



TOUCHING TALE

Kashmir-born actor Shaylee Krishen says being a refugee in her own country, cinema was her only escape route

LEISURE P2



IRAN SAYS NO TO IAEA

Iran's parliament Speaker said Tehran will never hand over images from nuclear sites to UN watchdog

INTERNATIONAL P10



BAGFUL OF GOLD MEDALS

Archer Deepika Kumari wins three gold medals at the World Cup Stage 3 event in Paris

SPORTS P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I find this whole idea exciting - developing smart cities, not smart voters.

Former Sambalpur varsity VC murdered

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, June 27: In a shocking incident, a miscreant Sunday killed former Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University, Professor Dhruvaraj Nayak, here. The miscreant attacked Nayak with an axe leading to his death on the spot.

The accused was identified as Prabin Dharua (20) alias Rimit of Kuanmal village. He was arrested after police raided a rural forest in the on the village outskirts.

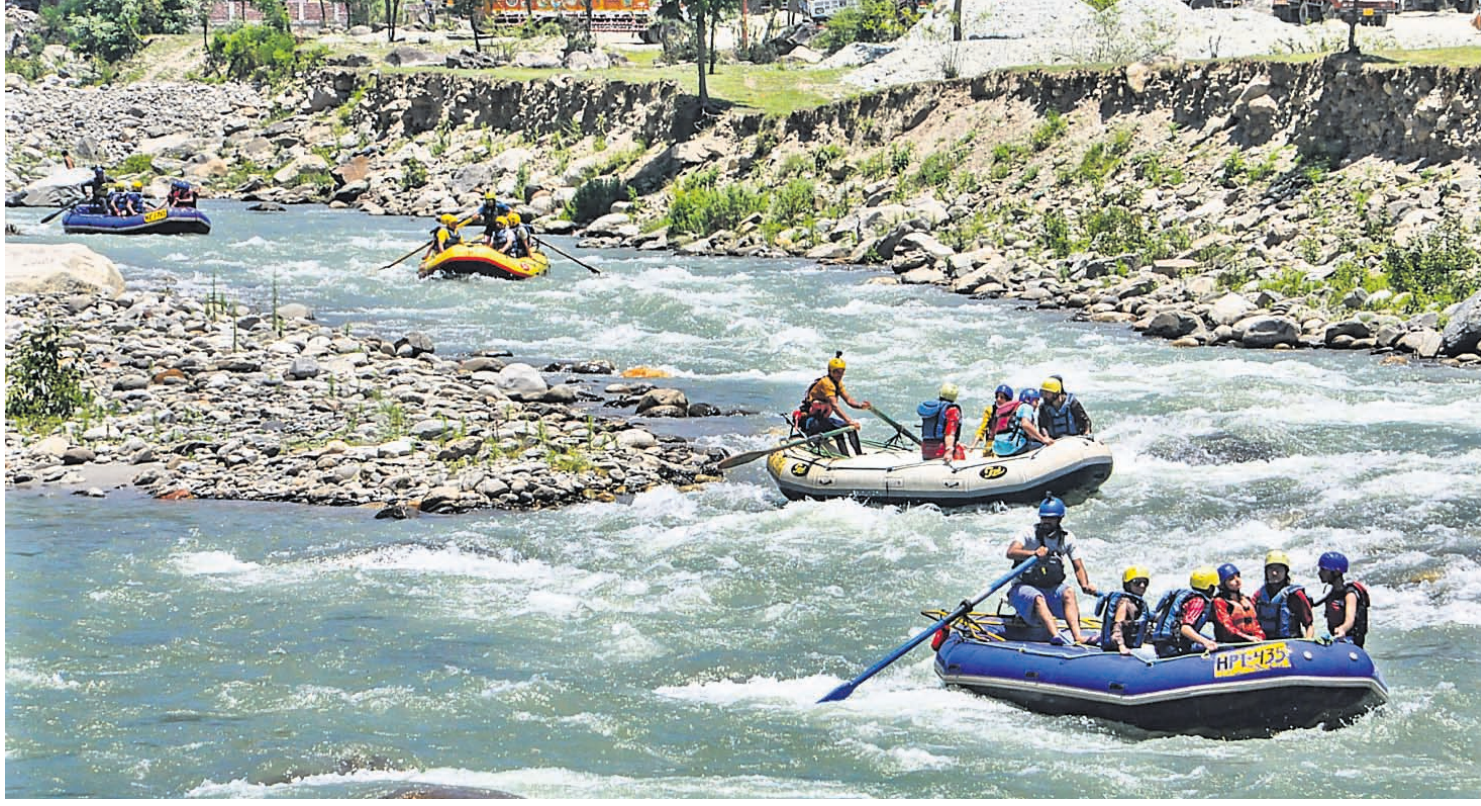


Sources said that the accused had entered the former VC's residence in Sargiguda locality at around 11.30 am with the intention of extorting money when Nayak was not in the house. The accused was in an inebriated state.

When Nayak returned home, the accused entered his bedroom and demanded ₹100 from him. Following an argument between the two, the accused suddenly attacked Nayak with an axe leaving him fatally injured. He was rushed to a private hospital, but was pronounced 'brought dead' on arrival. "The miscreant had entered the bedroom of the house. My brother Dhruvaraj was not present at home but returned when the accused was still in the house. He unexpectedly came face to face with the miscreant who attacked him in a bid to escape. Before anyone could apprehend him, the miscreant fled," the former VC's brother Arjun expressed.

On being informed, Laikera police reached the spot and launched a probe into the murder. The exact cause behind the brutal attack has not been ascertained yet, an official informed. However, locals asserted that the retired professor was killed over a petty amount.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP			
MAX		33.4°C	33.4°C
MIN		26.9°C	26.4°C
Humidity		77%	79%
Rainfall		5.1mm	1.0mm
		Forecast	
		Light rain very likely	



RIVER RAFTING: Tourists enjoy rafting in the river Beas after the authorities eased some relaxation in Covid-19 lockdown near Manali, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Drones attack Jammu IAF station, 2 injured

CURRENTLY INDIA NEITHER HAS PROPER SOPs FOR DEALING WITH FOREIGN DRONES NOR ANY DETAILED GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION OF DOMESTIC DRONES

AGENCIES

Jammu, June 27: Two explosions rocked the high security technical area of Indian Air Force (IAF) Station in Jammu on the intervening night of June 26-27. According to sources, it is suspected that low-flying drones were used to drop two improvised explosive devices (IEDs). This is probably the first drone attack on any Defence establishment in the country. An IAF patrol team saw the ammunition being dropped, sources said.

The explosions took place within a span of five minutes in the early hours of Sunday. The first blast ripped off the roof of a building at 1:37 am, while the second one was on the ground at 1:42 am.

Confirming the incidents of blast, the Indian Air Force tweeted: "Two low intensity explosions were reported early Sunday morning in the technical area of Jammu Air Force Station. One caused minor damage to the roof of a building, while the other exploded in an open area. There was no damage to any equipment. Investigation is in progress along with civil agencies."

"The attack at the IAF station in Jammu is a terror attack," Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh said. He said the police and other agencies were working together with IAF officials to unravel the plan behind the attack. A team from anti-terror probe agency National Investigation Agency (NIA) was also at the spot.

Meanwhile, it is suspected that drones were used to drop IEDs in the technical area of Jammu Air Force Station to trigger the blast. However, these



Special security force arrives at Air Force Station after two low intensity explosions reported in the technical area of Jammu Air Force Station in the early hours of Sunday

PTI PHOTO

drones were not detected by the radar.

Top sources in the security establishment said, "A drone seems to have been used to drop IEDs. This was not on the periphery but near the helipad area." The possible target of the attacks was the aircraft parked in the dispersal area, they said.

Just over a month ago, the Border Security Force (BSF) had May 14 detected weapons dropped by a suspected Pakistan drone in Jammu. On specific information regarding dropping of arms and ammunition by a drone in the Samba border area, BSF troops carried out a search operation in Samba sector and recovered an item wrapped in yellow polythene from a field. One AK-47 assault rifle, one pistol, one magazine, 15 rounds for a 9 mm weapon, one wooden frame (used to attach the payload to the drone) and

wrapping material were recovered approximately 250 metres inside Indian territory from the border.

In the past as well, drones were used to drop weapons but couldn't be detected by the radar.

For the past few years, the BSF has been pushing the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to get latest technology to disable drones. The force began pushing it with greater vigour after the assassination of Iranian military officer Qasim Suleimani in a US drone attack in January 2020.

"Surveillance drone flights are very frequent. Sometimes, there are 10-15 sightings every day. But load carrying drones are a grave threat. In fact, that's the future of warfare. Also, the assassination of Suleimani had shown that such threats are closer home than we think," a BSF officer said. P9

Schools to remain shut indefinitely: Centre and states

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 27: Even as the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic across the country is slowly receding with each passing day, the Centre and the state governments have decided not to allow schools to be reopened yet. Experts have now predicted a third wave of the pandemic, however, many students, parents and parent organisations want schools to be opened in such places where the outbreak of Covid-19 is under control.

Ashok Agarwal, All-India Parents' Association president, said, "According to an estimate, nearly 30 per cent of the students studying in government schools are 'school dropouts'. We should not ignore the fact that the best and the safest place for children is school. The closure of schools for a longer period of time has given rise to social evils and other abuses like child labour, sexual harassment, diseases etc."

"When all other economic activities have resumed during the unlocking of the lockdown, why schools can't be opened? The Delhi government must reopen schools with 50 per cent occupancy following the necessary Covid protocol. Schools could be closed at any time if necessary," Agarwal said.

The All-India Parents' Association, which is a nationwide organisation of parents, said, "All ration stores, vaccination centres, ration and food distribution centres should be shifted from Delhi government schools immediately. Schools should be reopened for students with immediate effect. Twenty-five lakh students of Delhi alone are not able to avail of regular education since March 2020."

According to a survey, more than 70 per cent of parents in the country still do not want to send their ward to school. These parents say that schools should not be opened till the Covid-19 situation in their areas is completely under control.

Micro containment zones come up in Capital; cast shadow over unlock plans

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Denizens in the state capital, who were hoping that the lockdown curbs would be lifted after July 1, may now have to wait longer as the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) introduced two micro-containment zones here to contain the spread of coronavirus.

According to an order issued by the civic authority Sunday, two colonies - one at Bidhyut Marg and the other at Behera Sahi in Rudrapur - have been marked as containment zones. These zones have come up even after the daily Covid-19 cases in the city dropped to 300 as compared 1,000 cases per day a few days back.

"Twenty-five residential quarters in Bidyut Marg have been declared as quarantine zone as several positive cases were reported from the locality. Similarly, about 35 families have been asked to remain in quarantine after multiple cases were reported from Behera Sahi in Nayapalli. Both these colonies will remain under active surveillance and testing will be intensified in these areas," a BMC official told **Orissa POST**.

It may be mentioned here that these clusters have erupted despite the BMC endeavouring to achieve the tag of 'fully-vaccinated city'.

Meanwhile, certain slums here have also reported few Covid-19 cases, casting doubts over any relaxation in the lockdown. While the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) has dropped from 10% to 7%, sources at the BMC said that they are planning to increase daily testing to 5,000 from 4,000 tests currently being undertaken per day now.

According to another report, the TPR in several districts of the state is still above five per cent and this may be the reason for the authorities not to announce any major lockdown relaxations after July 1. While the TPR in Khurda and Cuttack districts is being close to 10 per cent, which is among the highest in the state, major relaxations in these districts seem to be a distant dream. During the last unlock, the state government had granted partial relief to the districts reporting TPR less than five per cent.

However, till June 27, as many as 11 districts continued to report TPR above 5 per cent. These districts include Khurda, Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Nayagarh and Puri. According to sources in the Health department, the government is likely to relax the curbs in districts where the TPR is below five per cent.

Petrol 36 paise costlier today

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Petrol price increased by 36 paise per litre for the second day in a row in the state capital and 35 paise in the national capital. While the petrol price in Bhubaneswar was ₹99.30 per litre Sunday, it went up to ₹98.46 a litre in New Delhi.

Similarly, the price of the fuel in the other key metros also continued the upward trend with petrol being sold at ₹99.49 per litre in Chennai. In Mumbai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for ₹104.56 and ₹98.30 per litre, respectively.

With the rise, petrol price has reached very close to hitting the century mark all across the country extending the scope of historic high prices that had already made the fuel rate cross the ₹100 per litre-mark in certain cities and towns of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.

Across the country as well petrol and diesel prices increased on Saturday but its retail prices varied depending on the level of local taxes in different states.

Petrol prices in three other metros apart from Mumbai have also reached

CITY FUEL PRICES	
PETROL	₹99.30 (+0.36)
DIESEL	₹96.94 (+0.26)



closer to ₹100 per litre-mark and OMC officials said that if international oil prices continue to firm up, this mark could also be breached in other places in the next few days. In line with petrol prices, the price of diesel also increased across the four metros on Sunday.

In Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, diesel was sold for ₹88.90, ₹96.42, ₹93.46 and ₹91.75 per litre, respectively.

With global crude prices also rising on a pick-up in demand and depleting inventories of world's largest fuel guzzler - the US, retail prices of fuel in India are expected to firm up further in coming days. The benchmark Brent crude is currently around a multi-year high-level of over \$76 on the Intercontinental Exchange.

Classified UK defence documents found at bus stop

REUTERS

London, June 27: Classified documents from Britain's Defence Ministry containing details about a British warship and Russia's potential reaction to its passage through the Black Sea have been found at a bus stop in southern England, the BBC reported Sunday.

The BBC said the documents, almost 50 pages in all, were found "in a soggy heap behind a bus stop in Kent early Tuesday morning" by a member of the public, who wanted to remain anonymous.

The Ministry of Defence said it had been informed last week of "an incident in which sensitive defence papers were recovered by a member of the public".



"The department takes the security of information extremely seriously and an investigation has been launched. The employee concerned reported the loss at the time. It would be inappropriate to comment further," a spokesperson said.

Britain's main Opposition Labour Party said the discovery of the documents

by a member of the public was "as embarrassing as it is worrying for ministers".

Labour's Defence policy chief John Healey said ministers needed to confirm that national security had not been undermined or security operations affected and that "procedures are in place to ensure nothing like this happens again".

The BBC reported that the documents, which included emails and PowerPoint presentations, related to the British warship Defender, which this month sailed through waters off the Crimean peninsula, a region Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

Russia said Wednesday it had fired warning shots and dropped bombs in the path of the ship to chase it out of

what the Kremlin says are its territorial waters but which Britain and most of the world say belong to Ukraine.

It later summoned the British ambassador in Moscow for a formal diplomatic scolding over what it described as a provocation. Britain rejected Russia's account of the incident. It said it believed any shots fired were a pre-announced Russian "gunnery exercise", and that no bombs had been dropped.

It confirmed the destroyer had sailed through what it said were Ukrainian waters, describing its path as "innocent passage" in accordance with international law of the sea.

The BBC said the documents suggested the ship's mission was conducted in the expectation that Russia might respond aggressively.

BBC said the documents, almost 50 pages in all, were found "in a soggy heap behind a bus stop in Kent early Tuesday morning"

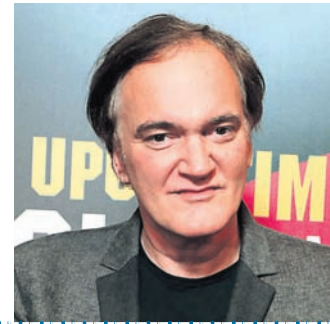


HILTON TALKS ABOUT HER LOVE FOR DJING

Socialite Paris Hilton has talked about her love for DJing. She says she simply followed her passion and that playing music and performing has always been her superpower. "I didn't know that I would become the highest-paid female DJ in the world," she wrote on Instagram

TARANTINO WANTS HIS FINAL FILM TO BE MADE ON ISRAEL

Hollywood maverick Quentin Tarantino has revealed about the plans for making his final movie. He has been thinking about making Israel the backdrop for his last film. "If you make a movie in Jerusalem, there's nowhere you can point the camera where you're not capturing something fantastic," said the director



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
Today, you may feel caught between the devil and the deep blue sea: while you must please your beloved, you can't afford to annoy your boss. It's okay once in while to walk the tight rope, smiles Ganesh. Life only gives you what you can handle.

TAURUS
This day you are likely to face some health problems. Ganesh urges you not to expose your self to any kind of risk and take even the faintest symptom of illness seriously. Visit a doctor without delay. You could, otherwise, be bedridden for quite some time.

GEMINI
You will be worried on account of financial matters, or due to matters related to inheritances. You will become more possessive about material things today and will not be in the mood to share with others. You will feel some satisfaction looking back at your efforts made throughout the day, in the evening, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You may make a switch to a new job or get a job offer that you don't want to deny, predicts Ganesh. You are likely to go on a shopping spree and spend lavishly. In the evening, you will be spending your time and money on your loved ones.

LEO
You will not compromise with your principles today, and will feel satisfied with yourself as a result. However, do not lose your conciliatory approach. You need to be practical and businesslike about your professional affairs, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will feel very agitated about some prickly issues today, Ganesh says there is a likelihood of your joining some sort of a course to improve your personality. There is also a possibility of an intimate conversation leading up to some carnal enjoyment.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will be in a nostalgic frame of mind and will love to remember the good memories of the past today. You will be able to sit with like-minded people and will discuss and share your ideas and thoughts. You will share your thoughts on varied topics like philosophy religion etc.

SCORPIO
Ganesh has lot of surprises in store for you today. It's your time to slowly unravel the mystery, He says. The ball is in your court when it comes to business meetings and professional discussions. Your sense of humour is likely to cast a magic spell on everyone around you, today.

