limits is being done. Blasting through dynamites has been happening day and night endangering the lives of people in



the adjoining villages. There should be clarity if there is permission for this type of damage by the tehsildar. Further, mining is being done

in areas other than those identified by the authorities. Locals should raise protests against such unlawful activities. If it is not stopped, the natural beauties of this district will soon be a thing of the past, local social workers said.

Environmentalist Sanjay Sahu said, it is difficult to raise a fullgrown plant. But the way large swathes of forest lands are being cleared of flora and fauna should be investigated. The violators should be brought to book, he said, adding if required, their licenses should be revoked. Sahu also demanded that afforestation on these hills be undertaken to protect these mountains from degeneration.

Teacher Antaryami Sahu said such illegal activities are not confined to Raj Sunakhela alone as it has spread across the district. The

leaseholders and crusher owners threaten people if they protest against their wanton activities.

The administration is completely silent with regard to violations of rules in leased mines or illegal mines. This has resulted in gradual leveling of hills and denudation of forests in the forest-rich Nayagarh district. Even though there have been scores of protests against it in the past, they have had no effect on the authorities.

The Kotagada Anantagumpha hill has a rich legend. It is said that this was the seat of activities of Bhaktakavi Bhakta Charan Das. This was here where he lived and wrote his poems.



## power post

### FOCUS ECONOMY

Be only a burning fire for progress, take whatever comes to you as an aid to your progress and immediately make whatever progress is required THE MOTHER



## IT Dept's chaos theory!

t a time when eking out new tax revenues in a shrinking economy is the only goal, an unwarranted self-goal has a lot of knickers in a twist Lin North Block. The question that's hovering over Raisina Hill is why fix something that isn't broken? That's a question everyone seems to be now asking when the new e-filing website of the Income Tax Department, lauded and much tooted about, turned out to be a non-starter. IT officials had announced that the new portal was even designed to be "taxpayerfriendly" and would help ease the filing process and reduce dependence on tax advisors

Numerous glitches in the software have now left irate taxpayers stranded they have reported even basic issues such as login problems and complain that old tax filings critical to users are not visible on the new portal. Meantime, the old reliable website has been unfortunately shut down and the new one doesn't work. A ripe old mess that comes at a really inconvenient moment.

And since even Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has tweeted about it, IT officials are in a frenzy trying to salvage the situation with Infosys, the corporate supplier outsourced with this task. A testing time for the newly appointed acting chairperson of CBDT Jagannath Mohapatra to show his leadership skills. He took over his new assignment after his predecessor PC Mody hung up his bat after a prolonged and much extended innings that ended almost apocryphally on the very day the old website was shut down!

Hectic efforts are being made to fix the snafu - the vendor management tax babus are in talks with Infosys and we are told that furious efforts are expected to ensure that the glitches will be removed very shortly. The taxpayers certainly hope so. Meanwhile, revenues are awaited.

#### Govt tackles babu critics with football tactic

Football teams often employ a technique known as one-to-one marking during a game, in which a player is deputed to stop a rival player from taking

possession of the ball for too long. Something along these lines is now in the works as the Centre sets about tackling the rising tide of insiders turned dissenters, especially if they happen to be retired babus who were once part of the 'System' but



are now freely speaking their mind on issues that they feel strongly about. What may perhaps be more galling to the Centre is that the authors of these contrarian views are venerable ex-bureaucrats who were well-known for their administrative skills and subject expertise during their civil service career - former Adviser to Governor of Punjab, Former Ambassador to Romania Julio Ribeiro, former Cabinet Secretary KM Chandrasekhar, former Culture Secretary Jawahar Sircar, former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran and other similarly notable and "non-partisan" former civil servants. Their words carry weight. Collectively and individually they have written on wide-ranging subjects, including the PM Cares Fund, the farmers' agitation, Article 370, the handling of the Covid pandemic, human rights abuses, the controversial Central Vista etc. They write edit page articles but also dash off open letters to the Centre that are released to the media.

The government is clearly feeling affronted by this unsolicited advice, but since these are not ordinary voices that cannot be clamped by usual ploys; it has decided to retaliate by getting other "neutral" babus to respond to their colleagues. So, these days a critical piece on a delicate subject by a former babu is immediately responded to by another babu defending the government's policies. If nothing else, it doesn't hurt to muddy the waters without getting dirty yourself. And while the babus take on each other in the media, the government carries on with its usual business

> Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

# **THREE WARNINGS**

he World Bank's Global **Economic Prospects** (GEP) report, published twice a year, is the most important source for evaluating the current and future outlook for emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs). The recently released June edition is especially significant because of the warnings it contains.

Someone reading this report too quickly could easily miss the bad news, because, as with all publications by international organisations, it comes sugarcoated. That is the responsible thing for the World Bank to do: avoid causing alarm. But policymakers should heed the important cautionary messages buried in the text.

This GEP makes three key points. First, the world economy is recovering from the pandemic. but while advanced economies, with already successful or rapidly progressing Covid-19 vaccination programmes, appear set to return to or even exceed their earlier growth rates, EMDEs' prospects are more mixed.

The strongest-looking emerging-market region is East Asia and the Pacific, where the World Bank forecasts 7.7% GDP growth in 2021, ahead of South Asia's 6.8% expansion. Within this broad region, output in China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh has now surpassed pre-pandemic levels, and the latter two countries, starting from a lower base, are well positioned for sustained high growth.

In terms of potential, Indonesia is the other economy to watch. But its experience with the pandemic thus far has been mixed. Indonesia began with an aggressive vaccination plan. Though there have been ups and downs, with 4.6% of its population now fully vaccinated, it is currently ahead of many other Asian countries, such as Sri Lanka (3.9%), India (3.8%), Thailand (3%), and Vietnam (0.1%).

Moreover, the Indonesian government has in recent years attempted some structural reforms, such as labor-market liberalisation, by enacting a so-called omnibus law on job creation. Although this has been politically con-



The World Bank estimates that Covid-19 will cause the number of people living in poverty to increase by 143-163 million in 2021, with more than half of the newly poor in South Asia, mainly in India. The problem with India is not its economic fundamentals, but poor management of the economy

tentious, other reforms appear to be yielding dividends. President Joko Widodo's government took early steps to bring policy management for the pandemic and the economy under a common expert group, the Covid-19 Handling and National Economic Recovery Committee. This helped the government to avoid the mistake of paralyzing the economy in the name of controlling the pandemic, and ultimately faltering on both fronts, as happened in some emerging markets.

As Prospera's Della Temenggung and co-authors pointed out in a recent paper, Indonesia's economy has performed strongly compared to its peers during the pandemic because of this balance between virus containment and structural reform. The World Bank expects Indonesia's growth to climb relatively slowly, from 4.4% this year to 5% in 2022, but emphasises the economy's high medium-term potential.

But for much of the developing world, the medium term looks bleak. The huge global disparity in vaccine access means that poorer countries are likely to face more waves of the coronavirus and its variants in the coming months and years. And they will probably have to deal with these out-

breaks by locking down parts of their economies.

Even within EMDEs, the poor appear to be suffering much more than the rich, and in some economies the super-rich are actually better off than they were before the pandemic. The World Bank estimates that Covid-19 will cause the number of people living in poverty to increase by 143-163 million in 2021, with more than half of the newly poor in South Asia, mainly in India. The problem with India is not its economic fundamentals, which are strong, but the fact that poor management of the economy and the pandemic means, as the June GEP puts it, that "confidence remains depressed and

balance sheets damaged.' The World Bank's second warning concerns inflation. The long chapter in the latest GEP entitled "Emerging Inflation Pressures: Cause for Alarm?" lays it all out. Anyone reading that section will realise that the question mark is there only to soften the jolt. An exclamation point would have been more appropriate.

Economists know how little they know about inflation. We compensate by being overcautious and advocating harsh preventive policy measures at the first sign of rising prices. And the current sit-

uation is worrying. Inflation usu ally declines during recessions. But, of the five global recessions of the last half-century, the drop in inflation during this pandemicinduced downturn has been the most muted. Furthermore, inflation has risen faster since May this year than at the end of previous recessions.

The US Federal Reserve's line is that the recent increase in inflation is a one-time adjustment caused by large fiscal infusions. That sounds comforting but, in truth, no one knows for sure. If inflation in advanced economies persists, central banks may be compelled to tighten monetary policy. That could lead to higher capital inflows for advanced economies and the depreciation of EMDE currencies. These are big risks. with potentially devastating effects on the world's poor.

The third message in the June GEP concerns trade, and it is not so much a warning as a reminder of an opportunity. In a fascinating discussion, the report shows that one big stumbling block to faster growth and progress for EMDEs is the high cost of trade, some of which is unnecessary. Tariffs ac count for only one-fourteenth of the total cost of trade, with logistics transport, bureaucracy, and corruption making up the rest. As a result, a good sold to another country costs on average double what it does domestically.

EMDEs thus have scope to realize huge savings and greatly boost their export potential. What the GEP suggests is that, while many of the pandemic's costs are unavoidable, reforms that target this deadweight trade cost can provide poor countries with at least a minimal buffer against the difficult conditions an uneven global recovery holds in store.

The writer, a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## SPECTRUM GENE THERAPY

Kaushik Basu

**THE WORLD** 

**ECONOMIC** 

**PROSPECTS** 

**PUBLISHED** 

**TWICE A YEAR**,

**IS THE MOST** 

**IMPORTANT** 

**SOURCE FOR** 

**EVALUATING** 

**AND FUTURE** 

EMERGING

**THE CURRENT** 

**OUTLOOK FOR** 

**MARKETS AND** 

**DEVELOPING** 

**ECONOMIES** 

**REPORT.** 

**BANK'S GLOBAL** 

Dawn of super-human vision



he announcement of the nal and it is further processed in He allowed the sunlight to pass stone with orange, yellows, green, through the prism to convince the world that the white sunlight is made of seven colours: VIBGYOR. But later we learnt that these seven colours are just a thin slit of spectrum in the vast spectra of sun light. The other higher frequency waves that we cannot see are gamma ray. X-ray, UV-ray, while the lower frequency wave are infrared, radio wave and microwave. Some animals, including humans, have the rare super-vision beyond the trichromatic type. Some vertebrates such as birds have tetrachromatic vision. They have one extra cone type: UV cone along with RGB cone. This fourth type of cone cell sensitises the UV light region. This tetrachromatic feature helps the birds to see tiny details in a prey in the grassy floor and on trees. Humas lacked such tetrachromatic vision until recently when a genetic test brought a surprising result. In 2012, Concetta Antico, a painter from San Diego, California. was evaluated genetically and behaviourally by Professor Jay Neitz, Bishop Professor as tetrachromacy. She has a mutation in L-opsin gene which sensitises even in slight difference of spectrum. A pebble appears as a dull grey material to a normal person, but it is a glittering

blue, and pinl

- Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe, and enthusiastically act upon... must inevitably come to pass! PAIII I. MEVER
- Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they THOMAS A. EDISON were to success when they gave up.
- Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. STEVE JOBS

### WORDS**WORTH**

WISDOM CORNER

### Callithumpian

Allithumpian refers to a band of discordant instruments or a noisy ✓ parade. It was first noted in America in 1836. It's possible it may have its origin in a southern English dialect word gallithumpian: the English Dialect Dictionary says this could refer to a heckler or someone who disturbs order at Parliamentary elections (which were then public events, not secret ballots). This probably derives from gally, "to frighten", which turns up in another dialect word gallicrow for a scarecrow. But it's also been said to be a blend of calliope and thump, which sounds plausible as an evocation of a noisy fairground atmosphere, except that unfortunately callione, in the sense of the steam-driven musical instrument, is not recorded before 1858. The word survives, though it's now rather regional even in the US, for example in the Callithumpian Parade on July 4 every year in Biwabik, Minnesota, and in the names of the Callithumpian Consort, which performs avant-garde music, and Jack Maheu's Fire in the Pet Shop Callithumpian Jazz Band. It has a second meaning in Australia and New Zealand, referring to some unspecified nonconformist religious sect. This may be derived from the other meaning given in the English Dialect Dictionary of "a group of social reformers".

