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'One earth, one health' united bid: Modi to G7

PM calls for equitable distribution of resources to fight Covid; US for G7 efforts to compete with China on developing world infra outreach

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the world battles the Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for "One Earth, One Health," in apparent reference to collective effort to meet the challenge and equitable distribution of resources. He made this appeal while participating in the virtual ongoing G-7 summit in United Kingdom.



With the world now urgently needing vaccine to combat the pandemic, French President Emmanuel Macron favoured unhindered raw material supplies to countries like India to produce vaccine in large numbers, sources said.

Chancellor Angela Merkel specifically referred to PM's mantra and conveyed strong support, news agency ANI quoted. Australian PM Scott Morrison referred to his discussions with PM Modi earlier about TRIPS waiver and conveyed strong support of Australia.

Modi also spoke on ways to come out of the pandemic at the earliest. He addressed the

stronger, "Building Back Together" and "Building Back Greener".

Meanwhile, according to news agency AP, the United States plans to push democratic allies to publicly call out China for forced labour practices as the Group of Seven leaders gathered at a summit where they will also unveil an infrastructure plan meant to compete with Beijing's efforts in the developing world.

The provocative proposal is part of President Joe Biden's escalating campaign to get fellow democratic leaders to present a more unified front to compete economically with China in the century ahead, according to two senior administration officials who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the plans for the seaside summit publicly.

The officials said Biden wanted G-7 leaders to speak out in a single voice against forced labour practices targeting Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities. Biden hopes the denunciation will be part of the joint communique released

at the summit's end, but some European allies have been reluctant to so forcefully split with Beijing. It may not be clear until the three-day summit ends on Sunday whether the leaders will take that step.

The wealthy nations' leaders were all smiles and unity as they were welcomed to the summit on Friday by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the freshly raked sand of Carbis Bay in southwest England for their first gathering since 2019.

Last year's gathering was cancelled because of Covid-19, and recovery from the pandemic is dominating this year's discussions, with members of the wealthy democracies' club expected to commit to sharing at least 1 billion vaccine shots with struggling countries.

China also loomed large over the meeting on the craggy coast of Cornwall. Biden's proposed critique of China's labour practices was to be raised as the allies unveil an infrastructure proposal dubbed "Build Back Better for the World," a name that echoes the slogan of Biden's poll campaign.

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PIO journalist wins Pulitzer for exposing China's vast infra for detaining Muslims

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Megha Rajagopalan, an Indian-origin journalist, along with two contributors has won the Pulitzer Prize for innovative investigative reports that exposed a vast infrastructure of prisons and mass internment camps secretly built by China for detaining hundreds of thousands of Muslims in its restive Xinjiang region.

Rajagopalan from BuzzFeed News is among two Indian-origin journalists who won the US' top journalism award on Friday.

Tampa Bay Times' Neil Bedi won for local reporting. Bedi along with Kathleen McGrory has been awarded the prize for the series exposing a Sheriff's Office initiative that used computer modelling to identify people believed to be future crime suspects. About 1,000 people were monitored under the programme, including children. Bedi is an investigative reporter for the Tampa Bay Times.

"What Kathleen and Neil unearthed in Pasco County has had a profound impact on the community," said Mark Katches, Times executive editor. "This is what the best investigative journalism can do and why it is so essential."

Rajagopalan's Xinjiang series won the Pulitzer Prize in the International category.

No GST on key drugs for Covid, black fungus

Tax rates on 14 Covid relief items slashed from 12% to 5%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been waived for two critical drugs against Covid-19 and black fungus. Tax rates have been reduced to 5 per cent on 14 major pandemic relief goods, including testing kits and hand sanitisers, from prevailing rates in the range of 12 per cent and 18 per cent.

The 44th GST Council meeting on Saturday also decided to slash tax rates on medicines and equipment used for the treatment of Covid-19. A notification to this effect will be issued within a day or two. The 5 per cent GST levied on vaccines was left unchanged, following the recent changes in the country's vaccine procurement strategy that puts the Union government in charge of augmenting supplies.

The reduced rates, which Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said were aimed at providing some succour to the people amid the pandemic, will remain effective till September 30, but could be extended fur-

Medicine and equipment's used in Covid-19 treatment	Existing GST rate	Reduction in GST rate
Tocilizumab, Amphotericin B	5 %	Nil
Anti Coagulants like Heparin, Remdesivir (Any other drug recommended by the health ministry and department of pharma for covid treatment)	12 %	5 %
Medical Grade Oxygen, Oxygen Concentrator/ Generator including personal imports, Ventilators, Ventilator Masks/Canula/Helmet, BiPAP Machine, High flow nasal canula (HFNC) device	12 %	5 %
COVID testing kits, Specified Inflammatory Diagnostic Kits namely D-Dimer, IL-6 and LDH	12 %	5 %
Hand Sanitiser, Temperature check equipment, Gas/Electric furnaces for crematorium including their installation	18 %	5 %
Pulse Oximeters including personal imports,	12 %	5 %
Ambulances	28 %	12 %

ther based on later assessments. The decision to slash tax rates was based on a recommendation of a Group of Ministers, headed by Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, and would remain effective till September 30, 2021.

The GST rate on COVID-19 drug Tocilizumab and black fungus medicine Amphotericin B will be reduced to nil from the existing 5 per cent. The GST rate on ambulances has been cut to 12 per cent from 28 per cent. Tax on medical grade oxygen, oxygen concentrator (including personal imports), ventilators, BiPAP machines and high flow nasal cannula (HFNC) devices has been cut to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

Pvt hospitals used 17% of 1.85 cr jab doses in May: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when the people, at least in the urban areas are hankering for the Covid-19 vaccines to protect themselves from deadly virus, Government data shows that only 17 per cent of the 1.85 crore doses were utilised by private hospitals last month, leaving a massive stock unused.

As per the Union Health Ministry statement issued earlier this month, a total of 7.4 crore doses were made available across the country in May, out of which 1.85 crore doses were earmarked for private hospitals. However, the Government data showed that only 22 lakh doses were utilised.

Experts feel that the huge stock lying with the private hospitals could be due to the high prices of vaccinations and

vaccine hesitancy. Private hospitals across India procured 1.29 crore vaccine doses of the available 1.85 crore shot, as per the Government data.

In what could corroborate these alarming revelations, as per reports, for instance while the vaccination centres run by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and the State Government were shut in Mumbai due to shortage in June, lakhs of doses were still available with private hospitals.

Maharashtra had procured 25.10 lakh vaccine doses in May, private hospitals, on the other hand, purchased 32.38 lakh doses, the highest in any State. In Mumbai the private hospitals procured 22.37 lakh doses, four times more than the 5.23 lakh doses the civic body BMC was allocated by the State Government.

State reports zero Covid casualties

Active caseload drops below 4,000

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand reported zero Covid casualties in a day for the first time on Saturday since the second wave of the pandemic hit the State earlier this year, data compiled by the National Health Mission (NHM) highlighted. The active caseload of Covid-19 also dropped below the 4,000-mark as the state reported twice as many Covid recoveries as fresh cases of infection.

A bulletin released by the NHM stated that as many as 493 Covid patients recovered from the viral infection on Saturday, while 239 people were found infected by novel coronavirus. At least 3,966 Jharkhand residents were battling Covid-19 by the end of Saturday, the bulletin further stated.

East Singhbhum was the only district to report more than 50 fresh cases of infection on Saturday. As many as 51



A medic administers Covid-19 vaccine dose to a beneficiary during the vaccination drive, in Ranchi on Friday. Pioneer photo

people were found infected in East Singhbhum and 91 patients recovered there, bringing the active caseload down to 722 on the day.

As many as 78 recoveries against 27 cases brought the active caseload in Ranchi down to 1,236. Among other districts, Dhanbad reported 12 cases

against 17 recoveries, while Bokaro reported only six cases and 17 recoveries. At least 23 people were found infected in Hazaribag and 46 patients recovered there.

The State on Saturday tested swab samples of 43,653 residents and the positivity rate on the day was less than 0.5 per

cent. As per Government data, over 3.43 lakh people have been infected by coronavirus in the State so far and 97.36 per cent of them have recovered, while 1.48 per cent of them have died.

The growth rate of Covid cases also dropped to 0.09 per cent in the State against the national average of 0.22 per cent on the day, while the doubling rate in Jharkhand further rose to 796.09 days against the national doubling rate of 314.44 days.

So far, as many as 5,082 Jharkhand residents have died of Covid-19 and 1,579 of them were from Ranchi alone. With 1,029 casualties, East Singhbhum accounts for the second highest number of deaths among the 24 districts in the State.

The State on Saturday administered the first dose of vaccine against Covid-19 to as many as 95,730 residents, including 2984 senior citizens and over 50,000 residents in the age bracket of 18 years to 44 years. As many as 13,113 residents received their second jab on the day.

Youth, mistaken as Maoist, killed in retaliatory firing by security forces

7 villagers, out in Latehar jungles for hunting, opened fire at forces

M FAIYAZ AHMAD ■ DALTONGANJ

A 24-year-old youth fell victim of mistaken identity and was killed in retaliatory firing by security forces in Garu area of Latehar district, about 170 kilometres from the State Capital. In the firing another youth was injured and was taken for treatment, said sources.

Superintendent of Police, Latehar Prashant Anand, said, "One person has been killed in the jungles of Kookoo Piri under the Garu police station today. The deceased was not an extremist. Our team is there in the jungles let's see what findings come out from there."

Anand said that security forces had the information that there were some people there with country made weapons. He said that they knew people go to the jungles with 'bharawthuwa bandook' (old style country made weapon) to shoot wild boars etc. Asked whether the elite

force fired unilaterally as one with 'Bharawthuwa bandook' can't dare to open fire on the forces that too on the CRPF CoBRA and Jharkhand Jaguar, Anand said there came a few fires from that end also.

Sources in the police department revealed that the incident took place when a group of villagers (mostly youths) went out for hunting in Kookoo Piri jungle under Garu Police Station of Latehar district. Teams of CRPF, Jharkhand Jaguar and State Police had launched a search operation in the area and they spotted a group with arms, they added.

"Incidentally, the villagers started the firing by spotting a wild animal and in the retaliatory firing one youth, identified as Brahmdev Singh (24), died on the spot, while another person Deenanath Singh (25) was injured as a bullet hit his arm. During the search operation 5 persons were apprehended by the forces and are being interrogated," said the sources.

Ironically enough, the CRPF stated in the forenoon that a Maoist's body was recovered during an encounter in Latehar and no rebuttal came from the elite force till the time of filing of this report.



Body of youth lies behind bushes in Kuku-Piri forest under the Garu police station area of Latehar district on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Villages in J'khand moving towards 100% vaccination

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Banmara village of Kullu Kera panchayat is located at the Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh border of Simdega district. 100 per cent of the population of this village have been vaccinated for Covid-19.

People of Jins Jara Kani village of Simdega situated at the border of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have shown the same kind of spirit.

Despite being one of the farthest villages, people here actively participated in the vaccination drive and achieved 100 per cent vaccination in the village.

After a few awareness attempts by the administration people of these villages realised the importance of vaccination for the safety of their people. Ranga panchayat of Masaliya block in Dumka is also heading towards 100 per cent vaccination. Panchayats like Shikaripara, Gandrakpur, which are situated at the far-



PRI members along with ANMs and Sahiyas during an awareness drive meeting with villagers. Pioneer photo

these part of the districts, have also achieved more than 80 per cent vaccination.

Garu block of Latehar district is a Naxal affected block. The population of this block is close to 36,000.

Almost 50 per cent of the 18 plus population of this block have received the vaccine jab. The district administration is running intensive awareness campaigns across the block. Every day, a rise in vaccination coverage is being recorded.

Awareness campaigns run by the Government in native and regional languages are helping people understand the benefits of the vaccine. Myths and fallacies related to the vaccine are being exposed among the rural population of the state.

Dumka district of Santhal Pargana region having multiple panchayats recording more than 75 per cent or 80 per cent vaccination coverage is running an intensive awareness drive across the districts.

In addition to weekend vaccination mass drives being organised across the State, Dumka also organises awareness camps. Officials and local people take part in awareness camps and mobilise more people towards vaccination centres.

Appeals from the government headed by the Chief Minister are now bringing results. Migrants coming back to these villages are being kept under quarantine for 14 days, at Government-run quarantine facilities for the safety of their village.

inputs related to Covid safety behaviour and vaccination.

Self-education, village level meetings related to vaccines was prevalent among villagers. Having a traditional lifestyle, every week they take part in social work for the upliftment of their village and their people.

This created a similarity of thought among the villagers. Villages like Banmara, Jins Jara Kani and Ranga were motivated by the awareness drives run by the Government, they accepted the importance of vaccination. They admitted that death due to Covid can create chaos among villagers. To avoid such mishappenings they voluntarily came ahead to take part in the Covid vaccination.

The Euro 2020 match between Denmark and Finland was suspended after Eriksen was given urgent medical attention on the field near the end of the first half. He was treated for about 10 minutes after collapsing. He was then carried off on a stretcher.

Eriksen taken to hospital after collapsing at Euro 2020

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen was taken to a hospital on Saturday after collapsing on the field during a match at the European Championship. The governing body of European soccer said Eriksen has been stabilised and the Danish soccer federation said he was awake.

"Christian Eriksen is awake and is undergoing further examinations at Rigshospitalet," the Danish federation wrote on Twitter.

The Euro 2020 match between Denmark and Finland was suspended after Eriksen was given urgent medical attention on the field near the end of the first half. He was treated for about 10 minutes after collapsing. He was then carried off on a stretcher.

UEFA then announced the game had been suspended "due to a medical emergency."

‘Our responsibility was to land right with the sequel’

JD METHEJIA, producer of Sony SAB TV’s *Wagle Ki Duniya* – Nayi Peedhi, Naye Kisse, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA how this series is different from the original, the challenge he is facing and why he chose the same starcast

■ I understand that you are reading a script. Is it for a new project?

No-no. *Wagle Ki Duniya- Nayi Peedhi, Naye Kisse* requires that we come up with a new storyline every day. We have tried to ensure that none of the stories in the series go beyond one episode. Out of the 78 episodes that have aired till now, there have been only a couple that have run into the second part. At the end of the day the creative writer has to send the storyline for the next day. That is what keeps me busy in the evenings.

■ What are the challenges you are facing having to shoot outside of Mumbai?

Wagle... as a show is all about daily trials and tribulations of the common man, we never expected to be at the resort, where we are shooting, for more than 15-29 days; it has now been 49 days. Then there is the whole thing of creating daily stories. We have based our show on real-life issues of the common man. To put out stories every day is not an easy task. Also, it is not possible for a middle-class family to afford to stay in the resort for such a long time. We have to work around these constraints and bring out the essence of the show that is all about morals, values, emotions and principles.

■ What makes *Wagle Ki Duniya* so popular?

The series is all about the common man and his trials and travails. People sitting at home identify with what is happening in *Wagle’s* world. People find a connection with the actors and feel that what the characters are going through in reel life is something that they face everyday — problems at the workplace, kids have problems at home and the wife having to deal with household issues. These are small things but it makes what we call life — a common man’s life. The show is about how a middle-class man thinks and people find a connection with the thinking that has been shown.

■ How is this series different from the 1988-90 show?

Here, the series takes a leap. While some of the cast is the same, there are new characters. This adds a new dimension to the show while keeping the essence of the original show that had 18 episodes. We wanted to showcase *Wagle’s duniya* in the new setting. I call this show TV-web — a combination of TV show and web series.

■ How did the idea to revisit the show come up?