SAGITTARIUS
Love life and your sweetheart are likely to occupy your day. You may build castles in the air! You would like to give your wardrobe a makeover. To sum it up, you and your friends set out on a shopping spree and splurge big time! Make the most of the benevolent day, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Today, you will sit back and think about the mistakes you have made in the past. At work, you perform like a team player and play an important role in the success of your team. But, your efforts may go unnoticed or may not receive deserved appreciation.

AQUARIUS
You will become flexible and tolerant in your approach, and this change will enable you to deal with unfavourable circumstances with an ease. You sympathise with the people who bear the brunt of injustice of any kind. You will feel the joy of helping somebody in need today, foretells Ganesh.

PISCES
The day will start well but there will be a sharp drop as it peaks in the afternoon and things may arise that will become a cause of worry. Money might be the primary reason for your stress. There will only be two solutions available to this problem.

Rashmika warns fan who turned up at her home

Mumbai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna took to social media Sunday to warn a fan who turned up at her home to catch a glimpse of her.

The actress, who shifted to her new Mumbai home just a few days ago, took to Twitter to mildly warn the fan who has 'travelled super far' to meet her; requesting him/her not to do this and instead connect with her on social media.

"Guys it just came to my notice that one of you had travelled super far and have gone home to see me.. Please don't do something like that.. I feel bad that I didn't get to meet you. I really really hope to meet you one day but for now show me love here.. I'll be happy!" Rashmika tweeted Sunday.

On the work front, Rashmika is all set to make her Hindi film debut with the upcoming spy thriller film Mission Majnu. In the Shantanu Bagchi directorial, the actress will be seen alongside Sidharth Malhotra.

The actress will also be seen in the Hindi film Goodbye starring Amitabh Bachchan. IANS

Akshay announces FAU-G's DeathMatch mode

Mumbai: Top star Akshay Kumar took to social media Sunday to announce the beta release of mobile action game FAU-G's Team DeathMatch mode.

"Bullets will fly when #FAUG face their dushman in deadly team battles! Join the beta release of FAU-G's Team DeathMatch mode. Limited slots only! #BharatKeVeer @vishygo @ncore_games_official," Akshay Kumar shared in an Instagram post.

Akshay had launched the mobile action game Fearless and United Guards (FAU-G) on the occasion of India's 72nd Republic Day in January this year. The game has been developed by Bangalore based studio nCore Games, with a concept by Akshay himself. The FAU-G game is available on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

The game was first announced by Akshay Kumar in September 2020, post PUB-G ban. IANS



'Being a refugee in my own land, cinema was the only escape'

Mumbai: Born and brought up in a Kashmiri Pandit family, a major part of her childhood was spent moving from one refugee camp to another until they managed to find a space they could call home. For young actress Shaylee Krishen, there was no sense of permanence about where she lived, and the TV set and radio that offered films and songs were her only constant source of entertainment, escape and happiness.

Today, Shaylee belongs to that world of entertainment. She recently appeared in the OTT series The Last Hour, and has a couple of Malayalam films - Bermuda and Malayalam - lined up.

"Being born into a Kashmiri Pandit family, we all know how for the last 30 years, our community has been living as a refugee in our own land. There was no sense of permanence, as children, my siblings and I would always live in fear. But wherever we shifted, my only constant was listening to the radio and watching films on TV every Sunday. Acting and storytelling were the escape I always wanted to hold onto," Shaylee says. She was always interested in performance-oriented characters - like her favourite Sridevi in Sadma and Manisha Koirala in Khamoshi, says the actress. IANS



Jharkhandi film 'Dhumkkudiya' set to pierce hearts at Cannes

Based on the true story of a 14-yr-old tribal girl who was sold on several occasions and raped more than 100 times before being killed, the film has won 60 prestigious awards in 84 countries

RANCHI: It is a tale of shattered dreams. A tale of horror experienced and lived out daily by thousands of tribal girls who are trafficked to big cities on false promises. *Dhumkkudiya* - a Jharkhandi film, based on the true story of a 14 year old minor, will be screened at the prestigious 2021 Cannes Film Festival July 12.

The director of the film, Nandlal

Nayak, a Ford Scholar, folk artist, music composer and former creative director for United Colours of Benetton, says he is still haunted by the eyes of the girl on whose real life story he based his movie which has already picked up critical acclaim.

Nayak adds that he slipped into depression on learning the story of the girl, who inspired the movie.

She had run away from a Delhi Kothi (brothel) in a posh locality after being sexually assaulted.

Dhumkkudiya, shot at pristine and virgin Jharkhand hinterland over 52 days has already won more than 60 prestigious awards in 84 countries.

After winning the American Institute of Indian Studies fellowship Nandlal, son of Jharkhand's well known folk artist Padmashri Mukund Nayak, had returned to his village in 2003 to research and document tribal music.

"Native village people used to come to hear my tales but this 14-year-old girl was disinterested,

disenchanted," said Nandlal. He comforted her and slowly won her confidence. Finally she opened up and narrated her horrific tale of how she was trafficked and sexually abused before she could understand what was happening.

He said after she conceived she was confined to a place and delivered the baby by herself in a bathroom and packed the child into a suitcase. Somehow she managed to escape by taking a train to Ranchi. She changed buses and finally walked several kilometers to reach her village.

"I decided to adopt her. I went to the US for a few months and on my



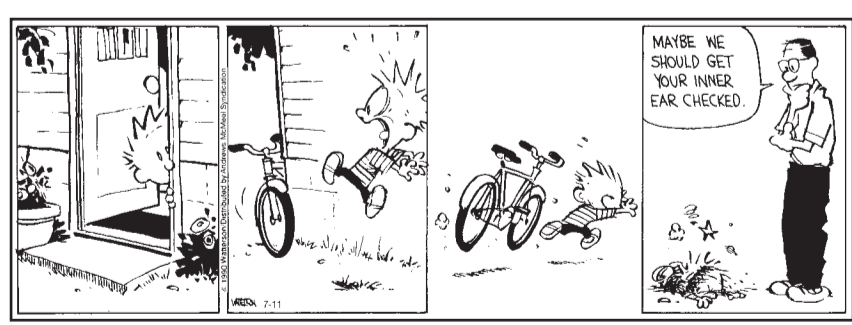
return came to know that she had been sold many times and raped more than 100 times before being killed. I went into a depression and left my music research and decided to make a movie instead," revealed Nandlal.

The character of the protagonist in the film is played by Rinkal Kacchap and that of the antagonist by Pradhman Nayak. Rupesh Kumar, is the director of photography. Others who acted in the film include Rajesh Jaish, Subrat dutta, Vinod Anand and Gita Guha all renowned artists from National School of Drama. The film is produced by Sumit Agarwal and Nandlal Nayak. PTI

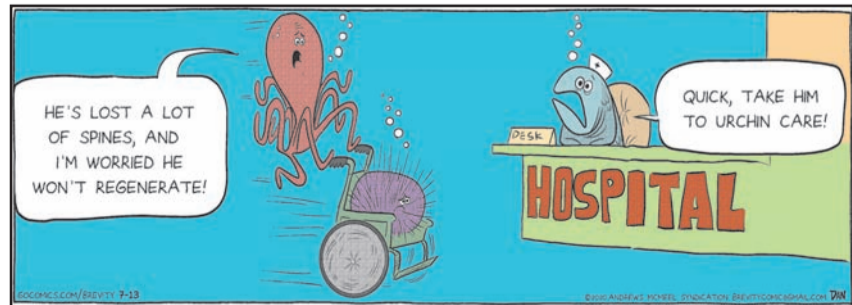
PEANUTS



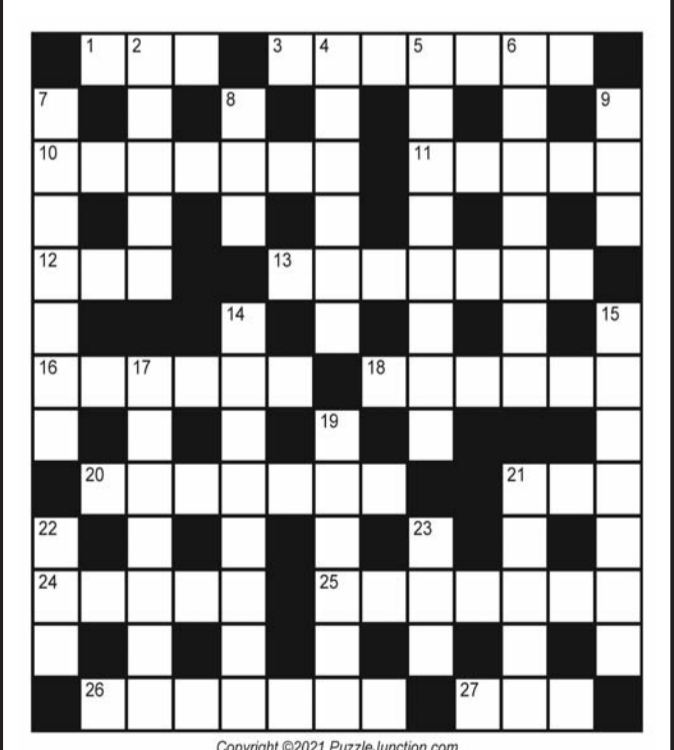
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



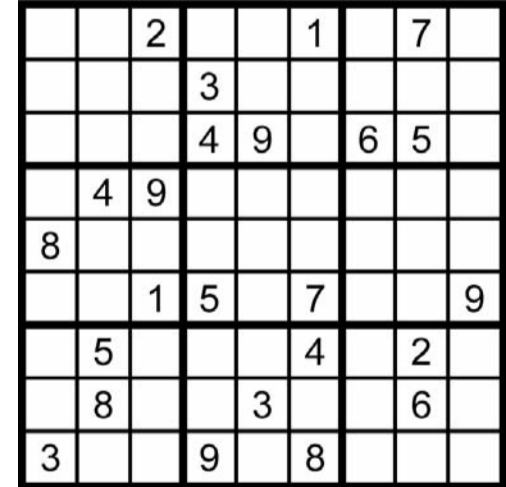
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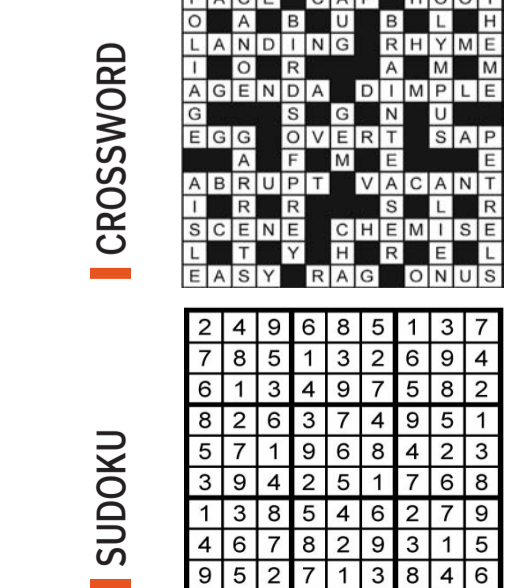
- Across**
- 1 Lyric poem
 - 3 Impotunity
 - 10 In plain sight
 - 11 Rustic digs
 - 12 Average
 - 13 Colourless gas
 - 16 Weather map line
 - 18 Copyreader
 - 20 Rambled
 - 21 Feathery wrap
 - 24 Tranquility
 - 25 Apple grove
 - 26 Put away
 - 27 Family hangout
 - Down**
 - 2 White Cliff's site
 - 4 Vacation spot
 - 5 Risky venture
 - 6 Storage locker
 - 7 Marine merrymaker
 - 8 Slough
 - 9 Serengeti grazer
 - 14 Sea cows
 - 15 Gofer's jobs
 - 17 Pariah
 - 19 Knock down a peg
 - 21 Fire
 - 22 Choose
 - 23 Frigid

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



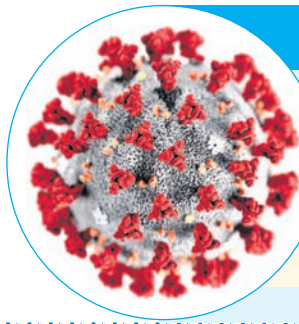
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



SHUTDOWN & CITY

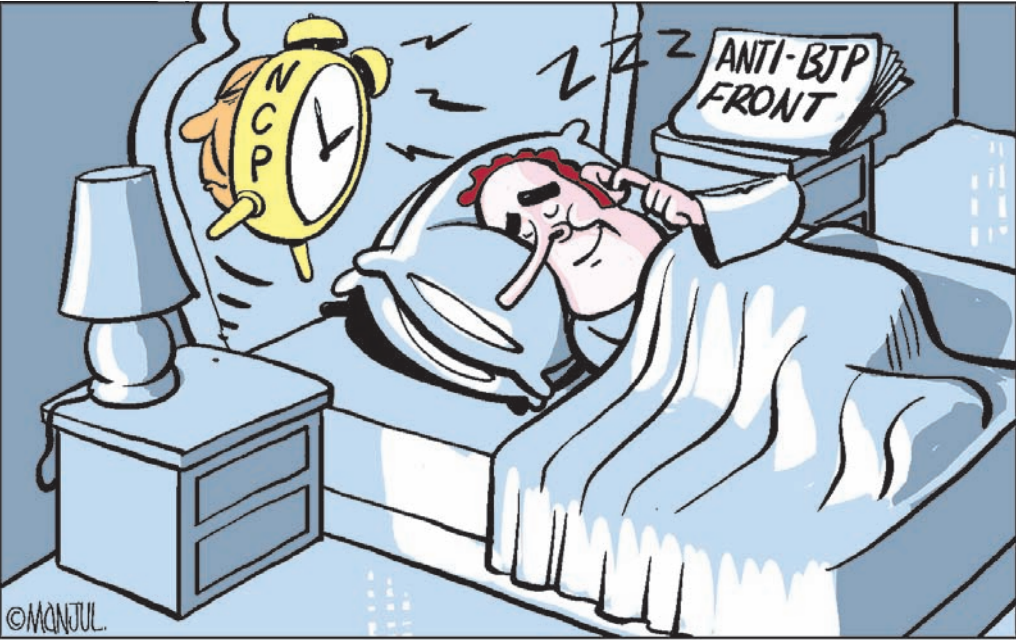
OMP Square in Cuttack wears a deserted look during weekend shutdown, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	18,16,77,542	16,61,87,639	39,35,351
India	3,02,33,183	2,92,51,029	3,95,751
Odisha	9,00,470	8,67,402	3,887

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



State to demarcate Mahanadi floodplains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The Water Resources (WR) department is mulling demarcation of Mahanadi floodplains in Cuttack with the help of satellite images in a bid to ensure no construction work takes place on the floodplains, an official said Sunday.

According to sources, the WR department's move came a few days after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) raised concern over the issue.

A joint team of experts from the WR department, National Institute of Technology-Rourkela and the National Institute of Hydrology-Roorkee will demarcate the floodplains. According to the plan, the experts will use satellite images to prepare a map of Mahanadi river system from Mundali barrage to Jobra barrage in Cuttack. A digital



elevation map of the proposed study area will also be prepared for this purpose.

Details like the extent of floodwater beyond the riverbed during floods in different years will be noted, land use in such areas are to be considered and a boundary limit of floodplains will be drawn

in various cities, towns, villages based on the studies and analysis. Floodplains refer to the areas on both sides of the river which, because of its level topography, floods when the river overflows.

"The works will help us gather proper data, which can tell us more about the different floodplain zones from the edge of the river. These will allow the policymakers and public to know which zones should be restricted, where certain activities could be allowed and where no activity should be allowed," an official from the department said, requesting anonymity.

The joint team, which was earlier formed under the direction of NGT, has already visited some sites along the Mahanadi river in Cuttack and took a stock of the encroachments there, while several deliberations among scientists, researchers and others are going on

in the state.

According to experts, the state government till now does not have a clear-cut law and policy to govern the floodplains of rivers flowing in Odisha. The Union government had earlier shared a draft Model Floodplain Bill with different states, including Odisha, while the National Disaster Management Authority in 2008 also issued norms for the formulation of floodplain zoning and also talked about incentivising states for doing so.

However, till now, the state did not work on floodplain zoning. The efforts for the same have started in the state and now is in a nascent stage.

Two years ago, the State Disaster Management Authority with the assistance of the Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) had tried to depict the flood levels in different years in the state through Odisha Flood Atlas.

No heavy rain warning for next 2 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Sunday issued no warning of heavy rain for the next two days.

The IMD office here however forecasted light to moderate rain in different parts of the state Monday and Tuesday. The department while forecasting the weather for Monday said, "Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, Kandhamal and at one or two places over the rest of the districts of Odisha."

Nevertheless, the department said that in the last 24 hours the maximum rain was reported from Daringbadi which saw 33 mm of rainfall while 29 mm of rainfall was reported from Rayagada. IMD said that the state capital Monday could see cloudy sky and a few spells of thundershowers. The maximum temperature in the city could go up to 33 degree C.

No special warning has been issued for the fishermen. The maximum temperature Sunday was reported from Bhawanipatana which saw 35 degree C temperature while the minimum temperature was recorded in Daringbadi which saw 18.5 degree C temperature.



ACCORDING TO THE INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, HEAVY RAINS ARE LIKELY TO LASH DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE STATE FROM WEDNESDAY

The department said that light to moderate rains could also be felt Tuesday. "Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Odisha," the de-

partment said.

The department meanwhile said that heavy rains are likely to lash different parts of the state from Wednesday. The department said that thunderstorm with lightning could be seen over a few places in Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Khurda, Cuttack, Puri, Sundargarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj Wednesday.

The department said that Thursday the state could see heavy rains again and Yellow Warning has been issued for the day. Heavy rains are likely to be witnessed in Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Jajpur, Bhadrak during the day.

GOVT EFFECTS IAS RESHUFFLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The General Administration and Public Grievance department Sunday did a reshuffle of IAS officers and gave new responsibilities to around 20 officials in the state.

