

OPINION 6
CAN ISRAEL BE LED BY
A FRAGILE COALITION?

WORLD 8
COURTS CANNOT
APPOINT PM: OLI

SPORT 12
BUFFON RETURNS
TO PARMA

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SIDDHANT
RELIVES
CHILDHOOD
10 VIVACITY



3rd Covid wave in 2 weeks! Maha scrambles for cover

Delta+ may unleash
tragedy soon unless
Covid-appropriate
behaviour is followed:
Maha Task force

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra on Thursday began to gear itself for Covid-19 "third wave", which the State Task Force apprehended might be unleashed in the State by a high virulent strain Delta Plus in the next "two to four weeks" if the pandemic-appropriate norms were not followed by the people.

A day after the State Covid-19 Task Force made a presentation before Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray about the possible break out of "third wave" in Maharashtra, the State administration began to mobilise medicines and health equipment to be sent across to both rural and urban areas. This followed a directive it received from the Chief Minister himself.

At Wednesday's meeting, the State Task Force warned the Chief Minister that the cases would double in the coming weeks after a possible advent of third wave in the



People walk past the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj train Terminus after it rained in Mumbai on Thursday

AP

State. "Uncontrolled crowds and the refusal by the people to follow Covid-19 norms, coupled with the advent of Delta plus variant might trigger a third wave of pandemic in the State," a senior official who briefed the chief minister about a possible third wave said. The task force told the CM that the lower middle class of people who were not affected the first and second waves of Covid-19 would be hit by the third wave of the pandemic. It

advised the Uddhav to increase testing, strengthen infrastructure and increase vaccination.

Quantifying the impact of the "third wave", the task force officials told the CM that the State would have to contend with 8 lakh "active" cases, out of which 10 per cent would be children. There were as many as 19 lakh Covid patients in the State during the first wave, while the number of patients jumped to 40 lakh during the second wave. The

number of patients would be doubled during the third wave.

"The children would not be majorly affected by the third wave. The children make up for more than 3.5 per cent of the patient pool in the State," a senior official said.

The impending Covid-19 "third wave" should be seen in the context of the five-level relaxation plan announced by the state government and its decision to relax restrictions in 18 tom 36 districts of the State.

Class 12 evaluation on 30:30:40 formula

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday cleared the air on the cancelled Class 12 CBSE Board exams' evaluation criteria saying that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be adopting a 30:30:40 formula for evaluation of marks based on results of Class 10, 11 and 12 respectively and the results will be declared by July end.

The Government informed the Supreme Court that 30 per cent marks will be based on Class 10 board exam, another 30 per cent from Class 11 and 40 per cent marks based on the performance in the unit, mid-term and pre-board tests of Class 12. The Supreme Court accepted the formula of CBSE and CISCE to evaluate the Class 12 students, whose board examinations were cancelled due to the Covid pandemic.

The components adopted by CISCE for arriving at the evaluation formula is — marks percentage in Class X board examinations, the project and practical work in the subjects, the performance of the candidates in the school examinations in the subjects in Classes XI and XII, measured through their best marks obtained in the two years (referred to as raw marks) and the best performance of the school in the last six years.



The Supreme Court also directed the boards to incorporate provisions for disputes resolution in their assessment schemes themselves for those students who may be dissatisfied with the marks awarded in the Class 12 board results. The Supreme Court also directed the boards to conduct on physical mode and the candidates will have to register accordingly.

A special bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshari said, "After perusing the scheme presented by the concerned Boards, prima facie, we have no hesitation in accepting the same and permit the Boards to proceed on that basis".

The CBSE said that for evaluating Class XII students, after their board examinations were cancelled for the academic year 2020-21, it has entered

into consultative process with stakeholders to know the factual position of the students and the schools. The board said that consultation process was held with principals of affiliated schools, feedback was obtained from 229 Sahodaya School Complex comprising 7,734 schools and 13-members committee of experts.

It said that theory paper evaluation formula will be of 30 per cent weightage, to be given to Class X marks, 30 per cent weightage to Class XI marks and 40 per cent weightage to Class XII marks obtained in unit test/mid-term/pre-board exams.

The CBSE said that 20 marks will be given for practical in Class-XII and the result will be declared by July 31. The CBSE scheme further elaborated that for Class X 30 per cent marks based on average

SC accepts Govt's criteria based on Class X, XI, XII performances

theory component of best three performing subjects out of main five subjects will be taken.

For Class XI, 30 per cent marks based on theory component of final exam will be taken and for Class XII 40 per cent marks based on unit test/mid-term/pre-board exams will be taken.

"The marks of practical/internal assessment of Class XII will be on actual basis as uploaded by the school on the CBSE portal," the CBSE said, adding that the total marks awarded should be in consonance with the past performance of the school in Class-XII board examinations.

The board said that each school shall form a result committee comprising five members (principal of the school as chairperson, two-senior most teachers of the school, teaching class-XII and two teachers from neighbouring senior secondary school teaching class-XII) and it may decide weightage to be given to each exam based on credibility and reliability of the assessment.

It said that the marks of Class XI and Class XII component will be awarded at school level; they will strictly not be comparable across schools due to variations in the quality of question papers, the evaluation, standard and processes, the mode of conduct of exams.

More fatal fungus Candida auris' threat looms large

Covid crisis is
ideal condition
for outbreak of
deadly fungus

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

After mucormycosis or black fungus, another multi-drug resistant similar infection candida auris is looming large amidst Covid-19 pandemic.

Health experts have sounded alarm that Covid-associated fungus Candida auris cases are worsening in India even as it has spread across the globe—from neonatal unit in Venezuela to a hospital in Spain and Brazil where cases of drug-resistant super fungus were reported on Wednesday, leaving the exhausted authorities a worried lot.

According to the researchers, death among candidemia patients infected by C auris can reach 60 per cent.

This can happen for some people because fungus enters



the bloodstream and causes a systemic infection known as candidemia. They warned that there was enough evidence that suggests that the ongoing Covid-19 crisis may provide ideal conditions for outbreaks of C. auris in hospital ICUs, thus leading to adverse outcomes and additional strain on healthcare resources. The death rate is quite high, they said.

The Covid-19 conditions in Brazil have opened the door for the emergence and spread of a relatively new fungus that is quickly showing signs of becoming a drug-resistant "superfungus," as reported by a study published in the Journal of Fungi. India

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	2,97,61,523 (+61,934)
DEATHS:	3,83,515 (+1,584)
RECOVERED:	2,85,72,139 (+87,539)
ACTIVE:	7,94,155
MAHA:	58,44,710 (+9,830)
K'TAKA:	27,90,338 (+5,983)
KERALA:	27,73,944 (+12,469)
TN:	23,97,864 (+9,118)
DELHI:	14,31,868 (+158)

had for long been hotbed for the deadly fungus.

In fact, before the SARS-CoV-2 spread its tentacles, C. auris was already considered a major global health threat due to high rates of drug resistance and ease of transmission in hospital settings. However, now in the backdrop of Covid-19 the threat has enhanced.

State adds 3,631 new Covid cases

HOWEVER, TPR DIPS
FROM 6.02% TO 5.72%

--39 MORE DIE; TOLL
MOUNTS TO 3,471

--6,240 RECOVER; TOTAL
RECOVERIES 8,23,599

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Covid-19 positive cases in the State increased marginally to 3,631 on Thursday from 3,535 on Wednesday. With the new cases reported from the 30 districts and the State pool, the State's total positive caseload rose to 8,66,692. A total of 63,421 samples were tested in the last 24 hours and the test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 5.72 per cent compared to 6.02 per cent in the previous 24 hours.

Out of the new cases 2,069 cases were from quarantine and 1,562 were local contacts. Khordha district again reported the highest daily cases at 506 followed by Cuttack with 438, Jajpur 305, Baleswar 262, Angul 204, Puri 199, Bhadrak 178, Kendrapada 120, Dhenkanal 114, Mayurbhanj 112, Nabarangpur 108,

Nayagarh 106, Jagatsinghpur 92, Boudh 84, Sundargarh 83, Koraput 80, Rayagada 79, Keonjhar 68, Malkangiri 56, Subarnapur and Bargarh 50 each, Kandhamal 48, Kalahandi 41, Sambalpur 37, Balangir 36, Deogarh 28, Ganjam 27, Nuapada 19 and Gajapati 18.

Besides, 64 cases were reported from the State pool. The active cases in the State stood at 45,809; and so far, 8,17,359 patients have recovered. However, as many as 39 more patients succumbed to the virus in 14 districts of the State in last 24 hours, mounting the total death toll to 3,471.

Khordha district reported maximum six casualties including four in Bhubaneswar, followed by Cuttack, Jharsuguda, Puri and Sundargarh four each, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur and Kalahandi three each, Boudh and Subarnapur two each and Nabarangpur, Bargarh, Dhenkanal and Nuapada one each. However, another 6,240 patients recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 8,23,599 in the State.

Centre plans statute for OTT, news portals self-regulation

To address issues
of sensitive video
content, fake news

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed at providing a level-playing field in the media, the Modi Government has decided to bring in an overarching statute that will provide for self-regulation in digital media including Over-the-top (OTT) platforms and news websites to address issues of sensitive video content and fake news.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) on Thursday issued a notification amending the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 providing a statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances/complaints of citizens relating to content broadcast by television channels in accordance with the provisions of the Cable Television Network Act, 1995.

Now, the broadcaster will have to establish a self-regulating body to redress citizens' grievances. Besides, they



will have to ensure that programmes are not violative of the programme code or advertising code. According to the new amendment, the Centre may prohibit the transmission or retransmission of any such channel or programme if they fail to act despite the complaint.

"... Programme of any channel is not in conformity with the programme code, it may, after giving an opportunity of hearing to the cable operator, and by an order in writing, prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of any such channel or programme in accordance with the provisions of section 20 of the Act," it said.

Government is satisfied that the advertisement of any channel is not in conformity with the advertising code, it may, after giving an opportunity of hearing to the cable operator, and by an order in writing, prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of any such channel or programme in accordance with the provisions of section 20 of the Act," it said.

Any person aggrieved by the content of a programme of a channel as being not in conformity with the programme code or the advertising code may file his complaint in writing to broadcaster. A broadcaster shall establish a grievance redressal mechanism and appoint an officer to deal with complaints received by it.

419 fresh cases reported in BBSR

4 die; 749
recover

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

State capital city Bhubaneswar on Thursday registered 419 new Covid-19 positive cases, with which its total tally increased to 85,627. This was a slight increase from the 372 infections detected on Wednesday.

Out of the new cases, 376 were local contacts and 43 were from quarantine. The local contacts included 23 cases in Patia, 18 in Nayapalli, 17 in Baramunda 15 each in Sailashree Vihar, Old Town and Niladri Vihar, 14 in



Khandagiri, 12 each in Laxmisagar, Dumduma, IRC Village and Mancheswar, 11 each in Chandrasekharpur and Jharpada and 10 in Tankapani Road. Currently, the active cases stood at 2,670 in the city. Meanwhile, four more patients succumbed to the disease in the city, increasing the total death toll to 392. However, 749 patients recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 82,544.

AAI team visits Puri airport sites



PNS ■ PURI

Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials visited the possible sites of the proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri on Thursday.

The AAI officials made inspections relating to the distance of the proposed Puri airport from the Biju Patnaik International Airport of Bhubaneswar and other issues. nPuri district Collector Samarth Verma accompanied the Central team during its inspection.

CM announces ₹1,690-cr Covid compensation

TO BENEFIT LANDLESS
FARMERS,
CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS, PVTGS,
STUDENTS

KALIA BENEFICIARY
LANDLESS FARMERS TO
GET ₹ 1,000 EACH

RS 260 CR UNDER
MUKTA, RS 300 CR
UNDER MGNREGS FOR
URBAN, RURAL
JOBSEEKERS

5.40.000 SC, ST
STUDENTS TO GET PRE-
MATIC SCHOLARSHIP

SUDARSHAN CHHOTORAY ■
BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday announced a special compensation package of Rs 1,690.46 crore as Covid-19 assistance



effects of the pandemic. Under the new package, 17.83 lakh landless farming families, mostly KALLA beneficiaries, will be given special assistance of Rs 1,000 each.

An amount of Rs 207 crore will be provided to the beneficiaries in three instalments. Besides, under the MUKTA Yojana aimed at providing employment to the poor living in urban areas, Rs 260 crore would be spent to create jobs in all 114 municipalities by December 2021.

In addition to their daily wages, workers under the NREGS scheme will be paid an additional Rs 50 per day as 'Chief Minister Assistance Aid' from April 21 to June 21.

The Government would spend Rs 300 crore for this programme, which would create 6 crore man-days. Under the food security system, each beneficiary would

get 5 kg of rice free of cost from July to November 21. It would cost the Government Rs 92.86 crore.

The State Government has also decided to provide Rs 5,000 per family as livelihood assistance to 66,214 tribal people of 13 PVTGs. A sum of Rs 33.10 crore would be spent on this. The money would be deposited directly into their bank accounts.

SC and ST students would have their pre-matric scholarships credited from April 21 to September 21 in their parents' bank accounts directly in two phases. A sum of Rs 252.35 crore would be spent for this and 5,40,000 students would benefit from it.

The CM also announced Rs 1,500 each as special assistance for construction workers. Rs 360 crore would be spent for this. The Government has taken a decision to con-

tinue the Banishree scholarships for Dibyng (PWD) students who are not studying in special schools.

They would be provided a scholarship of Rs 200 and Rs 350 (depending on class of study) from April to June 21. It would benefit 26,465 students and would cost Rs 3.62 crore.

Apart from these, special school students would be paid Rs 1,265 per month for food expenses from April 21 to June 21. It would benefit 6,471 students and cost Rs 2.41 crore.

And all non-residential students would be given a monthly stipend of Rs 370 each, for which Rs 3.62 crore would be spent. Besides, 344 non-residential students would be given a monthly grant of Rs 370 each from April 21 to June 21 also. It is estimated to cost Rs 3.80 lakh.

Shifting of warrior-horse replica stirs row 'Retain it at Master Canteen; don't take it to Raj Bhavan Square'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The move to shift the iconic replica of the famous Konark Sun Temple sculpture showcasing a warrior with a horse at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar has triggered a controversy.

As per a decision by the State Government, the ancient stone work built by late eminent sculptor Padma Vibhushan Raghunath Mohapatra would be shifted to Raj Bhavan Square to facilitate the ongoing Smart Janpath project in the State capital.

The Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) has proposed relocation of the sculpture for a multi-modal hub project at the Bhubaneswar railway station near Master Canteen Square. The proposal was approved at a meeting chaired by Director of Culture Ranjan



Das on June 8. However, the move for relocation of a prominent decades-old landmark of the State capital has drawn sharp reactions from different quarters. Politicians and dignitaries including artists and sculptors have questioned the decision. "Raghunath Mohapatra built the sculpture financed by IndianOil (in

1988). The Government should respect the architecture of an artist. To date, it has not been properly maintained. If it is relocated to Raj Bhavan Square, its identity will be lost. Let the sculpture be retained here like the statue of Shivaji on a horse has been erected in Mumbai," said renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik. Former

Bhubaneswar Municipality Chairman Dr Jagannath Mohapatra said, "Development or beautification should be made without causing damage to identity of a place.

Are the officers, who are planning to shift the iconic statue, aware of the fact of who had kept the sculpture and why? Are they removing the Jagannath Temple in name of beautification work in Puri?" Veteran singer Padma Shri Prafulla Kar said, "Earlier, those who came by train or bus and alighted at Master Canteen Square identified the place as the 'Horse Square' (Ghoda Chhak).

Even today, many people of ancient time call it the Ghoda Chhak. So, don't change the sign of one place. If it were to be relocated, many would not be able to see this famous monument." Jatni Congress

MLA Suresh Kumar Routray has threatened to stage protest against the move. "The iconic horse stands as a symbol of the capital city and our State at Master Canteen Square. It will never be allowed to be removed from here. If the Government wants to set up a business centre, do it anywhere else, we don't mind," he said.

Bhubaneswar BJP president Babu Singh has also warned of strong protests if the move is not withdrawn. Despite being a landmark of the capital city, the statue has been lying neglected for several years. The place is covered with wild shrubs.

The beauty of the sculpture has been damaged due to lack of maintenance. The original warrior-and-horse sculpture is found at Konark Sun Temple. It is also found at the centre of Odisha Government logo.

₹8,500 cr for healthcare infra an eyewash

BJP demands expenditure breakup

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Thursday termed the Chief Minister's announcement of Rs 8,500 crore spending on health infrastructure development as an eyewash. It pointed out that there is no breakup for the expenditure.

BJP State general secretary Lekhasri Samantsinghar told reporters that that announcement of such a huge amount for health infrastructure development is a 'diversionary tactic' to cover up the shortage of doctors, failure in managing Covid-19 and to hide the real Covid positive and death cases. She asked the



Government to come clean for which this amount would be spent to construct hospitals, establish oxygen plants, purchase new ventilators or to recruit doctors, nurses and technical staffs.

While people are facing difficulties in hospitals due to shortage of beds, oxygen, ventilators, medicines, doctors and nurses across State, the Government taking credit of work undertaken by private agencies and sectors, she alleged.

KISS, GM varsities sign MoU

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An MoU was signed between the KISS University and the Sambalpur-based Gangadhar Meher University on Thursday to carry out collective efforts in the fields of education and research.

The MoU was signed in the presence of KISS and KIIT founder Dr Achyuta Samanta between KISS VC Prof Deepak Behera and GM University VC Prof N Nagaraju at GM the University.

Dr Samanta said the KISS is the world's largest tribal school while the KISS University is the world's first-ever university exclusively for tribal students. The KISS has been working for empowerment of tribal children through education for last 30 years. This MoU would set a landmark in the field of education and research in Odisha.

+2 results on basis of matric exam score!

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), Odisha is likely to award marks to the +2 students this year on the basis of their performances in the matriculation examinations.

CHSE Vice-Chairman Tushar Kanti Tripathy said marks secured in the matric examinations are the best criteria for allotting marks to the +2 students.

The expert committee would submit a report in this connection to the CHSE. The report would be given to the State Government, which would, accordingly, take a final decision in the matter. Notably, the Government has cancelled the +2 examinations-2021 in view of the Covid-19 situation. A 14-member expert committee was then formed to suggest alternative evaluation criteria for awarding marks.

Silver cladding of 8 doors in Puri temple soon

PURI: To give the Jagannath Temple here a new look, as many as eight doors inside the shrine are going to have silver cladding soon. Within next two to three days, the works will begin for the eight doors which include five of the main shrine and three of the side temples.

In a major decision on Wednesday, while the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) announced silver cladding of doors, it also extended the restriction on pilgrims' entry to shrine till July 25. So, the prevailing ban which is already in force against entry of devotees will continue till the end of Bahuda Yatra scheduled July 20. After a meeting of a group and technical persons and servitors, SJTA Chief Administrator Krishan Kumar said that around two tonnes of

silver would be used in the cladding of the doors at 8 places. He said two committees consisting technical persons and servitors would operate separately towards modelling of the doors for which works have already reached the temple. Sources said the doors of JayVijay, Sata Pahacha, Bhoga Mandap, Beheran and Kalahata of main shrine would be silver plated. Besides, the doors of Muktimadap Nrusingha, Goddess Mahalakshmi and Goddess Bimala of the main shrine would also be plated with silver.

A generous person would bear the cost of silver cladding. Arts of Raghuaipur would be carved on the doors to give them a classical look. The donor would also employ own technicians and artisans in remodelling of the doors which would start soon. PNS

City police to develop apps to curb property offences

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to curb property-related offences and streamline the return process of recovered stolen goods to the original owners, Commissionerate police are planning to develop two computer applications. Commissioner of Police Saumendra Priyadarshi said an organised crime and property offences cell has been set up at the Bhubaneswar DCP office to prevent robberies, thefts and other property offences.

In addition, two computer applications are being developed to maintain a record of property offenders and stolen items. "In order to curb property offences, we earlier had formed Property Offence Prevention and Detection (POPD) team and C60 team at each police station under the Bhubaneswar urban police district and at DCP level," Priyadarshi said. He said the teams have done an excellent job

and said that properly offences have come down in the past few days. "Huge quantity of stolen goods was recovered and we managed to return those to many rightful owners," he said. "In order to streamline process, we have taken another initiative today. An organised crime and property offence cell has been set up at DCP office.

In addition, we are trying to develop a computer application Kundali, by integrating data on property offenders. If searched through app, one can get details regarding past crime records of any offender," Priyadarshi said. The 2nd app, Sandhan, is being developed by Commissionerate police to maintain record of stolen mobile phones and other property, he said.

"Once apps are developed, we can track down crime records of offenders and take stringent action against them besides returning recovered items to the original owners without any hassle," he added.

In Bhubaneswar Locals loot veggies as truck overturns



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a bizarre scene, locals looted vegetables near the Palasuni flyover here after a truck met with an accident on Thursday morning. Several citizens were seen collecting the vegetables from road and carrying the same in bags.

The Covid-19 guidelines were blatantly violated at the place due to the rush. Vehicular movement was affected on the portion of the road as many passersby stopped at the spot with their vehicles, thereby creating traffic jam. On being informed, police reached the place and initiated efforts to restore normalcy.

Pharmacists to wear black badges

Accuse Govt of step-motherly attitude

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Odisha Pharmacists Service Association on Thursday decided to wear black badge on June 20 in protest against the "step-motherly attitude" of the Government towards pharmacists.

The association said the Government has failed in filling the posts of doctors in rural areas and pharmacists are performing all duties starting from sweeping to patients' treatment.

In spite of all this, the Government has no concern for pharmacists, who are at present the backbone of health services of the State. "Since the Government has overlooked our legitimate demands, we



would not do any services in hospitals barring distribution of medicines," said a spokesman of the association.

According to him, the association in its 4th executive committee meeting held online on May 30 discussed in details how the Government is not taking any concrete action on cadre fixation, promotion, RACR regularisations of NHM Pharmacists and enhancement of HRS, etc.

Though the association submitted memorandums to Health Minister, Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary (Health) on May 30, nothing concrete has come out.

BJP, hosts of outfits demand B'pada Rath Yatra

Give memos to Gov, CM

PNS ■ BARIAPADA

The demand for holding Rath Yatra at Baripada, known as the second Srikshetra is gradually gaining momentum here. Besides, the State's major opposition party BJP and Mayurbhanj's leading social organisation, Bhanja Sena too have lent their support to the cause.