## LOI

## **NO COPS AVAILABLE**

his is the true story of George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi, who was going to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the shed. George opened the door to go turn off the light but saw there were people in the shed in the process of stealing things. He immediately phoned the police, who asked, "Is someone in your house?" and George said, "No," and explained the situation. Then they explained that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be there when available.

George said, "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I've just shot them all.

Then he hung up. Within five minutes three squad cars, an Armed Response unit, and an ambulance showed up. Of course, the police caught the burglars red-handed

One of the policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!" George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"



Dr Bhubanananda Sahu

**RED-GREEN COLOUR BLINDNESS IS A COMMON GENETIC DISEASE. GENE THERAPY BRINGS HOPE TO COLOUR BLIND PEOPLE** WHO HAVE NEVER **SEEN COLOUR SINCE BIRTH DUE TO DYSFUNCTION OF COLOUR SENSITIVE GENE** 

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

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

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send in their valuable comments, opinion

(0)

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

Sweden in 2019 stunned everybody when professor Dolaldson explained the composition of our universe. He described the universe as a cup of coffee. Whole of the coffee is the dark energy; little bit of cream is dark matter and the tinv bit of sugar is the ordinary matter. Now we know that our universe is made of 69% dark energy. 26% dark matter and mere 5% is the ordinary matter. Briefly, the dark energy is the force that is involved in expansion of universe and dark matter is the priming force for the formation stars and galaxy. We can only see 5% of the universe as it interacts with light, but the rest is completely mysterious.

In the animal kingdom, humans are in the top branch of evolved mammal on the tree of life. Our eves have the highest features among intelligent life. Around 500 million years ago, the eyes originated in their simple form, euglena as a light spot. Euglena is single cell flagellate eukaryotes extensively studied in laboratory as a model organism. It can navigate in response to light by this light spot. Behind our eye, there is a thin layer of tissue called retina, which converts the incoming light to electrical sigjects. Our retina has three different kinds of cone cells that sensitise three different spectra of light. This three cone cell types are long wave sensitive (LWS) cone or red cone, medium wave sensitive (MWS) cone or green cone, and short-wave sensitive (SWS) cone or blue cone (RGB cones). Each cone cell type enables us to see 100 different shades of each colour. Therefore, we are able to see 1 million colour shades.

As we have three different types of cone cells, our eye is classified as trichromatic type (tri:3; chroma: colour). But mammals such as dogs and cats have only two types of cones: SWScone and LWS cone in the retina and, hence, are classified as dichromatic type (di:2: chroma: colour). The dichromatic eye cannot see the seven colours of the rainbow, but only two colours: blue and yellow. Colour is not so important for animals that forage at night. They can only see one colour shades of black, white, and gray and are classified as monochromatic eye. Most marine mammals are monochromatic; this includes seals, sea lions and walruses. cetaceans, dolphins and whales. In 1660. Sir Isaac Newton discovered seven colours in the sunlight. Until now we assumed that dichromatic eye cannot be converted to trichromatic eye due to the difficulty in neural rewiring. But recently, a dichromatic eye has been converted to trichromatic eye with gene therapy. Neitz lab at University of Washington made this conversation in squirrel monkeys. Squirrel monkeys have dichromatic vision. By gene therapy, a human red cone gene was introduced into a monkey's eve. After the gene therapy the monkey was able to differentiate between red and yellow fruits which otherwise are seen as blue, yellow shade. This is a great leap in vision research. This technology can customise our vision to see many more spectra other than the seven colours of light. Red-green colour blindness is very common genetic disease in world. This technology brings hope to colour blind people who have never seen colour since birth due to dysfunction of colour sensitive gene.

> The writer, a faculty of **Ophthalmology** and Visual Sciences University of Massachusetts Medical School, is from Bargarh, Odisha.

### Punish fugitives and proxies

Sir, In a far-reaching development the Enforcement Directorate has transferred to the public sector banks and the Central government ₹9,371 crore belonging to fugitive economic offenders Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi. The agency also attached assets worth a total of ₹18,170 crore constituting over 80% of the losses of ₹22,586 crore incurred by banks due to the alleged fraud committed by these businessmen. This process of recovery of the losses incurred to the state owned PSBs has been made substantially easier by the enactment of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018. The law empowers authorities to attach assets of such offenders who flee India to escape the reach of law even without a conviction. Also, this law provides for the attachment of all the assets of the offenders, irrespective of whether these are the proceeds of the crime or not. A substantial part of the assets in question was held in the name of dummy entities, trusts, third persons or relatives of these accused and these entities were their proxies for holding the properties. While this sends out a strong message to the fraudsters thriving with the audacity and patronage of political parties to dupe the banks - and siphoning off the public money, the Centre should step up the efforts to extradite these fraudsters who fled the country to settle in safe havens. Now the government should make every effort to bring back all such fugitives who have sought save haven in foreign lands. Also, the proxies and all other participants in the conspiracies shouldn't be spared of the stringent action.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Why judges recuse

Sir, I have always wondered why judges "recuse" themselves from cases brought before them even if there is a question of conflict of interest involved. As far as I am aware, judges are sworn to be neutral and impartial with the undeniable mandate of dispensing justice without fear or favour, affection or ill will. Hence, the recent stand taken by two judges of the Supreme Court, Justices Indira Banerjee and Aniruddha Bose, to recuse themselves from two different cases pertaining to their home state West Bengal baffles reason. And this is not the first time it has happened and surely it won't be the last. So can we presume that judges are not sure about their own impartiality and independence?

Bhaskar Roy, NEW DELHI



## state

## Let-up in razing prawn gherries worries green activists

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara/Rajnagar, June 25: At least 141 illegal prawn gherries in the Bhitarakanika National Park (BNP) in Kendrapara district have been dismantled in joint raids by the officials of the Forest and Revenue departments and the local police.

As per the order of the High Court, cases have been registered against the owners of these illegal prawn gherries. That apart, police have arrested five mafias in Rajnagar. However, locals said the pace of dismantling of such illegal prawn gherries has slowed down over last few days. The sudden indifference by the authorities has raised concern among local environmentalists.

Over 15,000 of such illegal prawn gherries have killed the splendour of the Bhitarakanika National Park. They have been the main reason for the deaths of wildlife and marine creatures.

Besides, they have destroyed hectares of agricultural land in the region. The BMP was deprived

At least 141 illegal prawn gherries in the Bhitarakanika National Park in Kendrapara

district have been dismantled in joint raids by the officials of the Forest and Revenue departments and the local police

of getting enlisted in the world heritage list after a survey by a UNESCO team in 2017. The High Court has expressed concern at the violations of the rules of the

However, locals said the pace of dismantling of such illegal prawn gherries has slowed down over last few days. The sudden indifference by the authorities has

raised concern among local environmentalists At the behest of the Supreme Court, the Orissa High Court has directed the district administration to remove the prawn gherries in the Bhitarakanika National Park

> coastal regulation zone (CRZ), said environmentalists. Environmentalists Hemanta Kumar Rout, Ashok Chandra Swain

site, said the green activists. At the behest of the Supreme

pockets have been destroyed by

these prawn gherries. They have de-

stroyed around 60 sqkm of man-

groves over last ten years. The

medicines and chemicals used by

these prawn gherries are washed

into rivers and the sea. Their tox-

icity kills marine creatures. The

prawn gherries are responsible

for mass deaths of Olive Ridley

turtles at the world famous

Gahirmatha in the BNP, they said.

caused the deaths of dolphins and

other marine lives. Their toxic gas

has been polluting the local envi-

ronment, resulting in the fall in

the number of wildlife population.

The salt water inundates large

It may be mentioned that, the

UNESCO team that had visited the

BNP in 2016 to consider its suit-

ability for the world heritage site

had expressed disappointment at

the prawn gherries. In other words,

it may be said that because of the

prawn gherries, the BNP could not

be considered for a world heritage

areas of arable land.

The prawn gherries have also

Court, the Orissa High Court has directed the district administralating the CRZ rules.

Mamata Mohapatra, district fishery officer, said 729 prawn gherries have got permission to operate in the coastal region of the BNP. However, the remaining gherries are illegal, she said. In case of violations of the CRZ norms, the prawn gherri owners will get three years jail or pay a fine of ₹1 lakh, she said.

Deputy Collector Niranjan Behera said the district administration has been laying a lot of stress on the removal of illegal prawn gherries in the BNP. Many gherries have been removed in the past. Recently, criminal cases have been registered against 141 people, he said, adding razing of prawn gherries would resume from Monday.

### **MATRIC RESULTS**

tion to remove the prawn gherries in the BNP. Despite this, the district administration has been procrastinating in this regard. The prawn gherries destroyed by the administration get revived after a few days. The gherries have been vio-

condition of these students have come in the way of the success of the online teaching

## Access to smart phones,

availability of enough data and electricity and poor economic condition of these students have come in the way of online teaching

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, June 25:

Education has been one of the

worst affected areas during the

pandemic. Even as the government

has come out with various novel ini-

tiatives like online teaching to help

students, they have failed to de-

liver goods. Recently, the govern-

ment introduced teaching through

Youtube for students up to Class X.

Access to smart phones, avail-

ability of enough data and elec-

tricity and above all poor economic

However, this too has not had its de-

sired effect.

Questions are being raised about the success of the recently-introduced Youtube mode of education. Future will only tell how successful this will be, some teaches said on condition of anonymity. Many families in these villages have no smartphones.

Poor families are finding it difficult to arrange two squares meals a day because of the lockdowns and shutdowns necessitated by Covid-19. For these families food is more important than owning a smartphone for online education



of their children.

Online edu out of bounds for tribals

This is the case for the Jangalagheri tribals of coastal Mahakalapada block in Kendrapara district. They have no agricultural land. They live on catching fish and crabs from the river, creeks and sea. Mobile phones are still a dream for the Shabar tribe of the Petachhela panchayat.

Even as children of these Shabar families have taken admissions in the nearby school, catching fish and crabs for their living is what keeps them busy. The smart education programme of the state government is out of bounds for these kids.

When asked by this correspondent, they said they have no food to eat. Every second day they go hungry. They have no resources to buy a TV or a mobile phone. Same is the case for the families of Singpara, Lunimathia, Pandarmaili, Jambu, Suniti, Baranambar, Akhugada and Baghuameda villages of this block.

## **COVID-19 PANDEMIC TURNS STUDENTS INTO LABOURERS**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Kutra, June 25: Online classes and tuitions have become the new normal during this Covid-19 pandemic. But reality bites when it comes to rural pockets where parents can hardly afford to buy smartphones for their children.

Consequently, most students in rural areas are seen working as daily labourers to help their parents run families

Kutra block in Sundargarh district is a case in point.

With the outbreak of Covid-19 putting paid to offline education, children of marginal and landless farmers in various villages in Kutra block can be seen working as daily labourers. When asked why they are working as daily wagers when the state government provides them with rice and wheat at ₹1 and the Central government is also providing free rice and wheat during this pandemic time, their prompt answer is that the governments are not giving them the money to

meet the daily family expenses. "When we were going to schools we used to have mid-day meals. The situation is no longer the same due to Covid-19. The alternative option left for us to work as labourers. This way, we are able to help reduce the burden of our parents, at least to some extent," some children maintained.



With the outbreak of Covid-19 putting paid to offline education, children of marginal and landless farmers can be seen working as daily

tives in farming. Some are also seen going to farmlands carrying food for their parents.

labourers

The ongoing lockdown will is expected to end June 17. It is presently being discussed that the restrictions in the western districts of the state will be lifted. However, it is learnt that the schools are not going to reopen any time soon.

Expressing concern, locals asked what would become of the children of farmers, daily wagers and those living below poverty line who are studying in primary and high schools and some even in colleges. However, these children are hopeful that better days are just round the corner and they will again go to schools and colleges

## Jethwa takes charge as Vigilance director

and Seik Chand said the coastal

#### POST NEW NETWORK

Cuttack, June 25: Senior IPS officer Yeshwant Jethwa took charge as the director of the state Vigilance here, Friday.

