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THE LOST CAUSE OF
INGENUOUS TRIBALS

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IN EURO 2020 CLASH

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AN ACTOR,
NOT A STAR:
SHARAD
10 VIVACITY



Twitter defies IT rules, loses legal protection

Gzb police book Twitter, 7 others over viral video of attack on elderly

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Government on Wednesday asserted that microblogging platform Twitter has lost its legal protection in India because it deliberately chose non-compliance despite multiple opportunities to it. Losing legal protection means Twitter's top executives, including the nation's managing director, face police questioning and criminal liability under the Indian Penal Code over "unlawful and inflammatory" content posted by users on Twitter. Accusing Twitter of deliberately refusing to comply with Indian laws, in identical posts on Twitter as well as its Indian rival Koo, Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Twitter was given "multiple opportunities to comply" but it deliberately chose non-compliance. In a related development, the Ghaziabad police have booked Twitter Inc, its India

CHRONOLOGY OF TWITTER-GOVT TUSSLE

FEBRUARY 3: The Government issued notice to Twitter on farmers' genocide hashtag	against the new IT guidelines
FEBRUARY 8: The Government asked to remove 1,178 tweets related to farmers' protests	JUNE 1: WhatsApp named Paresh B Lal as its grievance officer for India
FEBRUARY 24: The Government asked Twitter to take down some tweets critical to its Covid handling	JUNE 2: Twitter subsequently sent an email where a lawyer, Dharmendra Chatur, was appointed an interim Nodal Contact Person and Resident Grievance Officer
MAY 22: Twitter flagged Sambit Patra tweet as manipulated media	JUNE 5: The Government wrote to Twitter, giving last chance to comply the guidelines
MAY 24: The Government asked to remove manipulated media tag from Patra	JUNE 6: Twitter replied that they had appointed a Nodal Contact Person and Resident Grievance Officer on a contractual basis as an interim measure
MAY 26: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's deadline of three months given to social media giants and OTT, has expired	JUNE 13: Twitter said they have posted a job description to hire a CCO, NCP and RGO and that they will venture to fill these roles as quickly as possible
MAY 26: WhatsApp moved Delhi High Court	

unit and seven others in connection with a viral video of an attack on an elderly person and issued notices to them. This is the first case that holds the social media giant responsible for third-party content. Twitter has lost its intermediary immunity (legal protection) in India after it failed to appoint statutory officers on the company's role, in accordance with the new Information Technology (IT) rules. This means Twitter's top executives, including the nation's managing director,

face police questioning and criminal liability under the Indian Penal Code over "unlawful and inflammatory" content posted by Twitter users on its platform. In a series of tweets, Prasad said there are numerous queries arising as to whether Twitter is entitled to safe harbour provision. "However, the simple fact of the matter is that Twitter has failed to comply with the Intermediary Guidelines that came into effect from the 26th of May," he said.

Compliance Officer retained: Twitter
New Delhi: Amid stand-off with the Government, Twitter shared details of an interim compliance officer with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Twitter has reiterated that it is making all possible efforts to comply with the new IT rules. A Twitter spokesperson stated on Wednesday that the interim Chief Compliance Officer had been retained by the company.

Post-job deaths financially worse than that by corona

Victims of virus get compensation, but nothing for death due to shots

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

If a corona warrior passes away due to Covid-19 infection, his relatives might get compensation as high as ₹1 crore, but there is no compensation available to a common man in case of death linked to vaccination. Clinical trial procedures do have compensation provisions which are paid by the companies, though the process is fraught with difficulties and may stretch years. A senior Union Health Ministry official said there is no provision of doling out compensation for recipients of Covid-19 vaccine against any kind of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) or medical complications that may arise due to inoculation. In this connection, he cited children immunisation programme where no compensation has been given so far. The AEFI is defined as "any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunisation" and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of the vaccine. As per the Government



report, since the launch of the nationwide vaccination from January 16 till June 7, one person has died due to severe allergic reaction of vaccination while 488 succumbed post inoculation which the Government said were due to co-incident reasons, including co-morbidities, and cannot be directly attributed to the vaccination. So far, 26 crore people have been vaccinated in the country with Covaxin or Covishield. However, measures have been put in place like availability of anaphylaxis kits at each vaccination site, immediate referral to AEFI management centre and observation of vaccine recipients for 30 minutes at session site for any adverse events so as to take timely corrective measure. Also, the AEFI management of such cases are provided free of cost treatment in Public Health Facilities, he had said. "Though under clinical trials conducted in India, there are specific rules defining compensation for participants, this is not so in case for the vaccination. There is no method under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to provide any type of compensation against any adverse event after receiving a vaccine approved for restricted emergency use.

State reports 3,535 new Covid cases
TPR increases from 5.99% to 6.02%; 44 more die; toll mounts to 3,432
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Covid-19 positive cases reported on Wednesday increased marginally to 3,535 from 3,405 on Tuesday. The new cases were registered in the 30 districts and the State pool, with which the total tally rose to 8,63,061. A total of 58,695 samples had been tested in last 24 hours; and test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 6.02% against last 24 hours' 5.99%. The cumulative samples tested so far were 1,28,36,434. Out of new cases, 2,016 were from quarantine and 1,519 were local contacts. Khordha district again reported day's highest cases at 533 followed by Jajpur with 348, Cuttack 320, Baleswar 296, Puri 187, Bhadrak 184, Mayurbhanj 153 and Kendrapada 104. The districts which recorded below 100 cases were Nayagah with 95, Keonjhar 92, Jagatsinghpur 90, Bargarh 86, Nabarangpur 85, Sundargarh 76, Rayagada 73, Dhenkanal, Kandhamal and Koraput 56 each, Boudh 52, Subarnapur and Sambalpur 39 each, Kalahandi 35, Gajapati 27, Ganjam 26, Deogarh 25, Balangir 18, Nuapada 15 and Jharsuguda 12. Besides, 82 cases were reported from State pool. The active cases stood at 47,796 and while so far 8,11,780 patients have recovered.

Lockdown to continue in State till July 1

PARTIAL UNLOCK IN 17 SOUTH, WEST DISTRICTS
RESTRICTED UNLOCK IN 13 OTHER DISTRICTS
NIGHT CURFEW, WEEKEND SHUTDOWN TO CONTINUE
SWEETS SHOPS, STREET VENDING FOR TAKEAWAY PACKETS ALLOWED
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

test positivity rate (TPR) has come down from 14 per cent to 6 per cent." All 30 districts have been divided into two groups. As many 17 southern and western districts have been marked as Category A, where the TPR has remained below 5% while the remaining 13 districts of coastal and adjoining area have been put in Category B, where the TPR is high. As the western and southern districts are now reporting a very low TPR, little relaxation has been given in these districts, Mahapatra said. The districts are Sundargarh, Ganjam, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Deogarh, Kalahandi, Subarnapur, Koraput, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Bargarh, Boudh, Rayagada, Gajapati, Sambalpur and Balangir. The Category B districts are Puri, Kendrapada, Khordha, Jajpur, Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal, Angul, Cuttack, Nayagarh and Mayurbhanj. In Category-A districts, the shops for essential goods will open from 6 am to 5 pm and in Category-B districts

from 6 am to 1 pm. Street vending for takeaway packets is allowed only in 17 districts under Category A. However, the Chief Secretary informed that night curfew and weekend shutdown would continue across State till July 1. Keeping in view livelihood of milk farmers, the Government has decided to open sweets shops in the State. They can only give parcels. The cycle sale and automobile repair shops will continue to remain open. Morning walk and jogging are allowed, but parks and gyms would remain closed. All essential services, transport of goods, industrial activities and construction activities would be allowed. But public buses would not run. All restrictions regarding marriage, cremation, meetings, social gatherings, and religious places would continue as before. All temples and other places of worship will remain closed. However, rituals would continue as earlier. Mahapatra urged to people to continue to follow Covid-appropriate behaviours like wearing a mask, social distance and hand washing.

Chirag blames JD(U) for LJP split, vows to save party

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) Leader Chirag Paswan on Wednesday vowed to fight back to save the party founded by his father late Ram Vilas Paswan, saying he was "sher ka beta" (lion's son). In his first media interaction after split in the LJP parliamentary party and five of LJP MPs writing to Lok Sabha Speaker to appoint his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras as the leader of the party, Chirag blamed the Janata Dal (United) for crisis in the party. While blaming the JD(U) for the split, he steered clear of questions regarding the role of the BJP in the development and added that what has happened is also an internal matter of his party for which he will not target others. Chirag may have avoided any reference to the role of the BJP behind the split in the LJP, but it is well known that the saffron outfit had lent its weight behind Paras. State BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal had met Paras just three days



MP Chirag Paswan addresses a Press conference at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday

before the split in the parliamentary party. When asked if "Hanuman" who is in trouble now will seek help from "Ram", a reference to his projection of his relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Bihar Assembly polls as that between the two famous characters of epic Ramayan, he said, "If Hanuman has to seek help from Ram, then what good is Hanuman and what good is Ram." It is going to be

a long battle, Paswan said, as the group headed by him fights the faction of five other party MPs, led by Paras, to claim ownership of the LJP. The JD(U), he alleged, had been working to cause a split in the party even when his father was alive. Targeting the party, he said it has always worked to divide Dalits and weaken its leaders. The LJP draws its support from Paswans, the largest Dalit caste in Bihar.

Covid drugs used to treat adults not fit for kids: Govt guidelines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the third Covid-19 wave is projected to impact children in a bigger way, the Government has issued guidelines for Covid-care management for kids. According to the guidelines, drugs such as ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, favipiravir and antibiotics like doxycycline and azithromycin, which are prescribed for adult patients, should not be recommended for treating the minor. The Union Health Ministry's recommendations include augmenting existing Covid-care facilities to provide care to children with acute coronavirus infection. "Similarly, issues of optimal treatment for multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) need to be addressed by clinical trials, such as comparison of low dose with high doses steroids, comparison of steroids with IVIG and others," it added.

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL CASES: 2,96,98,009 (+65,800)
DEATHS: 3,81,826 (+2,224)
RECOVERED: 2,84,80,532 (+99,841)
ACTIVE: 8,24,053
MAHA: 58,34,880 (+10,107)
K'TAKA: 27,84,355 (+7,345)
KERALA: 27,61,475 (+13,270)
TN: 23,88,746 (+10,448)
DELHI: 14,31,710 (+212)

Various States like Delhi, UP and Maharashtra on their own have already started taking measures — from ramping up paediatric beds to prioritising vaccination for parents of kids below 12 years.

No visit to Puri temple till July 25

PNS ■ PURI

The Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration (SJTA) on Wednesday decided not to allow devotees into the shrine till July 25 in view of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. Earlier, the administration had decided to stop 'public darshan' at the temple till June 15. SJTA Chief Administrator Krishan Kumar told media persons after a meeting of the administration that a unanimous decision has been taken to stop visit to the shrine till July 25. If there is an improvement in the Covid situation, the SJTA would again hold a meet-

372 new infections in BBSR
4 die; 825 recover
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar on Wednesday registered 372 new Covid-19 positive cases, with which the State capital city's total tally increased to 85,208. Out of the new cases, 287 were local contacts and 85 were from quarantine. The local contacts included 22 cases in Patia, 15 in Niladri Vihar, 13 each in Patrapada and Khandagiri, 12 each in Nayapalli, Laxmisagar and Chandrasekharpur, 11 each in Old Town and AIIMS Nagar, 10 in Badagada and nine in Pokhariput. Currently, the active cases stood at 3,004 in the city. Meanwhile, four more patients succumbed to the disease in the city, increasing the total death toll to 388. However, 825 patients recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 81,795.

Don't come back, TMC warns Guv as he meets NHRC chief

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a move unheard of in the contemporary political history of India, Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday called on National Human Rights Commission Chairman Justice Arun Mishra apparently to apprise him of what he called "retributive post poll violence" in the State. The ruling Trinamool Congress, the prime target of Dhankhar's attack, promptly reacted saying "Governor... don't come back to Bengal." The Governor is reported to have drawn the attention of the NHRC chief towards the attacks mounted on Opposition supporters and human rights violation in State. Dhankhar, who was on a three-day trip to New Delhi, also met Union Ministers Prahlad Singh Patel and Prahlad Joshi before tweeting, "... Had useful interaction with Union

Minister of Coal and Mines and Parliamentary Affairs..." Earlier dwelling on the post poll violence and the alleged Governmental apathy, Dhankhar said how the State Government was turning a blind eye to the incidents of "retributive post poll violence" that had rendered thousands of people homeless and properties worth crores looted and destroyed. "Four Cabinet meetings have taken place in the past six weeks ... not a single word has been spent on the post poll violence ... no Minister or officer has visited the affected areas and no compensation has been declared," the Governor said, adding, "I told the Chief Minister to update me about the situation but ... there was no response on her part... it seems that the police have forgotten their work ... the police and the Home Department must rise above partisan politics ... (or else) I shall not overlook the matter."

Docs in forefront of Covid fight: CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR



Healthcare is the primary focus area of my Government; and we are investing more than Rs 8,500 crore on health infrastructure," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said this on Wednesday while interacting with 786 doctors who were recently selected through the OPSC. Patnaik said his Government is continuously strengthening the healthcare system by recruiting large numbers of personnel in the last few years. Appreciating the doctors' role in the current pandemic, he said doctors have a special respect in society. People look at doctors like gods, especially when it's a life-and-death situ-

ation. The current pandemic has transformed doctors into warriors, he said. Congratulating the young doctors, Patnaik said, "Your family is proud of your achievement. You are now a role model in your community." Making a cautionary remark, he said the fight against Covid is far from being over. "You are all joining during a very challenging time in the midst of the second wave in the country. Even though the cases are coming down, we all need to be extremely careful." Health Minister Naba Kishore Das, Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra and Secretary to CM (ST) VK Pandian also spoke. In his welcome address, ACS Health PK Mohapatra referred to the initiatives taken for improvement of health infra. He said the Shri Jagannath Medical College at Puri would function from this year. Till 2024, the State would have two more medical colleges each year.

BJP demands sale of 16.5-MT unsold iron ore

STATE LOSING ₹10K CR FOR LACK OF INITIATIVE: MAJHI

BJD TERMS ALLEGATION BASELESS, POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Wednesday demanded sale of an estimated 16.5 million tonnes of iron ore worth an estimated ₹10,000 crore left unsold because of the Covid-19 situation. Addressing a Press conference here, Keonjhar MLA and BJP Legislature Party Chief Whip Mohan Majhi stated that to strengthen the State's economy and provide employment to local youths, the State Government must sell the

unsold iron ore. Majhi said a group of BJP legislators have written a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Coal and Mining Minister Prahlad Joshi and Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Minister to intervene in this issue.

He said that before Covid-19, it was estimated that there were 58,000 MT of iron ore, out of which 16.5 MT is now unsold.

According to the MMDR Act, the unsold ore could be stored up to seven months. Of the 16.5 MT of iron ore, 8.5 MT is lying at Nuagaon in Keonjhar district.

Majhi alleged that because of lack of initiative of the State Government, Odisha is going to lose revenue of ₹10,000

crore. He further stated that despite a High Court ruling that the Mines Principal Secretary would take a call on the issue, he has decided that there would be no extension in mine leasing.

Reacting to the statement of Majhi, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said Majhi's allegation is based on political consideration, baseless and without facts.

Mohanty said Odisha is the only State where mine leasing is conducted in a fair and transparent manner, which the Union Government has praised. "If Majhi thinks of any unfair work on the State Government's part, he can ask the Central Government to find out the truth," Mohanty added.

In Cuttack Arms racket busted; 11 guns seized, 4 held

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Commissionerate police claimed to have busted a major illegal firearms racket in Cuttack by seizing 11 country-made guns and 51 live rounds of ammunitions on Wednesday.

Four conduits involved in the gunrunning syndicate were arrested, said Commissioner of Police (CP) Soumendra Priyadarshi. The arrests and arms seizure were made by a special squad of the police led by Cuttack DCP Pratik Singh. Those arrested were identified as Tukuna Swain, Santosh Rout, Jyoti Ranjan and Prasant Rout. Tukuna Swain, who is the kingpin of the racket, used to

procure the illegal arms from Munger in Bihar, the CP said at a Press meet. Swain used to be a major supplier of guns to notorious gangster siblings D-brothers who are currently behind the bars, he said.

"A total of 18 cases are pending against Tukuna Swain, who is currently on remand, at various police stations in Angul and Jagatsinghpur districts. Five cases are pending against Santosh Rout in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, five cases against Jyoti Ranjan alias Lipu, nine against Prasant Rout are also pending," he informed. A special drive against organised crime syndicates has been expedited under the direct supervision of DCP Pratik

Singh, Priyadarshi said. As many as 43 illegal arms along with 225 rounds of ammunitions have been seized in the Cuttack urban police jurisdiction in the last three months, the CP said.

"The crackdown on use of illegal arms is highly required to prevent organised crimes and the Commissionerate police have successfully curbed the supply and manufacturing of illegal arms," Priyadarshi claimed.

The special drive against illegal country-made guns has yielded fruit as organised crimes have decreased considerably due to the continuous crackdown against firearm smuggling, he pointed out.

New vehicle registration from today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As the State Government on Wednesday allowed sale and service of automobiles, State Transport Authority (STA) has permitted registration of new vehicles by dealers. The registration will be done on VAHAN portal with effect from June 17.

The STA Chairman has written a letter to all Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) asking them to allow the dealers access to VAHAN portal until further orders.

Earlier in day, the Government allowed opening of automobile showrooms for sale and service of vehicles while announcing lockdown relaxations. The partial lockdown will remain in force from 5 am of June 17 to 5 am of July 1.

4 inter-State dacoits held in Joda

Pistol, mobile, cash seized

PNS ■ CHAMPUSA

The Joda police arrested and court-forwarded four inter-State dacoits who were planning to loot trucks carrying iron ore while passing between Joda to Rimuli situated on NH-520 of Keonjhar district. Joda PS IIC Padmalaya Sahoo revealed that on Monday night at about 3 pm a suspected Jyoti jeep having registration No.

JH-06D-4242 with four youths inside was parked at Kandra-Dampur road by the side of NH-520. A team of police consisting of ASI, Bileipada Beat house Azhar Khan, SI, Joda PS Sasmita Hari and others immediately rushed to the spot. Having seen police, the Jyoti sped away towards Jharkhand. However, the police team nabbed them and recovered from them a 9 mm USA-made pistol, mobile and cash.

Rourkela in top 50 of Global Mayors Challenge 2021

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Rourkela has been elevated to the final round among 50 champion cities in the 2021 Global Mayors Challenge, a worldwide innovation competition organised by the Bloomberg Philanthropies.

The steel city found the place as one of the finalists in India apart from Pune in 5 Asia-Pacific countries for urban innovations. The Bloomberg Philanthropies named Rourkela among top 50 cities for supporting solar-powered cold storage plus women entrepreneurship to reduce food waste.

This year's programme focuses on identifying the unique innovations by residents of cities in response to global Covid-19 pandemic. The 50 cities from 29 countries were selected based on four criteria -- vision, potential for impact, feasibility and transferability.

The Mayors from 631 cities in 99 countries had submitted their most promising ideas for consideration and from those, a committee of global experts has selected the 50 most innovative urban solutions to emerge in the wake of Covid-19 to advance in the competition. The 50 champion cities, representing the boldest urban innovations of the past year, that will advance to the final stage of the 2021 Global

Mayors Challenge, a worldwide innovation competition that encourages and spreads the cities' most promising ideas, the Bloomberg Philanthropies said in a release. The ideas provide a powerful snapshot of the innovation priorities of the world's cities. At the global level, innovations focusing on improving health and reducing unemployment were most common. Racial justice emerged as the area of highest priority for US cities while social inclusion topped the European submissions.

In Africa, where the world is experiencing its fastest rates of urbanisation, infrastructure was dominant. Nearly half of the submissions were generated in part through participatory processes with residents.

"These 50 finalists are showing the world that in the face of the pandemic's enormous challenges, cities are rising to meet them with bold, innovative, and ambitious ideas," the Bloomberg quoted Michael R Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies and 108th mayor of New York City, as saying. "By helping these cities test their ideas over the coming months, we will have a chance to identify cutting-edge policies and programs that can allow cities to rebuild in ways that make them stronger and healthier, and more equal and more just," he added.

Maoists injured in encounter in M'giri

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

Several Maoists were injured during an encounter with police in a forest under the Mathili police station in Malkangiri district on Tuesday, it was reported on Wednesday.

During a combing operation in a jungle near Kulabeda village, Maoists opened fire at the security personnel, who retaliated with controlled firing after warning the ultras, said Malkangiri SP Hrushikesh Khilari, adding that the injured Maoists fled into deep forests. The police recovered an INSAS rifle along with 34 rounds of bullets, an AK-47 magazine,



two INSAS magazines, four kit bags, digital cameras and other articles, Khilari said. Notably, Maoists are losing public support in this area.

Also, many ultras are suffering from Covid-19. The Malkangiri police administration once again appealed to the Maoists to join the mainstream of the society, become part of

peaceful developmental initiatives and get better medical treatment.

Meanwhile, six Maoists were killed in operations conducted by police personnel in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh early on Wednesday. A senior Maoist leader and a woman member were among those killed.

K'jhar Cultural Bhawan to function soon

Folk Art Day observed

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

The 3rd Folk Art Day at the district level was observed in virtual mode in Keonjhar on Monday. District Collector Ashish Thackrey, who was the chief guest on the occasion, told that folk art reflects the cultural life of a community but with the development of science and technology, folk art is losing its relevance and is on the verge of extinction.

However, the State Government has come forward with different schemes to preserve the folk art and make it relevant in the modern world, he told. Thackrey further declared that the district Cultural Bhawan will be oper-

ational very soon to provide a platform to the artists to develop their skills. ADM Santosh Kumar Naik, District Cultural Officer Sushree Manuswini Rout, DIPRO Sanjib Barik, vice-president, District Folk Artists' Association Loknath Sahu, eminent Pala Gayak and Sangita Nayak Akademi

awardee Govinda Chandra Panigrahi and master of puppet dance and member, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Chakradhara Parida among others participated in the virtual meeting and praised the different initiatives taken by the district administration to promote the folk art in the district.



