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CAN ISRAEL BE LED BY A FRAGILE COALITION?

WORLD 8

COURTS CANNOT APPOINT PM: OLI

SPORT 12

BUFFON RETURNS TO PARMA

RANCHI, FRIDAY JUNE 18 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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RELIVES
CHILDHOOD
10 VIVACITY**SC accepts Govt's criteria based on Class X, XI, XII performances**

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

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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



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

refusal by the people to follow Covid-19 norms, coupled with the advent of Delta plus variant might trigger a third wave of pandemic in the State," a senior official who briefed the chief minister about a possible third wave said.

The task force told the CM that the lower middle class of people who were not affected by the first and second waves of Covid-19 would be hit by the third wave of the pandemic. It advised the Uddhav to increase

testing, strengthen infrastructure and increase vaccination.

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

bled during the third wave.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा
CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More fatal fungus Candida auris' threat looms large

Covid crisis is ideal condition for outbreak of deadly fungus

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Covid-19: Active caseload drops below 2K in State

PNS ■ RANCHI

The active caseload of Covid-19 dropped below the 2,000-mark in Jharkhand on Thursday, while three more patients died, taking the Covid toll in the State to 5,095, figures released by the National Health Mission (NHM) highlighted.

As per a bulletin from the NHM, at least 146 people tested positive for Covid-19 on the day while 443 patients recovered from the infection, bringing the active caseload in the state down to 1,946.

The Covid-19 conditions in Brazil have opened the door for the emergence and spread of a relatively new fungus that is quickly showing signs of becoming a drug-resistant "superfungus," as reported by a study published in the Journal of Fungi. India had for long been hotbed for the deadly fungus. In fact, before the SARS-CoV-2 spread its tentacles, C. auris was already considered a major global health threat due to high rates of drug resistance and ease of transmission in hospital settings.

At least two districts—Pakur and Dumka—did not report fresh cases of Covid-19 for the second day in a row on Thursday. As per NHM data, there were only two Covid patients in Pakur by the end of Thursday.



Bokaro accounted for two of the three Covid casualties on the day, one patient died during treatment in Ranchi. As per Government records, at least 1,583 people have died of Covid-19 in Ranchi, while the toll in Bokaro was 276. The Covid mortality rate in the State was 1.48 per cent on

Thursday, higher than the national average of 1.30 per cent, the NHM stated in its bulletin.

As many as 35 Covid recoveries against 14 cases brought the active caseload in East Singhbhum down to 223, the bulletin from NHM highlighted.

Three more patients die in 24 hours

with highest number of active cases in Jharkhand, reported 11 cases against 189 recoveries, which brought the active caseload here down to 529.

Among other districts, Bokaro reported nine cases against ten recoveries, while Hazaribag reported nine cases against 26 recoveries. As many as 11 people were found infected by coronavirus in Godda and four Covid patients recovered there.

So far, over 3.44 lakh people have been infected by coronavirus in the State and 97.95 per cent of them have recovered. The doubling rate of cases in the State jumped to 1,566.86 days against the national doubling rate of 419.97 days on Thursday.

The State on Thursday tested swab samples of 42,323 residents and less than 0.5 per cent of them were found infected by novel coronavirus.

The growth rate of Covid-19 dropped further down to 0.04 per cent in Jharkhand on the day against the national average of 0.17 per cent, NHM data highlighted.

Hockey players Nikki Pradhan, Salima Tete selected for Olympics



Pioneer photo

✓ SALIMA TETE is from Badki Chhapar village under Sadar block of Simdega district, both father Sulakshana Tete and mother Subhani Tete are farmers. Salima was born on December 27, 2001, her father is also a good hockey player.

✓ NIKKI PRADHAN is from Hesal village under Murhu block of Khunti district and her father Soma Pradhan was police personnel in Bihar and mother Jitini Devi is a housewife, four sisters and one brother. All sisters are hockey players

2011 in Ranchi Nikki was selected as the best player while playing for the Jharkhand team, after that she went to India camp and was a member of Junior Women's Indian team in 2012 Junior Asia Cup. Indian team won the bronze medal, for her performance she got a job in Ranchi Railways in 2012. She was selected for Indian Women's hockey team in 2016 Olympics and made history by becoming the first female Olympian hockey player of Jharkhand. Pradhan participated in almost all big events like Asian Games, Commonwealth and others," Konbegi added.

Nikki Pradhan is working as Chief Yard Master in Operations Department of Ranchi Railway Division and Salima Tete is working as TTE in Commerce Department.

Divisional Railway Manager Neeraj Ambastha congratulated both the players for their selection in the 16-member Indian Women's Hockey team at the Tokyo Olympics. In the 16-member women's hockey team, 13 players are employed in the Indian Railways.

State Govt continues preparations for 3rd wave of Covid-19

BOOK RELEASED ON COVID-19 THIRD WAVE PREPAREDNESS AND ROAD AHEAD MENTIONS DETAILED GUIDELINES RELATED TO FOOD AND NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE PARENTS

PNS ■ RANCHI

With the dedication and commitment of the Government-led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the second wave of Covid-19 has been contained in the State, stated a Press release from the Government.

With few restrictions in place, the State is moving towards lifting all restrictions. To deal with the expected third wave of the novel coronavirus, the State Government has started preparing its machinery in advance, it added.

To understand the nature, impact and preparations needed to fight against the anticipated third wave, Chief Minister Hemant Soren is having regular conversations with experts and doctors from across the nation. Experts anticipate that

PROTECTIVE MEASURES To Avoid Infection In CHILDREN			
Increase immunity in kids, mix honey with milk	doctor immediately	Encourage them to have more and more water	
Pay close attention to the hygiene of the children	Children should not wear masks, it makes them difficult to breathe	Provide Coconut water	
Boil Neem leaves in water for their baths	Balanced food intake necessary to avoid any kind of complication	Ensure protein and fibre intake in the morning breakfast	
Give Fennel water to your child, it will keep the stomach in better condition	Give something to eat every once in a while	To maintain a sufficient amount of Vitamin C in the body use Amla, Lemon, Orange, Tomato, Guava and Broccoli	
If someone is sick at home, keep your children away from them	Boil potatoes and feed them	Include homemade fresh fruit juice as refreshment	
Wash your hands thoroughly before holding children in your arms	Include Fruits, Vegetables, Eggs, Pulses, Chicken and whole grains in their meal	Include fruits, vegetables, eggs, pulses, chicken and whole grains in their meal	
In case of any symptoms, contact the		Feed them with turmeric milk every morning and evening	



include fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, running nose, sore throat, diarrhoea, loss of taste or smell, etc. Due to the tender age, children are unable to explain their symptoms, but the parents need to be on alert about any such symptom.

"For 34th National Games

also working on generating awareness among people. Along with the preparedness of the Government to deal with this potential threat, parents are also expected to discharge their responsibilities. As per the detailed information in the book on Preparation, Prevention and Planning for Covid-19 in the third wave, most children infected with Covid-19 may not show any symptoms or may exhibit very mild symptoms.