Gajapati Collector Anupam Saha has now been appointed as the State Project Director OSEPA, Sonapur Collector Monisha Banerjee has been made the new Bargarh Collector while Malkangiri Collector Yeddulla Vijay has been transferred and appointed as the Director of Animal Husbandry department.

Gajapati Collector Anupam Saha has now been appointed as the State Project Director OSEPA

Rourkela Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dibya Jyoti Parida has been given additional charge of CEO, Rourkela Smart City Ltd while he has also been appointed as Additional District Magistrate of Rourkela.

Several other changes in postings of IAS officers were also done by the government.

STATE'S COVID TALLY GOES PAST 9L-MARK

ODISHA REGISTERED 3,408 FRESH CASES OF CORONAVIRUS AND 39 FATALITIES IN THE LAST 24 HOURS

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Odisha's Covid-19 tally surpassed the 9 lakh mark Sunday as 3,408 more people tested positive for the infection, while 39 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 3,887, a Health official said.

The fresh infections recorded in all the 30 districts took the state's caseload to 9,00,470.

As many as 1,943 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 1,465 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing, said the official.

Khurda district, of which Bhubaneswar is a part, registered the highest number of new cases at 582, followed by Cuttack (553), Jajpur (258), Balasore (251) and Puri (215). Remaining 25 districts registered less than 200 Covid positive cases.

IN A NUTSHELL

Khurda registered the highest number of new cases at 582, followed by Cuttack (553) and Jajpur (258)

Khurda also recorded the highest number of fresh fatalities at nine, followed by five each in Bargarh, Cuttack and Nayagarh, and three each in Sambalpur and Sundargarh

Odisha has thus far tested over 1.35 crore samples for Covid-19, including 68,335 in the last 24 hours

The state's positivity rate stands at 4.98 per cent

daily caseload in the state

Odisha has thus far tested over 1.35 crore samples for Covid-19, including 68,335 in the last 24 hours. The state's positivity rate stands at 4.98 per cent.

As far as the test positivity rate is concerned, only two districts—Puri and Khurda—have more than 10 per cent, while five districts have between 5 to 7.5 per cent and the rest 20 districts have less than 5 per cent.

KISS celebrates 1st virtual convocation



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, celebrated its first convocation ceremony in virtual mode Sunday.

Delivering the convocation address, Governor Ganeshi Lal congratulated the graduates, and said that there is no dearth of talents in tribal communities. What they needed is the right environment, encouragement and timely exposure. He exhorted the graduates to be "Vocal for Local" with resolve and contribute to the successful making of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' through their participation and endeavours.

"My heart fills with admiration and appreciation for Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder of this university for building such a unique institution that has drawn global attention. It was the idea of an equitable world that propelled Dr Samanta to a great extent. What has been achieved with the love, compassion, dedication and determination of one individual is indeed remarkable", Prof Ganeshi Lal said. He also received Honorary Causa Degree of DLitt from KISS Deemed to be University.

The varsity conferred Honorary Causa Degree of DLitt upon three more eminent personalities from Odisha - Girish Chandra Murmu,

Comptroller and Auditor General of India; Hon Dr Swarup Ranjan Mishra, Member of Parliament for Kesses Constituency, Kenya and Founding Chairman, Medihel Group of Hospitals, Kenya; and Shri Bibhu Mohapatra, Fashion Designer and Costume Designer, New York.

"It's the story which took off with 125 students on board in 1992-93 and has today become an inspiring tale of transformation beyond even my imagination. Development of education is the development of the country", Dr Achyuta Samanta said.

In his report, Prof Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice-Chancellor said, KISS offers specialisation in innovative tribal centric areas and encourages research scholars to pursue their work on the indigenous population and topics close to their hearts.

Malho Marti (2019 batch), School of Tribal Resource Management and Prashant Majhi (2020 batch), School of Indigenous Knowledge, Science & Technology won Founder's Gold Medal for securing highest CGPA in the whole University across all Post Graduate programmes. Similarly, 14 students were awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal, while another 14 students got the Vice Chancellor's Silver Medal for their outstanding academic performances.

CAR FEST PREP IN FULL SWING



Carpenters and tailors are busy with the chariot construction work while Srimandir servitors prepare 'Pana Bhog' for the Anasara ritual of Lord Jagannath and his siblings in Puri, Sunday OP PHOTOS

DGP makes surprise visit to police stations



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The Director General of Police Abhay paid surprise visits to different police stations of the capital city. Commissioner of Police Saumendra Priyadarshi was also present during DGP's visits to Khandagiri, Tamando and Bharatpur police stations and Janla outpost.

According to sources, DGP Abhay talked to the staff at the police stations about various issues like the number of cases taken for investigation by the officers, amenities at the police stations etc.

He enquired about the health condition of the staff who had just recovered from Covid-19 infection. He reviewed the availability of quarters for the staff and situation of barracks at the police stations. Abhay also visited the biotech lab at Dashapur and proposed site for the construction of new police station building of Bharatpur police station. He asked the staff to perform their duty honestly and dedicatedly.

Abhay visited the police outposts at Kalinga Vihar and Janla as well. Sources claimed that the DGP paid the surprise visit to enquire about the health condition and the welfare activities for the police staff at police stations in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

12 fall ill after taking shots at Puri DHH

AGENCIES

Puri, June 27: At least 12 patients at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here fell ill reportedly after taking injections at the state-run healthcare facility, an official said Sunday.

According to sources, it was around 4pm Saturday when a nurse administered Cefoperazone and Sulbactam 1500 mg injection, supplied by Odisha State Medical Corporation (OSMC), to at least 12 indoor patients at the male medicine ward of the DHH.

Soon after taking the injection, the patients started vomiting and complained of fever; Rasmita Swain and Susama Mallick, attendants of two of the patients, alleged.

Angry attendants shouted and alleged that their patients were administered wrong injection by the nurse.

Later, two doctors of the DHH reached the ward and administered another injection to the patients following which 10 patients found relief, but the condition of other two deteriorated. ADMO Pranab Shankar Das said that doctors have been attending all the patients and the drug inspector has seized the used injection bottles.

NHRC seeks report on pregnancy of minors in SC/ST residential schools



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Kendrapara, June 27: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the DGP on pregnancy of minors in various state-run SC/ST residential schools within four weeks.

The NHRC also directed the Dhenkanal Collector to ensure payment of Rs 7 lakh to the victims of sexual violence.

The rights body passed the order while acting on petition and rejoinders filed by social activist Radhakanta Tripathy and the response from the state authorities. Tripathy, in his complaint, al-

leged that sexual exploitation of minor girls are continuing and some of the victims have been found pregnant in a few state-run SC/ST residential schools.

Alleging failure, negligence and inaction of the state government to act over the issue and crime committed against minor girls, Tripathy urged the NHRC to ensure legal action against the wrongdoers and heavy compensation with rehabilitation of the victims with preventive measures.

As per the inquiry report submitted by the Dhenkanal Collector, a tribal girl student of Saptasajya Ashram School had gone home during summer vacations of May-June 2018.

It was alleged that during her stay at Jajpur, the younger brother of her sister-in-law, who is also a minor, had a physical relationship with her. The student, after a medical check up, was found to be seven months pregnant.

In another incident, the headmaster of Government SSD Girls' High School, Balda, Koraput, Bidhu Bhuson Nayak, had allegedly established physical relations with a tribal girl studying in Class IX.

A criminal case has been registered and the headmaster was arrested and disciplinary proceedings have also been initiated against him.

Further necessary instructions have also been issued to the Koraput Collector to take immediate disciplinary and criminal action against the assistant hostel superintendent and the lady matron of the Balada Girls' High School.

The DLSA, Koraput has given an amount of Rs1,50,000 as interim compensation and Rs10,000 has been paid to the victim from Indian Red Cross Society.

Thereafter, on the orders of Odisha Human Rights Commission an amount of Rs 3,75,000 has been paid to the victim and a pucca house in favour of the victim under IAY/Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana.



The Commissionerate Police conducts patrolling at various places in Bhubaneswar urging people to follow the Covid-appropriate behaviour, Sunday

Webinar conducted on English language skills

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: English Support Mission (ESM) started a series of workshops on English Language Teaching on a monthly basis Sunday. The webinar series was inaugurated by Kalahandi University VC Sanjay Kumar Satapathy.

Target group will be teachers of English (primary to university level). Renowned Resource Persons from university of repute like EFLU, Hyderabad will be doing workshops every Sunday on Methods of Teaching English and Individual Language Skills like Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing and Vocabulary together with Critical Thinking Skills.

Founded in 2013, English Support is committed to equipping the Rural Youth with English language skills.

Gathering amid shutdown invites police action



MLA Suresh Kumar Routray and others at the meeting

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, June 27: The Commissionerate Police Sunday raided a gathering of Daruhenga Anchalika Vikash Committee in Chandaka area for violation of Covid-19 protocols.

The committee organised a meeting and presser seeking development of Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP), Chudanggarh and Chandaka sanctuary. More than 200 people including Jatni MLA Suresh Kumar Routray participated in the meeting amid the pandemic-induced weekend shutdown, sources said.

In its demand, the committee urged the state government to bring new animals and birds to NZP and take steps to resume ropeway and toy train facilities at the zoo. This apart, the committee pleaded for beautification and development of

the historical sites at Chudanggarh. Moreover, the committee urged the government to raise the height of the boundary wall of Chandaka sanctuary and take steps to save the nearby human settlements from wild elephants.

"The organisers of the meeting also arranged food for more than 200 people in violation of the Covid-19 protocols," said a source. On being informed, Bhubaneswar additional tehsildar Sharmista Das along with officials of Chandaka police raided the meeting and threatened to take action against the organisers, sources said.

"The meeting was organised in violation of the Covid-19 norms. We will collect a penalty of Rs 20,000 from the organisers. This apart, appropriate legal action would be taken against them," said the additional tehsildar.

14,853 cognizable offence cases pending at City PSEs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: As many as 14,853 cases related to various cognizable offences have been pending at different police stations in the Capital city till February 2021.

Cognizable offences include serious crimes like murder, rape, theft, kidnapping and counterfeiting. In cognizable cases, the police officials can arrest a person without any warrant and permission from the court.

While replying to a query under the Right to Information Act, the commissionerate police revealed that police officials have failed to complete probe into 14,853 cases related to serious crimes.

As per the reply, maximum number of cases have been pending at Nayapalli police station. The investigating officers of the police station are yet to submit chargesheets in 1,856 cases registered for various cognizable offences.

Similarly, a total of 1,565 such cases have been pending at Sahid Nagar police station, while the numbers are 1,551, 1,188, 1,157 and 1,046 at Khandagiri, Mancheswar, Chandrasekharpur and Capital police stations respectively.

Some police officials, meanwhile, blamed actue staff crunch at several police stations in the Capital city for delay in probe into the cases. They also blamed rise in



AS PER THE RTI REPLY, MAXIMUM NUMBER OF COGNIZABLE CASES HAVE BEEN PENDING AT NAYAPALLI POLICE STATION

SOME POLICE OFFICIALS, MEANWHILE, BLAMED ACUTE STAFF CRUNCH AT POLICE STATIONS IN THE CAPITAL CITY FOR DELAY IN PROBE INTO THE CASES

THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS OF THE POLICE STATION ARE YET TO SUBMIT CHARGESHEETS IN 1,856 CASES REGISTERED FOR VARIOUS COGNIZABLE OFFENCES

THEY ALSO BLAMED RISE IN POPULATION IN THE CITY FOR THE RECENT SPURT IN CRIMES

population in the city for the recent spurt in crimes.

"The population of the Capital city has gone up significantly in recent years due to rapid urbanisation. Hundreds of people from rural

areas have migrated to the city in search of livelihood. The number of slums has also gone up. These factors have contributed to the rise in crimes in Bhubaneswar," said a police officer.



Boats anchored at Kathajodi river near Naraj anicut in Cuttack, Sunday

TIME TO REST

AIDSO opposes blended mode of edu

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The state council of All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) Sunday opposed the University Grants Commission's (UGC) blended mode of education by saying that the new method would destroy the classroom teaching system.

The outfit also claimed that the mode of education would widen the existing structural differences and promote profit-making objective among educational institutions. The new system would lead to bureaucratic surveillance at educational institutions and help the government curbing dissenting voices at higher education institutions, said the AIDSO.

According to the UGC draft guidelines, higher education institutions may be allowed to teach up to 40 per cent of the syllabus of each



course through online mode and the remaining 60 per cent through offline teaching.

AIDSO state unit secretary Nasim Sarkar said, "Promoting the blended mode of education is nothing but implementing the National Education Policy-2020 in Colleges and universities. The NEP-2020 encourages privatisation of education. Through the new policy, the government is shirking its responsibility to provide quality education to all".

Last year, the Higher Education department had directed the universities and colleges to develop a habit of self-study among students. Besides, the state government has planned to introduce 'Blended Learning' in the form of 'Guided Self-Study' covering 25 per cent of the syllabus both at Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) levels in Odisha.

"We oppose to the UGC decision of introducing blended mode of education and urge the Centre and

According to the UGC draft guidelines, higher education institutions may be allowed to teach up to 40 per cent of the syllabus of each course through online mode and the remaining 60 per cent through offline teaching

state government to desist from introducing the new system of teaching," Sarkar said. Meanwhile, various students' outfits have expressed their resentment over the blended mode of education and they are planning to submit an online petition in this regard to President Ram Nath Kovind, sources said.

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Paddy procurement hits roadblock in Bargarh

LAKHS OF PADDY SACKS LYING UNSOLD HAVE BECOME FODDER FOR STRAY CATTLE

Bargarh, June 27: Even as farmers have started farming activities for the kharif season they are yet to sell their paddy harvested in the rabi season with paddy procurement hitting a roadblock in Bargarh district.

The seriousness of the situation can be gauged from the fact that lakhs of paddy packets are lying unsold in the farmlands and in various procurement centres in the district. The paddy is rotting after being exposed to rain. Farmers could be seen making a lot of efforts to dry up the paddy. The farmers have been waiting with bated breath for their turn to sell paddy at the mandis.

Stray cattle are now feeding on the wet paddy lying on roads and



farmyards. This has pushed the farmers into distress. Farmers have resorted to protests but with little success in drawing the attention of the authorities towards their problems.

Paddy procurement process started in Bargarh district since May 5. Over one and a half months have passed but the manner in which paddy procurement process is being carried out continues to

put the farmers in trouble.

Initially, non-availability of labourers due to the lockdown delayed the paddy harvest in the district. Later, thunderstorms which occurred during the harvest season posed problems for farmers. The paddy stocks lying in the farmlands and farmyards sprouted after getting exposed to rain. However, the main bottleneck was the restriction on validity of tokens. The government reduced the validity of tokens issued to farmers from 30 days to 12 days which posed serious problems for farmers in selling their paddy.

Farmer leader Ramesh Mohapatra alleged that both the state government and the Centre do not want to procure the paddy from farmers. Moreover, after the three farm laws came into force the paddy procurement process is being deliberately made difficult.

"Over 10 lakh sacks of paddy of 7 to 10 thousand farmers are lying unsold under the open sky and becoming fodder for the stray cattle," another farmer leader Ekadasia Sahu said.

Calls made to chief district supply officer Rajanikant Dash on his mobile phone went unanswered.

FARMERS' WOES



Farmers dry wet paddy on National Highway-55 near Jayantpur-Jenaghati in Sambalpur district while Youth Congress members take stock of the matter

MKCGMCH dedicates 50 beds for children

Berhampur, June 27: With health experts predicting that the third wave of Covid-19 is going to be more devastating, the state government has already started taking preventive measures. It has been said that the third wave of the pandemic is likely to affect children more than elders.

In this backdrop, 50 beds have been earmarked for treatment of kids at the Covid Ward-1 in the MKCG Medical College and Hospital (MKCGMCH) here. Senior doctors and officials of MKCGMCH have visited the ward to supervise the preparations.

The facility has 150 beds in total, the team is learnt to have identified the space for accommodating 50 beds for infected children. Among the 50 beds, 20 will be common beds, 10 special care beds, 10 special newborn care unit (SNCU) beds and 10 high dependency unit (HDU) beds, it was learnt.

This way, all possible treatment facilities can be made available to the infected children including the

newborns.

In treating Covid-19 positive children, instruments and equipment like neonatal ventilator, body warmer, syringe and, infusion pumps and monitor are basically required. A letter has already been written to the Odisha State Medicine Corporation urging it to supply the above mentioned equipment to the facility.

So far three children, including newborns and a 10-year-old child have succumbed to Covid-19 at MKCGMCH. However, the recovery rate has been quite high.

When contacted, MKCGMCH superintendent Prof Dr Santosh Kumar Mishra confirmed it that 50 beds at DCH-1 have been kept aside for children. "As of now, four new mothers and a 13-year-old boy are undergoing treatment there after testing positive for Covid-19. We have already written to the Odisha State Medicine Corporation for supply of machines necessary for treating Covid-19 infected children and hope we will receive them soon," informed Dr Mishra.



Balasore youth scripts success story in mushroom farming

Baliapal, June 27: Where there is a will there is a way. A strong believer of this time-tested adage, Bhaskar Chandra Patra, a young mushroom farmer of Choumukha village under Baliapal block in Balasore district, has scripted his success story.

His sheer dedication and strong will power have not only helped him be self-reliant but also assisted over 70 families to improve their financial condition.

Like any other youth, Bhaskar, son of Srikant Patra, nurtured a desire to get a job after higher education. After his matriculation examination, he took admission in an ITI and did diploma course. Subsequently, he got a job in a company, but the job did not give him the mental satisfaction. He wanted to do something for his village.

Eventually he resigned and returned home. He then decided to start mushroom farming. When he spoke to his family members about his desire, everyone including his elder brother Badal Kumar Patra encouraged him. Buoyed by their encouraging words, he started the project with an initial capital of ₹17,000 in 2014.