Poet Mahapatra wins Covid battle



PNS ■ CUTTACK

Celebrated Indian English poet Jayanta Mahapatra has won the battle against Covid-19. The 93-year-old writer was undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College Hospital here since May 31. As he was suffering from age-related ailments and had diabetes, his treatment was challenging for doctors. Mahapatra is the first in the country to have won Sahitya Akademi Award for English poetry. He is credited with works 'Indian Summer' and 'Hunger', the classics in modern Indian English literature.

He was conferred with the Padma Shri in the year 2009. However, he returned the prestigious award in 2015 to protest against moral asymmetry in country.

Rahul birthday: Cong workers to help Covid victims

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Wednesday announced that its workers across the State would take up voluntary work to reach out to and help Covid-19 victims and their families on June 19, the birthday of former AICC president Rahul Gandhi.

In a Press release, PCC president Niranjana Patnaik stated that as Rahul Gandhi has urged party workers to help much fanfare with meetings, flags, banners, placards, etc., the PCC has asked party workers and units to distribute dry rations among distressed people, help and assist Covid-19 patients, besides distributing masks, sanitisers and medical kits, etc.

29,907-MT O2 sent from Odisha so far

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A total of 1,607 tankers or 29,907.468 MTs medical oxygen have been dispatched under the escort and supervision of the Odisha police so far from Rourkela, Jajpur, Dhenkanal and Angul districts of Odisha to 17 deficit States and Union Territories in the country. More are leaving on Friday.

During last 54 days, as many as 125 tankers were dispatched from Angul with 2036.562 MT, 340 from Dhenkanal with 5676.48 MT, 315 from Jajpur with 6420.949 MT and 827 from Rourkela with 15773.477 MT.

A total of 472 tankers with 9253.216 MT of oxygen have been sent so far to Andhra Pradesh, and 388 tankers with 6923.589 MT of oxygen to Telangana. Tamil Nadu has received 257 tankers with 4763.738 MT of medical oxygen. Similarly, Haryana has

received 182 tankers filled with 3331.793 MT of oxygen. 41 tankers with 660.051 MT of oxygen have been sent so far to Maharashtra; while 836.711 MT of oxygen filled in 50 tankers have been dispatched to Chhattisgarh.

Besides, 68 tankers have carried around 1319.962 MT of oxygen to Uttar Pradesh and 67 tankers with 1182.6 MT of oxygen have been sent to Madhya Pradesh till date, 22 tankers with 410.24 MT of oxygen have been sent so far to Delhi, four tankers with 107.89 MT sent to Punjab.

As many as 25 tankers with 500.56 MT has been sent to Karnataka, three tankers with 66.14 MT sent to Bihar, two tankers with 25.29 MT sent to Chandigarh, 21 tankers with 405.068 MT sent to Kerala, one tanker with 29.1 MT sent to West Bengal, two tankers with 52.1 MT sent to Jharkhand and two tankers with 39.42 MT of oxygen have been sent so far to Rajasthan in the last 54 days.

In Cuttack, BBSR 2 die, 4 hurt in road mishaps

PNS ■ CUTTACK/ BHUBANESWAR

Two persons were killed and four others injured in two separate road accidents in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar late on Tuesday night.

The driver of a pickup van lost his balance and the vehicle hit a stationary trailer at Manguli Square near Choudwar near Cuttack. As a result, two persons from Baleswar who were travelling in the vehicle died on the spot and another sustained critical injuries. However, the driver escaped unhurt.

In the other incident, three staffs of a PCR were injured when a truck hit the vehicle near the Saheed Nagar police station over bridge in Bhubaneswar. The truck driver fled from the spot. Police seized the truck. An investigation into the incident was underway.

In Nayagarh Youth stabbed to death over banana theft Accused arrested

PNS ■ NAYAGARH

A man was stabbed to death in a dispute over banana theft at Kadua village under the Khandapada police station in Nayagarh district on Tuesday night.

According to reports, accused Kathia Swain was spotted stealing bananas from a tree located in front of the house of one Panchanan Mallik in the village. In the meantime, Panchanan's sons Ramesh and Babula tried to nab Kathia, but he managed to escape from the spot. The two siblings then chased Kathia on a motorcycle and caught hold of him.

But the accused attacked the duo with a knife, stabbing Ramesh to death on the spot and leaving Babula grievously injured. Later, Babula was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). Police have arrested Kathia and are questioning him. Further investigation was ongoing.

HITTING THE BULLSEYE Lockdown must until infection is below 5 per cent



BISWARAJ PATNAIK

Only a week ago, Israel, the most daring nation on the planet, declared that it has developed a magic bullet cure for Covid. Only five doses would be enough to destroy the pathogen and, that too, within days. This medicine would make vaccines redundant. Hopefully, the claim turns out to be true. Only recently, Indian nuclear scientists made an incredible claim about a drug called 2-DG, which eventual-

ly turned out to be a big hoax. This glucose lookalike stuff, known since long as a cancer therapy drug, has not been approved by a single sane international agency anywhere in the world. If it were such a magnificent cure costing a beggarly 950 rupees per dose, all ailing Indians would have walked back home by now from the Covid hospitals.

As some experts say, the 2-DG fairytale was only a planned bluff to draw public attention away from scores of messed-up acts by the Central Government that has jeopardised lives of Indians by not being serious about vaccine procurement quite in time.

There may be a fleeting chance humans could halt the spread of SARS-2 and drive it back into nature as happened with its cousin SARS-1 in 2001 across China and elsewhere. Fortunately, this time, the severely acute global pandemic forced the best brains on the job of zeroing in on fairly

effective vaccines in record time. But vaccination is an expensive toll highway that few countries will be able to access in the near term.

Most countries are still far away from a vaccine. All the same, there is no cause for big worry anymore. Pandemics always end after a natural cycle is complete. Though vaccines have never played a significant role in ending them before, this time around the human species has been luckier.

Far fewer people will die from Covid-19 because of the wonderful vaccines that have worked like magic. There were no flu vaccines in 1918 when the world didn't yet know that the great influenza was caused by a virus H1N1.

In 1957, when the H2N2 pandemic swept the world, flu vaccine was mainly a tool given only to the military. In the H3N2 pandemic of 1968, the United States produced nearly 22 million doses of vaccine, but by the time it was ready, the

worst of the pandemic had passed, and naturally, and importance of the vaccine had diminished significantly. That 'too-little-and-too-late' phenomenon had played out again in 2009 when the world finally had the capacity to make millions of vaccines. But vaccines were ignored as the virus cycle was naturally over.

A descendent of the Spanish flu virus, the modern H1N1, circulates even today as does H3N2. Humans didn't develop herd immunity to them. The known phenomenon has the pathogen disempowered naturally because so many people became protected against it as they got infected or vaccinated.

The human immune systems learned enough about the pathogens to fend off the deadliest manifestations of infection. Humans and viruses reached kind of an immunological détente. Instead of being able to cause tsunamis of the devastating illness, the viruses

succeeded only in triggering small surges of milder illness as time rolled by. Thus, the pandemic flu degenerated into a seasonal flu in an endemic form. So, the current ravaging SARS-2 virus will soon join a handful of human coronaviruses that cause colds, mainly in the winter, when conditions favour their transmission. The fear will have gone by then. Deadly flu viruses last between two and three years before degenerating to ordinary, impotent viruses.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the World Health Organisation's leading coronavirus expert, believes that the faster the affected countries come on guard religiously, the earlier will be the conclusive defeat of the virus.

India got affected horrifically only because the present-day unruly youths and headless politicians defied all safety norms and spread the Covid virus without knowing they were causing havoc to all

other citizens. The same thing happened even in America and Europe. People disbelieved that a seemingly ordinary flu virus could be so deadly. The first-wave measures in India were fantastic. The whole country obeyed rules and the virus lost the power of attack within less than ten months.

But Indians did not care a damn about how the UK Government and the US authorities partly foresaw a deadlier second wave would be coming to impose failsafe protective behaviour. Indians, including top members of the executive, wrote off corona and flung all doors open to let mindless people mingle everywhere. The devastating consequences are being experienced even at this moment, and helplessly so.

Top medical experts have made it amply clear that the people will have to keep guard until the second year of initial attack had occurred. So by logic, until the end of 2022

spring, everyone around all locations has to keep using masks, maintaining social distance by avoiding crowded places and ensuring hand hygiene without once flouting on any single front. Vaccines have been a timely Godsend. As necessity has invariably been the mother of invention, the mankind today has organised the best possible protection. Indians are fortunate because it is the biggest vaccine producer in the world.

Lastly, there is big talk of the ECMO machine as if it's the magic bullet to cure anyone suffering from nearly-irreversible lungs infection. Although it is so reassuring to see country folks coming forward to support helpless patients with money in what's called crowd funding, it would be wise to know that the machine is not a treatment at all. It only temporarily oxygenates blood outside the body in a highly invasive manner.

The lungs, muscles and tissues keep live by getting oxygen. May God bring back home all patients on the machine hale and happy! Technicians to run the machines have a more important role than doctors in keeping the patients live. So, per every machine, at least three sets of technicians have to be kept ready as they have their emergencies too.

Lastly again, unless the infection comes below five per cent on any physical location, there should not begin any lockdown initiative at all. Even if some minor relaxation is to be granted only to restore livelihood, Covid-appropriate behaviour has to be strictly adhered to.

This can be achieved only by imposing hefty financial penalty. No extent of physical punishment would reform people with congenital disobedience traits. India is great in ancient history books. By and large, the people of India today are very difficult to tame.

'To relive socio-cultural life in exotic land satiating'

UAE Odia Society holds 'Global Raja Parba'

SAROJ MISHRA
BHUBANESWAR

The Raja Parba is a unique Odia festival that worships womanhood, fertility and regeneration. With the onset of monsoon, the festival brings joy, happiness and all hues of life, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, inaugurating the virtual celebration of the festival 'Global Raja Parba 2021' by the Odia Society UAE on June 13.

Patnaik said, "The Odia society in the United Arab Emirates is a vibrant organisation providing an enriching experience to all Odias living in that country. The effort to relive the socio-cultural life of the motherland in an exotic land is highly satisfying. I appreciate the endeavour of the UAE Odia society to connect people to our cultural roots." "My heartiest congratulations to all. I wish the celebration all success," the Chief Minister added.



Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan thanked for the celebration and emphasised the Raja Parba as an integral part of Odia culture. Eminent writer

Dr Pratibha Ray mentioned that whoever forgets the soil and culture is a lost person as he has forgotten his identity.

SJTA Chief Administrator Dr Krishan Kumar said the festival is the worship of Bhoomi Maata (Mother Earth) which he described as the biggest respect for nature. Noted Odia actor Kuna Tripathi said that today's generation needs to be committed to Odia culture and suggested that it should be protected.

Parents only can teach and handover the Odia cultural traditions and language to their children. UAE Odia Society chief Dr Chandrasekhar Khuntia, thanked the people from Odisha, who participated from all over the world. The message was shared for coming together to celebrate this great culture and tradition.

The programme which was celebrated with the efforts of Dr Khuntia, Rajashree Mohanty, Dr Manas Pradhan, Chandra Sekhar Dash and other members of the Odia society was attended by Odias from more than 21 countries in large numbers.

They also actively participated in the cultural programme of the event. As it was not possible to enjoy the Raja festival in person during the pandemic period, it was planned to celebrate this festival in a new way by the Odia Society UAE team. The cultural programmes began with the play of conch shells and prayers for Lord Jagannath.

A minute's silent prayer was offered to the Odias who lost their lives in Covid-19. Later Odia artists from eleven countries sang the Odia song "Banaste dakila gaja" and performed a dance programme. Kalpana Bal, the daughter of devotional singer Bhikari Bal and her daughter radio jockey Swati graced the occasion with rendition of devotional songs on Lord Jagannath.

Odia singer Padmini Panigrahi's song "Jhuma jhuma lagte aaj jhuma Jhuma", the message of coronavirus awareness through the amazing humour of S Bhavani Babu from Georgia (USA), the song of Arya Priya Dev of UK,

musical programme of Alok Panda and team from Sambalpur, Two wonderful songs Sabeswara Bhoi, enthralling flute recital by Annada Prasanna Pattanaik, devotional song by Arupanda Das, Dalkhai dance of Sanvika Raut of USA, devotional song rendition by devout doctor couple Rajinder Singh and Dr Kaur from UAE enthralled the audience.

Sand artist Sudam Pradhan was also present. The Lord's name chanting Madhavanananda Sankrita Mandal of Jamugaon, Nua village, Jagatsinghpur created a spiritual atmosphere.

Greetings were conveyed by Sarat Mohanty from Singapore, Adyasha Mallick from Indonesia, Dr Nalini Pati from Australia, Dr Tanmay Panda from Toronto, Santosh Kumar Mishra and Girija Shankar Padhi, Alok Kumar Panda of Singapore, Dr Manas Pradhan and Arup Das from UAE and all others across the world which filled with everybody with a sense of unparalleled nationalism.

Ganja smuggling in Gajapati; woman among 4 arrested



PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

The police here arrested four persons, including a woman, on the charge of smuggling ganja to AP and seized the contraband of 77.5 kg. A patrolling team comprising Adava IIC Anand Chandra Patra, SI Hrushikesh Panda and other staffs spotted the accused near the weekly

market area of Paniganda village. They were waiting for a vehicle to transport the ganja. They were about to leave the spot when police nabbed them. The arrestees were identified as Ajay Nayak of Barihapada, Alok Paricha of Tala Dakarpanka, Shyama Raika and Rebati Parichja of Baraha village. They were forwarded to the R Udayagiri court.

Webinar highlights B'pur schools' problems

Those under Sikshya Bikasha Sansthana

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA
BRAHMAPUR

The Bharatiya Sikshya Bikasha Sansthana, Odisha unit, conducted a webinar here on Sunday to discuss the myriad problems

of schools which are under its jurisdiction. More than 100 members, office bearers and teachers across the State participated in the virtual zoom meeting and gave their views on diverse issues of the impact of the ongoing pandemic.

They suggested measures to resolve the same. While Sansthan founder Maha Mandaleswar Mahanta Kamalakanta Das coordinated, Kriya Yogi Srijuktta Swami Shankarananda Giri Maharaj graced the event and blessed

the members. Former Deputy Speaker of Odisha Assembly and advisor of Odisha Agri Marketing Board Rama Chandra Panda recounted the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic and its catastrophic impact on the society in general and on education sector in particular.

Former MLA of Brahmapur Dr Ramesh Chandra Chyau Pattnaik assured the members to faithfully bring to the notice of the State Government the genuine problems of the schools under

the Sansthan. Notably, most of the schools of the Sansthan are currently facing a serious fiscal crisis since most of the parents do not pay the monthly school fees of their children due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, thereby making it difficult for the Sansthan to manage the schools.

The speakers urged the Government to engage or appoint trained teachers (Acharyas) of Sishu Mandir on full time basis, exempt the managing committee of these schools from

Government NOC, supply prescribed text books on concessional basis and bring a circular not to admit any student of Sishu Mandir in Government schools without TC.

Sansthan president Padmanabha Panda requested former MLA Pattnaik to bring these serious and genuine problems to the notice of the Government, Ganjam Collector, and respective district education authorities. Prakash Bisoyi offered a vote of thanks.

PREM holds webinar on child labour

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The People's Rural Education Movement (PREM) in association with the Educo, an international organisation, held a district-level webinar on the occasion of the World Day against Child Labour on Saturday. The webinar, attended by 145 participants from across the State, was focused on child labour issues, their causes, effects and solutions. While PREM director Dr Jacob Thundil stressed the need on the importance of education

and its role to stop child labour, Educo representative Ashish Nagori explained the context and background of children problems with statistical presentations.

Child Protection Ambassador Sushma Pradhan had presented her experience of the problems of children in her area, how children are working as labourers at an early age, child marriage is the result of which they are losing their childhood. The webinar was attended by district officials and child rights activists.



In Keonjhar

Crematorium worker seeks ₹5K to show deceased's face

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

A crematorium worker allegedly demanded ₹5,000 to show the face of a deceased woman, who had died of Covid-19, to her relatives in the Champua area of Keonjhar district.

A video of the incident has gone viral on various social media platforms. However, the crematorium staff, identified as Sidheswar Nayak, is seen refusing to show the body after realising that the incident was being recorded on a mobile phone camera.

The woman of Krushnapur in Champua block had succumbed to the virus while undergoing treatment at a Covid Hospital. Her kin brought the body to the crematorium after the hospital authorities handed it over to the family members.

Youth stabbed; friends hurt in brawl

Accused held; old enmity suspected

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

In yet another incident of the deteriorating law and order situation in Brahmapur, a youth was stabbed to death while two of his associates sustained critical injuries following an altercation at Uttaramukhi under the Bada Bazar police station on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Chandan Pradhan. The incident occurred when Chandan was gossiping with two of his friends. The accused identified as Sibaram Sethi

reached there and started abusing Chandan over old enmity. When Chandan reprimanded him, he took out a knife and stabbed him. When two of his friends came to his rescue, they also faced Sibaram's wrath and were critically hurt.

Getting information, police rushed to the spot and sustained the injured trio to the MKCG Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Chandan dead.

The friends of Chandan are still battling for life. Police have sent the body for post-mortem. The accused has been detained and being interrogated. Prima facie investigation revealed that incident is fallout of past enmity, police said.

Coronavirus renders two minors orphan in B'swar

7-yr-old girl, her 1.5-month-old infant brother

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Corona has rendered two siblings of a family in Nimatpur village under Bhograi block orphan as they lost their parents due to the disease recently.

The deceased are Kamlesh Panda (36) who was serving in the East Coast Railway and his wife Smita Panda (28) who was employed in the Acharya Harihar Cancer Hospital, Cuttack, as a nurse. They had two children, one daughter (7) and an infant son of one and a half months. Smita was under

treatment for Corona before her delivery. And, after delivering a girl child, she died. After about two weeks of her death, her husband Kamlesh too died of Covid during treatment.

Reports said after receiving information, District Child Protection Officer Jubak Majhi visiting the victim's house and informed them of various Government welfare schemes for the children.

However, their uncles and other family members while didn't allow him to take the children to the rehabilitation centre. They reportedly demanded compensation for the kin as the deceased were Corona warriors. They further demanded free education for the kids, as declared by the Government, reports added.

Amway launches Vitamin C booster

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Amway India announced the launch of its Nutrilite Vitamin C Cherry Plus intended for individuals with weakened immunity that comes with the benefit of extended-release technology.

With this, Amway India is further strengthening its nutrition and immunity supporting portfolio in the country by introducing a product for special dietary use for individuals with weakened immunity.

The Nutrilite Vitamin C Cherry Plus provides steady release of Vitamin C into the body for over 8 hours as it is formulated with extended-release technology, to provide all-day immune support. Commenting on the category, CEO, Amway India, Anshu Budhraj said, "Nutrilite



Vitamin C Cherry Plus is targeted for population with specific need and we are targeting to generate more than Rs 100 crore in revenue by 2025." CMO, Amway India, said. Ajay Khanna, "Nutrilite's new Vitamin C Cherry Plus is made with plant-based source of Vitamin C like Acerola Cherries, which are one of nature's most concentrated sources of Vitamin C grown in our own organic farms in Brazil. This product is intended for those adults who have weakened immunity."

In Banki Woman killed over dowry demand, police detain hubby

ATHAGARH: A 25-year-old woman was allegedly murdered for dowry by her in-laws at Kaimundi village in Banki area on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Babina Dhara of Phategarh village of Banki.

The incident came to light after Babina's uncle Pradeep Dalei reported to the police on Wednesday morning that his niece was beaten to death over a dowry issue.

Later, the police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. On the basis of an FIR lodged by the family of the deceased, the Banki police registered a case and started interrogating Babina's in-laws. Meanwhile, the police detained Bebina's husband Prakash Dhara and further investigations were underway.

World Clay Day held at Bhadrak

PNS ■ BHADRAK

The 12th World Clay Day was celebrated here with Covid guidelines on Wednesday (June 16). Along with the nature lovers, the founder of the day, environmentalist and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy celebrated it by smearing clay on their bodies.

The day was observed at the Salandi riverbank near the Sahapur Panchamukhi Hanuman temple. The participants decided to spread awareness for safeguarding earth, air and water. Tripathy appealed to people to give complete jus-



tice to the environment by the judicious use of different natural resources. Among others, Kalandi Mallick, Debasis

Panda, human rights researcher Sitakanta Tripathy and Debendra Bedi were present on the occasion.

Youth vandalises Tehsildar's car in JSpur

PNS ■ JAGATSIINGHPUR

A youth attacked the car of Erasama Tehsildar Chaudhury Pragnyanandan Das at Japa Chhak in Jagatsinghpur district while the official had gone there for enforcement of Covid lockdown norms. The incident which took place on June 14 was caught on camera. A team led by the Tehsildar found that three shops selling non-essential items were open at Japa

Chhak, violating the lockdown guidelines. When Das was reprimanding the shopkeepers and asked them to close the shops, one of the traders vandalised the official's car and broke the windshield.

But the Tehsildar and other officials, who were in the car, managed to escape unhurt. Later, on the basis of a complaint lodged by Das, the Erasama police have arrested the accused youth, identified as one Chandan Behera.

In Mayurbhanj Drunken warder attacks ASI during mask checking; detained

PNS ■ BARIPADA

Even though the State Government has made it mandatory to wear masks in public to prevent transmission of Coronavirus and to pay heavy fines for violation, many people are still flouting the rules.

Some of them react aggressively and resort to violence when they are asked to wear one. In a glaring example, a jail warder allegedly attacked an ASI during mask checking by the Udala police in Mayurbhanj district on Tuesday night.

According to reports, accused Baripada Jail Warder Manoj Kumar Kuanr, and three other persons were gossiping near the Aurobindo School here without wearing masks or any facial coverings.

In the meantime, a patrolling team of Udala police reached the spot and ASI Sashi Bhusan Parida questioned them for the violation of the Covid protocols.

The situation took a violent turn when Kuanr attacked the cop. As the patrolling team tried to overpower Kuanr and bundle him into the police vehicle, he scuffled and abused them. Later, he was taken to the Udala police station for questioning. It is alleged that he was drunk.

INBRIEF

U SAMMILANI HOLDS FAKIR MOHAN DEATH ANNIV

Bhubaneswar: Rich tributes were paid by the Utkal Sammilani to Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati on his death anniversary on Tuesday. Sammillani members led by its Mancheswar branch president Dillip Dashsharma garlanded the statue of the eminent writer at the entrance of Utkal University. Speakers recalled the great contributions made by Fakir Mohan, who also played a pioneering role for a separate Odisha State.