Soon after assuming the office, Jethwa paid floral tributes to his predecessor Debasis Panigrahi

who succumbed to Covid-related complications June 18. Paying tributes to Panigrahi,

Jethwa said, "He (Debasis Panigrahi) has contributed immensely in augmenting the capacity of Odisha Vigilance. We'll certainly carry it forward. State Vigilance's teamwork will help

curb the corruption.' He later interacted with officers and urged them to dedicate themselves to the service of the people of Odisha.

The senior IPS officer urged the officials to explore the advancements in the field of technology and forensic science as it would go a long way strengthening the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.

In a bid to boost the investigations, Jethwa asked the officials to ensure greater application of DNA fingerprinting and voice analysis.

About the staff crunch in the anti-corruption wing of the state police, the officer said that they would urge the state government to address the issue.

A 1994-batch IPS officer,

Many unhappy with assessment system

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: The HSC Matric results declared by school and Mass Education department this year is different from the previous years, as the results this year was declared without any examination. The students were given marks based on their scores in Class IX exams and tests in Class X.

After the results were declared Orissa POST talked to some students, parents and educationists and asked them about the relevance of this result.

Jangyasini Biswal, a student who got 85 per cent marks in the exam, said that she was expecting 90 per cent marks as she had done well in the Class IX exams. She said that she will not appear for the improvement examination as it will be too much pressure to handle again.

Priyanka Priyadarshini, who secured 83 per cent marks, said that she would have felt good if this marks which she got was given on the basis of her preparations as she was eager to sit for the exam. But her parents were not eager to allow her for the improvement examination as the sitof BSE. Why absentees are deprived? They should be given a chance to sit for the exam Secondly, 2,265 students failed due to marks not received by BSE. We have urged the BSE to take necessary steps in this regard.'

Another student, Ankita Swain also said that she is not happy with the marks as she had expected more than 85 per cent. She said that she had done well in the practice test and Class IX examinations.

Her father Arun Swain alleged that the school teachers had done some mismanagement with the marks as many of her daughter's friends who had not done well in the exams got more than her. He will file an RTI on this.

Another student Randeep Ray said that he was declared absent in the exam despite answering the examination.

He said that the school authority had failed to answer why he was declared absent when he had already answered the shcool examinations marks of which were calculated for declaring the final result.



**Executive Engineer** Division, Jharsuguda

Many others, who were seen collecting minor forest produces during the summer, are currently seen assisting their parents and rela-

has held many key positions in the state police, including that of the ADG (Law and Order) and Crime Branch.

uation still not good in the state. Basudev Bhatt of Odisha Parents' Federation said, "We strongly oppose the fail criteria

## Marginal farmer strikes gold with farm pond

A NITI Aayog team had recently visited Kinoda village to explore the outcome of the project and were pleased to see how a farm pond has transformed Sarathi Sabar from a marginal farmer and migrant labourer to a progressive farmer

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, June 25: Sarathi Sabar, a marginal farmer from Kinoda village of Laxmipur gram panchavat under Ravagada block in Gajapati district, had to migrate to other states in search of work after each Kharif season.

Being the sole breadwinner of a five-member family, Sarathi had to leave his village every year in search of work because the earning from selling farm produces from his two acres of land failed to meet his family expenses.

However, he no longer has to migrate. He struck gold with a farm pond dug up in his farmland in the 2019-20 fiscal. Now he is earning enough to lead a decent life.

Kinoda village is 50 km away from the district headquarters and has an undulating topography. Here the land is covered with red soil. He used to cultivate ragi and paddy in one acre each of his total two acres of land. The farm produces would fetch him just ₹7,000, which was not enough to feed the entire family. As a result. Sarathi would have to migrate after every year after harvesting Kharif crops. Yet, he would find it very difficult to run the family.

Fortune smiled on him in 2019-20 as a farm pond was sanctioned in his favour during an awareness programme by the MGNREGS functionaries of the Soil Conservation department in his locality. The farm pond was dug at a cost of ₹60,600 under the scheme MGNREGS.

During the digging of the farm



pond, Sarathi, his family members, daily labourers and Dharitri WSHG having active job cards were engaged for the digging work. The work was carried out under the proper supervision of Dharitri WSHG.

After construction of farm pond, Sarathi adopted Integrated Farming System (IFS) for sustainable agriculture (cereals + pulses + vegetables + fishery) for additional income throughout the year. He started to cultivate vegetables such as tomato, cucumber. pumpkin, brinial, ladies finger. beans, cauliflower as well as cabbage in his remaining land on the periphery of the farm pond. He also took up bund plantation activities and planted coconut, banana, papaya and drum stick trees interspersed with pineapple on the four sides of the pond which

went a long way in improving his financial condition.

For his farm pond, he was supplied with 750 fingerlings for pisciculture. Besides horticulture and pisciculture, he also cultivated pulses like green gram and black gram and oil seeds during the Rabi season.

According to Sarathi, this year he earned a profit of ₹30,000 from pisciculture and ₹35,000 from bund and vegetable cultivation as well as oil seed cultivation. Meanwhile, he has been regarded as a progressive farmer in his locality. "The integrated farming system in a small piece of land has changed my days for better. My earnings have multiplied. Everyone in my family is working in the field and we are living a happy life," he added.

A NITI Aayog team had recently

visited Kinoda village to explore the outcome of the project and were pleased to see how a fish-pond has transformed Sarathi from a marginal farmer and migrant labourer to a progressive farmer.

The team also praised the Gajapati district administration for implementing such types of projects during the Covid-19 pandemic to provide livelihood support to rural people.

Most importantly, the project has been qualified for the semifinal of prestigious SKOCH award, 2020, for introducing IFS and was appreciated at National level for promoting sustainable agriculture practices and generating employment opportunities in the district.

Appreciating Sarathi for his ability to change his future with his dedication, Gajapati district Collector Anupam Saha said, "Such type of farm pond projects has been taken up in large scale in Gajapati district as per direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in order to generate more and more persondays and provide livelihood support during Covid-19 pandemic period.'

"A total of 1,699 farm ponds were sanctioned for Gajapati district in the financial year 2020-21, out of which 1,258 projects were geo-tagged, 576 projects were completed and 666 projects are under progress. The remaining 457 farm ponds will be completed till the end of this year," informed Project Director, Watershed, Paralakhemundi, Rabindra Kumar Sahu.

		Executive Engineer
EAST COAST RAILWAY	OIPR-32291/11/0002/2122	M.I. Division, Jharsuguda
Tender Notice No.: 06/ET/SBP/ENGG/		
2021-22 Dtd.: 21.06.2021	No. A-227 GOVERNMEN	NT OF ODISHA
(1) e-Tender No. 05-eT-DENC-SBP-21		
Name of work : SUPPLY AND STACKING OF	OFFICE OF THE EX	ECUTIVE ENGINEER
50,000 CUM MACHINE CRUSHED TRACK		
BALLAST AS PER RAILWAY'S SPECIFICATION AT BALANGIR DEPOT	TFI FNGIRI HFAN	WORKS DIVISION,
FROM OUTSIDE RAILWAY LAND/QUARRY		
AND LOADING INTO RAILWAY'S WAGONS	AT/PO: AMBAGUD	A, DIST: KORAPUT
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ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/		ail Id: thwd.ambaguda@gmail.com
BALANGIR OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.	e-Procuren	nent Notice
Approx cost of the work :₹5,97,75,500/-		- EE-THWD-03/2021-22
(2) e-Tender No. 07-eT-DENS-SBP-21		
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50,000 CUM MACHINE CRUSHED TRACK	2. Approx. Estimated cost :	
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OUTSIDE RAILWAY LAND/QUARRY AND		of security personnel
LOADING INTO RAILWAY'S WAGONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF		
ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/		258 days (Approx.)
TITLAGARH OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.		28.06.2021 (10.00 A.M.) to
Approx cost of the work :₹ 6,21,49,000/-	availability of bid	07.07.2021 (05.30 P.M.)
Completion period of the work: 12 Months (for	document in the portal	
both tenders).	6. Last date/time for receipt : 0	07 07 2021 (05 30 PM)
Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of	of bid in the portal	
19.07.2021 (for both tenders).		08 07 2021 (12 20 DM)
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or		08.07.2021 (12.30 P.M.)
in person shall be accepted against such	bids on-line	
e-tenders.	8. Name & address of the : I	Executive Engineer,
Complete information including e-tender	O.I.T	Telengiri Head Works Division,
documents of the above e-tender is available		At/Po: Ambaguda.
in website : http://www.ireps.gov.in		<b>U</b>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised		District: Koraput
to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any		from the e-procurement portal
changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.	http://tendersodisha.gov.in.	Cd / Executive Engineer
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.),		Sd./- Executive Engineer,
PR-172/M/21-22 Sambalpur	OIPR-32164/11/0004/2122 Telengir	i Head Works Division, Ambaguda
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Note: Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Amendments/ Clarifications etc. with respect to the works, if any shall be hosted in th ement site regularly as no separate inf stponement of tender opening date. ove portal. Interested Bidders/ Agencies are advised to visit the above e-procurement si dvertisement shall be published in the Newspaper in this regard including any postponen JPR-34076/11/0004/2122 Sd./- Executive Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No



## **FAKE VAX SCAM** WB cops suspect 'something big'

Preliminary investigations suggest the fake vials either contained plain water or some other vaccine, as per KMC officials



The Kolkata Police Detective Department while interrogating Debanian Dev -- the man responsible for running the fake vaccination racket -- has stumbled on some interesting details

#### AGENCIES

Kolkata, June 25: The raging controversy over the fake Covid-19 vaccination camps in parts of Kolkata Friday snowballed into a political storm ensnaring into it several Trinamool Congress leaders, prompting the opposition BJP to demand a CBI probe into a "larger conspiracy" in the case.

The Kolkata Police formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by the joint police commissioner (Crime) to investigate how the main accused Debanjan Deb who. impersonating as an IAS officer, organised Covid-19 vaccination camps where around 2000 people were suspected to have

administered fake doses. "We have formed an SIT to probe into the matter. Senior officers of the Detective Department are there

## Another Chinese SC asks Mamata, Law Minister to move HC afresh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 25: Another Chinese national has been nabbed in West Bengal by Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel while she was attempting to enter Bhutan, police said.

Ni Wai Lin, 52, was arrested Thursday evening in Jaigaon, Alipurduar district, while she was trying to cross into Bhutan's Phuntsoling town. The police said she had a valid

Chinese passport but her Indian tourist visa had expired. Lin has been handed over to

Intelligence Bureau (IB) for questioning. The IB's Counter-intelligence

cell is interrogating her. Lin's arrest comes within a fortnight of BSF intercepting a Chinese national Han Junwe in

Malda district while he was entering India from Bangladesh. He confessed to procuring 1300

Indian SIM Cards which were used to perpetrate financial frauds.

But IB is exploring a 'national security' angle as Han's network linked to financial frauds could also be used for paying off Chinese agents in India.

Lin's arrest is also significant because two Chinese tourists have been recently arrested -one from Bihar-Nepal border, another from Lava in Bengal's Kalimpong district.Both were found to have taken sharp high resolution photographs of strategic areas like the Rachen La pass on the Sikkim-Bhutan border near Doklam, where Chinese military intrusions were resisted by the Indian army in 2017.

These areas are on the strategic Siliguri Corridor that connects the Indian mainland with its seven northeastern states.

Former IB official Benu Ghosh told IANS that Chinese field espionage activity around the Siliguri corridor have intensified since the 2017 Doklam crisis.

The top court stayed the June 9 High Court order, which refused to take reply-affidavits of Banerjee and Ghatak on the CBI's transfer plea in the case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: The Supreme Court Friday asked the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Law Minister Moloy Ghatak to move Calcutta High Court afresh with their plea to file affidavit in Narada scam case.

The top court stayed the June 9 High Court order, which refused to take reply-affidavits of Banerjee and Ghatak on the CBI's transfer plea in the case. A bench comprising Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari asked the High Court to decide their plea in connection with filing of affidavits, with regard to their alleged role on the day of arrest of four TMC leaders by the CBI May 17 in the case.

The bench pointed that High Court is scheduled to hear the matter on June 29, therefore the parties concerned should move there.