The very first year saw a good harvest and fetched him profit. This made him more determined and he focused on his project. In order to make the project more



profitable, he underwent training in mushroom farming and mushroom seed cultivation.

Since his financial condition was not sound enough to spread his business, he tried to avail government help and loans from banks, but failed.

As of now, people know him as a successful mushroom farmer. He grows mushrooms and prepares seeds throughout the year. "I grow paddy straw mushroom, locally known as 'Pala Chhatu', from January to September and oyster mushroom, locally known as 'Dhingri Chhatu', for the remaining part of the year," he informed, adding that he is growing mushrooms in over 1,000 mushroom beds.

He sends mushroom packets to Baliapal, Kalipada, Langaleswar, Balaswar and to customers in

Wife, in-laws held for killing man

Sorada, June 27: Police claimed Saturday that they have solved the murder of a person whose torso was recovered from the riverbed near Nuangaon under Sorada block in Ganjam district June 22.

The deceased's wife and in-laws (father and mother) have been arrested for their involvement in the crime. They were produced in a court, informed Aska sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Uma Shankar Singh and IIC Ramesh Kumar Pradhan at a press meet here Sunday.

According to police, the headless body was identified as that of Bhagia Behera, a resident of Suramani village. Registering a murder case on the basis of the report lodged by the deceased's brother Bideshi, the police had launched an investigation.

During the probe police found out that Bhagia had married Jhili, daughter of Kabiraj Naik of Gudidhepa village nine years ago. However, the couple was not in good terms. They often were engaged in quarrels. Owing to this, Jhili along with daughter Shibani (6) and son Babula (5) had been living in a rented accommodation in Pushpanagar for the past few months. Bhagia, in a fit of rage June 18, arrived

at the rented house where Jhili was staying carrying a sharp-edged weapon. He threatened to kill her. Jhili's father (Kabiraj) and mother (Kishori) were present at the spot and tried to pacify Bhagia.

Bhagia then attacked Kabiraj. In a bid to save her father Jhili stabbed Bhagia with a knife. As the latter fell on the ground, Kabiraj managed to overpower Bhagia. Kabiraj then beheaded Bhagia with the same weapon the latter had been carrying. In order to avoid arrest, the trio then threw the torso at a desolate spot on the riverbed and buried Bhagia's head at a different place. However, the law finally caught up with the three Saturday.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. SDCM-KUR-GS-DEV-PPP-JKR-2021, Dated : 21.06.2021

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Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.irps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (Comm.),
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GPS to check irregularities in plantation

Bhanjanagar, June 27: Allegations of massive irregularities in sapling plantation programmes have become a common thing in the state. To address this issue, the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department has decided to use the global positioning system (GPS) to check such irregularities. In order to make the plantation programmes transparent, the department is implementing some changes from this year. Among them is the use of GPS.

According to a source, before plantation, pictures of places earmarked for the pur-



pose are taken with the help of GPS. These pictures are immediately uploaded on OFMS portal of the Forest

department. Similarly, pictures of different stages of plantation like digging up holes, planting of saplings and filling up the holes are taken and subsequently uploaded. At places, drones are also being used to take photos.

In fact, the government had introduced this system last year itself. Then the photographs of the places identified for plantation were taken and uploaded. However, this year the various stages of plantation will be recorded.

This year around 14,00,000 and 11,00,000 saplings will be

planted in North Ghumusar forest division and South Ghumusar forest division respectively. As many as 1,600 saplings per acre will be planted. When asked, Ghumusar DFO Abhay Kant Dalei said all the steps have been taken to ensure success of the programme.

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The old office at HDFC Ltd., 108 D, Master Canteen, 1st Floor, opp. Lalchand Jewellers, Bhubaneswar - 751001 will remain open up to September 25, 2021.

We welcome all HDFC customers to contact us at our new branch office at HDFC Ltd., Plot No. 98, Unit No. 3, Kharvel Nagar, 3rd Floor, Near Keshari Talkies, Bhubaneswar - 751001 from September 27, 2021.

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SU/REG/Acad/F-1/13/2021/Vol-V/110 **Date: 25.06.2021**

ADMISSION NOTICE

Sikkim University Announces admission to Certificate, Under Graduate (UG), Post Graduate (PG), M.Phil and Ph.D Programmes for the Academic Session 2021-22 in the following departments.

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4. Chemistry (M.Sc., M.Phil, Ph.D)
5. Chinese (Certificate, BA, MA, Ph.D)
6. Commerce (M.Com, Ph.D)
7. Computer Applications (MCA, Ph.D)
8. Economics (MA, Ph.D)
9. Education (MA, M.Ed, Ph.D)
10. English (MA, Ph.D)
11. Geography (MA/M.Sc, M.Phil, Ph.D)
12. Geology (M.Sc, Ph.D and M.Sc in Environmental Science)
13. Hindi (MA, M.Phil, Ph.D)
14. History (MA, M.Phil, Ph.D)
15. Horticulture (M.Sc, Ph.D)
16. International Relations (MA, M.Phil, Ph.D)
17. Law (LLM, M.Phil, Ph.D)
18. Lepcha (MA, Ph.D)
19. Limbu (MA, Ph.D)
20. Management (MBA, Ph.D)
21. Mass Communication (MA, Ph.D)
22. Mathematics (M.Sc, M.Phil, Ph.D)
23. Microbiology (M.Sc, Ph.D)
24. Music (BPA, MPA, M.Phil, Ph.D)
25. Nepali (MA, Ph.D)
26. Peace and Conflict Studies and Management (MA, M.Phil, Ph.D)
27. Physics (M.Sc, M.Phil, Ph.D)
28. Political Science (MA, Ph.D)
29. Psychology (BA/B.Sc, MA/M.Sc)
30. Sociology (MA, Ph.D)
31. Tourism (MTTM, Ph.D)
32. Zoology M.Sc, Ph.D)

The course details and admission procedures to be followed will be available on University website at <https://www.cus.ac.in> on 01.07.2021. Last date for submission of online application form is 31.07.2021 (till mid night).

Sd/-
davn 21318/11/0003/2122 REGISTRAR (I/C)

CLEANLINESS DRIVE



BSF jawans take part in a cleanliness drive at MV-79 village in Malkangiri district, Sunday

FOCUS ECONOMY

EXPANSIONARY POLICY VITAL



External relations decide domestic economic health, which has to be strengthened, else the country might lose in other areas as well

The rollercoaster Indian economic journey is likely to continue. It is recovering at 11.5 per cent in April-June quarter, says the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), a think tank, but the State Bank of India, says the second wave has hit the economy. The SBI, being practitioner has the pulse on its tips. None is wrong. The NCAER has taken the negative base of 2020-21 to measure activities and the SBI knows the reality. The results are definitely mixed.

In this debate, people have overlooked the fact that amid clashes with China, the country is ceding its economic interests in the neighbouring Taliban-infested Afghanistan, a long-time trusted friend, to the rival, which is also trying to make ingress into Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Indian Ocean region.

Iran is a critical example of how years of good work and relations could be lost under western sanctions to China. Iran has been critical for India in petroleum imports at rupee-rial terms and was mutually beneficial. It has come down to zero. India initiated the Chabahar – meaning “four seasons” port – in the middle of a storm over the fate Indian investments. The port project is the creation of Atal Behari Vajpayee’s NDA-I in 2003.

India has virtually lost most of it, due to inability in countering sanctions, including the 1000-km rail project to Turkmenistan, free trade zone and more importantly developed as a trade link to Afghanistan and Central Asia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi revived it with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in 2016. It was supposed to create jobs in India, Iran and Afghanistan. It re-

minds of non-aligned movement (NAM) and how the country withstood many super power machinations.

External relations decide domestic economic health, which has to be strengthened, else the country might lose in other areas as well. Disagreements with Russia are rising as Russia-West-US confrontation makes it lean more on China. This has impact on relations in and around the sub-continent. Post-pandemic criticality has even otherwise impacted external trade.

Increasing exports to Bangladesh may be a silver lining but much of it is “re-exported” to the North-East for ages. India’s \$ 500 billion forex kitty overflow is linked to it. The Reserve Bank of India has to spend on managing this kitty and rupee rates. If trade and international relations grow that expense is reduced.

The country is active on increasing relations but it is not easy in choppy international waters. The direct impact is being seen in higher crude oil import costs, tried to be managed with the highest doses of taxation, leading to a se-

vere inflationary situation.

Amid these comes an assessment by S&P Global ratings. It says that India’s economic recovery is expected to be “less steep” than the bounce back in 2020 and early 2021. The reason is households are having a tough time with erosion of their savings. The rate of household bank deposits to GDP declined to 3 per cent in the third quarter of FY 20-21 from 7.7 per cent in second quarter, when economic activity resumed a bit. In addition, the household debt-to-GDP ratio has been increasing since end-March 2019. It rose to 37.9 per cent in December 2020 from 37.1 per cent in September 2020, according to RBI.

This could hold back expenditure on consumption as the economy re-opens because of concern of households to rebuild their savings in a country where social security is at its lowest and job-losses continuous. The second phase lockdowns reduced mobility by 60 per cent and disrupted the services the most though manufacturing and exports were less hit. The problem is manifested in re-

duced consumption, including vehicle sales. The S&P says a gradual revival is underway and economy may grow at 9.5 per cent, as RBI predicts.

Revival may not be that easy perhaps. The Confederation of Indian Industry’s (CII) latest Business Outlook Survey finds 79 per cent of the respondents expect production, supply and sales to be adversely affected and consumption demands depressed in the coming period. It is concerned about people losing jobs and livelihood. This could bring down overall demand and growth.

The CII says the GDP will grow but depends on factors such as fresh stimulus, new reforms and the state of the global economy. It has called upon the government to inject ₹3 lakh crore spending through printing of currency notes and direct cash transfers, rural job schemes and reducing GST rates. In other words, the CII has suggested higher money circulation and cash flow to speed up the economy. This is an indirect criticism of the post-demonetisation fad for electronic transaction that keeps most money blocked in banks and increases hunger.

The NCAER is not hopeful as it says though there could be some moderation in inflation for a month or so it will rebound beyond August with rise in farm wages, crude oil prices and other factors adding to rise in prices. The NCAER, like the CII, calls for an expansionary policy. The situation remains difficult despite the government spending ₹67,000 crore on free food policy.

The revival has to be there but the prescription would be complex and time-consuming. The rollercoaster journey would continue and may take two to three years to return to the 2019 level.

INFA



Shivaji Sarkar

THE ROLLERCOASTER JOURNEY WOULD CONTINUE AND MAY TAKE TWO TO THREE YEARS TO RETURN TO THE 2019 LEVEL



THE MOTHER

Under The Over

The death of Vandana Mishra, Chairperson of the Kanpur chapter of the women’s wing of Indian Industries Association last week demonstrated one of the ugliest aspects of the feudal mindset of Indians. 50 year old Vandana had recovered from Covid-19 a month and a half ago. She suddenly felt breathless and her son decided to drive her to a private hospital in Sarvodaya Nagar of Kanpur. Unfortunately for Vandana, her car had to cross the Govindpuri rail overbridge en route to the hospital. When her son reached the overbridge, it had been sealed by the police. When the police personnel deployed at the spot were informed about the patient and her need to reach the hospital immediately, they were unrelenting. The wait and delay in medical attention caused Vandana’s death.

The reason for blocking the rail overbridge at Govindpuri should shock every thinking Indian. The President of India Ram Nath Kovind and his family were travelling by a special train to Kanpur Central station. The President’s train was scheduled to go under the overbridge and therefore all road traffic on the bridge was stopped. Vandana’s death was primarily due to VVIP movement which had nothing to do with the road traffic. It is also not as if President Kovind was travelling in an open rail car. If the police would not have stopped the traffic on the bridge, most citizens probably would not have been aware that the President’s train had passed under the road. This mentality of Indians is the result of centuries of subjugation by feudal lords. We have become accustomed to bow to the masters in such a manner that our intellect is always at their feet. Basing on this mindset, governments have created a blue book of protocols that seems to have become the most powerful weapon against citizenry. This system of protocol is unable to accept a situation where the President’s head passes under the feet of common people of this country. It is absurd to think that these have any relevance to security and safety. Had it simply been a question of physical safety of the President and his entourage, then the police could have lined up armed personnel on both sides of the overbridge and ensured no car stopped or no passenger alighted on the bridge.

Vandana’s death is not a solitary incident which happened due to VVIP movement. Many cases of deaths and extreme harassment have been reported from Delhi roads primarily because of VVIP movement. This shows our subservient attitude towards the rulers. The funny aspect is that the ‘ruler’ of today is an elected person who has been voted for a temporary assignment. The beauty of democracy is change. The old English adage of ‘Change is Permanent’ should be the driving force in a democratic country. However, our bureaucracy relishes in subjugating people under various pretexts. For them to continue on their path of torturing the citizen, it has become important that the political bosses also start relishing these false and archaic feudal habits. To the great dismay of the average intelligent Indian, our elected representatives do, indeed, fall into the trap of these frills very willingly.

This is not to underestimate the security issues of the top people in this country. In a changed world, for a sophisticated enemy, attacking any individual is not a great challenge. This has especially been proven by the drone attacks on Jammu Airbase Sunday. A more powerful drone attack had been launched against Saudi Arabia’s oil pipelines by Yemeni rebels some months ago, thereby crippling oil movement in the richest kingdom of the world. Such attacks have become the norm in modern day warfare. Therefore, India has to improve its abilities in VVIP security. Age old system of hindering citizens from going about their normal lives is unacceptable in today’s world. Discreet methods of surveillance and effective intelligence gathering could very easily displace the baton wielding pot belied havildar from security duties. However, the Indian police, always talking of reforms, is incapable of comprehending and accepting such changes and challenges.

Piate
Tathagata Satpathy

WISDOM CORNER

- Always go with your passions. Never ask yourself if it's realistic or not. **DEEPAK CHOPRA**
- Life was always a matter of waiting for the right moment to act. **PAULO COELHO**
- Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve. **NAPOLEON HILL**

WORDSWORTH

Nous

Do not fear that we have strayed into French. This is a good English language word, though mainly of the British variety. To Brits, nous is common sense or practical intelligence. Though these days it is principally a stalwart of the sports pages, it is also found elsewhere: A lengthy period of profound inaction by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives and a seeming lack of political nous in Obama’s White House is resulting in robotic government (Daily Mail, 2 March 2013). Perhaps because of its wide popularity and the way that it’s said (as “nowse”), it feels like a native word, one that evokes hard-headed practical north-country people. But it’s actually classical Greek, meaning mind, intelligence, or intuitive apprehension. One ancient philosopher, Anaxagoras, held that nous was the universe’s controlling principle that brought all material things into being. The English philosopher and theologian Ralph Cudworth argued in his True Intellectual System of the Universe in 1678 that there was a nous or intellect that was the architectural framer of the whole world. English adopted it in the general Greek sense, though it was taken up by academic wits of Cudworth’s time and the following decades as a grandiose way to refer to the mind, pointing the joke by spelling it in Greek letters. From there it expanded into general usage and by the nineteenth century it had become an established and useful part of everyday British vocabulary.

Nu-metal

As nu here is the common pop-music respelling of new, the term pretty much explains itself – it’s a revitalised form of the heavy metal musical genre of the seventies and eighties, a style of loud, vigorous and often harsh-sounding rock music that was linked to an intense and spectacular performing style. Metal drifted out of fashion in the nineties, though it never went away completely. The nu-metal format is most closely associated with bands like Korn, Limp Bizkit, Slipknot, the Deftones, Amen and Papa Roach, and the genre is often linked to the American music producer Ross Robinson, often called “the guru of nu-metal”. The performing style is still as heavily amplified and intense as ever; nu-metal gigs were described recently by Nicholas Barber in the Independent on Sunday as being “costumed, pyrotechnic riots of blood, sweat and earth-shaking volume,” though he also complained that the lyrics were self-pitying and peevish.

LOL

Driver illegally parks

A driver tucked this note under the windshield wiper of his automobile. “I’ve circled the block for 20 minutes. I’m late for an appointment, and if I don’t park here I’ll lose my job. Forgive us our



trespasses.” When he came back he found a parking ticket and this note: “I have circled the block for 20 years, and if I don’t give you a ticket, I’ll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation.”

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

New frontiers in climate-risk analytics

In recent years, record-breaking temperatures and extreme weather events have highlighted the overwhelming impact of greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions on the global climate. Moreover, the costs of such events are mounting. For example, five of the worst natural disasters in US history have occurred since 2005, causing economic damage totaling \$523 billion in inflation-adjusted terms. And America has suffered 22 major natural disasters in the last year alone.

But translating the outputs of climate-change models into specific potential impacts, and gauging the financial materiality of climate hazards, presents challenges for both businesses and investors. The rapid uptake of model-driven climate data has fueled concerns about unintended misuse in the context of financial decision-making and disclosures, as well as about material misstatements in financial reports and greenwashing. These risks are particularly problematic in the case of long-term capital investments in public infrastructure, which often have a multi-decade operational lifespan.