A few of us were working for a new show for the channel keeping in mind middle and higher middle class. Neeraj Vyas, business head of SAB TV called me at night and asked me what I thought of *Wagle Ki Duniya* of 1988. I told him it is an excellent idea. The next morning, I called Usha Laxman. She told me that she was about to call me with regard to 18 episodes that she had. I told her that why not do new episodes. She asked how we would do it without RK Laxman. I told her that we will begin with zero.

■ Why choose the same cast?

There was no way that we could have not taken Anjan Srivastav and Bharti Achrekar; they are the original *Wagles*. There was no reason not to take them. Since there is a leap, we couldn’t take Dushyant Nagpal instead opted for two kids — Chinmayee Salvi and Sheehan Kapahi. Then there is Sumeet Raghavan; we wanted him to be there; then there is Pariva Pranati.

■ Were there any apprehensions since the series takes a leap and is set in present times?

No, we had no apprehensions. We have a wonderful team and we knew that this new series would work as well. We have worked on so many shows that talk about middle-class issues, we knew people would love this too. The only thing that we had to do was to act responsibly. The original show was directed by Kundan Shah; we had to land right.

■ You are an actor. How did you get into production and directing?

It was always on the cards. I am an MBA and when I left my job, I gave myself time as an actor. I had written a letter to myself where I had planned my life. Production and directing was already there on the cards. I am glad that I have managed to remain true to the letter. I am glad that I formed Hats Off Productions with my friend and now business partner, Aatish Kapadia.



PLAN YOUR STAY AT HOME SUNDAY

SWEET MOMENTS

Coffee mousse without cream, as good as that of the bar. Soft, creamy and tasty. The mousse coffee without cream is a pudding perfect for those little pauses in mid-afternoon or a cold dessert after lunch on a stay at home Sunday. Easy to make, ready in less than five minutes and as good as that of the bar. Do not you believe it? Let us move on to the recipe immediately.

- INGREDIENTS**
- 200 ml of soluble iced coffee
 - 100 ml of cold water
 - 200 ml of semi-skimmed milk
 - 5 teaspoons of sugar
 - Coffee

METHOD

Prepare the coffee and pour it into a bowl. Add sugar and water, mix. Put the mixture in the freezer to cool, remember that it must be well frozen.

Pour the cold milk into a bowl, start mixing, with the help of an electric whisk, until you get a very frothy mixture. Take the coffee from the fridge, shake it hard to make it super creamy. Add the frothy coffee to the frothed milk. Keep stirring for a few minutes until everything is smooth. Store the coffee cream in a container and place it in the freezer to freeze.

GO FOR NO-BAKE TART

The no-bake tart with berries is the ideal dessert for a tasty snack, to end the meal with a sweet flavor and to surprise someone on the most refined occasions. Find out how to prepare a no-bake tart, and make a good impression in no time with your guests.

- INGREDIENTS**
- 500 gram wild berries
 - 220 gram chocolate biscuit
 - 150 gram white chocolate
 - 100 gram butter
 - 200 ml fresh cream
 - 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
 - 2 tablespoons powdered sugar

METHOD

Crumble 220 g of chocolate biscuits, put them in the mixer, blend them and pour 100 g of melted butter over a very low heat. Blend for a few seconds until you get a homogeneous mixture (if you do not have the mixer on hand, collect the cookies in a paper bag and pound them with a meat mallet). Now, line a mold with baking paper, pour the biscuit and butter mixture, compact it with the back of a spoon to cover the bottom and part of the walls. Put everything in the freezer,



and prepare the cream for the filling. Chop 150 g of white chocolate, melt it in a double boiler, turn off and let it cool. Whip 200 ml of fresh cream with a spoon full of icing sugar. Then add the melted chocolate cream with soft movements from the bottom up. Pour the white chocolate mousse into the chocolate chip cookie shell. Spread it with a spatula; place the washed berries on top. Then put the no-bake tart with berries in the fridge for at least a couple of hours, so that the chocolate mousse is slightly firmer. When serving, distribute the fruit with the remaining icing sugar. — By Girish Chandra, Beverage Training Manager, Lavazza India

TELLY TALE

SHOCKING TWIST

Trouble knocks at the doorsteps of Garima and Susheela again, with their father getting missing suspiciously. Sony SAB’s show *Kaatelal & Sons* is gearing towards a shocking twist where Garima and Susheela’s Mama would kidnap Dharampal so that the girls’ dream to open their salon comes to a halt again. The audience would see how the girls will put their entire energy to find their father in the upcoming episodes.

Garima and Susheela try their best to seal the deal for their salon, but the problems are not coming to an end. Both the sisters had to return before signing the agreement as they are informed that their father is missing. Both begin the investigation and start questioning everyone before finding out



their Mama is involved in their father’s kidnapping. They get furious and try to come up with a plan to save their father.

However, when Mama gets to know the girls have an idea about his mission, he plans a brutal attack on them.

Will Garima and Susheela find their father and how will they get out of this troubled situation?

Jiya Shankar who essays the role of Susheela said: “The upcoming track would be very interesting for the viewers to watch how Garima and I leave no stone unturned to find our father. We might fight with our parents, but we put our entire energy to get them out of those situations whenever they are in difficult situations, and that’s what makes a father and a daughter relationship so special.”

Megha Chakraborty who essays the role of Garima said: “The upcoming track has all the right ingredients to make you excited as well as anxious. Susheela and I do everything possible to find our kidnapped father in a terrific sequence of events that promise to be full of excitement.”

TWENTY YEARS OF GADAR AND LAGAAN



20 years ago, two truly path-breaking films of Indian Cinema, *Lagaan* and *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha*, released at the box office on the same day. 20 years later, the viewers will witness that historic moment again as Zee Bollywood celebrates the glorious two decades of Ashutosh Gowariker’s spirited *Lagaan* and Anil Sharma’s fearless *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha*, films that created a legacy with their record-breaking footfalls. *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha* was the first movie produced by Zee Studios. These movies shaped the face of Indian cinema with their unabashed stories, iconic characters, remarkable music and unmatched dialogues. These movies have been proudly passed down generations as two of the most exceptional entertainers of all times. Along with Zee Bollywood, Zee Hindi movie cluster has come together to relive the nostalgia of these two epic movies. On June 15, *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha* will simulcast on

Zee Bollywood and Zee Cinema HD at 7:30 pm. On the same day, *Lagaan* will simulcast on Zee Bollywood and Pictures HD at 11 am. Additionally, the documentary *Chale Chalo* (Making of *Lagaan*) will be showcased on Explorer HD and Zee Classic, June 15 at 2 pm and 5 pm respectively.

Lagaan was a movie that made its mark in not just Hindi Cinema, but World Cinema too. The National Award-winning documentary *Chale Chalo* highlights the making of this masterpiece, showing us the struggle and belief that went behind Ashutosh Gowariker’s dream project. The Oscar-nominated, *Lagaan*, is an imposing success story laced with the director’s unwavering vision and Aamir Khan’s faith. Made on a then-unprecedented budget of approximately 25 crores, *Lagaan* is a story of perseverance and inspiration which also reflects through its team’s conviction. The movie production went through multiple challenges like gathering a crowd of 10 thousand local people for the cricket match sequence, shooting under severe weather conditions, limited supply of water-electricity, transforming a building into a hotel in a small village in Gujarat for accommodation of the cast, A.K. Hangal braving his injury to finish shooting his part, and even Ashutosh Gowariker directing from a cot after suffering a slipped disc. All this brought out the warriors in each one who were part of the movie and pushed them forward with clear focus. A lot of such interesting tables will be unravelled in the documentary.

RUN POOJA RUN



Zee TV’s popular fiction show, *Kumkum Bhagya* has been an audience favourite courtesy its intriguing plot and the authentic portrayal of relatable characters like Abhi (Shabbir Ahluwalia), Pragya (Sriti Jha), Rhea (Pooja Banerjee), Ranbir (Krishna Kaul) and Prachi (Mugdha Chapekar). While the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown 2.0 continues, the whole wedding drama between Abhi and Tanu has kept the viewers at the edge of their seats. However, it looks like there are more interesting twists coming up with Ranbir and Prachi’s wedding being finalised.

During the upcoming episodes, you will see Rhea dressing up as a bride for her wedding with Ranbir. Like every bride, she will dress up elegantly in a beautiful red *lehenga*. While

dressing up wasn’t hard, Pooja found it difficult to run in a 25 kg *lehenga*. For a sequence, the actress had to run in her wedding outfit and seems like she was exhausted after the whole day of shoot. While, the team could have opted for cheat shots, Pooja wanted the sequence to look genuine and shot for it with full vigour and excitement.

Talking about the difficulties she faced, Pooja Banerjee who plays the role of Rhea in *Kumkum Bhagya* revealed: “For the wedding sequence, I had to dress up as a bride. While I was excited about wearing the designer red *lehenga*, getting into the dress and running in it was tough. To be honest, the outfit was very heavy, it was almost 25 kgs. On top of it, there was the wedding jewellery. In fact, it also took me nearly two to three hours every day to get in and out of the look. To climb up and down the stairs to go to the *Kumkum Bhagya* set and then having to run for several sequences was a task, but I wanted it to look real and hence, I gave my best. I feel all my hardwork was worth it and I have to say, I felt wonderful and pretty in the bridal outfit. The whole wedding sequence was fantastic to shoot, and I can’t wait for our fans to see the twists and turns that will take place.”

While Pooja seems very excited for the wedding sequence of her on screen character Rhea, will it be a happily ever after for Ranbir and Rhea? Or is there a new twist in the tale?

WATCH OUT FOR

IMDb (www.imdb.com), the world’s most popular and authoritative source for movie, TV and celebrity content, today unveiled the most popular Indian films and web series of the year so far. Rather than base its rankings on box office, small statistical samplings or reviews from professional critics, IMDb determines its list based on IMDbPro data on the page views of IMDb users in India. IMDb Most Popular Indian Movies and Shows of 2021, so far*

Master (streaming on Prime Video): An alcoholic professor is sent to a juvenile school, where he clashes with a gangster who uses the school children for criminal activities.



Aspirants (streaming on TVF): It is the story of the journey of three UPSC (public service competitive exams in India) aspirants and their friendship against all odds.

The White Tiger (streaming on Netflix): An ambitious Indian driver uses his wit and cunning to escape from poverty and rise to the top. An epic journey based on the New York Times bestseller.



Drishyam 2 (streaming on Prime Video): A gripping tale of an investigation and a family which is threatened by it. Will Georgekutty be able to protect his family this time?



November Story (streaming on Disney Plus Hotstar): A celebrated crime novelist suffering from Alzheimer’s is found at a murder scene with no memory of what happened. Now, it is up to his daughter to save him.



Karnan (streaming on Prime Video): Karnan, a fearless village youth, must fight for the rights of the conservative people of his village, due to the torture given by a police officer.

Vakeel Saab (streaming on Prime Video): Three girls find themselves accused of attempt to murder after escaping molestation. Their only hope is an alcoholic lawyer who agrees to take up the case.



Maharani (streaming on Sony Liv): A political drama set in Bihar of 1990’s.

Krack (streaming on Aha): Krack is an action film which follows Veera Shankar, a hot headed police sergeant, who forms a vicious rivalry with notorious crime figure, Katari Krishna.

The Great Indian Kitchen (streaming on Prime Video): After marriage, a woman struggles to be the submissive wife that her husband and his family expect her to be. The story follows her journey, as she changes herself and, even more so, changes the household.



*These 10 movies and web series released theatrically and/or online in India between January 1 and June 3, 2021 generated the most IMDb page views in India within a four-week post release window, based on IMDbPro data. All of the titles have an IMDb user rating of 7 or higher and are available to stream online, based on data from June 7, 2021. IMDb users can add these and other titles to their IMDb Watchlist at <https://www.imdb.com/watchlist>.

UNICEF, J'khand donates medical equipment, masks to Govt

WILL WIN THE WAR AGAINST COVID WITH EVERYONE'S COOPERATION: CM

PNS ■ RANCHI

UNICEF Jharkhand chief Prashant Dash and other office bearers met Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday at CM's residential office and handed over many important medical equipment to the CM to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the occasion, the CM said that continuous efforts are being made by the State Government for prevention and better treatment of infected patients. The state government has started its preparations in view of the possible third wave of corona infection. Better medical management for infection

control is the priority of the Government, he said.

The CM said that in this era of global infection, supplying essential medical equipment and gear to the State government by UNICEF is a commendable job. He said that commendable steps are being taken by various institutions including UNICEF in the development of the State. "I am sure that the essential materials provided by Jharkhand UNICEF will help in providing medical aid to the needy people of the State and in winning the ongoing fight against COVID-19. This effort and cooperation being done by UNICEF to save the lives of infected patients is commendable. I thank the entire



Chief Minister Hemant Soren looks at a medical equipment handed over by UNICEF Jharkhand to win the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, at CM's residence in Ranchi on Saturday. Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health, Arun Kumar Singh, Secretary to the Chief Minister Vinay Kumar Choubey, Press Advisor to the CM Abhishek Prasad and UNICEF State Chief Prasanta Dash are also seen in the picture. Pioneer photo

team of UNICEF. Together we will win the war against coronavirus," said the CM.

UNICEF Jharkhand Chief Prashant Das said that Jharkhand UNICEF is providing oxygen concentrators to the State government to control the situation that has arisen in the State due to Covid-19. He said

that cold chain equipment, RTPCR machines and masks are also being provided to the State government by UNICEF for better management and to reduce the spread of corona infection in the State. UNICEF will continue to work step by step with the State Government for epidemic control.

Development Commissioner cum Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health, Government of Jharkhand Arun Kumar Singh said, "In addition to oxygen concentrators, we have also received cold chain equipment's, RTPCR machines and masks. These will strengthen our preparedness for the pan-

demical and help us save lives."

Three RTPCR machines (RIMS-2, MGM Medical College-1), 20 lakh three layered surgical masks, 800 oxygen concentrators, two walking coolers, one walking freezer, 90 ice-line refrigerators, 27 deep freezers, 511 large cold chain boxes were handed over by UNICEF officials to the State Government.

On the occasion Development Commissioner cum Additional Chief Secretary Health Department Arun Kumar Singh, Secretary to Chief Minister Vinay Kumar Choubey, Press Advisor to Chief Minister Abhishek Prasad and other officials of Jharkhand UNICEF were present.

Sudesh: Online education in Govt schools, a hollow claim

AJSU party chief holds virtual meeting with party officials

PNS ■ RANCHI

AJSU Party president Sudesh Kumar Mahto today said that the Covid-19 pandemic has a huge impact in the field of education. "Government schools have been closed for the last 14 months. The government and the education department claim to get children to study online, but on the ground of reality, the picture looks quite the opposite. Millions of students have gone away from studies due to lack of smartphones in rural areas," he said.

A virtual meeting of AJSU Party was organised under the chairmanship of Sudesh Kumar Mahto, attended by all the office bearers of the party, the president and secretary of the subsidiary units, district presidents, district secretaries, assembly in-charge and district in-charge. In the meeting, a review was done regarding the service work and vaccination campaign run by the party during the Corona period. During this, Mahto discussed the policies and functioning of the present government one by one with all the leaders. Along with the Sankalp Diwas to be celebrated on 22nd June, detailed discussion was held on the topics of the organization.

Mahto said before coming to power, JMM had promised to provide employment to five lakh youth every year. But, the experience of the last one and a half years shows that contrary



AJSU Party president Sudesh Kumar Mahto, MP CP Chaudhary and Spokesperson Deosharan Bhagat during a virtual meeting of the party in Ranchi on Saturday. Pioneer photo

to all the claims of the Mahagathbandhan government, unemployment has assumed a formidable form. All the claims of the government are only proving to be hollow. The government of Mahagathbandhan is cheating the youth and pushing the State towards ruin, he added.