Common symptoms

State launches maiden pneumococcal immunisation drive

To act as safety shield against Covid-19, says Health Minister

PNS ■ RANCHI

Health Minister Banna Gupta on Thursday launched State's first vaccination drive against pneumonia and claimed that the immunisation programme for infants will work as a protective shield against Covid-19, which according to researchers, was likely to affect children during a feared third wave.

The Government will provide PCV doses to children free of cost under its Universal

to be a milestone in our State's fight against Covid-19. By administering Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) to infants, we will protect several children from pneumonia, which causes fatal respiratory disfunctions," Gupta said while launching the statewide immunisation programme.

Gupta claimed that patients of pneumonia and Covid-19 showed similar symptoms, and in some cases, Covid patients developed pneumonia, which proved fatal. The vaccination, he added, would boost immunity of the children and protect them from several bacteria-borne diseases as well.

"Mild fever or body ache are common side effects of any vaccine. Please do not panic if your child has mild fever after the dose. Remember that the vaccine will protect them from many severe diseases," he said.

Health Secretary Arun Kumar Singh said that pneu-

monia was transmitted from one person to another through coughing and sneezing. Breathing trouble, coughing, fever and body ache were some of the common symptoms of pneumonia, which were also common in Covid patients, he added.

"At least 8 lakh people die of pneumonia every year globally and the toll is 1.27 lakh in India. This immunisation programme will certainly prove to be a major step towards protecting our children and ensuring a healthy life for them," Singh said.

As per data with the health department, at least 77,200 doses of PCV have been distributed among the 24 districts to run the immunisation pro-

gramme. The three doses of the vaccine will be administered to infants at the age of six weeks, 14 weeks and nine months.

The vaccine doses will be administered at all government hospitals, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and other vaccination camps set up by the Government. Parents of the beneficiaries will have to carry their Mother Child Protection (MCP) cards to the vaccination centres and get the jabs free of cost. Jharkhand will be the seventh Indian state to launch this immunisation programme.

Health Minister Banna Gupta during the launch of State's first vaccination drive against pneumonia in Ranchi on Thursday
Pioneer photo



State Govt creating awareness about vaccination

IN BRIEF

GM, ECR LAUNCHES VARIOUS FACILITIES IN DDU DIVISION



Various facilities were started in Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay division on Thursday by General Manager, East Central Railway, Lalit Chandra Trivedi, who was on a one-day visit to DDU Division. During this, the GM inaugurated the Pavilion and Dressing Room at Bakle Ground at Divisional Headquarters, newly constructed Staff Quarters at Gaya and Second Floor of Railway Rest House at Lodhi Road in Delhi through video conferencing from the Auditorium of DRM Office. Gross Happiness Index App (GHI App) related to running rooms of DDU Division, was also launched for the convenience of railway personnel. DRM of DDU Division Rajesh Kumar Pandey, ADRM Rakesh Kumar Roshan, ADRM Atul Kumar and all the branch officers were present in the meeting. The GM with divisional officers took stock of the recently renovated minor rail bridge near Karmanasha station of the Division. He also reached the junction where he took stock of various passenger amenities.

JAI SWAL TAKES STOCK OF CIVIC PROBLEMS



JPPC president Aditya Vikram Jaiswal visited Latma Road, Singh Mode, Hatia under Ward No-50 on Thursday and took stock of the water logging and other basic problems caused by rain water. Jaiswal said that a hellish situation has arisen due to water logging in front of Latma Road, Singh Mode, Hatia Shiv Mandir of Ward No-50. People here are finding it very difficult to even get out of their homes. He said that road and drain could not be constructed in this area for the last 14 years. Because of this, such a bad situation is arising during the rainy season. He said that the Ranchi Municipal Corporation should discharge its responsibilities honestly during this rainy season. In the areas of the city where water logging, dirt and public problems are arising due to rain water, take them into your cognizance immediately and work to solve them. Drains should be cleaned regularly and garbage should be lifted.

261 BENEFICIARIES GET VACCINATED AT XISS



Xavier Institute of Social Service (XIISI) along with Alumni Association of XIISI (AAXISS) and Jesuit Alumni Ranchi Province (JARP) organised a COVID-19 vaccination camp in support from the Health Department, Government of Jharkhand in the college campus today. As many as 261 beneficiaries were vaccinated including XIISI faculty members and staff, AAXISS family, extended Jesuit Society, residents nearby XIISI campus, students of XIISI and family of the above mentioned. People of both age groups of 18+ years and 45+ years received first and second doses as required of the Covishield vaccine in the slot timings provided to them earlier.

Only 2% of population fully vaccinated in State

PNS ■ RANCHI

Less than 2 per cent of the eligible population in the State has received both the doses of vaccines, even as several smaller States such as Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have done much better. The vaccination pace in Jharkhand is running at snail's speed, a thing which is worrying for Government and health experts.

As per the figure available from National Health Mission daily data, so far only 11.69 per cent of the eligible population in the State has received the first dose of the vaccine, while 2.16 per cent have received both the doses. Those who have taken both the doses, their vaccination is consid-

An old man being administered the Covid-19 vaccine, at a rural area near Ranchi
Pioneer photo

ered complete. The present estimated population of Jharkhand is 3.77 crore.

So far only 44,07,139 people have received the first dose, while 8,15,958 people have received both doses. In the age category of 18-44 years, the vaccination of which started late, only 7 per cent of people in this category have received first dose, while the population in this category which have received both the doses is less than one per cent, which is only 0.99 per cent.

In the age category above 45 years, the vaccination percentage comes out to be around 32.50 per cent of those, who have received first doses, while those who have received both the doses the percentage comes out to 5.32 per cent.

Dr Ashok Mishra of Indian Medical Association said, "The slow vaccination is a worrying factor. We are lucky that pandemic

speed has come down, but efforts should be made so that large sections of society are vaccinated as vaccines are the best defence against viruses."

District wise vaccination figures if considered that only three districts in State have received more than 10 per cent vaccination. The three districts where vaccination is more than 10 per cent are Simdega, Lohardaga and Khunti. Simdega and Khunti are two districts where 11 per cent vaccination has been made, while Lohardaga is the district, which tops in vaccination in the State with around 12 per cent of eligible population vaccinated.

Sources said Lohardaga is the district, which is ahead in vaccination from other districts but still large sections of tribal and minority communities are not much enthusiastic about vaccination.

The Government is now running a public awareness campaign to dispel these rumours. Sahayakas are conducting surveys in villages. Villagers are being told that vaccines do not cause any disease.

Para teachers keep their finger crossed as Education Minister takes charge

PNS ■ RANCHI

Education Minister Jagarnath Mahto
File Photo

The para-teachers of Jharkhand agitating from the past few years for regularisation of their service and proper pay scale have once again started exerting pressure on the government to fulfil the promises.

Notably, Minister Jagarnath Mahto who from the last eight months was under treatment for Covid-19 and lung transplant, has finally returned to Ranchi and he is expected to take charge of the education department.

"We are hopeful to get justice from the Hemant Soren government. In June last year, a joint meeting had taken place where the government had broadly agreed on some points. But nothing happened after that," said Sanjay Dubey of Ekikrit Para Shikshak Sangharsh Morcha.