Financial market participants’ need for climate information varies, in terms of both granularity of assessment and time horizons. But it is difficult to assess measures to mitigate climate exposures without specific data on entities’ past performance. This may include how businesses have been affected by historic events such as flooding, the timing and geographic scale of hazards and their impact, and the effectiveness of adaptation.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

King Kane reigns

Sir, New Zealand made history by winning the inaugural World Test Championship in the 144 years of Test cricket, proving themselves to be one of the greatest teams in the longest format of the game. Nothing could have been more fitting for New Zealand than their skipper Kane Williamson anchoring a run chase under immense pressure with his most experienced teammate Ross Taylor who played the winning shot, taking his team home by 8 wickets. Kane Williamson got what he deserved for his patience and resilience as a captain after losing successive world cup finals. New Zealand team is undoubtedly one of the most dangerous teams in the world right now.
Shrey Siddharth, CUTTACK

Pandemic profiteering

Sir, We are a country of great innovators who display their ingenuity in various fields which also includes fraudsters who transform a national crisis into a personal opportunity. How else can one explain the handiwork of the criminals who palmed off fire extinguishers as oxygen cylinders to the unsuspecting people in Delhi during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and those presently caught administering fake vaccines in Mumbai and Kolkata. In the past, we’ve had instances of baby food being adulterated for pecuniary gain. Since our judicial process is long and unending, instant justice should be meted out to such criminals from the nearest lamp post for such heinous crimes against humanity.
Bhaskar Roy, NEW DELHI

Tax incentives

Sir, It is commendable that the Union Finance Ministry has agreed to exempt from income tax amounts received by a taxpayer for medical treatment from an employer or from any person for Covid-19 treatment for the financial year 2019-20 and following years. In addition, during the years 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Union Finance Ministry has allowed ex-gratia payments received by the family members of a person from his or her employer or from another person on the death of the person on account of Covid-19 to be exempt from income tax. The amount received from the employer will be exempt without limit, but the amount received from any other persons will be exempt up to ₹10 lakh in total. More incentives from the Central and the state governments for the pandemic victims and their families are needed.
Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA (MP)

STIR FOR WATER



Women place pots and tumblers on road and stage a demonstration over disruption in drinking water supply to their area following a short circuit in the transformer at Gochhabari village under Khandapara block in Nayagarh district, Saturday
OP PHOTO

No headway in Burla ring road construction

5 years have elapsed since the proposal for a second ring road was initiated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 27: The plan for construction of a second ring road in Burla town of this district to ease traffic problems has failed to make any headway. This is because officials of the district administration are yet to acquire land for the project even though five years have elapsed since the proposed plan, a report said. Moreover, no special budgetary allocation has been made to implement the project. It has been alleged that the plan has failed to make any headway due to administrative apathy and lack of funds.



No special budgetary allocation has been made to implement the project. It has been alleged that the plan has failed to make any headway due to administrative apathy and lack of funds

A total of 41 acre 83 decimals were identified for the project including government land. The authorities decided to first construct 3.5 kilometres for the project in the first phase and the remainder of the ring road in different phases

People will find it easier to commute to their designated locations if the ring road project is completed quickly. The construction of the ring road will also enhance the beauty of Sambalpur town and help the tourists visiting the district to travel to their choicest destinations

However, since then the project has failed to make any headway and is still stuck in administrative logjam. When contacted, Basistha Pattnaik, executive engineer of works department said the ring road work will start after comple-

tion of land acquisition required for the entire project.

Sources said that movement of people and vehicles has eased after construction of a second bridge on the Mahanadi river. The Sainik School, Police Training Centre, CRPF Group Centre, permanent campus of IIM, the second campus of Gangadhar Meher University and the Odisha State Open University are in Basantpur which lies on the other side of the river.

Premier institutes like VIMSAR, VSSUT, and Sambalpur University are also in the area. People will find it easier to commute to their designated locations if the ring road project is completed quickly. The construction of the ring road will also enhance the beauty of Sambalpur town and help the tourist visiting the district to travel to their choicest destinations.

Tourists will also find it easier to travel to Burla after visiting the Samalei and Ghanteswari temples. Locals demanded that the state government should intervene and immediately start construction of the ring road in Burla town.

Illegal felling of trees in Rayagada village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandrapur, June 27: Tribals residing in Kanjirimala village under Dangasorada panchayat in Chandrapur block of Rayagada district have been chopping down hundreds of rare species of trees for the last several months as they lack proper awareness on conservation, a source said Sunday.

According to the source, Kanjirimala villagers regularly fell trees rather than taking up plantation drives, thereby disturbing the ecology. After cutting down the rare species of trees, the villagers sell those at throwaway prices.

As a result, a large forest cover which had grown alongside a road laid under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) stretching



from Kanjirimala village up to Pajigaraga in the block stands denuded.

When contacted to know the reasons behind the cutting down of trees an elderly man from Kanjirimala village had a prompt explanation. He asserted that he had

cut down only those trees which had grown on his farmland located near the forest area. He then sold of the trunk and wood from the tree as he needed money to treat his eyes. The tribals have been carrying out shift cultivation in the region for which they have been

felling trees, another villager said.

Reacting over the issue, Dangasorada forest section official Kapil Manahira said, "Forest cover alongside the Kanjirimala PMGSY road exists on farmlands of which the tribal villagers have records of right (Pattas). So legally they cannot be prevented from cutting down trees. They do so to earn extra money.

Meanwhile, many local environmentalists and nature lovers have expressed their concern seeking immediate measures to curb deforestation in the area. Officials of the Rayagada Forest department and district administration should conduct awareness programmes at regular intervals to curb deforestation in Dangasorada panchayat, local social activist Bijaya Kumar Ulaka opined.

Two special trains for Bangalore, Mumbai

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The Railways has decided to run special trains from Bhubaneswar to Krishnarajapuram (Bangalore) and Mumbai Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) for the benefit of passengers. Also, the decision to run special trains was taken to reduce the long waiting list in Bangalore and Mumbai-bound trains.

Bhubaneswar-Krishnarajapuram-Bhubaneswar Special from Bhubaneswar will leave at 12.10 hours June 30, 2021 (Wednesday) and will reach at Krishnarajapuram at 12.05 hour July 1, 2021 (Thursday). In the return journey, this train will leave from Krishnarajapuram at 16.55hrs July 1, 2021 (Thursday) and arrive at Bhubaneswar at 18.15 hours July 2, 2021 (Friday).

This train will have two AC2-tier, three AC3-tier, 12 sleeper class, three second class seating, one Guard-cum-differently-abled coach and one Guard-cum-luggage van. It will stop at Khurda Road, Berhampur, Palasa, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Duvvada, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Vijayawada, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur, Renigunta, Katpadi, Jolarpettai and

The decision to run special trains was taken to reduce the long waiting list in Bangalore and Mumbai-bound trains

Bangarapat.

Meanwhile, the Bhubaneswar-Mumbai LTT-Bhubaneswar Special from Bhubaneswar will leave at 16.00 hours June 30, 2021 (Wednesday) and will reach at LTT at 04.15 hours July 2, 2021 (Friday). In the return direction, this train will leave from LTT at 06.55 hours July 2, 2021 (Friday) and will arrive at Bhubaneswar at 17.50 hours July 3, 2021 (Saturday).

This train will have one AC first-class, one AC2-tier, four AC3-tier, eight sleeper class, four second class seating coaches. The train will stop at Khurda Road, Brahmapur, Palasa, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Pithapuram, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Tanuku, Bhimabharan, Akividu, Kalkalur, Gudivada, Vijayawada, Kazipet, Moulali, Secunderabad, Lingampalli, Vikarabad, Tandur, Wadi, Kalaburagi, Solapur and Pune.

ILLEGAL LIQUOR TRADE BLOOMS IN SUKINDA



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kaliapani, June 27: Illegal trade of handia (rice beer), country liquor and spurious foreign liquor is flourishing in Sukinda locality of Jajpur district due to the alleged apathy of the Excise department and police.

According to sources, a foreign liquor shop was operating at Bhimatanga locality in the mines area. The shop has now shifted to a place near Kalarangi village. It is hardly five kilometres away from Kaliapani police station.

Kalarangi village is already infamous for dealing in illegal trading of country-made liquor. The

shifting of the liquor shop has added to the booming trade. Locals are buying bottles from the shop and hoarding them. They are then selling the liquor at exorbitant rates once the shop downs its shutters.

Locally made liquor is also being sold with impunity at locations like Kalipashi Gupta Hutting, Kaliapani and Tata mines. As police rarely visit the village for patrolling even local grocery and betel shops are also indulging in illegal trade of liquor.

Local residents alleged that liquor from licensed distilleries in Bhuban locality of Dhenkanal district and liquor distilled in Kolipashi, Deogaon, Patna and

Godi Sahi areas are finding their way to the locality.

Some shop owners involved in the clandestine trade openly admitted to bribing the police on condition of anonymity.

Local residents alleged this flourishing illegal liquor trade is constant source of disturbance to their peaceful life. Many families in the locality have suffered as people have got addicted to drinking. Petty crimes are also on the rise in the locality, they said.

"The illegal liquor trade has increased manifold after the transfer of the inspector-in-charge of Kaliapani police station. We have taken up the issue with the Jajpur district collector and concerned officials but to no avail," some locals said. They said that lack of police action has only encouraged these liquor traders during the pandemic. They urged the administration to take immediate steps to check illegal liquor trade in the locality.

Senior officer of Sukinda Excise department Manasi Samal when contacted refused to comment on the matter.

Gunupur residents displeased with VWDT judgement



POST NEWS NETWORK

Gunupur, June 27: Residents of this town in Rayagada district have expressed their ire after the Vamsadhara Water Dispute Tribunal (VWDT) granted permission to the Andhra Pradesh government to construct a barrage at Neradi. Hundreds of local residents got together at the Venkateswar temple premises here and blamed the Odisha government for its inability in handling the issue.

Notably, Odisha government has been directed by VWDT to acquire around 106 acres of land needed for the Neradi Barrage construction. The government will hand it over

to Andhra Pradesh within the maximum time frame of one year from the date of publication of the tribunal's order.

On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh government has been ordered to pay Odisha all costs including compensation in respect of the compulsory acquisition of lands as provided in the detailed project report (DPR), charges and expenses incurred by the Odisha government.

Odisha government has so far spent over ₹100 crore in continuing with the river water dispute case which has not been settled since 2005. It has changed seven senior legal professionals at different times.

Man gets vision back after Covid-19 vax jab

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, June 27: A man in this district who was suffering from loss of vision in his right eye for the last 18 years surprisingly got his vision back after taking the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine May 8.

The man identified as Hrushikesh Sethi, 35, is a native of Kudmulugumma block in this district. For Sethi, this is nothing less than a miracle as he claimed to have got back 40 per cent of his vision after reportedly taking the first dose of the vaccine. He is now hoping that he will get his full vision back after taking the second jab.

Reports said Sethi complained of loss of vision in his right eye when he was studying in Kudmulugumma College in 2003. He visited Cuttack and got his eyes checked by an ophthalmologist. The examination revealed that vision loss had occurred due to clotting of blood in his right eyeball. Doctors assured him that he would get his vision back if he under-



MEDICAL WONDER !

- For Sethi, this is nothing less than a miracle as he claimed to have got back 40 per cent of his vision after reportedly taking the first dose of the vaccine
- Sethi complained of loss of vision in his right eye when he was studying in Kudmulugumma College in 2003. He visited Cuttack and got his eyes checked by an ophthalmologist
- Last year, he visited Hyderabad and took suggestions from another doctor at a private hospital in the city. The doctor also advised him to go for correctional surgery and said the expenses would be to the tune of ₹4,00,000

went surgery. However, lack of funds prevented him from getting the operation done.

Sethi got his affected eye checked with by other doctors also, but in vain. Last year, he visited Hyderabad and took suggestions from another doctor at a private hospital in the city. The doctor also advised him to go for correctional surgery and said the expenses would be to the tune of ₹4,00,000. Hrushikesh came back to Odisha

and arranged the funds with great difficulty. He then again went back to Hyderabad. However, he had to return home due to the lockdown restrictions in Telangana without the surgery being done.

Hrushikesh had resigned himself to his fate when the unexpected happened after taking the Covid-19 vaccine. Notably, Hrushikesh is working as a reporter of premier Odia daily 'Dharitri'.

When contacted, Dr Sapan Kumar Dinda, medicine specialist in the district headquarters hospital said that the blood clot in Hrushikesh's eyes may have dissolved after he took the Covid-19 vaccine leading to the restoration of vision. However, he should get himself checked by an ophthalmologist at any specialised eye care institute in Cuttack or Bhubaneswar to ascertain the truth.

DEMO OVER POWER CUT



Youths holding placards stage a sit-in over undeclared power cut at Baliguda village under Rasulpur block in Jajpur district, Sunday
OP PHOTO

COVID'S HIDDEN THREAT

Capital sees spike in mental health cases

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 27: Inability to mourn with family members or cope with grief alone due to Covid constraints has led to an increase in cases of depression, anxiety, insomnia and other mental health disorders among people in Delhi who have been affected directly or indirectly by the pandemic, experts said.

Hospital premises and crematoriums had witnessed distressful scenes, with grieving family members, many in full PPE kits, trying to come to terms with the loss of their loved ones.

Medical experts in Delhi concurred that the family members were unable to grieve together after losing their dear ones to Covid due to safety constraints and social distancing norms. The second wave, in many cases, saw the whole family testing positive for coronavirus, and even after death, they couldn't conduct last rites, leading to sedimentation of grief inside that triggers mental health disorders, they said.

In several cases, even though there were no fatalities in the families, many people lost their friends, acquaintances or someone they knew closely, or they survived with great difficulty, adding to their mental stress, doctors said on Sunday which coincided with the PTSD (Post-traumatic Stress Disorder) Awareness Day.

"Sadness, isolation, grief of fear of losing loved ones, loss of income and decreasing socialisation are exacerbating mental health conditions. OPD footfall has increased by 30-40 per cent since the surge in cases," said Manish Jain, consultant, psychiatry department at BLK Hospital here. People with pre-existing mental health issues are also more vulnerable to substance and impulsive behaviours during a pandemic. Restriction in lifestyles and fear of Covid-19, both have started taking a toll on their mental health, he said. Dr Sameer Malhotra, di-



Delhi had reeled under a brutal second wave of the pandemic which claimed a massive number of lives daily, with the oxygen supply shortage issue at various hospitals, having added to the woes

Several hospitals are registering a rise in the number of patients complaining of symptoms related to psychological ailments triggered by post-traumatic stress

Medical experts in Delhi concurred that the family members were unable to grieve together after losing their dear ones to Covid due to safety constraints and social distancing norms

rector and head, department of mental health and behavioral sciences, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket said, "There's a definite rise in the cases of anxiety and depression seen across the population during the Covid-19 pandemic". Whereas there has been significantly high numbers registered after the second wave, the hospital have seen many people coming to terms with grief after

having lost their family members, and suffered depression and significant anxiety due to it, he said.

Patients who had never experienced any mental health issues in the past are also coming to the clinic complaining of vague, but significant symptoms like a feeling of being tired all the time, inability to fall asleep, lack of appetite, irritability, inability to focus on work and other issues, said experts at the clinic, founded by Padma Shri Dr Kalyan Banerjee.

Many of these patients have been directly affected by Covid-19, where they or someone close contracted the infection, or they knew someone who has passed away due to coronavirus, doctors said.

Patients who are personally or professionally unaffected by the disease or by the lockdown, are also not being spared. The most important aspect in these cases are the physical presence of friends and loved ones, but due to Covid norms, people unable to get together or channelise grief.

Some other reasons that could trigger such disorders include fear of long-term effects of Covid-19 and the pervasive negativity around us today, he added.

More delay in Sputnik V roll-out

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 27: Various private hospitals in Delhi-NCR are yet to start administering the Russian 'Sputnik V' Covid-19 vaccine. An Indraprastha Apollo hospital official told IANS Sunday that Sputnik V was yet to be rolled out, but "the management is working on it".

"We are in the process of rolling out Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccines. We do not have clarity on the dates of the vaccine rollout and will come out with more clarity on it by this evening," the official said. Indraprastha Apollo had earlier said that it would tentatively start administering the two-dose vaccine by June 25. A Max Group Hospitals spokesperson said:



"Sputnik V Covid vaccine is not available as of today" The Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital in Malviya Nagar also said that the hospital was yet to receive supply of Sputnik V from Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories.

"There is a delay on the part of the suppliers. We are expecting to receive it soon," a hospital official said. Fortis Healthcare, which had said that it would make Sputnik V available at its Gurugram and Mohali hospitals, has also not

started administering the Russian vaccine to people so far.

A Fortis hospital spokesman told IANS that the management has started administering Sputnik V two days back but officially it was not announced. "Few doses of Russian Sputnik V vaccine were administered Friday on a trial basis we will announce it soon." Sputnik V uses two different viruses that cause the common cold (adenovirus) in humans. The two doses, given 21 days apart, are different and not interchangeable.

The Centre has fixed the price of the vaccine at ₹1,145 per dose. The maximum price of Covishield at private Covid-19 Vaccination Centres (CVCs) has been fixed at ₹780 per dose, while that of Covaxin at ₹1,410 per dose.

Assam's 'leteku' exported to Dubai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 27: In a major boost to harness the export potential of agricultural and processed food products from North Eastern states, a shipment of fresh Assamese Burmese grapes have been sent to Dubai from here.

Called 'Leteku' in Assamese, the fruit which is rich in Vitamin C and iron, was sourced and packed at a collection centre in Darrang district of Assam, according to a press release by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

The consignment was exported by the APEDA registered Kiega EXIM Pvt Ltd from Guwahati airport to Dubai via Delhi. APEDA has been carrying out promotional activities to bring the North-Eastern states on the agricultural and processed food products export map of India.

Recently, APEDA facilitated export of the first consignment of 'red rice' to the USA from Assam, the release said. Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer.

The rice variety is referred to as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of Assamese food. APEDA also assisted in exports of



Recently, APEDA facilitated export of the first consignment of 'red rice' to the USA from Assam

Geographical Indications (GI) certified 'Assam lemon' (Kaji Nemu) (Assam lemon) to London and so far around 40 metric tonnes have been exported. Jackfruits sourced from Tripura based Krishi Sanayoga Agro Producer Company Ltd was exported to London.