He added the present government completely failed in fighting the second wave of corona.

"The people of the State saw people dying in front of the ministers, longing for oxygen cylinders and medicines and the government remained a mute spectator. Poverty, unemployment and migration are at its peak in the State. The future of students and youth is being played with."

The AJSU party chief further said that the corona pandemic has created trouble for people from all around. "There are many people whose loved ones have died. The one who was earning in the house died. Now there is no earner in the

house. There are many children whose parents are both gone. There are many elders whose earning young children have gone. The AJSU party demands that the government announce an economic package for the families and dependents of those who died of Covid-19," he added.

"Vaccination is the only option to fight an invisible enemy like Coronavirus. Therefore, it was decided in the meeting that the leaders and workers of AJSU party would conduct vaccination awareness campaign in every village and locality," said Mahto.

AJSU Party will celebrate Sankalp Diwas in the entire State on 22nd June and will take a pledge to build a strong and prosperous Jharkhand. Sankalp Diwas programme will be started after paying tribute to the departed souls and the brave martyrs of Jharkhand who died due to corona infection. Blood donation camps will also be organized across the State on the occasion.

State begins RT PCR testing of about 2L rural residents

Only 981 of 2,08,556 with symptoms found infected during survey

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Health Department has started conducting confirmatory RT PCR tests of the over 2 lakh rural residents who tested negative for Covid-19 in Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) conducted during the Intensive Public Health Survey (IPHS) from May 25 to June 5, officials said on Saturday.

"In adherence to the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) guidelines, we will conduct confirmatory RT PCR tests of all the rural residents who tested negative in RAT during the survey. The process has already begun at the Panchayat level," said the nodal officer of health department's Information, Education and Communication (IEC) wing, Dr Siddharth Tripathi.

Tripathi admitted that the Government decided to conduct rapid tests instead of Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT PCR) during the survey as the former was less time-consuming and the health infrastructure in rural Jharkhand was not strong enough to conduct large scale RT PCR tests on the go. RAT is also done with nasal and throat swab, but it takes only one hour to show

Covid test results. On the other hand, RT PCR tests take at least 48 hours.

The confirmatory tests, officials said, were necessary as all the residents who underwent Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) during the survey showed symptoms of Covid-19. As per survey data, of the over 2.63 crore people surveyed during IPHS, at least 2,08,556 showed symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) or Influenza Like Illness (ILA).

All the 2 lakh-odd residents with SARI and ILA symptoms underwent rapid tests during the survey, but only 981 of them were found infected by novel coronavirus. The low positivity rate among such individuals, officials said, could be attributed to the lower efficacy of rapid

tests as compared to RT PCR in detecting Covid-19.

As per the data compiled by the health department, the positivity rate in Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) was less than 1 per cent in Jharkhand, while that in RT PCR was 2.3 per cent. The positivity rate in the TrueNat test was highest at 7 per cent.

The Covid positivity rate during the IPHS was only 0.47 per cent, which was lower than the cumulative positivity rate of over 3.5 per cent in Jharkhand, officials said.

During the survey, it was also found that 16,668 of the surveyed people showed symptoms of tuberculosis, while 1,17,622 suffered from diabetes. As per the survey data, at least 119026 rural residents suffered from hypertension.



A medic collects swab samples for Covid test from a woman in a rural area on Saturday. Pioneer photo

IN BRIEF

DWA HOLDS GB MEETING, PAYS TRIBUTES TO DOCS
Doctors' Wives Association commenced its June G. B. Meeting on Saturday by paying homage to Dr. Rudra Pratap Ghosh, Dr. Prashant Kumar Sengupta and Dr. Shashi Shekhar. They have, in the line of duty, succumbed to the deadly Coronavirus leaving behind their devastated families. Co-Chairperson Jhooma Sarkar spoke in memory of the deceased. Bhajans were sung by Dr. Madhu Sharma, Rinku Banerji, Deepa Chauhan and Vandana Sinha. Environment Day & Yoga Day, which fall in June, were also celebrated. Pictures of members planting and tending to plants were posted. These members included Rashmi Sinha, Shobha Kumar, Rekha Mishra, Manju Khaitan, Arti Singh, Madhu Gupta, Dr. Soni, Supriya Thakur and Taruna Chhabra. A video of following members presenting the poses of Suryanamaskar was also posted-Kumud Mohan, Sunita Rungta, Dr. Minali, Dr. Swati, Seema, Shalini, Renu Tiwary, Tabassum, Bindu, Rokshana Bano, Bibha Singh, Priyanka. The meeting was conducted by President Kamlesh Midha and Secretary Arti Singh.

PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR OF AUDIT STEEL VISITS BOKARO



Principal Director of Audit (Steel) Faisal Imam reached Bokaro in the course of his tour on June 11. On his arrival in Bokaro, senior officials of BSL welcomed him at Bokaro residence. On Saturday Imam first met the Director-in-Charge of BSL, Amarendra Prakash. He also participated in a meeting organized in the conference room of the Director-in-Charge and discussed various issues. The Director-in-Charge and Executive Director of BSL were also present in the meeting. After this, Imam inspected the layout of the plant in the Model Room located at Ispat Bhawan and inquired about the steel production process. After that he planted trees in the biological park. In the afternoon, Imam held a separate meeting with the officials of the Resident Audit of Bokaro unit.

3 DIE IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN GARHWA

Three persons including a father and his son died on the spot and two others were injured seriously when the auto rickshaw, in which they were travelling, collided with a truck on Bhawanathpur - Ketar road in Garhwa district on Saturday. The auto was heading for Ketar when the accident took place near Dudhwanjia Valley around 3 pm, police said. The deceased were identified as Khushbuddin Ansari, (30), his son Taushif Raja, (8) and Dipak Kumar (21). Injured mother and her daughter are undergoing treatment at CHC, Bhawanathpur. The truck driver went missing after the accident and a search was on for him, officials said.

JSLPS plans to produce Tamarind candy, cake and chutney soon



PNS ■ RANCHI

Good news for Tamarind lovers, now Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) is planning to produce cake, candy and chutney from Tamarind and it will produce very soon. JSLPS is also preparing to provide a big market to these products.

Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) is encouraging women belonging to Sakhi Mandals to make cake, candy and chutney from Tamarind. JSLPS CEO Nancy Sahay has assured the Didis working under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Project that they will be provided necessary assistance for this.

Sahay met the Didis of Sakhi Mandal at the Community Agriculture Incubation Center at Namkum, Ranchi and the Rural Service Center at Kalamati, Khunti and discussed the work being done to increase their livelihood on Friday. The Didis urged them to provide machines for processing mustard oil. Sahay emphasized on increasing the production of medicinal plants like Lemon Grass, Tulsi, Triphala in view of their demand. She also inspected the Gramin Seva Kendra located at Kalamati. Kalamati Tamarind Processing Unit is being operated by 30

members of Kalamati Gramin Seva Kendra. Under this initiative, about 12,000 families are involved in tamarind collection and processing in the State.

Kalamati tamarind processing unit is being operated by 30 members of Kalamati Gramin Seva Kendra. A total of 5 machines have been installed in this processing unit which includes peel and fiber extractor, two seed extractor, tamarind cake making machine and packaging machine. Under this initiative, about 12,000 families are involved in tamarind collection and processing in the state.

During his visit CEO JSLPS interacted with the didis and directed them to start manufacturing of products like chutney, candy apart from tamarind cake and learned about their problems. During the discussion, President of Kalamati Gramin Seva Kendra, Sonamati Unrao raised the problem of tamarind not being sold at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and demanded fixing of MSP for all NTFP products.

During the Khunti and Namkum field visit, the CEO JSLPS appealed to the Didis of Sakhi Mandal to take Covid-19 vaccine.

JAC working on formula for Class X, XII results

Class IX, XII board results to be considered for preparing results

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State Government on Thursday evening announced to cancel the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) class X and XII examinations for this session in wake of the second wave of coronavirus pandemic. Chief Minister Hemant Soren, on Thursday evening tweeted, "In view of the circumstances arising out of Covid-19 and the demand of students and parents, I have decided to cancel the 10th and 12th examinations to be conducted by Jharkhand Academic Council in this session."

After the State government announced to cancel class X and XII examination, the challenge before the State government is how students will be promoted to higher classes. Sources said that the JAC is working on various formulas about promotion of students from class X and XII respectively.

JAC chairman Arvind Singh said, "JAC is working on various systems, under which students will be promoted from class X to XII, however, the final decision will be taken by the state government." He further said, "Like CBSE and other boards, which too have cancelled matriculation and intermediate examinations, we too will take internal assessment for promotion of students in new classes. The advantage for us is

that we have taken board examinations in class IX and XI. The results of Class IX and XI board examinations will also be considered while preparing the results of students."

Sources said that apart from the advantage of class X and XII board examinations conducted by JAC, the state school examination had also conducted practical examinations the marks of which too will be considered while preparing the results.

Also, JAC has convened a meeting of RDDE (Regional Deputy Director Education) and DEO (District Education Officer) of the state on June 12, where senior officials' feedback will be also taken for preparing the results. Principals of big schools will also be invited to the meeting. JAC is also waiting for the CBSE result. JAC will study the CBSE method of results preparations and based on which JAC will apply the same while preparing the results.

Prior to Jharkhand several other states such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Odisha have cancelled the Class 10 and Class 12 board exams for 2021 in wake of the pandemic.

On June 1, the Central government cancelled the Central Board of Secondary Examination (CBSE) Class 12 board exams 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic second wave. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had chaired a meeting on the same with stakeholders before the decision was announced.

CCL sign MoU with Chatra Admin to upgrade Anganwadi centres



District nodal officer Ashish Kumar, Chief Manager (Civil) S.S.Lal along with other officials of CCL during an MoU with Chatra administration for upgradation of 100 Anganwadi centres in the district, on Saturday. Pioneer photo

PNS ■ RANCHI

Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited signed an MoU worth Rs 3 crores with Chatra District Administration on Saturday. Under the MoU, CCL will provide Rs 3 Crore to Chatra District Administration to upgrade 100 Anganwadi centres in the district.

The amount will also be utilised for establishing 54 digital classrooms in 30 schools and an oxygen plant in community health centre, Tandwa.

District Social Welfare Officer, District Education officer, Ashish Kumar, Chief Manager (Civil), SS Lal along with other officers of CCL were present on the occasion.

An amount of Rs 1.5 crores will be spent on upgrading the 100 Anganwadi centres of the district. An expenditure of Rs 1.5 lakh will be incurred on every centre towards repair of building, wall paintings and providing sports and other essential

items to the children. A total of 54 digital classrooms will be established in 30 schools of Chatra at an expenditure of Rs 1.03 Crore. An oxygen plant in the community health centre, Tandwa will also be established at a cost of Rs 60 lakh.

CMD, CCL PM Prasad expressed delight at the signing of MoU. He said that the company is committed to the holistic development of the stakeholders.

He further added that with the support of the State Governments company is implementing various welfare schemes for the people of the State.

District nodal officer, Ashish Kumar, Chief Manager, (Civil), SS Lal along with other officers of CCL were present on the occasion.

In the last few financial years CCL has signed MoU worth Rs 9 crores and 42 lakh with the district administrations of Ranchi, Ramgarh, Bokaro, Hazaribag and Latehar for upgradation of 628 Anganwadi centres to Model Anganwadi centres.

Levying 5% GST on medical equipment unfair, says Oraon

PNS ■ RANCHI

Finance Minister, Dr Rameshwar Oraon said on Saturday that in view of Covid-19, imposing 5 per cent GST on medicines, health equipment and any other material related to it is completely unfair and is a betrayal with the people of the Country. Oraon said that the imposition of GST could have been considered after the Covid-19 period, but in the present era, the imposition of GST shows the autocracy of the Central Government. The people of the Country cannot tolerate this anti-people policy of the Central Government at all, he added.

The Finance Minister said that in view of the adverse circumstances of the Corona period, the demand of the states to reduce the GST on health equipment to zero per cent to the Central Government was ignored by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Speaking on behalf of the Jharkhand Government in a virtual meeting held under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Dr Nirmala Sitharaman, he had said that such an epidemic has not been seen in the last hundred years, in such a situation, all types of health equipment including oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters, medicines are being used. He said that to reduce GST to zero per cent was requested in the meeting of May 28 and similar demand was made by nine non-BJP ruled states also.

Brown sugar worth ₹1 cr seized in Chatra



SHAILESH SHARMA ■ HAZARIBAG

Chatra police have seized 310 grams of brown sugar in a special drive in Chatra town. The price of seized brown sugar in the International market is more than Rs 1 crore. Police have arrested seven persons along with a State level BJP leader in this drive.

Police also recovered Rs 7.74 lakh from the arrested persons.

Chatra SP Rishabh Jha said that the police headquarter received secret information that in the town a group of people are doing illegal business of brown sugar and other illegal items.

A team was formed, which raided the suspected places in the town as well as in the rural areas. The team seized 310 gram brown sugar from a place in the town area.

The team has arrested seven persons from the different places, who were involved in this illegal business along with BJP Yuva Morcha state executive member. The arrested persons include Dheeraj Kumar, Amit Gupta, Anurag Kumar, Himanshu Kumar, Chandan Kumar, Naval Dangi

□ A team was formed, which raided the suspected places in the town as well as in the rural areas. The team seized 310 gram brown sugar from a place in the town area

□ Team arrested seven persons from the different places, who were involved in this illegal business along with BJP Yuva Morcha State executive member

and Prem Dangi. The team has also recovered Rs 7,74,800 cash, seal machine, one dozen mobile sets and other small items related to business.

In Hazaribag the Choproan police seized one kilogram of opium on Chatra- Choproan road. Officer in charge Binod Trikey said that the SDPO Barhi got the information that some persons were carrying the opium from Chatra to Haryana State.

A special team started checking drive on Chatra-Choproan Road. When the team tried to stop the tempo, the persons with driver ran away from there. Police team recovered one kg of opium from the tempo.

A case has been registered in Choproan police station. The market price of opium is more than Rs 1 lakh.

NML organises Integrated Skill Initiative Industrial Training

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Under the CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative programme, which is a national programme on skill development initiated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi a training programme is being organised by CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur in the month of June-July 2021. This is an online industrial R&D training programme and was titled 'Materials and Metallurgical Engineering'.

This is a two-month training programme which will be delivered virtually and is aimed to give training and exposure to students of graduate engi-

neering colleges to enhance their industry oriented skills thus improving their employability. The training course has been designed to clarify the theoretical concepts of materials and metallurgical engineering and is expected to improve the competency level of the participants. The training schedule also includes a session to address leadership and professional skills to prepare the participants for the entire programme.

The inaugural programme



was held with the welcome address by Indranil Chatteraj, director, CSIR-NML. He gave a

brief idea about the world class research facilities available at CSIR-NML and invited the par-

ticipants to visit the laboratory when the situation improves and the country overcomes the Covid 19 pandemic.

This was followed by a speech by Mita Tarafder, head, KRIT Division of CSIR-NML about the skill development programme. She said that the objective of organizing skill trainings every year since 2016 is to standardize the training programs and narrated the skill training programs conducted every year by CSIR-NML in an attempt to fill the skill gap that exists in the youth of India. She mentioned

that an attempt has been made by her team to make the entire programme interesting and interactive by including a few quiz sessions and encouraged the attendees to come forward and participate as much as possible. She concluded her speech by explaining the certification requirements that each participant is expected to fulfill to acquire the certificate at the end of the programme.

The online inaugural event was attended by more than 250 people including participants from institutes and industry as well. At the end of the programme vote of thanks was extended by Sanghita Mridha, the joint coordinator of the training programme.