The district BJP and Shri Jagannath Vahini submitted their memoranda to district Collector Vineet Bharadwaj recently to press for their demand for holding the Rath Yatra at Baripada, complying with Covid norms, exactly in the same manner as Puri. While the BJP's memoran-



dum, addressed to the State Governor, urged him to intervene in the matter and see that Baripada Rath Yatra takes place, the Jagannath Vahini sent its memorandum to both Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, urging for the same.

The BJP delegation included its MLAs and senior leaders while the Jagannath Vahini delegation comprised Umakant Rout, Sarat Nayak, Narottam Panigrahi and Laxman

Tripathy. This apart, the Mayurbhanj Matha Mandir Suraksha Samiti on Thursday held a peaceful procession, accompanied by bhajans and kirtans, through the Baripada Grand Road (Bada Danda) demanding the Rath yatra in the town.

Maharaja and former Minister Praveen Bhanjdeo, cine stars Asit Pati and Anup Shah, activist Samarendra Basa and many other prominent personalities of the town were a part of the procession, which strongly demanded holding of the Rath Yatra here. Women, from their rooftops, blew conches in support of the demand. Yet another socio-cultural front Jagannath Pravachak Committee also came out in support of Baripada Rath Yatra.

Tapu admitted to ICU



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Covid-19-affected popular singer Tapu Mishra has been shifted to an ICU of a private hospital here as her condition turned critical on Wednesday evening.

She was earlier undergoing treatment at the hospital after testing Covid positive. Prior to that, she was in home isolation. Several actors of the entertainment industry have wished for quick recovery of Tapu Mishra. Notably, her father had died of Covid on May 10.

Validity of DLs, RCs extended by STA

No extension of PUCCs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Transport Authority (STA) on Thursday extended the validity of several crucial motor vehicle documents including Driving Licence (DL), Learner's Licence (LL) and Registration Certificate (RC) in view of the present pandemic situation.

The move comes subsequent to a request made by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in August to all State Governments to extend the validity of these crucial

documents. Validity of PUCC has not been extended as PUCC is issued only on examination of vehicles by authorised testing centres.

However, there would be no extension of Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUC) and insurance certificates, the STA said.

The Fitness Certificate of all motor vehicles which had expired since 01.02.2020, or would expire by 30.09.2021, such documents would be treated as valid till 30.09.2021.

The Registration Certificate of Non-transport vehicles which had expired since 01.02.2020, or would expire by 30.09.2021, such documents would be treated as valid till 30.09.2021. The Driving Licences which had

expired since 01.02.2020, or would expire by 30.09.2021, such documents would be treated as valid till 30.09.2021, the STA said.

The Learner's Licences which had expired since 18.03.2020, or would expire by 30.09.2021, such documents would be treated as valid by 30.09.2021 as the Driving Licenses test has been cancelled from 18.03.2020.

This has already been notified vide letter No.3695/TC dated 18.03.2021.

The goods carriage, contract carriage, private service vehicle and educational institution bus permits which had expired since 01.02.2020, or would expire by 30.09.2021, such permits would be treated as valid till 30.09.2021.

OMC donates ₹500 cr to CMRF

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) on Thursday contributed Rs 500 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for supporting the State Government's efforts to control the Covid-19 situation.

OMC Chairman Surendra Kumar handed over the cheque to Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through video-conferencing. Notably, the OMC is funding 10 dedicated Covid Hospitals in eight districts.

SOCIAL CANVAS

Sweeping social reforms can end Odisha backwardness



MANAS JENA

Odisha's prolonged problems like poverty, illiteracy, lack of education, modern healthcare and social security have aggravated in the absence of visible social reform movements. The prevalence of untouchability in rural areas, caste based discrimination, social exclusion based on ethnic status, atrocities against marginalized sections, violence against women, suicide by young couples of inter caste marriage, child labour, increas-

ing domestic violence, witch-hunting, female foeticide, expensive celebrations of gods and goddesses, animal sacrifice, increasing flow of liquor, ancient methods of treatment, increasing influence of Baba and Mata in public life and faith on unforeseen power to change fate is a matter of serious concern. These social issues are cause of killing of hundreds of innocent literate poor and creating social tension, encouraging crime, physical and mental violence leading to law and order problem for the State.

They affect the poor and marginalised and impact their social development negatively. The poor, socially marginalised sections, women and children are the worst sufferers. Studies have found that social issues are a major cause of economic backwardness, poverty and deprivation. Traditional social systems are used as powerful means of exploitation of labourers and women and especially, alien-

ation of resources. The social customs have contributed to indebtedness, landlessness and bondage of marginalized sections.

Odisha is not just a State with maximum percentage of people below poverty line but also a socially backward State that lags behind all social and human development indicators. There is existence of middle-class, feudal social practices in the name of culture and tradition with huge illiteracy and lack of basic healthcare facilities. Inequality and irrational ideas are being enforced in modern from and being exhibited vulgarly by some sections of media.

The focus on economic development must be accompanied with progressive social reforms as both are interconnected. While Odisha is marching ahead to build a democratic society, it must adhere to international human rights standards and constitutional values of our country. The

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993 and Article 51A of the Constitution of India should be strictly enforced by the State and must be followed by all citizens of our country.

As per 51A (h) of the Constitution of India it is the fundamental duties of every citizen to develop scientific temper, humanism, and spirit of inquiry and reform. The formation of Odisha brought together diverse social groups in 1936 and later in 1948 as a modern political State.

It comprised of coastal Odisha under direct British rule, 26 feudatory States and large tribal areas later recognized as scheduled areas. The scheduled areas constitute 44 per cent of the total geographical areas of the State. There were diverse languages, belief systems, religions, castes, ethnic groups and customs and traditions. Though Adivasis, Dalits and SEBCs constitute a

majority of the population but the post independent Odisha continues to be ruled over by upper caste people, including the former kings and feudal lords, land owning class and western educated persons etc.

It has created huge imbalance in social life. The Hindu upper caste cultural symbols, languages and social practices are projected as Odia nationality. The hegemony and dominance of upper caste values continues without any basic change reflected in social culture of the State. There has been no attempt to make laws for social reform.

Welfare or charity schemes are projected as solution to age-old social issues which perpetuate further segregation and marginalisation in the name of development. The social reform agenda must get top priority. The State has to enact progressive legislation to bring social reform by preventing unwanted practices derogatory to human dignity and pun-

ish the perpetrators engaged in promoting and practicing irrational anti-human ideas. The laws must be accompanied with change of mindset of the people by progressive social movements.

It is being observed that there are laws such as the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955, the POA Act 1989, the Sexual Harassment at the Workplace, Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act 2013, the Odisha Prevention of Witch hunting Act 2013, Child labour Prohibition Act, Eradication of Manual Scavenging Act etc, but they are not being effectively implemented in the State.

The police and judiciary have to be more sensitive and responsive to social issues and handle such cases with care. Every political party must have a social reform agenda and its members should be model in public life to be followed by common people. The political parties should recognize diver-

sity by including people from all social groups and gender in the party organization, structure and leadership. The artists, painters, writers, poets, academics and social reformers and human rights activists need to play a proactive role in influencing public life and building secular and humanist discourses through creative literature and art conducive to building a democratic society. They should be engaged in monitoring cases of human rights violation and help the victims of violence to access justice.

The young people coming forward to denounce all forms of unwanted social bondage and discrimination need to be protected and respected. Our educational institutions should be centers of social reform through education and orientation to students. The teaching community has a great role to play in this regard in building our future generations as most modern and

democratic citizens to respect and recognize diversity and dignity of individuals and to value constitutional principles.

The teaching community should be above religious bias and educational institutions should not use any religious symbol. We also need to democratize our family by practicing democratic values in family life. The human rights of women, children and elders in family need to be respected with care. Young women's rights have been very often suppressed in family in the name of family and caste pride.

Social democracy must be a way of life based on the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity. It will pave the way in building a democratic society. Political democracy is meaningless without social democracy. We must have to bring social reform to strengthen our democracy in all spheres.

(manasbsr15@gmail.com)

Missing N'garh girl's mutilated body found

Murder suspected; 1 arrested

PNS ■ NAYAGARH

A mutilated body of the six-year-old girl of Dhundugadia under the Banigochha police station in Nayagarh district, who had been missing since June 12, was found at a secluded spot near the village on Wednesday.

A special team of police, which had launched a search operation to trace the girl Bebina Nayak, recovered the body five days after she had gone missing.

Though the exact reason of her death was yet to be ascertained, police suspected it to be a case of murder. The accused in the case, Sagar Dalei, has



been arrested. Nayagarh Superintendent of Police Sidharth Kataria on Thursday said, "The girl's parents had lodged a complaint alleging kidnapping of their minor daughter, following which we had constituted a team and launched a search operation.

But today we found her body. The accused has also

been arrested and will be forwarded to court today." Further investigation was on to ascertain the exact motive behind the crime, Kataria added.

The girl had gone missing while she was playing in front of her house. Her family members searched her frantically at every possible place but failed to trace her.

Sital Sasthi held sans pomp and show in S'pur

But temples strictly adhere to traditions

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The Bam Barada Balunkeswar Baba of Nandapada, Sri Lokanath Baba of Jharuapada and Sri Jageswar Baba of Mudipara tied nuptial knot with Maa Parvati on Wednesday early morning in their symbolic fathers in law's houses as is done in the normal marriages of the Hindu families.

But the marriages were performed strictly under the Covid guidelines since it is need of the hour. The most awaited divine marriage of

Lord Siva with Maa Parvati got completed on the wee hours of Wednesday with religious fervour as per the Hindu tradition.

This is the day that the people here wait for as they take it as a good luck to don the role of father and mother of the Goddess Parvati, marrying off their divine-daughter.

The devotees in large numbers wait for the day to get their desires fulfilled with the 'Jugal Darshan' of the divine couple during this Sital Sasthi Yatra. This year, due to Covid restrictions, the usual gaiety and grandeur vanished from the event. The people here expected that the situation of 2020 would not repeat in 2021 but that didn't happen.

Still people here continued the tradition and celebrated the event with complete devotion.

"We have followed the guidelines very strictly. At the same time, we have not neglected to maintain the sanctity during the marriage as Lord Siva and Maa Parvati, otherwise treated as Purusha and Pakriti, are nothing but our heart and soul. We are playing the role of Kanya Pita and Kanya Mata (father and mother of Maa Parvati) just like actors and actresses in a play," said Sumanta Swain and Bandita Swain.

The divine marriages were also completed in temples at Maneswar, Balibandha, Thakurpara, Barbazar and many other places of the town under equal guidelines.

But this year there will be no homecoming procession in the city which is another attraction of the Sital Sasthi Yatra, the committee members said.

INBRIEF

SBI DONATES COVID SAFETY ITEMS TO CISF



Bhubaneswar: The State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Circle on Thursday donated Covid-19 safety items to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the airport here. The items consisted of sanitisers, hand gloves and facemasks. SBI Circle Development Officer Anup Sinha and AGM Eudith Ekka were present. The items were handed over to CISF Senior Commandant, Bhubaneswar Airport, Sudhir Kumar.

VALUABLES WORTH LAKHS LOOTED FROM HOUSE IN B'SWAR
BALESWAR: Unidentified miscreants on Wednesday night broke into a house through the skylight at College Chhakh under the Soro police station in Baleswar district and looted property worth lakhs of rupees. House owner Suryakanta Panda said the looters sprayed some chemicals before committing the crime. He and his family members, who were fast asleep, came to know about the loot when they woke up in the morning. Their residence's main door was locked from outside and the safe was broken. Valuables worth lakhs, including jewellery and cash were found missing from the safe. Panda lodged a complaint with the Soro police, following which an investigation has begun.

1 MORE HELD IN BARBIL FOR ATM LOOT CASE
Champua: The Barbil police on Thursday arrested one Md Jissan (20) involved in an ATM loot case that occurred on May 30. Earlier, the police had arrested two culprits and Jissan had escaped during that time. As he was arrested on the charge of motorcycle theft, upon further interrogation, it was found that he was also involved in the ATM loot case.

NISIGANDHA HOLDS POEM RECITATION
Paralakhemundi: A poem recitation ceremony was organised here on Wednesday by the Nisigandha literary association to celebrate its foundation day. More than 40 poets took part and read out their poems. Prominent among the participants were Bichitranda Behera, Dr Rajaniranjan Das, Bahadur Patsani, Balram Tarai and Padmanabha Tripathy.

Brahmapur MLA, MP distribute relief materials

Among poor who lost earning during lockdown

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAPUR

Youth BJD leader and Brahmapur MLA Bikram Panda has come to the rescue of the poor and needy people who have been robbed of their livelihood during the Covid pandemic.

Panda reportedly monitors personally the distribution of relief materials to the poor who are victims of lockdown. A band of local BJD leaders including social worker and Odisha High Court

lawyer Rabindra Kumar Sahoo also have followed suit and are coming to the rescue of the hapless in such a tough time.

According to information available, on the directives of the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, a series of relief measures have been initiated in different wards of the city under BeMC to provide relief to the needy. The sops are distributed under the direct supervision of Brahmapur

MLA Panda and MP Chandrasekhar Sahu for last many days. As per reports, BJD leaders and party volunteers led by MLA Panda visited Ward No.25 of Gosaninuaogaon on Tuesday and in the presence of local MP Sahu distributed a full kit of free rations and dry food packets that include rice, dal, suji, oil, potato, onion, soya bin, salt and wheat etc to 400 needy people in that area. Speaking to this correspon-



dent, MLA Panda and MP Sahu said that such relief measures distribution will continue for few more days.

Kendrapada DM meets Covid-orphaned siblings

To include them under different schemes

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

District Collector Amrut Rituraj called on three siblings who were rendered orphan at Sasana village under Nimapur panchayat of Pattamundai block. The hapless children, whose parents died recently after reeling under

Covid-19, are living with their relative. The Collector disbursed Rs 1,500 each to the three siblings as three months' Madhubabu pension and also assured to provide all the Government benefits under the PM Care.

He interacted with the trio and inquired about their studies and directed the BDO of Pattamundai to ensure these three orphan siblings get

admission in an English medium school. Pattamundai BDO Bharat Chandra Parida, District Social Security Officer-cum-District Child Protection Officer Pravas Chandra Das, along with Tehsildar Bholanath Sethy also accompanied the district Collector to the trio siblings' house.

According to BDO Parida, Kishore Rath (43) of Chandigadi village under Aul block was staying with his wife and three minor children at Bengaluru. But the second wave of Covid-19 ravaged the family all at once.

Kishore and his 38-year-old wife Supriya were infected and the duo died while under treatment one after another. Within a gap of two days, the three siblings, including 13-year-old Saipriya, 10-year-old girl Subhapiya and seven-year-old Subha Sudipta became orphan.

Adani Foundation supplies high-yield seeds to farmers

PNS ■ DHAMRA

The Adani Foundation, the CSR arm of the Adani Dhamra Port, with the support of State Agriculture Department and Sansar Agropol PVT Limited will provide subsidized paddy seed to the farming community of Dhamra area. After the paddy support, technical support will also be provided to the farmers who have been hit hard by the recent cyclone Yaas.

In this connection, the Foundation will distribute high yielding research based varieties of paddy seeds (RGL 2537 and CR 505) to the farming community. To start with, the seeds have arrived at Karanpalli and Karanjamal GP. The seeds would be provided to the farmers in a subsidized price through Maa Banadurga Farmers Club and Govinda



Krushka Club of Karanpalli and Karanjamal. The seed selling programme was inaugurated by Block Agriculture Officer, Chandbali Bairagi Charan Sethi and Block Agriculture Officer, Bhadrak Dr Ajit Kumar Giri. The programme will benefit 350 small and marginal farmers.

The BAOs discussed with the farmers about the issues and concerns as well as the impact of cyclone Yaas and visited the affected fields for saline soil and water sample collection for necessary interventions.

In Sundargarh Girl in live-in relationship squats before youth's house

Demands that his marriage with another girl be stopped

MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

A live-in-partner sat in front of her lover's house on Sunday protesting his marriage with another girl and demanded his marriage be immediately stopped. The accused youth reportedly married another girl on Monday. According to sources, Sarita Lakra (30), a resident of

Teterikela village under Rajgangpur police station, had fallen in love with one Kiran Xess, a resident of Guleipada village under Kutra police station of Sundargarh district, about six years ago. When Kiran continued his relationship with Sarita for a long time, she told him to marry her but Kiran kept avoiding her taking one plea or the other.

Finding no other alternative, Sarita had lodged a complaint in Rajgangpur police station against Kiran and had sought justice for her. Rajgangpur police had registered a case against Kiran and had arrested him. Later, Kiran was sent to jail at that time.

Kiran after some time had come out of jail on bail. The matter is still subjudice in court.

After eleven months of case registered against Kiran, Sarita came to know recently that Kiran was going to marry another girl. Sarita soon had lodged a complaint with the SP, Sundargarh.

On Sunday, she went to Kiran's house and sat outside his house demanding that his marriage with another girl be stopped. When family members of Kiran told her to leave the place, she remained firm in her demand. The Kutra police reached there and evicted Sarita from the place.

One killed, 2 hurt in group clash in Dhenkanal Bombs hurled, shots fired during faceoff

PNS ■ DHENKANAL

A person was killed and two others sustained critical injuries as two groups clashed near the Sarangdhar Stadium at Kamakhyanager of Dhenkanal district on Wednesday night.

A personal dispute took a violent turn as bombs were hurled and shots were fired in a bloody clash between groups of two localities in the area. The situation deteriorated around 10 pm when some miscreants hurled bombs at a car. During the faceoff, at least six rounds were fired.

Three persons were critical wounded during the attack. All the injured were initially admitted to the Kamakhyanager Hospital and later shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack. One of the injured identified as Tophan Patra succumbed to the injuries while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

In a bid to prevent the situation from worsening further, two platoons of police have been deployed in the area. The administration has also sealed both ends of the town area as tension was still prevailing.

In Sambalpur Villagers protest denial of coal transport work

Clash with newly-assigned transporters

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The Khinda area of Sambalpur district has emerged a spot of bloody tussle. As per information, NLC, a Government of India undertaking, has taken a vast area in Khinda Panchayat of the district for coal exploration of

Talabira 1 and 2 mines. And as per the agreement with the Government, it gave the coal transportation work to the villagers, mainly land oustees, in the first year.

But this year it has changed the practice and distributed the work to the political leaders and their supporters in ruling parties of the district.

The result being there has been widespread discontent among the land oustees and they are also determined to resort to agitation soon. A few days back, the group which was deprived of coal transportation and those who has been

assigned for the purpose came to a confrontation and the matter reached before the police. Police arrested six persons in the case and forwarded them to the court. Still then the political leaders are in their best efforts to keep the lucrative business under their control.

The company management also dare not confront the leaders as it would be impossible for them to run mining activities without their support. Even the top officials of the management were not responding to phone calls for their comments to media.

'Don't destroy nature for sake of dev'

CUO holds webinar on 'Hermitage Culture'

PNS ■ KORAPUT

A webinar on "Hermitage Culture in ancient India: Its Relevance in present times" was organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the Central University of Odisha, Koraput (CUO) on June 14.

Prof RVK Rama Krishna Sastry, Visiting Professor (Sanskrit) was invited to deliver the lecture as the key speaker on this occasion. CUO VC Prof I Ramabrahmam conveyed his best wishes for successful programme and hoped the students of CUO will learn the ancient culture to love and protect the nature. Chairing the session Prof Sharat Kumar

Palita, Dean, SBCNR and Director, IQAC, delivered the welcome address and briefed on the importance of hermitage culture in Ancient India.

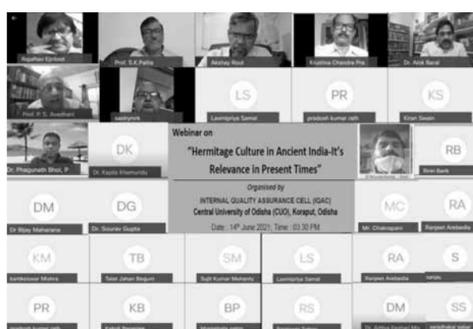
Dr Alok Baral, Head-in-Charge, Department of Odia and Sanskrit, delivered the introductory note and explained the relevance of the topic.

Delivering his address Prof Sastry highlighted the ancient Indian hermitage culture by citing hymns from Vedas, Upanishads and ancient Sanskrit literature where Barnashram (four stages of life) was way of life.

The hermitage culture of ancient India has much relevance to the present times. The friendly behaviour with nature, minimum utilization of natural resources, protection of

nature and balanced interaction with nature with this type of life style were the main features of this ancient culture, said Prof Sastry. He advised that for the sake of development, nature should not be destroyed. The lecture was

appropriately summed up by Prof E Raja Rao, Visiting Professor, (English), whereas visiting Professors like Prof PS Avadhani, Prof Akshay Rout, Prof Bhagabata Patro, Prof KC Pradhan actively interacted in the webinar.



BJP submits memo for R'gada vendors

Seeks no-rent policy for shops remains shut

PNS ■ RAYAGADA

BJP Town president Shyam Kumar Dash and other members, namely Ajaya Kumar Chulet, Buridi Laxmi, Siva Bhaskar, Jagadish Sunari, M Bidya Sagar, Rajesh Panigrahi, T Nagaraju, Prashant Mishra and Jayaram Verma submitted a memorandum to the Rayagada Collector on behalf of small vendors and shopkeepers of Rayagada town. They demand-

ed that since the shops dealing in items which are not under essential items category are not allowed to open, they should be exempted from paying their monthly rent during the time period. They demanded the administration to announce the no-rent policy for the shops remaining shut during the lockdown and shutdown period.

The other demands included exemption from electricity charges and instruction to finance companies and private lenders not to harass the loanees for at least 3-4 months.

Employ women in biodiversity conservation

ASHOK KUMAR SAHAY

Women need to be equal and actively involved in process to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity because they play a critical role as primary land managers and resource users.

Women are conversant with the indigenous knowledge and the environment friendly practices and how best they can be used. In agricultural sector, women of the villages in Odisha are playing an important role. Women produce food, build houses, dig wells

and harvest crops. They are involved in many agriculture related activities. The rural women in the villages do a range of activities which are agriculture-related. They have a greater familiarity with the local environment and the bio resources.

Under such circumstances, women get enough opportunities to acquire practical knowledge of local biodiversity and by sharing their personal experiences with the others they do a great job. Micro management of the environment by women is of immense value to society. In the villages,

women develop a good understanding of the useful plants, besides of domestic and wild animals, primarily because of their constant association with farming and kitchen gardening.

They are well-versed with various elements of village ecosystem and socioeconomic activities of the villagers. Enabling women's full engagement in biodiversity decisions is critical. That goes a long way in biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.

However, the potential of women for biodiversity conservation is still to be fully explored. This is especially

true for indigenous and rural women, who are often more marginalised in decision-making processes.

Researches show that involving women in forest and fishery management groups can result in better resources governance and conservation outcomes. Despite this, women are under-represented in decision making positions related to environmental and sustainable development issues.

Measures like extending the role of women self help groups (SHGs) and reservation for women in service delivery aspects of local environmental

issues in the Panchayati Raj system are necessary to increase the representation of women in decision making and allow women in voicing their needs, knowledge, priorities and solutions as regards sustainable development and issues related to environmental governance at the panchayat level.

An inclusive approach is needed to support women in biodiversity conservation and for creating awareness and promoting long-term beneficial action. Such understanding may be of great value in any effort for bio resources use and consideration.

No relief for 10K encroachers in Aravali forest

Apex court refuses to stay order for removal of encroachments in Faridabad's Aravali forest area



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"We want our forest land to be cleared," the Supreme Court made it clear on Thursday as it refused to stay its direction asking the Haryana Government and the Faridabad Municipal Corporation to remove all encroachments, consisting around 10,000 residential constructions, in the Aravali forest area near Khori village.

The bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari asked the State and the civic body to comply with its June 7 direction in this regard, observing "land grabbers cannot take refuge of rule of law" and talk of "fairness".

The Bench had also sought the compliance report from the State government officials after removing all encroachments from forest land near Khori village in Faridabad district with-

in six weeks. During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, advocate Aparna Bhat, appearing for the petitioners who have sought a stay on demolition of these struc-

tures, said there are around 10,000 families in the village. "Please don't give us numbers. It makes no difference. We want our forest land to be cleared," the bench said,

adding, "We have given enough time. The notification was issued but you continued there at your own risk." "This is forest land. This is not ordinary land," the bench

observed. Bhat argued about rehabilitation and said that the State authority has not taken up the issue of eligibility and identification process has not been done. The bench referred to its April 5 order, passed in a matter related to the issue, and said the civic body will take steps in accordance with law. "You have to evict them in accordance with law. You have to give benefit of scheme (of rehabilitation) to those who are eligible," the bench told the counsel appearing for the municipal corporation.

The bench, while asking whether the petitioners have given additional documents to the corporation for verification, observed that enough time was already given earlier. "Look at these people and their situ-

ation. They are migrant labourers. There are children," Bhat said and also referred to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. "That is for the state to do. We are only concerned with the vacating of forest area. We have given enough time earlier," the bench observed.

The apex court observed that people there can produce their documents for identification and rehabilitation to the corporation. When Bhat referred to global guidelines for non-eviction during pandemic, the bench said, "We are not concerned with global guidelines. This issue is going on for long."

The bench said that no indulgence can be shown at this stage. It noted that petitioners were obligated to produce documents before the corporation

and they have failed to do so. The bench said that clearance of encroachment on forest land would be done by following the due process of law. It said that larger issues related to the matter are pending and it would take up the plea on July 27.

The Judges also rejected Haryana Government's arguments of violence, stone pelting during demolition attempts. "You know what you have to do. We don't want to say on this. We want our order to be complied with," the bench said. It had said that Superintendent of Police, Faridabad, shall be personally responsible for ensuring adequate logistical support and police protection to the officials of corporation.

Post-Covid syndrome grips more than 23% patients: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It's almost three months that Rajeev Chaudhary (54) has been declared Covid-19 negative. But he is still reeling under the post-Covid syndrome, which the doctors call 'long Covid'.

"My sugar level has shot up. I feel fatigued whole day as if there is no strength in my body. At times, I feel very depressed while anxiety lingers on," the Delhi government official shares the trauma he's going through daily.

Chaudhary is not the only one who is grappling with post-Covid health issues. According to a study, among all patients infected with the coronavirus disease, more than 23 percent continued to suffer from one or more health issues even a month after being diagnosed with Covid-19.

Patients with such post-Covid conditions are variously referred to as having long-haul Covid, long Covid or post-acute sequelae of Covid-19 (PASC), said the study by an NGO FAIR Health which had analysed private health care claim records for nearly 2 million people diagnosed with Covid last year. The people in the study ranged in age from babies to the elderly; some 53 percent were female and 47 percent were male.

The five most common post-Covid conditions across all ages were pain, breathing difficulties, hyperlipidemia, malaise and fatigue, and hypertension. Pain, breathing difficulties and intestinal issues were the top conditions among the paediatric population (0-18). More than 25 per cent young individuals aged between 19 and 29 showed cardiac inflammation post-Covid.

As per the study, 50 per cent patients hospitalised with

Pvt hospitals start inoculating people with Sputnik jabs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Russia's Covid-19 vaccine — Sputnik V — is finding takers in the private sector with hospitals like Indraprastha Apollo, Fortis Healthcare and Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital starting administering the jab to people.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories has started inoculation with Sputnik V, as part of the soft launch in India after it obtained regulatory clearance from the Central Drugs Laboratory. In April, Sputnik V received an emergency use authorization in India.

Reddy's administered the first dose of the vaccine in India in Hyderabad under a limited pilot on May 14. The vaccine is currently priced at \$12.9 (Rs948) plus tax for one dose in India. This price is expected to reduce after local supply commences.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories co-chairman and managing director G V Prasad said: "With the rising cases in India, vaccination is our most effective



tool in our battle against Covid-19.

Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram and Fortis Hospital, Mohali have decided to launch it as part of a limited pilot roll-out from June, 19 2021. The two-dose vaccine will be available at two hospitals. In the coming days, the vaccine will be available at more Fortis hospitals across 11 cities as part of the phase-wise pilot project.

Dr Ashutosh Raghuvanshi, MD and CEO, Fortis Healthcare, said, "Till date, our units were only providing Covaxin and

Covishield. We are the first to provide a third vaccine option, at Fortis Memorial Research Institute and Fortis Hospital Mohali, with the dual objective of expanding and scaling up the vaccination drive and lowering the infection risks to future mutations of the virus."

Sputnik V has been developed by Russia's Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology. Hyderabad-based Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has partnered with Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) for the roll out of the two-dose vaccine in India.

63% drop in domestic air traffic in May

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There was a 63 per cent drop in domestic air traffic in May compared to April as the Covid-19 second wave ravaged the entire country. In numbers, around 21.15 lakh domestic passengers travelled by air in May compared to 57.25 lakh who travelled in April.

According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), 78.22 lakh people travelled within the country by air in March. Air India, GO FIRST (previously known as GoAir), Vistara and AirAsia India carried 4.29 lakh, 1.38 lakh, 97,000 and 64,000 passengers respectively in May, the data showed.

It was due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic that had badly hit the country and its aviation sector. While IndiGo carried 11.69 lakh passengers in May, a 55.3-per cent share of the domestic market, SpiceJet flew 1.99 lakh passengers, accounting for a 9.4-per cent share of the market, according to data shared by the DGCA.

The occupancy rate or load factor of the six major Indian airlines was between 39.3 per cent and 64 per cent in May, it stated. The occupancy rate at SpiceJet was 64 per cent in May, the DGCA noted.

The occupancy rates for IndiGo, Vistara, GO FIRST,



Air India and AirAsia India were 51.2 per cent, 40.9 per cent, 63.3 per cent, 39.3 per cent and 44.4 per cent respectively, it added. India resumed domestic passenger flights on May 25 last year after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

June and July, 2020, had seen 19.8 lakh and just over 21 lakh domestic flyers, respectively, as per DGCA data. As the second wave unleashed its ferocity, the numbers first dropped to 57 lakh in April and then crashed to 21.1 lakh in May, 2021 — a figure seen in the first two months after domestic flights' resumption on May 25, 2020.

Indian airlines are allowed to operate a maximum of 50 per cent of their pre-pandemic domestic flights. The DGCA data mentioned that in May, IndiGo had the best on-time performance of 98.7 per cent at four metro airports — Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

Vistara and AirAsia India were at the second and third positions at these four airports in May with 98.1 per cent and 97.4 per cent on-time performance respectively, the DGCA said.

Covid 3rd wave unlikely to hit kids much, says survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The possible third wave of Covid-19 is unlikely to affect children much, according to a multi-centric community based serosurvey study conducted by AIIMS, Delhi, thus contradicting apprehensions that a future Covid-19 wave may disproportionately hit kids.

The survey revealed that infection rates among kids and adults in five cities in different parts of the country, in both rural and urban areas, were similar. The data also showed that irrespective of the age groups, rural sites had lower sero-positivity compared to the urban sites.

Citing the findings, the researchers associated with AIIMS in Bhubaneswar and Gorakhpur, apart from Delhi, JIPMER, Puducherry, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad and Agartala government medical college and WHO have ruled out the possibility that Covid-19 surges ahead are likely to hit children harder than before.

Blood samples were collected from 4,509 individuals, 700 aged 2-17 years and 3,809 aged 18 and above between March 15-June 10 to check for the antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 for the study.

Of the participants tested from Delhi, Faridabad, Bhubaneswar, Agartala and Gorakhpur, 55.7 per cent kids

and adolescents had antibodies against the COVID-19 virus, while in adults the seroprevalence was found to be 63.5 per cent.

"Hence, it is unlikely that any future third wave by a prevailing COVID-19 variant would disproportionately affect children two years or older," the report has said.

Within the rural sites, children had slightly lower sero-positivity compared to adults. However, this differential prevalence was not observed in the urban sites.

It was also seen that the prevalence in children was slightly more among female participants compared to male (58.6 per cent versus 53.0 per cent) but there was no statistically significant difference in sero-positivity between male and female.

The researchers found that children aged 2-4 years and 5-9 years had almost identical sero-positivity rate (42.4 per cent and 43.8 per cent) which was lower than the rate observed for children aged 10-17 years (60.3 per cent).

The higher seropositivity rate in children aged 10-17 years may be reflective of their higher mobility and independence compared to the younger children, the study noted adding that as reported in the literature, a large proportion of children (50.9%) had an asymptomatic COVID-19 infection.

CRPF issues Covid norms to protect its personnel

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With varying protocols being adopted by different States for management of Covid-19 and allowing persons in their respective jurisdiction, the CRPF has issued a detailed set of guidelines for its personnel entering or reporting from leave from minimum

seven days quarantine in case of negative test report and for positive cases, action as per existing guidelines.

The move comes after the status of Covid-19 was reviewed by the CRPF directorate and it was observed that the number of patients and positivity rate has declined considerably and the overall situation has improved and the

overall situation has improved. However, due to caution, care has been maintained in the CRPF for consolidation of the whole process of Covid-19 management.

The State governments are following different practices in respect of persons coming to respective State jurisdiction.

In Jammu and Kashmir, there is a provision for manda-



tory antigen test and no quarantine is required if the test report is negative. In Punjab, five-day mandatory quarantine is in place. In Rajasthan, no quarantine is required if a

negative RTPCR report of not less than 72 hours is there or institutional quarantine for 15 days or till a negative test report is received. In Rajasthan, no RTPCR test

report or quarantine is required if an individual is vaccinated with both the doses of vaccine 28 days prior to arrival in the State.

Likewise, in Delhi, no quarantine/restriction is in place for inter-State movement. In Haryana and Chandigarh, no institutional quarantine is required for asymptomatic passengers.

In view of the differing Covid protocols in vogue across the States, the CRPF issued the detailed instructions for strict compliance.

The CRPF has directed that if the test report is negative or where the test is mandatory as per local administration norms, the personnel will undergo seven-day quarantine at respective unit/establishment locations.

Left pans move to corporatise ordnance factories

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Left parties and their trade unions on Thursday condemned the corporatisation plan of Ordnance Factories under the Defence Ministry. CPI general secretary D Raja and CITU general secretary Tapan Sen said this is a clear move to sell the factories under Company Law and later sell to private players.

"Some 44 Ordnance Factories operating under Ordnance Factories Board under Ministry of Defence will be split in seven pieces and seven corporations will be formed under Companies Act. More than seventy five per cent requirements of our defence forces are being successfully and timely produced and supplied by our Ordnance Factories with incomparable efficiency and assured quality.

Country's Ordnance Factories network is an unquestionable example of "Atmanirbhar Bharat", the phrase being so much noisily

touted by the Modi Govt, in the respective areas of production and services. There is absolutely no valid rationale for such drastic alteration of the existing structure of the Ordnance Factories network," said Sen in a detailed statement, supporting protest of the factory staff on June 19.

"And present move for corporatisation of Ordnance Factories, that too being pushed through in the midst of 2nd wave of pandemic, is in gross violation of the understanding and assurances given by the Government to the united platform of Defence workers' federations in the face of their decision to go in for indefinite strike from 12th October 2020," said Sen.

CPI general secretary Raja termed the corporatisation as "ill-designed move."

"At least five ministers in the past including late Manohar Parrikar, former defence minister of the BJP government had given written assurances to the work force that the Ordnance Factories would not be corporatised.

RESCHEDULING/REGULATION OF TRAINS

Northern Railway will undertake the construction work of Foot Over Bridge at Bhodwal Majri yard between Ganaur and Samalkha stations on Delhi Sabzi Mandi-Ambala Cantt. Section. To execute this work, 4 hours (0.20 - 4.20 hrs.) Power and Traffic Block will be taken on 20.06.2021. Consequently the following trains will be affected as under:-

RESCHEDULING OF SPECIAL TRAIN

02422 Jammu Tawi - Ajmer Express Special Train will depart from Jammu Tawi at 20.30 hrs. instead of 18.15 hrs. on 19.06.2021.

REGULATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Time/Period of Regulation
04554 Daultapur Chowk - Delhi Jn. Himachal Exp. Spl.	Train commencing its journey on 19.06.2021 will be regulated for 60 minutes between Ambala - Panipat section.
02312 Kalka - Howrah Jn. Netaji Express Special	Train commencing its journey on 19.06.2021 will be regulated for 30 minutes between Ambala - Panipat section.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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

RAILMADAD HELPLINE NO. 139

Visit RailMadad Website :- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Govt extends validity of motor vehicle documents

Uniform pollution certificate for all vehicles across India, PUC to have mobile number of vehicle owner

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday extended the validity of motor vehicle documents like

driving licence (DL), registration certificate (RC) and permits till September 30, 2021, in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) also notified to make the PUC (Pollution Under Control) certificate for all vehicles uniform across the country and also to link the PUC database with the National Register.

Keeping the Covid protocols in mind, the MoRTH said

it has advised the enforcement authorities that the validity of fitness, permit (all types), licence, registration or any other concerned document(s) may be treated to be valid till September 30, 2021.

"This covers all documents whose validity has expired since Feb 1, 2020, or would expire by September 30, 2021. This will help out citizens in availing transport related services, while maintaining social distancing," it said.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Thursday. Stalin, who recently led his party to a big win in the Assembly polls in his State, is on a visit to the national Capital. Pioneer photo

Bengal Gov meets Prez over law & order in State

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Camping in New Delhi for the past two days apparently to seek a redress for the deteriorating law and order situation in Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday lodged his first complaint with President Ram Nath Kovind drawing his attention towards how human rights was being violated in the State, post polls.

The Governor who reportedly met the President for about 45 minutes submitted a note detailing his observations on the deteriorating law and order and human rights, State repression of opposition workers, persecution of them by the ruling Trinamool Congress and what he called a "stunning silence" of the powers that be towards the ongoing bloodshed and loot.

In the note the Governor has raised the issue of a prejudiced administrative system where the police and the administration allegedly worked to further the interests of the ruling political party.

The Governor is also reported to have given detailed

reports on every district and sub-division where such violence was taking place and the places he recently visited to acquire a firsthand experience of the alleged torture being perpetrated on the people, requesting presidential action.

Dhankhar who also met Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday evening had on Wednesday called on National Human Rights Commission Chairman Justice Arun Mishra seeking his intervention in the present state of affairs in the State.

Sources said that the Governor briefed the Home Minister about the "retributive violence" being perpetrated on the people in a planned manner with the State Government turning a blind eye on the situation. He is also known to have raised issue of latest "sectarian" attacks that took place at Chandannagore in Hooghly district and Tiljala area right in the heart of Capital Kolkata.

Earlier Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari too had complained about a Basirhat-Dhulagarh like com-



munal attacks being organized in these two places.

On whether Dhankhar had suggested any "constitutional measures" was not clear but TMC leaders in Kolkata said that the party was prepared of any such step with a minister from North Kolkata adding "whole State will erupt if the Centre dares impose Article 356."

The Governor who was on a 3-day trip to the national Capital earlier met Union Ministers Prahlad Singh Patel and Prahlad Joshi before tweeting "... had useful interaction with Union Minister of Coal and Mines and Parliamentary

Affairs..." Sources reporting on the "useful interactions" said talks also featured on investigations into the multi-crore coal scam from Bengal --- involving some of TMC's top leadership.

Earlier complaining on the alleged "retributive post poll violence" Dhankhar said how the State Government was turning a blind eye to the incidents

that had rendered thousands of people homeless and properties worth cores looted and destroyed.

Later before flying to Delhi he wrote to Chief Minister how despite four Cabinet meetings having taken place in the past six weeks ... not a single word was spent on the post poll violence ... and no minister or officer visited the affected areas

and no compensation was declared."

"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 its work ... the police and the Home Department must rise above partisan politics ... (or else) I shall not overlooked the matter," the Governor said.

BJP creating 'perspective' for ulterior motive: Didi

Kolkata: Bengal Chief Minister on Thursday chose to ignore Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar's visit to Delhi saying "speech is silver and silence is golden."

Instead of directly attacking the Governor --- a usual tactic that she would adopt for the past couple of years --- Banerjee focused on the "political gimmicks" of the BJP to create a "perspective" for some ulterior motive.

She would not refer to the Governor but say "you can rebuke a child into silence but you cannot make a person with bad eyesight to see reasons." Pointing at the alarming

state of affairs in the BJP-ruled States she said how the saffron party was not bothered about the situations in UP, MP, Gujarat etc where "people are dying like animals and their bodies floating in the rivers."

Refuting charges of post-poll violence Banerjee said, "as journalists you must have better information about the so-called violence ... but have you seen violence anywhere? ... some incidents happened during election, but at that time, the Election Commission was in charge ..." reminding how the BJP was "trying to create a perspective... But it is not true..."

I don't support violence and I have asked my police to take stern action against those who will try to break law and order in the state."

In an apparent reference to the Governor's visit to Delhi she said "whatever you are witnessing now is nothing but their (BJP leaders) gimmick. It is a part of their pre-planned move after facing a defeat in the poll which they cannot accept."

She said instead of disturbing Bengal "they (BJP) should look at UP, MP and Gujarat where the law and order situation is deteriorating every day." **PNS**

Kerala HC rejects PIL challenging reform moves in Lakshadweep

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by a local activist challenging the Lakshadweep Administration's reform measures including the move to introduce Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation 2021 which envisages development of towns on uninhabited islands and the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act (PASA).

A bench consisting of judges S V Bhatti and Murali Purushothaman ruled that the so called LDAR 2021 was a mere draft of the administrative reform proposal and not a final order.

Discontentment was brewing in the archipelago in the Arabian Sea for the last two weeks over the move by the administrator of the Union Territory to bring in reforms in the islands and make the atolls as developed as Maldives. The public interest litigation challenging the move by the administrator was a reflection of the public ire towards the reforms.

The judges observed that the observation of the legality of the draft regulation which was under the active consideration of the administration was completely premature. Because of the draft administrative reforms which were opposed by the inhabitants of the islands, the BJP unit is getting isolated. Every day hundreds of party workers are leaving the Hindutwa brigade for good though there are hardly 150 party activists in the islands.

Earlier in the day, Aisha Sultana, a struggling film artist, who had accused the Centre of using bio weapon against the Lakshadweep population, was granted interim anticipatory bail by a single judge bench of the Kerala High Court. Judge Ashok Menon while disposing of a petition filed by the artist asked her to appear before the Kavaratti Police for interrogation on June 20 in connection with a notice served on her under Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Maha deaths drop to 636, cases down to 9,830

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 deaths dropped to 636 in Maharashtra on Thursday, even as the infections came down to 9,830 in the State. A day after Maharashtra logged 1,236 deaths and 10,107 fresh cases, the daily deaths came down by nearly half, while the infections dropped marginally by 277.

With 636 deaths reported on Thursday, the Covid-19 toll in the State jumped from 1,15,390 to 1,16,026.

With 9,830 fresh infections, the total infections in the state rose from 59,34,880 to 59,44,710.

As 5,890 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 56,79,746 to 56,85,836.

The recovery rate in the state dropped from 95.7 per cent to 95.64 per cent. The total "active cases" in the state climbed from 1,36,661 to 1,39,960. The fatality rate in the state went up from 1.94 per cent to 1.95 per cent.

Pune with 18,887 cases continued to be remain first in the state in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the state, while Mumbai with 18,417 stood second, followed by Thane (14,088), Kolhapur (13,485), Sangli (11,490), Ratnagiri (7483) Satara (7298), Sindhudurg (5581), Ahmednagar (4829) and Raigad (4810), Nagpur (4742) and Nashik (4355).

Class 12 students who wish to take exams can appear as situation gets normal: CBSE exam controller

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following the Supreme Court's acceptance of the CBSE and CISCE class 12 board results' evaluation formula, the CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bharadwaj explained the 30:30:40 formula for the marking criteria for Class 12 exams, saying "40 per cent marks will be based on Class 12 pre-board, midterm exams, and unit test, 30 per cent marks will be based on Class 11 final exams, and 30 per cent marks will be based on best-of-three Class 10 marks".

Bharadwaj said, "CBSE is also developing a software on the basis of which schools can calculate marks for Class 12 exams." He mentioned that the students who wish to take exams can appear once the situation get normal. "The process of exams for students who want to take will be initiated after results," he said adding the Class 10 Board results will be declared by July 20.

On its part, the CICSE mentioned that performance of the candidates in the school examinations in the subjects in Classes 9 and 10, measured through their best marks obtained in the two years (referred to as raw marks) and the best performance of the school in the last six years will be evaluated. "The first two factors measure the subject proficiency of the candidates, while the last is a measure of the general quality of the schools the candidates are appearing from," CISCE official statement said.

The assessment scheme released by the board includes

student's marks in Class 10 board exams, project, practical work in subjects, best marks obtained in school exams in Classes 11 and 12, and best performance of the school itself in the last six years. The CISCE arrived at this after considering data from 2015 to 2020.

The CISCE's Class 12 ISC result formula was devised by a committee of three experts who are statisticians and "six in-house members". The panel analysed data for one lakh students from across 1,200 schools for the Class 12 ISC result and 2.2 lakh students from 2,500 schools for the Class 10 ICSE exam. The evaluation formula, however, has evoked mixed reaction from experts with some hailing the criteria while others terming it to be unfair move for students who will step into their higher education system.