However, last year Minister Mahto had scheduled to hold the next meeting on September 28 but on the day of the meeting his health suddenly deteriorated after which he was flown to Chennai for further treatment. Chief Minister Hemant Soren had to take charge of the education department.

In the June meeting the Government had agreed ₹5,200-₹20,000 as the basic pay band for such para teachers who have passed Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET). But, the number of such teachers is not more than 12,000 whereas there are around 6,50,000 para teachers across 24 districts of Jharkhand.

The law department as well as the office of the

BJP raises issue of atrocities against SC community in State

Party delegation to meet Guv on issue

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State BJP unit has once again raised the issue of rising atrocities against Scheduled Caste members in State.

The State BJP in this connection will knock Governor Droupadi Murmu's door on Friday, highlighting the recent atrocities against scheduled caste members.

State BJP SC Cell president Amar Kumar Bauri addressing a press conference said that atrocities against SC community have gone up in the JMM/Congress regime. Highlighting some cases, Bauri said that in Sahibganj district, one Pankaj Mishra has grabbed the land of one Dinesh Paswan.

When Paswan approached district administration with his plea, police refused to lodge the case as Paswan is close to top JMM leadership in State.

Similarly, he said last month members of the SC community were badly beaten up by members of the minority community for trivial reasons at Majhgoan in Chaibasa district.

The SC community members, who are sweepers were beaten up as they didn't turn up for cleaning work. The local police who were supposed to take action against the people who were behind the incident were indulged in suppressing the matter, he said.

The SC community members on Thursday visited State BJP president Deepak Prakash

Chandankiari MLA-cum-former Minister and State president of BJP Scheduled Caste Morcha Amar Kumar Bauri during a press conference, in Ranchi on Thursday
Pioneer photo

and informed about the incident. Bauri, the former Minister, also said several Turi families of Chirudih in Jamtara were also part of the minority community. The minority community who constitute a large chunk of population are also involved in land grabbing sprees of Turi members.

The BJP leader said that SC Morcha leaders informed the National Commission for Scheduled Castes about the incident. The commission team, which visited the site, found the matter to be true. The district administration had ensured the arrest of culprits behind the incident, but till date the main accused Ramzan Mian and other accused have not been arrested. At present, the victim's family is forced to live in the night shelter.

Bauri demanded the government to take action in all the cases along with the security of the SC community in the State. He also said that Morcha will fight for the rights and protection of the SC community in the State.

Ranjan said that all the Circle Officers (CO) should give a report regarding encroachment on GM land within a month. He said that after visiting the field, dedicate a light-wise report. He directed all the COs to submit the report on priority basis.

While reviewing the demarcation cases, the DC directed to complete the pending cases at the earliest. He said that all the circle officers should execute all the pending demarcation cases before the next meeting.

While reviewing the encroachment on GM land,

Addl CS inspects RINPAS, directs to install True Nat facility



PNS ■ RANCHI

Development Commissioner cum Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Arun Kumar Singh made a surprise inspection of RINPAS on Thursday. He went to OPD and took information about the number of patients admitted in the institute. The Additional CS inspected the Department of Pathology and instructed to install the TrueNat machine there to facilitate Covid test.

In order to remove seepage and others in the corridor of the main administrative building, the Executive Engineer and SDO of the building construction department were instructed by Singh to make repairs. Along with this, the kitchen was also asked to be repaired so that the workers would not face any problem by him.

The Additional CS also directed to prepare a new map of the buildings of the old and dilapidated Occupational Therapy Department because cracks have occurred in many places in these buildings and

patients work here. Singh saw the living arrangements of patients in male ward number one. Instructions were given to make their rooms more illuminated and to arrange for additional clothes by him and information was also obtained from the patient regarding the diet.

He also looked after the security arrangements and cleanliness in the institute and directed them to make the arrangements. He directed to use New Academic Block building for training work along with this, instructions were given to fix the seepage and others.

Singh also directed to install solar water heaters in all the wards. Director in-charge of RINPAS, Dr Subhash Soren, Senior Accounts Officer, Alok Kumar Tapasvi, Dr Sujit Kumar Mishra gave complete information. NHM Director Ravi Shankar Shukla and other officials were present during the inspection.

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi Deputy Commissioner, Chhavi Ranjan on Thursday reviewed the cases of mutation pending for more than 30 and 90 days. He directed that the cases of mutation pending for more than 30 days be disposed of at the earliest without any objection.

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While reviewing the encroachment on GM land,

Ranjan said that all the Circle Officers (CO) should give a report regarding encroachment on GM land within a month. He said that after visiting the field, dedicate a light-wise report. He directed all the COs to submit the report on priority basis.

While reviewing the inter-departmental land transfer, the DC directed all the COs to transfer the land identified for the Sub Health Center, School, Electricity Department and other proposals, taking necessary action at the earliest. The DC directed to maintain the register for GM land in the district. He directed the Additional Collector and

District Land Acquisition Officer to prepare the format for the available GM land in the district. He asked the COs of the four circles of the city, Namkum, Nagdi and Ormanjhali to provide the report in the format within a month. He said that where GM land is available in the district, keep information about it so that timely transfer of land can be done.

In the meeting, Ranjan also reviewed the matters related to land acquisition. He reviewed the updated status of land acquisition related to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and State level projects.

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HC directs police to provide security to family of Rupa Tirkey

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday directed SSP of Ranchi Surendra Kumar Jha to provide adequate security to family members of deceased assistant sub inspector of Jharkhand Police Rupa Tirkey, who according to police had committed suicide. The family stays in Ranchi.

The court gave this direction while hearing a criminal writ petition filed by Devanand Gupta, father of the deceased. Tirkey has accused that his daughter was forced to commit suicide by a person named as Pankaj Mishra. He has demanded a CBI probe into the matter. The bench of Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi, while

hearing the case, also directed the State Government to file a counter affidavit in the next four week.

The court fixed July 29 as the next date of hearing.

The heating was done through video conferencing. The lawyer appearing on behalf of the State government informed the court that the government has appointed retired chief justice of Jharkhand High Court Justice Vinod Kumar Gupta to investigate the death case of Rupa Tirkey. On this the court observed whether a provision of parallel probe exists in the CrPC.

In another development; Jharkhand High court expressed displeasure over transfer of ADG Anil Palta

from CID of Jharkhand police. The court expressed its displeasure while hearing the case of blackmarketing of Remdesivir medicine. This case is being investigated by CID.

The court wanted to know as to why Palta was transferred without asking the high court at a time when the high court is monitoring the investigation. The court orally observed that if the police continue with such an attitude then the high court will have to refer the investigation to CBI.

However, the advocate general said that CID is investigating the case in a professional manner and his transfer is a routine matter and also he was not the investigating officer of the case.

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No relief for 10K encroachers in Aravali forest

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

tures, said there are around 10,000 families in the village.

"Please don't give us numbers. It makes no difference. We want out forest land to be cleared," the bench said,

adding, "We have given enough time. The notification was issued but you continued there at your own risk".