P'KHEMUNDI LAD QUALIFIES FOR INT'L TEST

Paralakhemundi: Lagnajet Mahanty, a student of Centurion Public School here, has qualified the Pre-Final Round for the international competition in astronomy and astrophysics to be held on June 29 in Germany. A pride of Gajapati district, Lagnajet's coveted victory to the final was well supported by Principal Sunita Panigrahi, teacher Sanjay Rath and Sirisha. He is son of Anasuya Padhi and Deepak Kumar Mohanty.



WHITEHAT JR JOINS CRY TO INSPIRE CHILDREN

Bhubaneswar: WhiteHat Jr, a leading edtech company, has partnered with non-



governmental organisation CRY (Child Rights and You) to inspire children to create mobile applications with social impact intent. The CRY would recognise/certify participating WhiteHat Jr students who create mobile apps furthering the cause of social impact. Senior CRY leaders would regularly engage with WhiteHat Jr students to inspire them to take part in social causes.

Odisha's future lies in minerals; stop looting them



MAYADHAR NAYAK

It is unfortunate that Odisha's chromite iron ore are export-

ed to China, Japan, the United States and other countries instead of their use in our own land. China has more iron ore deposits than India, but China has been saving iron ore for next 100 years by resorting to imports. China is considered to be the second richest country in the world. Japan has also taken over the global market for chromite products. The United States is making and selling weapons by using our chromite iron ore.

We are yet to know the art and technique of making or turning minerals into materials. So as long as we lag behind others in technical, scientific and practical know-how for

optimum use of our minerals, our future will remain bleak. Sukinda vally alone accounts for 7 per cent of chromite deposits of the Asian subcontinent. The Asian nations like, China and Japan, have already taken over a majority of the Sukinda chromite. Of late the United States has cast its voluptuous eyes on the Sukinda chromites.

When the Nilachal steel plant was set up in Sukinda, the workers complained of finding chromite and oil in the site. Soon there was a demand for relocating the Nilachal steel plant. In 1906, Bijubabu summoned me and asked, "Mayadhar. The Odisha exche-

quer is empty. Where will the money come from?" I said, "Sir, money is buried under the soil of Odisha. Dig in and get a bag of money." I asked him to cancel all mine leases and stop exports of minerals. The Government should take all the mineral resources under its control and sell them at market prices, I said and he nodded.

Luhapathar hills are constantly being subjected to looting in Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj districts. Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur districts have rich deposits of coal and the coal produced there is world famous. Kalahandi and Nuapada are

known for gems stone. Balangir has diamonds, pearls, rubies and gold worth millions of rupees. The bauxites in Koraput, Rayagada and Kalahandi districts are in disarray. From manganese to Chinese clay, 41 types of minerals are found in Odisha soil. But the no-holds-barred loot of minerals is going on with the help of the regime. Needless to say, Odisha can become the richest State in India if mineral loot can be checked and the resources can be properly utilised.

(Nayak is a trade union leader and is based at Jaipur Road, Jaipur, Mob: 9861034163)

Covishield doses gap based on scientific data: Min



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Facing criticism for increasing the gap between two Covishield doses without allegedly taking all the experts into confidence and being questioned if the indigenously-developed Covaxin contained newborn calf serum, the Government on Wednesday defended itself on both the counts and termed the politicisation of the issue as "unfortunate".

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the decision to increase the gap between two doses of Covishield has been taken in a transparent manner based on scientific data. "Decision to increase the gap between administering 2 doses of #COVISHIELD has been taken in a transparent manner based on scientific data. India has a robust mechanism to evaluate data. It's unfortunate that such an important issue is being politicised!" he tweeted.

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) chair N K Arora said, "The decision regarding enhancing interval between two doses of Covishield was based on scientific evidence and taken in a transparent manner." "There was no dissenting voice among the NTAGI members," he asserted.

Sharing details of the decision taken in this regard, the Health Ministry in a statement said that on May 13, it had approved extending the gap between the two doses of the Covishield vaccine from six to eight weeks to 12 to 16 weeks

Cong: Was double gap in doses prompted by vaccine shortage?

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday questioned the decision of the Modi Government to double the gap between the doses of the Covishield Covid-19 vaccine, asking whether it was prompted by a vaccine shortage.

The party also announced to launch a nationwide outreach programme to collect all the data pertaining to the pandemic, the affected families and losses incurred by the common man among others. Through the outreach programme, Congress aims to directly cover approximately three crore households in 30 days, as per an AICC press statement.

"This recommendation was taken up for discussion at the meeting of the Standing Technical Sub-Committee (STSC) of NTAGI held on May 13 under the joint chairmanship of the secretary of the Department of Biotechnology, the secretary of Department of Health Resources and the DG of the Indian Council of Medical Research," it said.

"The STSC of NTAGI gave the following recommendation: 'as per the Covid-19 Working Group recommendation, a dosing interval of minimum three months between two doses of Covishield vaccine was recommended,'" the statement said.

In both the meetings -- of the Covid-19 Working Group and of the STSC -- no dissent was given by any of the three members who have been quoted in the news report, namely Dr Mathew Varghese, Dr M D Gupta and Dr J P Muliylil, the statement said adding that Dr Varghese has denied talking to the reporter on the issue of his

Clarification sought over RTI reply that calf serum used in Covaxin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Earlier on Wednesday, the Congress sought a clarification from the Government following the controversy in the wake of an RTI reply that allegedly suggested that newborn calf serum has been used to make the Covaxin Covid-19 vaccine. Congress spokesman Pawan Khera said that the party wants "the Government and Bharat Biotech to respond to the reply that has come in the RTI, then we will give a detailed response on it".

Gaurav Pandhi, the national coordinator of Digital Communications and Social Media at AICC, had tweeted the RTI response to applicant Vikas Patni. The "newborn calf serum is used in the revival process of Vero cells, which is further used for the production of coronavirus during the manufacturing of Covaxin," read the response by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.

Taking to Twitter, Pandhi cited the RTI response and said that the Modi government admitted that the vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech "consists Newborn Calf Serum which is a portion of clotted blood obtained from less than 20 days young cow-calves, after slaughtering them." "This is heinous. This information should have been made public before," added Pandhi. He also attached a screenshot of the response to the RTI application as well.

As for the nationwide outreach campaign, it aimed engaging party cadres from Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) to the Panchayat level and establishing contact with target groups in urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

Local leaders will organise visits of senior leaders to the households of the Covid-affected families and help in disseminating information regarding health issues and post-Covid care.

BJP rejects Cong's Covaxin charge, says party committed 'a big sin'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the Congress of "communalising" and spreading disinformation on the indigenous Covaxin Covid-19 vaccine, the BJP on Wednesday demanded to know whether Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her party leaders, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, were vaccinated or not.

Addressing a Press conference here, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra rejected the Congress charge that Covaxin has calf serum, saying the Opposition party has committed "a big sin" by making such allegations.

He said the scientific community and the Health Ministry has said there is no calf serum in Covaxin and that it is "fully safe".

Patra said Congress has given a "communal angle" to the vaccination process and asked whether "Gandhi family members Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka and Robert Vadra have vaccinated themselves and if so when, where and which vaccine?"

As against Congress "disinformation", the BJP spokesperson said India is the fastest vaccinating country and that the efforts should be applauded.

Patra said the Congress is lowering the name of India and is only known for creating vaccine hesitancy and its wastage. He said Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh said no to Covaxin, Rajasthan threw vaccines into "garbage" and Punjab indulged in "profiteering".

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all other impurities," the Ministry said.

These cells are then washed with water, chemicals to make them free of the newborn calf serum. The vero cells are then infected with coronavirus for viral growth and in the process they are completely destroyed.

"It is used for the growth of cells, but neither used in growth of SARS CoV2 virus nor in the final formulation. Covaxin is highly purified to contain only the inactivated virus components by removing

Use of drone made mandatory for monthly recording of road projects



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Drones will play a major role in India's national highway construction plans. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) on Wednesday made the use of drones mandatory for a monthly recording of all national highway projects during their different stages of development, construction, operation and maintenance.

The NHAI has mandated

that contractors and concessionaires will carry out the drone video recording in the presence of the Supervision Consultant, and upload comparative project videos of the current and previous month on NHAI's portal 'Data Lake', capturing all project-related developments in a month.

Supervision consultants will analyse these video recordings and provide their inputs/comments in the digi-

tal monthly progress reports covering various aspects of the project development.

"Project Directors of NHAI shall undertake monthly drone survey from the date of signing of contract agreement till the start of construction of the project at site and also on completion of the project. NHAI will also undertake monthly drone survey in all developed projects where NHAI is responsible for oper-

ation and maintenance," the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a press note.

Further, mandatory deployment of a Network Survey Vehicle (NSV) to carry out a road condition survey on national highways will enhance the overall quality of the highways as NSV uses the latest survey techniques such as a high-resolution digital camera for 360 degree imagery, Laser Road Profiler and other latest technology for the measurement of distress in the road surface.

The decision to use drones comes a day after the Road Transport Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari reviewed the projects and asked the stakeholders including NHAI to put in use technology and innovative ideas to keep a track on the development of the highways and road infrastructure projects across the country.

As part of mission PRAGATI, the Centre has been monitoring the progress of several other major infrastructure projects including Bullet Train, Dedicated Freight Corridors and Ports among others.

Rajnath for respect for sovereignty as China muscled into Indo-Pacific

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As China is muscling into the Indo-Pacific region causing concern, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday called for an open and inclusive order in the region based upon respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations.

He also flagged terrorism and radicalisation as the "gravest threats" to peace and security in the world and said a collective approach is required to combat the challenges. This observation was in apparent reference to Pakistan aiding and abetting terrorism.

Rajnath made these assertions while addressing the 8th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus. The ADMM Plus is an annual meeting of Defence Ministers of 10 ASEAN countries and eight dialogue partner countries - Australia, China,



India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States. Brunei is the Chair of the ADMM Plus forum this year.

Refraining from naming China, Rajnath talked about the Indo-Pacific region stressing the need for rule-based order and stressed on "peaceful resolutions of disputes through dialogue and adherence to international rules and laws."

"India has strengthened its cooperative engagements in the Indo-Pacific based on converging visions and values for promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. Premised upon the centrality

of ASEAN, India supports utilisation of ASEAN-led mechanisms as important platforms for implementation of our shared vision for the Indo-Pacific," he added.

Highlighting India's concerns over maritime security challenges, he noted that developments in the South China Sea attracted attention in the region and beyond. It was in obvious reference to China's aggressive behaviour in the critical waterways.

"Maritime security challenges are a concern to India. The Sea lanes of Communication are critical for peace, stability, prosperity and development of the Indo-Pacific region," he stressed.

He hoped that the Code of Conduct negotiations will lead to outcomes keeping with international law and do not prejudice the legitimate rights and interests of nations that are not party to these discussions.

ED arrests one in ₹500-cr bank cheating case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Vivekanand Shankar Patil, Chairman of Karnala Nagari Sahakari Bank, Panvel, Raigad, Maharashtra, in a bank fraud case worth over ₹500 crore.

The fraud came to light after an audit was done at the behest of the Reserve Bank of India in 2019-20.

The audit revealed that Patil was siphoning off funds since 2008 from the bank through 63 fictitious loan accounts of Karnala Charitable Trust and Karnala Sports Academy, which were founded by him, the agency said.

No collateral securities were taken against such loans and no correspondence was made with the revenue authorities regarding payment of stamp duty for the purpose of purchasing immovable properties for which loans were obtained, thereby making the loans unsafe/unsecured, it said.

Further, all the above loan accounts that were used for transferring funds to the said trust, were found to be non-performing asset (NPA).

It was further observed that without following KYC norms and other RBI guidelines, the said loans were sanctioned and disbursed at the instruction and for gains by Patil, the agency alleged.

Patil was produced before the Special Court for PMLA cases in Mumbai on Wednesday. The court granted his custody till June 25.

Maritime museum to come up soon at Lothal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A museum dedicated to the country's 5,000-year maritime history will be set up in Gujarat's Lothal by the Culture Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Shipping, Port and Waterways (MoSPW).

The two Ministries on Wednesday inked a Memorandum of Understanding for 'Cooperation in Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat. According to a statement from the Culture Ministry, the world-class facility will be developed in the vicinity of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) site in Lothal, located about 80 km away from Ahmedabad.

NMHC would be developed as an international tourist destination where the maritime heritage of India -- from ancient to modern times



-- would be showcased and an edutainment approach using the latest technology would be adopted to spread awareness about the country's maritime heritage, it said.

The NMHC project has been taken up under the unique and innovative projects category of the Sagarmala programme under MoSPW. The Government of

Gujarat has transferred 375 acres of land in Saragvada village on lease for 99 years at a token rate to MoSPW.

"The complex will be showcasing the thousands of



year old maritime strength of India," said Culture Minister Prahlad Patel.

Renowned architect Hafeez Contractor has been selected as the Principal Project Consultant to prepare a master plan and requisite design and engineering documents for inviting EPC tenders and project management consultancy.

NMHC would be developed in an area of about 400 acres with various unique structures such as the National

Maritime Heritage Museum, lighthouse museum, heritage theme park, museum-themed hotels, maritime-themed eco-resorts and maritime institute among others which would be developed in a phased manner.

The unique feature of NMHC is the recreation of ancient Lothal city, which was one of the prominent cities of the Indus valley civilization.

"NMHC is to be developed as a first of its kind in the

country dedicated to the legacy of the maritime heritage of India, to showcase India's rich and diverse maritime glory," Mansukh Mandaviya, the Minister of MoSPW said during the signing ceremony.

The museum is set to be completed in three years from the date the project commences.

As a part of the museum, 14 galleries have been proposed to exhibit the evolution of India's maritime heritage during various eras.

Key galleries include mythologies and wilderness of Indian Ocean, Harappans: The Pioneer Master Seafarers, Indian Ocean: an Interactive Sphere, India's contact with the Roman World: The Quest for the Spice, Trade, Commerce and Cultural Interaction with China and South-East Asia.

Artefacts from Lothal and Dholavira will also be displayed at the NMHC complex.

CBI case against pvt firm for conning bank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against a private company Ruchi Global Limited and its directors for cheating a consortium of banks led by Bank of Baroda to the tune of ₹188.35 crore. The accused firm is registered in Mumbai and has a corporate office in Indore (Madhya Pradesh). The firm and the accused directors cheated the banks between January 1, 2016 and December 2017.

UP ASSEMBLY POLLS

Political parties kick-start battle

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the rumblings in the BJP, expulsion of rebel MLAs from BSP and the rebels seeking comfort zone, the political parties have kick-started the battle for the 2022 UP Assembly elections. The political activities are likely to gather pace with a sharp dip in the Covid curve.

The Samajwadi Party, facing existential crisis after three consecutive defeats in UP (2014 Lok Sabha polls, 2017 UP Assembly polls and 2019 Lok Sabha elections) is desperately trying to reinvent itself. The SP, having burnt its fingers after forging alliance with the Congress for the 2017 UP Assembly elections and later with the BSP and Rashtriya Lok Dal for the 2019 Lok Sabha

elections, seems to have grown wiser. It has ruled out alliances with bigger parties and decided to have a truck only with small parties.

The SP has already firmed up alliance with the Rashtriya Lok Dal, (RLD) a predominantly Jat political outfit.

Newly elected RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary has made it clear that his party will contest the assembly elections in alliance with the SP to send a message to its support base, the Jat community in western UP. RLD has also announced its support to SP candidates in the zila panchayat chairpersons' elections.

The SP has also firmed up the alliance with the Mahan Dal that is said to be popular among Maurya, Kushwaha and Saini caste voters in western UP

districts.

The Mahan Dal has also announced its support for the SP in the assembly elections. SP sources said the party leadership is worried by not getting the votes of non-Yadav OBCs and non-Jatav SCs in the last three elections which it lost.

"SP has repeatedly committed the mistake to overwhelmingly rely on the Yadav-Muslim vote bank, leaving the rest of the Hindu votes for the BJP," a senior SP leader said, adding: "To bridge this gap, the SP is forging alliance with small caste-based political parties to prevent the 'Ati Picchda' votes going to the BJP".

A SP leader said: "With 11 per cent Yadav votes and 19 per cent Muslim votes, we were actually treating the Muslims as a majority community."

Suspended BSP MLAs in dilemma over joining Akhilesh

Lucknow: The rebel BSP MLAs who met Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday are in a dilemma over joining the new party. Right now, the prime objective of the rebel MLAs is to avoid disqualification from the membership of Vidhan Sabha on the grounds of defection. Some of the rebels are trying to form a new party and later merge it with the SP while some are in touch with the BJP and also their parent party.

The sharp attack on the Samajwadi Party by the BSP chief Mayawati on Wednesday added to the discomfiture of the rebel MLAs. "The Samajwadi Party is propagating in the media that some BSP MLAs are switching over to the SP, which is a hoax. These MLAs were suspended from the BSP long ago for defeating the son of a Dalit in the Rajya Sabha elections to connivance with the SP and an industrialist," Mayawati said on Wednesday. **PNS**

UP BJP chief slams SP for Ayodhya land scam allegations

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh slammed the Samajwadi Party saying that those who denied the existence of Lord Rama were now questioning the land purchase for the construction of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya. Singh spoke to media persons after condoling the death of BJP regional chief Manvendra Singh's uncle at Vikrampur village of Etawah on Wednesday.

Attacking the Samajwadi Party further, Singh said that the party which did not have any love for Lord Rama and Lord Krishna, who denied the existence of Ram and Ram Setu and fired bullets at Ram Sevak were now talking about Ram Mandir. "Every Ram bhakt knows the truth about the transparent way the lands were purchased in Ayodhya," he said.

The BJP leader visited the Etawah village to pay homage to the BJP worker who died from corona on Wednesday and said that he was visiting the houses of all BJP workers and their families who lost their near and dear ones in the state during the corona period. Etawah also witnessed the death of BJP MLA Savitri Katheria's husband and regional vice-president Manvendra Singh's uncle. **PNS**

Priyanka slams Govt for irregularities in purchase of land in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Targeting the BJP Government over alleged irregularities in purchase of land by Shree Ram Mandir Trust, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that it had hurt people's faith and demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi to furnish the details of money spent as the Trust was formed by him. She also demanded a Supreme Court monitored probe in the murky land deal.

In a Facebook post in Hindi on Wednesday, Priyanka said, "According to news reports there have been irregularities in buying land. On March 18, two people bought land in Ayodhya for ₹2 crore. And within five minutes the land was bought by the Shree Ram Mandir Trust which was formed by the Prime Minister for ₹18.5 crore".

The Congress honcho said that it meant that the value of land increased by ₹5.5 lakh per second. "Can anyone imagine and believe this? Not to be forgotten, the entire money belongs to the people of the country who donated for the construction of Ram temple. In the sale deed of the land and registry papers, most of the names in the column of witnesses were common," she said.



Priyanka further said, "One of the witnesses is a Trustee of the Ram Mandir Trust (who is a former member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) and another one is a BJP leader and mayor of Ayodhya."

She further stated that the statement from Shree Ram Trust claimed that the rate of land increased which was why a whopping amount was paid. "As per reports, the value of land was around ₹5 crore as per the existing circle rate," she pointed out.

Kerala: Now, SDPI launches agitation for new district

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

As a prelude to its original demand for the Acreation of a separate Malabar State incorporating the regions of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), the political outfit of the extremist organisation Popular Front Of India, launched a month-long agitation on Wednesday in Malappuram asking for the setting up of a new district with Tirur as district headquarters.

According to a release issued by the SDPI, the next 30 days would see party activists staging demonstrations in front of all Taluk offices in the district calling for the immediate creation of the new district. The Muslim Youth League in its annual State conference held last year had declared that the party would launch an agitation for the creation of separate Malabar State bifurcating Kerala and adding some districts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

It may be remembered that Malappuram district was formed in 1969 by the then United Front Government led by the CPI(M) in which the Muslim League, CPI and some regional outfits were the constituents. The Muslim League had joined the alliance on the condition that a separate Muslim district would be formed as a quid pro quo.

The year 2021 being the centenary year of the Moplah Rebellion of 1921, an event dear to the Islamic outfits in the State. Though it was launched as an agitation against Britain demanding the restoration of the Khalifa of Turkey, the struggle turned out to be a pogrom in which thousands of local residents belonging to a particular community were annihilated for their refusal to undergo religious conversion.

"We have been subjected to the worst kind of treatment during the last five decades and we want speedy economic development of this region. The formation of a new district with Tirur as head quarters is the only solution for the same," said the SDPI release.

Tirur is the birth place of Thunchathu Ramanujan Ezuthachan, the father of Malayalam language who authored Aadhyatma Ramayanam. But the local body controlled by conservative Islamists have not allowed to instal a statue of the Father of the Malayalam language in his place of birth.

Leaders of the SDPI called on P Ubaidulla, MLA and submitted a memorandum demanding the formation of the new district.

Sadiq Naduthodi, vice president of SDPI told reporters that the agitation would be continued till July 16.

Police grills actor Mithun for inciting poll-violence

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Amid BJP's continued allegations of State repression of its workers and leaders the Kolkata Police on Wednesday grilled super star Mithun Chakrabarty for allegedly provoking violence during the elections.

The actor who was currently in Puri was virtually grilled for about 45 minutes by the additional Officer in-charge of the Manicktalla Police Station and was asked whether he had incited people through his speeches or not.

The Bollywood star had campaigned for the BJP in the State polls and had apparently in a bid to perk up the crowds recited a number of dialogues from Bengali films that he had

acted in.

Out of those dialogues a famous one was "Marbo ekhane ... Laash porbe smashaney (will hit you here and your corpse will fall at the funeral ground)" that Chakrabarty had repeatedly performed in his public meetings.

Post polls an alleged TMC supporter Mrityunjay Paul lodged a complaint with the Manicktalla Police station in North Kolkata seeking action against the Mumbai star. Subsequently cases were registered against him under Sections 153, 504, 505 of the IPC.

Chakrabarty had earlier petitioned the High Court for an anticipatory bail but the Court had directed him to cooperate with the police virtually.

Cabinet clears corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) by splitting it into seven entities to improve autonomy, accountability and efficiency. There are 42 Ordnance factories spread all over the country and its employees had opposed corporatisation when it was mooted more than two years back.