The top court also asked the High Court to first decide the applications filed by the WB government. Baneriee and Ghatak. before proceeding ahead in the

### NARADA SCAM



matter. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI, suggested the top court that it could ask the petitioners to move the High Court afresh since the hearing in the matter is in progress over there.

The CBI had accused both the leaders of stopping it from performing its legal duty following the arrest of four TMC leaders.

The top court staved the June 9 order of the High Court, where the court had refused to take into record affidavit by Banerjee and Ghatak, after hearing their counsel senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi and senior advocate Vikas Singh representing the West Bengal government.

Earlier, two SC judges Justice Indira Banerjee and Aniruddha Bose, both hailing from West Bengal, had recused from hearing the West Bengal related matters



Ducks on a flooded street during high tide in Ganga river, at Kalighat area in Kolkata

## Adhir not 'optimistic' now **MODI GOVT'S J&K MOVE**





of this party (BJP), in the recent past, equated some of them with secessionist elements, calling them member of certain gangs, he said in a statement. In the Centre's first outreach to Jammu and Kashmir's political leadership in almost two years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday held a crucial meeting with 14 leaders, including four former chief ministers, to chalk out the future course of action in the union

## Licence must for dog owners



certain their identity. The allegations against our leaders are baseless and politically motivated," senior TMC leader and minister Firhad Hakim said

KMC letterheads, logos, rubber stamps and many other

documents which were

convincing enough that he worked for KMC

After its defeat in the assembly polls, the BJP was looking for an issue to corner the TMC government and is quick to grab it and de-manded a CBI probe to look into the matter

It is a conspiracy of the TMC as it is trying to tarnish the BJP-led Union government with a claim that it has provided fake vaccines, claimed Suvendu Adhikari, leader of the opposition in the state assembly.

"We apprehend that the West Bengal government and the ruling party have hatched a large conspiracy to implicate the Centre. They are helping people with disputable identity to organise camps where fake jabs were administered to defame the Narendra Modi regime. "If there was any adverse impact on people who were inoculated, the TMC will blame the Centre for providing fake vaccines," he said.

in the team," a senior Kolkata police officer told reporters here.

The incident triggered a political storm after purported photographs and videos of the arrested person along with several TMC leaders and ministers at various programmes came in public domain.

According to police officials, Deb allegedly had financially duped several people in Kolkata by impersonating as a joint municipal commissioner of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC). On his social media accounts, he had posted several pictures of organising medical camps and participating in government programmes. The TMC leadership, however, denied any involvement in the matter. "We are politicians and attend several programmes every day. Many people come to us and click pictures. It is not always possible to as-

Adhikari led a BJP delegation to Swasthya Bhawan, the state health department headquarters, and questioned officials how a person impersonating as an IAS officer has been organising vaccination camps remained off the radar of the police and the department for so long

The ruling TMC dubbed the allegations as baseless and politically motivated.

Meanwhile, the Kolkata Police Commissioner Soumen Mitra said that the organisation of fake Covid-19 vaccination camps by a man pretending to be an IAS officer is an act of a "distorted mind".

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baharampur (WB), June 25: Senior Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury Friday said he would "rather wait and watch than be immediately optimistic about any overnight change" in Jammu and Kashmir, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with 14 political leaders of

the Valley Chowdhury, while interacting with reporters at his residence here, also said the BJP-led central government, after the revocation of Article 370, had made many promises, but nothing came of it. "I have no faith in the BJP government. I don't have any great expectation from it. Two years ago,

### **NEW RULES IN RAJ JAILS**

citizen can reside in the union territory. Did that happen? Brahmins (Kashmiri pandits), till date, are scared to return to the Valley. Also, terrorist activities continue unabated." the veteran leader said.

He recalled that the Modi-Shah regime had "vowed to capture the PoK region two years ago, but that turned out to be an empty promise".

The Bengal Congress president further pointed out that many of the leaders who were invited to Thursday's meeting were placed under house arrest after the abrogation of Article 370, and some were also equated with secessionist elements.

"So now they are bringing out leaders from jails and allowing them to participate in talks. None has forgotten the fact that leaders

territory. Modi, accompanied by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, received the leaders from eight parties, including the National Conference, the PDP, the BJP and the Congress, at his residence.

The Centre had in August 2019 revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and bifurcated it into two union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir. and Ladakh. The Congress leader. when asked about his opinion on the current state of affairs in Bengal amid the Covid-19 pandemic, expressed concern over the fake vaccination camp that was set up in Kolkata. He urged Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to issue a statement in the matter "as the incident could increase vaccine hesitancy among people".

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, June 25: The Jaipur **Greater Municipal Corporation** has made it compulsory for dog owners to obtain a licence from the civic authorities, according to an official statement

Jaipur Mayor Sheel Dhabai said licence will also be mandatory for the sale of tobacco products and operating coaching centres, guest houses and paying guests. The corporation decided to make licensing mandatory for certain activities to increase revenue, according to the statement.

The mayor said an online system for issuing licence will be started soon. The civic body had recently sent its proposal to make licensing mandatory for certain activities to the state government. It was approved and notified in the gazette, according to the statement.

Dhabai said that new hoarding sites will be added for the advertisement of famous establishments of food, handicrafts blue pottery and other reputed institutes of Jaipur which will generate revenue for the corporation. "This will also provide information to tourists visiting the Pink City," she said.

The corporation has identified 351 new hoarding sites. With these, the total number of hoarding sites under the Jaipur Greater Municipal Corporation will increase to 767. Also, 48 new parking places have been identified by the corporation.

## Women to wear blue saree instead of white

they had promised that any Indian

#### AGENCIES

Jaipur, June 25: Women inmates in jail! The sudden utterance of these words often bring to fore a scene from a Bollywood flick with a lady wearing a white saree!

However, Rajasthan is making a fresh start in this direction by changing the colour of the uniform of these women jail inmates who will drape a blue coloured saree instead of white one, said Rajasthan jail DG Rajeev Dasot. Speaking to media, he said that the decision will be implemented with effect from June 30.

'All women convicts in Rajasthan Jails will wear sky blue coloured saree. There will be no white coloured sarees for women prisoners any more. The white coloured saree brings in depression among women prisoners and hence the decision,"



he said. The women prisoners are already sad after coming to jails, missing their families and kids and white colour adds more to their miseries and hence comes a change, he said.

Besides this decision, many other reform measures are being taken by jail administration. First among it is the opening of six petrol pumps in the state which will be operated by jail inmates. **NEW BARRACK ALLOCATION SYSTEM** 

 ${f R}$ ajasthan Jail Department has introduced a new barrack allocation system to close the windows for favouritism. The prison barracks will now be allotted to inmates in alphabetical order of their names. Previously, many of the inmates had grievances related to the barrack allocation, said Director General Jail Rajeev Dasot. The barracks are home to thousands of convicts and undertrials. "Some of these barracks may appear more desirable than the rest due to several reasons, such as light, wind and urinals. Sent to an unpleasant barrack may make the inmate feel unfairly treated and even draws corruption allegations at times. "It is in consideration of frequent complaints in this regard that Dasot ordered for the new barrack allocation pattern," said officials. However, the local jail administration would be allowed to make exceptions in special cases, such as to avoid clashes between inmates known to be associated with rival gangs, the officials added.

This decision has been taken to turn jail inmates self-reliant, said Dasot. Next in series is the allotment of barracks for prisoners on the basis of their alphabets. Earlier, the inmates were given

barracks on the wish and will of iail administration.

However, from now onwards, the prisoners will be allotted barracks on the basis of the alphabetical order, he added.

## Genome sequencing lab started at SMS Medical College

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, June 25: The facility for Genome Sequencing has been started in the SMS Medical College here, thus making Rajasthan the first state to have its own Genome Sequencing lab.

This has been done on the directions of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, said Health Minister Dr Raghu Sharma Friday. Sharma said that the facility of genome sequencing has been made available in the state to prevent the Covid-19 spread. Information about the new variants of the virus could be known with the technique of genome sequencing. He said that the system of genome sequencing has been started at the SMS Medical College by spending Rs one crore.



Dr Sharma also said till now the samples from the state were being sent to the IGIB lab in Delhi set up for Rajasthan by Central Government's Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). As per the fixed limit, 10 samples per day, that is 300 samples in a month were sent, but their reports were not being received on time. He said that the machine installed at the-SMS Medical College has started functioning from June 15.











# national



Indian Army is capable of giving a befitting reply to every nefarious attempt of the enemy. As far as the borders with China are concerned, talks are going on and there is nothing to worry about, the army chief asserted GENERAL MM NARAVANE CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

## **NEW PLANNINGS**

The Indian Army will carry out logistics trials in Kashmir with the drones of city based Garuda Aerospace



Have cancelled

## **48 cases of Delta Plus in India**

country people are enamoured of regional parties. Especially in South India, the Congress and BJP have been rejected in all states, except Karnataka

Across the

H D KUMARASWAMY JD(S) LEADER

Excited to witness the first batch of Covovax (developed by @Novavax) being manufactured this week at our facility in Pune

ADAR POONAWALLA SII CEO

The farm economy of Punjab has been endangered by the Congress government, with massive power cuts and insufficient canal water threatening to devastate the paddy crop SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL SAD PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Terrorist surrenders

Srinagar: One terrorist was killed while another surrendered with an AK rifle during an encounter between militants and security forces in the Hanjipora area in south Kashmir's Shopian district Friday, officials said. "The second terrorist of proscribed outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) surrendered along with an AK 56 rifle during the encounter. Search is still going on," the police said. Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Hanjipora area of Shopian district following information about presence of militants there, a police official said.



Thiruvananthapuram: A Thiruvananthapuram court Friday granted anticipatory bail to former Kerala Director General of Police Siby Mathews, named in a fresh FIR registered by the Central

### AEGCNIES

New Delhi, June 25: Forty-eight cases of Delta Plus variant of the coronavirus have been detected from 45,000 samples sequenced so far in the country with Maharashtra reporting the highest number of 20, the Centre said Friday, stressing that there are still "very limited" cases of this mutation and it cannot be said that it

is showing an upward trend. Sujit Singh, Director of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), said 20 cases of Delta Plus variant has been found in Maharashtra, followed by nine in Tamil Nadu, seven in Madhya Pradesh, three in Kerala, two each in Punjab and Gujarat, and one case each in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, and Karnataka.

"There are very limited number of cases of this mutation (Delta Plus). In India, there are very lim-



ited cases (of Delta Plus). There are nearly 50 cases that are found in 12 districts and this has happened in the last three months. It cannot be said that in any district, state it is showing an increasing trend. Till the time we don't correlate this we will not say this is a rising trend because its mutations are the same as Delta variant," Singh told a media briefing of the health ministry.

So the transmission variant that

is found in Delta can also found in this variant, he added. The NCDC is involved in genome sequencing of the coronavirus in the country.

Singh said the Delta Plus variant signifies the Delta variant with an additional mutation -- B.1.617.2.1. This specifically refers to acquisition of K417N genetic variant in the background of Variant of Concern Delta (B.1.617.2). He said K417N is of public significance as this mutation is also present in the Varian

of Concern Beta (B.1.351)

He said the Delta Plus variant is denoted by a plus sign. "This does not mean...That severity of transmission is more or lead to more severe disease. If scientific evidence does (suggest) that then we will definitely let you know." he said. He said Andhra Pradesh, Delhi. Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Telangana and West Bengal have Delta variant in more than 50 per cent of the samples sequenced.

"After that, we came to a conclusion that exponential surge during the second wave was to a large extent driven by this variant. Ninety per cent of the cases (of the samples sequenced) are being driven by B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant of SARS-CoV2," he said. He said coronavirus variants of concern have been found in 174 districts in 35 states and union territories with the highest number of such cases seen in Maharashtra Delhi, Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat.

## **MAHA TIGHTENS NORMS**

Mumbai: As the Covid-19 Delta Plus variant claimed its first victim, an 80-year-old woman from Ratnagiri, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government Friday clamped Level-3 norms across entire Maharashtra and hinted at "wider and stricter restrictions" FDA Minister Dr Rajendra Shingne warned that the potential third wave could see a staggering 50 lakh infections, of which around 8 lakh would be active cases needing hospitalisation. He apprehended that up to 10 per cent of the infectees (5 lakh) could be children and urged people to exercise all Covid-19 protocols, even as the state crossed the landmark 3 crore vaccination mark, the highest in India.