"This is forest land. This is not ordinary land," the bench is not at these people and their situa-

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Chaudhary is not the only one who is grappling with post-Covid health issues.

According to a study, among all patients infected with the coronavirus disease, more than 23 percent continued to suffer from one or more health issues even a month after being diagnosed with Covid-19.

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

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

As per the study, 50 percent patients hospitalised with

Pvt hospitals start inoculating people with Sputnik jabs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Dr Reddy's Laboratories co-chairman and managing director G V Prasad said: "With the rising cases in India, vaccination is our most effective tool in our battle against Covid-19."



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

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

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

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

Covid-19 infection developed a post-Covid condition, while among the symptomatic patients not hospitalised, 27.5 per cent developed long Covid. However, post-Covid symptoms were also present among 19 per cent patients who remained asymptomatic.

Further, anxiety was associated with the highest percentage of patients after Covid-19 in all age groups. It was fol-

lowed by depression, adjustment and tic disorders.

"The odds of death 30 days or more after initial diagnosis with Covid-19 were 46 times higher for patients who were hospitalised with Covid-19 and discharged than patients who had not been hospitalised.

Among Covid-19 patients with preexisting conditions, intellectual disabilities were associated with the

highest odds of death 30 days or more after initial Covid-19 diagnosis," said the study.

Dr Pankaj Solanki from the Dharamveer Solanki Multipurpose Hospital in Delhi said that these cases need to be addressed on urgent basis and the Government should also focus on working on their rehabilitation through multi-disciplinary post-Covid clinics.

63% drop in domestic air traffic in May

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), 78.22 lakh people travelled within the country by air in March.

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

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

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

-- Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The possible third wave of Covid-19 is unlikely to affect children much, according to a multi-centric community based serosurvey study conducted by AIIMS, Delhi, thus contradicting apprehensions that a future Covid-19 wave may disproportionately affect children two years or older," the report has said.

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

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

It was also seen that the prevalence in children was slightly more among female participants compared to male (58.6 per cent versus 53.0 per cent).

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

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Bengal Gov meets Prez over law & order in State

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

The Governor is also reported to have given detailed



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and no compensation was declared?

"I told the Chief Minister to update me about the situation but ... there was no response on her part ... it seems that the police have forgotten its work ... the police and the Home Department must rise above partisan politics ... (or else) I shall not overlook the matter," the Governor said.

Kerala HC rejects PIL challenging reform moves in Lakshadweep

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

BJP creating 'perspective' for ulterior motive: Didi

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

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

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

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

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

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

Army takes stock of LAC, LOC situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

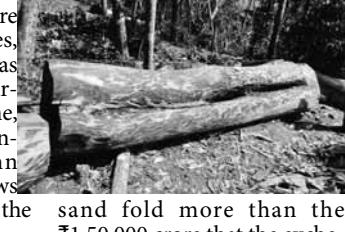
Incidentally, the Army Commanders' Conference comes a year after the Galwan Valley clash in Eastern Ladakh.

The face-offs began in May last year from the Pangong Tso (lake) in Ladakh.

The Chinese stopped an Indian patrol leading to a scuffle in which several soldiers from both the sides received injuries. Soon, standoffs erupted at some other points including Hot Springs, Gogra and the Depsang valley.

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI



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

Sir, as he is known across Kerala had toured the districts from where he got information about the illegal tree felling braving his own life and what he

he saw was massive robbing of forests by the axis consisting of politicians-bureaucrats and timber mafia.

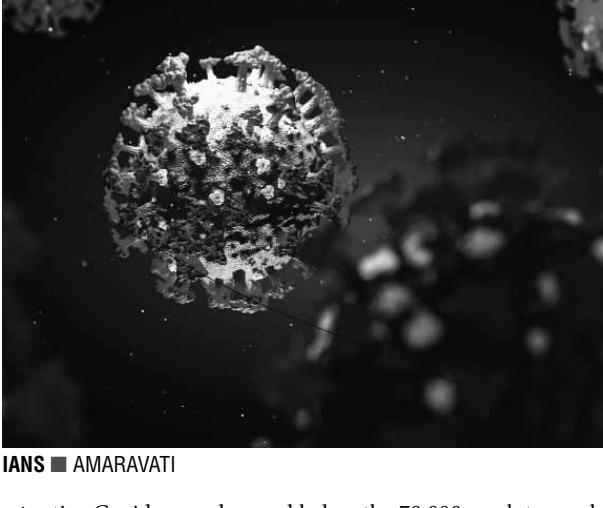
"Rose Wood, which is also known by the name the Royal Tree, costs more than ₹ two lakh per cubic feet. Thousands of such trees have been chopped away by this cartel. Most of the trees cut down were taken away from the country in cargo aircraft and ships. These are used in the construction of castles,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

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

ghly destroyed.

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

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



IANS ■ AMARAVATI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

same state is placed third.

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

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

District Collector Suresh

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

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

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

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

IANS



PTI

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



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PAPER WITH PASSION

India-Pak thaw?

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

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

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



FIRST COLUMN

FIND INDIA'S PLACE IN THE WEST

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



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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



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

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

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

Steering the boat safely amid Covid

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



K SRINATH REDDY

66

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



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

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

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

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

Vaccination must be speeded up, with accelerated domestic production and international procurement. The number of vaccination centres must be increased. Vaccination in rural areas will require careful planning of logistics, sensitive communication for confidence building, support for overcoming technology barriers to registration and availability of close-to-home vaccination centres. The Delta variant poses challenges with high infectivity and capacity for vaccine evasion, at higher levels than the wild virus or the Alpha variant. However, there is reassuring evidence that the variant responds well to two doses of all available vaccines.

So, we need to provide both doses of vaccines to vulnerable persons, identified by age and co-morbidities. Even pregnant women now need to be regarded as candidates for priority vaccination.

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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

— US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



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

— RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

Covid orphans must be a priority care group

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



SUBHASH C PANDEY

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

The number of out-of-home care children in need of care and protection in India is estimated to be about 2.4 crore and the number is continuous-

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

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

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

parents registered on CARINGS portal managed by Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) can adopt children. CARA prefers orphans under kinship care, with shelter homes being the last resort. A child under two years is considered legally free to be adopted if no one approaches the shelter home for two months. The waiting period is four months for older children. As many as 5,693 children were adopted in 2010 and 5,964 in 2011. After the institution of CARA and CARINGS in 2015, the pace of adoption has distinctly slowed down to 1,881 in 2015-16, 3,210 in 2016-17 and 2,160 in 2020-21. The pandemic has slowed down the adoption process further as it also affected functioning of courts.

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

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

NGOs supposedly under the oversight of the Social Welfare Department. It is found that the NGOs are interested in getting funding without properly providing even basic facilities of food, hygiene and sanitation. There have also been serious complaints of abuse of inmates in some of NGO-run facilities.

The 2015 law had ushered in the concept of foster care in India in which the child is placed with a caregiver running a residential child care facility or in a private home of a foster parent. They receive financial support from Government.