There are more than 82,000 employees in the Ordnance factories and many of them had resorted a stir in 2019 and gave a notice for agitation last year also against the proposal to corporatize these units. Based in Kolkata, the Ordnance factories have a history of more than 200 years old and now manufacture guns, missiles, tanks and other such equipment for the armed forces.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) last year in July had approved to convert the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) "into one or more than one 100

per cent Government-owned corporate entities".

The official communique regarding this also said then the corporatisation of OFB will improve its autonomy, accountability and efficiency in Ordnance Supplies.

It said the government has taken note of the strike by workers of the OFB against the proposed corporatisation and their concerns in the notice dated 04.08.2020 from the three recognized Federations of Defence Civilian Employees, proposing to call an indefinite strike from 06.00 am of 12.10.2020 by the Defence Civilian Employees of Ordnance Factories against the government move to corporatize OFB.

An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Defence to oversee and guide the entire process of corporatisation of the OFB, including transition support and rede-

ployment plan of employees while safeguarding their wages and retirement benefits.

The OFB products are priced on a cost based methodology without charging any profit over the cost of production for supply to the armed forces. Since the OFB is nominated as a production agency for supply of core items to the armed forces, no comparison with international prices can be made. This information was given by Minister of State for defence Shripad Naik in a written reply to Santanu Sen in the Rajya Sabha on September 19 last year.

The EGoM comprised Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar and Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievance and Pension Dr Jitendra Singh. **PNS**

TN logs 10,448 new cases, Kerala sees 13,270

KOCHI/CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu has stabilised the transmission of Covid-19 in the State as the data furnished by the Directorate of Health and Preventive Medicine shows that the instances of the pandemic was on a downward journey.

On Wednesday, the State logged 10,448 new cases while 270 succumbed to the pandemic. Coimbatore and Erode, the industrial hub, had 1,420 and 1,123 new cases respectively while Tirupur had 608 new patients.

Kerala, which begins the lifting of lock down by phases on Thursday registered 13,270 new cases and 147 deaths. Test Positivity Rate in the State as on Wednesday evening was 11.79. There were 1.09 lakh patients across the State as on Wednesday.

The liquor outlets in the State would start operating from 9 am on Thursday and there is no restriction other than the Covid-related standard protocols. Tipplers are welcome to visit the nearest outlet and pick up their favourite brands. The re-opening of liquor outlets owned by the State Government has come as a major relief to regular customers who were at the mercy of black marketeers who charged ten times the original cost. **PNS**

Maharashtra deaths drop to 1,236, cases rise to 10,107

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 deaths dropped to 1,236 in Maharashtra on Wednesday, even as the State logged 10,107 infections and recorded recoveries by 10,567 patients.

A day after the daily pandemic deaths - inflated by 1,070 "old" and unaccounted fatalities - jumped to 1,458 in the state, the fatalities went down to 1,236. The daily deaths comprised 237 new deaths and 999 "old" deaths.

The infections went up by 577 — from 9,350 on Tuesday and 10107 on Wednesday. With 1,458 deaths reported on Wednesday, the Covid-19 toll in the State jumped from 1,14,154 to 1,15,390.

With 10,107 fresh infections, the total infections in the State rose from 59,24,773 to 59,34,880.

As 10,567 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the State after full recovery, the total number of peo-

ple discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 56,69,179 to 56,79,746. The recovery rate in the state rose 95.69 per cent to 95.7 per cent.

The total "active cases" in the state dropped from 1,38,361 to 1,36,661. The fatality rate in the state went up from 1.93 per cent to 1.94 per cent.

Pune with 17,820 cases continued to be remain first in the state in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the state, while Mumbai with 17,732 stood second, followed by Thane (14,170), Kolhapur (12,487), Sangli (10,900), Satara (7488), Ratnagiri (7385) Sindhudurg (5057), Nashik (4718) Nagpur (4674), Ahmednagar (4619) and Raigad (4067).

Of the 3,86,41,639 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 59,34,880 have tested positive (15.36 per cent) for Covid-19 until Wednesday.

Currently, 6,78,781 people are in home quarantine while 5401 people are in institutional quarantine.

PM to launch crash course for frontline workers on June 18

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a 'Customized Crash Course programme for Covid-19 Frontline workers' on Friday via video conferencing.

The launch will commence the programme in 111 training centres spread over 26 States.

The launch on June 18 will be followed by the Prime Minister's address. Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey will also be present on the occasion. The programme aims to skill and upskill over one lakh Covid warriors across the country, according to the Prime Minister's

Office. The training will be imparted to Covid warriors in six customised job roles namely Home Care Support, Basic Care Support, Advanced Care Support, Emergency Care Support, Sample Collection Support, and Medical Equipment Support.

The programme has been designed as a special programme under the Central Component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0, with a total financial outlay of Rs. 276 crore.

The programme will create skilled non-medical healthcare workers to fill the present and future needs of manpower in the health sector, said the statement from the PMO.



UP to make stringent laws for gambling in public places

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government is expected to make more stringent laws for gambling in public places. The State Law Commission has not only made the Public Gambling Act enacted during the British era stricter but also put online gambling and various forms of betting in the category of non-bailable offences.

After studying the laws of several states, the draft of Uttar Pradesh Public Gambling (Prevention) Bill has been prepared under the chairmanship of a commission led by Justice A N Mittal. A draft scripted by the Commission was submitted to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday. It is believed that the state government would soon implement its own law across the state with regards to gambling.

The State Law Commission in its draft has recommended to increase the amount of fine along with the provision of maximum punishment of three years. The special component is that the draft of this new law has been made keeping in mind the fast growing habit of online gambling in the last decade.



Potters make earthen pots at their house as pots are in much demand during the summer season, at a village about 30 km from Jammu on Wednesday **PTI**

Mumbai cops, BMC launch probe into fraud in pvt HSG society vax camp

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After the residents of a city housing society alleged a fraud in the vaccination camp held by a private agency in their housing society, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Mumbai police on Wednesday launched independent investigations into manner in which three persons claiming themselves to represent two leading hospitals fleeced them of ₹4.91 lakh on the pretext of organising a vaccination camp.

A day after the residents of the Hiranandani Heritage Society comprising 435 flats in three towers at Kandivali (west) in north Mumbai flagged the issue in the media, BMC Additional Commissioner Suresh Kakani took suo moto cognisance of the residents' grievance and asked his deputy Vishwas Shankarwar to conduct an enquiry and submit his report within 48 hours.

Similarly after the office bearers of Hiranandani Heritage Residents' Welfare Association (HHRWA) lodged a complaint with them, the

Kandivlin police also launched investigations into the alleged fraud.

The HHRWA office bearers told the police that the three alleged fraudsters collected ₹4.92 lakh from 390 residents, housekeeping staff, security guards, drivers or domestic helpers on May 30 for conducting a vaccination camp.

The camp was conducted three facilitators, including Rajesh Pandey and Sanjay Gupta, who claimed to represent leading private hospitals like the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital (KDAH) and the Nanavati Hospital. They agreed to provide 400 vaccine doses for around ₹1,260 each, for which the society paid around ₹4.92 lakh. However the vaccination facilitator did not provide receipts for the money taken.

On their part, the KDAH and the Nanavati Hospital have distanced themselves from the questionable vaccination camp by saying that they had nothing to do with the vaccination camp conducted at Hiranandani Heritage Society. They said that they were not approached by the housing society.

The residents got suspicious after as none of the beneficiaries were given the vaccination certificates. They also noticed that the vials used for vaccination camp bore 'Not For Sale' stamp.

The society members approached one of the facilitators Sanjay Gupta for vaccination certificates.

However, Gupta said that the certificates would be given after 3-4 days. Later on the residents found out after June 8 that the certificates were being generated from different hospitals in the city, without the date of vaccination i.e. May 30.

Before long, some of the aggrieved residents checked their status on CoWin only to learn that they were yet to get their first vaccine dose, a development that prompted to lodge a complaint with the police.

Meanwhile, local BJP leader Yogesh Sagar alleged that there could be a nexus between the BMC and unscrupulous elements in such private drives and the beneficiaries must make full enquiries before getting lured by such offers.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Jab gap rethink

As confusion abounds, India still lacks a comprehensive outlook on tackling the virus

The latest UK medical study says the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine against the Delta variant of COVID-19 is 92 per cent effective against hospitalisation after two doses and suggests that it is "vital to get both doses as soon as they are offered to you, to gain maximum protection against all existing and emerging variants". That has made the Indian Government experts rethink on reducing the gap between the doses that now stands at 12-16 weeks. Should the Government be doing a rethink every time a study surfaces? Each has its own definition of the efficacy of the vaccines and doses. Percentages differ. Criteria also vary. Demographic situations in countries are starkly different. Each study has its own, internal purpose. The UK-based studies are different symptomatic infections. India is looking for effectiveness against severe disease. That leads to the question: Where is the real-world data in India? Take the jab gap issue, for instance. Independent virologists say there is no real-world data in India to establish the most effective jab gap. The Government on May 13 increased the gap to 12-16 weeks from six-eight weeks, reportedly based on a UK study even though the UK itself reduced the gap from 12 to eight weeks much before data was available on vaccine efficacy. The country merely went by the criterion of greater infectiousness of the variant. Now, there is a rethink in India about the gap. Members of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation say they only recommended a gap of 8-12 weeks because they had no data about efficacy of a gap beyond 12 weeks.



They say the 12-16 weeks idea came from the Government. Dr NK Arora, chairman of the COVID working group on vaccines, has no reply other than that there is no dissent within NTAGI. So, whom to believe? Secondly, Dr Arora quotes two Indian studies from PGI, Chandigarh, and CMC, Vellore, to say that irrespective of dose interval, "both the doses are having similar protection against the Delta variant (B.1.617.2) and Alpha variant (B.1.1.7)". But the Vellore study says: "Our study corroborates these studies that vaccination is protective, although we did not look at the variants responsible for the massive second wave." So, whom to believe? The issue is, India still lacks a comprehensive outlook on tackling the virus. Vaccination, medical care and safety protocols that make up the outlook are seen more in isolation than unison. The basic nature of the vaccine is it will not stop the infection, but only reduce the severity. That means medical facilities for COVID-19 positive patients are as important as vaccination. That also means the Government has to strictly enforce safety protocols. In reality, however, the availability of vaccine is erratic, there is no informed stand on jab gap, new cases continue to be reported and the States are eager to lift the lockdown substantively, if not fully, well aware that people are throwing caution to the wind, prompting fears of a relapse.

PICTALK



A boatman rows on a relatively clean Khushalsar lake in the middle of the old city in Srinagar

PTI

Blood money

The closed case of the Italian marines is mired not only in legality but in morality, too

More than nine years after they shot dead two fishermen off the Kerala coast, the Supreme Court has quashed the criminal charges against Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girona, the two Italian marines on board the *Enrica Lexie* and accepted the compensation of ₹10 crore deposited by the Government of Italy. The Division Bench directed the Governments of Italy, India and Kerala to coordinate in respect to disbursement of the compensation, which is to be deposited with the Supreme Court Registry. With this, all legal proceedings initiated against the marines stand cancelled. Doramma, the widow of Valentine, and the sisters of younger victim Ajeesh Pink are to get ₹4 crore each. The owner of the damaged boat, *St Antony*, would get ₹2 crore. This is over and above the *ex gratia* amount of ₹1 crore each paid to the parties. The long-drawn case has already vanished from the public mind, especially after the legal heirs of the deceased fishermen withdrew their affidavits and submissions to the Kerala High Court in April 2012. The fate of the case was sealed then and there, according to a Kochi-based marine law expert.



The incident dates back to 2012 when Kerala was ruled by Oommen Chandy and the Union was headed by Manmohan Singh. However, the Catholic Church's role in the issue hasn't been in the public domain. For one, there has been Cardinal George Alencherry, head of the Catholic sect in Kerala, who was quoted in the immediate aftermath of the mariners' arrest as boastfully saying that he would remain in "close contact with the Catholic ministers of Kerala who would help pacify the situation". Meanwhile, the take of Jayapalayan, president of the South Indian Fishermen's Federation, is that the blood money concept is alien to India. Similarly, VM Shyam Kumar, the counsel for the sisters of Ajeesh Pink, asked: "Italy could afford to pay the compensation. Had the ship belonged to a poor country, what would be the consequences?" Those who question the legality of blood money in the *Enrica Lexie* case should bear in mind that many Indians accused of murder have been saved in West Asia after paying blood money. Last week saw MA Yousuf Ali, a Gulf-based businessman, paying ₹1 crore to save Becks Krishna, a Thrissur youth, from the gallows for killing a Sudanese youth in the UAE. It should be two-way traffic, isn't it?

The lost cause of ingenuous tribals

The poor forest dwellers are at the mercy of no one, despite being the best caretakers of the forested greens and the environment



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

The recent upsurge in Maoist violence puts the focus back on tribal issues, rarely discussed in the mainstream. Even though the tribal population is nine per cent, they live as invisible Indians. Their presence is felt only when they make headlines for the wrong reasons, for obstructing traffic with their protests, for instance, and thereafter again fade into oblivion.

These are the people who have been on the frontline of India's war of independence and the ones to have suffered the most. The British branded 150-odd tribes as "criminal tribes" by imposing the Criminal Tribes Act, starting in 1871. It took the Nehru Government five years to de-notify these tribes and replace the derogatory law on April 31, 1952. *Adivasis* now celebrate April 31 as the alternative Independence Day.

Even today, tribals live on the sidelines of the Indian political landscape. They are indeed the marginalised entities in India's political life. The *adivasis* have lived in forests at peace with nature for ages. But they have been castigated, charged, blamed and demonised, often stripped of their basic human rights, their right to life and property included. They are evicted from their dwelling places in the name of conservation and national interest. To use the conservationist lingo, their habitat is shrinking. It is being usurped legally. Despite some sops here and there, the condition of tribals has not improved even after Independence. They remain on the margins, their life and livelihood constantly under the threat. The neo-colonial mindset has replaced the older one. Conservation is one big plank that is a legit and subtle way to evict tribals from their land.

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, for the first time recognised the rights of tribal communities to forest resources. Hitherto, Government Acts and policies did not recognise the symbiotic relationship of the forest dwellers with the forests. This, ironically, was always present in their dependence on the forest as well as in their traditional wisdom for the



conservation of forests. The path-breaking law gave three generations of tribals the right to live on their land. But they were asked to prove their ownership, which most of them can't and that is the biggest stick to beat them up with. Though the authorities want them to show papers of the inheritance, they have lived on the land even before paper was invented! Even so, they have been branded a "danger to forest land and wildlife".

The *adivasis* have managed their environment better than neo-conservationists. People in Gosaba, Sunderbans, are killed by the Bengal Tigers. There is a village in Gosaba named Vidhwapalli, a village of widows whose husbands were killed by tigers. The very same people feed the tigress who takes shelter in the village when she is about to deliver her cubs! Now think about the Delhi ridge or Mumbai's Aarey forest constantly waning each passing year. Nearly 80 per cent of biodiversity in the world is in areas inhabited by tribals. They have conserved the forests pretty well. They take from it what they need, without making permanent damage and giving time and chance to nature to recuperate and grow.



THERE IS A VILLAGE IN GOSABA NAMED VIDHWAPALLI, A VILLAGE OF WIDOWS WHOSE HUSBANDS WERE KILLED BY TIGERS. THE VERY SAME PEOPLE FEED THE TIGRESS WHO TAKES SHELTER IN THE VILLAGE WHEN SHE IS ABOUT TO DELIVER HER CUBS

Their religious practices forbid them to even enter the core areas. The modern conservation programmes would have these forests as open zoos for the inspection of tourists.

While tourists and other outsiders are welcome, the *adivasis* are not. They are aliens in their own homes. Even if they venture inside, they are beaten up, tortured, even killed by rangers. Their houses are burnt and properties vandalised. Not very long ago, a 13-year-old boy was shot in the Kaziranga for wandering inside the protected area. The park has a shoot-at-sight policy. The Jenu Kuruba, tribals living in the Nilgiri in Karnataka, are frequently shot while collecting mushrooms. Over 50 people have been shot dead by the guards in the last five years. Of course, you haven't heard or read about them. They were seldom reported!

Another aspect of tribal persecution is the Maoist violence in forested areas. It is often reported from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and others. The security forces are up against the armed resistance in the forests. However, not all tribals are supporters or sympathisers of Maoists. Most of them face

pressure both from Maoists as well as the security forces. They are routinely rounded up and made to suffer.

It is indeed a problem that refuses to go away. The Government, for its part, has never tried to find the root of the problem and solve it politically. The Maoists draw cadres from the wronged people. Since the exploitation doesn't end, they never run out of cadres. The basis of the problem is indeed economic being addressed with force. Since 2010 when it was at its peak, it has come down. It is now confined to around 30 districts, but there is a long way to go. The gains of security forces are no guarantee that the problem is over. Maoism is a problem born out of the social and economic milieu of the region and lack of development. The Government gives them enough fuel and exploitation that oils this war machinery.

If the current rate of exploitation of nature continues, we may lose the forests and forest dwellers. And, with them, their wisdom to survive without harming nature.

(The writer is a columnist and documentary film-maker. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNSCRUPULOUS ELEMENTS PREY ON MISERY

Sir — As per reports, a housing society in Mumbai's Kandivali area has complained to the police that it was cheated by some persons who organised a COVID-19 vaccination camp by claiming to represent a private hospital, and the vaccine administered could be spurious. The society, Hiranandani Heritage Residents Welfare Association, has now sought investigation into the matter.

A vaccination camp was arranged by the residential complex on May 30. But later it found that the Co-WIN portal did not have any record of the people who participated and they received certificates in the name of different hospitals, it said. "If the vaccine is found to be spurious, the people who got vaccinated will have a medical emergency to deal with. Therefore, there is an urgent need to investigate the whole episode so that such fraudulent activities are not repeated at other places," the complaint stated.

The HHRWA had organised the camp through a person who claimed to be a sales representative of a private hospital in Andheri. As many as 390 members received the jabs at ₹1,260 per person. They were shocked to receive vaccination certificates in the name of Nanavati Hospital, Lifeline Hospital and NESCO COVID Camp, among others. Nanavati Hospital denied any involvement and said they're themselves a victim of the situation.

There are even doubts whether the residents were actually given Covishield or if it were just glucose or expired/waste vaccine. Meanwhile, the BMC, from this week, has made signing of a Memorandum of Understanding mandatory between private vaccination providers and housing societies if such camps are organised.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

THE REAL FACE OF THE G7 SUMMIT

Sir — The group of seven largest industrial and developed nations was founded in 1970 with a focus on economic issue and to resolve global problems. The 47th G7 Summit was held in the city of Cornwall, the United Kingdom. The western media focused only on the

Police high-handedness must stop



Within a fortnight of a Supreme Court (SC) Bench of Justices UU Lalit and Vineet Saran quashing a sedition FIR against veteran journalist Vinod Dua in Himachal Pradesh for his criticism of the Narendra Modi Government's handling of COVID-19 and the use of the Pulwama attack and Balakot airstrike to seek votes, the SC Bench upheld citizens' "right to criticise or comment upon the measures undertaken by the Government and its functionaries". Dua's March 30, 2020, statements had neither incited people to violence against the Government nor created disorder, it added.

Or what the Allahabad High Court said when it released Dr Kafeel Khan: "A complete reading of the speech *prima facie* does not disclose

any effort to promote hatred or violence. It also nowhere threatens peace and tranquillity. The address gives a call for national integrity and unity among the citizens." Now, the three orders by the Delhi High Court were delivered by Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup Jairam Bhambhani, perhaps the first instance of a court calling out alleged misuse of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against individuals in cases that do not necessarily fall in the category of "terrorism" cases. The Bench's observation came while granting bail to JNU's Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal, along with JMU student Asif Iqbal Tanha, and gave the Delhi Police a dressing down for "casually" invoking provisions of anti-terror laws.

This is not only a slap to the Delhi Police, which is run by Amit Shah's Home Ministry, but also to the Delhi Government for giving prosecution sanction against the students. Actually, the High Court has rightly reminded us of the basic tenet. The police, who often slap outrageous charges on protestors, should heed it.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

beaches and the glowing sun.

The G7 grouping took three important decisions to restrict China, which is considered to be moving in an unethical way. The first is the threat to humanity, the sanction of \$40 trillion and re-investigation into the alleged Wuhan lab's virus leak. We have always seen that when a programme is being held in developing nations, the news and articles underlining the headlines of "Hiding the poverty" in the international media pops up. But when the same thing happens in the developed world, it is hushed up. The poorest city of the United Kingdom, Cornwall, where the G7 summit was organised, doesn't get any space in international coverage.

The powerful nations didn't even focus on how to address the issue of the appetite of the poor by providing shelter to their bodies and food to their stomach. It seems that poverty is the selling point only in certain cases.

Aman Jaiswal | New Delhi

THE MISSING SPIRIT OF RAJA FESTIVAL

Sir — Raja, the famous festival of Odisha, was badly hit by the COVID-19 second wave. Due to the rising cases, the Government imposed lockdown in most of the state. During this festival in the pre-pandemic times, people used to wear new clothes, moved around having fun, enjoyed savouries and involved themselves in "Raja Mauja" for various games and activities.

But this year, the evergreen and colourful Raja witnessed no colours due to the second wave of the pandemic. People, being in a state of fear and negative mindset, were adverse to letting their hair down. Maybe the State Government should start a show that will add some colour and flavour to the life of the Odia people.

Sarmistha Pradhan | Cuttack

SOUNDBITE

Till the end, I tried my best to keep the family and the party united. I even went to my uncle's house. But all went in vain.



LJP leader — Chirag Paswan

At the moment, it doesn't look like this particular disease of a zoonotic origin came from a lab.



UK Prime Minister — Boris Johnson

Taking Mom home in Shimla after two years. She has stayed indoors all this time. Now vaccinated with both jabs.



Actor — Anupam Kher

I will try to achieve the time of 11.15 seconds in the upcoming Indian Grand Prix IV in Patiala on June 25.



Ace sprinter — Dutee Chand

Congress president Sonia Gandhi and respective PCC presidents will write condolence letters to the next of kin of those who passed away due to the pandemic.