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Andhra Pradesh government Friday told the Supreme Court that it has cancelled Class 12 examination which was to be conducted by the state board and would declare results of internal assessment by July 31.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari was informed by senior advocate Dushvant Dave, appearing for Andhra Pradesh, that he had discussed the matter with the chief minister on Thursday and the state government has decided to cancel the exam.

The apex court had Thursday told Andhra Pradesh government that it was not convinced of the precautionary measures suggested by the state for holding Class 12 board exams amid the pandemic and had said unless satisfied that there will be no fatality due to COVID-19. it will not allow them.

'He (Dave) informed the court that after re-examining the situation, the state government has now been well-advised to cancel the XII standard examination, to be conducted by the concerned state board. We place that statement on record," the bench said in its order.

"In light of this commitment made across the Bar and as we are informed that suitable notification is being issued shortly, nothing more is required to be done in the present proceedings," the bench said.The top court was hearing a plea seeking directions to state governments not to hold board exams in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## NO MASK, NO ENTRY **Bank guard** shoots customer \_\_\_\_

#### AGENCIES

Bareilly (UP), June 25: A security guard posted at the Station Road branch of Bank of Baroda here

## AAP govt, BJP spar over SC panel's report on O2 utilisation

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Delhi's oxygen needs were "exaggerated" by four times during the second Covid wave, a Supreme Court-appointed panel report said, prompting the BJP to charge the Arvind Kejriwal dispensation of "criminal negligence", while the AAP dispensation accused the saffron party of "cooking up" such a report.

Responding to the accusations, Kejriwal on Friday said his only "crime" was that he "fought for the breath of two crore people" of Delhi. His deputy Manish Šisodia claimed that no such report has been approved by the committee members. He alleged that the "bogus" and

"misleading" report has been"cooked up" at BJP's office and submitted by the Centre in the apex court. "The real truth about this report is that it does not exist. This alleged report which is being used by BJP leaders to senselessly slam CM Arvind Kejriwal does not exist. It is bogus and misleading. The Bhartiva Janata Party is lying and shirking accountability," Sisodia alleged. Several Union ministers, including Prakash Javadekar, Piyush Goyal



and Nirmala Sitharaman, took to Twitter to hit out at the Delhi government over the report. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra

also slammed the Delhi government, terming it to be a "heinous crime"

The Delhi units of both the BJP and the Congress demanded the resignation of Kejriwal, saying that due to "exaggerated demand of oxygen" by his government, supply of the live-saving gas to 12 other states was affected. Delhi was hit severely by a brutal second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in April and May, claiming a massive number of lives daily, with a shortage in oxygen supply at various city hos-

group constituted by the Supreme Court to audit oxygen consumption in hospitals in the national capital during the second wave of COVID-19 said the Delhi government "exaggerated" the consumption of oxygen and made a claim of 1,140 MT, four times higher than the formula for bed capacity requirement of 289 MT.

The five-member panel headed by AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria said the Delhi government had made the claims for allocation of 700 MT oxygen on April 30 of medical grade oxygen using a "wrong formula". Taking to Twitter, Kejriwal said his only "crime" was that he "fought for the breath of two

## LAC ROW India, China to hold next round of military talks soon

**INDIA & CHINA WERE LOCKED IN A MILITARY STANDOFF** AT EASTERN LADAKH SINCE EARLY MAY LAST YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: India and China Friday agreed to hold the next round of military talks at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh amid fresh sparring between the two sides on the prolonged LAC standoff.

At a virtual meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs, the two sides had a "frank exchange" of views and decided to maintain dialogue to reach a mutually acceptable solution for withdrawal of troops in all friction points to enable progress in the overall ties, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) here.

In a statement at the end of the talks, the MEA said both sides agreed on the need to find an early resolution to the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

drop of a fresh round of sparring between the two sides over the standoff as well as deadlock in further movement in the disengage ment process after the withdrawal of troops by both sides from the north and south banks of Pangong

> Lake in February. "Both sides agreed on the need to find an early resolution to the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh keeping in view the agreement reached between the two foreign ministers in September 2020," the MEA statement said. "In this regard, the two sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through the diplomatic and military mechanisms to reach a mutually acceptable solution for complete disengagement from all friction points so as to ensure full restoration of peace and tranquillity to enable progress in the bilateral relations,' it added. The MEA said both sides also agreed that in the interim, the two sides will continue to en-

sure stability on the ground and pre-

Bureau Of Investigation (CBI) in the infamous ISRO spy case. The CBI Thursday registered an FIR with the

Thiruvananthapuram Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court against 18 people, including two top former Kerala police officials, who have been charged for conspiracy and fabrication of documents.

### Six die as car falls into ditch

Lucknow: Six people, including two minors were killed after a car carrying them crashed in Balrampur district Friday. The police said that the car, travelling at a high speed, turned turtle and fell into a ditch after colliding head on with a bike. The incident took place in Shivanagar.

### Charge sheet against 7 ultras

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against seven terrorists of the Tehreek-UI-Mujahideen (TuM) who were party to a conspiracy by its Pakistanbased handlers and their terror associates based in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Kuwait to execute terrorist activities and wage war against the country. An NIA spokesperson said that the anti-terror probe agency filed the charge sheet Thursday before a special NIA court in Jammu against the seven accused persons Mohammad Mustafa Khan. Mohammad Yaseen, Mohammad Faroog. Mohammad Ibrar, Mohammad Javid Khan, Sher Ali and Mohammad Rafig Nai aka Sultan under several sections of IPC, UAPA, Arms Act, Explosive Substance Act and NDPS Act.

pitals adding to the woes. The sub-

crore people".

The talks took place in the backvent any untoward incident.

## Money laundering case: ED raids Anil Deshmukh's residence

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nagpur/Mumbai, June 25: For

the second time in two months, former Maharashtra Home

Minister Anil Deshmukh has

come under the scanner, this time

of the Enforcement Directorate

(ED), which raided three loca-

tions, including his residences in

Nagpur and Mumbai, and two

others belonging to his two as-

sociates in connection with an al-

leged corruption case filed

against him, officials said here

multaneously at five locations as

part of the probe into a money-

laundering case filed against

Deshmukh in May under the

Prevention of Money Laundering

Act (PMLA), even as the ruling

The raids were carried out si-

Maha Vikas Aghadi allies slammed the Centre and BJP for the actions

Soon after the ED launched the raids Friday morning, the MVA allies -- Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress --slammed the Centre and the BJP for "misusing central probe agencies" to harass opposition parties. In a blistering attack, NCP President Sharad Pawar told me-

diapersons that ever since the BJP came to power at the Centre, it is misusing its power and the probe agencies to harass the opposition leaders.

"This is being done only to ha-rass Deshmukh. This is a new political pattern of the Centre. But they will get nothing, and we are not worried about such investigations," Pawar said.

## **REST FOR A WHILE**



Health workers rest during a break from duty, at a cremation ground in Guwahati

Friday allegedly opened fire at a customer who was trying to force his way inside without a mask, police said.

The customer, Rajesh Kumar, was seriously injured and admitted to the district hospital while the guard has been taken into police custody, Superintendent of Police (City) Ravindra Kumar said. Rajesh Kumar had come to the bank for some work at around 11:30 am when an altercation took place with the guard, Keshav Prasad Mishra, who in anger shot at him, the SP said

The bank, in a statement, said it regretted the unfortunate incident and extended help to the aggrieved family. According to eyewitnesses, the guard was heard repeatedly shouting before he was taken into custody that the customer was trying to force his way inside without a mask and abused him when he was checked for it. He also said that he had to open fire when the customer forcibly entered.

The SP said the customer's statement will be recorded after he regains consciousness.

## Vax okay for pregnant women: Govt changes earlier stand

#### AGENCIES

Friday.

New Delhi, June 25: Pregnant women "can and should" be vaccinated against Covid-19, the Union Health Ministry said Friday evening, signalling a policy change that follows growing concern over exposure of expectant mothers (and their children) to the deadly virus, and their right to be vaccinated.

Until as recently as last month

lactating women were eligible for the vaccine but pregnant women were not; the government had said this was due to a lack of safety and efficacy data since clinical trials for vaccines do not typically include pregnant women as participants."The Health Ministry

has given guidelines that the vaccine can be given to pregnant women. Vaccination is useful for them and should be given," Dr Balram Bhargava, Director-General of the Indian Council for Medical Research said. Vaccination for pregnant women was one of the topics discussed by the NTAGI, or National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, in May. "Considering current situation

of pandemic, NTAGI-STSC recommends pregnant women should not be excluded from vaccination because exposure probability is very high and therefore the benefit far outweighs the risk," the committee said in the minutes of its May 28 meeting. Doubts were raised about possible risks to the mother



and/or child - including that of clotting (or thrombosis) with the Covishield jab, but the committee decided "benefit far outweighs the risk". "Before vaccination, pregnant

women should be fully informed that long-term adverse reactions and safety of vaccine for fetus and child (has) not yet (been) established," it added

Making vaccines available for pregnant women was an issue flagged by Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, who said last month on NDTV: "Why should any woman be kept out of the ambit of vaccination because of a biological process?" However, vaccinating children (those below 18) is "still debatable until relevant data is available", Dr Bhargava said today, in response to calls to vaccinate kids ahead of a possible third wave of infections. "There is only one country giving vaccines to children at the moment. Whether very small children will ever need vaccines is still a question. Till such time as we have more data... we will not be in a position to vaccinate children at large," he said.

PTI PHOTO

On whether COVID-19 shots can be administered to children is still a debatable question, until enough data is available, Bharagava said, adding that there is only one country in the world, the US, which is administering vaccines to children at the moment.

Whether very small children will ever need a vaccine is still a question, Bharagava said.

"Till such time we have more data available on vaccination of  $\rightarrow$ children we will not be in a position to vaccinate children at large. However, we have started a study on children between 2-18 years and we should have the results of that by September- October so that we can make some decision," Bharagava said.



People in Hong Kong have the right to freedom of the press. Instead, Beijing is denving basic liberties and assaulting Hong Kong's autonomy and democratic institutions and processes, inconsistent with its international obligations JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

## **ISRAEL BRINGS BACK MASK RULES AMID DELTA SURGE**

The Israeli health ministry reimposed a requirement Friday for masks to be worn in enclosed public places following a surge in Covid cases since it was dropped 10 days ago

improve people's lives, the report

said.



26/11 SUSPECT

Rana to remain

uote

## China launches first bullet train in Tibet, near India

This is in order for us to ensure that this doesn't take a hold for weeks and weeks, and we believe this is a proportionate response to the risk

GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

Washington is using human rights as a disguise to suppress the industrial development of Xinjiang. The United States doesn't care at all about the Xinjiang people. Their real plots and

sinister intentions are to mess up Xinjiang to contain China ZHAO LIJIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

SPOKESPERSON, CHINA



vaccination program, the 4th wave could emerge in Pakistan in July. I urge people to adhere to SoP's and get vaccinated as soon

as possible ASAD UMAR MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, PAK

## SHORT TAKES

### Irag sentences 13 IS convicts to death

Baghdad: The Iraqi judiciary has issued death penalties against 13 people for joining the Islamic State (IS) terror group and being involved in a plot to carry out deadly attacks. A statement by the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council issued Thursday said that a court issued the death penalties after the convicts confessed to joining the extremist group and their intention to carry out terrorist attacks during the holy month of Ramadan in 2019.

### **Philippines okays** use of Covaxin

Manila: The Philippines' food and drug agency said Friday it has approved the emergency use of the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Indian company Bharat Biotech. Bharat Biotech has received "full emergency use authorization for its Covaxin brand after the company completed documentary requirements," Food and Drug Administration chief Rolando Enrique Domingo told a news briefing.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, June 25: China Friday operationalised its first fully electrified bullet train in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet, connecting the provincial capital Lhasa and Nyingchi, a strategically located Tibetan border town close to Arunachal Pradesh.

international

The 435.5-km Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway has been inaugurated ahead of the centenary celebrations of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) July 1.