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

dren who pass through a weaning period prior to their placement in individual foster care or any other form of family-based care. In the broader interest of these children, there is a case for evolving newer, more flexible mechanisms that are less stringent than full-scale legal adoption or a formal foster-care arrangement. One mechanism is that of sponsorship charities run by NGOs, which can be adopted by the Government to connect a donor/sponsor with a particular child. It allows for financial and emotional support without the legal implications of succession.

Not only the childless seeking adoption but persons of means with children can come forward under a Government-managed system to support children.



Courts cannot appoint PM: Oli

Oli heading minority Govt after losing trust vote in House

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

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

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

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

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

Office to furnish a written response within 15 days.

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

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

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

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

Oli also defended the involvement of the President in



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

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

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

On May 21, Nepali

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

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

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

As many as 30 writ petitions, including by the Opposition alliance, have been filed in the Supreme Court against the dissolution of the House, which they said was "unconstitutional".

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

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

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

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

Biden, Putin discuss ambassadors, nuclear weapons and more

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

The most pressing issues the leaders discussed:



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

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

Putin agreed there is mutual interest in the subject.

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

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

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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

The "strategic stability dialogue" would be a series of discussions designed to set the table for a negotiation by sorting out what exactly should be negotiated.

More broadly, it would aim to reduce the risk of war between the world's two largest nuclear powers.

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

No date was announced for the start of talks.

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

AMBASSADORS

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

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

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

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

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

be possible but it likely won't lead to a further detente between Iran and the West.

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

"But there's still a lot of

details that need to be worked out."

He added: "I think there's

a lot of domestic politics that go

into this and an interest from hard-liners, including the

supreme leader, to ensure that

their favoured candidate wins

without any significant dis-

ruptions to that process."

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

Tehran has long insisted

that its programme is for peaceful purposes. However, US

intelligence agencies and International Atomic Energy Agency say Iran pursued an organised nuclear weapons

programme up until 2003.

With analysts and polling suggesting that a hard-line candidate already targeted by US sanctions will win Friday's vote, a return to the deal may

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Sensex extends losses

AS FED'S TAPER TALK TRIPS WORLD MARKETS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Domestic equities traded

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

BRIEFS

HEALTH MINI PRAISES VACCINATION PERSONNEL

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

FOURTEEN CROSS DISABILITY EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES OPENED IN THE COUNTRY

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

DIRECTOR TOURISM JAMMU CONDUCTS TOUR

Vivekanand Rai (IRS), Director Tourism Jammu today conducted an extensive tour of Patnitop, Sudhmahadev and Mantalai Area. He was accompanied by a team of officers wherein various Tourism projects undertaken by the Department were inspected. While paying obeisance to the holy shrines of Sudhmahadev and Mantalai he also interacted with local pujaris and tourists and listened to their suggestions for developing these areas. Sudhmahadev located 112 Km from Jammu, houses a highly revered Shiva Temple

which is believed to be nearly 3000 years old, having a black marble idol of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati besides a Trishul.

DOORSTEP DELIVERY OF MILK, FRUITS, VEGETABLES

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

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

MSME Ministry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

PLI scheme to help India become Aatmanirbhar in APIs : ICRA

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for key raw materials such as bulk drugs and formulations, with total incentive outlay of ₹21 billion will help the country become Aatmanirbhar, ratings agency ICRA said.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Mohammad Usman S/o Late Mohd. Nagi r/o A-191, New Farid Colony, New Delhi 110025 was having commercial property in our project Vatika Mindscape Tower A, flat no 1205 admeasuring 750 Sqft which his legal heirs (Tabish Usman, Hars Usman, Adil Usman, Mrs Samina Usman, Mohammed Abdullah Usman, Mohammed Aram Usman) requested the company to be transferred to his daughter (Mrs. Sufia Zafar). Any person having any objection on this please contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.

Vatika Limited A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INX City Centre, Sector-83, Gurugram Haryana, INDIA - 122012 Contact 09555930930

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

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GIVE HIM THE FASHION BOOST HE NEEDS

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

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

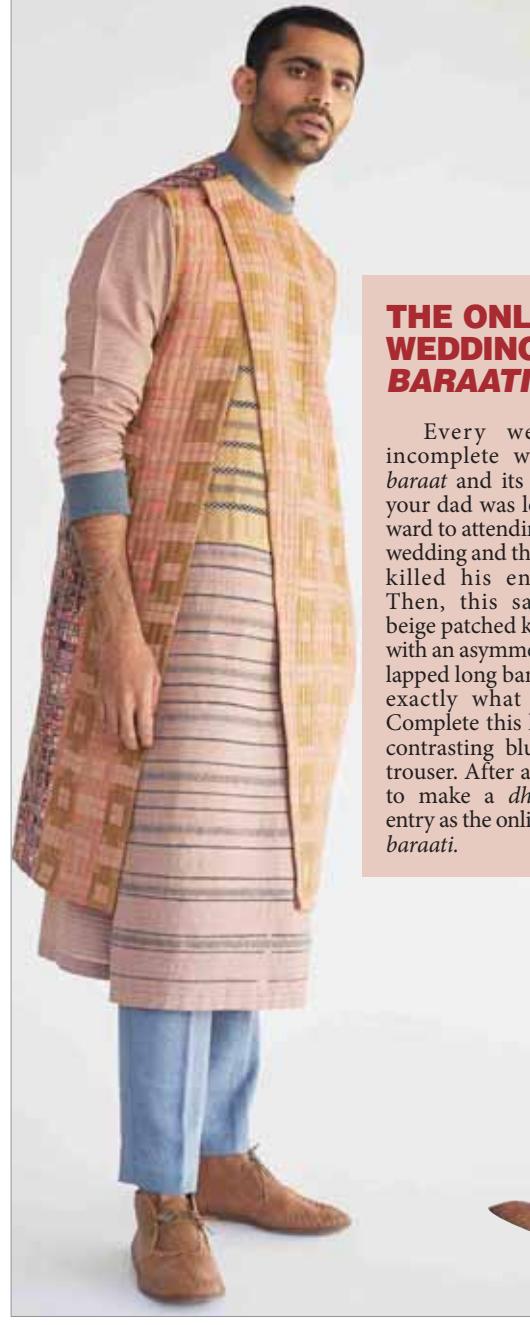
THE ZOOM MEETING DAD

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



THE SUNDAY BRUNCH DAD

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



THE ONLINE WEDDING BARAATI DAD

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



THE FUN WITH KIDS DAD

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



THE DATE NIGHT DAD

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



THE DAILY CHORES DAD

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



THE KITCHEN KING DAD

Does your dad love to play chef? Then spruce up his look in this blue mesh print tunic teamed with shorts. Also, remind your MasterChef Dad to wear an apron.

So, this Father's Day give your #SuperHeroDad the stylish look he deserves.

Being economical in a time of extravagance

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



KUSHAN MITRA



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

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

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

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

name CVT. Well, in practical applications, there are usually a few steps, in the case of the Verna IVT, eight steps which you can consider as 'fixed' ratios. This is best explained by a diagram, and you can watch an explainer I have out on YouTube under my Excuse The Beard series.