Congress general secretary — KC Venugopal

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

ITALY'S EXIT WILL HIT CHINA'S PLANS

Europe took a long time to see through Chinese strategy of gaining control of strategic assets



GAURIE DWIVEDI

From football teams to strategic infrastructures like ports and airports, China's influence in Europe has grown exponentially in under two decades. Chinese companies own four airports including Frankfurt-Hahn Airport in Germany, six ports and a dozen European soccer clubs. By the time Europe started screening Chinese investments in 2019, Beijing's clout had risen manifold. And Italy's endorsement of Xi Jinping's flagship project Belt and Road Initiative gave it the legitimacy it needed. A G-7 European country endorsing a global program did more damage to European unity than any other recent event. The statement of Mario Draghi, Italy's Prime Minister, indicating the possibility of Rome undoing its biggest geo-political blunder in decades, could derail a lot of China's European plans, which were stitched on the back of its seemingly large wallet.

To deepen its access inside Europe, Beijing had focused on Greece and Italy both of whom were struggling with high debt levels. Heavily-indebted Athens felt it would be better off encashing Chinese cheques than following EU's prescription to cut costs any more. Greece also upgraded its relationship with China a year after the Chinese had gained control of the



Greek port of Piraeus. Under Chinese ownership, Piraeus emerged as the second-biggest container port in the Mediterranean and Europe's biggest passenger port. Piraeus' elevation sparked major fears of loss of trade in Rome, causing it to embrace China and the BRI. China successfully exploited the several fault lines that existed in Europe; the one between industrialised North and relatively weaker South. Add to this, the desperate fund crunch of stagnant Southern economies like Italy and Greece which made large Chinese cheques even more appealing. Europe took a long time to see through the Chinese strategy of gaining control of strategic assets, building inroads into prominent think tanks and exploiting the continent's vulnerabilities to build political leverage.

Beijing engaged with each of countries on the European continent. First, China identified weaker economies like Greece and Hungary to break the EU's solidarity. Beijing engaged with non-EU countries like Serbia that were in dire need of capital. It continued to build trade ties with large economies like Germany and the UK. But China never lost sight of its geo-political ambition. The EU failed to speak in a single voice after Beijing lost the case regarding its acquisition of the Scarborough Shoal in international tribunal UNCLOS in 2016. Greece, Hungary and Croatia had thwarted EU efforts to name China despite Manila's unequivocal win at the tribunal. Recognising the need to act against China's lop-sided economic model, ahead of the EU-China summit in 2018, 27 of the 28 EU country ambassadors to China signed a report charging the BRI with pushing "the balance of power in favour of subsidized Chinese companies". Nine months later, however, Italy formally joined the BRI.

In a post-pandemic world order, an increasingly isolated China is seeing the world coming together against it. With America's renewed push to forge trans-Atlantic cooperation to take on Beijing, Draghi's decision could prove to be the biggest reset on the continent. An EU veto on Chinese investments and a revisit on the EU-China investment deal can put intense pressure on Beijing. BRI holds the key to China's power, in Europe and elsewhere. Italy's decision could begin the unwinding.

(The author is a senior journalist and Visiting Fellow at the United Services Institution of India. The views expressed are personal.)

Why it is difficult to make things happen

No matter how good an idea is, it will get converted into a policy only if the ultimate decision-making authority, a politician or a group of politicians, puts its stamp on it



ANIL SWARUP

Things don't happen easily in the government. And, if they do happen, it is difficult to sustain them. I had been of the view that for anything to happen and sustain in the government it had to be politically acceptable, socially desirable, technologically feasible, financially viable, administratively doable and judicially tenable. This in itself was quite a handful. However, the unexpected agitation against the Farm Bills has compelled me to add another dimension: "Emotionally relatable".

There is a feeling outside the government that not much happens in the government. Not only that, each one of them will have an idea on how to make-things-happen. However, if the six-fore-mentioned aspects are not taken into consideration, the idea will perhaps not travel much distance on the ground. Let us consider each one of them.

No matter how good an idea is, it will get converted into a policy only if the ultimate decision-making authority, a politician or a group of politicians, puts its stamp on it. For example, many would argue that reservation in government jobs is adversely impacting governance. If there is a referendum, perhaps the majority will vote against it. But can we dispense with it now or at any time in the future? Perhaps not, because it will never be politically acceptable. That is why decision making in democracies takes much longer than in countries like China. A lot of time gets spent in consensus building. This is not to say that democracies are worse than autocracies because political acceptability, as an underlying principle of democracy, has its own merits.

Social desirability of an idea is equally important even if it may not appear to be so. It is important in the context of implementation of an idea that may be politically acceptable. A number of schemes announced by the government, hence politically acceptable, fail on the ground because while formulating the scheme, the social context is not taken into consideration. Thus, the infamous Family Planning effort of the government during the dark days of Emergency not only met with failure but led to the fall of the government. This may be an extreme example but many schemes and ideas face enormous problems if they are not socially desirable. Understanding the needs of the stake holders is critical for the success of any scheme.

Technology is changing by the day. Hence, the feasibility of technology becomes an important determinant in the implementation of an idea and sustaining it. Many of those that have not travelled to various parts of the country advocate the use of internet to reach out to children during COVID-19 times for schooling. They are perhaps unaware of the fact that internet has not reached out as yet to a large part of the country. The situation may change over a period of time but as of now, it may not be possible to reach out to all the children through the net.

The most critical part in implementation of an idea is the availability of funds to back such an idea. Till a couple of years ago, number of railway lines were announced by successive Ministers for Railways in their budget speeches (fortunately this has ceased now) without the funds to back them. These railway lines were socially desirable and technologically feasible.



SOCIAL DESIRABILITY OF AN IDEA IS IMPORTANT EVEN IF IT MAY NOT APPEAR TO BE SO. IT IS IMPORTANT IN THE CONTEXT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IDEA THAT MAY BE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE. A NUMBER OF SCHEMES ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HENCE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE, FAIL ON THE GROUND BECAUSE WHILE FORMULATING THE SCHEME, THE SOCIAL CONTEXT IS NOT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION

The author is a former IAS officer. The views expressed are personal.



They were obviously politically acceptable as well. But they never happened on the ground. Similar apprehensions are raised about the recently announced National Education Policy (NEP). The Policy recommends allocation of six per cent of GDP to Education Sector. This is nothing new. It was recommended long ago by Dr Kothari in his Report as well. But the money never came despite a cess levied by the government to raise resources. In fact, during the period from 2014 to 2018 the budgetary allocation to school education actually came down in real terms. Without requisite money to back ideas, such ideas will not travel a long distance.

Even if we have the requisite money, if the desired human resources are not available, the idea will not work on the ground. One of the reasons of failure in delivery of health care in rural areas is the shortage of doctors. Health care is politically acceptable and socially desirable. There is reasonable amount of money available. But shortage of human resource is a major constraint. School education in the country is another example where there is an acute shortage of human resources. There is an additional

problem relating to their management as well. This management of the teachers who are the pivot of school education, has left a lot to be desired. The biggest mafia in school education is the one that provides pre-service training, the B.Ed and D.El.Ed colleges. A large number of them exist only on paper but they can give you a degree. The selection of teachers to government schools is another racket. One former Chief Minister is behind the bars for manipulating selection. What can be expected of teachers who have come through such a process? Human resource management is the key to the success of any programme.

Finally, no matter what the government does, the final arbiter is the judiciary. It can undo all that may have been attempted. The over-indulgent judiciary can make matters worse.

The Farm Bills appear to be fine on all these dimensions mentioned above. Even those who are opposing it on account of political considerations were themselves pushing for such reforms when they were in power. Most of them would privately agree that the Bills would benefit the farmers and will free them from the

clutches of "middle-men". However, opposition to the Bills was still so huge. It reflected the inability of the proponents to make this idea "emotionally relatable" to the farming community. The Bills are indeed socially desirable but the government which has otherwise demonstrated to be so skilful in communicating messages, has apparently been unable to do so in the present instance. Hence, the Bills that are so beneficial to the farmers are not perceived as such. There is, therefore, this problem of perception and a large number of farmers are not able to relate emotionally with the Bills.

The listing of these limitations does not mean that things don't happen in the government. The success of Ayushman Bharat, the Coal Block auctions and unprecedented increase in coal production during 2014-16, the successful management of Covid-19 fallout in Mumbai and many districts of the country and the like prove that it-can-happen. These programmes/schemes/efforts understood these limitations and worked around them. There is indeed a lot to learn from how they made-it-happen for others to make-it-happen.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

YOU NEED TO TRAIN DIFFERENTLY AND ADAPT TO THE CHANGE. IN ENGLAND, THE LENGTH IS FULLER BECAUSE OF THE SWING.

— INDIAN BOWLER ISHANT SHARMA



INDIA ARE A WORLD-CLASS OUTFIT WHO POSSESS MATCH WINNERS ALL THROUGH THEIR LINE-UP. WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION.

— NEW ZEALAND HEAD COACH GARY STEAD

Iran: giving up on Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

An immediate end to US sanctions and a quick rollback of Iran's deviations from strict adherence to the treaty's terms might have done the trick

Lifting Trump's sanctions, @SecBlinken, is a legal & moral obligation, NOT negotiating leverage. Didn't work for Trump - won't work for you," tweeted Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif late last month. But what if US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (and President Joe Biden) have just decided that reviving the 2015 nuclear deal is a lost cause?

There are quite a few people in the Biden administration, and particularly in the State Department, who can count to twenty without even taking their shoes off. So they must have realised that there was going to be an election in Iran next Friday (18 June). Many of them would even have known that this time the



GWYNNE DYER

The author's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy (and Work)'. The views expressed are personal.

Iranian election has been rigged so that the 'hard-liners' are bound to win it.

Joe Biden therefore only had five months to reverse Donald Trump's deliberate wrecking of the 2015 treaty that prevented Iran from working on nuclear weapons. After the June election, the wreckers would be in power in Tehran, and they would sabotage the talks.

So why didn't Blinken's people move faster?

It was the Trump administration that unilaterally pulled out of the JCPOA treaty (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) and slapped crippling economic sanctions on Iran in 2018. Since then, Iran has repeatedly said that if the US just cancelled Trump's sanctions and rejoined the treaty, all would be well. Now



it's probably too late. Iran did nothing for more than a year, waiting and hoping that the other signatories (Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China) would find ways to help Iran get around the American sanctions.

The other countries all agreed that Iran was not violating the terms of the treaty in any

way, but none of them wanted to get into a showdown with Trump by breaking the US sanctions. So when Trump tightened the sanctions further in May 2019, crushing Iran's remaining oil exports, Tehran began to go beyond the treaty limits - a little bit. It didn't leave the treaty, but it began to enrich its uranium a

bit beyond the treaty limit of 3.67% (far below weapons-grade). It allowed inspections to continue, it kept nothing secret, but every three or six months it moved the enrichment up another notch to create some counter-pressure on the other signatories to sort their American problem out.

Finally, Trump lost the 2020 election, Biden replaced him in the White House last January, and it became possible to repair all the damage. However, the new secretary of state, Antony Blinken, then announced that Iran would have to roll back all its post-2019 increments to the enrichment process BEFORE the US lifted its sanctions.

The shoe is clearly on the wrong foot there. It was the United States that showed itself

to be untrustworthy by quitting the treaty. The Iranian economy paid the price, starving in the gutter for three years.

The question of who goes first is fundamentally childish if there is trust, but America has forfeited the right to demand that Iran trust it. Biden and Blinken must know that demanding Iran go first dooms the negotiations, and that a rigged election in Iran will shortly close the door on the deal for good. It would break them off, because Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has arranged for his faithful supporter Ebrahim Raisi to win the election by banning more open-minded candidates from running at all.

Both men are fiercely anti-Western ultra-conservatives, but

they wouldn't have got away with rigging the election like this four years ago, when the treaty was new and popular hopes were still high in Iran. The despair created by Trump's renewed sanctions killed those hopes. Biden may be wrong to let the JCPOA treaty die. An immediate end to US sanctions and a quick roll-back of Iran's deviations from strict adherence to the treaty's terms might have been done the trick. Even a new hard-line government in Iran would have found it hard to unpick that sort of done deal.

But it would have been a gamble, and Biden seems to have decided that he couldn't afford to risk his political capital that way. It will be years before we know if this was a fatal mistake (and who it was fatal for).

BIDEN, PUTIN PLUNGE INTO HOURS OF TALKS

AP ■ GENEVA

With stern expressions and polite words before the cameras, President Joe Biden and Russia's Vladimir Putin plunged into hours of face-to-face talks on Wednesday at a lush lakeside Swiss mansion, a highly anticipated summit at a time when both leaders say relations between their countries are at an all-time low.

Two great powers



President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin arrive to meet at the Villa la Grange on Wednesday

Biden called it a discussion between "two great powers" and said it was "always better to meet face to face." Putin said he hoped the talks would be "productive."

The meeting in a book-lined room had a somewhat awkward beginning — both men appeared to avoid looking directly at each other during a brief and chaotic photo opportunity before a scrum of jostling reporters.

Biden nodded when a reporter asked if Putin could be trusted, but the White House quickly sent out a tweet insisting that the president was "very clearly not responding to any one question, but nodding in acknowledgment to the press generally." Putin ignored shouted questions from reporters, including whether he feared jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

The two leaders did shake hands — Biden extended his hand first and smiled at the

stoic Russian leader — moments earlier when they posed with Swiss President Guy Parmelin, who welcomed them to Switzerland for the summit. Biden and Putin first held a relatively intimate meeting joined by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Each side had a translator for the session, which lasted about an hour and a half. The meeting, after about a 40-minute break, then expanded to include senior aides on each side. Biden and Putin were expected to meet for a total of four to five hours of wide-ranging talks.

For months, they have traded sharp rhetoric. Biden has repeatedly called out Putin for malicious cyberattacks by Russian-based hackers on US interests, for the jailing of Russia's foremost opposition leader and for interference in American elections. Putin has reacted with whatabout-isms and denials — pointing to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the US Capitol to argue that the US has no business lecturing on democratic norms and insisting that the Russian government hasn't been involved in any election interference or cyberattacks despite US intelligence showing



US President Joe Biden and Russia's President Vladimir Putin pose for the media at Villa La Grange for the US-Russia summit in Geneva, Switzerland on Wednesday

otherwise. In advance of Wednesday's meeting, both sides set out to lower expectations. Even so, Biden said it was an important step if the United States and Russia were able to ultimately find "stability and predictability" in their relationship, a seemingly modest goal from the president for dealing with the person he sees as one of America's fiercest

adversaries. "We should decide where it's in our mutual interest, in the interest of the world, to cooperate, and see if we can do that," Biden told reporters earlier this week. "And the areas where we don't agree, make it clear what the red lines are." Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that no breakthroughs were expected

and that "the situation is too difficult in Russian-American relations." He added that "the fact that the two presidents agreed to meet and finally start to speak openly about the problems is already an achievement." Arrangements for the meeting were carefully choreographed and vigorously negotiated. Biden first floated the meeting in an April phone call

Putin: Russia, US to return ambassadors to posts

AP ■ GENEVA

Russian President Vladimir Putin says he and US President Joe Biden have agreed to return their ambassadors to their posts in a bid to lower tensions.

Putin made the announcement at a news conference following a summit on Wednesday with Biden in Geneva. The return of ambassadors

in which he informed Putin that he would be expelling several Russian diplomats and imposing sanctions against dozens of people and companies, part of an effort to hold the Kremlin accountable for interference in last year's presidential election and the hacking of federal agencies. Putin and his entourage arrived first at the summit site: Villa La Grange, a grand lakeside mansion set in Geneva's biggest park. Next came Biden and his team. Putin flew into Geneva on Wednesday shortly before the scheduled start of the meeting; Biden — who was already in Europe for meetings with allies — arrived the day before. After the meeting concludes, Putin is scheduled to

follows a diplomatic tug-of-war that saw deep cuts in diplomatic personnel. Russia's ambassador to the US, Anatoly Antonov, was recalled from Washington about three months ago after Biden described Putin as a killer. US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan left Moscow almost two months ago after Russia suggested he return to Washington for consultations.

hold a solo news conference, with Biden following suit. The White House opted against a joint news conference, deciding it did not want to appear to elevate Putin at a moment when the US president is urging European allies to pressure Putin to cut out myriad provocations.

Biden sees himself with few peers on foreign policy. He traveled the globe as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and was given difficult foreign policy assignments by President Barack Obama when Biden was vice president. His portfolio included messy spots like Iraq and Ukraine and weighing the mettle of China's Xi Jinping during his rise to power.

Israeli airstrikes target Gaza sites, first since cease-fire

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli aircraft carried out a series of airstrikes at militant sites in the Gaza Strip early Wednesday, the first such raids since a shaky cease-fire ended the war with Hamas last month.

The airstrikes targeted facilities used by Hamas militants for meetings to plan attacks, the Israeli military said, blaming the group for any act of violence emanating from Gaza. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

On Tuesday, hundreds of Israeli ultranationalists, some chanting "Death to Arabs," paraded in east Jerusalem in a show of force that threatened to spark renewed violence. Palestinians in Gaza responded by launching incendiary balloons that caused at least 10 fires in southern Israel.

The march posed a test for Israel's fragile new government as well as the tenuous truce that ended last month's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas. Palestinians consider the march, meant to celebrate Israel's capture of east Jerusalem in 1967, to be a provocation. Hamas called on Palestinians to "resist" the parade, a version of which helped ignite last month's 11-day Gaza war.

With music blaring, hundreds of Jewish nationalists gathered and moved in front of Damascus Gate. Most appeared to be young men, and many held blue-and-white Israeli



Israeli police work at the site of a vehicle attack near Hizmeh Junction in the West Bank on Wednesday

flags as they danced and sang religious songs.

At one point, several dozen youths, jumping and waving their hands in their air, chanted: "Death to Arabs!" In another anti-Arab chant, they yelled: "May your village burn."

In a scathing condemnation on Twitter, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said those shouting racist slogans were "a disgrace to the Israeli people," adding: "The fact that there are radicals for whom the Israeli flag represents hatred and racism is abominable and unforgivable."

The crowd, while boisterous, appeared to be much smaller than during last month's parade. From the Damascus Gate, they proceeded around the Old City to the Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian attack suspect in West Bank

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli military on Wednesday shot and killed a Palestinian woman who it said tried to ram her car into a group of soldiers guarding a West Bank construction site.

In a statement, the army said soldiers opened fire at the woman in Hizmeh, just north of Jerusalem, after she exited the car and pulled out a knife. The statement did not say how close the woman was to the soldiers, and the army did not release any photos or video of the incident.

Biden ambassador nominees include envoys to Israel, Mexico

AP ■ GENEVA

President Joe Biden on Tuesday unveiled picks for nine ambassadorial postings, tapping career diplomats steeped in foreign policy experience — as well as political allies and aviation hero "Sully" Sullenberger.

The picks include former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar as ambassador to Mexico and former Deputy Secretary of State Tom Nides as ambassador to Israel. Retired airline pilot C B "Sully" Sullenberger, most famous for negotiating the emergency landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River with no fatalities, has been named to serve as US representative on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

The announcement comes as Biden is on the tail end of an eight-day European trip that included stops in the United Kingdom for a meeting of the Group of Seven leaders and Belgium for a gathering of the 27 NATO countries and the US-EU summit.

The trip culminates in Geneva on Wednesday with a highly anticipated meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin, where the leaders are to discuss rising tensions between their countries. As a candidate, Biden declined to rule out appointing political donors to ambassadorships or other posts if he was elected. But he pledged that his nominees, regardless of their contributor status,

Junta troops burn Myanmar village

AP ■ BANGKOK

Government troops in Myanmar have burned most of a village in the country's central heartland, a resident said Wednesday, confirming reports by independent media and on social networks. The action appeared to be an attempt to suppress resistance against the ruling military junta.

The attack is the latest example of how violence has become endemic in much of Myanmar in recent months as the junta tries to subdue an incipient nationwide insurrection. After the army seized power in February, overthrowing the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, a nonviolent civil disobedience movement arose to challenge military rule, but the junta's attempt to repress it with deadly force fuelled rather than quelled resistance.

Photos and videos of devastated Kinma village in Magway region that circulated widely on social media on Wednesday showed much of the village flattened by fire and the charred bodies of farm animals. One report said the village had about 1,000 residents. A villager contacted by phone said only 10 of 237 houses were left standing. The villager, who asked that his name not be used because of fear of government reprisals, said most residents had already fled when soldiers firing guns entered the village shortly before noon on Tuesday.

He said he believed the troops were searching for members of a village defense force that had been established



Smoke rises from smoldering houses in Kinma village, Pauk township, Magwe division, central Myanmar on Wednesday

to protect against the junta's troops and police. Most such local forces are very lightly armed with homemade hunting rifles.

The village defense force gave residents advance warning of the troops' arrival, so only four or five people were left in the village when they began searching houses in the afternoon. When they found nothing, they began setting the homes on fire, he said.

"There are some forests just nearby our village. Most of us fled into the forests," he said.

The villager said he believed there were three casualties, a boy who was a goat-herder who was shot in the thigh, and an elderly couple who were unable to flee. He believed the couple had died but several media reports said

they were missing. Asked if he planned to go back to the village, he said: "No, we dare not to. We think it isn't over. We will shift to other villages. Even if we go back to our village, there is no place to stay because everything is burnt."

The village defense forces are committed to forming a future opposition federal army, and some have allied themselves with ethnic minority groups in border areas that have been fighting for decades for autonomy from the central government.

Most of the fiercest fighting takes place in the border regions, where government forces are deployed in areas controlled by ethnic groups such as the Chin in the west, the Kachin in the north and the Karen in the east.

The incident in Kinma attracted special attention because the Burman, or Barmar ethnic group, the country's power-holding majority, is predominant in the Magway region and it is unusual for them to be targeted for such severe measures.

The army burned many villages of the Muslim Rohingya minority in 2017 in a brutal counterinsurgency campaign in the western state of Rakhine that drove more than 700,000 to seek safety across the border in Bangladesh.

There is widespread prejudice against the Rohingya and few in Myanmar protested the army's treatment of them, though international courts are now considering whether it constituted genocide.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to report the loss of 200 shares of M/s ESCORTS LIMITED in Folio No. ESC0104681 standing in the name of ARUN KUMAR and SONALI KUMAR. The shareholders have applied for the issue of duplicate shares to M/s Escorts Limited, 15/5, Mathura Road, Faridabad-121003 to whom objections, if any, may be conveyed within 15 days of the publication of this Notice.