The first electrified railway in Tibet Autonomous Region opened Friday morning, linking Lhasa with Nvingchi as "Fuxing" bullet

In November, Chinese President Xi Jinping had instructed officials to expedite construction of the new railway project, saying the new rail line would play a key role in safeguarding the

trains enter official operation on the plateau region, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. It has a designed speed of 160 km

per hour and operates on a single-

border stability

### nine stations, including Lhasa, Shannan and Nyingchi and can handle passenger and freight transportation, the report said.

line electrified railway. It stops at

Also, it has an annual freight transport capacity of 10 million tonnes which provides strong support for the flow of goods, will promote economic development and

**STRENGTHENING TIES** 



The two-day integrated bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and Indian Air Force with US Forces in the Indian Ocean Region concludes, Thursday pti photo

#### in US custody Nyingchi is the prefecture-level city of Medog which is adjacent to ASSOCIATED PRESS the Arunachal Pradesh border.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, which is firmly rejected by India. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"If a scenario of a crisis happens at the China-India border, the railway will provide a great convenience for China's deliverv of strategic materials," said Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University.

Los Angeles, June 25: A former Chicago businessman will remain in the United States as a federal judge in Los Angeles weighs whether he will be extradited to India for his alleged role in the

2008 Mumbai terror attack that killed more than 160 people. Tahawwur Rana, a Pakistaniborn Canadian, is wanted by Indian

authorities for his alleged involvement in the deadly attacks that are sometimes referred to as India's 26/11. An Indian warrant for his arrest was issued in August 2018. Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Chooljian Thursday ordered the defense attorneys and prosecutors to file additional documents by July 15. Rana will remain in federal custody.

Indian authorities allege that Rana conspired with his childhood friend David Coleman Headley to assist the Pakistani terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba, or "Army of the Good." in the orchestration of the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai that killed 166 people, injured more than 200 and caused USD 1.5 billion in damage.

Rana's attorneys said their client was not aware of Headley's terrorism plot and was merely trying to help his childhood friend and set up a Mumbai business office.

US prosecutors, however, failed to prove that Rana had directly supported the Mumbai attacks. Rana's defense attorneys, in court papers, say because he has been acquitted of the Mumbai-related charges in the US, extraditing him to India would be tantamount to double jeopardy.

## Japan to give \$9.3 mn aid to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, June 25: Japan Friday announced that it will provide USD 9.3 million worth cold chain equipment and related assistance to India to help in the country's fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

The assistance, under Japan's Emergency Grant Aid scheme, will provide India with cold chain equipment including medical equipment such as cold-storage facilities, as

"Last One Mile Support" to ensure

Japan's Emergency Grant Aid aims to deliver vaccines to each and every person in the all corners of developing countries, which will complement efforts of the Covax facility

vaccination in each country, through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that to contain

the Covid-19 pandemic, ensuring eq-

ing in developing countries and accelerating vaccination is the common challenge for the international community. Japan has led the or

uitable access to vaccines includ-

statement said. Based on its experience in helping to build medical supply networks that reach every corner of developing countries. Japan will continue to extend support to deploy vaccines to every person in the world with a view to containing Covid-19 as quickly

international mechanism for the

procurement of vaccines, and re-

cently announced USD 800 million

of financial contribution in addi-

tion to existing USD 200 million, the

## **Biden meets Afghan** leaders as US troops leave; fighting rages

Biden has asked Congress to approve \$3.3 billion in security assistance for Afghanistan next year and is sending 3 million doses of vaccines there to help it battle Covid-19

Washington, June 25: US

REUTERS

President Joe Biden meets Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his former political foe, Abdullah Abdullah, Friday to discuss Washington's support for Afghanistan as the last US troops pack up after 20 years of war and government forces struggle to repel Taliban advances.

The Oval Office meeting may be as valuable to Ghani for its symbolism as for any new US help because it will be seen as affirming Biden's support for the beleaguered Afghan leader as he confronts Taliban gains, bombings and assassinations, a surge in Covid-19 cases and political infighting in

Kabul "At a time when morale is incredibly shaky and things are going downhill, anything one can do to help shore up morale and shore up the government is worth doing," said Ronald Neumann, a former US ambassador to Kabul. "Inviting Ghani here is a pretty strong sign that we're backing him." Biden's embrace, however, comes only months after US officials were pressuring Ghani to step aside for a transitional government under a draft political accord that they floated in a failed gambit to break a stalemate in peace talks.

Taliban gains drive govt to recruit militias n recent days, the Taliban have

made quick gains in Afghanistan's north, overrunning multiple districts, some of them reportedly with hardly a fight. The Taliban gains are significant because of the transportation routes they provide the insurgents. As a result, a worried government this week launched what it called National Mobilization, arming local volunteers. Observers say the move only resurrects militias that will be loyal to local commanders or powerful Kabul-allied warlords, who wrecked the Afghan capital during the inter-

factional fighting of the 1990's

and killed thousands of civilians.

Biden's first meeting as president with Ghani and Abdullah, chair-

man of the High Council for National Reconciliation, will focus on "our ongoing commitment to the Afghan people" and security forces, said White House deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

Biden will urge Ghani and Abdullah, foes in Afghanistan's two last presidential elections, "to be a united front" and he will reaffirm US support for a negotiated

### Rare tornado hits **Czech Republic**

Prague: A rare tornado believed to be the most devastating twister in the Czech Republic's modern history has torn through country's southeast, killing at least five people and injured hundreds, rescue services and police said Friday. The tornado touched down late Thursday as strong thunderstorms hit the entire country. The storms were accompanied by hail which in some cases was as big as tennis balls.

peace deal, Jean-Pierre said. US officials, however, have been

clear that Biden will not halt the US pullout - likely to be completed by late July or early August-and he is unlikely to approve any US military support to Kabul to halt the Taliban's advances beyond advice, intelligence, and aircraft maintenance.

Ghani and Abdullah spent Thursday discussing the situation in Afghanistan with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.



159 still missing in Miami mishap ASSOCIATED PRESS

> Surfside, June 25: About 160 people were still unaccounted for Friday after an oceanside condominium building collapsed into a smoldering pile of rubble, and searchers using both big machines and their hands to comb through a twisted, shifting heap of concrete and metal feared the death toll of at least four which could go much higher.

With scores of firefighters working overnight to reach any possible survivors both from under and atop the remains of the building, hopes rested on how quickly crews using dogs and microphones to sift through the wreckage could complete their grim, yet delicate task

## Pak continues to be in FATF 'Grey List'

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 25: Pakistan continues to remain in the 'Grey List' of FATF as the global body against money laundering and terror financing Friday said that Islamabad has failed to take action against UN-designated terrorists like India's most wanted Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar. The FATF also said that

Pakistan should continue to work to address its strategically-important deficiencies.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) president Marcus Pleyer said the decision has been taken at the conclusion of the virtual plenary of the Paris-based organisation. Pakistan continues



sation of the Covax Facility as an as possible, the statement said.

to remain on "increased monitoring list", Pleyer said at a virtual press conference.

"Increased monitoring list" is the another name for the 'Grey List'. Pleyer said Pakistan has now completed 26 of the 27 action items given to it 2018. The FATF has asked Pakistan

to take action against UN designated terrorists, he said.

The UN designated terrorists based in Pakistan include Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Azhar, Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Saeed and its 'operational commander' Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi.

Beijing: At least 18 people, mostly children, were killed and 16 others injured when a deadly fire ripped through a boarding martial arts school in China's Henan province in the early hours of Friday. The children, aged between seven and 16, were asleep on the first floor when the blaze broke out at the Zhenxing Martial Arts Centre.

### Lioness tests Covid +ve

Colombo: A lioness at a zoo in Sri Lanka has been tested positive for the coronavirus, days after a lion at the same facility contracted the virus. according to a media report Friday. The Lioness named 'Sheena' was confirmed to have contracted Covid-19.

## Fire claims 18 at martial arts school

## Researchers find 'new type of early human' near Israel AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Jerusalem, June 25: Israeli researchers said Thursday they had found bones belonging to a "new type of early human" previously unknown to science, shedding new light on the course of human evo-

lution Archeological digs near the city of Ramla by a team from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem uncovered prehistoric remains that could not be matched to any known species from the Homo genus, which includes modern humans (Homo sapiens).

In a study published in the journal Science, University of Tel Aviv anthropologists and archaeolo-

gists led by Yossi Zaidner dubbed the find the "Nesher Ramla Homo type" after the site where the bones were found.

Dating to between 140,000 and 120,000 years ago, "the morphology of the Nesher Ramla humans shares features with both Neanderthals ... and archaic Homo,' the researchers said in a statement

"At the same time, this type of Homo is very unlike modern humans -- displaying a completely different skull structure, no chin, and very large teeth.' Along with the human remains,

the dig uncovered large quantities of animal bones as well as stone tools. "The archaeological finds



"NESHER RAMLA HOMO"

associated with human fossils show that 'Nesher Ramla Homo' possessed advanced stone-tool pro-



The morphology of the **Nesher Ramla humans** 

shares features with both **Neanderthals and archaic** Homo. At the same time, this type of Homo is very unlike modern humans displaying a completely different skull structure, no chin, and very large teeth

YOSSI ZAIDNER UNIVERSITY OF TEL AVIV ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Zaidner said. "We had never imagined that alongside Homo sapiens, archaic Homo roamed the area so late in human history".

The researchers suggested that some fossils previously discovered in Israel dating back as far as 400,000 years could belong to the same prehistoric human type.

The Nesher Ramla discovery calls into question the widely-accepted theory that Neanderthals first emerged in Europe before migrating south.

'Our findings imply that the famous Neanderthals of Western Europe are only the remnants of a much larger population that lived here in the Levant -- and not the other way around," anthropolo-gist Israel Hershkovitz of Tel Aviv University said.









# business



**CPI inflation is** to remain above the RBI's medium-term target of 4 per cent and will average at 5 per cent in FY22 with more upside risks TANVEE GUPTA JAIN CHIEF INDIA ECONOMIST, UBS GLOBAL RESEARCH

### **'TAJ' NAMED WORLD'S STRONGEST**

Tata Group hospitality firm Indian Hotels Company Ltd Friday said its 'Taj' brand has been rated as the strongest hotel brand in the world. According to the 'Hotels 50 2021' report by Brand Finance, Taj topped the strongest brands list for having stood resilient in spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic



## uote 77

India is an extremely important market for us and by partnering with one of the largest e commerce players in the region; we are establishing our commitment for the region

MANU SHARMA VP AND GM, NOTHING INDIA

We have significantly focused on strengthening the distribution. traditional distribution as well as e-commerce. This is an area you will see continuous strengthening.

which will only help the company N CHANDRASEKARAN CHAIRMAN, TATA CONSUMER PRODUCTS LTD

The bank has adjusted to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and is better positioned to tackle any subsequent wave

DINESH KUMAR KHARA CHAIRMAN, SBI

## SHORT TAKES

### FAME scheme: 2nd phase gets extension

New Delhi: The government on Friday said it has extended the second phase of FAME India scheme by two years till March 31, 2024, for faster adoption of electric mobility and development of its manufacturing ecosystem in the country. The second phase of FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) India scheme focuses on supporting electrification of public and shared transportation.

### **Pharmeasy to** acquire Thyrocare

Mumbai: Startup Pharmeasy Fridav announced acquiring established diagnostics chain Thyrocare Technologies in a deal worth over ₹6,300 crore, including buying the controlling stake from its 62year-old founder A Velumani.

## **Centre announces tax relief on Covid treatment expenditure**

It also provided relief to the family members of a taxpayer falling prey to Covid by providing

income-tax exemption on the ex-gratia payment received by them from the employer or from any other person

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 25: The Centre Friday announced income-tax exemption on the amount received by a taxpayer from his/her employer or from any other person for the treatment of Covid-19 during FY 2019-20 and subsequent years. The government also provided relief to the family members of a taxpayer falling prey to Covid by providing income-tax exemption on the ex-gratia payment received by them from the employer or from any

other person This exemption shall be allowed without any limit for the amount received from the employer, while the exemption shall be limited to ₹10 lakh in aggregate for the amount received from any other person, a Finance Ministry statement said.

Necessary legislative amendments for the above decisions shall be proposed in due course of time, the statement added.

Further, the ministry has extended the timelines for various tax compliances to address the issue of the inconvenience being faced by the taxpayers due to the pandemic. It had earlier extended timelines for filing income tax and corporate tax returns.

**CM INAUGURATES HDFC** 



The Finance Ministry has extended the timelines for various tax compliances to address the issue of the inconvenience being faced by the taxpavers due to the pandemic The government has also extend-

ed the last date of linkage of Aadhaar with PAN under Section 139AA of the Act to September 30, 2021

Accordingly, objections to the Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) and the Assessing Officer under Section 144C of the Income-tax Act, 1961, for which the last date of filing under that section was June 1, 2021 or thereafter, can now be filed within the time provided in that Section or by August 31, 2021,

whichever is later. Also, the statement of deduction of tax for the last quarter of FY 2020-21, required to be furnished on or before May 31, 2021, and was extended to June 30, 2021 earlier, can now be furnished on or before July

### 15, 2021.

Similarly, the certificate of tax deducted at source in Form No. 16, required to be furnished to the employee by June 14, 2021 under Rule 31, as extended to July 15, 2021 vide Circular No. 9 of 2021, may be furnished on or before July 31, 2021, the Finance Ministry said in the statement.

> The government has also extended the last date of linkage of Aadhaar with PAN under Section 139AA of the Act to September 30, 2021. The last date of payment of amount under 'Vivad se Vishwas' (without additional amount), which was earlier extended to June 30, 2021. has been further extended to August 31, 2021.

Similarly, the last date of payment of amount under 'Vivad se Vishwas' (with additional amount) has been notified as October 31, 2021. The time limit for passing assessment order, which was earlier extended to June 30, 2021, has been further extended to September 30, 2021.

## US economy grew at 6.4% in 2021 01

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, June 25: The US economy grew at an annual rate of 6.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2021, the Commerce Department reported. Upward revisions to nonresidential fixed investment, private inventory investment, and exports were offset by an upward revision to imports, which are a subtraction in the calculation of gross domestic product (GDP), according to the latest estimate released on Thursday by the Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The increase in real GDP in the first quarter reflected increases in personal consumption expenditures (PCE), non-residential fixed investment, federal government spending, residential fixed investment, and state and local government spending, which were partly offset by decreases in private inventory investment and exports, the Bureau said, adding that imports increased, reports Xinhua news agency.



"The increase in first quarter GDP reflected the continued economic recovery, reopening of establishments, and continued government response related to the Covid-19 pandemic," the Bureau said

At its two-day policy meeting last week, the US Federal Reserve decided to keep its benchmark interest rates unchanged at the recordlow level of near zero, reiterating inflation surge is "transitory" and resisting sending out signals on the timeline to taper its bond buying program.

## **RBI EXTENDS** RESTRICTIONS PMC BAN



AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 25: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday extended the regulatory restrictions on Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank by another six months till December 2021 to enable the completion of its takeover by Centrum Financial Services.

Paving the way for takeover of the crisis-ridden bank, the RBI had earlier in the month granted inprinciple approval to Centrum Financial Services to set up a small finance bank (SFB).

"Taking into account the time required for completion of various activities involved in the process...The validity of the ...Directive dated September 23, 2019, as modified from time to time, has been extended for a further period from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, subject to review," the RBI said in a notification.

In September 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of PMC Bank and placed it under regulatory restrictions, including cap on withdrawals by customers, after detection of certain financial irregularities, hiding and misre-

porting of loans given to real estate developer HDIL. The restrictions have been extended several times since then.

Initially, the RBI had allowed depositors to withdraw ₹1.000. which was later raised to ₹1 lakh per account to mitigate their difficulties. In June 2020, the RBI had extended the regulatory restrictions on the cooperative bank by six months till December 22, 2020. Later it was further extended till June 30, 2021.

In response to an Expression of Interest (EOI) floated by PMC Bank for its reconstruction in November 2020, certain proposals were received.

After careful consideration, the RBI said, the proposal from Centrum Financial Services along with Resilient Innovation was found to be prima facie feasible.

Accordingly, the RBI on June 18, 2021 granted 'in-principle' approval to Centrum Financial Services to set up a small finance bank under the general guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small

Finance Banks in the Private Sector. PMC Bank had invited EoI from eligible investors for investment/ equity participation for its reconstruction and had received four proposals.

## **UK** probes Amazon, **Google for fake** reviews of goods

#### AGENCIES

London, June 25: UK regulators said Friday that they're investigating Google and Amazon over concerns the online giants aren't doing enough to stop fake reviews of products and services on their platforms. The Competition and Markets Authority said it opened a formal investigation into whether the two companies broke UK consumer law by failing to protect shoppers. The watchdog started looking into fake reviews on some big websites last year - without identifying any specific ones - amid the pandemic-fuelled boom in online shopping.



## Covid to worsen indebtedness **BANK'S 160TH BRANCH** of states despite eco rebound

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: S&P Global Ratings Friday said the Covid pandemic could worsen structural deficits and indebtedness of states, despite a likely rebound in the

Pharmeasy's parent company API Holdings has signed a definitive agreement to buy 66.1 per cent of Thyrocare stocks from Velumani and his affiliates at ₹1.300 per share at the latter's residence in Pune, according to a statement.

### 'Clean tech next hypergrowth'

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd's focus on the next hypergrowth opportunities in clean tech and its path to decarbonisation has the potential to spur re-rating, raises clarity on investment cycles and reduces investor worry, brokerages said. RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani at the company's 'Green AGM' Thursday committed ₹75,000 crore over the next three years to set up an integrated Green Energy Giga Complex across 5,000 acres in Jamnagar, Gujarat which will contain four giga factories.

of the bank in the state. The Chief Minister also released a coffeetable book on 20 years journey of the bank in Odisha.

HDFC Bank at Badaposhi

(Keonjhar district) through a vir-

tual ceremony to mark the 20 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

HDFC Bank launched its first branch in June 2001 and since then the bank has established a network of 160 branches & 317 ATM's across the state. Nearly 63% of the branches are located across semi-urban & rural regions of the state. During this 20 years journey of HDFC Bank, the bank has provided direct and indirect employment to over 4,000 people

across the state and expects employment generation to increase as the bank establishes newer branches and business correspondents. Under #Parivartan initiative

of the bank, through its various social initiatives like rural development, education, skill development, health care, hygiene, financial literacy and inclusion the bank has impacted the lives of over two decades.



over 31 lakh people across the state. The bank also plans to establish nearly 100 smart classrooms and renovate seven schools in 2021-22.

Patnaik said, "Banking facilities empower people. HDFC Bank's contribution to the local community in field of rural development, skill development, healthcare and hygiene and financial literacy is very much appreciable. HDFC Bank's work in the education sector has made a great impact and I wish HDFC Bank continues to support the aspirations of people of Odisha just like it has done for economy over the next 12-24 months. The US-based rating agency ex-

pects the country's economic growth to remain above average over the next few years and the rebound in the economy in the current fiscal ending March 31, 2022, will feed into states' revenues.

S&P estimates revenues of states to increase by an average of 17 per cent annually over fiscals 2021-2023

"The Covid-19 pandemic could worsen structural deficits and indebtedness of Indian state governments. India's stronger growth than peer countries has been a key factor underpinning the sustainability of states' fiscal performance," S&P said in a report titled 'Public Finance System Overview: Indian States'.

S&P Global Ratings had cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 9.5 per cent from 11 per cent earlier.



The agency lowered the growth outlook saying that a severe second Covid-19 outbreak in April and May led sharp contraction in economic activity, but a gradual revival is underway.

S&P said it will be hard for state governments to rapidly scale down elevated expenditures induced by Covid-19. The pandemic has led to increased spending on healthcare, social safety and digital infrastructure.

he latest predictions show that by

n terms of EV sales volumes, Europe

surpass those of other powertrains, a

trend that will be repeated in China

is expected to lead the way until

2031, with China taking the lead from

As per the report, with the global auto industry continuing to

recover from the issues it faced due

2028 EV sales in Europe will

by 2033 and in the US by 2036

The agency believes the ex-

traordinary support from the central government and the Reserve Bank of India will remain a key pillar for states' fiscal framework and performance.

"A significant risk for the fiscal framework and performance of Indian states will be the ₹3 trillion power sector reforms announced in FY2021-22 budget presented by the central government. While details of the proposed reform are not known yet, meaningful state participation is likely.



"Our worry is that millions of online shoppers could be misled by reading fake reviews and then spending their money based on those recommendations," the watchdog's chief executive Andrea Coscelli said in a press statement.

"Equally, it's simply not fair if some businesses can fake 5-star reviews to give their products or services the most prominence, while law-abiding businesses lose out." Google and Amazon said they will work with UK regulators in their investigation.

"To help earn the trust of customers, we devote significant resources to preventing fake or incentivized reviews from appearing in our store," Amazon said in ২ statement.

Google said its "strict policies clearly state reviews must be based on real experiences, and when we find policy violations, we take action - from removing abusive content to disabling user accounts."

### **'Participation of** women to increase'

New Delhi: Online food ordering platform Zomato Friday said it will increase the number of women in its delivery service to 10 per cent by the end of the year as part of its workplace inclusivity initiatives. In a blog on its website, Zomato founder Deepinder Goyal said at present only about 0.5 per cent of its delivery partners are women. "Today, we are taking our first step towards increasing the participation of women delivery partners in our fleet. To begin with, we have set ourselves a goal of reaching 10 per cent participation by the end of 2021 starting with Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Pune,' he wrote.

## 'EVs to dominate sales 5 years sooner than expected'

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: Electric vehicle (EV) sales in the US, China and Europe will outstrip all other engines five years sooner than previously expected, said consultancy firm EY in a new study.

Accordingly, EY deployed its 'Mobility Lens Forecaster', an artificial intelligence (AI) powered forecast modelling tool that provides an outlook for the supply and demand of mobility products and services through 2050 to derive these results.

The latest predictions show that by 2028 EV sales in Europe will surpass those of other powertrains, a trend that will be repeated in China by 2033 and in the US by 2036. Besides, the analysis shows that by 2045, non-EV sales will shrink to less than 1 per cent of overall sales.



In terms of EV sales volumes, Europe is expected to lead the way until 2031, with China taking the lead from 2032 to 2050. According

to Randall Miller, EY Global Advanced Manufacturing and Mobility Leader: "A mix of chang-

ing consumer attitudes, ambitious buying forever.

2032 to 2050

to the Covid-19 pandemic, it will be met by a new group of car buyers

climate-focused regulations and technology evolution is about to change the landscape of vehicle

While the automotive industry has begun to more fully embrace the move toward electrification, the impact of this seismic shift is arriving sooner than many expected.'

"This new outlook also has implications for governments and energy industries in terms of infrastructure and electricity generation and storage, and forwardlooking organisations are already using this data to help ensure a smooth transition to this new EVdominated market, which will be here much sooner than expected.' As per the report, with the global auto industry continuing to recover from the issues it faced due

to the Covid-19 pandemic, it will be met by a new group of car buyers. Many people who had rejected ownership in lieu of ridesharing and public transport have reassessed in the shadow of the Covid-











19 pandemic, added EY analysis.





## sports

# **Germany eye better show**



Germany look to rectify their errors from the previous games to be able to stand a chance for the Euro 2020 title

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Munich, June 25: After reaching the knockout stage of the European Championship, Germany wants to cut down on mistakes. Not just for the next game against England, but the games after that, too.

**OrissaPOST** 

SATURDAY | JUNE 26 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

"I'm convinced that we'll manage to improve in the next games and that there will be more games. Also beyond the England game,' Germany midfielder Joshua Kimmich said ahead of Tuesday's match at Wembley Stadium in London in the round of 16.

However, the German team remains a work in progress for Joachim Loew in his last tournament as coach. The Germans just about squeezed into the last 16 on



tition. With less than 10 minutes remaining, Loew sent on 18-year-old Jamal Musiala and another attacker in Kevin Volland. "We had to simply get the ball into the penalty area and we had to get as many people in there as possible," Loew said. "With full force and all

shot past goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi in the 84th minute. Loew praised his team's morale,

though it was clear he would have been happier if it hadn't been so dramatic. France's 2-2 draw with Portugal in the other group game meant Germany needed at least a point.

"It was one of the hardest games altogether," said Loew, who won the World Cup title in 2014 but saw his team eliminated from the group stage in 2018. "But we expected it to be like that.'

Hungary's defense had already impressed despite a 3-0 loss to Portugal, when the visitors only made the breakthrough late, and in a 1-1 draw with World Cup champion France.

Loew knew how the Hungarians

its opening game against France, a 0-1 loss, when the French always looked more likely to score. Against Portugal in the next game, the Germans conceded first — with Cristiano Ronaldo scoring. But they then found gaps in the Portuguese defense and won 4-2.

The German team lacked that urgency against the Hungarians. Adam Szalai scored early and then set up Andras Schafer to make it 2-1 right after Kai Havertz had equalised for Germany.

There were of course a few mistakes that we made," Loew said. "I'm thinking of the goals we conceded. They can't happen in the next games.<sup>2</sup>

The Hungarians ran more, and they seemed to fight more than the Germans, too. Robin Gosens, the UEFA man of the match against Portugal, was ineffective on the left against Hungary, while Leroy Sane produced a forgettable performance on the right.

"There was hardly any free room, also not for the two wingers. That's why it was more through the middle today," Loew said. "But we also didn't find the right ways through the middle, there were no gaps. Everything was closed, and after they went in front, then they pulled even further back and defended."

Loew will need to find answers to breaking down opponents' defenses in time for Tuesday's match against risk-averse England, which has yet to concede a goal at the tournament but has only scored twice. "Now it's all or nothing, that's also

a good situation," said Loew, who gave his players an extra day off on Friday. "We've had some shaky performances in this group stage. We know, when the chips are down, what we can do."

Germany's defenders — Mats Hummels in particular — will be wary of England forward Jadon Sancho, though he's been given only six minutes of playing time by England coach Gareth Southgate.

Sancho, who plays for Borussia Dortmund, has already shown in the Bundesliga that he's capable of causing Germany's defense serious problems, but he's being kept out of the England team by the likes of Phil Foden, Raheem Sterling, Marcus Rashford and captain Harry Kane.

"It will be a whole other game, because the English certainly have to be more attacking at home. It will be an open game, more open than it was now, and logically we'll have to correct a few things," Loew said. "There are no excuses anymore. We'll have to do things much better there now.

## EPIC RIVALRY SET TO BE RENEWED

One of the great rivalries in international soccer will be renewed Tuesday at the European Championship when England plays Germany in the round of 16 at Wembley Stadium. The teams have played some epic matches in the past, including in the 1966 World Cup final and in the semifinals at Euro '96. They each won one of those matches, but overall the Germans lead with 15 victories, 13 losses and four draws

## 1938: England 6 – 3 Germany

Less about the result and more about what unfolded before kickoff in front of 110,000 fans at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, the English visitors gave a Nazi salute during the playing of the German anthem. And they did it under British government orders. The act handed Adolf Hitler a propaganda coup a year before Britain declared war on Nazi Germany in 1939 after its invasion of Poland.

#### 1966: England 4 – 2 West Germany England won their only World Cup title by beating West Germany in London in a match that produced an enduring moment of controversy that is still the subject of debate. In extra time with the scored even at 2-2. Alan

Ball crossed to England teammate Geoff Hurst, who turned and shot. His third - a thumping left-footed drive - completed what remains the only hat-trick in a World Cup final.

## 1970: West Germany 3 – 2 England

The Germans recovered from a 2-0 deficit to officially end England's reign as World Cup champions in the guarterfinals of the 1970 tournament in Mexico. Alan Mullery and Martin Peters had given England the lead, but Franz Beckenbauer began the recovery midway through the second half. England coach Alf Ramsev then replaced midfielder Bobby Charlton and an equaliser from West Germany captain Uwe Seeler sent the game into extra time. Gerd Muller volleved in the winner to secure Germany's first competitive win over England and a semifinal berth against Italy - a match they would lose.

## 1996: England 1 (5) – 1 (6) Germany

There was no second victory over Germany at Wembley Stadium in a major soccer tournament. Alan Shearer put England ahead with a header in the Euro 1996 semifinals but Stefan Kuntz equalized for the now-unified Germans. Paul Gascoigne then failed to connect wit Shearer's cross, sending the game to penalties. Current England coach Gareth Southgate missed the decisive kick in the shootout, and Germany went on to win the title.

## Before the European Championship expanded its final tournament, the

1972: West Germany 3 – 1 England

quarterfinals were still part of qualifying and were played over two legs at home and away. The English hosted West Germany in the first match at Wembley in 1972 and Uli Hoeneb put Germany ahead with a curling shot from just outside the penalty area. Francis Lee managed to score a late equaliser for England but Gunter Netzer and Gerd Muller scored even later, in the 84th and 88th minutes, respectively, to give the West Germans a 3-1 cushion heading into the second match. That next game in at the Olympic Stadium in West Berlin finished 0-0, sending West Germany on its way to the title in Brussels.

## 1990: WEST GERMANY 1 (4) – 1 (3) England

Just like in 1966 and 1970, the teams went to extra time at the World Cup this time in Italy in the semifinals. Gary Lineker equalised for England after Andreas Brehme's deflected free-kick made it 1-0. The match was made even more memorable because of Paul Gascoigne's tears after getting a yellow card that would have ruled him out of the final. There was further weeping when England lost the penalty shootout. Stuart Pearce and Chris Waddle both hit their spot-kicks over the bar and the Germans went on to win the final.

## 2000: Germany 1 – 0 England

The last game at the old Wembley turned out to be Kevin Keegan's last game in charge of England's national team. The coach decided to guit while seeking privacy in a bathroom cubicle shortly after Dietmar Hamann's free-kick squirmed through the hands of goalkeeper David Seaman.

On German soil, England produced a signature win of Sven-Goran Eriksson's tenure as coach - and it's greatest performance against a unified Germany team. Carsten Jancker scored to give Germany the lead in Munich in a gualifying match for the 2002 World Cup, but a trio of Liverpool players then took over. Michael Owen scored a hat-trick

2001: England 5 – 1

Germany

Steven Gerrard knocked in a halfvolley to put England in the lead, and Emile Heskey delivered the final blow.

points in the final. Two of the top

five men are out, too: No.3 Nadal and

Simona Halep, pulled out of

Wimbledon just before the draw, cit-

ing an injured left calf that also

forced her to sit out Roland Garros.

That means two of the top three

players in the WTA rankings are

missing from the field; No.2 Naomi

The potential women's quar-

terfinals based on seedings are

No.1 Ash Barty vs. No.5 Bianca

Andreescu, and No.3 Elina Svitolina

vs. No.6 Serena Williams in the

top half; No.2 Aryna Sabalenka vs.

No.7 Iga Swiatek, and No.4 Sofia Kenin vs. No.8 Karolina Pliskova

The possible men's quarterfi-

nals are Djokovic vs No.5 Andrey

Rublev, and No.3 Stefanos Tsitsipas

vs. No.8 Roberto Bautista Agut in

the top half; No.2 Daniil Medvedev

vs. No.6 Federer, and No.4 Alexander

Zverev vs. No.7 Matteo Berrettini

in the bottom half.

in the bottom half

Osaka withdrew last week.

The 2019 women's champion,

No.5 Dominic Thiem.

## 2010: Germany 4 – 1 England

Back at the World Cup, this time in the round of 16 in South Africa, the two teams produced five goals but the

Wednesday after Leon Goretzka scored a late equalizer in a 2-2 draw against Hungary. It didn't look likely until Loew took an all-ornothing gamble to avoid another first-round exit at a major compeour strength, somehow fighting for every meter forward.3

Musiala, making his first appearance at Euro 2020, provided the key when he eluded three Hungary defenders in the buildup to Goretzka's goal - a deflected

would play-defensively and hoping to break on counterattacks — but still his team had no answers. Germany was vulnerable in defense and showed little in attack. Again. Germany had also struggled in

st remembered for the one that dign't count. Trailing 0-2, England managed to claw one back h defender Matthew Upson. The revived England team then rampaged forward in search of an equaliser and Frank Lampard shot hard from the edge of the penalty area. The ball struck the underside of the bar and television replays clearly showed it bouncing about a yard behind the German goal line. The referee, however, waved play on, a blow the English never recovered from, instead conceding two more goals to the Germans. The disallowed goal transformed the sport, with goal-line technology in place four years later for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

## Bronze for women's Intra-squad games for India Djoko, Federer could 10m air nistol team 10m air pistol team

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Osijek (Croatia), June 25: The Indian troika of Manu Bhaker, Yashaswini Singh Deswal and Rahi Sarnobat claimed the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol women's team event of the ISSF Shooting World Cup here Friday.

They defeated the Hungarian team of Veronika Major, Miriam Jako and Sara Rahel Fabian 16-12 in the bronze medal match. The three Indians had qualified third with a score of 573.

Earlier, in the 10m air rifle events, the men's trio of Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Deepak Kumar and Divyansh Singh Panwar lost the bronze medal match, while the women shooters failed to get past the qualifying round.

Tomar, Kumar and Panwar lost

**A3** 



Kovacevic in the third-place match. The women's 10m air rifle team of Anjum Moudgil, Apurvi Chandela and Elavenil Valarivan continued to disappoint, finishing 11th in the qualification round with a total of 1867.7.

The three shooters had also failed to reach the final of the women's 10m air rifle event Thursday. India was off to a modest start at the world event as several shooters failed to make it to the finals of their events Thursday.

Saurabh Chaudharv was the lone Indian medallist on the opening day. The 19-year-old picked a bronze medal in men's 10m air pistol event. The event is Indian shooting team's final competitive outing before the Tokyo Olympics.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: The Indian cricket team will play two intrasquad games at the Riverside ground in Durham before the fivematch Test series against England as Virat Kohli's men are unlikely to get any warm-up first-class games against county sides. India captain Virat Kohli had

expressed his displeasure at not being given any first-class games before the England series, starting in Nottingham August 4. "Due to COVID-19 protocols, they will play two intra-squad four-day matches before the first Test in August," an ECB spokesperson told this agency Friday.

While it is understood that BCCI had requested ECB for a few practice games, the COVID-19 situation won't allow any such plan to go ahead. Asked if there is any chance of a game against county sides, the spokesperson said, "No"

In England, cricketers from various counties are regularly being tested for COVID but are not being kept in any bubble. The Indian team, once they assemble in London July 14 and move to Durham, will be once again be in a bubble.

"The domestic cricketers of England not being in a bubble is an issue for sure. That's why the games in Durham will be intra-squad ones," a BCCI official said on conditions of anonymity.

India are currently travelling with 24 players - 20 in the official squad and four reserves - which will allow them to play intra-squad games.

However, legends like Sunil Gavaskar have questioned the amount of preparedness that a simulated match can give the team. The touring teams, in the past, have played multiple first-class games against county sides. In simulated matches, a player can bat again if he gets out quickly unlike a proper first-class match.

Chairman of national selectors Chetan Sharma and another senior selector Sunil Joshi are not going to England for the five-Test series as strict quarantine rules have become an impediment.

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wimbledon, June 25: Novak Diokovic and Roger Federer were placed on opposite sides of the Wimbledon bracket in Friday's draw, meaning they only could meet in the final — which would be a rematch of their epic 2019 title showdown.

The top-seeded Djokovic will have a lot at stake when play begins at the All England Club on Monday, a year after the grass-court tournament was cancelled because of the pandemic.

He seeks a 20th major title, which would tie the men's record shared by Federer and Rafa Nadal; he can move closer to a calendar-year Grand Slam after winning the Australian Open in February and the French Open this month; he will be trying to win his third consecutive trophy, and sixth overall, at Wimbledon.

Two years ago, Djokovic edged Federer in a fifth-set tie-breaker after saving two championship





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