Hyundai-Kia have both been really aggressive in pushing their Dual-Clutch Transmissions (DCT) vehicles from the i20 to the Selto. That is a totally different type of automatic technology where there are two clutches, one for odd gears and one for even (and the reverse) gears. Because of that gear shifts in DCT vehicles is lightning fast and they are far more oriented to the enthusiastic driver. In the i20 DCT I kept over two months earlier this year, it was a blast to drive. The IVT cars are not so much fun to drive, being far more sedate.

However, as petrol prices cross ₹100 in some states and might even cross ₹125 in a couple of months, the IVT comes into its own when it

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

Dinosaur juice is getting expensive folks, and the IVT on the Verna and other Hyundai-Kia cars as well as on the Honda City and Nissan Magnite might have a major ace up their sleeve.

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

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

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

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

Timeless pieces

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



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

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

are all mixed up and improvise but it's all a part of the game in the end."

"In this current atmosphere, one can become very depressed, but fortunately, for me, there are the *bandwallahs* who are still making noise. When I'm painting them, I have to concentrate fully on them. The *bandwallahs* take prime position in my life right now," he adds.

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

TREND BLAZER

fairtalk

VAANI KAPOOR



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

dailytalk

AMAAL MALLIK



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

MAYA OPENS UP ON HER ROLE IN LUCA

MAYA RUDOLPH, who features in the voice cast of the forthcoming animated film *Luca*, says an experience from motherhood in real life helped her bring alive her role.

"It was pretty easy to relate to Daniela. When your children are pushing boundaries, you want to show them that you love them but you're serious. That can be an incredibly difficult balance, but one that every parent understands," says she.



SIDDHANT RELIVES CHILDHOOD

Actor SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI posted a clip on Instagram that shows him sitting on a swing.

Alongside the video, he wrote a poem in Hindi, "Akhi baar jhole pe kab baithie the? Pedh se jaamun kab tote the? Kaagaz ki plane kab udai thi? X and O kab jeete the? Likhne se zada toh pen-fight mein use hoti thi pen, TV pe dekhte Popeye, Dexter aur Ben-10, geeli rumal ko ghuma ke phatak, kache aam pe namak aur laal mirch ka chatak. Bachpan toh kalpana ko pankh dete hai, aur jaise jaise badey hote hain ye system uss udaan ko jung dete hai."



PITAARA OF WHOLESOME FOOD

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

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

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

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

The chef laughed and told us this is a starter called the Purple shikampuri. These grated beetroot kebabs were stuffed with hung curd and just melted in our mouth. We were tempted to bite into one, as it tickled our taste buds, and found out that it was better to let the kebab work its magic as it slowly melted and revealed some subtle flavours between our tongue and palate.

Along with the creamy, slightly sweet taste there was the slight hint of an intriguing earthy flavour to the

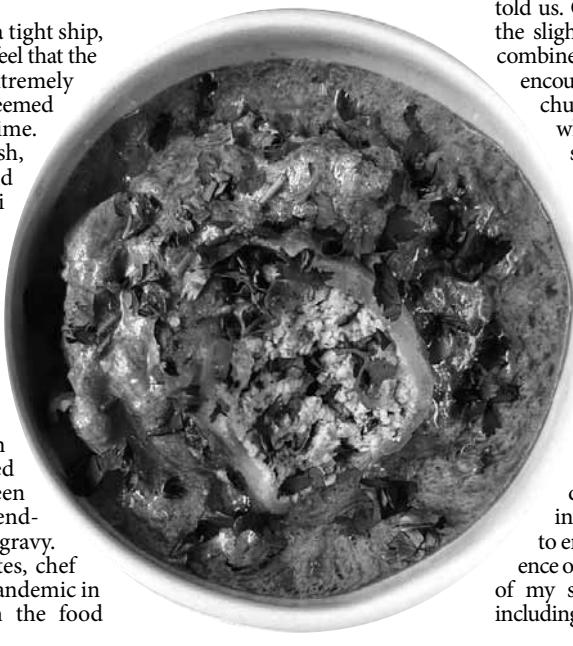
kebabs.

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

The chef is running a tight ship, and we couldn't help but feel that the Pitaara Kitchen is an extremely successful venture as he seemed to be on his toes all the time. However, for the next dish, he sat down with us and served us some Dogri meat curry and asked his staff to pass on some bajra rotis. He explained that this is a traditional meat curry from the Dogri community of Jammu. The mutton was cooked with some choice spices and had a somewhat sweet taste to it, on account of the sour-dried mango powder it has been finished in, which also lent some viscosity to the gravy.

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

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



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

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

As we smacked our lips, we caught a glimpse of the staff packing some ready to be delivered orders.

Spotted us trying to spy, the chef guided us inside and explained that they only use eco-friendly packaging. He further elaborated, "Right from the preparation of the food with ingredients sourced from across India to the delivery, this is our source of innovation. We spare no effort to ensure the wholesome experience of each customer. All members of my staff have been vaccinated, including the people who deliver. And

that's right, we don't rely on third parties for deliveries so as to not risk contact with someone who is infected; these are uncertain times after all!"

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

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

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

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

Nothing that tomato soup can't fix

■ AVNI KAUL

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

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

BONE HEALTH

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

DISEASE COUNTERING LYCOPENE

As stated before, tomato soup is rich in lycopene, the pigment that provides the fruit its bright color. Processed tomato has more lycopene than raw ones. Lycopene neutralises the oxidative damage that occurs due to free radicals, a molecule that assists ageing. A diet rich in lycopene helps fight chronic diseases and prevents stroke.

A cup of tomato soup gives 13.3 milligrams of lycopene. That's sufficient to keep your body fit.

CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

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

BLOOD CIRCULATION

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

VITAMINS

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

So, what are you waiting for? Prepare your bowl of tomato soup right away having a bowl of tomato soup every day helps to keep the body healthy.

(The author is a nutritionist, wellness coach, certified diabetes educator and the founder of a diet and nutrition brand.)



RECIPES



STRAWBERRY SPONGE CAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Butter: 40gm
- Eggs: 2
- Sugar: 45 gm
- Almond powder: 35 gm
- Flour: 15 gm
- Pinch of Salt
- Pinch of baking soda
- Strawberry flour: 1/4 tsp
- Raspberry red food colour: 1/4 tsp

METHOD

- Add butter to a



CALIFORNIA WALNUT AND CARROT FALAFEL

WHAT YOU NEED

- Chickpeas: 300 gm
- California walnuts (chopped): 100 gm
- Onion: 1
- Medium sized carrots: 4
- Chopped parsley: 2 tsp
- Chopped cilantro (optional): 2 tsp
- A pinch of cumin
- A pinch of salt
- Pepper to taste

METHOD

- Soak the chickpeas for 15 to 20 hours, then drain the water and dry for a while on an absorbent paper.
- Chop the chickpeas until they have a gritty texture.
- Chop onion, parsley, carrots and cilantro into small pieces and add to the chickpeas. Then add cumin,
- Wash and rinse the sushi rice in running water to extract the excess starch from the rice grains. (process to be repeated five times)
- Boil the sushi rice with water, with the ratio of 1:1 1/4.
- Make the sushi vinegar by mixing vinegar, sugar and salt.
- Once the rice is cooked, mix the rice and sushi vinegar together and keep it covered with a moist

cloth until used further.