CSIR puts hold on distribution of honorarium to CIMFR employees

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has put on hold distribution of honorarium among the employees of CIMFR besides all other research wings and laboratories after suspected misuse of funds.

The director general also has directed all those employees who have been awarded honorarium against research projects to refund the gross payments that were made to them by March 31 / 2021 in this regard.

The issue came to fore owing to an RTI made by activist Ramesh Rahi who had sought details of honorarium paid to the employees of the laboratories under the CSIR.

It has come to fore that in some cases the honorarium released by the employees were much higher than their annual pay compensation that they were paid as government employees of any of the laboratories.

In one case an employee was paid over Rs 2 crores as honorarium that was claimed as constancy charges and royalty here at CIMFR. Surprisingly those not associated with any research too have been awarded the same. The CIMFR has paid more than Rs 17.5 crores in the last five years against this head here.

Rahi said, when the scientists are getting hefty pay compensations from the government for their work, realising honorarium appears to be a financial irregularity.

When contacted CIMFR spokesperson Dr Siddharth Singh said, the CSIR has put a hold on the payment of monies and honorarium till further notice.

The practice of paying honorarium is an old one, thus those eligible used to get it. However, after the directive from DG it has been stopped.



Ranchi SDM, City SP, ASP Kotwali, City DSP along with many SHOs and jawans conduct a flag march ahead of complete lockdown of 38 hours in Jharkhand, in Ranchi on Saturday

CIL constitutes JBCCI-XI without INTUC representatives

PNS ■ DHANBAD

The Coal India Limited (CIL) notified formation of the JBCCI-XI without INTUC representatives in the committee.

Out of the five central trade unions operating in the coal industry four have got 14 main and equal number of alternate members in the committee besides 14 official members drawn from different coal companies including one private coal company.

All four seats of the INTUC have remained vacant owing to the ongoing court case among the three warring factions of the INTUC that claim to be the real INTUC.

The case has been pending in court for the last several years.

The four central trade union that have called for holding the National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) include the BMS, HMS, AITUC and CITU according to the notification issued by director personnel and industrial relations of CIL who happens to be the member secretary of the JBCCI-XI.

The chairman CIL happens to be the ex-officio chairman of the committee.

Talking to Pioneer Lakhani Lal Mahto who is alternate member on behalf of his trade union AICTU said that in the newly constituted committee mines welfare would be prime agenda amidst new labour policy and government of privatisation of coal industry of our trade union.

Narcotic substances, tobacco substances recovered from juvenile home Chas

PNS ■ DHANBAD

Bokaro: Narcotic substances, cigarettes, paan masala and other tobacco products and mobile phones were recovered from Chas juvenile home during the surprise inspection conducted by SDO Chas and team on Friday night.

"During a surprise inspection at Chas juvenile home, we have recovered tobacco products including cigarette, bidi, chillums, cannabis, chewing tobacco and its box, paan masala, playing cards, matchboxes, mobile phones, chargers, ear phones, memory cards from all different children's ward," said Sashi Prakash Singh SDO Chas. A case has been filed at Pindrajora police station by Prakash Singh a teacher of the juvenile home Chas.

Aimed at tightening the noose around those selling or offering such substances to a juvenile, police will also have to ascertain how the juvenile came under the influence of these narcotics substances and how mobile phones, SIM cards rushed inside.

Presently, more than 24 child prisoners are residing in the juvenile home Chas.

Different strategies in Indian Foreign Policy: A Simplified View

DEVANSHU JHA



Finally, the school of Hindutva which is based on cultural principles and building normative power (through Deen dayal Upadhyaya and Vivekananda) is present in views of scholars like Ian Hall. Normative power is very important for country like India which is still building military or economic power. So, use of religion (Hinduism, Buddhism), spirituality and culture as foreign policy tool is a very important strategy. This is the way forward if India wishes to become a Vishwa guru. PM Modi has tried to reflect this image and legacy forward as a blend of Gandhi, Buddhism and Hinduism.

Taking these principles forward and using them in context of current issue like India-China relation is very important as they provide us with the intellectual capital and various policy options to tackle them efficiently. If we take a hyper-realist view on how India can tackle China then issues like defense expenditure and formation of alliances for balancing China come out. Super realist like Karnad and Sarkar will always want defense expenditure as a percentage of GDP to increase. India must become a cradle for developing extraordinary and world class weapon system and be prepared for war. Indian Military must be prepared to tackle the "single-minded drive" of China to promote their strategic interests even in the present COVID times. Also, if India tries to build alliances to counter China, it cannot ally with USA as they are outsiders and move away from Asia

If we take a hyper-realist view on how India can tackle China then issues like defense expenditure and formation of alliances for balancing China come out. Super realist like Karnad and Sarkar will always want defense expenditure as a percentage of GDP to increase. India must become a cradle for developing extraordinary and world class weapon system and be prepared for war. Indian Military must be prepared to tackle the "single-minded drive" of China to promote their strategic interests even in the present COVID times. Also, if India tries to build alliances to counter China, it cannot ally with USA as they are outsiders and move away from Asia

balance off China. Increasing trade ties between the two countries and building complex interdependence will be very important. Although it may be asymmetric as China is a bigger power and has a trade surplus of around 45 billion dollars with India at present(2020). Trade deficit with China has come to a seven year low as businesses in India face the covid induced disruption. But overall trade is a good strategy to soften up the relations and gradually bring the two countries closer.

Gandhian and cultural principles as a part of foreign policy are very important in terms of soft power. As India is trying to develop enough hard power to deter China, building image of a peaceful, nonviolent country can attract Chinese who follow Buddhism. The spiritual wealth of the country can be used to give a message to China that we are not a threat. Visit of PM Modi to Buddhist religious places (Daxingshan temple) in China is a logical signaling in this context.

So, in nutshell five different strategies based on Nehruvian, Neoliberal, Realist, Gandhian and cultural principles are at the core of Indian foreign policy. These have been used from time to time by Indian government in tackling relations with other countries. Although India is moving forward with amalgamation of Neoliberal approach and cultural principles mainly to build on its soft power, acceptance of realist school in India cannot be neglected with rise of Modi in power. There is no single dominant strategy guiding Indian foreign policy since independence. But the challenge is to use these strategies in an efficient manner to tackle issues like health based robust foreign policy, Indo-Pak conflict and India - China border issue.

Looking this issue from new Nehruvian version of Bajpai, will take the Indo China relation to cognitive dissonance. India and China do not perceive each other properly and Indian government must try to surpass the elite gatekeepers of communist regime in China and increase efforts of public diplomacy and people to people contact to bridge the gap between the two countries.

Ian Hall's logic on building of Normative power through use of Hinduism and Buddhism as foreign policy tool connects with this argument on people to people contact and religion being the basis of public diplomacy. Further, neo liberalism as mentioned by Bajpai gives a totally different angle to the relations. Taking a stance, completely opposite to that of Karnad and Nehru Neo liberals will try to ally with USA and

The writer is an incoming candidate at LSE. He is an alumnus of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS and Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi.

कार्यालय असेनिक शल्य चिकित्सक-सह-मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, सिमडेगा।

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

सिमडेगा जिले के सभी स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में Paediatric Ward तक को मॉडल स्वरूप एवं सौंदर्यीकरण हेतु अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. निविदा समर्पित करने की अंतिम तिथि - 18.06.2021 अपराह्न 12.00 बजे तक।
2. निविदा समर्पित करने का स्थान - सिविल सर्जन कार्यालय, सिमडेगा।
3. निविदा खुलने की तिथि 18.06.2021 के अपराह्न 01.00 बजे।
4. निविदा खुलने का स्थान - सिविल सर्जन कार्यालय प्रकोष्ठ सिमडेगा।

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कार्यालय, जिला मत्स्य पदाधिकारी, लातेहार

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या 3 / 2021-22

वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-22 की योजना- तालाब तथा जलाशय मत्स्य का विकास एवं जीर्णोद्धार योजना के अन्तर्गत राज्यादेश सं० 01 दिनांक 07.06.2021 द्वारा लातेहार जिला के लिए प्राप्त लक्ष्य कुल 260 प्रशिक्षित मत्स्य बीज उत्पादकों को Mash Feed तथा अन्य विभागीय कार्य हेतु Floating Feed (Size -1.5mm - 4mm) के प्रयोग हेतु उसे क्रय करने हेतु मुहरबन्द निविदा दिनांक 25.06.2021 को 1.00 बजे अपराह्न तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में आमंत्रित की जाती है। दिनांक 25.06.2021 को 3.00 बजे पूर्वाह्न में उपायुक्त लातेहार द्वारा गठित समिति के समक्ष उप विकास आयुक्त, लातेहार के कार्यालय कक्ष में निविदा खोली जाएगी। विस्तृत जानकारी/निविदा की शर्तों वेब साइट www.latehar.nic.in पर एवं जिला मत्स्य कार्यालय, लातेहार के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

जिला मत्स्य पदाधिकारी लातेहार
PR 247864(Fish)21-22*D

झारखण्ड सरकार

कार्यालय : जिला मत्स्य पदाधिकारी-सह-मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, गिरिडीह

मत्स्य कृषकों एवं केज के मत्स्य पालकों के लिए सूचना

राज्यादेश सं०-01 दिनांक 07.06.2021 के आलोक में गिरिडीह जिले के मत्स्य कृषकों एवं केज के मत्स्य पालकों से निम्नलिखित योजनाओं के लिए आवेदन दिनांक 30.06.2021 तक आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

क्र०	योजना का नाम	लक्ष्य (है। में) सामान्य कोटि	सरकारी सहायता	अभ्युक्ति
1	नाव	2	अधिकतम 30,000/-रु०	मत्स्य जीवी सहयोग समिति एवं उनके सदस्य हेतु
2	मिश्र नेट	5	90% अनुदान	जलाशय मत्स्य जीवी सहयोग समितियों/ सदस्यों/ विस्थापितों/ कोबीड 19 के प्रभावी मजदूरों हेतु
3	केज हाउस	1	90% अनुदान	वर्ष 2016-17 में निर्मित केज के लक्ष्यों हेतु

❖ नोट :- उपर वर्णित योजनाओं से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

जिला मत्स्य पदाधिकारी-सह-मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, गिरिडीह
PR 247882(Fish)21-22*D

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

e-tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:- e-Tender No. ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEM-15-21-22 in single Packet System. Name of work: Providing Maintenance services and safe guard for the Officer's Rest House & Inspector's Rest house at Barkakana & Ranchi, Cleaning of Office building at Barkakana and Maintenance of Officer's Rest House & Inspector's Rest house at Barkakana & Ranchi, Office building, Quarters & Other associated building at Barkakana. Approx cost of the work in (Rs.): 71,55,003.10/- Period of work completion: 24 (Twenty Four) Months. Date and time for closing of tender 30.06.2021 15.30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in connection with this e-tender.

CAO/CON/South
East Central Railway, MXX, Patna
PR/337/CON/ENGG/T/21/22/44

कार्यालय, जिला मत्स्य पदाधिकारी, लातेहार।

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या 2 / 2021-22

वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-22 की योजना- तालाब तथा जलाशय मत्स्य का विकास एवं जीर्णोद्धार योजना के अन्तर्गत राज्यादेश सं० 01 दिनांक 07.06.2021 द्वारा लातेहार जिला के लिए प्रस्तावित लक्ष्य कुल 260 प्रशिक्षित मत्स्य बीज उत्पादकों को मत्स्य बीज की निकासी एवं बिक्री हेतु जाल के लिए उसके क्रय करने हेतु मुहरबन्द निविदा दिनांक 25.06.2021 को 1.00 बजे अपराह्न तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में आमंत्रित की जाती है। दिनांक 25.06.2021 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न में उपायुक्त लातेहार द्वारा गठित समिति के समक्ष उप विकास आयुक्त, लातेहार के कार्यालय कक्ष में निविदा खोली जाएगी। विस्तृत जानकारी/निविदा की शर्तों वेब साइट www.latehar.nic.in पर एवं जिला मत्स्य कार्यालय, लातेहार के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

जिला मत्स्य पदाधिकारी लातेहार।
PR 247863 (Fish) 21-22 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय एन० आर० ई० पी०-२, राँची

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-03/2021-22

1. विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता
2. परिमाण विपत्र की बिक्री की तिथि
3. निविदा प्रारंभ की तिथि समय एवं सीन
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि समय एवं सीन
5. परिमाण विपत्र की बिक्री का स्थान
6. निविदा का माध्यम
7. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी निम्नवत है -

क्रम सं०	योजना का नाम	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि (रु में)	अग्रगण्य की राशि (रु में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य(रु में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	अनुसूचित जनजाति आवासीय उच्च विद्यालय सोनबीपी में विद्यालय परिसर में Security light and solar line panel का प्रावधान	15,74,832.00	31,500.00	5,000.00	6 माह
2	अनुसूचित जनजाति आवासीय उच्च विद्यालय सोनबीपी में छात्रावास भवन का जीर्णोद्धार।	45,44,400.00	91,000.00	5,000.00	6 माह

1. उक्त कार्य का निर्माण कार्य निर्धारित समय सीमा के अंदर करना आवश्यक है।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता एन० आर० ई० पी०-२, राँची
PR 247886 NREP(21-22)#D

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BUILDING DIVISION HAZARIBAGH

SHORT QUOTATION NOTICE NO-01/2021-22

Sealed quotations for under mentioned work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Building Division, Hazaribagh from registered contractor of Building Construction Department Govt. of Jharkhand.

Name of work	Partition with Aluminium and Making of Reck (2 nd Floor) in the office of Superintendent of Police Hazaribagh in the Campus of New Collectariate Building
Estimated Cost	3738100/-
Earnest Money	75000/-
Date and time for submission of Quotation	28.06.2021 up to 03:00 PM, Office of Executive Engineer, Building Division, Hazaribagh
Date, time and Place for opening of Quotation	28.06.2021 at 3:30 P.M Office of Executive Engineer, Building Division, Hazaribagh

Note :- Mentioned Quantity may increase or decrease. List of Item and Term & condition can also be seen at www.jharkhand.gov.in and Office Notice Board.

Executive Engineer Building Division Hazaribagh
PR 247868(Building)21-22*D

Diggy's clubhouse remarks on Art 370 draw BJP's ire

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Not new to controversies, senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh on Saturday triggered yet another one with his comments in a clubhouse conversation that the revocation of Article 370 and stripping Jammu and Kashmir of statehood was an "extremely sad" decision and his party will have a "relook" at the issue.

The BJP came out hard, saying the Congress' first love is Pakistan and "both share same views on Kashmir." The BJP also demanded answers from Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on the comment of Singh, considered close to the Congress first family.

Replying to a query from a Pakistani journalist, Singh said: "Democracy was not there in Kashmir when they revoked article 370. Then 'insaniyat' was not there because they had put everyone behind bars. And Kashmiriyat is something, which is basically the fundamental of secularism. Because in a Muslim majority state, there was a Hindu king, and both worked together. In fact, reservation in government services was given to Kashmiri Pandits." The conversation leaked leading to a full blown attack by the BJP.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh tweeted saying: "Congress' first love is Pakistan. Digvijaya Singh conveyed



Rahul Gandhi's message to Pakistan. Congress will help Pakistan in grabbing Kashmir."

The BJP conducted a presser and its spokesperson Sambit Patra said the Congress should change its name from Indian National Congress to Anti-national Congress which, he alleged, is "not only siding with Pakistan but also with China to show India down."

"What do Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi think about Digvijaya's Clubhouse statement? Is this Congress' stand too? We demand Rahul Gandhi to hold a press conference and clarify," Patra said. He alleged the Congress and Pakistan are in the same page on the Kashmir issue and Article 370.