LOST & FOUND

To be known that I, Malini Kumar, D/O of Late Ashok Kumar, R/O B-522 Safderjung Enclave, 3rd Floor, 9811934909, am the owner of plot C 586 Sushant Lok 1, Gurgaon, Haryana. Plot Size 215 sq yds. My original documents of the said plot have been misplaced. FIR lodged at Sarojini Nagar Police Thana vide LR No. 393963/2021. Dated 15/06/2021. Time 6pm. Documents Lost: 1. CONVEYANCE DEED: Vaseeka Number 18347. Dated 11.2.2021. 2. POSSESSION LETTER FROM ANSALS Any persons claiming rights, interest, misuse will be penalized. If found, said documents must be returned to above mentioned.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Anita Chhabra W/o Late Shri Guru Dutt Chhabra R/o 1342, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, have lost my Lease deed of Shop No 11, Outram lines, Kingsway Camp New Delhi Dated 05-03-1986

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U040101UR2001SGC025866. Website: www.uttarakhandujvnyut.com

प.सं. 440
Corrigendum-1 दिनांक 15.06.2021

Refer NIT No. 01/UJVN/EE/Test/GV/2021-22 invited by Executive Engineer (Test), UJVN, Ganga Valley, Haridwar uploaded at e-portal. In place of Earnest Money Deposit -A Bid-Security Declaration certificate shall be submitted by bidder in prescribed Proforma as uploaded in TS. Other conditions shall remain unchanged. For further details, please visit-portal "uktenders.gov.in"

Executive Engineer (Test)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO.1 FOR TENDER NOTICE

Following Corrigendum is being made in the Tender Notice No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-20-21-22 with schedule date of closing on 28.06.2021 is reschedule as under:-

Sl.No.	Description	Originally Published	Now Schedule be Read As
1.	Date of Closing of Tender	28.06.2021	05.07.2021
2.	Date of Online Bidding	14.06.2021	21.06.2021

The complete information of above Corrigendum in the notice can be seen in E-tender Notice is available over websites: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
CPR/10/58 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/Bilaspur.
f South East Central Railway @ @Secrail

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Suman, R/O 79 Bhim Basti Jonapur, Mehrauli, Delhi have disowned my son Yograj & his wife Gulshan from all my movable & immovable property.

LOST & FOUND

I, Raj Singh Yadav S/o Suresh Singh Yadav R/o 4082, Gali Mandir Wali, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006 have lost the Share Certificate of my Father (Named - Suraj Singh Yadav).

Company Name - TATA STEEL LTD

Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.
SI0120754	06173003	229058011-229058060
		R04371694,
		317358780-317358779
		R04371695,
		317358780-317358780

Total Number of Shares-71@10/-Each. Finder Please Send at above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that we Sandeep Gupta & Satish Chand Gupta S/o Sh. Babu Ram Gupta, R/o - 3424, Gali Bajrang Bali, Sitaram Bazar, Delhi - 110006, have found our property documents of the Address, Commercial Unit No. C-25, Aggarwal Cyber Plaza, Plot No. C 4, 5, 6, Netaji Subhash Place, District Centre, Wazirpur, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034, which includes, Buyer and Promoter Agreement dated 16.09.2005, Maintenance Agreement dated 16.01.2006, payment receipts of instalments, possession letter and other property related documents, which were lost earlier and the said incident was informed in general public, vide Public Notice dated 27.05.2017, in "JANSATTA" and "THE INDIAN EXPRESS" newspapers. Further an article lost e-complaint was also registered, vide LR No: 477758/2017, dated 03.04.2017

UK PM's ex-aide reignites row with release of expletive-laden WhatsApp messages

London: Dominic Cummings, the former top aide of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, on Wednesday reignited an ongoing row over the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic as he shared expletive-laden WhatsApp messages believed to be from his former boss in which the premier brands his health secretary "hopeless".

Johnson's former Chief Strategy Adviser, who left Downing Street unceremoniously last year, has previously made withering attacks on UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock and claimed the minister should have been sacked for 15-20 things, including "for lying" to people.

Following Hancock's own evidence before a parliamentary committee to deny all the allegations, Cummings took to his blogpost to brand the Cabinet minister's parliamentary evidence as an attempt to rewrite history. "Number 10/Hancock have repeatedly lied about the failures last year," he writes in his blog. In screenshots of WhatsApp messages he has shared alongside, the Prime Minister appears to call Hancock's efforts "totally f***** hopeless" in response to a message from Cummings and in others seems to consider replacing him. The 7,000-word blogpost dubs Hancock's version of events as "fiction" and criticises "systemic incompetence" surrounding the UK Prime Minister. Downing Street has refused to be drawn into the latest WhatsApp messages row, with the UK Prime Minister's official spokesperson saying Johnson continued to have "full confidence" in Hancock. "I am not planning to engage with every allegation put forward, the Prime Minister has worked very closely with the Health Secretary throughout and will continue to do so," the spokesperson said. PTT

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead at H.No. 17, Behind Harijan Basti dated 12.06.2021. In this regard a DD No. 19A, dated 12.06.2021 has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. The description of the dead person is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 30-35 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Hair: Small Black, Wearing: Yellow, White & Black Colour Check Shirt and Black Colour Pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Ph : 011-25951486, 8750870324
DP/869/RD/2021



Repair, prepare eco, health infra: Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As India emerges from a devastating second wave of Covid-19 infections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the focus must be on repairing and preparing the health infrastructure as well as the economy for future challenges.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers keynote address at the 5th edition of VivaTech, in New Delhi Wednesday

To prepare a base for a sustained higher growth rate, the Government continues to unleash reforms and has also extended free food distribution schemes to aid the poor hit hard by the pandemic.

“Over the past year, we have witnessed a lot of disruption in different sectors. Much of it is still there,” Modi said at the VivaTech Summit. “Yet, disruption does not have to mean despair. Instead, we must keep the focus on the twin foundation of repair and prepare.”

This time last year the world was still seeking a vaccine and today two vaccines are being made in India, and more are in the development or trial stages, he said.

“We have to continue repairing health infrastructure and our economies,” he said. “And when I say prepare, I

mean insulating our planet against the next pandemic, ensuring we focus on a sustainable lifestyle that stops ecological degradation, strengthening cooperation in furthering research as well as innovation.”

Indian economy suffered its worst contraction in four decades as coronavirus-induced lockdowns stalled businesses and economic activity.

While attempts were made to control the spread of infections and healthcare infrastructure built to treat the ill, the government implemented huge reforms across sectors - from mining to space, from banking to atomic energy.

“This goes on to show that India as a nation is adaptable and agile,” he said.

After the brutal second wave in April and May, the Covid case has fallen more than 80 per cent since its peak 5 weeks ago.

This is also the pick up in the pace of vaccination had aided state governments to relax restrictions at a relatively faster pace than in 2020.

“I believe where conventional fails, innovation can help. This has been seen during the Covid-19 global pandemic, which is the biggest disruption of our age. All nations have suffered losses and faced anxiety about the future,” Modi said.

Sellers not declaring local content percentage of goods at GeM portal to lose out on biz: Comm min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sellers who do not declare local content percentage while uploading their products at public procurement portal GeM will lose out on business and will not be able to participate in bids in which buyer has chosen to procure only made-in-India items, the commerce ministry said on Wednesday.

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal was launched in 2016 for online purchase of goods and services by all central and state government ministries and agencies.

The Ministry also said GeM was the first e-commerce portal in the country which had started displaying the ‘country of origin’ of all products prominently for giving its buyers the right to make informed decisions of procurement.

Now, it is mandatory for all sellers to upfront declare the ‘country of origin’, without which they cannot upload products on the platform.

“Going a step further, GeM has also started highlighting the local content % (percentage) on the product description page prominently. “So, even within the products made in India, buyers can identify products that have higher local content and take

informed decisions accordingly,” it said.

Buyers have been provided with a filter in the marketplace to identify and select products from among MII (make in India) complaint sellers/ products only, it said.

“Sellers who do not declare local content % (percentage) while uploading product and creating catalogue on GeM will lose out on business and will not be able to participate in bids in which the buyer has chosen to procure only MII-compliant products,” it added.

In the portal, a MII filter has been provided using which a buyer can filter out all non-local suppliers and restrict its procurements under direct purchase and L-1 (lowest bid) purchase from among local



सत्यमेव जयते
Department of Commerce
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India

Adani Total up 921%, Adani Enterprises up 890% vs 60% for Nifty in last 1 year

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Total Gas went up by 921 per cent while Adani Enterprises went up by 890 per cent in the last one year compared to 60.7 per cent return for the NSE Nifty index, as per Trendlyne data.

Adani Group stocks have been scorchers in the stock market in the last year before they started unravelling in the last three days and have been going down ever since.

Adani Group investors have seen wealth erosion of ₹ 1.10 lakh crore in the last three trading sessions.

Adani Enterprises was down 5.82 per cent at ₹1449.30.

Adani Enterprises Ltd has gained 213.40 per cent in the last six months. It has a market cap of ₹1.59 lakh crore.

Adani Total Gas is up 917.9 per cent in the last one year and has a market cap of ₹1.53 lakh crore. It was down on Wednesday by 5.02 per cent at ₹1,394.

Adani Total Gas has gained 86.09 per cent in the last three months, as per Trendlyne data.

While Adani Enterprises and Adani Ports have been the flagship companies, it is Adani Green Energy which is the star in the portfolio of the



group with the highest market capitalisation.

Adani Green's market cap is at ₹1.83 lakh crore, even though it is a relatively new company. Adani Green has given a one year return of 238.4 per cent. Along with other stocks, Adani Green was down by 3.38 per cent at ₹ 1,171.25 on Wednesday.

Adani Ports has given a one year return of 108 per cent compared to 61.1 per cent for the Nifty. Its market cap is at ₹1.44 lakh crore. It was down 7.22 per cent at ₹706.85 on Wednesday.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd has lost 19.14 per cent in the last one week.

Sensex, Nifty fall from record highs, investors eye US Fed meet

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Key benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty retreated from record-high levels on Wednesday following intense selling in Reliance and HDFC twins as investors turned cautious ahead of the outcome of the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting.

The 30-share BSE index ended 271.07 points or 0.51 per cent lower at 52,501.98. It had closed at an all-time high of 52,773.05 on Tuesday.

The broader NSE Nifty retreated from a record and declined 101.70 points or 0.64 per cent to 15,767.55.

PowerGrid was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding around 2 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Reliance, L&T, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finance.

On the other hand, Nestle, NTPC, ONGC, Bajaj Finserv Hindustan Unilever and Infosys were among the gainers.

“Indian indices slipped ahead of the Fed policy announcement as global markets turned cautious. Weakening MoM sales data and rising prices in the US are adding concerns to ongoing inflationary trend. But, Fed maintaining an accommodative

policy and a calm comment on short-term inflationary pressure can drive the markets ahead,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Chice Broking in a note said that the domestic market took cues from the weak global market ahead of the US Fed's decision.

Rupee slips to 73.32 against dollar ahead of FOMC announcement

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Extending its losses for seventh straight session, the rupee slipped by 1 paisa to end at 73.32 against the US dollar following risk-off sentiment among investors ahead of the outcome of the US Federal Reserve meeting.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 73.29 per dollar as against its previous close of 73.31.

It hovered in the range of 73.26 to 73.38 during the day. The domestic currency has lost 52 paise in the seven trading sessions over Wednesday.

India's exports up 46 pc to \$14 bn during June 1-14



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's exports rose by 46.43 per cent to USD 14.06 billion during June 1-14 on account of

healthy growth in shipments in sectors such as engineering, gems and jewellery and petroleum products, according to preliminary data of the commerce ministry.

Imports too rose by 98.33 per cent to USD 19.59 billion during the period, the data showed.

Exports of sectors such as engineering, gems and jewellery and petroleum products are recording healthy growth rates.

The exports grew by 52.39 per cent to USD 7.71 billion during the first week of this month and by about 40 per cent to USD 6.35 billion during the second week of this month, according to the data.

Exports during Apr-May this fiscal year jumped to USD 62.89 billion, as against USD 29.41 billion in the same period last year.

Centre plans to simplify green nod for quick operationalisation of mining projects



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday said the government is planning to simplify the green clearances required for the quick operationalisation of mining projects, including coal.

It assumes significance as mining projects in various states face delays in production due to lack of approvals such as forest and environment clearance.

“(With regard to) EC (environment clearance) and FC (forest clearance), we are actually trying to do something with the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). I think some simplification is going to be done.”

“The secretary MoEF...Told us in a meeting that EC, FC norms are of course friendlier so that we will be able to have operation in a quicker way,” Coal Additional Secretary M Nagaraju said.

He was speaking during the Virtual Chhattisgarh Mining Summit organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The additional secretary also stressed that the state

government should ensure that the mines that are allotted are operationalised at the earliest by hand-holding the allottees and holding regular meetings, among others.

“Expect these two clearances (EC and FC), rest of clearances come from the state government. In fact, for EC and FC, a lot depends on the efficiency of the state government's forest department.

India's fuel demand rebounds in June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's fuel demand rebounded in the first half of June as easing of coronavirus lockdowns helped sales but the consumption was still lower compared to last year. While petrol sales rose by 13 per cent during June 1-15 over the same period of last month, diesel consumption was up 12 per cent, according to data compiled by state fuel retailers. This is the first monthly increase since March. Fuel demand had recovered to near-normal levels in March before the onset of the second wave of Covid-19 infections led to the reimposition of lockdowns in different states, stalling mobility and muting economic activity.

NPPA asks drug firms to cut prices in wake of GST rate reduction

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drug pricing regulator NPPA has asked pharmaceutical companies and medical device makers to reduce prices on products on which the GST has been lowered in order to pass on the benefit to the consumers. In a notification, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) noted that a change in tax rates has an impact on the fixation of maximum retail prices (MRP) of various drugs and formulations.

As per DPCO 2013, MRP of drugs and formulations are inclusive of taxes. Therefore, any downward change in tax or GST rates should be

reflected in the MRP and benefit of the reduction should be passed on to the consumers, it noted.

“In view of the above, all the manufacturers and marketing companies are required to revise the MRPs of drugs/formulations on which tax/GST rates have been reduced taking into effect the revised GST rates,” NPPA said.

Recalling or re-labelling or re-stickering on the label of the container or pack of the already released stocks in the market is not mandatory if manufacturers are able to ensure price compliance at the retailer level through issuance of a revised price list, it noted.

IT cos set to slash 3 mn jobs by 2022 due to automation, to save \$100 bn in cost: Report

Mumbai: With automation taking place at a much faster pace across industries especially in the tech space, domestic software firms that employ over 16 million are set to slash

headcounts by a massive 3 million by 2022, which will help them save a whopping USD 100 billion mostly in salaries annually, says a report. The domestic IT sector

employs around 16 million, of them around 9 million are employed in low-skilled services and BPO roles, according to Nasscom.

PTI

Govt hikes subsidies for DAP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹ 700 per bag hike in subsidy for DAP fertilizer to protect farmers from its surging prices due to the increasing cost of raw materials globally. This will cost an additional of ₹14,775 crore to the exchequer. The hike is part of the government's effort to ensure that farmers get the key soil nutrient at old rates of ₹1200 per bag.

With rise in global prices, the actual price of DAP reached ₹2,400 per bag. DAP is the second most popular fertiliser among Indian farmers behind urea — in 2020-21, 119.13 lakh tons of DAP were purchased, compared to 350 lakh tons for the top-selling urea. Beside DAP, the government is providing ₹ 900 per bag subsidy on urea.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Briefing the media, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said the Cabinet has approved increasing the subsidy amount for DAP fertiliser for the benefits of farmers.

Govt says edible oil prices falling; nearly 20% decline in some cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday said edible oil prices have started falling in the past one month, and the quantum of decline is nearly 20 per cent in some cases. Stating that India imports a significant quantity of edible oils to meet domestic demand, the Centre said it is working on a ‘series of mid- and long-term measures’ to make the country self-sufficient.

“Edible oil prices in India are showing a declining trend across a wide array of oils.

As per data from the Department of Consumer Affairs, over the past month, the prices of edible oils are now coming down,” an official statement said.

In some cases, the decline is as much as nearly 20 per cent, as shown in prices in Mumbai, it added. Citing examples, the government said the price of palm oil was ₹142 per kg on May 7 and now, it has come down to ₹115 per kg, a drop of 19 per cent. Similarly, the price of sunflower oil has dropped 16 per cent to 157 per kg, from ₹188 per kg on May 5.

EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF PUJA SPECIAL TRAINS

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Puja Special Trains as under:-

Train No. & Name	Extended Upto
02511/02512 Gorakhpur-Kochuveli-Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05115/05116 Chhapra -Delhi-Chhapra Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05018/05017 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur Spl. Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05101/05102 Chhapra-Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Chhapra Special Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
02597/02598 Gorakhpur-Chhatrapati Shivaji (T)-Gorakhpur Spl. Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
02595/02596 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar (T)-Gorakhpur Special Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
02581/02582 Manduadih-New Delhi-Manduadih Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05029/05030 Gorakhpur-Pune-Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05022/05021 Gorakhpur-Shalimar-Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
02587/02588 Gorakhpur-Jammu Tawi-Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05097/05098 Bhagalpur Jn. - Jammu Tawi - Bhagalpur Jn. Spl. Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05045/05046 Gorakhpur - Okha - Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice

For any kind information such as timings, composition and stoppages enroute passengers are advised to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTESS App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

Please join us on **NORTHERN RAILWAY**
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

1324/21
RailMadad Helpline No. 139
Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & Download Railmadad app.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male **Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: about 30-35 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Crushed, Built: Medium, Wearing: Green coloured lower, printed t-shirt and red coloured slipper in feet,** has been found dead on 14.06.2021 from Train accident at Pole No. 2/16G to 2/18G, Under Akshardham Flyover in Track, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the Mortuary of GTB Hospital Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 02A, dated 14.06.2021 U/S 174 Cr.P.C.** has been lodged at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers. **SHO P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi**
Ph.: 011-22145602
Mob.: 8750871314
DP/164/RLY/2021

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI STATE CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY, SECRETARIATE (1st Floor, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006)

Notice:- Inviting "Expression of Interest" for Grant-in-Aid from NGOs for running Child Care Institutions for the Financial Year 2021-2022 under Child Protection Services

Expression of Interest for Grant-in-Aid is invited for running of Child Care Institutions for Protection and wellbeing of the Children through Child Care Institutions under Child Protection Services for the financial year 2021-2022.

The Grant-in-Aid is subject to approval of Project Approval Board (PAB) at Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) shall be as per the financial norms of the ICPS/ Child Protection Services. Kindly refer to the website of Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI (www.wcd.nic.in) for financial norms under ICPS and other-relevant details.

Procedure for applying :

Interested NGOs/VOs may download the Application Form, from official website : www.wcdel.in and submit their application along with requisite documents by email on : scpsdelhi@gmail.com The Last date of submission of Application/ proposal is 30.06.2021 latest by 5.00 p.m.

The NGOs running Child Care Institutions may note that misrepresentation of facts shall amount to disqualification.

Director
Department of Women and Child Development
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
For any query, email us at scpsdelhi@gmail.com
DIP/Shabdarth/0101/21-22



The COVID-19 outbreak elicited a wide spectrum of merchants' sentiments and behaviours. The retailers are focussing on innovation to operate to the best of their capacities in the new normal. If the modifications, that merchants are compelled to make as a result of the pandemic, are good enough, they will become the new benchmark for customer experience. When you introduce customers to a new level of convenience, reduced pricing, or better fit, their future expectations will be established accordingly. As sad as a pandemic of this magnitude is, merchants simply cannot afford to waste time.

During the first several months, dealing with the new social distance standards was difficult, and only a few shops could open, largely selling food, medical supplies, and necessities. With many establishments closing, the retail sector business faced a very low consumer base and was at times nil. However, as time passed, each sector learned new strategies to deal with the new difficulty.

Consumer behaviour was forced to alter during the lockdown. With physical stores closing, everyone, even sectors and client groups that had previously avoided doing so, had to turn to the digital realm for their retail requirements. Now that this behavioural change has been adopted, it is doubtful that things will revert to their previous state.

GO TOUCH-FREE

Technology will drive revolution in the forthcoming years, thus, retailers should invest in digitally advanced infrastructure and facilities, says SANJAY KOTHARI

This indicates that the offline-online link is more crucial than ever before. Brands that are unable to balance the two might struggle. Physical retail remains a very powerful tool for customer engagement and the digital environment will never be able to compete with its value and experience, hence, being omnichannel is the way forward to exist in composure.

E-commerce will continue to eat market share because it already has the tools in place to provide what customers want — price, selection, free and rapid delivery, to mention a few. Many brick-and-mortar stores were failing even before the outbreak. The reasons for this are numerous and complicated, but it is reasonable to assume that the rise and popularity of e-commerce are to blame for a large portion of it.

Another trend that will undoubtedly become popular in the future is contactless shopping, which helps avoid



crowded stores while preferring low exposure; a retail experience in which no items are touched, displays are not restocked, and large crowds are not required. Products are displayed in displays, and purchases are either made

there and then and produced from the rear, or they are delivered directly to your home the following day. While this is a format that has emerged as a result of the short-term restrictions of working in a Covid environment, it is quite likely that customers will come to accept it and then prefer it.

Technology will drive a revolution in the forthcoming months and years and thus, retailers should invest in digitally advanced infrastructure and facilities. Digital transformation will pave the way for touch-free shopping experiences, merchandising, transactions, and eliminate physical interactions, therefore, investment in retail technology will be seen. The use of VR and AR for marketing changed the playing field dramatically. Leading companies are adopting augmented reality (AR) or virtual reality (VR) into their digital marketing strategy to attract customers, advertise their goods, improve sales, retain consumers, and give consumers new experiences. Their application is expanding in a variety of fields, including healthcare, medicine, astronomy, education, defence, and consumer products.

AR and VR also allow for in-store experiences to be had from the comfort of one's own home, eliminating the need to travel to the store. AR is rapidly being used by e-commerce platforms to allow buyers to experience the goods as if they were there in a real-life situation. The use of augmented reality and virtual reality in retail establishments, e-commerce, and advertising is the next big thing poised to disrupt marketing paradigms. AR is more successful since it has reduced costs and assists customers in making purchasing decisions while they are engaged with the information.

'Shopping by appointment' is another shopping trend now gaining more popularity. This is already happening with a lot of designer labels and fashion firms, and it's a trend that may continue to spread when Covid fades into obscurity. In a nutshell, 'appointment only' refers to booking an appointment and receiving a time window in the store for yourself only or with a restricted number of other clients. While the short-term goal is to maintain social distance standards and make the client feel safe, the long-term goal is to deliver a variety of substantial benefits leading to a lasting experience. Customers with an appointment are more likely to make purchases, allowing retailers to spend more of their time and effort on other aspects of their business.

With huge retailers suffering and are in the midst of a recession, landlords will need to rethink their options and tactics if they want to keep filling their facilities with brands that attract customers and confirm growth.

(The writer is the Vice Chairman of KKG Group.)

'Let my work do the talking'

Actor AYUSHMANN KHURRANA says that whatever his equity is today, it is mainly due to the success of his social entertainers

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana's equity has been soaring since the past few years as he delivered eight back-to-back hits in theatres. His booming credibility with inclusive, conversation-starting social entertainers in India has made him one of the most sought-after brand endorsers in the country.

Now, Ayushmann has been roped in to be the face of a mobile phone brand. As we all know, mobile phones and banking are two sectors that thrive on the credibility of the artist to become the face. Recently, mobile phone brands have signed on the superstars like Robert Downey Jr and Virat Kohli. So, Ayushmann being roped in for a mobile phone brand surely means his credibility with the masses is only on the rise.

When asked if Ayushmann could decode what makes him so brand-friendly, he candidly says, "Whatever my equity is today, it is mainly due to the success of my social entertainers

which have made me connect to the people of India. These films have told people who I'm, how I think, and what my intent is as an entertainer."

He adds, "I'd like to believe brands have noticed this and connected with the idea that I try to tell real stories of real people. I feel thrilled that I'm part of a brand's vision and journey to reach out to the audience with a narrative that resonates with my journey in cinema. I'm grateful that my films have worked wonderfully at the box office and also got the love and appreciation from people."

Ayushmann says he has been fortunate to get the right films that have become huge hits. Success always translates to equity, he feels.

"I have always believed in letting my work do the talking. I have been fortunate enough to pick projects that have contributed to the new discourse of how cinema in India can be unique, clutter-breaking, conversation-starting entertainers that don't need to follow the same, stereotyped norms of how stories have been told," says Ayushmann.



Two years ago in June, Dia Mirza-starrer and Sonal Nair-directorial *Kaafir* made their debut as a web television series and instantly connected with the audience across the world. Written by Bhavani Iyer, the series told the wrenching story of Kainaz Akhtar, a woman who mistakenly crosses the LOC, is presumed to be a militant, and is held, prisoner.

The series was a grim and poignant retelling of a similar incident and reminded the audience of the human cost paid by innocent citizens when nations mistrust each other.

Dia says, "It is difficult to not empathise with a woman who goes through so much suffering for no fault of hers. A woman who is also a mother and no longer knows if she will ever experience a sense of home. It is a human story that will always be relevant for its message of love and peace but is particularly pertinent now because we are being reminded every day by the pandemic of our shared humanity. We are being

'Hate is a futile emotion'

Actor DIA MIRZA says that *Kaafir* is relevant for its message of love and peace, especially now when we are being reminded of our shared humanity everyday



reminded that hate and violence are ultimately futile emotions. What remains after we are gone is just this question, 'Did we love this world and those inhabiting it enough?'"

Dia says, the fundamental humanism informing the story instantly drew her to the character of Kainaz and she says,

"Deep-rooted prejudices make us forget that we are human first and Kaafir continues to remind us of this fact. Hate is a corrosive emotion and robs us of our ability to empathise with each other and vitiates life so much that we forget to love, to be kind, to build a world where there is more light than darkness. Yes, geopolitical tensions are real but so is the hope that one day we can

resolve them." *Kaafir* was also Dia's digital debut and she says, "The performance had to be subtle and yet expressive of the turmoil within the character and I felt truly humbled when so many fans and critics sent me appreciative messages after watching the series." She also won a Critic's Choice nod for Best Actor (OTT) at Gold Awards.

Yoga for kids

As we approach International Yoga Day, a new series by Shrradha Setalvad will centre around '3Fs' — fitness for the body, focus on the mind, and fun for the soul

According to a National Centre for Complementary and Integrative Health survey, one in 12 children practice yoga. Over the years, yoga has become increasingly popular among Indian children. It helps in improving balance, strength, endurance, and aerobic capacity. It can also help to boost memory, self-esteem, academic performance, and classroom behaviour, thereby reducing anxiety and stress in children.

As we approach International Yoga Day, Tata Sky Fitness is introducing *Yoga Ki Paathshala* by Shrradha Setalvad. The series will focus on '3Fs' — fitness for the body, focus on the mind, and fun for the soul. Setalvad explains '3Fs' in detail:

FITNESS FOR BODY
 Asanas like Shavasana, Navasana, Tolasana, Suryanamaskar, Chakrasana helps in strengthening the overall well-being of kids. It aims to develop both physical health as well as cognitive skills in children. It opens the energy channels throughout the body, increasing flexibility of the spine, strengthening bones, and stimulating the circulatory and immune systems. Along with proper breathing, these



poses or asanas also calm the mind and reduce stress.

FOCUS ON MIND
 Asanas like Pranayama, Padmasana, Sukhasana, and others, help a child to be aware of themselves and help them control their emotions. These act as a tool for calming and energising the child to develop a state-of-relaxed mind, which is crucial for learning. It also develops social-emotional awareness, body awareness and coordination, and interpersonal skills.

FUN FOR SOUL
 Children can adapt to all kinds of exercise and practicing yoga asana at an early age can lead them to have a healthy head start in life. In this fast-paced world, it helps to rejuvenate kids inside-out. The meditative pose helps to relax both our mind and body. It promotes spiritual awakening and awareness of higher consciousness. It is a perfect choice if you want a holistic approach to mind and body strength.

—IANS

TRENDBLAZER



'CAN'T WAIT TO START FILMING DHAAKAD'

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** shared a poster of her forthcoming film *Dhaakad*, saying she looks forward to starting work on the film.

"Can't wait to start filming #Dhaakad," she wrote on the image, which she shared on her Instagram story.

In the picture Kangana is seen in an action-packed avatar. A toppled burning car is visible in the backdrop. She is armed with a machine gun and a pistol.

Apart from *Dhaakad*, Kangana's forthcoming roster includes *Thalaivi* and *Tejas*.

fairtalk

SARAD KELKAR



'I don't like to term myself a star because I am not. I am an actor. I would be very happy if even a chunk of people even considered me as a good actor. That's enough for me. My first love has always been acting. So, for me the medium actually doesn't matter. If that (being remembered as an actor) stops, it would be a matter of concern for me.'

dailytalk

JASMIN BHASIN



'If I start worrying about fame and burden myself with responsibilities and expectations, I'll lose myself. I've always been straightforward, I don't have filters. So, I don't think I should change because this is how I'm and that's why I'm loved by my fans. I want to stay this way, real and responsible. I would never want to lose myself.'

OWEN RECALLS REACTION TO MOBIUS IN LOKI

Actor **OWEN WILSON** has opened up on his first reaction to his role of Agent Mobius in the web series *Loki*.

Wilson said Mobius just sounded too complicated and interesting to gloss over.

He described the character and the show as "maybe not something you would expect from a comic book world, while still providing some of the excitement and thrills and sense of adventure that you do expect from these stories."



Sankalp Se Siddhi — Mission Van Dhan

The Minister for Tribal Affairs, ARJUN MUNDA, virtually launches livelihood initiatives and inaugurates seven new Tribes India outlets along with the new office for TRIFED

Sankalp Se Siddhi — Mission Van Dhan, was launched by Arjun Munda, Minister for Tribal Affairs on June 15. The event also witnessed the inauguration and launch of several other programmes, including the new premises of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) headquarters. Keeping in line with the Prime Minister's clarion call 'Vocal for Local' and to build an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, TRIFED has been coming up with several initiatives, aimed at sustainable livelihoods for our tribal population.

Munda formally inaugurated the new office by cutting the ribbon in the presence of Renuka Singh, Minister of State for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Bhaskar Khulbe, Advisor to the PM, Ramesh Chand Meena, Chairman of TRIFED, and Pravir Krishna, Managing Director of TRIFED.

Speaking on the occasion, Munda remarked, "I am delighted to inaugurate the new premises of

TRIFED and unveil some noteworthy initiatives that TRIFED has been working towards, such as *Sankalp Se Siddhi — Mission Van Dhan*. Implementation of this crucial mission will result in the transformation of the tribal ecosystem in our country. Today, is a momentous day for tribal people, as today sees the culmination of the valuable effort put in by the TRIFED team over the past years. It is commendable that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the TRIFED team has achieved this, despite the difficult circumstances of the past two years."

Renuka said, "It is noteworthy that the new initiatives being unveiled today take care of all aspects of tribal empowerment, be it spreading awareness about the richness of tribal lifestyle and natural produce with the immunity boosting product hampers and the attractively designed H&G products which are not only sustainable; or preserving the culture through the vivid colourful Coffee Table

book". The new TRIFED Office premises at NSIC Complex, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-III, New Delhi is around 30,000 sq ft in area and has state-of-the-art infrastructure and is equipped with two conference rooms for video conferencing and other latest amenities. It houses office space for the Minister for Tribal Affairs, Managing Director, senior officials and all staff.

The most notable initiative unveiled was *Sankalp Se Siddhi — Mission Van Dhan*. TRIFED has been implementing several noteworthy programmes for the empowerment of the tribals. Over the past two years, The 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP' has impacted the tribal ecosystem in a major way. It has injected ₹3,000 crores into the tribal economy, even during such difficult times, aided by government

push. The *Van Dhan* tribal start-ups, a component of the same scheme, have emerged as a source of employment generation for tribal gatherers and forest dwellers and the home-bound tribal artisans. In less than two years, 37,362 *Van Dhan Vikas Kendras* (VDVKs), subsumed into 2240 *Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters* (VDVKCs) of 300 forest dwellers each, have been sanctioned by TRIFED out of which 1200 VDVK Clusters are operational. A total number of 134 Tribes India Outlets have been opened for retail marketing to date, and have made a total sale of ₹53.66 crores. Besides, two TRIFED Projects at Jagdalpur and Raigarh (Maharashtra) are being shortly commissioned for undertaking value-addition of various forest products being procured by beneficiaries of *Van Dhan Kendras*. As a result of the above, an estimated amount of ₹3800 crores has so far been injected in the tribal economy while impacting the lives of 50 lakh members of the tribal popu-

lation. TRIFED now plans to expand its operations through the convergence of various schemes of different ministries and departments to launch various tribal development programmes under the *Sankalp Se Siddhi — Mission Van Dhan* banner for expediting its implementation in a Mission mode. Through this mission, the establishment of 50,000 *Van Dhan Vikas Kendras*, 3000 Haat Bazaars, 600 godowns, 200 Mini TRIFED units, 100 common facility centres, 100 TRIFED parks, 100 SFURTI clusters, 200 Tribes India retail stores, e-commerce platforms for TRIFED and Tribes India brands is being targeted.

Munda also inaugurated seven more Tribes India outlets, two in Jagdalpur, three in Ranchi, one in Jamshepur and another at Sarnath. Showcasing tribal products from all over the country, the outlets will have specific GI and *Van Dhan* corners and will display the large variety of GI tagged and natural products from different parts of the country.

The Sarnath outlet is the first successful collaboration with the Ministry of Culture at an ASI heritage site. With these outlets, the total number of Tribes India outlets have gone up to 141.

A Tribes India Coffee Table Book, which showcases the rich cultural tribal heritage and highlights the journey of various tribal artisans practising different arts and crafts and how TRIFED has impacted their livelihoods, was also unveiled today. With the mission to make Tribes India the ultimate gifting destination, TRIFED has compiled a hamper of unique handicrafts, GI products and immunity boosters from different parts of the country. These hampers, unveiled today, will make for unique gifts both here and abroad. TRIFED has also been providing skill upgradation and design development workshops for the development of tribal artisans through handicraft and income generation training programmes. During the pandemic, efforts were made for the skill development of

tribal artisans and 17 training programmes were approved for benefiting 340 tribal artisans and developing 170 new designed products. Twenty five newly designed products from the recently completed Design workshop training programmes for the Boksas tribal artisans at Rishikesh and Meena tribal artisans at Jaipur, were also launched.

Speaking on the occasion, Pravir said, "TRIFED is working consistently on its mission towards making the tribals *atmanirbhar* and self-reliant. These are just a glimpse of the activities it has undertaken in this regard. The team is striving in this direction and will continue to do so."

With the emphasis on being 'Vocal for local' and building a self-reliant India, TRIFED, as the nodal agency working towards tribal empowerment, continues to launch and start new initiatives that helps in improving the income and livelihood of the tribal people, while preserving their way of life and traditions.

POWERGRID supports Municipal Corporation, Shimla



Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh (HP), flagged off truck-mounted sewer jetting and litter picking machines, provided to the Municipal Corporation of Shimla by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Suresh Bhardwaj, Urban Development Minister of HP, V K Singh, Director (Personnel) of POWERGRID, Kailash Rathore, Executive Director, Northern Region-II of POWERGRID and other senior officials were also present on this occasion.

POWERGRID had sanctioned funds amounting to ₹1.98 crores for providing four special purpose vehicles (SPVs) to the state of HP. One truck-mounted sweeping machine with vacuum cleaner and one truck-mounted compactor had been handed over to the Municipal Corporation of Shimla in December 2020. The remaining two machines were flagged off on the day before yesterday.

This initiative of POWERGRID shall help the municipal corporation in creating smart city infrastructure. These

machines shall help in maintaining the cleanliness and hygiene of the city. Furthermore, with the introduction of these technologically advanced machines, the process of cleaning, especially in difficult terrains of the hilly region, will be done easily and rapidly.

Earlier, one SPV mounted vacuum-assisted road sweeper, two sewer cleaning jetting vehicle machines costing ₹1.31 crore had been handed over to the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Manali, district Kullu. Apart from this, 3,250 solar LED street lights and 13,000 twin-bin dustbins having financial implication of ₹11.49 crore, have been supplied and installed in various parts of HP.

Besides, POWERGRID has also undertaken efforts for skill development for local youth in district Lahaul and Spiti, through infrastructure additions & capacity building in the field of mountaineering & allied activities with the financial implication of ₹32 lakhs. As part of CSR efforts in the state, 4 Medical Mobile units costing ₹1.06 crores to Bilaspur District Authorities, two ambulances in IGMC Shimla and District Hospital, Chamba have been provided in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

NCC as an elective subject

The National Cadet Corps, a premier uniformed youth organisation of our country, has contributed significantly to nation-building since its inception. It has transformed the lives of millions of youth by shaping their character and showing them the path of 'Unity and Discipline', the motto of NCC.

The NCC has made notable and praiseworthy contributions in spreading awareness among the masses on important issues like water conservation, environment protection, *Swachhta Abhiyan* and enforcing COVID-19 protocols. It is time that NCC now be considered as a general elective subject/credit course in all universities and colleges which are affiliated with NCC in an extracurricular capacity.

Secretary of the Department of Higher Education from the Ministry of Education, Amit Khare had a meeting with Lt Gen Tarun Aich, Director-General of NCC and Maj Gen M Indrabalan, ADG of NCC, on facilitating the implementation of NCC general elective credit course across universities and technical colleges in India. He welcomed the circulars issued by UGC and AICTE that recognises NCC as a credit course designed by Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC), which he hailed as a landmark step.



In phase one, adoption of the course in colleges already having NCC units will be made possible. Subsequent expansion to other colleges would depend on the creation of necessary capacity with DGNCC or by the colleges themselves. DGNCC revealed that under Fully Self-Financed Scheme, one lakh vacancies have been released for private colleges over and above the 15 lakh sanctioned strength of NCC.

Interestingly as a JS in 2013, Khare had initiated a similar process. But at that time it was considered as an elective subject since choice based semester system was not in place. He mentioned that the National Education Policy, 2020 has already recognised the importance of holistic education, social service, community development et al as credit courses under the

Choice Based Credit System and NCC training already falls in this ambit.

Out of the 979 universities in India, only 54 are central universities, 425 are state universities and 125 are deemed universities. To achieve implementation of NCC elective in state universities, the DoE would approach the state governments to facilitate the process. The DoE would also consider the suitability of introducing the NCC credit course in IITs and NITs.

Khare also conveyed that the benefits of the NCC credit course to students need to be adequately publicised to generate awareness and interest among universities and students. He appreciated the efforts being made by DG of NCC and the state directorates engaging with universities and colleges in assisting the implementation.



CISF organises promotion-cum-pipping ceremony

A promotion-cum-pipping ceremony of other ranks was organized at CISF Headquarters, New Delhi and simultaneously at all the zonal headquarters across India.

In a path-breaking initiative for the welfare of the personnel, 2100 constables/GD have been promoted to the rank of Head Constable/GD. Sudhir Kumar Saxena, DG of CISF put ranks to promoted CISF personnel during the promotion-cum-pipping ceremony held at CISF HQ, Arvind Deep, ADG (North), P S Phalnikar, ADG (APS), Prateek Mohanty, IG (Pers) and other senior officers of CISF were present during the ceremony. The ceremony witnessed immense pride and enthusiasm amongst the promoted personnel. To implement this transformational agenda, the officers and staff of CISF HQ pursued hard and maintained liaison & coordination with MHA, for promoting the force personnel.

Because of the COVID menace and guidelines of social distancing, only a

few constables were invited from Delhi-NCR Units and IGI Airport for putting their rank on promotion during the pipping ceremony. Similarly, pipping ceremonies were also organised in all the zonal headquarters of CISF for promoting the CISF personnel to the next higher rank.

Saxena congratulated all the promoted head constables. He said that regular promotions to the personnel go a long way in enhancing our capabilities and also motivates other personnel to improve in their tasks and aspire for a similar promotions. It thus improves the overall employee morale and job satisfaction thereby promoting the development of the organisation as personnel feel connected with their organisation and willingly give their best for its effective functioning and growth. He also added that in the present scenario of negativity, these promotions will not only boost the morale of the personnel but also help to create a positive functional atmosphere at workplaces.

NAFED launches Fortified Rice Bran Oil

Sudhanshu Pandey, Secretary of Food and Public Distribution for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India launched NAFED Fortified Rice Bran Oil on June 15. This Rice bran oil will be marketed by NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd), India's apex Agri-marketing Organisation which has been serving the country since 1958.

On the occasion, Sudhanshu stated that this initiative by NAFED will reduce the country's consumption dependence on imported edible oil in the future. He also said that this will provide opportunities for Indian edible oil manufacturers while giving an impetus to the *Atmanirbhar Bharat* initiative.

Guest of Honour, Arun Singhal, Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of



India (FSSAI) highlighted the benefits of rice bran oil stating it is one of the healthiest cooking oils and has numerous benefits like being rich in antioxidants and having anti-cancerous, anti-ageing properties.

Atish Chandra, Chairman & Managing Director of Food Corporation of India (FCI) also graced the e-launch and outlined the various health and lifestyle benefits of rice bran oil and the importance of standardisation of this product in the industry. Recently an MoU has been signed between NAFED and FCI for the production and marketing of fortified rice kernel.

Regarding this initiative, Sanjeev Kumar Chaddha, Managing Director of NAFED, said, "We aim to support consumers by providing immunity boosting products in the backdrop of the pandemic by introducing products aimed at promoting healthy food habits." He also mentioned that this initiative will provide easy access to NAFED branded high-quality rice bran oil, which will boost the indigenous oil manufacturing industry.

Pankaj Kumar Prasad, NAFED's Additional Managing Director, concluded the event by highlighting that such initiatives will broaden the

organisation's consumer marketing segment by offering daily essential healthy products at affordable price.

Rice bran oil from NAFED will be fortified and will contain additional nutrients and vitamins. According to the FSSAI, fortified oil can help a person fulfil 25-30 per cent of the recommended dietary intake for vitamins A and D. NAFED Fortified Rice Bran Oil will be available at all NAFED Stores and also on various online platforms and is recommended by the American Heart Association and the World Health Organization (WHO) as one of the best substitutes for other edible oils.

Financial results for RITES Ltd

RITES Ltd (NSE: RITES, BSE: 541556), the leading Transport Infrastructure Consultancy and Engineering firm, announced its standalone and consolidated financial results for the Quarter and Year ended on March 31, 2021.

Commenting on the results, Rajeev Mehrotra, Chairman and Managing Director, RITES Limited, said, "Our focus remained on project delivery & execution which helped us to register Quarter to Quarter operational revenue growth in every quarter of FY21. Our Q4FY21 results surpassed the Q4FY20, but were not enough to make up for the shortfalls in first three quarters."

Revenue and profit growth
 Q4FY21 total revenue is up by 6.1 per cent to ₹632 crore as against ₹596 crore in Q4FY20 and has shown a QoQ growth of 36.2 per cent. Revenue improved due to growth in consultancy, exports

and turnkey. Similarly, operating revenue, excluding other income, is up by 12 per cent to ₹619 crore in Q4FY21. EBITDA, excluding other income, and PAT has shown a growth of 17.3 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively and sustained margins at 27.8 per cent and 21.3 per cent respectively. During the quarter, exports started for cape gauge locomotives to Mozambique and coaches to Sri Lanka and as a result, exports have shown a YoY growth of 54.5 per cent. However, revenue from some consignments which were ready for shipment is spilling over to Q1FY22. Consultancy and leasing remained almost flat and seen revenue reaching towards the pre-COVID levels.

FY21 (consolidated)
 FY21 total consolidated revenue stands at ₹2005 crore against ₹2735 crore in FY20. Similarly, the operating revenue, excluding other income, stand at ₹1860 crore against ₹2474 crore in

FY20. The decrease is attributable to a decrease in exports by ₹448 crore, disruptions in the supply chain and restrictions imposed due to pandemic and one-time settlement income of ₹91 crore during FY20. Excluding exports, the fall in operating revenue is 8.7 per cent. EBITDA (excluding other income) and PAT stands at ₹505 crore and ₹444 crore, respectively, against ₹668 crore and ₹633 crore respectively in FY20. EBITDA and PAT margins are sustained at 27.2 per cent and 22.2 per cent respectively due to timely cost reduction measures.

FY21 (standalone)
 Similarly, standalone revenue also got impacted due to disruptions in the supply chain and restrictions imposed due to pandemic and total standalone revenue now stands at ₹1947 crore against ₹2665 crore in FY20.

EBITDA (excluding other income) and PAT stands at ₹460 crore and ₹424 crore, against ₹602 crore and

₹596 crore respectively in FY20. In consultancy and turnkey, the margins were maintained at 44.2 per cent and 3.8 per cent however exports and leasing margins moderated to 19 per cent and 35.6 per cent respectively, due to fewer exports and reduced locomotive requirement in H1FY21.

Dividend
 After declaring two interim dividends of ₹120 crore (₹5 per share) and ₹96 crore (₹4 per share) for FY21, the Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of ₹96 crore (₹4 per share) for FY21 which is 40 per cent of paid-up capital. This dividend will take the dividend payout of the company to 73.6 per cent for FY21 based on the PAT of FY21.

Performance of our subsidiary and JV
 Revenue from our subsidiary REMC Ltd stands at ₹69 crore against ₹81 crore in the previous

financial year. Profit after tax stands at ₹24 crore against ₹35 crore in FY20. Consultancy revenue from this subsidiary got impacted due to less traction power requirement by railways during FY21, however, power generation revenues are up by 46.9 per cent to ₹16 crore in FY21. In FY21, our wagon manufacturing joint venture, SRBWP, revenue and profit stands at ₹161 crore and ₹2.5 crores against ₹265 crore and ₹15.5 crores respectively in FY20. In our Joint Venture IRSDC, revenue and profit stand at ₹39 crore and ₹5 crores respectively against ₹50 crore and ₹5 crores in FY20.

Growth outlook for FY21
 Commenting on the outlook, Mehrotra said, "We can deliver orders in hand in a timely manner but post-COVID normalcy will set the pace for execution. We are also aligned to seize more opportunities for growth in coming years."

PFC LOGS HIGHEST EVER NET PROFIT

State-owned non-banking financial firm Power Finance Corporation (PFC) records highest ever net profit of ₹8,444 crore for FY 21, up 49 per cent on Y-o-Y basis.

STANDALONE
 Highest annual PAT of ₹8,444 crore. Approximately 49 per cent jump in Standalone Profit After Tax from FY 20. Around 28 per cent increase in net interest income from FY 20. Dividend of ₹2 declared per share. Thus, in FY 21, PFC has given a total dividend of ₹10 per share i.e. 100 per cent. Aided by profit growth, company's net worth for FY 21 is up by 16 per cent to ₹52,393 crore and has crossed the fifty thousand mark. Around 25 per cent Stressed Book Resolved in FY 21: Gross NPA ratio saw a sharp reduction of 238 bps from FY 20. The current GNPA ratio is at 5.70 per cent against 8.08 per cent in FY 20. Lowest Net NPA levels in past four years. Net NPA ratio saw a sharp reduc-

tion of 171 bps from FY 20. The current Net NPA ratio is at 2.09 per cent against 3.80 per cent in FY 20.

The Capital Adequacy Ratio of the company has also improved sequentially to 18.83 per cent as on March 31, 2021. The capital adequacy is at a comfortable level with sufficient cushion over and above the prescribed regulatory limits.

CONSOLIDATED
 FY 21 vs FY 20
 Around 66 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax from FY 20. PAT at ₹15,716 crore for FY 21 vs ₹9,477 crore for FY 20. Loan Asset book grows at 12 per cent. For FY 21, it was at ₹7,45,189 crore and for FY 20, it was at ₹6,67,330 crore. Reduction in consolidated net NPA ratio to 1.91 per cent in FY 21 from 3.57 per cent in FY 20 due to resolution of stressed assets. Reduction in consolidated gross NPA ratio to 5.29 per cent in FY 21 from 7.36 per cent in FY 20 due to resolution of stressed assets.

6:30 pm vs 9:30 pm vs 12:30 am

LIVE TELECAST ON SONY TEN 2 NETWORK



STAR WARS

Hummels own goal helps Les Blues win opening game against Germany

FRANCE OFF TO WINNING START

AFP ■ MUNICH



French players Lucas Hernandez (21), Adrien Rabiot and Kylian Mbappe (10) celebrate after Germany's Mats Hummels, center, scored an own goal during the Euro 2020 group F match between Germany and France at the Allianz Arena in Munich on Tuesday night

Budapest. The home defeat piles the pressure on Germany ahead of their next game against Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal on Saturday, also at Allianz Arena. "It was a brutally intense game," said Germany head coach Joachim Löw. "We fought until the end and I can't blame the team, we gave it everything we had. What was missing was a bit of penetrating power in the final third. We didn't do enough there."

He refused to blame Hummels for the own goal, saying: "There is no need to reproach Mats for the own goal. It was difficult for him to clear."

It was a heartbreaking night for Hummels, back to boost the German defence after a two-year exile from International football. Seven years ago, it was Hummels' headed goal which knocked France out of the 2014 World Cup in the quarter-finals as Germany went on to win the title in Brazil.

Miranchuk reignites Russia's campaign

AP ■ ST PETERSBURG

A special goal by Aleksei Miranchuk allowed Russia to kickstart their Euro 2020 campaign with a 1-0 win over Finland in Saint Petersburg on Wednesday, but the game was marred by an injury to Mario Fernandes.

Miranchuk, of Serie A side Atalanta, produced a glorious finish in first-half stoppage time for the only goal of the game between the neighbours in Group B.

It blows open the section after Russia, one of nine participating nations at the Euro playing matches at home, had lost 3-0 to Belgium in their opening game at the weekend.

Finland, making their debut at a major international tournament, had beaten Denmark 1-0 in Copenhagen on Saturday, a game



Russia's Aleksei Miranchuk, front, celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal

completely overshadowed by Christian Eriksen's cardiac arrest. Here it was Russia's Fernandes, the Brazilian-born CSKA Moscow right-back, who provided an injury scare.

The 30-year-old went up for a high ball in the Finland box in the first half and came down awkwardly, the back of his neck taking the full force of the landing.

He needed to be stabilised and was stretchered off before being taken to hospital.

The Russian team's Twitter feed said he was undergoing tests for a suspected spinal injury.

Russia went on to win the game without Fernandes, as Miranchuk turned on the edge of the box and played a one-two with skipper Artem Dzyuba before sending a glorious left-foot shot into the top corner of the net.

That was enough for the 2018 World Cup quarter-finalists to win the game but it could have been very different.

Finland thought they had gone in front inside three minutes when Joel Pohjanpalo headed in a Jukka Raitala cross.

However Pohjanpalo, who got the winner against Denmark, was this time denied as a VAR check confirmed a marginal offside against the Bayer Leverkusen player.

Russia went on to have the better chances and could have won by a wider margin, with Finland goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky producing a superb fingertip save to deny Daler Kuzyaev in the second half.

Russia's final group game will be in Denmark next Monday, while Finland should again have a sizeable support behind them as they stay in Saint Petersburg to play Belgium.

Arnautovic banned for goal celebration

AFP ■ LAUSANNE

Austria forward Marko Arnautovic has been given a one-game Euro 2020 ban for insulting a North Macedonia player in his side's opening match at the tournament, UEFA said on Wednesday.

UEFA said Arnautovic had been punished for "insulting another player" and the 32-year-old will miss his side's match against the Netherlands in Amsterdam on Thursday as a result.

European football's governing body had opened an investigation into Arnautovic following the incident in Sunday's 3-1 win over North Macedonia in Bucharest.

The former West Ham United player, who now plays for Shanghai Port in China, netted Austria's third goal in the game



Marko Arnautovic (7) celebrates after the scores against North Macedonia

and then launched into an ill-tempered celebration until his teammate David Alaba intervened to calm him down.

Media reports claimed he insulted Leeds United's Ezgjan Alioski, referring to the North Macedonia defender's Albanian heritage.

Coca Cola take \$4 billion hit after Ronaldo's PC

Budapest: Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo removed Coca-Cola bottles placed in front of him at a Euro 2020 press conference here, which reportedly cost the global beverage giant a staggering \$4 billion.

A well-known fitness enthusiast, Ronaldo set aside two Coca-Cola glass bottles which lay in front of him during a press conference ahead of Portugal's opening Euro match against Hungary here on Monday.

According to media reports, the share price of Coca-Cola, one of the official sponsors of Euro 2020, slipped from \$56.10 to \$55.22 almost immediately after Ronaldo's gesture.

The market valuation of Coca-Cola went from \$242 billion to \$238 billion, a fall of \$4 billion.

On Tuesday, France mid-fielder Paul Pogba also removed a bottle of Heineken beer that had been placed in front of him at a Press conference. PTI

English Women's dominate Day 1

PTI ■ BRISTOL

Indian Women picked up the crucial wicket Tammy Beaumont (66) in the second session but England Women consolidated their position by reaching 162 for two at tea on the opening day of the one-off Test here on Wednesday.

After getting rid of Lauren Winfield-Hill (35) in the first session of the day, India Women toiled hard for most part of the post-lunch period before debutant off-spinner Sneha Rana picked up her maiden Test wicket.

She got rid of in-form of Beaumont, who was brilliantly caught by Shafali Verma at short leg.

Beaumont faced 166 balls and decorated her innings with six fours en route to her second Test fifty.

Skipper Heather Knight (47 not out) batted cautiously and remained unbeaten in the company of Natalie Sciver (11 not out) as England made 76 runs off 28 overs in the second session.

Earlier, the hosts made a solid 86 for one in the opening session.

The Indian pace duo of veteran Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey made a promising start, doing just

Gavaskar expects both Ashwin, Jadeja to play in WTC final

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Legendary opener Sunil Gavaskar believes that India will go in with both Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin against New Zealand in the World Test Championship final as Southampton's 'boiling hot' weather is going to ensure that the pitch dries up progressively and assists spinners.

Gavaskar is part of the match's commentary panel and is currently in Southampton with first-hand knowledge about the pitch and conditions for the match starting June 18.

"In Southampton, it's been boiling hot over the last few days so the pitch will definitely be dry and help spin as the match progresses, so yes both Ashwin and Jadeja will play," Gavaskar said.

Southampton's maximum temperature has been over 25°C for the past few days but there is a forecast of rain from Thursday.

For Gavaskar, it's not just bowling but all-round abilities that give India the kind of balance they need going into a marquee match like this.

"That (Ashwin and Jadeja together) also gives depth to the batting as well as give a fine balance to the bowling attack. For the series later (vs England) much will depend on the weather and pitch conditions."

While New Zealand will be on a high after their series win against England, Gavaskar doesn't feel that the Indian team is under-prepared either just because it didn't get any practice matches.

"(In) today's tours there are barely one or two practice games before the Test series begins and the Indian team has had intra-squad matches so they have had that practice."

"The team is a good blend of youth and experience and most of the players have been to England several times so they know the conditions and what to expect," said the former India captain.



enough to trouble the English batswoman on more than one occasion.

In the seventh over, Goswami induced an edge from Winfield-Hill as the batter went for an extravagant drive but Smriti Mandhana dropped the chance in the slip cordon despite getting both hands on the ball.

In the next over, Winfield got lucky again. Debutant Pooja Vastrakar induced a thick edge from the batter but the ball flew between second slip and gully to the boundary.

After a slow and cautious start, England picked up the more positive of the two batters as she lofted Pandey over the mid-wicket to hit the first six of the innings and in the process brought up England's fifty in the 17th over.

An over later, Winfield hit another maximum, this time over backward square leg off Va rakar. Vastrakar eventually had the last laugh as she had Winfield caught by wicketkeeper Taniya Bhatia, giving India the breakthrough. As many as five players made Test debut for India, including Verma, Deepti Sharma, Vastrakar, Rana and Bhatia, while for England Sophia Dunkley was the lone player to earn a Test cap.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAL SOUDHA BHUBANESWAR
E-mail: sec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. S.E.E.C (R&B) 02/2021-22
No. 1228 /Date. 11.06.2021/

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for Construction of Modular OT works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in: <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 P.M. of 21.06.2021 to 5:00 P.M. of 06.07.2021. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11:30 A.M. of 07.07.2021 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website. Superintending Engineer Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR
OIPR-34006/11/0002/2122

CITY HEALTH SOCIETY, NUHM, BHUBANESWAR
Office of the ADUPHO, Bhubaneswar
National Health Mission, Odisha
Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha.
CPMU-UH, MCW Center, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar- 751009
Phone No: 0674-2532033, email-id: cpmunhbsr4@gmail.com

Adv. No. 31 /CPMU/NUHM/ BBSR Date: 14.06.2021

TENDER NOTICE
(SUPPLY OF LAPTOP & DESKTOP AND PERIPHERALS FOR CITY HEALTH SOCIETY, BHUBANESWAR)
Sealed Tenders in prescribed format are invited from the Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers for supply of Laptop, Desktop and peripherals for City Health Society, Bhubaneswar under NUHM.

The bidder should submit two separate sealed packets i.e. one for Technical Bid and another for Financial Bid to be superscribed on the cover of the packets separately and to be kept in a single cover which should be superscribed as "TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF LAPTOP, DESKTOP & PERIPHERALS FOR CITY HEALTH SOCIETY, BHUBANESWAR".

The last date of receipt of tender is 28.06.2021 up to 2:00pm & tender will be opened on same day at 3.30 pm in the office of undersigned. The list of all the items with detail specification, eligibility criteria and Tender Terms and Conditions may be downloaded from website of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation i.e. www.bmc.gov.in.

The undersigned has reserve right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. All legal disputes if any relating to the quotations are subject to Jurisdiction in the Court of Law situated at Bhubaneswar, Odisha only.
OIPR-10029/11/0004/2122 ADUPHO, BHUBANESWAR

PUBLIC NOTICE
JEWELLERY AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

Registered Office: 601 & 602, Peninsula Business Park, 6th Floor, Tower A, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013

The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notices to pay the entire dues in facilities availed by them against Jewellery from DCB Bank Limited. We are constrained to conduct auction of the pledged Jewellery as they have failed to pay the entire dues. DCB Bank Limited has the authority to remove account (s) / change the auction date (s) without any prior notice. The auction will be conducted online through <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> on 24th & 25th June 2021 from 11:00 am to 01:00 pm.

Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name
Attabira Location			Dhenkanal Location			Lingana Pidika		
1	102457152	Bikash Patra	54	102285286	Manas Mohapatra	106	102457111	Lingana Pidika
Balangir Location			Dunguripali Location			Khariar Road Location		
2	101990577	Birendra Saraf	55	101541470	Rinki Saraf	107	102167244	Susanta Tandi
3	101991799	Udhaba Naik	56	101822786	Sanjay Kumar Agrawal	108	102649747	Kanta Prasad Satnami
4	102655219	Biswajit Mallick	Durgaprasad Location			109	102752739	Naresh Hans
Bargarh Location			57	101062321	Shyama Sundara Ghosh	110	102867205	Aadha Mittal
5	102867139	Kshetra Mohan Behera	58	102870738	Jimut Bahana Pattnaik	111	102577257	Suresh Chandra Bisoi
Baripada Location			59	102882954	Kamala Jena	Kotpad Location		
6	101725635	Saroj Kumar Sahu	60	102885061	Susanta Dalei	112	102752605	Rabindra Majhi
7	102369648	Rohit Kumar Das	61	102903181	Kumari Jena	113	101772419	Lalita Jani
Berhampur Location			62	102905720	Manoj Kumar Pradhan	Langarashahi Location		
8	101380980	Saroj Kumar Nayak	Gualsingh Location			114	101813700	Rashmi Pradhan
9	101439341	Shiba Narayan Pradhan	63	101786131	Prashanna Kumar Parida	115	102083322	Saroj Kumar Bhola
10	101842046	K Suryanarayan Patro	64	101814195	Jitendra Gouda	Palla Location		
11	102896944	Santosh Kumar Behera	65	101831601	Sandip Biswal	116	101706578	Jabir Khan
12	102905231	Rakesh Kumar Dalai	66	101835082	Manasa Ranjan Lenka	117	102375414	Rajani Jena
Bhawanipatna Location			67	102632695	Guru Charan Pradhan	118	102637143	Godabari Jena
13	101507507	Benuddhar Rout	Hinjilicut Location			119	102639474	Rojalin Majhi
14	101803490	Souryamkanta Sahani	68	101195792	Lokanath Gouda	120	102655551	Monalisa Maharana
15	102051243	Prabhakar Pattnaik	69	101794073	Kiran Maharana	121	102867314	Kumari Maharana
Bhubaneswar Location			70	102194043	Tophan Kumar Gouda	122	102881976	Kabir Khan
16	101434608	Ranjita Mohanty	71	100456252	Guljiri Jagannath	Punanga Location		
17	101601929	Pradip Kumar Jena	Jagannathpur Location			123	102860461	Surendra Mallick
18	101624805	Bulu Gochhayat	72	100984512	Prasanta Kumar Das	Raghunathpur Location		
19	101627802	Kartik Jena	73	101019704	Titu Gauda	124	101440723	Ajit Kumar Mohanty
20	101699975	Runa Jena	74	101212645	Hara Prasad Sahu	125	101588323	Ajaya Kumar Maharana
21	101808731	Nilamani Bhoi	75	101238708	Sruti Sahoo	126	101722241	Santosh Kumar Senapati
22	101822608	Khageswar Sahoo	76	101706743	Narayan Swain	127	102868018	Iitishi Sahoo
23	101845929	Rajiv Lochan Jena	77	102052405	D Rudreswar Pradhan	Redhakhol Location		
24	101863590	Santosh Guru	Jarsingha Location			128	101237656	Balakrishna Sahoo
25	102012010	Subrat Kumar Parida	78	100995504	Prakash Kumar Sahu	129	101693787	Basanta Behera
26	102046637	Bidyutprava Nauri	79	101018900	Surendra Kumar Jena	130	101721965	Swapaneswar Dehuri
27	102282583	Pratap Kumar Pradhan	80	101134295	Laxmikanta Behera	131	102637646	Baidyanat Behera
28	102289074	Dipti Ranjan Swain	81	101145737	Jyotsnamayee Moharana	Rourkela Location		
29	102308430	Satyabhama Bhoi	82	101332377	Kalpana Sahoo	132	101789594	Simanchal Majhi
30	102587041	Dipak Kumar Satapathy	83	101387677	Sushanta Behera	133	101807758	Priya Ranjan Rout
31	102724890	Sasmita Samantary	84	101486551	Biren Kumar Pattnayak	134	102624467	Ratanlal Agarwal
32	102726924	Tikendra Ransingh	85	102104577	Dinesh Kumar Tripathy	Sambalpur Location		
33	102806974	Binapani Jena	86	102411216	Panchanan Mohapatra	135	101721550	Sandip Kumar Mahapatra
34	102839585	Sarijuka Rout	Jeypure Location			136	101782359	Pradeep Kumar Mahapatra
35	102842685	Abhinava Ashutosh Satapata	87	101626518	Ashok Kumar Gonda	137	101812677	Madhusmita Routaray
36	102842947	Rabinarayan Kar	88	101688652	Ramchandra Patra	138	102220281	Binita Kumar
37	102851283	Jharna Rani Sahoo	89	101693921	Kuna Patro	139	102343817	Rijwan Khatun
38	102852315	Ramesh Kumar Maharana	90	101742682	Bidyadhar Biswal	140	102460283	Md Ramjan Ali
39	102868944	Pravati Jena	91	101755376	Rahul Kumar Rana	141	102590919	Ramesh Chandra Bagar
Bijipur Location			92	101785692	Devid Kumar Turuk	Samurapur Location		
40	101228076	Kunal Kumar Khatoi	93	102071301	Bijay Kumar Malla	142	101887770	Manas Kumar Bhoi
Cuttack Location			94	102350928	Laxmana Ganda	143	101923854	Chitralekha Das
41	101817933	Biswa Ranjan Biswal	95	102354643	J Bengopal Sharaff	144	102300423	Sasmita Ray
42	102091798	Prateek Kumar Moharana	96	102366036	Urmila Ganda	145	102627467	Tulasi Malik
43	102217048	Bibekandana Dash	97	102629784	Pratulla Kumar Nayak	Similiguda Location		
44	102795146	Rabin Kumar Sahoo	Kantabanji Location			146	102837340	Rabindra Kumar Behera
45	102859221	Bijay Kumar Sahoo	98	101906828	Rajesh Tandi	Sundargarh Location		
46	102865404	Dilip Kumar Sahoo	99	102753033	Kama Baye	147	101906504	Namita Nag
47	102865430	Santosh Kumar Sahoo	Keonjhar Location			148	102102777	Rajeev Kumar Behera
48	102875881	Anita Lenka	100	102143950	Chinmaya Sarangi	149	102138590	Yajna Seril Patel
49	102883430	Bikash Kumar Patra	101	102645488	Subash Chandra Tripathy	150	102216952	Manoj Kumar Mahanta
50	102901773	Bijaya Laxmi Sahoo	102	102655973	Jadumani Das	151	102652023	Prativa Mishra
Dharamgarh Location			Khaliguda Location			Surala Junction Location		
51	101055644	Priyadarshi Patra	103	101650744	Ashok Kumar Panda	152	102214227	Marri Pushpa
52	101411192	Bhisma Chandra Suna	104	101715614	Santosh Kumar Das	153	102636752	Bhuban Behera
53	101894234	Ramesh Chandra Behera	105	101795555	Bhaskar Biswal			

The concerned Borrowers / Pledgers are hereby given one last opportunity to pay the facility recalled amount in full, with all interest and charges before the scheduled auction date failing which the jewellery will be auctioned. If the auction is not completed on the specified auction dates, the auction shall continue for 7 subsequent days without further notice. Participation in the auction and acceptance of bids will be at the sole discretion of the DCB Bank.

Please note that the auction shall be on "as is what is basis", "as is what is basis", "whatever there is basis" and "no recourse basis" the bank shall not be liable for any claims related to the jewellery. Bidders may kindly visit <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> for detailed terms & conditions for participation in the auctions.

Date : 15.06.2021

Place : Attabira, Balangir, Bargarh, Baripada, Berhampur, Bhawanipatna, Bhubaneswar, Bijipur, Cuttack, Dharamgarh, Dhenkanal, Dunguripali, Durgaprasad, Gualsingh, Hinjilicut, Jagannathpur, Jarsingha, Jeypure, Kantabanji, Keonjhar, Khaliguda, Khariar Road, Kotpad, Langarashahi, Palla, Punanga, Raghunathpur, Redhakhol, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Samurapur, Similiguda, Sundargarh, Surala Junction

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
DCB Bank Limited