For rolling the sushi:

- Place the nori sheet on the sushi mat and uniformly spread a handful of sushi rice on the sheet.
- Sprinkle a mix of white and black sesame seeds on the sushi rice.
- Flip the nori sheet in such a manner that the sushi rice is facing the sushi mat.
- Place the cut alphonso mango and avocado on the nori sheet.
- Gently roll the sushi into a square shape applying even pressure throughout the roll and cut into eight equal pieces with a sharp knife.
- Serve with gari, wasabi and soy.

Courtesy: Whirlpool, India.



DESSERT COCKTAIL: SPEYSIDE TIRAMISU

WHAT YOU NEED

- Glenfiddich 12-year-old: 60ml
- Chocolate sauce: 15 ml
- Single cream: 15 ml
- Espresso shot: 15 ml
- Caramel syrup/ honey/ maple syrup: 10 ml
- Orange peel/ cinnamon: as per preference

METHOD

- In a shaker glass filled with ice, pour all of the above ingredients and shake well.
- Strain and serve straight up in a coupe/ martini/ margarita glass.
- Garnish with orange peel/ cinnamon.

Courtesy: Angad Singh Gandhi, Glenfiddich India brand ambassador.



AVOCADO AND MANGO URAMAKI

WHAT YOU NEED

- For the sushi rice:
 - Japanese sticky rice: 1/2 cup
 - Vinegar: 1/5 cup
 - Sugar: 1/5 cup
 - Salt: 1 tsp
- For the sushi rolling:
 - Avocado, cut length-wise: 1 bowl

WHAT YOU NEED

- Alphonso mango, cut length-wise: 1 bowl
- Wasabi paste: 1 tsp
- Sushi nori: 1
- Gari: 1 tsp
- Soy: 2 tsp
- Black sesame seed: 1/2 tsp
- White sesame seed: 1/2 tsp

METHOD

For cooking the rice:

- Wash and rinse the sushi rice in running water to extract the excess starch from the rice grains. (process to be repeated five times)
- Boil the sushi rice with water, with the ratio of 1:1 1/4.
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- Gently roll the sushi into a square shape applying even pressure throughout the roll and cut into eight equal pieces with a sharp knife.
- Serve with gari, wasabi and soy.

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

STAR WARS



TWO IN 2 FOR AZZURRI

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

AFP ■ ROME

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

The Azzurri, now unbeaten in 29 matches and having won their last 10 games without



Italy's Manuel Locatelli, right, celebrates with his teammates after scoring his side's second goal during the Euro 2020 group A match between Italy and Switzerland at the Olympic stadium in Rome on Wednesday night. AP

conceding a goal, sit first in Group A and are guaranteed a top-two finish and last-16 berth. "We played well, we wanted to

win at all costs," Italy coach Roberto Mancini told RAI. "They started well, it was not easy to win a second game in

five days."

Mancini's men, looking to win Italy a second European title after their sole success in

Ukraine end 6-match losing run

AFP ■ BUCHAREST

Andriy Yarmolenko scored one goal and set up Roman Yaremchuk for another as Ukraine defeated North Macedonia 2-1 to boost their last-16 hopes at Euro 2020 on Thursday.

The West Ham forward grabbed the opener on 29 minutes in Bucharest and then teed up Yaremchuk with a brilliant first-time pass to double the lead five minutes later.

Ezgjan Alioski pulled a goal back for North Macedonia just before the hour as he converted the rebound from his missed penalty, while Ukraine midfielder Ruslan Malinovskiy also saw a late spot-kick saved.

Andriy Shevchenko's side are now level on three points with Austria and the Netherlands in Group C after Ukraine ended a six-match losing run in the competition.

Major tournament newcomers North Macedonia have lost their first two games and



Ukraine's Andriy Yarmolenko, left, reacts after scoring his team's first goal. AP

will be eliminated if the Dutch avoid defeat to Austria in Amsterdam, where victory for either side will secure a spot in the knockout phase.

Ukraine's 3-2 loss to the Netherlands last weekend saw them match the longest losing run in tournament history, a record shared with Yugoslavia, but they reigned their last-16 bid with a deserved victory over the Macedonians.

Yarmolenko edged closer to Shevchenko's all-time lead-

ing mark of 48 Ukraine goals, striking for the third game in a row as he slotted in from point-blank range after Oleksandr Karavaev's clever flick at a corner.

Yaremchuk had been guilty of wasting an excellent early chance when clean through on goal, but the Gent striker made no mistake when Yarmolenko's brilliant pass put him in the clear, squeezing the ball between Stole Dimitrovski and his near post.

Eriksen to have heart defibrillator implanted

Copenhagen: Danish star Christian Eriksen, who suffered a cardiac arrest during his country's Euro 2020 opener last weekend, will have a heart defibrillator implanted, the Danish Football Union (DBU) announced on Thursday.

"After Christian has been through different heart examinations it has been decided that he should have an ICD (heart starter)," the Danish football body said in a statement on Twitter.

The device, which is an improved variant of a pacemaker, is "necessary after a cardiac attack due to rhythm disturbances," it added.

DBU provided no details on the potential consequences for the 29-year-old Inter Milan player's future career.

Eriksen "has accepted the solution" and it had also been "confirmed by specialists nationally and internationally who all recommend the same treatment," DBU said. AFP

India, NZ ready for ultimate Test

Kohli & Kane will fight for a taste of silverware after near misses in recent ICC campaigns

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Virat Kohli carries the expectations of a billion while cricket romantics will pin their hopes on Kane Williamson when India and New Zealand engage in a battle to create a lasting legacy in pristine whites in the inaugural World Test Championship final starting here on Friday.

For the connoisseurs of the glorious game, Test cricket is the ultimate format and despite its aura, the 144-year-old history needed a facelift along with a context which the World Test Championship provided despite various bottlenecks, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

For Kohli, India's most successful Test captain, a trophy-less cabinet doesn't do justice to the champion performer that he has been for a decade.

Kohli needs a global triumph. Every captain needs it but perhaps the Indian captain wants it more.

It's how history will remember him just like it remembers Dhoni with a lot of respect and utmost fondness for those heroic World titles.

Williamson stands in his way with a bunch of fine cricketers and the most amiable set of players that one would come across in International cricket.

They are India's rivals but when Williamson hits those cover drives, Devon Conway teases a Ravichandran Ashwin or Ravindra Jadeja, Trent Boult gets one banana inswinger aimed at Rohit Sharma's bootlaces, the crazy fans of a cricket-mad nation

wouldn't possibly be able to hate them.

These are 'Gentlemen Cricketers' who have grown on the fans bit by bit with their cricket and their conduct. It's difficult not to love them, especially after their gut-wrenching World Cup defeat at the Lord's two summers back.

If Williamson happens to stand with the ICC Test Mace on the Hampshire Bowl balcony, one might just smile and think that perhaps "Nice guys don't always finish last".