Patra referred to the past comments of Congress leaders Rahul, P Chidambaram, Shashi Tharoor and Hari Prasad to say that Congress was always backing Pakistan's stand and "in its hate for Modi, Congress has turned anti-national."

"Today an important topic going on in TV channels is 'Clubhouse'. We all have seen

through TV channels how the veteran leader of the clubhouse — Digvijaya Singh is spewing venom against India outside and how he is agreeing with Pakistan's demands. This is the same Digvijaya Singh, who had told the Pulwama attack just an accident, he had called the 26/11 attack a conspiracy of RSS and also tried to give clean chit to Pakistan at that time," said Patra.

"In the clubhouse, a Pakistani journalist asks this question that after the removal of Narendra Modi, what will be the Kashmir policy. Digvijaya ji thanks that journalist on such a question and says that if Modi ji is removed from power and Congress government comes then he will re-establish Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Patra claimed that Digvijaya Singh was a 'stage-manager' for the discussion, alleging that the Congress leader had himself asked the Pakistani journalist to ask such a question. "It's all part of that toolkit. I request the Congress party to change its name and change INC to ANC (Anti National Club House). People who hate Modi ji have also, in turn, started hating India," he said.

BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya shared a clip of the alleged clubhouse chat of the Congress, wherein Singh is purportedly hinting at a possible return of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, when his party returns to power.

CBI, MEA launch legal battle against Choksi in Dominica High Court



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have sought to plead in the habeas corpus petition filed by fugitive Mehul Choksi's lawyers by filing two affidavits in the Dominica High Court. Choksi is an accused in the multi-crore PNB Scam.

According to officials, the CBI will focus on establishing criminal culpability of Choksi, his fugitive status, the pending warrants, Interpol Red Notice and the charge sheets against him. The External Affairs Ministry will argue that Choksi continues to be an Indian citizen.

The affidavits, if admitted, will pave the way for noted lawyer Harish Salve to plead India's case in Dominica, they said.

The Dominica High Court has denied bail to fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi in the case of illegal entry into the island country after his mysterious disappearance from neighbouring Antigua and Barbuda where he is staying as a citizen since 2018, local Caribbean media reported.

The high court on Friday (local time) gave the ruling by



concluding that Choksi was a "flight risk", did not have any ties with Dominica and the court could not impose any conditions which will stop him from leaving the country, news outlet AntiguaNewsroom said. Choksi had approached the high court after the magistrate had rejected his bail petition.

Choksi's lawyers had filed a habeas corpus petition calling his arrest illegal and alleging that he was abducted, tortured and handed over to Dominica authority to deny him rights available to him in Antigua and Barbuda as a citizen. CBI and External Affairs Ministry is going to plead in this petition by claiming India's demands to hand over the fugitive.

The 62-year-old diamondaire, who has an Interpol Red Notice against him, had mysteriously gone missing on May 23 from Antigua and Barbuda where he has been staying since 2018 as a citizen after fleeing from India.

He was detained in the neighbouring island country of Dominica for illegal entry after a possible romantic escapade with his rumoured girlfriend.

Covid Delta variant spreads fast in household setting: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Infectious Delta variant (B.1.617.2) first discovered in India and now making rounds across the countries, particularly the UK, spreads fast in a household setting, according to a study by Public Health England, a UK Government health organisation, thus decoding why several households have reported multiple cases of Covid-19 infection this time as compared to mostly single cases in families in the earlier wave.

The report noted that the Delta variant is fueling the Covid-19 second wave in many parts of India including south Indian states and spurt in cases in some countries like the UK. However, the report said that those vaccinated do not show severity of infections, thus calling for an increase in global vaccinations.

While other variants mostly infect one person in a household, the Delta infects more than one. This explains why several members in many families were down with Covid-19 this time. The Public Health England has compared the transmission rate of the Delta variant in a household setting with that of the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7), which is also a variant of concern. The Alpha variant was first discovered in the UK.

"Overall, we found increased household transmission of Covid-19 associated

with B.1.617.2 compared to B.1.1.7. These findings show households are important settings for rapid transmission of the lineage B.1.617.2. With household settings being an important factor in wider community spread, strategies to prevent transmission in these settings are vital to control the Covid-19 pandemic," the PHE study said.

It noted that there is a 64 percent increase in the odds of household transmission associated with infection with B.1.617.2 variant compared to B.1.1.7. "This study provides early real-world evidence of the effect B.1.617.2 variant on household transmission. The findings support existing evidence that B.1.617.2 has a substantially increased transmissibility advantage over the B.1.1.7 variant," the PHE researchers said.

This study also found evidence of increased household transmission among households with an index case of Asian ethnicity," the researchers added. They said households are high risk settings for transmission of Covid-19 and are an important factor in wider community spread. "By assessing the extent to which B.1.617.2 results in onward transmission to household members compared to B.1.1.7, we can assess the relative transmissibility of this variant, and provide information vital to the national and international pandemic response," they added.

Amity varsity scientist gets DRDO award



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A senior scientist from Amity University has bagged the first prize in the Dare to Dream 2.0 innovation contest organized by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). Dr. Shivani Verma of Amity Institute of Space Science & Technology (AISST) submitted an innovative concept "AI Based detection of a person based on physiological parameters" based on identification of a person using physiological parameters with innovative way of data and information fusion. The concept was submitted under Life Science Technology Domain.

The DRDO launched a Dare to Dream 2.0 innovation contest under "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" in August 2020 where in participants were invited to submit innovative ideas on emerging technologies to promote the individuals and startups for innovation in defence and aerospace technologies.

Verma under the guidance of Dr M.S. Prasad, Director (AISST) has developed an intelligent inferring recognition system based on physiological parameters of a person with built-in high accuracy of recognition.

Covid 3rd wave may not hit kids hard: Lancet



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There appears to be no substantial evidence to suggest that children will be more affected or have greater illness severity due to Covid-19 in the anticipated third wave, according to a new report prepared by the Lancet Covid-19 Commission India Task Force after convening an experts group comprising leading paediatricians to examine the issue of 'paediatric Covid-19' in India.

However, it cautioned, the health system needs to gear up for a paediatric case load with adequate infrastructure, earmarked facilities at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care, oxygen availability, appropriate equipment, trained manpower, drugs and injectables among others, all of which are specific to children.

The report authors, which included three doctors from AIIMS, Delhi including Shefali Gulati, Sushil K Kabra and Rakesh Lodha said the infection's symptomatology in children in India appears to be globally comparable.

"Most children with Covid-19 are asymptomatic, and amongst those sympto-

DCGI OK's trial of Colchicine on Covid patients

New Delhi: The Drugs Controller General of India has given green signal to the CSIR and Laxai Life Sciences Private Limited to conduct clinical trials of Colchicine on Covid-19 patients. Colchicine in combination with standard care is seen as an important therapeutic intervention for Covid infected patients with cardiac co-morbidities and also for reducing pro-inflammatory cytokines, leading to faster recovery. PNS

matic mild infections are predominant. Most children have fever with respiratory symptoms, and often present with gastrointestinal symptoms (such as diarrhoea, vomiting, pain in abdomen) and atypical manifestation compared to adults. The proportion of symptomatic children increases as age increases as does the severity in such age groups," the report stated.

In the absence of a national database on clinical pre-

IMA to hold stir on June 18 over attacks on doctors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) will hold a protest on June 18 against assault on doctors, with the slogan 'Save the saviours'. This comes days after the apex medical body had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his personal intervention in ensuring 'optimum milieu' for medical professionals so that they can work without any fear.

Citing incidents of doctors and other healthcare professionals being assaulted by the family members and relatives of patients, the IMA, in a statement, asked all its state and local branches across the country to observe the protest by wearing black badges, masks, ribbons, shirts and running an awareness

campaign against violence targeting healthcare professionals. However, no hospital will be closed, it said. The IMA said press conferences will also be organised and they will also meet local NGOs and voluntary service leaders.

It termed "extremely disturbing" a series of violence against doctors in the last two weeks in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and other places. It demanded the implementation of central hospital and Health Care Professionals Protection Act with IPC and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc), standardisation and augmentation of security in each hospital, and declaring hospitals as protected zones among others.

"Nine per cent of all hospitalised COVID-19 positive children presented with severe illness, under 10 years of age. The above observations were similar during the two surges of COVID-19 infections India has experienced," the Lancet document said.

On multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) in children, the report said, risk factors for this condition include obesity, asthma, compromised breathing, developmental disorders, cardiac disease, cancers or immunocompromised children as well as those who have undergone surgeries.

Ugrahan had sparked controversy last year by commemorating the International Human Rights Day on December 10 by holding up posters of detained activists such as Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Sudha Bhardwaj and Gautam Navlakha, among others.

Meanwhile, the screenshot shared by Manjul showed Twitter as saying: "In the interest of transparency, we are writing to inform you that

Twitter account of BKU Ekta Ugrahan 'restricted' on Sat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Twitter account of Punjab's biggest farmers union Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) Ekta Ugrahan, protesting at Delhi's border, was restricted on Saturday. The US-based social media giant also sent notices to cartoonist Manjul, fact-checking website Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair and others to take down certain tweets.

Sources said the Ministry of Electronics and IT was not involved in sending these legal requests to Twitter. It wasn't clear which agencies have flagged these tweets by and for what violations.

Restricting the BKU Ekta Ugrahan handle, Twitter said "Caution: This account is temporarily restricted." "You're seeing this warning because there has been some unusual activity from this account," it said.

This may include seeking legal counsel and challenging the request in court, contacting relevant civil society organisations, voluntarily deleting the content (if applicable), or finding some other resolution," Twitter added.

Twitter has been facing heat for delay in complying with the IT rules that mandate large digital platforms to undertake greater due diligence.

Yoga buffs to again celebrate int'l Yoga Day from confines of homes



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Like last year, this time too, Yoga and health enthusiasts across the world will be celebrating the International Yoga Day, the seventh in the series, on June 21, within the confines of their homes as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to disrupt normal life.

Various Ministries, organisations in the private and government sector and State Governments are holding events to mark the D-Day in a big way, with the Union Ayush Ministry

taking the lead by marking the beginning of a 10-episode series on various aspects of the protocol to be telecast on Doordarshan India from June 11 to June 21. The Ministry also announced launching of a mobile application, "Namaste Yoga", devoted to Yoga, at the curtain raiser event organised online on Friday here.

At the event, Union Ayush Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the series' central message will be "Be with Yoga, Be at Home", which is relevant in these times of health emergency while Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar talked in details about how yoga can become a way to a healthy and happy life.

The series is produced by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).

Online crossword contest in Patna

PNS ■ PATNA

With cities across the country making a determined fight-back in the face of Covid-19 and the resulting lockdown, it is time to celebrate the indomitable human spirit. To mark a determined progress on the way to normalcy and pay tribute to the resilience of the human mind, an online crossword challenge is being organised on Sunday.

According to a Press statement by the organiser Extra-C, a civil society initiative based in Patna, there will be two categories in the contest - Student

Category and Open Category. A participant may play in only one of the two categories. The day coincides with its eighth anniversary and is named Extra-C Anniversary Crossword test (ExACT).

Chief Operating Officer of Extra-C, Amitabh Ranjan, informed that the challenge will be hosted for an hour on the website www.crypticsingh.com from 11 am on June 13. The Student Category will allow students from schools and institutes of higher education to enter the game while the Open Category with a higher level of difficulty will be open to seniors.

Smriti urges citizens to report about child labour



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On World Day Against Child Labour, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani on Saturday appealed to every citizen to report instances of child labour on PENCIL portal or call on Childline 1098.

Reaffirming her commitment towards combatting child labour, Irani said it is with people's participation that it can be ensured that children get a childhood they deserve. "I appeal to every citizen to



"Every child has a right to education and a happy childhood. On World Day Against Child Labour, let us reaffirm our commitment towards combatting child labour. It is with people's participation that we can ensure our children get a childhood they deserve," Irani tweeted.

report instances of child labour on PENCIL Portal http://pencil.gov.in or call on Childline - 1098. Because... We owe it to our children - the future of our Nation," she said in another tweet. World Day Against Child Labour observed on June 12 every year aims to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour.

North India to soon get relief from sizzling heat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Mumbai continues to be lashed with heavy to very heavy rains for the last four days, north India is expected to get relief from the scorching heat soon as the southwest monsoon is expected to cover it in the next two three days except south Rajasthan and Kutch region of Gujarat.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the southwest monsoon will arrive in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi by June 14-15. The southwest monsoon has advanced into the northwest Bay of Bengal and some parts of Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Bihar on Saturday.

The IMD said that under the influence of east-west trough, heavy to very heavy

rainfall might occur over Odisha, Chhattisgarh, East Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Telangana, coastal and adjoining Ghat's districts of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka during the next 3-4 days. The weather department has also ruled out any heat wave conditions over the country during the next five days.

IMD senior scientist RK Jenamani said the southwest monsoon has already advanced into remaining parts of NW Bay of Bengal, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar and it will cover Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh by Sunday.

The IMD said that Mumbai has measured a total of 641.3mm rainfall so far, thereby surpassing its monthly normal of 493.1mm. Over



500mm of rain occurred over Mumbai in the last four days. Base station Santacruz recorded 107mm in the 24 hours. Mumbai completed a hat trick of century rainfall by registering three digits in the 24 hours rainfall

on 10th June (231mm), 11th June (107mm) and 12th June (107mm).

In Delhi, the expected arrival date of monsoon this time is around June 15 as per the IMD and it should cover the entire country in the next

two-three days except south Rajasthan and Kutch region of Gujarat. The normal onset date of monsoon in Delhi is June 27, however, this time it is likely to arrive about two weeks early due to a number of meteorological factors.

UK-EU Brexit spat over N Ireland clouds G7 leaders summit

AP ■ FALMOUTH

Turbulence from the divorce between the UK and the European Union provided an unwanted distraction at the Group of Seven summit taking place in southwest England, with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson saying on Saturday that post-Brexit agreements will fail if the EU continues to take a "theologically draconian" approach to the rules.

Johnson held meetings with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and the bloc's top officials on the sidelines of the summit he is hosting. Afterwards, the prime minister claimed the EU was not taking a "sensible or pragmatic" approach to post-Brexit arrangements, and he threatened to use an emergency clause to suspend agreed upon rules if the bloc did not compromise.

Britain and the EU are locked in an escalating diplomatic feud over Northern Ireland, the only part of the UK that borders the 27-nation bloc. The EU is angry over the British government's delay in implementing new checks on some goods coming into Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, while Britain says the checks are imposing a big burden on businesses and destabilizing Northern Ireland's hard-won peace.

US President Joe Biden



Britain's PM Boris Johnson, right, greets German Chancellor Angela Merkel ahead of a bilateral meeting during the G7 summit in Cornwall, England on Saturday. AP

has gotten drawn into the spat, raising concerns about the potential threat to Northern Ireland's peace accord.

The new arrangements, designed to keep an open border between Ireland and its northern neighbor, have angered Northern Ireland's British unionists, who say they weaken ties with the rest of the UK. Tensions over the new trade rules were a contributing factor to a week of street violence in April, largely in unionist areas of Northern Ireland, that saw youths pelt police with bricks, fireworks and firebombs.

European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen tweeted after meeting Johnson that Northern Ireland peace was "paramount," and the binding Brexit agreement protected it.

"We want the best possible

relations with the UK. Both sides must implement what we agreed on. There is complete EU unity on this," she said.

Johnson told Sky News at the summit site in Carbis Bay, Cornwall, that "the treaty we signed, I signed, is perfectly reasonable," but he added: "I don't think that the interpretation or application of the protocol (by the EU) is sensible or pragmatic."

The EU says Britain must fully implement the agreement, known as the Northern Ireland Protocol, that the two sides agreed and ratified. It is threatening legal action if the UK does not fully bring in the checks, which include a ban on chilled meats such as sausages from England, Scotland and Wales going to Northern Ireland from next month.

Biden sells G-7 on global tax, but US Congress is a hurdle

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden might have persuaded some of the world's largest economies to hike taxes on corporations, but the US Congress could be a far tougher sell.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Friday that leaders of the Group of Seven — which also includes the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan — agreed with Biden on placing a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent on large companies. The G-7 leaders, participating in a three-day summit in England, affirmed their finance ministers who earlier this month endorsed the global tax minimum.

"America is rallying the world to make big multinational corporations pay their fair share so we can invest in our middle class at home," Jake Sullivan, the president's national security adviser, said Friday on Twitter.

A minimum tax is supposed to halt an international race to the bottom for corporate taxation that has led multinational businesses to book their profits in countries with low tax rates. This enables them to avoid taxes and encourages countries to slash rates. The minimum rate would make it tougher for companies

to avoid taxes, and could possibly supplant a digital services tax that many European nations are imposing on US tech firms that pay at low rates. Biden administration officials believe the use of overseas tax havens has discouraged companies from investing domestically, at a cost to the middle class.

The President hopes a G-7 endorsement can serve as a springboard for getting buy-in from the larger Group of 20 complement of nations.

The agreement is not a finished deal, as the terms would need to be agreed upon by countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by each of them. The President needs other countries to back a global minimum tax to ensure that his own plans for an enhanced one in the US don't hurt American businesses.

"It has the potential to stop the race to the bottom," said Thornton Matheson, a senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center.

"It would be a huge sea change in the way things have been going in corporate taxes for the last three decades."

The idea of an enhanced global minimum tax is also an integral part of Biden's domestic agenda, but it faces resistance in Congress.

China says opposed to US plans to deploy missiles in neighbouring countries

PTI ■ BEIJING

China is opposed to US plans to deploy missiles and defensive systems in neighbouring countries that could undermine strategic stability and has called for advancing international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation processes.

Addressing the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva via video link on Friday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed jointly maintaining global strategic stability, abiding by international arms control treaties, addressing the non-proliferation issue via negotiations and improving global security governance in new frontiers.

"China opposes the development and deployment of regional and global missile defence systems by a certain country that undermine strategic stability, and China opposes the deployment of land-based intermediate-range ballistic missiles in the neighbourhood of other countries," Wang said.

Though Wang has not named the US, China in the past has threatened to take countermeasures if the US deploys intermediate-range missiles in Asia opposed Washington's move to deploy the high tech Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) in South Korea over concerns that the American

system will monitor China's missile movements.

In the text of his address posted on the Chinese Foreign Ministry website, Wang said the five permanent members of the UN Security Council should reaffirm the important formula that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, strengthen cooperation in strategic risk reduction and deepen strategic dialogue on a broader range of strategic security issues to enhance strategic trust.

He said China is committed to a policy of not using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states and nuclear-weapon-free zones unconditionally.

Without disclosing the numbers of China's arsenal of nuclear weapons, he called on the US and Russia to reduce their nuclear weapons.

"China always keeps its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for national security, and does not compete with any other country in the size or scale of nuclear force," he said.

China so far has not disclosed how many warheads it has, but an assessment by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute put the number at 320, in comparison to Russia's 54,000 or the 70,000 US warheads, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

GLOBE TROTTER

BOMBS HIT 2 MINIVANS IN KABUL, 7 DEAD

Kabul: Separate bombs hit two minivans in a mostly Shia neighbourhood in the Afghan capital Saturday, killing at least seven people and wounding six others, the Interior Ministry said. The attacks targeted minivans on the same road about 2 km apart in a neighbourhood in western Kabul, Interior Ministry deputy spokesman Ahmad Zia Zia, said. It wasn't immediately clear what type of bombs were used and no one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. The Islamic State group has carried out similar bombings in the area, including four attacks on four minivans earlier this month that killed at least 18 people.

BRAZIL CRIME GANG LEADER KILLED

Rio De Janeiro: One of Brazil's most wanted criminal suspects was killed in a police operation Saturday in Rio de Janeiro, police said. Wellington da Silva Braga, better known as Ecco, was believed to command so-called militia groups in more than 20 neighbourhoods. The police communications office said a confrontation erupted when officers arrived at a house to try to arrest Braga.

MAN WOUNDS 13 IN AUSTIN SHOOTING AND ESCAPES

Austin: Someone opened fire in a busy entertainment district in downtown Austin early Saturday, wounding 13 people, including two critically, before getting away, authorities said.

5 KILLED; 6 HURT IN RAIN RELATED INCIDENTS IN PAK

Peshawar: At least five people were killed and six others injured in rain related incidents in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Saturday, officials said. The Provincial Disasters Management Authority (PDMA) said that rain along with heavy storm hit many parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa killing five people and injuring six others besides inflicting damages to eight houses. The PDMA also issued travel advisory restraining the people from visiting the hilly areas during the current rainy spell.

France's Macron says US again Europe's partner

AP ■ CARBIS BAY

French President Emmanuel Macron says it's good that US President Joe Biden is able to lead through cooperation, adding that the United States is "definitely" back as Europe's partner.

Biden and Macron met Saturday as part of the Group of Seven summit in southwest England, where they and other leaders of the world's wealthy democracies are discussing the coronavirus pandemic, the environment, national security, relations with China and economic issues.

Former US President Donald Trump took an adversarial approach with NATO allies, but Macron said Biden has shown that "leadership is partnership."

The desire for cooperation cuts both ways. Biden described the European Union as "incredibly strong and vibrant," which he said not only helps with tackling economic challenges but also provides a backbone for NATO.

Biden to return diverted border wall money, spend down rest

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Former President Donald Trump's signature border wall project would lose much of its funding as well as the fast-track status that enabled it to bypass environmental regulations under a Biden administration plan announced Friday.

President Joe Biden suspended construction of the wall upon taking office while his administration reviewed the project. That angered Republicans in Congress eager to see it go forward amid an increase in apprehensions of migrants along the southwest border.

The new plan does not cancel the wall project outright, but it's still likely to face opposition in Congress, where many Republicans are eager to promote a project closely associated with the former president.

Biden plans to return more than \$2 billion that the Trump administration diverted from the Pentagon to help pay for the wall and use other money appropriated by Congress to address "urgent life, safety, and environmental issues" created by the construction. It also asks lawmakers not to provide any additional funding for what the Biden team believes is an unnecessary effort.

"Building a massive wall



A pair of migrant families from Brazil pass through a gap in the border wall to reach the United States after crossing from Mexico in Yuma, Ariz., Thursday to seek asylum. AP

that spans the entire southern border and costs American taxpayers billions of dollars is not a serious policy solution or responsible use of federal funds," the Office of Management and Budget said in a statement outlining the plan.

The government has built walls and other barriers along the 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometer) US-Mexico border for decades to eliminate some of the easier routes of avoiding checkpoints. Trump turned the issue into a centerpiece of his political identity.

Trump vowed to build a

"virtually impenetrable" wall, insisting it would be paid for by Mexico, which never happened. Instead, his administration set aside about \$15 billion through a combination of congressional appropriations and taking the money from the Pentagon and other parts of the government.

The Trump administration built about 725 kilometres of wall, moving quickly and waiving requirements for environmental reviews and medication, though only about 52.84 kilometres were in areas where no barrier previously existed.

Iran nuclear talks aimed at reset, face major challenges

AP ■ VIENNA

Talks between Iran and global powers restarted Saturday with the goal of trying to restore a landmark agreement to contain Iranian nuclear development that the Trump administration abandoned in 2018. Senior diplomats from China, Germany, France, Russia, and

Britain planned to meet at a hotel in the Austrian capital.

Top Russian representative Mikhail Ulyanov said in a tweet that the talks would allow the participants to "exchange views on how to arrange further work in order to complete the negotiations successfully and expeditiously."

The United States is not

formally part of meetings that launched in Vienna earlier this year. But the administration of President Joe Biden has signaled willingness to rejoin the deal under terms that would broadly see the United States scale back sanctions and Iran return to abiding by the limits on its nuclear activity contained in the 2015 agreement.

China, US diplomats clash over human rights, pandemic origin

AP ■ BEIJING

Top US and Chinese diplomats appear to have had another sharply worded exchange, with Beijing saying it told the US to cease interfering in its internal affairs and accusing Washington of politicizing the search for the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi and Secretary of State Antony Blinken held a phone call Friday that revealed wide divisions in a number of contentious areas, including the curtailing of freedoms in Hong Kong and the mass detention of Muslims in the northwestern Xinjiang

region. Calls for a more thorough investigation into the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19 are particularly sensitive for China because of suggestions that it might have escaped from a laboratory in the central city of Wuhan, where cases were first discovered.

Yang said China was "gravely concerned" over what he called "absurd" stories that the virus escaped from the Wuhan lab. China "firmly opposes any despicable acts that use the epidemic as an excuse to slander China and to shift blames," Yang was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Oli displaying 'ugly form of lust for power', say Nepal's five former Prime Ministers

Kathmandu: Condemning beleaguered Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's "undemocratic acts" and his "lust for power," five former prime ministers on Saturday appealed to the country's administration and security agencies to not be involved in such wrong activities that have long term effect on the nation. The former premiers — Sher Bahadur Deuba, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Madhav Kumar Nepal, Jhala Nath Khanal and Baburam Bhattarai made the joint appeal in a statement.

Prime minister Oli, currently heading a minority government, has continuously been attacking the Constitution of Nepal and undermining the long and arduous struggle of the Nepali people to achieve the federal republic and its rule of law, the Kathmandu Post reported, citing the statement.

"We warn the caretaker government not to do anything or direct others to do anything that would have a long-term impact on the country and people and appeal to the administration and security agencies not to be involved in such wrong activities," they said in the statement.

"He has displayed the ugly form of lust for power that has never existed in Nepal's political history. We condemn such undemocratic acts by Oli," they said.

The statement comes at a time when the Supreme Court started hearing on the case regarding the reinstatement of the House of Representatives, which was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari on May 22 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, who lost a trust vote in the House last month. PTI

Iran hard-liners target sole moderate in Presidential debate

Tehran: Iran's seven presidential candidates offered starkly different views on Saturday in the country's final debate, with hard-liners describing those seeking ties with the West as "infiltrators" and the race's sole moderate warning a hard-line government would only bring more sanctions for the Islamic Republic.

Analysts and state-linked polling put hard-line judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi as the clear front-runner in Friday's upcoming vote, with the public now largely hostile to the relative moderate President Hassan Rouhani after the collapse of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

But that didn't stop Rouhani's former Central Bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati from harshly criticizing Raisi, at one point getting up from his chair to hand him a list he described as naming individuals who haven't paid back huge loans from state banks. He again tried to link Raisi to former President Donald Trump, whose decision to unilaterally withdraw America from Iran's nuclear deal has seen the country crushed by sanctions.

"Mr. Raisi, you and your friends have played in Trump's ground with your extremist policies," Hemmati said. For his part, Raisi said he'd make sure the government returns to the nuclear deal.

The deal "would not be executed by you, it needs a powerful government to do this," Raisi said. The election Friday will see voters pick a candidate to replace Rouhani, who is term limited from running again. The vote comes amid tensions with the West as negotiations continue to try and resuscitate the nuclear deal, which saw Iran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. AP

Moscow orders new restrictions as coronavirus infections soar

Moscow: Moscow's mayor on Saturday ordered a week off for some workplaces and imposed restrictions on many businesses to fight coronavirus infections that have more than doubled in the past week.

The national coronavirus taskforce reported 6,701 new cases of infection in Moscow, compared with 2,936 on June 6. Nationally, the daily infection tally has spiked by nearly half over the past week, to 13,510.

After several weeks of lockdown as the pandemic spread in the spring of 2020, Moscow eased restrictions and did not reimpose any during subsequent case increases.

But because of the recent sharp rise, "it is impossible not to react to such a situation," Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said.

He ordered that enterprises that do not normally work on weekends remain closed for the next week while continuing to pay employees. In addition, food courts and children's play areas in shopping centers are to close for a week beginning Sunday, and restaurants and bars must limit their service to takeout from 11 pm to 6 am. AP

Israeli police say woman with knife shot dead in West Bank

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli police say a private security guard at a checkpoint near Jerusalem shot and killed a woman on Saturday who allegedly planned to carry out a stabbing attack.

The police said in a statement that the guard at the Qalandia checkpoint north of Jerusalem saw the woman with a knife and shot her. Several amateur videos captured by Palestinians at the crossing showed the woman lying on the ground at the Israeli side of the crossing. Police later said she was a 28-year old Palestinian woman.

Qalandia is the main crossing point for Palestinian residents of the West Bank entering Israel, especially those bound for Jerusalem. The checkpoint is operated by private security firms, but Israeli police deploy after violent incidents. The official Palestinian news agency, Wafa, reported that Israeli forces closed the crossing point on both sides.

Starting five years ago, Palestinians launched stabbing and car-ramming attacks against Israelis in the occupied West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem, but the attacks have waned in recent years. The Palestinians seek the West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority exerts limited self-rule, as part of a future state alongside Gaza and east Jerusalem. Israel says Jerusalem is indivisible. Peace negotiations have stalled for many years.

WESTERN RAILWAY				
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/22/2021 Date 09.06.2021				
S.N.	Short Description of Items	Quantity	T.O.D.	
583	Filter Element	648 Nos.	21.06.2021	
584	Stainless Steel/Air Refresher	1350 Nos.	25.06.2021	
585	Acetone AR Quality	665 Ltrs.	28.06.2021	
586	Stranded Annealed Copper Jumper Wire	4500 Mtrs.	28.06.2021	
587	Battery Operated LED Based Torch Light	3000 Nos.	28.06.2021	
588	Pad for Secondary Suspension	3400 Nos.	28.06.2021	
589	Machined Bogie Frame Assy.	6 Nos.	28.06.2021	
590	Brake Gear Pin	14128 Nos.	28.06.2021	
591	Modified Elastomeric Pad for Casub bogies	64680 Nos.	28.06.2021	
592	Metal Bonded Rubber Pad for Side Bearer	561 Nos.	28.06.2021	
593	Packing for Side Bearer	2666 Nos.	28.06.2021	
594	Cast Steel Bolster Complete	11 Nos.	28.06.2021	
595	Complete Assy. Of Swing Door	186 Set	28.06.2021	
596	Transceiver VHF Digital DMR Hand Held 5 W	1251 Nos.	30.06.2021	
597	Clean Silica Sand, Free From Clay.	1355 MT	01.07.2021	
598	POH Kit for ELGI Make WRA Compressor	17 Set	01.07.2021	
599	Traction Transformer	2 Set	01.07.2021	
600	Primary Brake Beam Assy.	28 Nos.	01.07.2021	
601	Jelly Filled Guard Cable Size 06 Quad 0.9 mm Dia.	555 KM	02.07.2021	
602	Set of Must Change Item	75 Set	02.07.2021	
603	Measuring and Monitoring Relay	142 Nos.	02.07.2021	
604	H.C. Thermoplastic Polyester Elastomer	941 Nos.	02.07.2021	
605	Crowned Gear Coupling	8 Nos.	02.07.2021	
606	Outer Spring (Motor Truck)	143 Nos.	02.07.2021	

Corrigendum:- Please visit www.irps.gov.in for corrigendum issued to following Tenders: Sr.No. 406 (415 V ac 3 phase low AC system) of Tender Notice No. S/18/2021 dt. 12/05/21 due on 01.06.2021 is postponed to 21.06.2021.