The consignment was packed at APEDA assisted pack-house facility of Salt Range Supply Chain Solution Ltd and exported by Kiega EXIM Pvt Ltd. APEDA has provided financial assistance to the private sector to set up a pack house at Guwahati which has fulfilled the mandatory requirement of infrastructure for export of fresh fruits and vegetables to Europe.

APEDA undertakes market promotion activities for evolving structured marketing strategies for export of food products, market intelligence for taking informed decisions, international exposure, skill development, capacity building and high-quality packaging. APEDA will continue to focus on the North Eastern region both in terms of capacity building, quality upgradation, and infrastructure development.

Linking buyers to farmers, strengthening the entire supply chain of agricultural produce from the north-eastern region would also bring in dividends, the release added.

Fall in O2 level kills hundreds of fish in Guwahati pond

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 27: Environmental degradation leading to depletion of dissolved oxygen level in a pond has claimed the lives of hundreds of fish in Dighalipukhuri in Guwahati, Assam Fisheries Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said Sunday.

A large number of dead fish were found floating in the waterbody since Saturday night following which the minister had directed officials of his department to visit the



site and ascertain the exact reason. After examination of samples of the dead fish and the Dighalipukhuri or long pond in Assamese, the officials found that depletion of dissolved oxygen in the waterbody coupled with high organic load were the causes behind the mass fish deaths.

Covid: Assam govt to pay ₹2.5L to widows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 27: The Assam government Sunday announced that it will give ₹2.5 lakh each to all widows, whose husbands died of Covid-19, if their family income is less than ₹5 lakh.

Under the new 'Chief Minister's Covid-19 Widows Support Scheme', the beneficiaries of 'Orunodoi' and 'Widow Pension' schemes are also eligible for the one-time financial assistance.

"Many precious lives were lost due to #Covid19, leaving a number of families in distress. In our sincere effort to provide some relief to women whose husbands died of the disease, ₹2.5 lakh will be given to such eligible widows as one

time grant," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted. As per the scheme, the beneficiary's husband should have been a Covid-positive patient at the time of the death and it should be certified by the State-Level Covid Death Audit Board.

"The beneficiary must belong to a low-income family having an annual income up to ₹5 lakh," the scheme details mentioned.

It, however, stated that widows of government servants will not be covered under this scheme as they get the family pension as per usual norms.

According to the National Health Mission (NHM) bulletin, a total of 4,403 persons have died in Assam due to Covid-19.

NO MOOD TO RELENT



Supporters takes a selfie with BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait during farmers' protest at Ghazipur border in New Delhi

DELHI UNLOCKS

Wedding industry heaves sigh of relief

In the last one year since the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020, the wedding business was severely hit as episodic lockdowns in March-September last year and since April this year prevented any lavish marriages from taking place

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: For the wedding industry in the national capital, it is the permission to reopen rather than the hope to make some profit that has shown a sliver of hope after three months of no business.

The Delhi government Saturday allowed weddings at banquet, marriage halls and hotels with 50 people in attendance, and reopening of gyms and yoga centres at 50 per cent capacity under the phased unlock process initiated with an improvement in the city's COVID-19 situation. The relaxations will come into force from 5 am Monday.

Wedding planners and banquet hall owners welcomed the Delhi government's decision. They, however, said they do not hold any hopes for making profit this season.

"We are glad that we have been allowed to open at least. After paying the employees from our pockets and incurring losses, we will at least be able to make the ends meet," said Sunil Juneja of Precious Moments Banquets. He said earlier booked weddings that had postponed will be given priority now, while new bookings have also started to come in.

Wedding planner Jitesh Khanna of The Velvet Weddings noted that

as Delhi maintained strict lockdown guidelines, disallowed weddings or any sort of congregation since April, most planned weddings were shifted out of the city. "So now that 50 people are allowed, we are happy with the decision. And we are hoping soon 100 people will be allowed. It is any day better than no business," Yadav said.

However, he added, it would be difficult to maintain the budget as a wedding for 50 requires just as much preparation as a wedding of 200.

Shrawan Yadav of Shubh Muhurt Luxury Wedding Planners echoed Khanna's thoughts and said that "they were not looking at making profits, as reopening the business was more important for now".

The one year of pandemic has not been favourable to the industry, said Mohsin Khan of Vivah Luxury Weddings, as he said several people postponed their weddings last November after revision of Covid guidelines.

"We had no business last year. This year too, the complete wedding season was lost due to the lockdown. Either people postponed their weddings or cancelled their booking altogether," Khan said. Over 50 per cent of the bookings got cancelled this year, he added.



Unfounded beliefs kill scores of egrets in Assam

The local administration in Tangla town of Assam's Udalguri district has cut down some bamboo plants, where many egrets had built their nests, citing apprehension of spread of Covid-19 by the droppings of these birds

egrets on the unproven belief that the birds spread coronavirus in Udalguri district.

An official said that following the directives from Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Environment and Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya asked Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Amit Sahai to probe into the incident and submit a report immediately.

Udalguri district's Divisional Forest Officer of Dhansiri Forest Division, NK Bordoloi investigated into the incident and found that Executive Member, Tangla Municipal Board, Shantanu Das, had served notices on June 8 to five residents to clear the bamboo groves nesting the egrets and their fledglings as the droppings of birds were 'creating unhygienic environment which may increase the risk of Covid-19 infection in the area'.

Scores of birds were killed when the bamboo grove was hewn by municipal workers.

The Forest authorities have filed the FIR against Das for his action at the Tangla Police Station in



northern Assam.

"Also a case will be filed against Das under Section 55 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 in the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Udalguri," a statement said.

Divisional Forest Officer, Bordoloi informed that 88 egret fledglings (chicks) have been rescued with the help of the locals and vets and sent them to the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation at the world famous Kaziranga National Park.

Local people said that over 300 fledglings and nestlings died. The action of the Tangla Municipal Board riled wildlife activists, NGOs and citizens alike and they demanded exemplary punishments to the accused.

According to the wildlife officials the egrets are listed under Schedule IV of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The local forest authorities are planning to hold awareness campaigns involving leading citizens, NGOs and government officials on the need to protect the precious and endangered wildlife, the statement said.

AGENCIES

Guwahati, June 27: Assam's Environment and Forest Department filed FIR June 26 against an Executive Member of a Municipal Board for his action leading to the killing of scores of

national

of the day quote

Prime Minister Narendra Modi should end the shortage of vaccines, which should be available to every citizen

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Our party has decided to celebrate Daiti messiah, Ram Vilas Ji's birth anniversary to commemorate his contribution to the state, I think this itself is self-explanatory

TEJASHWI YADAV | RID LEADER

Give the people right to breathe and rest will follow later

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Lakha Sidhana, others booked

Chandigarh: The Chandigarh police has booked alleged gangster-turned-activist Lakha Sidhana and many farmer leaders on several charges, including rioting during a protest march Saturday, officials said. The police Sunday said five FIRs have been registered at sector 3, sector 17 and sector 36 police stations here, they said Sunday. Sidhana was granted interim protection from arrest by a Delhi court Saturday in connection with his alleged involvement in violence which ensued at the Red Fort in the national capital on Republic Day.

Haryana extends lockdown

Chandigarh: The Haryana government Sunday extended the coronavirus lockdown by another week till July 5, while allowing university campuses to open for research scholars and practical classes in laboratories. "The Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana is extended for another week that is from June 28 (5 am onwards) to July 5 (till 5 am) in the state of Haryana," Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan said in an order issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The state government has termed the coronavirus lockdown "Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana (Epidemic Alert-Safe Haryana)".

Rajnath reviews Ladakh situation

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Sunday carried out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness in eastern Ladakh on the first day of his three-day visit to the region amid a deadlock with China over the next stage of disengagement at several friction points. The defence minister, accompanied by Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, was given a detailed briefing about the prevailing situation as well as India's combat readiness in the region by top commanders of the Army at the Leh-based headquarters of the 14 Corps, officials said.

Sex racket busted

Mathura (UP): Twelve people, including five women, were arrested after police busted a sex racket allegedly being operated from two guest houses in Goverdhan in this district of Uttar Pradesh, officials said Sunday. Two owners of the guest houses are also among those arrested during late Saturday evening raids, Goverdhan Station House Officer (SHO) Pradeep Kumar said. The raids were conducted at Sri Krishna Seva Sadan and Pawan Dham guest houses based on inputs received from reliable sources, the SHO said. He said five women and as many men were found in objectionable positions during the raids.

'Delta + shows greater affinity for lung tissues'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 27: The Delta plus variant of Covid-19 has greater affinity to lung tissues as compared to other strains but it does not mean that it will cause severe disease or is more transmissible, head of coronavirus working group NTAGI Dr N K Arora said.

A new viral variant of the coronavirus, Delta Plus, was identified June 11. It was recently classified as a variant of concern. Till now, 51 cases of Delta Plus have been detected across 12 states, with Maharashtra reporting the maximum cases of this variant. Talking about Delta plus, chairman of Covid-19 Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) said it has been found that the variant has greater affinity to lung tissues as compared to other strains of coronavirus but clarified that it does not mean the Delta Plus variant will cause more severe disease or is more transmissible. "Delta plus is having greater affinity to mucosal lining in the lungs, higher compared to other variants, but if it causes damage or not is not clear yet. It also does not mean that this variant will



Doctors check CT Scan of a Covid-19 patient PTI PHOTO

cause more severe disease or it is more transmissible," Arora told PTI in an interview. He said the impact of the Delta plus strain will become clear only as more cases are identified but it appears that the disease is generally mild in all those who have got either single or double dose of the vaccine. "We need to keep a very close watch and look at its spread so

that it will give us transmission efficiency," he said. Arora said the number of cases identified of Delta plus variant may be more as there may be many asymptomatic individuals also - those who do not have any Covid-19 symptoms but they are carrying the virus and spreading it. "But the important point is that our genomic surveillance component has picked it up

Fresh 50,040 Covid cases

A single-day rise of 50,040 fresh Covid-19 infections took India's tally to 3,02,33,183, while the number of active cases dipped to 5,86,403, according to the Union Health Ministry data Sunday. The death toll climbed to 3,95,751 with 1,258 more people succumbing to the viral disease in a day. Active cases now comprises 1.94 per cent of the total infections, the data updated at 8 am showed.

rightly and early enough. Now what will happen is that states have already been told that it is a variant of concern and it requires action which means that several states have already started making micro plans for the districts where the virus is identified so that their spread can be contained. Obviously vaccination will have to be increased in these districts," he said. Responding to a question if the Delta plus variant can trigger the third wave of coronavirus, Arora said it is difficult to assess that as of now.

PM urges people to shed vax hesitancy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: Cautioning that the threat of Covid-19 remains, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday urged people to shed vaccine hesitancy, and cited his example and of his nearly 100-year-old mother, both of whom are now fully vaccinated, to ask them to trust science and scientists. In his monthly Mann ki Baat broadcast, Modi spoke against vaccine hesitancy, which has been seen in a section of the population, and also talked to some residents of Dulariya village, a tribal area in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh, as they shared fears and doubts being spread about the jabs. Reassuring people about vaccine safety, he said over 31 crore people have been vaccinated in the country. "I have myself been vaccinated with both doses. And my mother is close to 100 years of age, she too has taken both doses. Not getting vaccinated can prove dangerous," he added, while speaking on phone to a villager. If someone says corona is gone, do not be under this mistaken notion, Modi said, adding



that the virus ailment is a "master of disguise" which surfaces in myriad new forms, a reference to its mutants. "And to protect ourselves from it, we have two ways. One is adhering to the protocol for corona; wearing a mask, frequently washing hands with soap, maintaining social distancing. The other way is, along with all this, getting vaccinated. This too is a good safety shield," he said. Modi hailed the feat of administering over 86 lakh vaccine doses in a single day on June 21 at the start of the new phase of inoculation under which all adults are being given free jabs by the Union government. With the National Doctors Day falling July 1, Modi lauded the contribution of doctors in the corona period and said the day has become all the more special this time.

Mayawati rules out alliance with AIMIM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 27: Bahujan Samaj Party President Mayawati has said that her party would contest the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand alone.

In a series of tweets Sunday, she ruled out reports that the BSP would join hands with Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM in Uttar Pradesh. "This news is being circulated that the AIMIM and BSP will fight the upcoming assembly elections in UP together. This news is completely false, misleading and baseless. There is not even an iota of truth in this, and BSP vehemently denies it," she said.

She further said that the BSP would like to clarify that, except for Punjab, the party will contest the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand alone. The BSP and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) have allied to contest the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections. The BSP, which stormed to power in 2007 by winning 206 seats, was left with just 80 seats in 2012.



In 2014, Mayawati's party did not win a single Lok Sabha seat, and in the 2017 Uttar Pradesh elections, it bagged only 19 seats. With BSP's support base dwindling over the years, the BJP and the Samajwadi Party have been trying to woo the Dalit voters ahead of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in 2022. In April, Akhilesh Yadav announced that Samajwadi Party (SP) will constitute a Baba Saheb Vahini named after Dalit icon Dr BR Ambedkar.



Men throw nets into river for fishing on a cloudy day in Nadia PTI PHOTO

'Small-size drones threat for strategic installations'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: The capability of drones to evade radar, wreak devastation at strategic installations and transport weapons to terrorists has been a continuous concern for the country's security establishment, and in a maiden incident, these unmanned vehicles were used to strike an IAF base in Jammu Sunday, officials said.



Pakistan-based terrorists used drones to drop two bombs at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jammu's Satwari area leading to minor damage to a building and injuring two airmen in the darkness of the night. The defence and internal security matrix of the country has been talking about threats posed by small and remote-controlled unmanned vehicles for the

and the IAF have been working on plans and technologies to check and combat such attacks at sensitive civil airports and other facilities. The central police think tank called the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) has also held a few multi-stakeholder national conferences on the subject to find out the most effective methods, both technology-wise and monetarily, to jam and neutralise these threats. "We are still to get the most suitable technology to thwart armed drones along the border. The interceptions made till now has been because of the vigilance of troops on duty," a senior BSF officer said. He said multiple incidents of arms and drugs carrying drones and quad-copters being flown from Pakistan into the Indian side in Jammu and Punjab have been no-

ticed in the last few years and all of them have been thwarted. However, a senior home ministry officer said that there have been incidents when drones were used for surveillance of Indian border assets and positions. But as soon as they were spotted and reaction mounted, the floaters rushed back to base where either terrorist elements or Pakistan military soldiers could be handling the remote, the officer said. Both the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC) region along Pakistan have had their share of such incidents which have been flagged by the Army. Deep inside the country, the tarmac and the city-side of civil airports are vulnerable when it comes to dropping bombs or surveillance by drones.



Harish Rawat not to be Cong CM face

The Congress is in the midst of one crisis after the other. While it is grappling with crises in Punjab, Kerala, Goa and elsewhere, the latest reports have come from Uttarakhand. The AICC has now decided not to project a chief ministerial face in the upcoming Uttarakhand Assembly elections. The Congress will follow the principle of 'collective

leadership' in the hill state which is going to polls early next year. The AICC has taken this policy decision as this would ensure unity in the party and revive a killer instinct among the rank and file, against the ruling BJP. The AICC in-charge for Uttarakhand Devendra Yadav has conveyed this to party leaders in the state, much to the disappointment of Harish Rawat. "We are going to the polls under the collective leadership, we will not project anyone as our Chief Minister's face" he said. Why the party is shying away in projecting a face if it is sure of returning back to power, Yadav dodged the questions at a recent party leaders' conclave, but asserted that there was no need to project a face. "We have a galaxy of leaders and selection of a Chief Minister is no issue." Asked whether former Chief Minister Harish Rawat will be contesting the election he said it was too

early to say. In any case, it was for Rawat himself to decide.

BJP desperate for Maha booster dose

The BJP leadership is getting desperate for a "booster dose" after drubbing in West Bengal. In order to turn the tide against it, the government took a U-turn on its vaccination policy. The Prime Minister himself announced cancellation of board exams for schools and extended the free food scheme until next Diwali. It was a huge booster but the party is looking for a political dose before Assembly polls in five states. It was part of this mission that fresh initiatives began at various levels to win back Maharashtra. The first initiative was taken by former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis who called on NCP Chief Sharad Pawar at his residence. The meeting was termed cordial and it was asserted

that no politics was discussed. But it's the timing that matters in politics. Insiders say the mission was aimed at wooing Pawar to reconsider re-joining the NDA after the first attempt ended in a fiasco two years ago.

Scindia not moving into MP house

It was almost a year ago when Jyotiraditya Scindia joined the BJP and was elected to the Rajya Sabha. He is the 6th in the series of royals in the BJP who are MPs. Leishemba Sanajaoba, the titular king of Manipur (2020), and Harshvardhan Singh of Durgapur's erstwhile royal family (2016) were invited by the BJP and made members of the Rajya Sabha. Both of them had not asked for it. But the Gwalior royal is playing tough. He is not moving into the Lodhi Estate house allotted to him as an MP by the government, but staying at his

rented accommodation at Anand Lok, outside the Lutyens' Zone. His followers say Scindia is waiting patiently for BJP's next move when Cabinet is expanded & reshuffled. Obviously, Scindia is expecting a Cabinet berth with a plum ministry having gifted the state of Madhya Pradesh to BJP after the party was defeated in 2018.

Variant of concern

Even as India is opening up after a deadly second Covid wave, a new virus has threatened the country. The Central government has swung into action as the new Delta Plus virus may take dangerous proportions if not checked in time. As many as 45,000 samples from across the country including Maharashtra, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh and a few others have been collected for genome sequencing. India's National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) swung into action as soon as the virus

was detected in parts of Maharashtra, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi too. The government is extremely worried as the second wave in the country emanated from Maharashtra's Amravati and Vidharbha region in March this year. The Delta+ cases had been reported in large numbers in the UK & the USA. Delta Plus is a mutated version of Delta (B.1.617.2) variant and more dangerous and 60-70% more contagious. The USA has already termed it a "virus of concern". This virus forced the UK government to extend the lockdown for four weeks and now the UK will re-open July 19. The Delta virus that mutated in parts of Western Maharashtra in February-March and warnings by the Public Health experts including Dr Subhash Salunke were ignored. The good thing is the government is not taking any chances this time and issuing public warnings about the Delta Plus virus.

international

of the day quote

We don't want to impose any restrictions: not on parties, on trips or anything like that. But specifically because of this, if you don't want restrictions, go get vaccinated today. Talk to your parents and get vaccinated

NAFTALI BENNETT | PM, ISRAEL

I am deeply shocked by the murder of three MSF humanitarian workers in Tigray, Ethiopia. This is totally unacceptable and an appalling violation of international humanitarian law

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

Avoid provocations and incidents over the coming days, weeks and months that could reignite the violence and then to work to create a bit more confidence between the Israelis and Palestinians

ANTONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE

SHORT TAKES

UAE travel ban on India continues

Dubai: A United Arab Emirates ban on entry from India, South Africa and Nigeria remains in place, the federal aviation authority said Sunday, after Dubai had announced it would ease entry restrictions from those countries. In a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) Sunday, the UAE's General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) referenced a June 21 GCAA document stating entry from 13 countries, including Pakistan, was banned due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Dubai had said June 19 that an entry ban on those who in the past 14 days had visited India, Nigeria and South Africa would ease from June 23.

UK's ex-Fin Min named Health Min

London: British former Finance Minister Sajid Javid will replace Matt Hancock as the country's health minister, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said Saturday. Javid resigned as Finance Minister last year after he refused to fire his political advisers as demanded by Johnson. Matt Hancock quit Saturday after he was caught breaking Covid-19 rules by kissing and embracing an aide in his office, enraging colleagues and the public who have been living under lockdown.

US hot air balloon mishap claims 5

Los Angeles: Five people died in a hot air balloon accident in Albuquerque, in the southwestern United States, the city's police announced Saturday. The accident caused power outages in the area for several hours after the balloon came into contact with a power line. "Unfortunately, 4 individuals died as a result of their wounds from the hot air balloon crash," Albuquerque police said on Twitter, adding that one person was taken to a hospital in critical condition.

46 Taliban ultras killed in Afghan

Kabul: At least 46 Taliban militants were killed and 25 others injured in fierce clashes with security forces in Afghanistan's Takhar province, the Ministry of Defence said. The clashes occurred Saturday when the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) backed by local Public Uprising Forces and supported by the Air Force targeted a Taliban convoy and militants' aggregations in the suburban districts of Dasht-e-Qala and Rustaq, the Ministry said in a statement.



Parts of the Pakistani government are directly responsible for the Taliban's return to power. The complete withdrawal of forces will weaken the morale of the Afghan government and army

JOHN BOLTON | FORMER NSA, US

\$800,000 REWARD FOR INFO ON HELICOPTER ATTACK

The Colombian government is offering a reward of nearly \$800,000 for information leading to the capture of those behind an attack on a helicopter carrying President Ivan Duque near the Venezuela border Friday



Pakistan will shut border if Taliban take over Afghan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Multan, June 27: Pakistan's Foreign Minister said Sunday that violence and lawlessness could reign in Afghanistan after the United States' withdrawal, and that Pakistan would shut its border to the country if the Taliban takes control of it.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Pakistan has already taken in 3.5 million Afghan refugees over the years, but would not accept any more. He was speaking in a weekly media briefing held in the central city of Multan.

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan until they were ousted by a US-led coalition after the Sept 11, 2001 attacks in America

"We can't take more, we will have to shut our border, we have to safeguard our national interest," he said, adding that Pakistan will continue its diplomatic efforts for peace in the country, and welcome its democratically elected leadership.

Millions of Afghans fled to Pakistan from fighting between Mujahideen groups after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989.

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan until they were ousted by a US-led coalition after the Sept 11, 2001 attacks in America.

In recent weeks, Taliban fighters have overrun several districts in south and northern Afghanistan, convincing government security forces to surrender and seizing their weapons and military vehicles.

Intel report is inconclusive about UFOs

The Department of Defense will over the next three months develop a new strategy for collecting and tracking information on potential sightings

AGENCIES

Washington, June 27: A long-awaited US government report on UFOs makes at least one thing clear: The truth is still out there.

Investigators did not find extraterrestrial links in reviewing 144 sightings of aircraft or other devices apparently flying at mysterious speeds or trajectories. But they drew few other conclusions and instead highlighted the need for better data collection about what's increasingly seen by Democrats

and Republicans as a national security concern. In all but one of the sightings investigated, there was too little information for investigators to even broadly characterize the nature of the incident.

There were 18 cases in which witnesses saw "unusual" patterns of movement or flight characteristics, the report said, adding that more analysis was needed to determine if those sightings represented "breakthrough" technology

Long the domain of science fiction and so-called ufologists, the

NO ET, NO ANSWERS



subject of UFOs has in recent years

drawn serious study from the Pentagon and intelligence agencies. The prospect of an adversary spying with unknown technology has alarmed lawmakers in both parties.

US officials who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity said there were "no clear indications" that the sightings could be linked to alien life. There is also no definitive linkage of sightings to potentially unknown technology of an adversary like Russia or China.

The report lists five potential categories, the possibility of foreign adversaries flying unknown technology to events occurring naturally in the atmosphere.

But only one instance was categorized as "airborne clutter" and believed to be a large, deflating balloon. The rest are uncategorized because of a lack of information. That includes three instances of potential sightings captured on videos that were declassified and released in recent years.

As variant rises, vax plan targets people under 30

Now that cases and deaths have dropped, officials say it's become harder to convince Americans of the urgency of getting a shot, particularly younger people who already knew they were at low risk of serious complications

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 27: Thrown off-stride to reach its Covid-19 vaccination goal, the Biden administration is sending A-list officials across the country, devising ads for niche markets and enlisting community organisers to persuade unvaccinated people to get a shot.

The strategy has the trappings of a political campaign, complete with data crunching to identify groups that can be won over.

But the message is about public

health, not ideology. The focus is a group health officials term the "movable middle" — some 55 million unvaccinated adults seen as persuadable, many of them under 30.

"We're not just going to do the mass vaccination sites," said Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. "It's door to door. It's mobile clinics. We're doing vaccinations at church, the PTA meeting, the barber shop, the grocery store."

It's unclear how well the levers of persuasion are functioning. Vaccination rates have dropped below 1 million a day, and there's no sign yet of a turnaround. The administration has acknowledged that it will fall short of its goal of having 70% of adults vaccinated by 4th July.

At this point, about 170 million American adults have received at least one vaccine dose, representing roughly two-thirds of those 18 and older. An Associated Press analysis suggests that Biden's self-imposed goal may not be reached until late July at current rates of vaccination.



Dhaka faces migrant exodus

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sreenagar, June 27: Tens of thousands of migrant workers fled Bangladesh's capital Sunday the eve of a tightened lockdown that will curtail most economic activity and confine people to their homes as Coronavirus infections soar.

Restrictions on activities and movement have been in place since mid-April as cases and deaths jumped.

Infections declined in May but started to rise again this month, with over 5,000 new cases and a pandemic-high of 119 deaths

STRICTER CURBS



Sunday, according to the health ministry.

People will be ordered to stay at homes while only emergency services and export-oriented factories continue operations.

The coming closure has sparked

an exodus from Dhaka, the capital. With public inter-city transportation already suspended since June 22, people have squeezed into rickshaws, hopped onto motorbikes and even hired ambulances to make their way to their villages.

Ferries have been operating on overdrive, with some running services 24 hours a day and cramming more than 1,000 passengers onto each trip.

"We don't want them to overcrowd the ferry. But they don't listen," said police sub-inspector Mohammad Reza. "There is a mad rush of people."

'Xi Jinping's prolonged tenure could spell trouble for CPC's future'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, June 27: As China's ruling Communist Party is set to celebrate its centenary July 1, experts warn that the potential of President Xi Jinping's continuation in power, unlike his predecessors, could potentially be "very destabilizing" for it in the future in the absence of a successor.

Ironically, in its 100th year, the Communist Party of China (CPC), as it is officially called, relies on Xi just as it depended on its founder leader and principled ideologue 'Chairman' Mao Zedong, who held a vice-like grip on it until his death

in 1976 after the party was established in 1921.

China in 2018 approved the removal of the two-term limit on the presidency, effectively allowing Xi, 68, to remain in power for life.

While Xi's supporters projected his leadership as the need of the hour for China which is facing global adversity, analysts warn that his continuation in power after two terms unlike predecessors is potentially destabilising.

It was normal practice that a successor to the General Secretary of the CPC is named during the second tenure of the party leadership.



With no clear successor in sight, observers expect Xi to remain as a paramount leader during the reshuffle of the party's governing bodies

Nepal inks USD 150 million concessional loan with WB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, June 27: Nepal inked a concessional loan agreement of USD 150 million with the World Bank (WB) Sunday for post-Covid-19 recovery and development.

Nepal Finance Secretary Sishir Kumar Dhungana and WB, Country Director, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, Faris Hadad-Zervos, signed the loan document.

After signing the agreement, Dhungana said the funds will help Nepal build back better and greener,

especially in view of the adverse effects of the pandemic.

"The proposed budgetary support will be utilised in infrastructure projects and economic recovery... According to the requirements and priorities of the government," he said.

"The financial assistance will help speed up the ongoing large development projects, creating jobs, accelerate markets, and support green recovery," the Finance Ministry said in a statement. Meanwhile, Nepal reported 1,920



new cases of Coronavirus Sunday, taking the nationwide tally to 665,777. The death toll rose to 9,009 with 34 more fatalities, health officials said.

In the last 24 hours, 3,007 people have recovered from the disease. Nepal's Covid-19 recovery rate stands at 92.2 per cent.

With no clear successor in sight, observers expect Xi to remain as a paramount leader during the reshuffle of the party's governing bodies

on how he plans to tackle succession and avoid a crisis within the party.

It could prove to be his biggest challenge and will shape the party for decades to come, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post said in its report Friday.

Xi has said that one way to evaluate a political system is to see whether the leadership succession is "law-abiding and orderly".

But unlike his predecessors, Xi did not endorse a successor at the end of his first term in 2017, and observers do not expect one to emerge in the new leadership line-up next year as well.

Bringing in new blood will be crucial to avoid a succession crisis, something that would have a wider impact, given China's economic heft, according to a joint report by the Centre for Strategic International Studies in the US and the Lowy Institute in Australia.

business



Domestic indices are expected to mirror global equities. June auto sales numbers would give investors a fair idea around the revival of ground-level sentiment
NIRALI SHAH | HEAD OF EQUITY RESEARCH, SAMCO SECURITIES

GOLD IMPORTS JUMP MULTI-FOLD

Gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, zoomed to ₹51,438.82 crore during April-May 2021 due to low base effect in the wake of pandemic, according to data from the Commerce Ministry. Imports of the yellow metal had plunged to ₹599 crore in the corresponding period last year



of the day quote

VMware sells its solutions to customers in the Indian market but it's also an important location where it builds products. We deliver this capability to multiple areas and serve customers across the world. Hence, there is a lot of focus on India



PRADEEP NAIR | VICE-PRESIDENT AND MD, VMWARE INDIA

While we continue to invest to enhance our technological capabilities, I feel that the time is right for the regulator to allow life insurers in India to evolve further and be the 'disruptor' rather than the 'disrupted'



DEEPAK S PAREKH | CHAIRMAN, HDFC LIFE INSURANCE CO

Unfortunately, many of these large e-commerce companies have come into India and very blatantly violated the laws of the land, in more ways than one



PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

ADIA picks up stake in Mobikwik

Mumbai: The UAE's sovereign wealth fund Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has picked up a minority stake in the IPO-bound digital payments player Mobikwik for nearly USD 20 million (about ₹150 crore), valuing it at USD 700 million, the company has said. The company was in bad press in March after alleged massive data theft, following which the RBI had ordered a forensic audit on the Gurugram-based company set up in 2009.

GHIA seeks govt support

Mumbai: Reeling under the impact of the pandemic, ground handling operators (GHIA) have sought government support, including a two-year moratorium on interest charges on bank loans and instructions to airport operators not to charge concessions and rental fees till normalcy returns, to help tide over the current crisis. The industry, which is estimated to have incurred a loss of ₹800-900 crore in the last FY due to no international operations, also wants the government to reopen overseas flights in a planned and restructured manner.

NTPC targets 60 GW RE capacity

New Delhi: State-owned power giant NTPC Sunday said it has set a target to install 60 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2032. NTPC has become India's first energy company to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE), according to a statement. "NTPC has set a target to install 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032," it added.

GAME partners with SIDBI

New Delhi: The Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have signed a pact to help MSMEs address their challenges that were accentuated during the pandemic. The broad themes covered under the partnership include expanding credit access, increasing formalisation, building competitive clusters, and improving the legal framework for ease of doing business, according to a statement released Sunday.

BANK PRIVATISATION

Cabinet secy-led panel holds crucial meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: Inching a step closer to privatisation of two public sector banks, a high-level panel headed by the cabinet secretary recently held a meeting to thrash out various regulatory and administrative issues so that the proposal could be placed with the group of ministers on disinvestment or Alternative Mechanism (AM) for approval.

Pursuant to the announcement made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her 2021 budget speech, the NITI Aayog has suggested a couple of bank names for privatisation to the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment headed by Cabinet Secretary in April, sources said.

The meeting of the high-level panel deliberated on the recommendation of the NITI Aayog Thursday June 24, sources said, adding the panel would after tying up all loose ends will send the names of the shortlisted PSU banks to AM for consideration.

Headed by the cabinet secretary, the members of the panel include secretaries in the departments of Economic Affairs, Revenue, Expenditure, Corporate Affairs and Legal Affairs, as well as the secretary of administrative department. The panel also has the Department of Public Enterprises, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) secretary as its member.

According to sources, the panel also examined issues pertaining to protection of interests of workers of banks which are likely to be



Pursuant to the announcement made by Sitharaman in her 2021 budget speech, the NITI Aayog has suggested a couple of bank names for privatisation to the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment

privatised.

Following a clearance from AM, it will go to the Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister for the final nod. Changes on the regulatory side to facilitate privatisation would start after the cabinet approval.

Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank are reported to be probable candidates for privatisation. The government has budgeted ₹1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in

public sector companies and financial institutions, including two PSU banks and one insurance company, during the current financial year. The amount is lower than the record budgeted ₹2.10 lakh crore to be raised from CPSE disinvestment in the last fiscal.

In her Budget Speech February 1, Sitharaman had announced that the government proposes to take up the privatisation of two public sector banks (PSBs) and one general insurance company in the year 2021-22.

"Other than IDBI Bank, we propose to take up the privatisation of two public sector banks and one general insurance company in the year 2021-22," she had said.

The government last year consolidated 10 public sector banks into four and as a result, the total number of PSBs came down to 12 from 27 in March 2017. The government has merged 14 public sector banks in the last four years.

CAIT urges Centre not to dilute draft e-comm rules

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 27: Domestic traders' body CAIT Sunday urged the government not to dilute the draft of e-commerce rules under any pressure of foreign-funded online firms.



In a communication to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said it has been observed that voices of terminating the rules as stringent is being created.

"In the wake of expected pressure tactics of foreign funded e-commerce companies against the draft of e-commerce rules... (we urged) him (prime minister) to ensure

that no dilution is made in draft of e-commerce rules under any pressure," CAIT said in a statement.

The draft rules after examining the suggestions and objections should be notified without any further delay, it added.

It alleged that unethical and law violating business practices of foreign funded e-commerce companies has forced closure of a large number of shops in the country.

"Traders of India are not against e-commerce but are of the considered opinion that e-commerce is the most promising business avenue of the future, and traders should also adopt it as a stream of their business besides conducting business activities in their physical shops," it said.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said the proposed rules like appointment of a chief compliance officer, a nodal contact person and a resident grievance officer may go a long way in protecting consumer interests.

State mulls holding 'MSME census' for policy planning

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Odisha MSME department aims to conduct a census in the sector to create the much required database for policy planning in the state. Celebrating the World MSME Day, the department said that a three-year district plan is also in the making in consultation with the District Collectors and various stakeholders.

"In the next three years Odisha intends a massive 25,000 micro enterprises which will be created under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The main focus will be on converting WSHGs to potential micro entrepreneurs. To boost the marketing of MSME products, maximum emphasis will be given on packaging and the services of IIP as well as startups engaged with innovation in packaging will be roped in," said the department officials.

According to the official report, over 4,000 units with a project cost of ₹456 crore were sanctioned under



PMEGP in the last financial year. Odisha also achieved its highest ever credit flow under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) of ₹38,000 crore with the proactive support of the banks. In addition, the MSME department released incentives to various units amounting to ₹60 crore.

In order to help the MSMEs of the state and reboot the economy affected by the pandemic, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a special package of ₹289 crore in December last year.

Odisha's sustained efforts have also helped exports from the state

Odisha has been actively pursuing the interest of the MSME sector giving financial incentives and cash linkages. The state has demonstrated that it can revive the economy amid the pandemic

SATYABRATA SHAH | PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF MSME, ODISHA

to reach ₹80,000 crore in FY 2020-21. Odisha State Industries Corporation (OSIC) has achieved

a business worth ₹612 crore with the main focus on MSMEs.

Principal Secretary of MSME department Satyabrata Sahu said, "Odisha has been actively pursuing the interest of the MSME sector giving financial incentives and cash linkages. The state has demonstrated that it can revive the economy amid the pandemic."

As Odisha has nurtured a large number of Women SHGs, our focus will be developing them into entrepreneurs and thereby strengthen the rural economy."