"In my opinion, more weightage should have been included for internal exams conducted in class 12 as students become serious about academics after joining class 12. They tend to take class 11 less seriously as it is not a Board class. Also including weightage for class 10 is not very wise as it includes many subjects which students don't pursue at the senior secondary level and has no relevance at this stage," said Meenu Kanwar, Principal of the Amity International School Mayur Vihar, New Delhi.

However, Vikas Ojha, Principal of Foundation School, Buxar, appreciated the decision taken by the CBSE on the evaluation process given the odd prevailing circumstances that has affected the education system equally.

India will retaliate strongly if provoked, Rajnath warns China

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As face-offs continue at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday cautioned China that India is a peace loving nation but will hit back strongly if provoked. He also paid tributes to the 20 Indian army personnel including the commanding officer who were killed in a brawl with the Chinese troops in the Galwan valley a year ago.

Dedicating 12 strategically important roads built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to the nation in the north east, particularly Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, on Thursday, Rajnath said India is a priest of world peace but any serious disturbance to peace and tranquility in border areas would have adverse implications.

"We seek world peace (but) if someone shows us an aggressive attitude, we will respond," Singh said, adding the "new roads will help secure international borders".

The defence minister said, "Last year in Galwan Valley, our soldiers displayed exemplary courage and valour in line of duty. I salute all brave soldiers who laid down their lives fighting for the nation."

Highlighting the significance of the 12 roads including 10 in Arunachal Pradesh and one each in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, he said they will not only give a boost in connectivity but would facilitate faster movement of troops along the international border.

He made these observations in an event organized in Lakhimpur district of Assam. The defence minister dedicated the roads virtually in the presence of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh chief ministers Himanta Biswa Sarma and Pema Khandu respectively.

He said, "We will respond, Singh said, adding the "new roads will help secure international borders".

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Amit Shah launches helpline for cyber fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched a national helpline (155260) and reporting platform for preventing financial loss due to cyber fraud.

The national helpline and reporting platform provides a mechanism for persons cheated in cyber frauds to report such cases to prevent loss of their hard earned money.

"The facility empowers both the banks and the police, by leveraging new-age technologies for sharing online fraud related information and taking action in almost real time. The loss of

defrauded money in online cheating cases can be stopped by chasing the money trail and stopping its further flow before it is taken out of the digital ecosystem by the fraudster," the MHA said in statement.

Currently, the helpline and its reporting platform has all the major public and private sector banks onboard. The notable ones include - State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Union Bank, IndusInd, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis, Yes and Kotak Mahindra Bank. It also has all major wallets and merchants such as PayTM, PhonePe, Mobikwik, Flipkart and Amazon linked to it, said MHA.

Army takes stock of LAC, LOC situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Army top brass on Thursday began a three-day brainstorming session to review the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and the Line of Control (LOC) and its operational preparedness to meet any challenge.

Incidentally, the Army Commanders' Conference comes a year after the Galwan Valley clash in Eastern Ladakh.

The face-offs began in May last year from the Pangong Tso (lake) in Ladakh. The Chinese stopped an Indian patrol leading to a scuffle in which several soldiers from both the sides received injuries. Soon, stand offs erupted at some other points including Hot Springs, Gogra and the Depsang valley.

Trees worth ₹1,50,000 cr looted from Kerala in last 2 years: Environmentalist

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Trees, some of them are known as Royal Trees, worth ₹1,50,000 crore has been looted from Kerala during the last two years alone, according to leading environmentalist John Peruvanthanam who knows the forests of the State like the back of his hand.

Sir, as he is known across Kerala had toured the districts from where he got information about the illegal tree felling braving his own life and what he saw was massive robbing of forests by the axis consisting of politicians-bureaucrats and timber mafia.

"Rose Wood, which is also known by the name the Royal Tree, costs more than ₹two lakh per cubic feet. Thousands of such trees have been chopped away by this cartel. Most of the trees cut down were taken away from the country in cargo aircraft and ships. These are used in the construction of castles, palaces and ranch houses in Europe and USA," said John Peruvanthanam, the unofficial forester of the State.

He said that trees which were more than 1000 years old were cut down and taken away by the mafia. The environmental and ecological values provided by these trees were th-



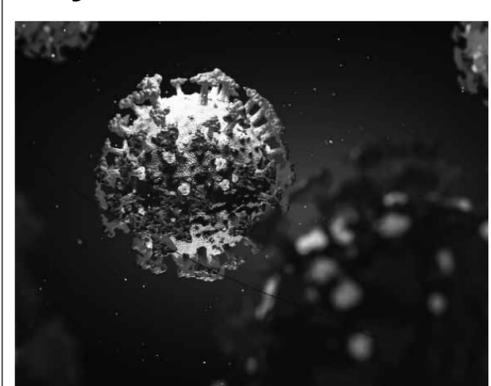
sand fold more than the ₹1,50,000 crore that the exchequer lost by the illegal felling of these trees. This is the biggest anti-national activity scene in Kerala," he said.

Kerala's Leader of Opposition V D Satheeshan made a startling disclosure on Thursday that the bureaucrat-politician-forest poachers cartel has swindled the entire forest in the State.

"They have cut down all rare species of trees from areas where there was semblance to green cover in the State. We understand that forest land in eight districts were slaughtered by the Pinaryi Vijayan Government that has been ruling the State since 2016," Satheeshan told reporters after leading a team of Opposition party leaders to areas which were cleared off forests by the timber mafia.

The opposition party leaders visited the entire forest ranges in the State from trees were cut down indiscriminately. "

Active Covid cases drop below 70k in Andhra, tally 8.3 lakh



SIANS ■ AMARAVATI

Active Covid cases dropped below the 70,000 mark to reach 69,831 on Thursday in Andhra Pradesh, even as 6,151 new Covid infections have been reported.

With the new cases, Andhra Pradesh's Covid tally crossed 18.3 lakh.

On a positive note, 7,728 more people recovered from the disease in the past 24 hours, increasing the total number of recoveries over 17.5 lakh.

Bucking the daily trend of an average 10,000 recoveries, the southern state witnessed fewer recoveries on Thursday.

East Godavari district reported the highest number of cases at 1,244, followed by Chittoor (937), West Godavari (647), Prakasam (554), Kadapa (478), Krishna (424), Anantapur (359), Guntur (331), Nellore (274), Srikakulam (264), Visakhapatnam (237), Kurnool (203) and Vizianagaram (199).

Except for Krishna and Vizianagaram, all other districts in Andhra Pradesh have now reported more than 1 lakh Covid cases, however, Krishna district is also inching towards the 1 lakh mark, just shy of 3,000 cases.

With 1.02 lakh more tests conducted in the past 24 hours, the total number of tests carried out in Andhra Pradesh has crossed the 2.08 crore-mark.

Central BJP leaders arrive in Agartala to meet rebel MLAs amid speculation of them joining TMC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an urgent bid to avert a TMC overreach in Tripura, BJP rushed Party leaders including its General Secretary BL Santosh to Agartala who on Thursday held marathon meetings with party MLAs to work out a reconciliation between the Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb and the Dissident groups in the State.

BJP State president Dr Manik Saha, accepted "differences" saying "we are a family, and in a family it happens sometime and has been sorted out." He, However, skirted answer to the query on TMC's attempt to poach BJP MLAs in Tripura.

BJP is apprehending that Mukul Roy back in the ruling TMC fold in West Bengal may organise defections of MLAs from the faction-ridden BJP in the state. BJP's fears are not unfounded as it was Roy in the BJP who had facilitated defections of six Congress MLAs to the BJP in 2016. BJP central leadership rushed Santhosh and its organisation secretary for the Northeast, Ajay Jamwal, to Agartala a day before and met with Chief Minister and MLAs including 'rebels'.

Santosh reportedly held a closed door one-to-one meeting at Agartala with several BJP leaders to understand the differences and address the grievances and differences.

BJP General Secretary had discussion with MPs Pratima Bhowmik and Rebati Tripura, Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Debbarman and dissident MLAs. Tripura BJP in-charge Vinod Kumar Sonkar, who was also to arrive here, had to cancel his visit on account of a family issue. Dissident MLAs like Sudip Roy Barman, Ram Prasad Paul, Ashish Das, Sushanta Choudhury and Ashish Kumar Saha went to the party office to meet Santosh.

Sources said he also met Deputy Chief Minister, two MPs, four Ministers and the MLAs who were called in six separate groups. Dissidents demanded replacement of state president Dr Manik Saha, expansion of Cabinet and certain changes in the organisation.

BJP leaders here, however, denied rebel activities in Tripura BJP saying senior leaders are in the state to discuss assembly poll preparations which are though two-years ago.

Raj district second in country to build over 93K houses under PM Awas Yojana

Jaipur: Notwithstanding the difficult times brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the tribal-dominated Dungarpur district in Rajasthan has scripted history by becoming the first place in the state and second in the country to build 93,128 houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

The Dakshin Dinajpur district in West Bengal occupies the top position in the national list, while Hooghly in the

same state is placed third.

As per the list released on Wednesday, Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon is placed fourth, followed by Kanker in the same state.

The list took many parameters into consideration and declared Dungarpur as the first district in Rajasthan to build over 93,000 houses under the PM Awas Yojana in the last one year, officials confirmed.

District Collector Suresh Kumar Ola said that different teams under Anjali Rajoriya, Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad, Dungarpur, worked hard at the ground level to accomplish the feat.

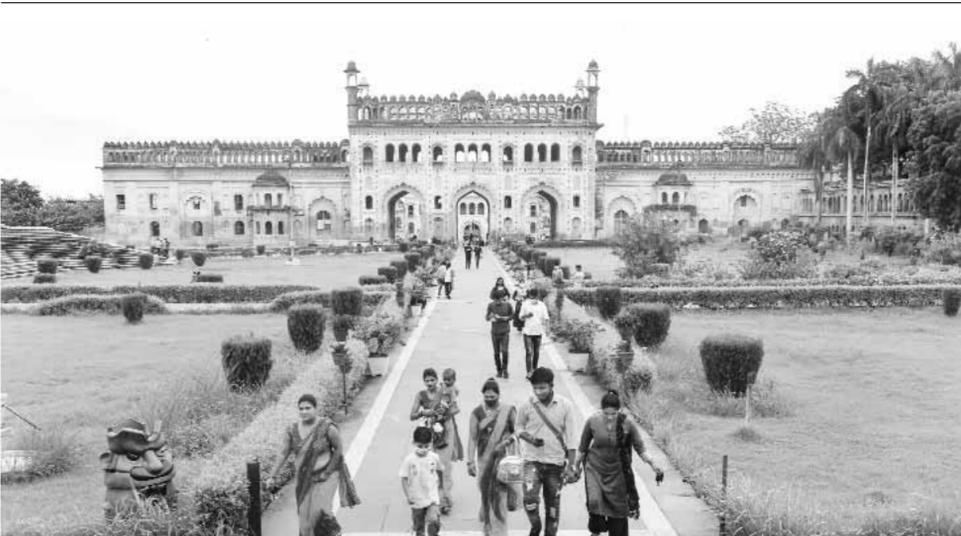
Rajoriya said that as many as 1,00,054 houses were approved under the scheme in the district of which 93,128 were completed.

Officials said that besides fighting the Covid crisis, the district officials also focused on

ensuring that people do not migrate for employment and have their own roofs over their heads before the monsoon set in. Keeping this in mind, they monitored the construction works across the district and ensured that the set goal was achieved. They also ensured the generation of a significant number of man hours for the jobs besides creating employment opportunities under MNREGA.

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Visitors at Bada Imbara that reopened after some ease in Covid 19 lockdown, in Lucknow on Thursday

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PAPER WITH PASSION

India-Pak thaw?

Both countries would prefer to keep taking small steps that would not alter the *status quo* on their core stands

India and Pakistan have taken another tentative step away from the precipice of a bilateral freeze with both sides clearing the assignment visas of diplomats and High Commission staff pending because of a two-year stand-off. This will help staff on both sides to resume work and both Missions will get back to their sanctioned strength. The numbers were reduced after relations soured, with Pakistan demanding the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K's) special status by India in August, 2019. Pakistan even recalled its High Commission and India asked the neighbour to reduce its Mission strength by half. This is the latest in a series of measures taken in recent months to reach a point from where a bilateral thaw could be achieved if both sides so wished. The year began with speculation about the mediation of the United Arab Emirates between the two countries. It acquired the halo of truth in late February when both armies agreed to adhere to the 2003 ceasefire pact at the Line of Control. The Emirati Foreign Minister has separately met his counterparts in India and Pakistan as well. A sense of calm simultaneously entered the bilateral space. For instance, India allowed Pakistan Prime Minister's plane to fly through its airspace while on its way to Sri Lanka. The Pakistan Army chief suggested in March that both sides should bury the hatchet and move ahead. The Indian Prime Minister greeted his Pakistani counterpart on Pakistan Day. A Covid-infected Prime Minister Imran Khan received speedy recovery wishes from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Khan offered anti-Covid medical equipment to India.

It is much too early to read any long-term messaging from these developments. The basic issues remain where they are, both stands as frozen as ever. India will not revoke its decision on J&K and Pakistan has shown no inclination to withdraw its demand either. India continues to insist on Pakistan discouraging cross-border terrorism even though Islamabad blatantly denies involvement in spite of concrete evidence. Both sides, however, need respite from their individual sources of stress. Pakistan faces the blacklist threat from the Financial Action Task Force because of relentless pressure from the US and India. With the US leaving Afghanistan and much of the Taliban leadership living in Pakistan, it has its hands full on that front. The least it wants at this juncture is further escalation of tension with India. New Delhi, on the other hand, has been engaged in a stand-off with China in Ladakh for over a year and would not want the other border with Pakistan to become a hotspot. For their own reasons, both countries would prefer to keep taking harmless steps that would not alter the *status quo* on their core stands but ease day-to-day tensions and extend the fragile peace. These measures will at best test the flexibility of both sides to create conditions in the future to discuss the broader bilateral issues.



Women work in a paddy field, in the absence of their family members who are staging a protest in Delhi against the new farm laws, during the monsoon season at Daun Kalan village in Patiala

Battle lines drawn

UP is going to witness a multi-cornered fight in the Assembly poll, where Yogi and Akhilesh will be the main contenders

The BSP chief Mayawati's decision to join hands with the Akali Dal in Punjab and her description of the SP as an expert in "narrow politics" — whatever it may mean — is full of portent for Uttar Pradesh (UP) politics ahead of the Assembly poll next year. By aligning with the Badals, Mayawati has shown that she may not be game for any alliance in UP with the Congress. Similarly, by unleashing a vituperative attack on the SP and calling it an expert in despicable manipulations, malice, and casteism, she has virtually shut the door on any SP-led broad-based anti-BJP tie-up. This has not come as a surprise to anyone. Except for making occasional noises on Covid mismanagement and the law and order situation under the Yogi Adityanath Government, the BSP supremo never indicated that she was eager to be part of the Opposition game plan to dislodge the BJP-led Government. With Mayawati out of the way, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has limited options. Already there are talks that the SP can join hands with the AAP and also rope in the RLD and farmer leader Rakesh Tikait as well as Dalit leader Chandrashekhar Azad. So far there is no clarity if the Congress could be part of any such alliance. If that happens, then the Congress will have to swallow its pride and accept a smattering of seats and sacrifice its mission to revive the party in India's most politically-important State.

While the BSP and the Congress seem to be preparing to ferry their own boats, Asaduddin Owaisi is all but ready to join the battle for UP after grabbing five seats in the Bihar Assembly elections last year and sabotaging the prospects of the RJD on at least 11 seats, much to the delight of the BJP. In December, Owaisi announced that the AIMIM would contest the Assembly elections in UP. Owaisi is trying to go to the polls with Om Prakash Rajbhar, whose SBSP has considerable following among the Rajbhar, Pal and several backward castes in the politically-significant Bundelkhand region. A former BJP ally, Rajbhar is the sitting MLA from Zahoarabad constituency in UP's Ghazipur district. By every indication, UP is going to witness a multi-cornered contest where Yogi and Akhilesh will be the main contenders. In addition to the caste factors, the ongoing farmers' agitation will also play a key role in the polls, and Tikait will be a key player in Western UP. If the Centre does not concede the demand of the farmers, then the region could see major political churning and bring together the Jats and Muslim voters on one plank. This could be deadly for the BJP. The Government has already started making the right noises and resumed offers for dialogues with the growers. But more than anything, the pandemic will be the key factor that could decide the outcome of UP polls. If the third wave of the outbreak hits UP before the polls, Yogi will face an unenviable task in managing the electoral challenge.

Can Israel be led by a fragile coalition?



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

Will Bennett be able to stay afloat or go down the quicksand of a hopelessly divided Knesset? His ousted rival Netanyahu has not thrown in the towel yet

Israel has got a new Prime Minister after 12 years, an exceptionally long period in the history of the Zionist country with splintered politics. Not even David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, had served so long continuously in any of his two stints i.e. 1948-54 and 1955-63 as did Benjamin Netanyahu in his second innings before being ousted by Naftali Bennett recently. Interestingly, both Netanyahu and Bennett came from the prestigious Israeli commando unit Sayeret Matkal also called Unit 269. Its motto — "Who dares, wins" is likely to play out in Israeli politics in the days ahead. The fragile coalition of Yamina, Yesh Atid, New Hope, Blue and White, Yisrael Beiteinu, Meretz and Labour parties forming the 36th Government is an audacity of hope that might go down the quicksands of a divided Knesset anytime. With Likud still the single-largest party, only one vote (60-59) differentiates the ruling "Parliamentary Grouping" from the Opposition.

Way back on May 17, 1999 Netanyahu was dislodged from the prime ministerial post for the first time. His then rival was an Israeli Defence Forces' General whose moving elegy on Netanyahu's late brother Yonatan Netanyahu (1946-76) formed a part of the school curriculum in Israel. Yonatan was martyred in Operation Thunderbolt, or Israel's daring commando mission to rescue Israeli passengers from the hijacked Air France flight from Entebbe Airport in Uganda on July 4, 1976. The author of the elegy was Ehud Barak, the man who became the 10th Prime Minister of Israel, by defeating Netanyahu convincingly.

For a brief period between 1996 and 2001, Israel had experimented with direct prime ministerial elections in a bid to arrest political instability. It was, however, soon junked after Ehud Barak's incumbency lasted less than two years, due to vicissitudes of Israeli politics, despite the fact that the Knesset completed its normal four-year term. Exactly 20 years later, it was interesting to find Netanyahu pitching for a revival of the system. He argued it could



bring political stability in Israel by shielding the Government from the Knesset's longevity. However, the failed idea, found little favour with Knesset committees mostly in the hands of Netanyahu's opponents.

Despite Netanyahu's best efforts a motley "Parliamentary grouping" has been able to dislodge him from the Prime Minister's post. His 12 years in the august office from March 31, 2009 have finally come to an end. Will this be a political requiem of 71-year-old Netanyahu, as many people feel and want? The man himself disagrees. Son of a centenarian and historian father, the late Bentzion Netanyahu, he perhaps feels life and history will both be on his side.

Naftali Bennett, the new Prime Minister of Israel, has impressive credentials. A commando by training, he served in reserve duty of the Sayeret Matkal. In 1999, he founded a high-tech company Cyota, specialising in information security. He also served as CEO, of Soluto, which he later sold for around \$100 million.

In 2005, destiny brought him close to Netanyahu, when the latter was Leader of Opposition in the Knesset. He became the head of

WITH BENNETT BEING PRO-SETTLEMENT, HE IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW A HAWKISH POLICY VIS-A-VIS WEST BANK. THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION, DEFUNCT ANYWAY SINCE 2007, AFTER FATAH AND HAMAS IRRETRIEVABLY SPLIT, WILL ELUDE THE LIBERALS AGAIN

Netanyahu's general staff, and helped him formulate the education reform plan. Soon after Netanyahu came to power in 2009, Bennett was appointed as Director-General of the Yehsha Council, an umbrella organisation of municipal councils of the Jewish settlement in West Bank. He led a fight to lift the freeze on fresh settlement activity of Jews in West Bank. The Jews view the West Bank (or river Jordan) as Judea-Samaria of the Old Testament. The same year he co-founded the 'My Israel Movement' which fought campaigns to boycott Israel, post-Zionist movements, and the boycott of Israel. His entrepreneurial achievements catapulted his name to the pages of Forbes magazine in 2012. In November, 2012 he was appointed as the chairman of the HaBayit HaYehudi, the national religious party. In 2013- in the elections to the 19th Knesset, he led his party to a historic tally of 12 seats. This time Netanyahu appointed him as the Minister of Economy, Minister of Religious Services and Minister of Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs. In elections to the 20th Knesset (2015), Bennett's party won eight seats. He was made the Minister of Education and

Minister of Diaspora Affairs in the 34th Government.

Did Bennett realise that he would come to lead the 36th Government? The credit greatly goes to the fissiparous politics of Israel, which can throw up impossible coalitions as the current one. The true credit goes to Yair Lapid, a former journalist and boxer, who leads the Yesh Atid party, who convinced Bennett to form an anti-Netanyahu coalition that can seize power. While Lapid is avowedly secular, Bennett is a demonstratively religious Jew. Contrary to speculation Mansour Abbas has not become a Deputy Prime Minister. His United Arab List itself is a divided house on joining the Government. This was apparently after the bad Press they got in the neighbouring Arab countries on their plans to join the Government.

With Bennett being pro-settlement, he is likely to follow a hawkish policy vis-à-vis West Bank. The two-State solution, defunct anyway since 2007, after Fatah and Hamas irretrievably split, will elude the liberals again.

(The writer is an author and independent researcher based in New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RIGHT TO PROTEST

Sir — There is a difference between the constitutionally-guaranteed right to protest and terrorist activity, said the Delhi High Court, as it granted bail to three student activists arrested more than a year ago in connection with riots in northeast Delhi that followed protests against the controversial citizenship law. The three students from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), were arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and for this the court was sharp in its criticism of the Delhi Police. It noted that the UAPA, an anti-terror law, could not be casually applied to petty criminal acts or protests by citizens.

In its anxiety to suppress dissent, in the mind of the State, the line between the constitutionally-guaranteed right to protest and terrorist activity seems to be getting blurred. The High Court remarked that the chargesheet lacked any specific, particularised, factual allegations that would make out the ingredients of offences under the UAPA. In the absence of an actual case against the offenders, the process then becomes the punishment. Scathing judgments by courts are notable, but unfortunately not a solution to the problem. It is time to uphold the right to protest else, India will no longer remain a true democracy.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

LOOK OUT FOR CHIRAG

Sir — Blood is thicker than water is a well-known saying. This aptly suits the country's political system. Both at the national and the regional level fathers, sons, daughters, uncles and nephews have influenced India's politics from a long time. Earlier, politics wasn't a profession; it was a passion. The decline in political discourse of the country began with the onset of dynastic politics. Not that the political families always prospered in the process as affection and amicability often gave way to bad blood, betrayal and belligerence. Chirag Paswan will know better because he is "shell shocked" by the action of his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras who "rebelled" against his nephew for "disrespecting"

Let masking-up become a habit



The gradual recession of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic should not make us complacent and we must not let our guard down. Vaccination is a time-consuming process, a fact that should persuade us to continue to adhere to Covid-19 appropriate behaviour. As it is the experts are warning that there will be a third wave of the Coronavirus outbreak as has been in other countries like the UK. So if we have to prevent the third wave or at least delay it till the maximum number of citizens are inoculated we need to adhere to all Covid protocols in all seriousness. Wearing masks is a non-pharmaceutical intervention being made worldwide for the containment of the pandemic. It is a proven fact that it saves

lives. A naked face or a face without a mask is an open invitation to the virus. Masks should be of high quality and worn properly. All sorts of masks are now available in the market; they are bought and used for whatever they are worth which is not much. Only those masks that really serve the purpose of preventing the transmission of the virus should be allowed to be sold.

The Government can incentivise the production of good quality masks and subsidise them. Better still would be the procurement and distribution of masks free of cost to citizens by the Government. However, the way many people still wear masks underlines the need for greater awareness of how to wear the masks properly. A mask below the nose, the mouth and the jaw is not a protective armour against the virus. The intended purpose is served only when a mask fully covers the nostrils and the mouth and fits tightly. Properly worn, good quality masks go a long way towards halting the spread of the disease. We must all make mask-wearing a habit till the pandemic comes to an end.

G David Milton | Maruthanchode

him. Disgruntlement with Chirag's style of functioning had come to the forefront when a couple of LJP's senior leaders switched sides some time ago. Instead of introspection, the young leader's detached look appeared to have surprised his supporters. Nothing succeeds like success, and failure is an orphan. The LJP's poor showing in the Assembly elections seem to have emboldened his rivals in the party. All this said, all is not lost for Chirag. He has a long political journey ahead. Bihar politics is most likely to open up sooner than later. Nitish Kumar cannot hold his own forever. Chinks in his armour have repeatedly been exposed. Lalu Prasad is still in the background. Undoubtedly, Tejashwi and Chirag are the men to look out for.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

A GOOD DECISION

Sir — The Central Board of Secondary

Education (CBSE) has decided to go for a "30:30:40 formula" — 30 per cent from Class 10 Board, 30 per cent from Class 11 exam, and 40 per cent from Class 12 assessment — to tabulate Class 12 results this year, the Board informed the Supreme Court which gave its green signal. The Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has also decided to go for a similar formula as the CBSE, except they have decided to take the average of the last six years.

The apex court said there was no question of rolling back the decision of not holding exams. Students who are not satisfied with the result will be given an opportunity to appear in examinations when conditions are conducive for it. This is a good decision and a fair one for all. This is the best the powers that be can do right now.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

SOUNDBITE

We did our best to keep away the supporters who came to take part in the function. We even closed the gates of our party office.



Kerala Leader of Opposition — VD Satheesan

Would like to see the cessation of hostilities be maintained in order to give space for the relevant parties to work out arrangements to stabilise the situation.

United Nations Secretary-General — Antonio Guterres

Whatever my equity is today, is mainly due to the success of my social entertainers, which made me connect to the people of India.



Actor — Ayushmann Khurrana

Both India and New Zealand have got very strong pace-bowling attacks. India has got a more balanced attack because they have better spinners.

Former Australia captain — Ian Chappell

Met Dharmendra Pradhan and proposed a revival plan for the PCPIR project in AP. This plan will pave the way for all round industrial development coupled with employment in the region.



Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister — Mekapati Goutham Reddy

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

FIND INDIA'S PLACE IN THE WEST

World leaders want to shift from a China-dictated supply chain and find new allies. This is our chance



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

A couple of high decibel global events in picturesque locales dominated headlines in the past few days while India grimly remembered one year of a brutal military ambush in the north-eastern frontiers by China. This sets the stage in more ways than one for a focused coalition of open dialogues between some of the richest and largest democracies in the world. One of the first few events in these series was the new US president meeting old allies and not-so-friendly regimes at various platforms like G7 and NATO besides holding bilaterals on crucial world issues. This also signifies US' rekindled interest in multilateral platforms and re-claiming its seat on the global stage. The world economies have undergone a significant change ever since the G7 started meeting formally in the 1970s. A couple in the G7 have lost their largest-economy status and new ones like India and China have moved in. China has galloped to being an extremely voracious market for many European luxury products, cars, etc., building significant interlocked linkages with these economies. It has also leapfrogged on the global technology arena with its gigantic manufacturing units cornering a significant share of the global supply chain for technology equipment. Heady with its recent wealth and technology prowess, China has



also moved its military units to strategic locations in its neighborhood while using its debt-trap diplomacy on weaker nations as the 'velvet glove on an iron fist'. The post-2008 financial crisis world, lulled by the need for large, addressable markets and money for spending, has been ignoring most of these strategic moves until 2020, when suddenly a microbe jolted everyone out of their dream. Citizens around the globe experienced their worst nightmares played out with the Covid pandemic raging and bringing nation after nation down. The only exception was China (from where the microbe originated), which in just two months was able to bring its economy back on track while continuing with its technology and military maneuvers on the global stage.

However, the world has perhaps learnt a lesson and despite ambivalence among some open democratic countries, the majority are willing to collaborate and work towards a new order. This is where India bruised by China in the middle of the pandemic has a huge opportunity. The key narrative emerging from the recent global meetings of world leaders has been to move away from a China-dictated supply chain and find new allies and friends. Strategically the Indo-Pacific region therefore gains prominence in all top leader's dialogues. India has a geographical advantage of being right in the middle of this theatre of global attention and action. The coming together of US, Japan, Australia and India aboard the Quad focusing on a peaceful Indo-Pacific is a challenge to China's aggressive military moves in that region. India has to move aggressively on QUAD, bringing the other three allies on same page on shared issues of concern. India currently is one of the largest vaccine makers in the world and what most leaders agree is the world is as weak today as the last unvaccinated person. The aim to put a job on every shoulder cannot be achieved without India playing a significant role in the process. This is also a huge money-making opportunity for the country while creating a specialisation in the emerging threat of biological hazards preventive care. India has to negotiate with the big pharma for manufacturing opportunities simplifying regulations for setting up global units in the country in order to ease the manner of doing business while working towards the dream of becoming the pharmacy to the world.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Steering the boat safely amid Covid

India needs to prepare well for a competent and concerted response that can anticipate, avert or attenuate future public health emergencies



K SRINATH REDDY

Several States in India have started to open up, with their respective lists of permitted and restricted activities. While there is concern about the undercounting of cases and deaths in some States, the overall trend of a receding second wave is not being disputed. The frenetic rush and public anguish, which marked the frequently futile search for hospital beds that became the painful images of the second wave are no longer the dominant themes of Indian or international media reports. That, in itself, provides assurance that the second wave is ebbing.

However, it would be unwise to assume that the turbulent waters of the second wave have stilled and the boat is set on a safe course ahead. We still need to see whether there will be a rebound when the lockdown eases. There are already reports of people rushing to tourist spots and holiday resorts. Malls and restaurants are crowded. These represent the more affluent sections, but the signals they send can misguide the rest of the population. Desire to live life to the full is understandable after lockdowns but wisdom must caution against abandonment of safeguards against a virus which still poses an active threat. Common sense tells us that if some care-less revellers start prancing around when the boat has just left the rough sea, it can still capsize, putting everybody in danger.

Even as we steady the boat, when it sails out of choppy waters, we must watch the charts and study the signals to see when it might be rocked again by a third wave. Considerable speculation has already commenced in the media about the timing and contours of such a wave. Predictions have been made, by mathematical modellers and some epidemiologists, that we may be rocked by the third wave in November this year. While the accuracy of such predictions is uncertain, since they are based on several assumptions, we do need to be well prepared to meet such a threat whenever it arises.

Several elements will determine the severity of a third wave: the nature of variants in circulation; the number of persons who have acquired immunity from vaccination or recent infection; the number of susceptible people who are available for the virus to infect and cause symptomatic illness; adherence of people to public health advisories on wearing masks and avoiding crowds; ability of public authorities to prevent super-spreader events and the preparedness of our health systems to ensure timely case detection, supportive home care or assured hospitalisation with competent service provision.

Our surveillance systems must be sharpened, to detect the levels of circulating variants and emergence of new forms. Case detection will need to be based on both testing and clinical features gathered by healthcare teams visiting homes. False negative results from tests can be compensated by adding clinical criteria (syndromic surveillance, as used for other infectious disease outbreaks). Genomic analysis of 5-10 per cent of all positive test samples would be needed, with higher levels of scrutiny for virus samples recovered from international travellers. Since testing would pose more challenges in rural areas, symptom-based surveillance and contact-based quarantine would have to be followed, along with the use of rapid antigen tests for spot diagnosis and mobile laboratories to carry samples for RT-PCR testing to authorised laboratories.

Home care would be appropriate and ade-



OUR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS MUST BE SHARPENED, TO DETECT THE LEVELS OF CIRCULATING VARIANTS AND THE EMERGENCE OF NEW FORMS. CASE DETECTION WILL NEED TO BE BASED ON BOTH TESTING AND CLINICAL FEATURES GATHERED BY HEALTHCARE TEAMS VISITING HOMES

The writer, a cardiologist and epidemiologist, is president, Public Health Foundation of India. The views expressed are personal.



quate for 80-85 per cent of all symptomatically infected cases. Primary health care teams must be trained in providing supportive care and monitoring. Symptoms, pulse oximetry readings, temperature should be part of daily monitoring of such home-managed persons. If the person is a diabetic, blood sugar too should be monitored with a glucometer. Telemedicine facilities should be scaled up and standardised, to support home management. Prior planning should be done to ensure timely transfer of a person under home care to an intermediate or advanced care facility when the need arises.

Sub-district, district and medical college hospitals should be equipped to handle a possible surge of the third wave. It is difficult to predict how severe it would be, as it depends on the behaviour of the virus and its different variants, as well as the behaviour of people in adhering to public health advisories on masks, ventilation and avoidance of crowding. However, strengthening of the healthcare infrastructure and health workforce at various levels of care is long overdue. This is an opportunity to reduce the existing disparities of healthcare provisions between states and districts as well as between urban and rural areas.

There is speculation in the media that children will be more affected in a third wave. It is possible that more children will be exposed in an open society than during the first wave when they

were mostly sheltered or even during the second wave when they were still partly guarded. Numbers of susceptible adults may also decrease by that time as several of them would have been vaccinated or infected by then. Nevertheless, adults will still be far more likely to have severe infection than children where the vast majority will have asymptomatic or mild infections. Even so, expanding hospital services for children, including intensive care capacity, will still serve a useful purpose by strengthening paediatric care for many serious illnesses.

Vaccination must be speeded up, with accelerated domestic production and international procurement. The number of vaccination centres must be increased. Vaccination in rural areas will require careful planning of logistics, sensitive communication for confidence building, support for overcoming technology barriers to registration and availability of close-to-home vaccination centres. The Delta variant poses challenges with high infectivity and capacity for vaccine evasion, at higher levels than the wild virus or the Alpha variant. However, there is reassuring evidence that the variant responds well to two doses of all available vaccines. So, we need to provide both doses of vaccines to vulnerable persons, identified by age and co-morbidities. Even pregnant women now need to be regarded as candidates for priority vaccination.

The period of relative calm will also give us time to build partnerships between and among government services, local bodies, non-governmental organisations, school personnel, trade unions, industry representatives, community groups and citizen volunteers. Capacity-building for concerted action among these groups will give us the collective strength to respond more effectively to the third wave. Whether to promote Covid-appropriate behaviour or to reduce vaccine hesitancy, local networks in the community are vital. Community based surveillance systems can also give early alerts of rising cases.

We should also utilise this opportunity to enhance health and nutrition literacy to increase immunity. Healthy diets and physical activity are vital for both innate and adaptive immunity to fight the virus and also for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases which are the predominant co-morbidities that predict poor outcomes in Covid infection. Promotion of healthy living habits using the Covid platform, will help foster future health and well-being.

We need to prepare well for a competent and concerted response that can anticipate, avert or attenuate future public health emergencies. By being forewarned and forearmed, we can restrict the third wave to a ripple rather than a tidal wave.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

WE AGREED TO TASK EXPERTS IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES TO WORK ON SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT WHAT IS OFF-LIMITS. — US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



WE NEED TO THROW OUT ALL INSINUATIONS, SIT DOWN AT THE EXPERT LEVEL AND START WORKING IN THE INTERESTS OF THE US AND RUSSIA. — RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

Covid orphans must be a priority care group

There is a need to remove bottlenecks and unburden the courts so that the process of providing permanent care facilities for orphans is speeded up

The period between April 1 and June 5 found 30,071 children in need of care of protection as 26,176 of them lost either parent, 3,621 children lost both parents and 274 children were abandoned. Many of them are 'Covid Orphans'. Of them 15,620 are boys, 14,447 girls and four transgenders; 11,815 are in the 8-13 age group and 5,107 in the 4-7 age group. Nearly all of them are in the care of a guardian, a family member or a surviving parent while the rest are in shelter homes, orphanages or with 'special adoption agencies.'



SUBHASH C PANDEY

The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The views expressed are personal.

ly on the rise. Several financial support measures have been announced for orphaned children from the PM Cares Fund, Ministry of Women and Child Development and by States. However, the issue remains that these orphans' needs in terms of permanent homes and settlement have to be taken care of as a priority.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 is primary legislation for ensuring the safety, security, dignity and well-being of children. The orphans need to be produced before Children Welfare Committees (CWCs) which decide whether the child can be kept with the extended family, in foster care with support or at State-run centres. The Act also lays down procedures



for their adoption. However, in practice, it has been found that the courts are heavily clogged with arrears and the adoption proceedings take years. In 2015, the Government instituted a centralised online system CARINGS (Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System) to facilitate adoption primarily to check abuse of adoption proceedings by NGOs. Only prospective

parents registered on CARINGS portal managed by Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) can adopt children. CARA prefers orphans under kinship care, with shelter homes being the last resort. A child under two years is considered 'legally free' to be adopted if no one approaches the shelter home for two months. The waiting period is four months for older children. As many as 5,693 children were adopted in 2010 and 5,964 in 2011. After the institution of CARA and CARINGS in 2015, the pace of adoption has distinctly slowed down to 1881 in 2015-16, 3,210 in 2016-17 and 2,160 in 2020-21. The pandemic has slowed down the adoption process further as it also affected functioning of courts.

There is a bias towards adoption of infants. Over 80 per cent of adoptions are of children below two years. Litigation and challenges end up delaying the adoption process. In the last three years, 174 cases ended in disruption — termination of adoption proceeding before finalisation — and five cases ended in dissolution — termination after finalisation.

Hundreds of adoption cases are still pending in courts. An amendment to the concerned Act to transfer powers vested in courts to District Magistrates in order to speed up adoptions process is awaiting Rajya Sabha approval. The amendment also seeks to give a prominent role to District Magistrates in superintendence of Child Care Institutions, mostly run by

NGOs supposedly under the oversight of the Social Welfare Department. It is found that the NGOs are interested in getting funding without properly providing even basic facilities of food, hygiene and sanitation. There have also been serious complaints of abuse of inmates in some of NGO-run facilities. The 2015 law had ushered in the concept of foster care in India in which the child is placed with a caregiver running a residential child care facility or in a private home of a foster parent. They receive financial support from Government.

The system provides personalized parental care in a family-like environment to a group of unrelated children in a community setting. It is considered suitable for street chil-

dren who pass through a weaning period prior to their placement in individual foster care or any other form of family-based care. In the broader interest of these children, there is a case for evolving newer, more flexible mechanisms that are less stringent than full-scale legal adoption or a formal foster-care arrangement. One mechanism is that of sponsorship charities run by NGOs, which can be adopted by the Government to connect a donor/sponsor with a particular child. It allows for financial and emotional support without the legal implications on succession. Not only the childless seeking adoption but persons of means with children can come forward under a Government-managed system to support children.

Courts cannot appoint PM: Oli

Oli heading minority Govt after losing trust vote in House

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's embattled Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Thursday defended his Government's controversial decision to dissolve the House of Representatives and told the Supreme Court that it is not up to the judiciary to appoint a premier as it cannot undertake the legislative and the executive functions of the state.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari, at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, dissolved the lower house for the second time in five months on May 22 and announced snap elections on November 12 and November 19.

Prime Minister Oli is heading a minority Government after losing a trust vote in the House.

On June 9, the apex court issued a show-cause notice to the Office of the Prime Minister and the President's

Office to furnish a written response within 15 days.

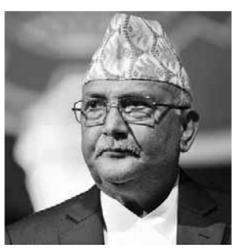
Furnishing a written reply to the Supreme Court on Thursday as demanded by the Constitutional Bench, Oli said the court cannot appoint a Prime Minister as it cannot undertake the legislative and the executive functions of the state.

The apex court received Oli's response via the Office of the Attorney General.

"The Court's duty is to interpret the Constitution and the existing laws, it cannot play the role of the legislative or the executive bodies," 69-year-old Oli said in his response.

"Forming governments on the basis of parties is the fundamental characteristic of the parliamentary system and the Constitution does not imagine party-less practices," he added.

Oli also defended the involvement of the President in



this whole issue, saying Article 76 of the Constitution grants the sole right to appoint a Prime Minister to the President only.

"Appointment of a Prime Minister is absolutely a political and an executive process," he underlined.

"As per Article 76 (5), there is no such provision of a person gaining or losing a vote of confidence in the House being examined by the legislative or the judiciary," he said.

On May 21, Nepali

Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba had submitted signatures of as many as 149 lawmakers before President Bhandari, requesting her to appoint him the new prime minister per Article 75 (6). As many as 29 members of the Madhav Nepal faction of the CPN-UML had provided their signatures showing support to Deuba.

However, Oli too laid claim to the government, saying he had support of 153 lawmakers including 32 Lawmakers belonging to Janata Samajwadi Party.

But President Bhandari said both claims by Oli and Deuba were insufficient. Soon after the move, the Oli government recommended the dissolution of the House and midterm elections for November.

As many as 30 writ petitions, including by the Opposition alliance, have been

filed in the Supreme Court against the dissolution of the House, which they said was "unconstitutional".

The Supreme Court has started hearing on the case. Regular hearings on the case will resume from June 23.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 last year after President Bhandari dissolved the House and announced fresh elections on April 30 and May 10 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, amidst a tussle for power within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP).

In February, the apex court reinstated the dissolved House of Representatives, in a setback to embattled Prime Minister Oli who was preparing for snap polls.

Oli repeatedly defended his move to dissolve the lower house, saying some leaders of his party were attempting to form a "parallel government".

Biden, Putin discuss ambassadors, nuclear weapons and more

AP ■ WASHINGTON



Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin of Russia spent more than three hours discussing issues Wednesday at their summit in Geneva.

They ticked through their respective lists so quickly and in such "excruciating detail," Biden says, that they looked at each other and thought, "OK, what next?"

The most pressing issues the leaders discussed:

AMBASSADORS
Biden and Putin agreed to return their respective ambassadors to Washington and Moscow in a bid to improve badly deteriorated diplomatic relations between their countries.

Russia's ambassador to the United States, Anatoly Antonov, left Washington in March amid a row after Biden called Putin a killer in a television interview and imposed new sanctions on Russia over its treatment of opposition figure Alexei Navalny.

John Sullivan, the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, flew out of Moscow in April after public suggestions from Russian officials that he should leave to mirror Antonov's departure. Both ambassadors were present at Wednesday's summit.

Putin also said the Russian foreign ministry and the U.S. State Department would begin consultations on other vexing diplomatic issues, including the closures of consulates in both countries and the employment status of Russian citizens working for U.S. Missions in Russia.

A senior Biden administration official said Sullivan is likely to return to Moscow next week. A different senior administration official said both governments had begun discussing consulate and local

staff issues and the hope was an agreement could be reached in the next two months.

Neither administration official was authorized to comment publicly by name and both spoke on condition of anonymity.

CYBERSECURITY
No breakthroughs on this issue were announced, but the leaders agreed to at least talk about what has become a major source of conflict between the U.S. and Russia.

Biden said he and Putin agreed to have their experts work out an understanding about what types of critical infrastructure would be off-limits to cyberattacks. He said the U.S. cybered Russia with 16 specific types of infrastructure, including energy, elections, banking and water systems, and the defense industry.

The agreement comes amid a flood of ransomware attacks against U.S. businesses and government agencies, including one in May that disrupted fuel supplies along the East Coast for nearly a week. The disruption was blamed on a criminal gang operating out of Russia, which does not extradite suspects to the U.S.

Other serious incidents include the SolarWinds intrusion discovered last year in which hackers, believed by

U.S. Authorities to be Russian, penetrated multiple U.S. Government networks and prompted Biden to impose additional U.S. Sanctions against Russia.

Biden said the U.S. and Russian governments would follow up on certain criminal cases, an apparent reference to cybercriminals operating with impunity from Russian territory.

Putin agreed there is mutual interest in the subject.

Biden also made an implicit threat against Russia, saying the U.S.

Has "significant cyber capability" it could use against Russia if it were to interfere with U.S. Critical infrastructure.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Biden and Putin instructed their diplomats to begin laying the groundwork for a new phase of arms control.

The "strategic stability dialogue" would be a series of discussions designed to set the table for a negotiation by sorting out what exactly should be negotiated. More broadly, it would aim to reduce the risk of war between the world's two largest nuclear powers.

Biden said the goal is to work with Russia on "a mechanism that can lead to control of new and dangerous and sophisticated weapons that are coming on the scene now, that reduce the time for response, that raise the prospect of accidental war." He said this was discussed in detail.

No date was announced for the start of talks.

The basic idea is to identify and sort out the many areas of disagreement over what a future arms control treaty should address. It also would address ways to avoid unintended or accidental moves that could trigger war.

UK Parl panel warns of China's 'bullying' in multilateral arena

PTI ■ LONDON

There is evidence of China's increasing use of "aggressive" means to "coerce" states to back their position or their candidates towards a steady acquisition of key official positions in multiple multilateral organisations, a report by an influential UK parliamentary panel warned on Thursday.

The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) said its evidence spoke of an increasingly "bullying" stance of China in its dealing with organisations such as the United Nations and World Health Organisation (WHO). In its 'In the room: the UK's role in multilateral diplomacy'

report, the committee calls upon the UK to take a more proactive role in combating the influence of countries who seek to manipulate and undermine multilateral organisations and mobilise the soft power of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to strengthen democracies.

"The report found evidence of China's increasing use of aggressive means, including exploiting bilateral economic leverage, to coerce states to back their position or their candidates and then using the organisations to shift policies away from the cooperation the organisations were created to promote," the FAC notes.

Editors of Hong Kong newspaper arrested under security law

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong police used a sweeping national security law Thursday to arrest five editors and executives of a pro-democracy newspaper on charges of colluding with foreign powers — the first time the legislation has been used against the press in yet another sign of an intensifying crackdown by Chinese authorities in the city long known for its freedoms.

Police said they had evidence that more than 30 articles published by Apple Daily played a "crucial part" in what they called a conspiracy with foreign countries to impose sanctions against China and Hong Kong.

Iran nuclear deal hangs in balance as Islamic Republic votes

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers hangs in the balance as the country prepares to vote on Friday for a new president and diplomats press on with efforts to get both the US and Tehran to reenter the accord. The deal represents the signature accomplishment of the relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani's eight years in office: suspending crushing sanctions in exchange for the strict monitoring and limiting of Iran's uranium stockpile.

The deal's collapse with President Donald Trump's decision to unilaterally withdraw America from the agreement in 2018 spiralled into a series of attacks and confrontations across the wider Middle East. It also prompted Tehran to enrich uranium to highest purity levels so far, just shy of weapons-grade levels.

With analysts and polling suggesting that a hard-line candidate already targeted by US sanctions will win Friday's vote, a return to the deal may be possible but it likely won't lead to a further detente between Iran and the West.

"It's certainly not as complex as drafting a deal from scratch, which is what the sides did that resulted in the 2015 deal," said Henry Rome, a senior analyst focusing on Iran at the Eurasia Group.

"But there's still a lot of details that need to be worked out." He added: "I think there's a lot of domestic politics that go into this and an interest from hard-liners, including the supreme leader, to ensure that their favoured candidate wins without any significant disruptions to that process."

The 2015 deal, which saw Iranians flood into the streets in celebration, marked a major turn after years of tensions between Iran and the West over Iran's nuclear programme.

Tehran has long insisted that its programme is for peaceful purposes. However, US intelligence agencies and International Atomic Energy Agency say Iran pursued an organised nuclear weapons programme up until 2003.

Israeli officer charged in killing of autistic Palestinian

AP

Jerusalem: Israeli prosecutors on Thursday charged a border police officer with reckless manslaughter in the deadly shooting of an autistic Palestinian man in Jerusalem's Old City last year.

The indictment came just a year after the shooting of Eyad Hallaq. Hallaq's family had previously criticized Israeli authorities' investigation into Eyad's killing, and had called for much tougher charges. The officer, who remains unidentified in the indictment submitted to the Jerusalem District Court on Thursday, was charged with reckless manslaughter, and if convicted could face up to 12 years in prison.

Palestinian teen shot by Israeli troops in West Bank dies

Jerusalem: The Palestinian health ministry said Thursday that a Palestinian teenager who was shot by Israeli troops in the West Bank a day earlier has died of his injuries.

The Israeli military said Wednesday that a soldier stationed near a wildcat settler outpost near the West Bank city of Nablus saw a group of Palestinians approaching, and that one "hurled a suspicious object at him, which exploded adjacent to the soldier."

The army said that the soldier fired in the air, then shot the Palestinian who threw the object.

GUJARAT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
Executive Engineer, Unit No-2 (Sujalam Sufalam), Gandhinagar.
State Water Data centre building, Sector-8, Gandhinagar
Ph.No.079-23236711/23236712
Tender Notice No.: 02-2021-22

The Executive Engineer, Unit No-2 (Sujalam Sufalam) 2nd floor, State Water data centre building, Sector-3 Gandhinagar PIN-380003, Gujarat State Invites on line tender (E- Tendering) for following works (TPI works) in two bids system from experienced and resourceful agencies as under.

Sr No	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs. In crore)	Qualification of bidder
1.	Third party inspection for the service of project management, Design review, Construction supervision and Inspection & testing of materials, machinery, Equipments for lift irrigation M.S. Pipeline project for transmission of 50 cusecs of water from Matpur village taluka-Patan to Dharoi Extended branch 485 near Bhramanwada village taluka- Unjha Dist-Mehsana	Rs. 38.03 lacs	(1) As per Eligibility criteria (2) Rs.0.38 lacs (3) Rs.1770- (4) 18 month (5) 7.62 lacs

1. Date of uploading :- 17/6/2021
2. Last date for downloading tender document and On line submission of tender Date : 6/7/2021 upto 18.00 hrs.
3. Physical submission of tender of tender fees, EMD & Other document Only by speed post / R.P.A.D/courier - from Dt. 7/7/2021 to 14/7/2021 upto 18.00 Hrs
4. The EMD exemption certificate will not be accepted.
5. The EMD less than 180 days validity will not be accepted and offer will not be considered.
6. The details of above tender will be available on www.statetender.com www.gwrdc.gujarat.gov.in and www.gwrdc.nprocure.com The tender will be accepted only on line.

No/INF/VPN/2020/G/430

Emaar India Limited
(formerly known as Emaar MGF Land Limited)
CIN - U45201DL2005PLC13161
Registered Office : 306-308, Square One, C-2, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017
Email id : bharat.garg@emaar-india.com, Website : www.emaar-india.com

AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021
(Rs. in million)

S. No.	Particulars	Year ended 31 March 2021	Year ended 31 March 2020
1	Total Income from Operations	19,441.41	34,552.56
2	Net (Loss) for the year (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(3,334.08)	(5,040.98)
3	Net (Loss) for the year before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(2,293.06)	(1,530.54)
4	Net (Loss) for the year after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(2,293.06)	(1,530.54)
5	Total Comprehensive (Loss) Income for the year [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the year (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(2,282.41)	(1,530.18)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,693.87	1,303.24
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(37,559.15)	(35,315.81)
8	Net Worth	(35,865.28)	(34,012.57)
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	67,869.43	63,843.76
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio	(1.89)	(1.88)
12	Earning / (Loss) Per Share (in Rupees) (Basic & Diluted)	(14.64)	(11.74)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-
14	Debture Redemption Reserve	738.13	738.13
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.27	0.32
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.66	0.79

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of annual financial results filed with stock exchange under regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full formats of annual financial results are available on the website of the stock exchange www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.emaar-india.com.
2. The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on June 16, 2021.
3. Ratios have been computed as follows:
(i) Debt Equity Ratio = Paid up debt capital/equity, where,
* Equity represents issued, subscribed and paid up equity share capital and other equity
* Paid up debt capital represents long-term (including current maturities) and short-term borrowings excluding deferred payment liabilities and lease liabilities.
(ii) Debt Service Coverage ratio = Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation and amortization expense/finance costs + principal repayment of term loans during the year
(iii) Interest Service Coverage ratio = Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation and amortization expense /finance costs
(iv) Net worth represents total equity.
(v) Paid up equity share capital represents issued, subscribed and paid up equity share capital.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of Emaar India Limited
Sd/- Hadi Mohd Tahir Badri Director
DIN - 06101869

Date : June 16, 2021
Place : Gurugram

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2783808 & Fax: 0135-2783598
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGCQ25866
Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्रांक: 445 दिनांक: 17.06.2021

Date Extension Notice- 01

Due to unavoidable reasons the Date of Submission & opening of the e-NIT No. NCB/01/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 & NCB/02/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 invited by the office of the Executive Engineer Project Civil Maintenance-Dakpathar is being extended as below:
Last Date & Time for submission of bids on the portal Upto 17:00 hrs of 05.07.2021
Date & Time of Opening of bids on the portal at 11:00 hrs of 06.07.2021
Information regarding Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation etc. of tender may be obtained from the website.
Full & Further Details of tender can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in".

Executive Engineer (PCM)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भरतपुर
क्रमांक: -न.नि.भ./निर्माण/2021-22/101-106 दिनांक: 09.06.2021
ई-निविदा सूचना 06/2021-22

नगर निगम, भरतपुर द्वारा नगर निगम, भरतपुर में उपर्युक्त श्रेणी में एवं अन्य विभागों के "A" & "AA" श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित पत्र में ई प्रोक्वोरमेंट प्रक्रिया से वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की महत्वपूर्ण शर्तें एवं विवरण वेबसाइट <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> एवं <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यों की संख्या	7 कार्य
कार्यों की कुल लागत	323.28 लाख
वेबसाइट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से निविदा कायम करने की समय व तिथि	दिनांक 16.06.2021 से 05.07.2021 तक एवं सत्र 6.00 बजे
वेबसाइट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से ऑनलाइन निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम समय व तिथि	दिनांक 05.07.2021 सत्र 6.00 बजे
नगर निगम में प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क निविदा शुल्क की वृ.टी. आर. स्लिय एवं अमानत राशि का घोषणा पत्र का मूल स्टांप भौतिक रूप से जमा करने की तिथि	दिनांक 06.07.2021 दोपहर 12.00 बजे
निविदा खोलने की समय व तिथि	दिनांक 07.07.2021 दोपहर 12.00 बजे

NIB Code: DLB2122A1735, UBN No - DLB2122WS0806736, DLB2122WS0806736, DLB2122WS0806739, DLB2122WS0806740, DLB2122WS0806741, DLB2122WS0806742, DLB2122WS0806743
राज. संवेद/सी/2294/2021-2022 अयुक्त

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that male person namely **Zeeshan, S/o Aash Mohammad, R/o C-117, Holombi Kalan, Metro Vihar, 2nd Narela, Delhi, Age: 28 years, Height : 5'7", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Normal, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt and Blue Lower** has been missing/kidnapped from his home since **07.06.2021**. In this regard a **DD No. 66A dated 08.06.2021** has been registered at **PS Begumpur, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO PS Begumpur, Delhi
DP/882/RD/2021 Ph. : 011-27579029/8750870323

3 Chinese astronauts enter space station after successful docking operation

PTI ■ BEIJING/JIUQUAN

Three Chinese astronauts on Thursday entered the country's new space station after their spaceship successfully docked with it, just over seven hours after the launch from the Gobi Desert, in a major milestone for the Communist giant's space exploration plans and its bid to become a leading space power.

According to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), Shenzhou-12 manned spaceship successfully docked with the space station core module Tianhe on Thursday afternoon and entered the orbital capsule from the return capsule of the spaceship.

After a series of preparations, the astronauts opened the hatches of the node and the Tianhe module and entered the Tianhe module one by one, signifying that for the first time the Chinese have entered their own space station, the CMSA said.

The trio will carry out relevant work as planned, it said in a statement here.

WESTERN RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT

E-AUCTION SALE DURING JULY, 2021 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP

SPECIAL ATTENTION : ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS

Public e-auction for disposal of P way Scrap, Rail Scrap & other various scrap material will be held in JULY, 2021 as per program given below:-

1st Round	2nd Round	Depot	Depot Officer In-Charge	Contact No.
07/07/2021	23/07/2021	RTM	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager RTM	07922205888 09724093750
08/07/2021	22/07/2021	BVP	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager BVP	02782444360 09724097750
09/07/2021	23/07/2021	SBI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager SBI	07927500080 09724093774
09/07/2021	27/07/2021	BRC	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager BRC	022-23094142 09724094006
13/07/2021	27/07/2021	DHD	Deputy Chief Materials Manager DHD	02673241295 09724090455
15/07/2021	29/07/2021	MX	Deputy Chief Materials Manager MX	022-24929571 09004495750
15/07/2021	30/07/2021	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager ADI	07922205888 09724093750
16/07/2021	----	RJT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager RJT	02812476943 09724094770
22/07/2021	----	PRTN	Deputy Chief Materials Manager PRTN	02673241295 09724090455
26/07/2021	----	MMCT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager MMCT	022-23094142 09004499006

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot/Divn. Officers. Note : (1) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-auction. (2) e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on www.reps.gov.in e-auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot Officers. (5) All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway.
(No.S III/Auction Programme-1/JULY -2021 Dated 15/06/2021)

0196
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Mohammad Usman S/o Late. Mohd. Naqi R/o A-191, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025 was having commercial property in our project Vatika Mindscape, Tower A, flat no. 508 measuring 1000 sq. ft. which his legal heirs (Tabish Usman, Haris Usman, Adil Usman, Mrs. Samina Usman, Mohammed Abdullal Usman, Mohammed Usman Usman) requested the company to be transfer to his daughter (Mrs. Sufia Zafar) Any person having any objection on this please contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.
Vatika Limited A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INK1 City Centre, Sector-83, Gurugram Haryana, INDIA - 122012. Contact: 09555930930

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that M/s. Skywards Pvt. Ltd., having its office at F-25, Radhey Mohan Drive, Gadaipur Mehrauli, New Delhi 110030 is the sole, absolute, lawful recorded owner and in actual physical possession of the Land measuring 4 Bighas 16 Biswas, comprised in Kharsa Nos. 1241 Min (3-0), 1250 Min (0-8), 1251 Min (0-8), 1247 (0-4), 1245 Min (0-16), situated at Village Fatehpur Beri, Tehsil Mehrauli, New Delhi, by virtue of a registered Sale Deed as Document No. 5975, dated 30.08.2018. A FIR/NCR dated 04.06.2021 vide No.370164/2021 has been lodged by the client in respect of the above-mentioned sale deed as the same has been lost/misplaced. My client has the full capacity and right to take any legal action in case the above mentioned sale deed is misused by any person in the future. Any person(s), institution or any other association or organisation, having any sort of right, title or interest in the said property under or on the basis of the said lost/ misplaced Sale Deeds or otherwise may put forth his claim with the undersigned within Ten (10) days of publication of this Notice.
Rajeev Agnihotri, Advocate
Kh. No. 2/2, Main Road Chhattarpur, Near Sai Baba Temple, New Delhi-74
Enrolment No. D/1940/2006
Mobile no. 9873800468
Email: agnihotri28@gmail.com

Sensex extends losses

AS FED'S TAPER TALK TRIPS WORLD MARKETS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic equity benchmarks retreated for the second straight session on Thursday, mirroring weakness in global markets after the US Federal Reserve surprised investors by signalling faster-than-expected rate hikes.

A sharp drop in the rupee - which plunged 76 paise against the US dollar - also sapped risk appetite, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 178.65 points or 0.34 per cent lower at 52,323.33. The broader NSE Nifty declined 76.15 points or 0.48 per cent to 15,691.40.

Banking and finance stocks accounted for most of the losses, while the IT pack saw brisk buying, fuelled by a weak rupee.

IndusInd Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.91 per cent, followed by Dr Reddy's, NTPC, Maruti, Bajaj Auto, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel and HDFC.

On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and HCL Tech were among the major gainers, spurring up to 1.86 per cent.

"Domestic equities traded

weak today on account of weak global cues led from the FOMC meeting outcome as investors focused more on the US Federal Reserve raising the country's economic growth forecast while noting its projection to hike interest rates sooner than expected.

"The Fed raised the US growth forecast to 7 per cent this year, while officials moved their first projected rate increases from 2024 into 2023 and opened talks about when to pull back on the USD 120 billion in monthly bond purchase program," said Vikas Jain, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said a fast normalisation of the US economy and strong job market can lead to the Fed tapering its bond buying.

"This can lead to tightening of bonds yields which will impact the pricing of equity asset," he added.

Sectorally, BSE power, metal, realty, industrials and utilities indices ended up to 2.38 per cent lower, while IT, tech and FMCG indices closed with gains. Broader BSE mid-cap and smallcap indices fell up to 1.29 per cent.

Rupee falls for 8th day, slumps 76 paise to 74.08 vs USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Declining for the eighth consecutive session, the Indian rupee tumbled 76 paise to close below the 74-mark against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking a strong greenback overseas after the US Federal Reserve surprised the market by signalling rate hikes sooner than expected.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened weak at 73.65 against the American currency, then lost further ground and finally closed at 74.08, showing a fall of 76 paise over its previous close.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai and Hong Kong ended on a positive note, while Seoul and Tokyo were in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading with losses in mid-session deals.

Microsoft names India-born CEO Satya Nadella as tech giant's new Chairman

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Microsoft's India-born CEO Satya Nadella has been appointed as the technology giant's new Chairman, an additional role in which he will "lead the work to set the agenda for the board."

Microsoft Corp on Wednesday announced that the board's independent directors unanimously elected Nadella to the role of board chair, and unanimously elected John W Thompson as the lead independent director, a role he held previously from 2012 to 2014.

"In this role, Nadella will lead the work to set the agenda for the board, leveraging his deep understanding of the business to elevate the right strategic opportunities and identify key risks and mitigation approaches for the board's review," the company said in a statement.

Nadella, 53, succeeds Thompson, who as the lead independent director, will retain significant authority including providing input on behalf of the independent directors on board agendas, calling meetings of the inde-



pendent directors, setting agendas for executive sessions, and leading performance evaluations of the CEO, the technology giant said.

Nadella, who has served as chief executive since 2014, has helped ntransform the company into a leader in cloud computing in recent years, resulting in blockbuster earnings and a market cap of close to USD 2 trillion, CNN reported.

In addition to these role changes, the board declared a quarterly dividend of USD 0.56 per share. The dividend is payable September 9, 2021, to shareholders of record on August 19, 2021.

Nadella succeeded Steve Ballmer to become Microsoft's CEO in 2014.

NPPA asks drug makers to ensure GST cuts passed on to consumer

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

In order to ensure the cuts in GST rates of essential Covid-19 drugs and other medications is passed on to consumers, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has directed all pharmaceutical manufacturing and marketing companies to revise the maximum retail price (MRP) on drugs and formulations immediately taking into effect the reduced tax rate.

The move from the pharmaceutical regulator is expected to ensure that the tax cuts benefits consumers by way of low cost of drugs and medications in the current difficult period of the pandemic.

The office memorandum issued by NPPA said that the change in GST rate has an impact on fixation of MRP of items attracting tax.

As the MRP of drugs and formulations is inclusive of tax, therefore, any downward change in tax/GST rates should be reflected in MRP and the benefit of this reduction should be passed on to the consumers, it said.

BRIEFS

HEALTH MINI PRAISES VACCINATION PERSONNEL
Jaipur: Health Minister Dr Raghu Sharma congratulated officers and employees associated with vaccination on administration of 2 crore vaccination doses in the State under covid-19 vaccination programme. He has called upon the vaccination personnel to work sincerely in future too with the same diligence and enthusiasm and help people in saving from the effects of covid-19 virus.

FOURTEEN CROSS DISABILITY EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES OPENED IN THE COUNTRY
Dr Thaaararchand Gehlot, Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment inaugurated 14 Cross Disability Early Intervention Centres located in 7 National Institutes and 7 Composite Regional Centres under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India today through the virtual platform in the presence of Hon'ble Union Ministers of State in the Ministry, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria and Secretary, DEPwD, Ms Anjali Bhawra.

DIRECTOR TOURISM JAMMU CONDUCTES TOUR
Vivekanand Rai (IRS), Director Tourism Jammu today conducted an extensive tour of Patnitop, Sudhmahadev and Mantalai Area. He was accompanied by a team of officers wherein various Tourism projects undertaken by the Department were inspected. While paying obeisance to the holy shrines of Sudhmahadev and Mantalai he also interacted with local pujaris and tourists and listened to their suggestions for developing these areas. Sudhmahadev located 112 Km from Jammu, houses a highly revered Shiva Temple which is believed to be nearly 3000 years old, having a black marble idol of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati besides a Trishul.

DOORSTEP DELIVERY OF MILK, FRUITS, VEGETABLES
New Delhi: During the Covid pandemic, when buyers are extremely skeptical about buying their groceries physically, doorstep delivery of fruits and vegetables has seen high demands. Supr Daily enables customers to place their grocery orders anytime by 11 pm and get them delivered by 7 am the next day. "Nothing brings us more joy than ensuring the safety of our customers and giving them the convenience to get everything they need, all at one place," said Puneet Kumar, co-founder of Supr Daily.

Flipkart, Amazon challenge court order on CCI probe: Report



PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Walmart Inc's Flipkart and Amazon.com Inc have filed legal challenges against the resumption of an antitrust investigation into their business practices, a global news wire reported.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) launched an investigation in January last year after a complaint accused Flipkart and Amazon of promoting select sellers on their e-commerce platforms and using deep discounts to stifle competition.

The companies have denied wrongdoing and near-immediate legal challenges from the pair stalled the investigation for more than a year until a court last week ruled it could resume, having dismissed arguments that the CCI lacked evidence.

The fresh appeal from Flipkart filed on June 16, argues that decision by the Karnataka court to allow the probe to resume was erroneous and must be put on hold, the report said.

Indian IT sector continues to be net hirer, top 5 IT cos to add over 96,000 employees: Nasscom

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT industry body Nasscom on Thursday said the sector continues to be a net hirer of skilled talent, and that the top 5 Indian IT companies are planning to add over 96,000 employees in 2021-22.

The statement comes in the backdrop of a report by Bank of America that said domestic software firms are set to slash 3 million jobs by 2022 as automation gains pace across industries, especially in the tech space.

"With the evolution of technology and increasing automation, the nature of traditional IT jobs and roles will evolve overall leading to creation of newer jobs. The industry continues to be a net hirer of skilled talent, adding 1,38,000 people in FY2021," Nasscom said in a statement.

It asserted that players have robust hiring plans for 2021-22 with the top 5 Indian IT companies planning to add over



Sebi bans Shri Research Services from securities mkt



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi has barred Shri Research Services and its proprietor Gourav Kumar Gour from the securities markets for at least two years and has asked them to refund the money that was collected by providing unauthorised investment tips to investors.

In addition, a penalty of ₹ 5 lakh has been imposed on them. They have to pay the fine within 45 days, Sebi said in its order passed on Wednesday.

Sebi noted that Shri Research Services and its sole proprietor Gour carried out investment advisory activities without obtaining a certificate of registration from the regulator. This violated the provisions of Investment Advisers (IA) Regulations.

The regulator said that a total of ₹14.63 lakh was credited in their accounts for the January-July, 2018 period. However, it could not be confirmed whether such amounts were received only from investors for unregistered investment advisory services.

Corporate Affairs Ministry eases rules for board meetings conducted through virtual mode

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Boards of companies can now approve annual financial statements and matters related to mergers, among others, at meetings held through video conferencing and other audio-visual means.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic resulting in the shift from physical meetings to virtual ones, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has amended rules pertaining to meetings of board and its powers under the Companies Act, 2013.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said the Companies Act always permitted conducting meetings through video conferencing but key matters such as approving the financial statements, board's report and prospectus required physical meetings.

"Acknowledging the diffi-



Khadi sales decline 16 pc to ₹3,527.71 cr in 2020-21: MSME Ministry



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Khadi sales contracted by 16 per cent year-on-year to ₹ 3,527.71 crore in 2020-21, as spinning and weaving activities across the country impacted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the MSME ministry said on Thursday. The overall production in the Khadi sector also declined to ₹1,904.49 crore in 2020-21, as compared to ₹2,292.44 crore in 2019-20, it added.

The production and sales in the Khadi sector, however, slightly declined as spinning and weaving activities across the country took a major hit during the pandemic, the ministry said. "The overall production in the Khadi sector in 2020-21 was recorded at ₹1,904.49 crore as compared to ₹2,292.44 crore in 2019-20, while the overall Khadi sales stood at ₹3,527.71 crore as compared to Rs 4,211.26 crore in the previous year," it added.

PLI scheme to help India become Aatmanirbhar in APIs: ICRA

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for key raw materials such as bulk drugs and formulations, with a total incentive outlay of ₹210 billion will help the country become Aatmanirbhar, ratings agency ICRA said.

As per a note by the agency, PLI scheme will reduce import dependence and boost domestic production of high-value products; and increase the value addition in exports.

High value-added pharmaceutical products are generally R&D intensive and difficult to manufacture and these include products such as complex generics, patented products, and biologics among others.

Further, the GoI has also announced the promotion of the bulk drug parks scheme with a financial outlay of Rs 30 billion for three select states, which will provide infrastructure assistance to the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) players.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Ramesh Kumar Arora S/o Late Mangal Rai and Mr. Kishan Lal Velcha S/o Mr. Haya Ram are intending to sell Flat on Second Floor without Roof Terrace rights (RHS Southern portion) of property no. 1059/114, admeasuring 60 sq. yds, Khazra no. 1574, New Khazra, 115/13(MN), Warano. 1, St. John Church compound, Mehrauli, New Delhi 110030, to Sri. Kailash Saini Madhavan W/o. Sh. Madhavan Mishra, to be financed by M/s. DM Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. Further it is informed that there are no other legal heirs of Late Sh. Mangal Rai except Mrs. Alcha Rai, Mrs. Oshen Rai, Mrs. Reeta Rai and Mr. Ramesh Kumar Arora.
If any person(s) have any objections or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
RAGHAV TIWARI (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob.: +91 8076188328

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
The Executive Signal & Telecom Engineer/Const./Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for the following work:-

Name of work & Place	Modification in Existing SSI westrace (VLM6 make) of MOZ station i.c.w. doubling work of MTC-MOZ section in DLI Division of Northern Railway.
Completion period	03 (Three) Months from the date of issue of LOA
Approx. Cost	Rs.20.44 Lakh approx.
Earnest Money amount	NIL
Last date of upload and Date of opening of tender	Tender document can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 23.06.2021 to 09.07.2021 at 11.30 hours. Tender will be opened immediately after close of uploading of tender.
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 23.06.2021 at 10.30 hrs.
No. 570-Sig-PS-Tender-115 Dated: 17.06.2021	1334/2021

Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRRailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender No.GTL-EM-01-2021-22
Tender No.GTL-EM-04-2021-22
Date: 16.06.2021

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Maintenance/Guntakal acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works

1.Tender No: GTL-EM-01-2021-22
Description of work : Guntakal Division: Guntakal-Proposed construction of Divisional Staff Canteen in DPM's office compound - Electrical arrangements.
Approximate Value : ₹. 1235163/-
Closing date and time: 12-07-2021 at 12.00hrs

2.Tender No: GTL-EM-04-2021-22
Description of work : Guntakal Division - Outsourcing for Maintenance of water coolers and AC plants in GTL,DHNE,HX,DMM,RC,AD and GY section for a period of two months (24 Months).
Approximate Value : ₹. 6860010/-
Closing date and time: 12-07-2021 at 12.00hrs

For Bidding the tender and other details login to http://www.ireps.gov.in. Corrigendum of tender, if any will be issued online only. Tender Document may be downloaded from to http://www.ireps.gov.in by the tenderers free of cost.
Note: To participate/Bid in this e-Tender, tenderer should have valid DSC (Digital Signature Certificate).
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, A0593/21 (Maintenance), Guntakal

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

CSB Bank
Formerly The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
CSB Bank, Greater Kailash-2 Branch M-17, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CSB Bank Limited, Greater Kailash-2 branch had granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrower/s. Notice has been issued to him/them demanding repayment of the amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding in the respective account/s, we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments in public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private treaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction without assigning any reason.

Sl No	Name of borrower	Gross Weight of Pledge Items (in grams)	Overdue Gold Loan Account no.	Amount	Balance as on 17-06-2021
1	Pankaj Mittal	21.3	0296-04192084-000001	70000/-	77406/-
2	Pankaj Mittal	9.2	0296-04192084-000002	25000/-	27731/-

The auction will be conducted at the premises of CSB Bank Limited, Greater Kailash-II branch premises situated at M-17, Main Market, Dohli House, Greater Kailash-II, Delhi-110048 on 25th June 2021. Interested parties may contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof on the date of auction.
Place: Greater Kailash-II
Date: 17-06-2021
BRANCH MANAGER

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Mohammed Usman S/o Late. Mohd. Naqi r/o A-191, New Friends Colony, New Delhi 110025 was having commercial property in our project Vatika Windscape, Tower A, Flat no 1205 admeasuring 750 Sq.ft. which his legal heirs (Tabish Usman, Harris Usman, Adil Usman, Mrs. Samina Usman, Mohammed Abdullah Usman, Mohammed Umar Usman) requested the company to be transfer to his daughter (Mrs. Suria Zafar) Any person having any objection on this please contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.
Vatika Limited A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INXT City Centre, Sector-83, Gurugram Haryana, INDIA- 122012 Contact 09555930930

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Rama Malik is the owner and in possession of Entire Third Floor, with roof rights of Property No. 65 Block-H, Pocket-32, Sector-3, Rohini Delhi. Said Property by virtue of Requisition Deed Dated 28.05.2013, duly registered as Document No. 3296, Further, Original SMC in favour of legal heirs (including the owner) of Late Mr. B. K. Malik is in respect of the said property is lost. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner intends to sell the said property to a buyer/customer who intends to take a loan from our client, i.e. ICICI Bank by mortgaging the said property to our client, if anybody has any objections upon said property, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 209, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, West Nagar, K. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-4112327-28, kumarassociates.advocates@gmail.com

ANS INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Regd. Off.: 136 KM, GT Road, Vill & P.O Shamgarh, Karnal (Haryana)
Head Office: 1462, Ashram, Mathura Road, New Delhi - 110014. Ctn: 1151304R1994PL032362
E-mail : ansagro.limited@gmail.com, Website : www.ansfoods.com.

NOTICE
This is to inform you that pursuant to Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, the 29th day of June, 2021 at 3.00 PM. at the head office of the Company inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the standalone unaudited financial result for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2021.
This information is also available on the website of the Company and website of BSE.
For ANS Industries Limited Sd/- (Manoj Mishra) Company Secretary M.No. ACS-18801
Place : New Delhi
Date : 17.06.2021

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392
Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com
Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE
Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a 293rd Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 30th June, 2021 at 12.30 PM at Corporate Office : 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4th Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025 to inter-alia approve the following:
1. Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended on March 31, 2021.
For Modi Rubber Limited Sd/- (S K Bajpai) Company Secretary
Place : New Delhi
Date : 17.6.2021
Head - Legal & Co. Secretary

PIONEER AGRO EXTRACTS LIMITED
Reg. Off. Chhoti Nohar, Malakpur, Patankot-145025
Website: www.pioneeragro.co.in
E-mail: compliance@pioneeragro.co.in
Telephone: +91-106-2345352/53/54, CIN: L15199PB1993PLC012975

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at Chhoti Nohar, Malakpur, Patankot, Punjab, inter alia, to consider and approve the audited financial results of the Company for the fourth quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2021.
Notice is further given that Trading Window has already been closed and shall remain closed till June 25, 2021 pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015.
The Notice of the Board meeting is also available on the website of the Company at www.pioneeragro.co.in and also on the website of BSE Ltd. i.e. www.bseindia.com.
Sd/-
By order of the Board
For Pioneer Agro Extracts Limited
Dikshant Singh Panwar
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Place: Patankot
Date: 17.06.2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Beena**, W/o Yash Pal, R/o H.No. C-68, First Floor, Budh Vihar, Ph-1, Delhi, Age: 45 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Colour Saree, Black Blouse, Blue Colour Shoes in her feet has been missing from her home since **08.04.2021 at 12.30 pm**. In this regard a DD No. 121A dated **08.04.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. if any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
DP/788/RD/2021 Ph.: 011-27521294, 27521295

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a lady **Shivani D/o Jagdish Parshad R/O H.No. I-62, Vijay Vihar, Phase -1, Delhi** has been missing since 03.06.2021 from her house at 4 PM. In this regard, **DD No.67A, dated 05.06.2021** has been registered at **PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:
Name: Shivani, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black colour lower, white colour t-shirt and shoes on her feet.
If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
SHO
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi,
Ph. No. 011-27061294
DP/880/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a lady **Shivani** is missing since 03.06.2021 from her house at 4 PM. In this regard, **DD No.67A, dated 05.06.2021** has been registered at **PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:
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E-mail : cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
SHO
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi,
Ph. No. 011-27061294
DP/880/RD/2021



GIVE HIM THE FASHION BOOST HE NEEDS

For Father's Day, designer KUNAL TANNA curates a few quirky, stylish and fun looks. By TEAM VIVA

A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow. Growing up we all have a fixed notion of how dads usually are. Or at least are perceived to be a certain way. In 2020, the pandemic changed everything and saw most dads take on an array of chores. From working from home, lending a helping hand in daily chores to hanging out with the kids and juggling zoom calls at the same time, we have seen new-age dads do it all. While they love chilling in their tracksuits and tees at home, this Father's Day give them the fashion boost he needs. Fashion designer Kunal Tanna curates a few quirky, stylish and fun looks for your lockdown dad! Check it out:

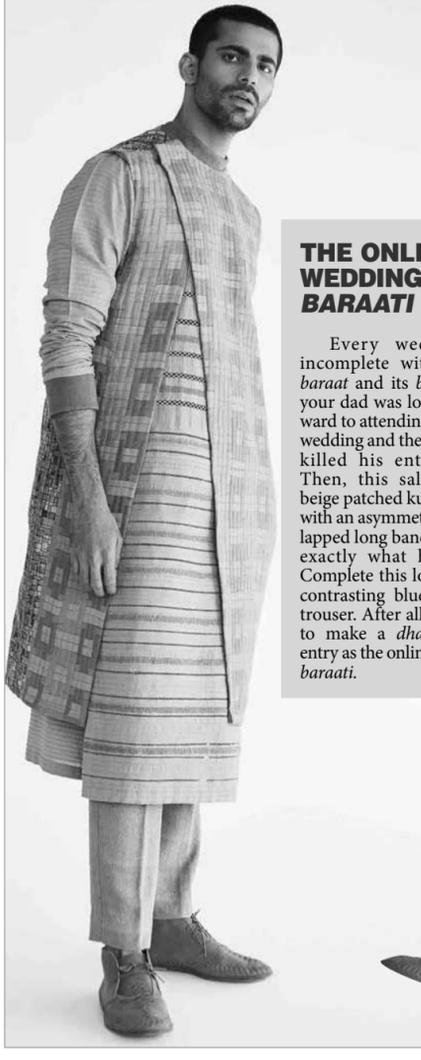
THE SUNDAY BRUNCH DAD

For all the social media dads out there, your Sunday Brunch is incomplete without the perfect Insta pic. So, make brunch fun with this off-white turtleneck knit teamed with a lazy rainy day gray thread textured cardigan style jacket.



THE ZOOM MEETING DAD

A formal shirt and pant have always been the go-to attire for working dads. This time lets up the style quotient and try out some layering. Try on this classic light blue shirt and throw on a comfortable melange beige knit. To add that final dapper look for zoom call meetings, you can layer it with a tone-on-tone thread textured reversible bandi jacket.



THE ONLINE WEDDING BARAATI DAD

Every wedding is incomplete without the *baraat* and its *baraatis*. If your dad was looking forward to attending one such wedding and the lockdown killed his enthusiasm? Then, this salmon and beige patched kurta paired with an asymmetrical overlapped long bandi jacket is exactly what he needs. Complete this look with a contrasting blue jute silk trouser. After all, he needs to make a *dhamakedaar* entry as the online wedding *baraati*.

THE FUN WITH KIDS DAD

With everyone at home, spending time with kids during the lockdown is definitely an unscheduled activity now. If you will be indulging in fun games etc, then your attire needs to be fun too. Opt for this blocky print trousers with a white side seam placket polo tunic. Make sure your kids don't have paint on their hands.

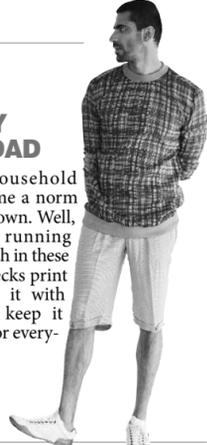


THE DATE NIGHT DAD

If your dad is a true-blue romantic. Then this dark blue shirt tunic with a gray mock layered collar worn with dark blue Matty trousers will set the fashion mood for date night.

THE DAILY CHORES DAD

Sharing household chores has become a norm during the lockdown. Well, you can make running errands look stylish in these beige sketchy checks print polo tunic. Pair it with beige shorts to keep it cool and breezy for everyday chores.



THE KITCHEN KING DAD

Does your dad love to play chef? Then spruce up his look in this blue mesh print tunic teamed with shorts. Also, remind your MasterChef Dad to wear an apron. So, this Father's Day give your #SuperHeroDad the stylish look he deserves.

Being economical in a time of extravagance

Intelligent Variable Transmission (IVT) on the Verna and other Hyundai-Kia cars as well as on the Honda City and Nissan Magnite might prove to be a major ace up the sleeves of the automobile sector



The last few months have not been easy by any stretch of the imagination. And if you own a vehicle, the increased cost of fuel has only added to your headaches. Sure, those of us who have been driving around in the lockdown have found emptier roads than usual, but exactly a ton of places to visit. Then again, some of us have driven around more than most, take me for example, finding myself in a situation where I had to make a few long-distance journeys to Kanpur from Delhi.

At the start of the lockdown, I found myself with a Hyundai Verna IVT, the 'Intelligent Variable Transmission' variant which is what Hyundai-Kia call their Continuously Variable Transmission or CVT. Now, CVTs are not new in cars, and they have been around in two-wheelers for decades. They are perfect in lower power output scenarios, but nowadays, with better machining and easier manufacturing, manufacturers have been fitting CVTs in cars with higher power and torque outputs. Honda, which pioneered the use of CVTs on their two-wheelers (remember the old

Kinetic Honda) brought CVTs onto the last generation of the City and the current generation car gets one as well. As costs for such gearboxes fitted in cars have come down, vehicles such as the Nissan Magnite are also getting CVT boxes. In fact, it may be only a matter of time before CVT gearboxes replace the slow Automated Manual Transmission (AMT) gearboxes.

However, truth be told, I'd never spent time with a CVT vehicle for an extended period or made regular highway runs in such vehicles. But these last three months with the Verna have been illuminating, to say the least. CVTs have their flaws, they are not designed for drivers who push the pedal to the metal. It is not easy to explain the way they work without diagrams, but you can think of two cones at the end of two shafts — one from the engine and the driveshaft that is connected by a band, in-car CVTs this is usually a metal chain and well, the cones move back and forth giving an infinite amount of ratios between the engine shaft and the drive shaft, thus the



name CVT. Well, in practical applications, there are usually a few steps, in the case of the Verna IVT, eight steps which you can consider as 'fixed' ratios. This is best explained by a diagram, and you can watch an explainer I have out on YouTube under my Excuse The Beard series. Hyundai-Kia have both been really aggressive in pushing their Dual-Clutch Transmissions (DCT) vehicles from the i20 to the Seltos. That is a totally different type of automatic technology where there are two clutches, one for odd gears and one for even (and the reverse) gears. Because of that gear shifts in DCT vehicles is lightning fast and they are far more oriented to the enthusiastic driver. In the i20 DCT I kept over two months earlier this year, it was a blast to drive. The IVT cars are not so much fun to drive, being far more sedate. However, as petrol prices cross ₹100 in some states and might even cross ₹125 in a couple of months, the IVT comes into its own when it

comes to fuel economy. The Verna I drove delivered over 18.5 kilometres per litre on the highway and even inside the city delivered over 15 kilometres per litre on longer drives. The Verna is not a small car, it is well-equipped and being summer, the air-con was on all the time as was the seat cooling. I did not deliberately drive economically, keeping the car at the speed limit of the expressways, albeit on cruise control and the IVT always kept the 1.5 litres naturally aspirated petrol engine in a very sweet spot. Delhi to Kanpur is near as makes no difference 500 kilometres, and there are some bad patches towards the end. But it was still superb. Put on a podcast, there are some excellent ones to listen to and drive this car, and you'll be surprised. Not just at how nice it is, but also how little fuel it drinks to get the job done. Dinosaur juice is getting expensive folks, and the IVT on the Verna and other Hyundai-Kia cars as well as on the Honda City and Nissan Magnite might have a major ace up their sleeve.

To look at artist Krishen Khanna's *bandwallahs*, at the Grosvenor online show in London, is to understand both sensitivity and sensibility. The colours, the contours, and the charisma of life are what looks back at you in this series called — *Paintings In My Sitting Room*.

Most of Khanna's work is figurative; he chose to not explore the abstraction that most of his contemporaries were delving into. In an interview with Saffronart, he says, "I used to do abstracts earlier and I have now moved on to human forms. I thought that the person or the individual is being neglected; the person in a particular situation who is influenced by the conditions around. I want to now emphasise the human beings caught up in their particular condition."

Khanna's exploration of *bandwallahs* began in the early 1970s, these members of local brass bands engaged to play at weddings and other public ceremonies caught his eye for their uniforms and their devotion to the occupation. Speaking of how he came to paint his first portraits of these musicians, Khanna explains that once, while driving out of his Delhi studio, the path was blocked by the marching band of a wedding procession. The image of these musicians dressed all in red with their big brass instruments wrapped around them still remains as powerful for the artist today as it was that day in Delhi.

Khanna's suite of works this time range from carefully created controlled compositions to gestural, spontaneous works created last year and this year. Between a few monochromatic drawings and coloured paintings, his deployment of colour and strokes that evoke the human situation is deeply heartwarming. His *bandwallahs* series captures not just the quiet energy of a few musicians. In his many monochromatic works, one sees the energy in the frenzy of lines and tension in the tight compositions, with the overall picture pulsating with the interplay of formal elements. Through a lack of physical detail; Khanna's paintings aspire towards quality of timelessness and universality. As an artist, he defies categorisation as he simultaneously occupies multiple roles — as a narrator, as a formalist, an artist who captures precious moments as a narrative of insight and in-depth understanding.

Timeless pieces

To look at artist KRISHEN KHANNA's *bandwallahs*, at the Grosvenor online show in London, is to understand both sensitivity and sensibility, says UMA NAIR



Using a palette dominated by red, yellow and green, Khanna paints the *bandwallah* as a tragicomic representative of the subaltern and a symbol of urban life in modern India. Though the artist portrays these men in red — practicing, playing or at rest — as cheery, their cheer is only part of their job. Their celebration is not spontaneous; it is just another mode of survival in the city. He propels us to think of the aftermath of the lives of these humble musicians. When on duty, they play into the night and must also play early morning before twilight hours for the departure of the bride to her new home.

Khanna says, "The sitting room is hardly a sitting room per se; my wife Renu reads a lot so has all her books around. It is part library and part studio with furniture that has to be moved from time to time. It is a completely new experience moving away from my usual studio in the basement. I have to look for paints on the ground which

are all mixed up and improvise but it's all a part of the game in the end." "In this current atmosphere, one can become very depressed, but fortunately, for me, there are the *bandwallahs* who are still making noise. When I'm painting them, I have to concentrate fully on them. The *bandwallahs* take prime position in my life right now," he adds.

Khanna is known for his thematic sensibility, ranging from everyday domestic scenes, moments of historical importance, scenes from myths and poetry to portraits of people from his life and his love for literature. He has continually worked with the contrasts between the mundane and the sublime, the ordinary and the epic dimension. Constantly oscillating between the banal and the spectacular, for Khanna, the personal relativity is the fulcrum of his artistic ferment. The closest friend of the progressives still paints and is happy to create in his own home in Gurugram.

TRENDBLAZER

SIDDHANT RELIVES CHILDHOOD

Actor **SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI** posted a clip on Instagram that shows him sitting on a swing. Alongside the video, he wrote a poem in Hindi, "Akhri baar jhoole pe kab baithe the? Pedh se jaamun kab tode the? Kaagaz ki plane kab udai thi? X and O kab jeete the? Likhne se zada toh pen-fight mein use hoti thi pen. TV pe dekhte Popeye, Dexter aur Ben-10, geeli rumal ko ghuma ke phatak, kache aam pe namak aur laal mirch ka chatak. Bachpan toh kalpana ko pankh deta hai, aur jaise jaise badey hote hain ye system uss udaan ko jung deta hai."

fairtalk



'Bell Bottom is a solid product and Akshay (Kumar) sir, like in every film of his, is simply outstanding. One has to see the film to understand what he has done. I'm grateful that I have a big film coming out now. It's been a long wait to see my films get a release, but I'm being super hopeful now that the audience will be entertained by them.'

dailytalk



'I see a lot of singers (mostly the forthcoming ones) doing covers and mashups of songs without due credit. I have a sincere request. Please credit the original composers and lyricists, not just the singer. With due respect to the singers: A song is a team effort and crediting just the vocalist or just one person is not right. It is just the right thing to do'

MAYA OPENS UP ON HER ROLE IN LUCA

MAYA RUDOLPH, who features in the voice cast of the forthcoming animated film *Luca*, says an experience from motherhood in real life helped her bring alive her role. "It was pretty easy to relate to Daniela. When your children are pushing boundaries, you want to show them that you love them but you're serious. That can be an incredibly difficult balance, but one that every parent understands," says she.





Nothing that tomato soup can't fix

■ AVNI KAUL

fit. **CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH**

While soups are commonly made in our households during the chilly winter months, here are some reasons that will make you roast, stew, and later puree your tomatoes to prepare a bowl of rich, creamy soup every day.

A single bowl of tomato soup consists of several nutrients that include vitamins A, C, E, and K besides important minerals and antioxidants that are beneficial for your overall health.

BONE HEALTH

The vitamin K and calcium in tomato soup help you get healthy bones. Lycopene in tomato soup boosts bone mass which helps countering osteoporosis. Consuming tomato soup daily decreases the blood levels of TNF alpha by approximately 34 per cent. A deficiency in lycopene could increase oxidative stress in the bones and cause unwanted changes in the tissues. You can keep these issues at bay by making tomato soup a daily part of your meal.

DISEASE COUNTERING LYCOPENE

As stated before, tomato soup is rich in lycopene, the pigment that provides the fruit its bright color. Processed tomato has more lycopene than raw ones. Lycopene neutralises the oxidative damage that occurs due to free radicals, a molecule that assists ageing. A diet rich in lycopene helps fight chronic diseases and prevents stroke. A cup of tomato soup gives 13.3 milligrams of lycopene. That's sufficient to keep your body

The high amount of vitamin C in tomato soup gives arterial protection. It bolsters the heart and protects it from problems like blockage of arteries and helps prevent the risk of a stroke. It decreases the deposition of fats in the blood vessels, decreasing bad cholesterol. Tomato soup also helps prevent the clumping of platelet cells in the blood.

BLOOD CIRCULATION

Selenium present in tomato soup improves blood circulation which prevents anaemia which is one of its top benefits. A single serving of tomato soup gives 7 micrograms of selenium, providing 11 per cent of the daily recommended intake.

VITAMINS

Tomato soup is a rich source of vitamins A and C. Vitamin A is needed for tissue development. It activates the genes of the new cells, helping them to grow into mature tissue. A bowl of tomato soup gives nearly 16 per cent of the daily recommended quantity of vitamin A. Vitamin C is needed to maintain healthy tendons and ligaments. Tomato soup gives 20 per cent of the daily recommended quantity of vitamin C, helping you to keep your body healthy.

So, what are you waiting for? Prepare your bowl of tomato soup right away! Having a bowl of tomato soup every day helps to keep the body healthy. (The author is a nutritionist, wellness coach, certified diabetes educator and the founder of a diet and nutrition brand.)

PITAARA OF WHOLESOME FOOD

UDIT MAHESHWARI invited us over to try the wares of his delivery kitchen. Locked down at home, CHRISTY VARGHESE projected his soul to the chef's base to interact with him and try some delectable dishes, while following COVID-19 restrictions

Chef Udit Maheshwari always wanted to open a restaurant, right from the moment he started training at the Le Cordon Bleu, London. And he was finally able to do so amid a raging pandemic. Not waiting for a more convenient time, he launched Pitaara Kitchen as a delivery kitchen around Diwali, 2020. He plans on converting it into a full-fledged restaurant as soon as the COVID-19 situation subsides.

We decided to project our consciousness to his kitchen with some ahead-of-its-time fictional technology so that we could interact with him while tasting some choice dishes from Pitaara Kitchen. And his offerings were anything but simple.

Right off the bat, the chef presented a set of what looked like purple tinted kebabs. Since we were famished, we did not wait on customary chit chat and simply picked one up to bite into it. Right from the first bite, we are hooked and we can't help but marvel out loud, "What is this deliciousness?!"

The chef laughed and told us this is a starter called the Purple *shikham-puri*. These grated beetroot kebabs were stuffed with hung curd and just melted in our mouth. We were tempted to bite into one, as it tickled our taste buds, and found out that it was better to let the kebab work its magic as it slowly melted and revealed some subtle flavours between our tongue and palate. Along with the creamy, slightly sweet taste there was the slight hint of an intriguing earthy flavour to the kebabs.

Seeing us rubbing our tummy, chef Udit produced a platter of

kulchas with a flourish. He announced that these are the Bacon and Kalimpong cheese kulchas. As we munch on one, we catch a whiff of the smoky flavour of the kulchas which were stuffed with desi bacon and indigenous Kalimpong cheese. While serving us a heap of their spicy tomato chutney along with some pudina chutney, the chef shared that these were cooked in the tandoor. We finished them off in a jiffy, and couldn't wait to see what's next in store.

The chef is running a tight ship, and we couldn't help but feel that the Pitaara Kitchen is an extremely successful venture as he seemed to be on his toes all the time.

However, for the next dish, he sat down with us and served us some Dogri meat curry and asked his staff to pass on some bajra rotis. He explained that this is a traditional meat curry from the Dogri community of Jammu. The mutton was cooked with some choice spices and had a somewhat sweet taste to it, on account of the sourdried mango powder it has been finished in, which also lended some viscosity to the gravy.

In between some bites, chef Udit shared, "With the pandemic in full swing, everyone in the food industry has been forced

'With the pandemic in full swing, everyone in the food industry has been forced to focus on delivering. Let's see what the future has in store for us. However, one good thing that has come out of this mess is that everyone is innovating these days'

to focus on delivering. Let's see what the future has in store for us. However, one good thing that has come out of this mess is that everyone is innovating these days."

And we had to agree when we were served the next dish. Aptly, and quite simply, named *Tinda!*, it comprised *tindas* (or the Indian squash) stuffed to the brim with cottage cheese and dry fruits. As we dug into the dish with some garlic and kalonji naans, we were thinking that we would never have guessed that this was the humble *tinda* if the chef had not told us. Cooked well in the tandoor, the slight sourness of the vegetable combined well with the stuffing. He encouraged us to try it with the two chutneys and we were overwhelmed by this rich, wholesome dish.

As we smacked our lips, we caught a glimpse of the staff packing some ready to be delivered orders. Spotting us trying to spy, the chef guided us inside and explained that they only use eco-friendly packaging. He further elaborated, "Right from the preparation of the food with ingredients sourced from across India to the delivery, this is our source of innovation. We spare no effort to ensure the wholesome experience of each customer. All members of my staff

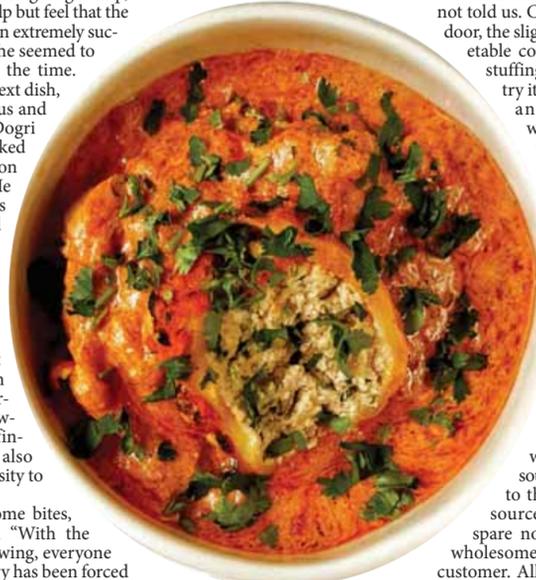
have been vaccinated, including the people who deliver. And that's right, we don't rely on third parties for deliveries so as to not risk contact with someone who is infected; these are uncertain times after all."

As the chef led us back to our table, we saw the next dish already set in place. We helped ourselves to the *Chemmeen manga* (literally translates as 'prawn with mangoes' in Malayalam) curry as he served us some of their in-house Malabar parotta. The prawns cooked in coconut milk curry with pearl onions and raw mangoes brought back some vivid memories of Kerala backwaters. The parottas were not as lumpy as the usual ones served in malayali hotels across Delhi and we delightfully finished the dish. Biting into a soft pearl onion, we couldn't help but wonder whether this was better than *Tinda!* before we remembered the wise man who said that 'Comparison is the root of all misery...'

We were rubbing our tummies in contentment when the chef unveiled the mango tart. And we were left wishing that we should not have scarfed down as much. The thick, luscious mango curd, topped with roasted pistachios, was complemented by the bajra tart shell it was served in.

We stifled several burps as we bid adieu to the chef. We hope that last bit is enough to convey that you should give the Pitaara Kitchen a chance if you would like to treat yourself to some tweaked regional specialties.

(The delivery kitchen caters in and around South Delhi and you can order from <https://pitaarakitchen.in>.)



R E C I P E S

STRAWBERRY SPONGE CAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Butter: 40gm
- Eggs: 2
- Sugar: 45 gm
- Almond powder: 35 gm
- Flour: 15 gm
- Pinch of Salt
- Pinch of baking soda



- Strawberry flour: ¼ tsp
- Raspberry red food colour: ¼ tsp

METHOD

- Add butter to a microwave safe glass bowl.
- Microwave for one minute at 375°C.
- Add the eggs and sugar in microwave safe glass bowl.

- Whisk the mixture till fluffy.

- Add all remaining ingredients to the mixture and mix and fold well.

- Pour it in a cake mould and even the mixture.
- Microwave for four minutes at 375°C.

Serve hot, with fruit coulis.

Courtesy: Whirlpool, India.

CALIFORNIA WALNUT AND CARROT FALAFEL

WHAT YOU NEED

- Chickpeas: 300 gm
- California walnuts (chopped): 100 gm
- Onion: 1
- Medium sized carrots: 4
- Chopped parsley: 2 tsp
- Chopped cilantro (optional): 2 tsp



- A pinch of cumin
- A pinch of salt
- Pepper to taste

METHOD

- Soak the chickpeas for 15 to 20 hours, then drain the water and dry for a while on an absorbent paper.
- Chop the chickpeas until they have a gritty texture.
- Chop onion, parsley, carrots and cilantro into small pieces and

add to the chickpeas. Then add cumin, salt and pepper to taste.

- Add the chopped walnuts, mix well and form balls. If it's too moist, you can add a little oatmeal, chickpeas or whole wheat.

- In the oven tray lined with vegetable parchment paper, bake the balls at 180°C for 15 to 20 minutes. Turn them over and bake for another 10 to 15 minutes.
- Serve hot!

Courtesy: Chef Sabyasachi Gorai.

AVOCADO AND MANGO URAMAKI

WHAT YOU NEED

- For the sushi rice:
 - Japanese sticky rice: ½ cup
 - Vinegar: 1/5 cup
 - Sugar: 1/5 cup
 - Salt: 1 tsp
- For the sushi rolling:
 - Avocado, cut length-wise: 1 bowl
 - Alphonso mango, cut length-wise: 1 bowl
 - Wasabi paste: 1 tsp

METHOD

- For cooking the rice:
 - Wash and rinse the sushi rice in running water to extract the excess starch from the rice grains. (process to be repeated five times)
 - Boil the sushi rice with water, with the ratio of 1:1 ¼.
- Make the sushi vinegar by mixing vinegar, sugar and salt.
- Once the rice is cooked,



mix the rice and sushi vinegar together and keep it covered with a moist cloth until used further.

For rolling the sushi:

- Place the nori sheet on the sushi mat and uniformly spread a handful of sushi rice on the sheet.
- Sprinkle a mix of white and black sesame seeds on the sushi rice.
- Flip the nori sheet in such a manner that the sushi rice is

facing the sushi mat.

- Place the cut alphonso mango and avocado on the nori sheet.

- Gently roll the sushi into a square shape applying even pressure throughout the roll and cut into eight equal pieces with a sharp knife.
- Serve with gari, wasabi and soy.

Courtesy: Masterchef Amit Patra, Edo restaurant, ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru.

WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BHADRAK (R&B) DIVISION
 e-mail:- bhadrakmbdivision@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
 Bid Identification No.EE (R&B) BDK-7/2021-22 2021-22.
 No-2424 dt. 16.06.2021

1. Nature of work	: Building Work
2. Number of works	: 1 (One) No Of Building work (Composite Mode) (EI)
3. Amount put to Tender	: Rs.68,70,427/-
4. Class of Contractor	: 'B' & 'A'
5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: Dt.25.06.2021 at 10.00 AM
6. Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal	: Dt.05.07.2021 up to >=5.00 PM
7. Date of opening of bid	: Dt.08.07.2021 at 11.30 AM
8. Name & address of the Office inviting bid	: Executive Engineer, Bhadrak (R&B) Division
9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in." All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.	

OIPR : 34078/11/0002/2122 **Sd/- Executive Engineer Bhadrak (R&B) Division**

ଓଡିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵାରା, ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: KHORDHA
 H & UD Department, Govt. of Odisha Khorsha-752055
 Phone No-06755-220674 e-Mail - khurda_municipality@yahoo.co.in

"e" Procurement Notice
 No. 2006 / Date. 16/06/2021/

Bid Documents consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in

1. Tender Reference No.	: KMP/PL/ 02/2021-22
2. Name of the Work	: Civil Construction works as mentioned in website
3. No. of works	: 19 Nos.
4. Estimated Cost	: As per DTCN
5. Period of Completion	: As per DTCN
6. Date & Time of Bidding	: 18/06/2021 at 11.00 AM
7. Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 25/06/2021 at 5.00 PM
8. Bids received online shall be opened on	: 29/06/2021 at 11.00 AM
9. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, Khordha Municipality

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Executive Officer
 Khordha Municipality

OIPR : 13082/11/0002/2122

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERAHAMPUR
 Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
 Bid Identification No. Online Tender/05/EE/RWD-II/2021-22
 Phone-0680-2404096 E-Mail: eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in
 No. 3191/RWD-IIGB, Date: 08.06.21

1 Name of the work	: Road and Building Work
2 Estimated cost	: Rs.1.33 Lakh to Rs.19.23 Lakh
3 Period of Completion	: 2 (Two) to 3 (Three) calendar months as per Annexure
4 Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal	: From 25.06.2021 at 10.00 AM to 05.07.2021 upto 3.00 PM
5 Last Date/ Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	: 05.07.2021 upto 3.00 PM
6 Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in/nicasp/app>
Executive Engineer
 R.W Division-II, Ganjam Berhampur

OIPR-25073/11/0006/2122

YouTube classes for elementary students from June 21

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR: Online classes for elementary students through YouTube live streaming will begin in Odisha from June 21 and continue till July 2.

The Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) has written a letter to the District Education Officers and District Project Coordinator to ensure smooth and successful implementation of the programme.

In first phase, eight districts have been selected to conduct online classes.

Teaching of Classes-I to VIII students will be streamed at same time from one classroom set up in 'one district, one class' format. One teacher will teach a lesson of a subject for all students of that class.

The classes will be streamed from Monday to Friday (9 am to 10 am) for Classes-I to III students and from 9 am to 10.30 am for Classes IV to VIII students.

Each school will record daily data of students watching the YouTube live classes with the help of the subject teacher. Schools may arrange additional online classes beyond the fixed timetable for doubt clearing and delivering of additional contents.



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COVID-FREE ODISHA. HEALTHY ODISHA.

As our country battles the second wave of Covid-19, we at Shiva Cement have taken active measures to control the spread of the virus and ensure well-being of our community in Odisha.

Here are some initiatives taken:

- 8000 masks and 100 litres of sanitisers distributed to frontline workers
- Sanitisation of 38 villages to contain the spread of Covid-19
- 2200 masks distributed in villages
- Awareness drives in 27 villages to educate communities on preventive care and correct information in battling the disease



Two in 2 for Azzurri

Mancini's men confirm Euro 2020 knockout berth with 3-0 win against Swiss

AFP ■ ROME

Italy became the first team to reach the knockout stage of Euro 2020 as midfielder Manuel Locatelli scored twice in a 3-0 win over Switzerland in Rome on Wednesday.

The Azzurri, now unbeaten in 29 matches and having won their last 10 games without conceding a goal, sit first in Group A and are guaranteed a top-two finish and last-16 berth. "We played well, we wanted to win at all costs," Italy coach Roberto Mancini told RAI. "They started well, it was not easy to win a second game in five days."

Mancini's men, looking to win Italy a second European title after their sole success in 1968, host Wales in their final group game on Sunday, with top spot up for grabs.

A new star shone for Italy at the Stadio Olimpico, where



they had brushed aside Turkey 3-0 in the tournament's opening match last week, as Sassuolo's Locatelli scored twice before Ciro Immobile's late third.

Captain Giorgio Chiellini had an early effort ruled out

by VAR for handball, before the 36-year-old defender was forced off with what appeared to be a thigh injury.

But the hosts always looked the more dangerous side and took the lead in the 26th minute.

Locatelli played a wonderful volleyed pass to his Sassuolo teammate Domenico Berardi on the wing, who powered to the byline and picked out Locatelli for a simple tap-in.

The three points and a place in the knockout phase for the fourth straight European Championship were all but secured less than seven minutes after the interval, when a flowing move ended with Locatelli driving a left-footed shot into the bottom corner from outside the box.

Immobile had wasted a couple of earlier chances but did grab his second goal of the tournament in the 89th minute, curling a low effort past Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer. Switzerland will now likely have to beat Turkey in Baku on Sunday to reach the next round.

Buffon returns to Parma after 2 decades

Turin: Goalkeeping legend Gianluigi Buffon has returned to Parma two decades after leaving the Italian club who were relegated last season.

"He is back where he belongs, he is back home. Superman returns," the club said on Twitter along with a short video in which 43-year-old Buffon said: "OK Kyle (Krause) I'm in. I'm back"

Club owner Kyle Krause replied: "Great news, welcome home."

Buffon holds the record for Serie A matches played with 657, since his first with Parma in 1995 as a 17-year-old.

Since then, Buffon has



played just one season in Serie B when Juventus were demoted in 2006-2007 for the 'Calciopoli' match-fixing scandal.

The former World Cup winner announced last month he was leaving Juventus, the club he had played for since moving from Parma in 2001, apart from one season with Paris Saint-Germain in 2018-2019.

Former Italy captain Buffon is an iconic figure in Italian football, one of the stars of the Azzurri's 2006 World Cup triumph who racked up a record 176 caps for his country.

Buffon won 10 Serie A titles with Juventus, as well as five Italian Cups with the club and second-tier Serie B in 2007.

He also won Ligue 1 with PSG in 2018-2019 before returning to the Turin giants. He won the UEFA Cup back in 1999 with Parma. However, he has never won the Champions League after losing finals with Juve in 2003, 2015 and 2017.

Buffon has reportedly signed a two-year deal with the Emilia-Romagna side with a guarantee of being captain and number one goalkeeper and having a role in the club when his career ends.

Indian openers start strong after England post 396-9

PTI ■ BRISTOL

Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana provided India Women a confident start but the visitors still have a mountain to climb after England Women posted a mammoth 396 for nine in their first innings in the one-off Test, here on Friday.

It was the highest-ever total scored by a team against India in Test cricket and the visitors are still trailing by 333 runs with Verma (35 not out) and Mandhana (27 not out) taking India to 63 for no loss at tea on the second day.

Verma was at her usual aggressive self as she cut and pulled in her own inimitable style. The 17-year-old not only presented the straight bat for defence with grace, she also hit a six off Nat Sciver with remarkable ease. It was only the second six hit by an Indian woman in Test cricket.



Mandhana was cautious yet fluent. She got her first boundary when she punched one off Sciver in the cover region. When she got the opportunity, Mandhana did not hesitate to pull. Her elegant drives were a delight to watch.

She raised the team's fifty with one

such well-timed shot off Kate Cross.

Cross missed a chance to dismiss Mandhana (when on 23) when she dropped the left-hander in her follow through.

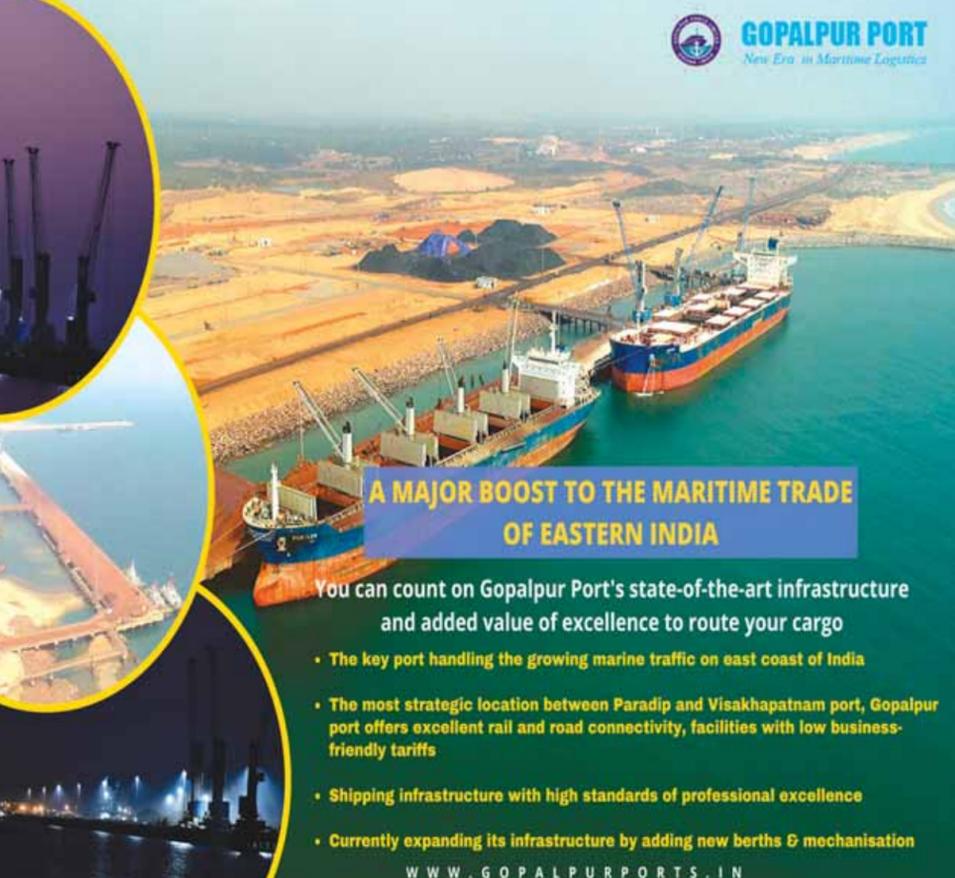
This was after Indian bowlers were made to put in some hard yards for the second consecutive day.

Debutant Sophia Dunkley (74 not out) led the charge with a resolute unbeaten half-century and two crucial partnerships with tail-enders after England resumed at the overnight score of 269 for six. Dunkley first added 56 runs for the eighth wicket with Sophie Ecclestone (17) and then forged a 70-run stand with Anya Shrubsole, who punished the Indian bowlers in her career-best 47.

England declared their innings when Shrubsole was bowled by Sneha Rana, who ended up as India's best bowler with a four-wicket haul.



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