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.irps.gov.in and www.westernrailways.gov.in

0180 For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED (CIN-L67120DL1992PLC049038), Tel No. 011-49809000, Fax: 011-49800933 E-mail: commodities@bharatbhushan.com, Website: www.bbinvestments.in Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021 (Rs. in Lakhs)					
Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
	31-Mar-21 (Audited)	31-Dec-20 (Unaudited)	31-Mar-20 (Audited)	31-Mar-21 (Audited)	31-Mar-20 (Audited)
1. Total Income from operations	6.75	8.64	31.95	37.45	56.73
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-1.57	0.59	23.57	7.19	26.21
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-1.57	0.59	23.57	7.19	26.21
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-4.66	0.49	24.50	2.73	20.78
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	154.48	86.74	-206.18	482.70	-171.30
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)					
-Basic	-0.14	0.01	0.72	0.08	0.61
-Diluted	-0.14	0.01	0.72	0.08	0.61

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2021 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2021 is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in).
- The above Audited Financial Results have been prepared in accordance with Ind AS notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rule made thereunder and other accounting principles to the extent applicable.
- The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 12.06.2021.
- The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.
- The figures of the last quarter of the current year and of the previous year are the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and the published year to date figures up to the third quarter of the respective financial year.
- Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 globally and in India, the Company's management has made an initial assessment of likely adverse impact on the economic environment in general, business, and financial risks up to the date of financial statements and conclude that there is no material impact on the long-term performance of the Company. However, the Company will continue to monitor any material changes to the future economic conditions.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sd/-
Vijay Bhushan
Director
DIN: 0002421

Place : New Delhi
Date : 12.06.2021

Govt asks Ministries to target 20% cut in controllable expenditure

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has asked all Ministries and government departments to target 20 per cent reduction in expenditures like domestic and foreign travel, overtime allowance, rent and office expenses, in the current fiscal year as it tightens its purse strings amid the second wave of the pandemic.

The Department of Expenditure under the Finance Ministry issued an office memorandum in this regard on June 10.

"All the Ministries/ departments are requested to take steps to curtail all avoidable, non-scheme expenditure and aim for 20 per cent reduction in controllable expenditure... Expenditure in 2019-20 may be taken as the baseline for this purpose," the memorandum said. However, expenditure related to containment of the pandemic is excluded from the scope of this order.

The memorandum said, Ministries should aim to control expenditures like overtime allowance, rewards, domestic and foreign travel, office expenses, rents, rates and taxes, royalty

ministries should aim to control expenditures like overtime allowance, rewards, domestic and foreign travel, office expenses, rents, rates and taxes, royalty. Besides, expenditures related to publications, other administrative expenses, supplies and materials, cost of ration, clothing and tentage, advertising and publicity, minor works and maintenance, service or commitment



charges, grants-in-aid general, contribution and other charges, should also be cut.

The Savings that would accrue to the Government due to this move cannot be exactly ascertained. This is the second year in a row that the government has come out with measures to rationalise expenditure. Last year, the expenditure department had asked all ministries /departments to review appointments of consultants, curtail functions and ban use of imported paper for printing as part of measures to rationalise non-priority expenditure.

Government is staring at an additional expenditure of up to Rs 1.45 lakh crore to provide free vaccines and foodgrains to people devastated by the deadly second wave of covid infections.

Reversing a policy where states competed for vaccine supplies for certain age categories, the government earlier this week announced that the central government will procure vaccines for all adults.

All above 18 years of age would get free vaccines from June 21. Also, the free food-grain scheme that was to end in June has been extended till November 2021.

As per estimates, the gov-

Higher subsidy under FAME II to be game changer in adoption of EVs, say makers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler makers on Saturday termed as "a phenomenal move" by the Government to increase subsidy for such vehicles by 50 per cent under the FAME II scheme saying it would be a game changer in the adoption of eco-friendly vehicles.

The Government on Friday made a partial modification of the scheme for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II), including increasing the demand incentive for electric two-wheelers to ₹15,000 per KWh from the earlier uniform subsidy of ₹10,000 per KWh for all EVs, including plug in hybrids and strong hybrids except buses.

In the latest modification, the department of heavy industries also capped incentives for electric two-wheelers at 40 per cent of the cost of vehicles, up from 20 per cent earlier.

"The revision in the FAME (II) policy, increasing

In the latest modification, the department of heavy industries also capped incentives for electric two-wheelers at 40 per cent of the cost of vehicles, up from 20 per cent earlier

the subsidy by 50 per cent per KWh is a phenomenal move. Sales of electric two-wheelers have grown despite the pandemic and with this additional subsidy, we expect electric two-wheeler sales to disrupt the market, and clock 6 million-plus units by 2025," Ather Energy CEO and Co-founder Tarun Mehta said in a statement. The Government's continued support to drive adoption of EVs, with a keen focus on locally built electric two-wheelers will make India the manufacturing hub of EVs, he added.

Welcoming the "government's continued support to EVs", TVS Motor Company Joint Managing Director

Sudarshan Venu said, "Sustainable mobility solutions are very important for the future and TVS is investing significantly behind this. The improved incentives for electric two-wheelers will increase penetration." He further said, "Such policy direction should lead to indigenous development of future technology."

Expressing similar views, Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) Director General Sohinder Gill said, "It's an important and an admirable decision taken by the government, a move that will bring down the prices of electric two-wheelers nearer to the IC (internal combustion engine) vehicles and remove one of the biggest blockade of the high sticker price of electric two-wheelers."

Elaborating further, he said a "city speed electric scooter" with a range of 100km/charge will now cost less than Rs 60,000 and a high-speed scooter with a range of 80 km will come nearer to the price tag of Rs 1 lakh.

India to require 400k charging stations for 2 mn EVs by 2026, says report

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

India needs about 400,000 charging stations to meet the requirement for two million Electric Vehicles (EV) that could potentially ply on its roads by 2026, said a report on Saturday.

The Grant Thornton Bharat-Ficci report said for India to reach its vision of 100 per cent EVs by 2030, factors such as increasing government support, decreasing cost of technology, and distressing pollution levels, would be key to accelerate this transition.

As per EV industry body - Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles - there are 1,800 charging stations in India as of March 2021 for approximately 16,200 electric cars, including the fleet segment.

"Overall, the EV infrastructure is tightly coupled with the EV and charging station characteristics, battery technologies, and electricity markets," the report said.

G7: Why major economies are delaying a break with the fossil fuel industry

Cardiff (UK): The climate crisis is certain to be a hot topic at the G7 summit in Cornwall.

While the leaders of the world's richest countries agree in theory on the need to reach net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest, they remain faithful to the fossil fuel industry reluctant to substantively change its business model.

A recent report by the International Energy Agency, a typically conservative advisory body, argued for an immediate ban on new fossil fuel projects. But investments by oil, gas and coal companies into finding new sources continue, as does industry lobbying to undermine regulation.

The environment ministers of the G7 countries committed to end funding for new overseas coal projects by the end of 2021.

But 51 per cent of their Covid-19 economic recovery funds - a total of USD 189 billion - paid between January 2020 and March 2021 were earmarked as financial aid for the fossil fuel industry. Worse, USD 8 of every USD 10 dedicated to non-renewable energy was paid with no conditions on these companies to reduce their emissions.

Why does it seem so hard for G7 leaders to match their words with action when it comes to the fossil fuel industry?

Betting on the long-term business case Despite setbacks in volatile markets and oversupply risks, there is still a lot of money to be made from extracting, producing and selling hydrocarbons. Demand for coal has plateaued, but oil and



gas demand is predicted to rise at least for the next 15 to 20 years, particularly in emerging economies such as China and India. This puts G7 leaders in an awkward position. On the one hand, governments need to reboot economic growth after the pandemic slowdown - a profitable energy sector nourished by rising demand abroad is welcome, even though hydrocarbon extraction can be especially polluting in developing countries.

Governmental support for the industry in the form of subsidies or tax breaks artificially inflates the profitability of fossil fuels, in turn making renewables a less attractive investment. Put simply, it is less risky and more profitable to - at least for now - invest in oil and gas. Carbon lock-in

The fossil fuel industry continues to shed public support, but it can rely on the fact that it's embedded within a complex system of consumers, suppliers and contractors, politicians and the media.

The cause-and-effect relations that define such an intricate system often produce unintended outcomes.

This interdependency is

referred to as carbon lock-in. Economies have evolved in such a way that they perpetuate an energy landscape dominated by fossil fuels and plagued by an inability to radically change.

Not only does carbon lock-in result in inertia, it causes a tragedy of the commons-type problem.

Big oil companies such as BP, Exxon Mobil and Shell are unlikely to make meaningful changes until the rest of the system acts in unison. National oil companies and smaller privately owned fossil fuel companies comprise the bulk of known fossil fuel reserves.

But they often evade the spotlight and so can operate with more freedom. For a big oil company to make high-risk changes to its business model while others enjoy a free ride would be seen as a bad business decision.

Lock-in, as the name suggests, is very difficult to break. That said, G7 members are powerful nodes within this complex network. Strong leadership - such as divestment from fossil fuels and strong support for renewables - would cause reverberations throughout the whole system.

Low base: India's pharma sector growth accelerates in May

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

Low base effect accelerated the growth of India's pharma sector in May, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said. The ratings agency opined that the 47.8 per cent YoY growth in India's pharmaceutical market (IPM) during May 2021 was led by a low base effect.

Last year, the IPM declined by 8.5 per cent YoY in May 2020 due to the lockdown.

"IPM growth would have been stronger on an adjusted basis," Ind-Ra said in a statement.

"Acute therapies namely anti-infective, analgesics and vitamins benefited significantly due to the second Covid wave as these therapies have a direct/indirect role in the treatment of Covid patients. Acute therapy growth was also aided by the low base in May 2020."

As per the report, during May 2021, volumes grew 31.5 per cent YoY, price growth was 7 per cent and products launches were at 9.3 per cent, attributed to acute therapy products.

"Ind-Ra estimates the market to grow 8-10 per cent YoY in size during FY22."

Besides, it cited that acute therapies such as anti-infectives, analgesic and vitamins witnessed sales growth of 141.19 per cent YoY, 50.3 per



cent YoY and 59.8 per cent YoY respectively, while gastro grew 47.7 per cent YoY during May 2021. "Growth under-performance was observed in chronic therapies during the month, with cardiac and anti-diabetic growing 31 per cent YoY and 20.2 per cent YoY, respectively."

"However, on a moving average total (MAT) May 2021 basis, a growth out-performance was observed across these therapies."

India Power clocks ₹27 cr profit in FY21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Power Corporation Ltd on Saturday said its profit after tax (PAT) jumped 60 per cent to ₹26.66 crore in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021.

In 2019-20, it recorded a profit of ₹16.69 crore, a company statement said.

The Kolkata-headquartered company is an integrated power utility with distribution licence covering 618 square kilometres in Asansol-Raniganj region of West Bengal. It provides power to industrial, commercial and domestic consumers.

Total income for the year was at ₹518.37 crore, it said without disclosing the comparative figure.

India Power further said its sales increased by 2 million units in 2020-21 despite the impact of the pandemic and



lockdown during the first two quarters of the financial year.

"We were able to overcome the setback of the coronavirus pandemic by adding a large number of consumers across voltage levels, which resulted in accelerated sales growth from second quarter onwards.

Our ability to procure power at competitive prices led to cost savings and further improved our earnings," India Power Whole-time Director Somesh Dasgupta said.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to divert the route of Train no. 09805/09806 Kota - Udhampur - Kota Special Express with revised timings and stoppages.

09805/09806 Kota - Udhampur - Kota Special Express (Weekly)					
Train No. 09805			Train No. 09806		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	
--	16.40	KOTA JN	12.40	--	
12:10	--	UDHAMPUR	--	18.40	

Days of Run : 09805 Ex. Kota on Every Wednesday from 16.06.2021 to till further advice & 09806 Ex. Udhampur on Every Thursday from 17.06.2021 to till further advice.

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.

Stoppages : Indargarh, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Hindaun City, Bayana Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Mathura Jn., Faridabad, Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn., New Delhi, Rohtak Jn., Jakhhal Jn., Dhuri Jn., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Kathua and Jammu Tawi Stations.

For any kind information such as timings and stoppages enroute passengers are advised to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may 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., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & Download Railmadad app.

1285/21 Please join us on **NORTHERN RAILWAY** Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that my client Ms Khyati Singh R/O 7B Doctors Lane Gole Market New Delhi 110001 is owner of all Movable and Immovable Properties owned by Late Mr Matang Singh by virtue of his Last Will dated 21st January 2021. All persons are hereby informed that as per the above will of Late Mr. Matang Singh she is absolute owner of all movable and immovable properties, if anybody has any kind of objections upon the above will and my ownership / Title its sale etc, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days of the present.

Advocate, Mukesh Kumar Jha Ch. No. 9 DDA Vikas Sadan INA New Delhi-110023. Contact No: 7299900095

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client has entered into an Agreement to Sell for the purchase of Entire DDA MIG freehold flat bearing No. H-271, Situated at Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-28 from Smt. Vijay Lakshmi Kaushal (hereinafter called the Seller) that the Smt. Vijay Lakshmi Kaushal named above declare that she is the absolute owner and in possession of the aforesaid flat under sale and there is no legal flaws & she is fully competent and have full power, absolute authority and unshaken title to sell and transfer the same, and the same is free from all sorts of encumbrances, burden, sale, mortgage, gift, lien, decree, charges, court injunction orders, stay orders, liability, transfer, attachment, litigation, legal flaws, dispute, notices, surety, security, notifications, acquisition etc. Smt. Vijay Lakshmi Kaushal also declare that there is no Court case/civil/criminal suit/litigation still pending before any Competent Courts. Any other person's/institution's having any sort of rights, claims, titles or interests of any kind whatsoever in the said property or any part thereof, under any deeds or documents or otherwise is required to put forth his/its claim in writing with documentary proof with the undersigned within 7 days of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that the aforesaid owner have clear and remarkable title to the said entire flat and my client shall proceed to complete the transaction as it is free from all encumbrances whatsoever.

Sumit Mehta (Advocate) D/3157/2009 B-80, Inderpuri, ND-12, Ph: 9868001948

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Anoop Sehrawat S/O Late Kundan Singh and Suresh Devi W/O Anoop Sehrawat. R/O Plot No-A-76, Nangal Dewat, Vasant kunj New Delhi-110070. Disowned their son Vikas Sehrawat and Daughter in-law Poonam Sehrawat D/O Joginder Singh. From All their movable and immovable properties. Due to disobedience, misconduct towards my client. My client shall not be responsible for any acts of them in future.

Prem Prakash, Advocate Legalphath Competent Lawyers LLP 207, Plot No. 1, MLU Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 Phone: 9871268399

United Textiles Limited

Regd. Office 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana) CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

Notice

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 29th June, 2021 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Audited Financial Results for the Quarter/Year Ended 31st March, 2021. Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 31.03.2021 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's Website www.unitedtextileslimited.com & also on the website of stock exchanges at www.bseindia.com.

For United Textiles Limited (Amit Kumar Aggarwal) Director Dated 10.06.2021 (DIN 07079171)

CAIT asks Goyal to direct CCI probe into Amazon, Flipkart

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Karnataka High Court judgement dismissing the petition of Amazon & Flipkart, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Saturday sent a communication to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal urging him to direct the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to immediately initiate investigation proceedings against Amazon and Flipkart without any further ado.

The CAIT has also urged Goyal to immediately issue a



fresh Press Note replacing Press Note 2 of the FDI policy with a Monitoring mechanism to ensure that law of the land prevails and no one should dare to violate the policy, law or the rules. The CAIT has also pro-

posed that to bring greater transparency in e-commerce business, every company indulging into any e-commerce activity through any type of electronic mode should have to take a Registration Number from the DPIIT.

CG Power plans ₹135 cr capex, to close some overseas subsidiaries

IANIS ■ CHENNAI

CG Power Industrial Power Solutions Ltd has planned a capex of ₹135 crore this fiscal, the company said.

The capex to be funded out of internal accruals will be on balancing, debottlenecking and modernising the facilities at the plants for productivity improvement.

CG Power also said barring four wholly owned overseas operating subsidiary companies in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and the US, rest of the subsidiaries are being closed or in the process of being wound up.

Entities which are under investigation, would be closed after obtaining necessary approvals of the authorities, the company said.

CG Power said it is ensuring business continuity during Covid-19 pandemic by working with extended and staggered shifts in the plants and digital transformation through online customer inspections, online service advice, sharing pictorial procedures with onsite customer personnel, remote support for testing equipment.

The company closed last fiscal with a total income of ₹2,568.06 crore and a net loss of ₹208.93 crore down from a total income of ₹3,226.36 crore and a loss of ₹1,799.20 crore registered in FY20.

However CG Power has posted a net profit of ₹673.77 crore during the last quarter of last year.

Last year CG Power was acquired by Murugappa Group's Tube Investments of India Ltd.

Under the one time settlement scheme, the entire debt of ₹2,160 crores were settled at ₹1,000 crore - (₹650 crore in cash and the rest by recognising a new debt of ₹150 crore and issue of zero coupon non-convertible debentures aggregating to ₹200 crore).

Results of Vellore Institute of Technology Engineering Entrance Exam Declared

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) declared the results for VIT Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) on Saturday (June 12, 2021).

VITEEE, the entrance examination for various B.Tech programmes offered by VIT was conducted on May 28, 29, 31 and June 10, 2021 as online remote proctored examination. This mode enabled applicants to take VITEEE in the safety and comfort of their home. The results are available in <https://admissionresults.vit.ac.in/viteee>.

Applicants from 31 Indian states and 8 union territories and more than 15 foreign countries participated in VITEEE. Applicants within 1 lakh ranks are eligible to participate in the counselling scheduled from 21st June to 16th July 2021 in 4 phases.

Counselling for ranks 1 to 20,000 will be conducted from 21 to 22 June; 20,001 to 45,000 from 30th June to 1st July, 2021; 45,001 to 70,000 from 8th to 9th July 2021 and 70,001 to

IPO-bound LIC warns against misuse of its iconic logo

IANIS ■ MUMBAI

The country's largest public sector insurer, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has issued a public warning over the unauthorised use or misuse of its iconic logo by anybody.

According to its Twitter handle, the LIC has barred any websites, publishing houses or digital entities from publishing its logo without the prior permission. The 65-year-old LIC, which is soon going for its IPO, has warned stringent legal or civil action against any person found misusing its official logo, in a post on Friday.

The simple but logo consists of a flame symbolizing 'life' with two shielding hands of 'life insurance' indicating its protection, with the Sanskrit legend below it - "Yogakshemam Vahmayham", derived from the Bhagwad Gita, and the LIC headquarters at Nariman Point in south Mumbai is also named 'Yogakshema'.

Impossible achieved

Novak defeats 13-time champion Nadal in French Open semis, will face Tsitsipas for title today

AFP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic handed 13-time champion Rafael Nadal only his third defeat in 16 years and 108 matches at the French Open on Friday to reach his sixth Roland Garros final after an epic showdown which even beat the country's Covid-19 curfew.

In their 58th career clash, Djokovic triumphed 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 and stays on course to capture a 19th major and become the first man in over 50 years to win all four Slams twice.

Djokovic, the 2016 champion in Paris who had also beaten Nadal at the 2015 tournament, will face Stefanos Tsitsipas in Sunday's final in what will be his 29th championship match at the Slams.

Tsitsipas had earlier become the first Greek to reach a Grand Slam final with a 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Alexander Zverev.

Nadal, 35, remains tied on 20 majors with Roger Federer.

"It was a privilege to face Rafa in such an incredible match," said Djokovic after four hours and 11 minutes of intense action. "Tonight it was my greatest ever match in Paris."

He now leads Nadal 30-28 in their career rivalry.

"It's hard to find words for Rafa's achievements at Roland Garros. The amount of wins on this court is incredible," he added.

"You have to climb Mount Everest when you meet him here."

It was Djokovic's second win in eight meetings in Paris with Nadal, a sequence which also included three losses in finals.

It was Nadal's first defeat

Men's Final
Live from 6:30 pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1

Djokovic will play Stefanos Tsitsipas in Sunday's final with the chance to not only add to his 2016 French Open title but also move to 19 Grand Slam titles, just one behind the men's record 20 held by Nadal and Roger Federer



in 14 semi-finals in the French capital.

"Probably it was not my best day today, even if I fought," said Nadal. "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. I had a big chance. There were some crazy points but there was fatigue there."

Djokovic finished with 50 winners; Nadal committed 55 unforced errors under the relentless assault.

Djokovic had two break points in the opening game of the first set which stretched to 10 minutes but was unable to convert.

Nadal made him pay, sprinting away for a 5-0 lead before the top seed got on the board.

Djokovic clung on, retrieving one break to get to 2-5 but Nadal eventually prevailed after one hour on court even if he required seven set points to edge ahead.

The old rivals exchanged breaks in the second and third games of a big-hitting second set but it was Djokovic who repeated the feat for a 4-2 lead before levelling the tie.

Twice in the third set Djokovic edged ahead, only to be reeled back in by Nadal who broke back in the 10th game as the world number one served for the set.

Djokovic then saved a set point with an ice-cool drop shot in the 12th game.

"You cannot play better clay court tennis than this. It's perfect," tweeted Andy Murray.

A 92-minute third set ended with Djokovic taking the tiebreak. Nadal then broke in the first game of the fourth set but Djokovic levelled for 2-2 and broke again for 4-2.

He finished it off on a second match point when Nadal hit wide and long to conclude a match on the same court where they first met in 2006.

AFP ■ PARIS

Barbora Krejčíková won her maiden Grand Slam singles title at the French Open on Saturday, beating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova to become the first Czech woman in 40 years to conquer Roland Garros.

Krejčíková, ranked 33 in the world and playing just her fifth main draw in a Slams singles event, triumphed 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 for a second career title.

The 25-year-old emulates compatriot Hana Mandlíková who claimed the trophy in Paris in 1981.

The 25-year-old Krejčíková dedicated her victory to her mentor, the former Wimbledon champion Jana Novotná who died of cancer at the age of 49 in 2017.

"It's hard to put into words. I cannot believe I have just won a Grand Slam," said Krejčíková who was still outside the top 100 when the 2020 French Open took place last October.

"I spent a lot of time with Jana before she died. Her last words to me were 'enjoy tennis and try and win a Grand Slam'."

"I know she's looking after me. All this is pretty much because she is looking after me."

"It was amazing that I got the chance to meet her. She was such an inspiration. I miss her and I hope she's really happy."

In a nervy start to the final, Krejčíková was broken in the first game, serving up two double faults.

However, the 29-year-old Russian was unable to capitalise and dropped

CZECHMATE

Barbora beats Anastasia in three sets to join Hana Mandlíková as the second Czech women's singles champion at Roland Garros

the next six games as her Czech opponent grabbed three breaks and raced away with the opener inside half an hour.

Krejčíková was rewarded for her bold attacking, hitting 13 winners to the Russian's seven.

Pavlyuchenkova, who made her Slam debut back in 2007, was the more composed player in the second set, stretching out to 5-1.

A medical timeout at 5-2, during which she was seen munching Haribo gummy bears, merely delayed the Russian levelling the final.

In the decider, the players exchanged breaks in the third and fourth games, before the Czech broke to love for 4-3 on the back of a 10-shot rally.

Pavlyuchenkova saved two championship points in the ninth game and a third in the 10th but Krejčíková became champion on the fourth when the Russian hit long.

Both women capitalised on a draw in which the top seeds fell and just kept falling.

World number one and 2019 champion Ashleigh Barty hobbled out in the second round.

Serena Williams was knocked out in the fourth round, world number two Naomi Osaka withdrew after one match, while 2018 champion Simona Halep never even made it to Paris.



Sehwag looking forward to Boult vs Rohit contest

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Opening Trent Boult's incoming deliveries will make for a fascinating contest, something that Virender Sehwag will be looking forward to during the World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand, starting in Southampton on June 18.

Sehwag, who redefined the art of opening batting in Test cricket, feels that Rohit's qualities and recent form at the top of the order certainly makes him a candidate to succeed during the six Test matches in England this summer.

"No doubt Trent Boult-Tim Southee combination will pose a lot of challenge for Indians. They can move the ball both ways and are brilliant while bowling in partnerships also," Sehwag said.

"Boult vs Rohit Sharma will be a contest that I would



be looking forward to. If Rohit gets set and see off Boult's opening spell, it will be a treat to watch," feels one of India's greatest match winners.

While this would be Rohit's first shot at opening in English conditions, the experience of playing Tests in 2014 will certainly help him.

"Rohit is a fantastic batsman and he has played Test cricket in England earlier also (2014) so I think he can manage well as we have seen in recent times when he has opened the batting. I have no doubt that he will score runs in England this time."

"Obviously, as it is for any opener, he would have to be careful for the first 10 overs and see off that new ball to understand the conditions first. I am sure he will get a chance to show his range of strokes," said the man, who has scored more than 8000 Test runs.

Sehwag also believes that

rather than going in with four pacers, India should go with two spinners in their five-man bowling line-up as it would also strengthen their lower middle-order batting.

"I don't know the wicket would look like on June 18th but one thing I have always believed is that you need to play to your strengths. If India can play with five specialist bowlers that will be great thing because I still believe that two spinners will come into effect on fourth and fifth day."

"Two spinners will be good for India because both Ashwin and Jadeja are capable all-rounders. That also adds depth to your batting. You don't need a sixth batsman with both of them around."

Sehwag also wants Pant to bat the way he knows and not get bogged down by too much analysis and dissection about technique and temperament needed to be successful in England.

Boult hopes playing Edgbaston Test will put him in 'good stead'

Birmingham: Initially not expecting to feature in the ongoing second Test against England, New Zealand pacer Trent Boult is hopeful that achieving game fitness rather than bowling in the nets will put him in 'good stead' in the upcoming World Test Championship final against India.

"Initially I wasn't expecting to play this game but everything fell into line, and I gave myself that chance to get out there and I think I'll definitely be better off for that head out," Boult was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"It's one thing loading and getting through numbers in the nets but to simulate that kind of game fitness and having to come back three, four or five times in a day ... there's no real other



PCB to bid for 5 major ICC events

Karachi: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will bid for five major events of the International Cricket Council (ICC) during the 2024-2031 cycle, including an edition of the Champions Trophy and World T20 Cup.

According to an official source, the PCB is in the process of preparing its bids for the ICC events which have to be submitted soon. "The ICC had asked for the expression of interest from its member countries. Once the Boards submit their bids, an independent committee of the ICC will assess the bids in December this year to give its report for a final decision next year," the source said.

The source said Pakistan has already held talks with the Emirates Cricket Board to jointly host some ICC events.

It was 24 years ago when Pakistan last hosted an ICC event — 1996 World Cup — jointly with India and Sri Lanka. PTI

India's SL bound squad to have 14-day quarantine in Mumbai

New Delhi: India's white ball squad, led by Shikhar Dhawan, will quarantine in Mumbai from June 14 to 28 and undergo six RT-PCR tests on alternate days before flying off to Colombo for the six-match series against Sri Lanka, starting on July 13.

It is understood that all the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that will be followed by the Lanka-bound squad will be same as those of the first team currently in the United Kingdom for the World Test Championship final and five-match series against England.

"All the rules will be same like we followed in England. The outstanding players will come by charter flight and some fly business class of commercial airline," a BCCI source privy to development said.

"They will do seven days of room quarantine and

then can meet in common areas inside the bio-bubble. The players will do gym sessions in staggered manner."

While the three-match ODI series starts on July 13, it is expected that Indian team will have match simulation practice (situational training) after individual sessions, following three days of room quarantine at the team hotel in Colombo.

"It will be just like what's happening in England. Match situations will be created and that's how the intra-squad training will be held."

"You can't have your main players get out off the first ball and not bat again or bat for the whole innings. Everyone needs training so it won't be practice games as such," the source said.

The Indian teams over the years have always stayed at the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo.



Pant smashes ton, Gill 85 in intra-squad game



Southampton: The flamboyant Rishabh Pant took his senior bowling colleagues to the cleaners with an unbeaten century while opener Shubman Gill also warmed up with a polished 85 during the Indian team's intra-squad match simulation over the last two days.

The two teams are being led by Virat Kohli and KL Rahul with all the first team batsmen packed in one side and the regular bowlers on the other, with reserves like Wriddhiman Saha and Hanuma Vihari.

Pant, who has been in the form of his life, hammered every bowler including the spinners in his unbeaten 121 off 94 balls. Opening the batting with Rohit Sharma, Gill scored 85 off 135 balls.

Kohli's team was only troubled by veteran pacer Ishant Sharma who returned the best figures of 3 for 36. PTI

Taylor helps NZ gain first-innings lead



AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM

London: The England and Wales Cricket Board is to launch a 'social media review' that could lead to disciplinary action following the fall-out from Ollie Robinson's Twitter posts.

The Sussex seamer was suspended from England duty pending an investigation after historic racist and sexist posts made in 2012 and 2013 re-emerged during his Test debut against New Zealand at Lord's last week.

Since Robinson's posts re-emerged, the social media feeds

last week's first Test at Lord's, was unbeaten on three.

New Zealand resumed on 229-3, a deficit of 74, after Will Young had been dismissed for 82 off the last ball of Friday's play when part-time off-spinner Dan Lawrence had him caught at short leg.

Taylor, was 46 not out after opener Devon Conway had followed his stunning 200 on debut in last week's drawn first Test at Lord's with 80.

The experienced Taylor completed just his second fifty in 15 Test innings when he swept Lawrence for four, his seventh boundary in 101 balls faced.

ECB to review players' social media

of a number of Internationals have been scrutinised, with an unnamed player found to have sent offensive tweets while under the age of 16.

Meanwhile, the experienced England trio of James Anderson, Jos Buttler and limited overs captain Eoin Morgan have all faced accusations of publishing potentially offensive messages.

The ECB board met on Wednesday and have decided to look into the issue in more detail, with a statement issued on Saturday saying: "The board

despite taking the new ball, with Bracey, fresh from his second duck in as many Tests, conceding nine byes.

Taylor's impressive innings ended, however, with New Zealand in sight of a first-innings lead, when he tried to attack Olly Stone but succeeded only in edging to Bracey.

New Zealand were then 292-4, with Taylor having missed out on a fourth Test century in England.

agreed to the executive's recommendation for a social media review to address any historical issues, remind individuals of their personal responsibilities going forward, and help them learn lessons along the way.

"The board was clear that this process would not prevent further disciplinary action in the future, should that be required, under the applicable processes, but it is hoped that the game can emerge from this difficult period stronger and determined to be more inclusive and welcoming to all." AFP

But Bracey's joy turned to despair three balls later when the relatively novice gloveman dropped new batsman Blundell after failing to hang to a low one-handed chance off Stone as he dived to his right.

But Bracey's see-saw match continued when Henry Nicholls a ball after being hit on the helmet by a Mark Wood bouncer, gloved down the legside on 21 and was well caught by the keeper.

England continued to endure a tough first hour,