Importance of marine insurance and what it covers

When you hear the term Marine insurance, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Basis to my experience, I can say most of you will think it is something related to ships and ocean. You are not entirely wrong there, marine insurance does cover cargo being transported via ships and the vessel itself.

However, the insurance cover is not restricted to this, marine insurance can be used to cover various aspects of the supply chain, including cargo being transported by rail, road or air. For centuries Marine insurance has been taken by importers, exporters, buyers, sellers and logistics companies to safeguard themselves against various risks involved in the transit. In fact, marine insurance is the oldest insurance cover. Today, with emergence of e-commerce, unprecedented rise of cross border business and an ever shrinking world, marine insurance has become even more important.

Marine policy provides coverage against natural catastrophes like earthquake, lightning or volcanic eruption. It also compensates for accidents like derailment or overturning of the conveyance, collision of the conveyance with an external object, entry of river or lake water in the conveyance and place of storage, to name a few.

Broadly speaking, marine insurance provides cover to the cargo/shipment and the vessel carrying it against the loss or damage during the transit.

There are three types of covers available in a typical Marine policy. Institute Cargo Clause (ICC) A, B and C in case of overseas transits and Institute Transit Clause (ITC) A, B and C for

domestic transits. ICC and ITC C is the most basic cover, followed by ICC and ITC B which is a slightly broader protection. ICC and ITC A provides widest cover. It is an All Risk policy subject to exclusions mentioned. It is important to read the exclusions in detail. To further understand about covers and exclusions it is better to discuss the same with your insurer or insurance advisor, they can guide you with the appropriate covers as per your requirement.

Who requires Marine insurance?

- As a professional I will suggest if you have an element of goods transportation in your business, it is prudent to take a marine cover. However, marine insurance is typically taken by:-
- Importers and exporters
 - Logistic companies and intermediaries
 - Manufacturers
 - Buyers and sellers

Broadly speaking, marine insurance provides cover to the cargo/shipment and the vessel carrying it against the loss or damage during the transit

Importance of Marine Insurance

If you are involved in supply chain management, or are in a business which requires you to frequently transfer goods, raw materials and semi-finished goods from one location to another marine insurance is of utmost importance to you.

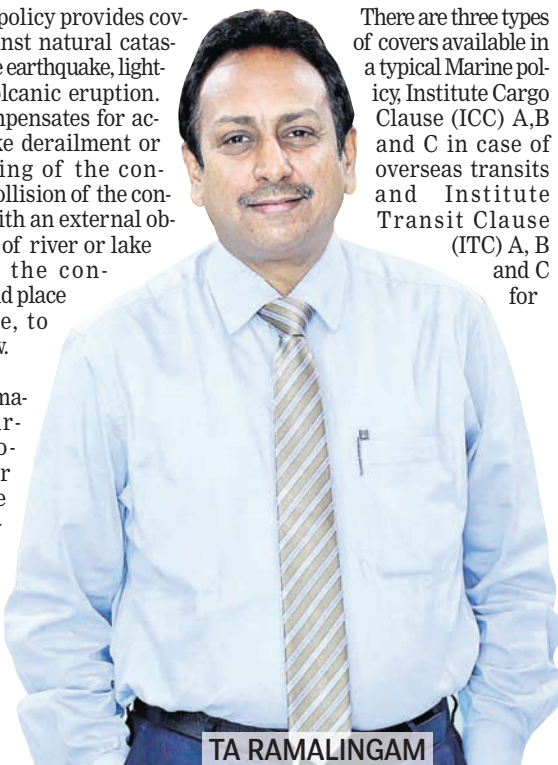
A marine cover kicks in as soon as the cargo leaves the point of dispatch and ends when it reaches the destination. The marine policy provides coverage to your goods throughout the route. It helps you manage risks and improves the resiliency of your

business. A marine cover will transfer the liability of the cargo to the insurer from the parties involved in the supply chain. Marine insurance is often compulsory for overseas trade contracts with widest coverage as per the contract signed between the consignor and consignee. The same is true also for domestic trade or transfers.

With the increasing natural disasters, uncertainties looming around war, in a highly connected but equally volatile world investing in a comprehensive marine insurance cover is a great way to insulate your business against transit related risks.

The pandemic has shown how risk-prone our world is and we must take measures to safeguard our interests and finances by opting for a comprehensive marine cover.

(The writer is Chief Technical Officer at Bajaj Allianz General Insurance)



TA RAMALINGAM



Deepika hits bull's eye

HAT-TRICK OF GOLD MEDALS FOR INDIAN ARCHER AS SHE WINS RECURVE AND MIXED EVENTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, June 27: Star archer Deepika Kumari led the show with supreme authority to grab a hat-trick of gold medals as India made an unprecedented clean sweep at the World Cup Stage 3 here Sunday for a perfect build-up to the Tokyo Olympics in less than a month's time.

Star couple Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari clinched the mixed team top honours. Their success came after the women's recurve trio's victory in a near perfect Olympic build-up. Then late in the day Deepika won the individual recurve gold medal.

Deepika and Atanu bounced back from a 0-2 deficit to down the Netherlands' Sief van den Berg and Gabriela Schloesser 5-3 and fetch India a third gold medal from the competition. This was after the women's recurve team of Deepika, Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari notched up the gold medal with a comfortable win over Mexico.

"It feels amazing. First time we are played together (in the final) and won, feel so happy," Atanu said after their win.

The two got married after a two-year courtship and would be celebrating their first wedding anniversary June 30. "It feels we are made for each other. In the ground we are not a couple, but like just other competitors, we motivate, support and back each other,"



POWER COUPLE: Deepika Kumari (L) and Atanu Das (R) pose with an official after their gold-winning show Sunday in Paris; (Inset): The recurve team

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT ATANU AND DEEPIKA HAVE PLAYED A FINAL AS HUSBAND AND WIFE

2ND GOLD FOR RECURVE TEAM IN 2021 AND IN BOTH FINALS MEXICO WERE THE OPPOSITION

dividual event Saturday. Earlier in the day, in a repeat of the World Cup first stage final, the troika of World No. 3 Deepika, Ankita and Komalika defeated Mexico 5-1 without dropping a set.

This was their second successive gold medal in the World Cup this year, and sixth overall (Shanghai-2011, Medellin-2013, Wroclaw-2013, Wroclaw-2014, Guatemala City-2021). Deepika was a constant each time.

The trio, which had stuttered to win the gold against the same opponents in Guatemala City two months back, was at its best, shooting four 10s with one X (closest to the centre) for a 57-57 score in the first set.

The Indians' flawless shooting put pressure on the Mexican team of London 2012 silver-medallist Aida Roman, Alejandra Valencia and Ana Vazquez. They shot a poor 52 to lose the second set by three points.

Leading 3-1, the Indians then romped home with ease.

Atanu informed. India so far have won four gold medals with compound archer Abhishek Verma opening the tally winning the in-

SHORT TAKES

Kolkata may host I-League in Dec

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is planning to organise the Hero I-League this season in Kolkata with the scheduled start tentatively fixed in mid-December. "We are looking at a tentative date of mid-December onwards for kicking-off the I-League. We are in talks with the IFA and also the Government of West Bengal to organise the League in Kolkata and its suburbs like the last edition," I-League CEO Sunando Dhar said during the AIFF League Committee's meeting held virtually Saturday. He informed Sunday that the I-League this season will be a 13-team affair, with the number of matches to go up from the previous edition's 80 to 114.

Max triumphs

Spielberg (Austria): Formula One (F1) championship leader Max Verstappen dominated the Austrian Grand Prix here Sunday to win back-to-back races for the first time in his career. With a clean start from pole, the Red Bull driver denied Lewis Hamilton an early attack and he remained ahead for the entire race, beating his Mercedes rival by more than 35 seconds. Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas finished third ahead of Sergio Perez as Red Bull and Mercedes occupied the top four places for the second consecutive time. "The car was on fire," Verstappen said over the team radio after crossing the finish line.

Serena pulls out

London: Serena Williams informed Sunday that she will not be participating in the Tokyo Olympics. However, she did not clarify the reason during her pre-Wimbledon video conference with reporters. "I'm actually not on the Olympic list. Not that I'm aware of. If so, then I shouldn't be on it," Serena said. The 39-year-old Serena has four Olympic gold medals in her kitty. She won both the singles and doubles (with sister Venus) golds in the 2012 London Olympics. She also has two doubles golds from Sydney (2000) and Beijing (2008).

Azzuri leave it late

AGENCIES

London, June 27: Substitutes Federico Chiesa and Matteo Pessina struck in extra-time as Italy beat a battling Austria 2-1 to reach the quarterfinals of Euro 2020 at the Wembley Stadium here Saturday. The two teams were locked at 0-0 after 90 minutes. Italy enjoyed the better of the first half but Austria rattled Roberto Mancini's side in the second period.

Chiesa struck early in extra-time to calm Italy's nerves and another goal from Pessina set up a quarterfinal against the winners of Sunday's tie between Belgium and holders Portugal.

Mancini made seven changes from the side that beat Wales as Marco Verratti started instead of Manuel Locatelli in midfield, while Giorgio Chiellini again missed out with a hamstring injury.

The Azzurri made a lively start with Leonardo Spinazzola's buccaneering bursts on the left a constant threat to the Austrian defence. He had a chance to put Italy ahead but shot wide from an acute angle.

In the second session, things changed with Austria on the ascendency. Marko Arnautovic thought he had given Austria a shock lead in the 65th minute when he nodded home from David Alaba's

Italy break own record

London: After 19 hours of flawless defending, Italy broke their own world record for not conceding a goal in international soccer. The streak ended a mere 25 minutes later. Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma played the bulk of the record 1,168 minutes, including three clean sheets in the group stage of the European Championships. The previous record for scoreless minutes also belonged to Italy, set between 1972 and 1974 when Dino Zoff was the goalkeeper. That record lasted 1,143 minutes, and every second was played by Zoff. Austria forward Sasa Kalajdzic scored the goal with a header in the 114th minute to end Italy's run of not conceding a goal.

header, but the former West Ham striker was ruled to be marginally offside after a lengthy VAR review.

The match went to extra-time but it did not take long for Italy to make their mark. The impressive Spinazzola found Chiesa, who controlled the ball and smashed in from close range five minutes into the extra half an hour. Italy effectively ended the tie 10 minutes later when the ball fell for Pessina, and he drilled home.

COACH RAHUL DRAVID BANKING ON YOUNGSTERS FOR SERIES WIN

Dhawan displays optimism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 27: India captain for the limited-overs tour of Sri Lanka, Shikhar Dhawan termed the upcoming series as a challenge and said Sunday that the matches in the island nation will provide the fringe players an opportunity to showcase their talents and be in the reckoning for a place in the main team.

"The Indian team to Sri Lanka are a very good team. There is positivity, confidence in our team. Everybody is confident that we will do well. There is lot of excitement," Dhawan said at the virtual pre-departure press-conference in the presence of head coach Rahul Dravid.

"It is a new challenge but at the same time it is a great opportunity for all of us to show our talent. Everybody is waiting (for the tour to begin). Around 13-14 days have passed since we are in quarantine, so the players are waiting when we can hit the ground and we have 10-12 days for preparation," the stand-in skipper added.

India are scheduled to clash with Sri Lanka in three ODIs and as many Twenty20 matches on the tour that will begin July 13 and

UNDERDOGS CONJURE UP EURO-2020'S MOST STUNNING UPSET

Czechs pack off Oranjes



CRUCIAL STRIKE: Patrik Schick of the Czech Republic is all pumped after scoring against the Netherlands, Sunday

AGENCIES

Budapest, June 27: The Czech Republic conjured up the most stunning upset of the ongoing Euro 2020 championships by beating the Netherlands 2-0 at the Franc Puskas Arena here in a round of 16 match played Sunday. Goals from Tomas Holes (68th) and Patrik Schick (80th) within 12 minutes of one another sealed the stunning win for the Czech Republic. Both the goals came after the Netherlands were reduced to 10 men with Matthijs de Ligt getting marching orders in the 57th minute.

It was the fourth goal of the

tournament for Schick who continued to show his good form throughout the game constantly harassing the Dutch defence. The Czechs created the better opportunities against their more fancied opponents and were deserved winners. In the process, they sealed a quarterfinal meeting Saturday with Denmark in Baku. It will guarantee the presence of at least one underdog team in the last four stage of the tournament.

Holes headed in at the back post after Tomas Kalas had steered the ball into his path. However, the Dutch defenders were completely out of position when the pass was drilled. Holes then turned provider

as he set up Schick for a second, the striker slotting the ball coolly past veteran Dutch goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg to continue his dream tournament.

The Netherlands were definitely unlucky as De Ligt got marching orders in rather controversial circumstances for handling the ball just outside his own penalty area. He was initially shown yellow, but referee Sergei Karasev changed his mind after a VAR check.

The Dutch were definitely not in their groove. They tended to play too many passes in the midfield rarely going forward. As a result they rarely managed to create a proper opening in the game. The Czechs on the other hand looked threatening whenever they advanced into the territory of the opposition.

This was the first meeting between the Netherlands and Czech Republic since October 2015. In that game also the Dutch were beaten 2-3 in a Euro 2016 qualifier. So it was revenge time for them, but they failed to put up a dominating performance and lost tamely to bow out of the tournament.

In fact the best chance for the Dutch in the game came early in the first half. Danny Blind fizzed the ball into the box from the left to the far post. De Ligt managed to tower over his marker and headed the ball back into the box. Memphis Depay connected powerfully, but his shot was way off target.

Tour de France return virtually over for Froome

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Landerneau, June 27: After a three-year absence from the Tour de France, he made a return. However, former four-time champion Chris Froome's comeback might already be over and that too after only one stage. The four-time champion was involved in a massive high-speed crash about 10 kilometres from the finish of Saturday's opening stage in Landerneau.

Froome, who missed the last two Tours after a 2019 crash threatened to end his career, stayed on the road for a moment and struggled to get back on his feet. He finally got back on his bike and finished the stage lagging more than 14 minutes behind stage winner Julian Alaphilippe. "Not how I planned for today to go but I managed to finish," said Froome.

Scans revealed no fractures and Froome's new team 'Israel Start Nation' said he will be monitored by medical staff overnight.

Froome's career took a turn for the worse during a training crash at the 2019 Criterium du Dauphiné. In the accident he broke his right femur, elbow and ribs. After getting back to competitive racing, Froome has not returned to his previous best level.

Still time for Sindhu to prepare nicely: Vimal Easy for England eves

SHUTTTLER SHOULD ASSESS OPPONENTS AND CHALK OUT PLANS, SAYS FORMER INDIA COACH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: Absence of defending champion Carolina Marin will be an advantage but there are at least six more title contenders at the Tokyo Games and PV Sindhu must examine their past performances to devise a proper strategy according to former India chief coach Vimal Kumar.

Sindhu had to settle for a silver five years back at the Rio Games after going down against Marin. The three-time World Champion from Spain has pulled out of the Tokyo Games after suffering a knee injury.

"Marin was a strong contender for the gold and her absence will be felt. Not just Sindhu, many others will have an advantage in the absence of Marin. However, not just Sindhu alone... there are six others who have the ability to win gold," Vimal said Sunday. "Tai Tzu Ying, the two Japanese girls Akane Yamaguchi and Nozomi



Okuhara are strong contenders. I am not sure about the two Chinese girls, Chen Yufei and He Binjiao. I haven't seen them play of late, so don't know how prepared they are

to win," added Vimal. Vimal said Sindhu needs to work on her strategies against potential opponents. "A lot can be done like they (Sindhu and her team) can discuss about her potential rivals, can look and analyse the matches: what situation they lost a match, the errors that they committed. It helps devise tactics and also gives confidence to the players. They still have time as Olympics is still a month away," pointed out Vimal.

Talking about Sindhu's chances at the Olympics, former India women's coach Madhumita Bisht said the shuttler will be under pressure. "All of us are expecting gold from her. She was a dark horse in 2016. We never thought she will win a silver medal. There was no pressure. But now she is a World Champion and a Olympic silver medallist. So expectations are high. Then there is also Covid-19 to deal with," Bisht pointed out.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bristol, June 27: Skipper Mithali Raj's (72, 108b, 7x4) fighting half century went in vain as England Women rode on Tammy Beaumont (87 n o, 87b, 12x4, 1x6) and Nat Sciver's (74 n o, 74b, 10x4, 1x6) aggressive unbeaten fifties to beat a below-par India Women by eight wickets in the first ODI of the three-match series here Sunday. Mithali guided India to 201 for eight in 50 overs, but that was never going to be enough.

Mithali held India's innings together following two early dismissals. She shared two crucial partnerships – 56 runs with Punam Raut (32) and 65 with Deepti Sharma (30) – to help India go past the 200-run mark. However, England cantered home with 91 balls to spare as Beaumont and Sciver put on an unbroken 119-run third-wicket partnership.

England lost Lauren Windfield-Hill (16) early in their chase but Beaumont and Heather Knight (18) shared 59 runs for the second wicket to get the hosts back on track.

Unique feat

Bristol: Opener Shafali Verma became Sunday the youngest Indian women's cricketer to make debut across formats after being picked for the first ODI against England here. The Haryana girl took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut across all formats, making her the fifth youngest cricketer overall in the list, headed by Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman. He had made his all format debut at 17 years and 78 days. Verma has scored 617 runs with three 50s in the 22 T20Is that she has played so far since making her debut in September 2019.

The Indians had a glorious chance to get back into the match but Bisht dropped Sciver at short fine-leg over off Harmanpreet Kaur's opening over. The Indians lacked discipline in both fielding and bowling. Brief scores: India 201 for 8 (Mithali Raj 72, Sophie Ecclestone 3/40, Anya Shrubsole 2/33, K Brunt 2/35) lost to England 202 for 2 in 34.5 overs (Tammy Beaumont 87 n o, Nat Sciver 74 n o) by eight wickets.