But after two years and half-a-dozen series later, a battle-hardened Indian team will give its all in a match, from which the winning team will also walk away with a \$1.6 million windfall.

There are a number of cricketers, who wouldn't practically have a shot at any other global trophy and for them it's their 'World Cup' which they want to lay their hands on.

Cheteshwar Pujara would be ready to take more bruises on his body if Neil Wagner starts bowling short.

Ajinkya Rahane has grown in stature after a series for the ages and he will squeeze that extra ounce of energy to make it count.

Ravichandran Ashwin is unlikely to play a white ball World Cup again and wouldn't mind one bit if he can fool Williamson, Ross Taylor or the dogged Henry Nicholls with a carrom ball or a slider.

Ishant Sharma has grown 14 years older since that epic WACA spell to Ricky Ponting and India's senior-most player deserves to win a World Championship as much as anyone else.

Man to man, there is very little to choose between the two teams even though playing New Zealand in conditions that aid seam and swing isn't the easiest of tasks.

A final has its own set of pressures and no one would feel it more than Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill, who would have the hardest job currently in Test cricket.

They would face the most under-rated but perhaps the best new ball pair in the business in Boult and Southee, who would make the new ball jag around and the old ball talk.

Kyle Jamieson hasn't played against England in Edgbaston but Williamson knows what kind of a nightmare he was with his steep back-of-length bounce generated from his 6 feet 9 inch frame. If that's not enough, Wagner will pound it in with stuff aimed at rib-cage enticing the batters to go for the hook and pull shots or take it on the body.

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AZHAR SUSPENDED

HYDERABAD: The Apex Council of Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) has suspended its own president, former India captain Mohammed Azharuddin, for alleged violation of its constitution.

GATTUSO LEAVES FIORENTINA

FLORENCE: Gennaro Gattuso and Fiorentina have agreed to part ways, just over three weeks after the former Italy International was appointed as coach at the Serie A club.

JAPAN TO LIFT VIRUS EMERGENCY

TOKYO: Japan plans to lift Tokyo's virus emergency on June 20, a month before the Olympics, the Govt announced on Thursday.

MILKHA 'STABLE AND IMPROVING'

CHANDIGARH: Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh is 'stable and improving' under the constant supervision of a medical team at the PGIMER after having recovered from Covid-19, which he contracted last month.

DOCTORS 'KILLED' MARADONA

SAN ISIDRO: A lawyer for a nurse under investigation in the death of football great Diego Maradona said that doctors killed him through negligence.

TOMORI COMPLETES MILAN MOVE

MILAN: Chelsea defender Fikayo Tomori has made his loan move to AC Milan permanent agreeing a four-year deal with the Serie A runners-up on Thursday.

WI RECALL BRAVO, GABRIEL

ST LUCIA: West Indies recall pacer Shannon Gabriel and batsman Darren Bravo for the second Test against South Africa. Agencies

1968, host Wales in their final group game on Sunday, with top spot up for grabs.

A new star shone for Italy at the Stadio Olimpico, where they had brushed aside Turkey 3-0 in the tournament's opening match last week, as Sassuolo's Locatelli scored twice before Ciro Immobile's late third.

Captain Giorgio Chiellini had an early effort ruled out by VAR for handball, before the 36-year-old defender was forced off with what appeared to be a thigh injury.

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

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

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

Immobile had wasted a couple of earlier chances but did grab his second goal of the tournament in the 89th minute, curling a low effort past Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

Switzerland will now likely have to beat Turkey in Baku on Sunday to reach the next round.



Outgoing Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos, right, poses with 4 UEFA Champions League and 5 La Liga trophies that he won as a player during his 16 year stay at Santiago Bernabeu

@realmadrid

AFP ■ MADRID

Sergio Ramos broke down in tears, saying leaving Real Madrid was one of the most difficult moments of his life as he bid farewell on Thursday after 16 years at the club.

The moment has come, one of the most difficult in my life, because you are never ready to leave Real Madrid," Ramos said.

The defender played 671 games for Real Madrid and will be remembered as one of the club's greatest ever players, having won five La Liga titles and four Champions Leagues.

The 35-year-old, who struggled for fitness and form last season, was unable to agree an extension to his contract and will become a free agent on July 1.

Ramos and Real Madrid president Florentino Perez delivered short speeches in a presentation room at the club's training ground, with Ramos' family in the audience.

"The moment has come, one of the most difficult in my life, because you are never ready to leave Real Madrid,"

Ramos said he wants to add more titles" to his record and added "this is not a goodbye but a see you later because sooner or later I will return to Real Madrid."

Perez said it was "not an easy day", remembering how he signed Ramos, aged 19, from Sevilla for 27 million euros in 2005.

"He arrived wanting to take on the world," said Perez.

"You are undoubtedly one of the legends of Real Madrid. You have grown as a player here and been our iconic captain for years."

Buffon returns to Parma after 2 decades

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

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

(Krause) I'm in. I'm back." Club owner Kyle Krause replied: "Great news, welcome home." Buffon holds the record for Serie A matches played with 657, since his first with Parma in 1995 as a 17-year-old. Since then, Buffon has played just one season in Serie B when Juventus were demoted in 2006-2007 for the 'Calciopoli' match-fixing scandal. The former World Cup winner announced last month he was leaving Juventus, the club he had played for since moving from Parma in 2001, apart from one season with Paris Saint-Germain in 2018-2019. Former Italy captain Buffon is an iconic figure in Italian football, one of the stars of the Azzurri's 2006 World Cup triumph who racked up a record 176 caps for his country.

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

He also won Ligue 1 with PSG in 2018-2019 before returning to the Turin giants. He won the UEFA Cup back in 1999 with Parma.

अब धार्मी माताओं के लिए

कोविड-19 टीकाकरण

शिशुओं को दूध पिलाने वाली माताएं
कोविड संक्रमण से खुद को
बचाने के लिए टीका ले सकती हैं।

- टीका लेना पूरी तरह से सुरक्षित है
- टीका लेने से माता या शिशु पर किसी तरह का दुष्प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता है।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए निःशुल्क अप्पलोड सेवा 104 वा 24x7 वैज्ञानिक सलाह 1075 वा राज्य हेल्पलाइन नंबर 104 पर संपर्क करें।

सुरक्षित है! कोविड-19 का टीका

टीकाकरण के उपरांत भी जरूरी है यह पांच व्यवहार-

- गांठ सही से पहनें।
- हाथ को बिल्डिंग रूप से साकुल व पाली दें।
- आपस में 6 फीट (2 जन) की दूरी बनाएं।
- लक्षण दिखाने पर तुरंत बुद्धि दूसरों से अलग करें।
- लक्षण दिखाने पर तुरंत परीक्षण कराएं।

टीकाकरण करवाने के लिए फोटो आईपी ले जाना भलूँ। हम सुरक्षित, तो राज्य सुरक्षित!

अधिक जानकारी के लिए राज्यीय हेल्पलाइन नंबर 1075 वा राज्य हेल्पलाइन नंबर 104 पर संपर्क करें।

स्वास्थ्य, चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार