



PROMOTING POSITIVITY

Actor Ananya Panday has launched a campaign titled 'Social Media For Social Good' to applaud social media heroes

LEISURE P2



DEADLY HEAT WAVE

Scores of deaths reported in Vancouver county as heat wave sweeps across Canada

INTERNATIONAL P10



UKRAINE STUN SWEDEN

Oleksandr Zinchenko scores one and sets up another in Ukraine's shock win over Sweden in the Euro 2020 round of 16 tie

SPORTS P12

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Dutee qualifies for Tokyo Games

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Odia sprinter and national record holder Dutee Chand has qualified for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in both the 100m and 200m races via the world rankings quota declared Wednesday. Twenty-two spots were available in 100m and 15 in the 200m through the world rankings route. Currently Dutee is ranked 44th in the world in the 100m and 51st in the 200m. It was enough for her to get a direct entry to the Tokyo Games.



Dutee failed in her last race to secure a direct Olympic qualification spot. She finished a disappointing fourth in the women's 100m final at the ongoing 60th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships. Last week, Dutee scripted a new national record in the women's 100m with a time of 11.17 seconds. Reacting to the new development Dutee said from Patiala, "It is a proud moment for me to compete in back-to-back Olympics. In Rio, I could not do well because of the gender controversy. This time I hope to do better."

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		
VARIATION		
SENSEX	52482.71	↓ 66.95
NIFTY	15721.50	↓ 27.00
DOLLAR	74.79	↑ ₹0.04
EURO	88.18	↓ ₹0.17
GOLD	₹46,735	↑ ₹180
SILVER	₹67,959	↑ ₹727

WEATHER		
BHUB CTK		
MAX	36.0°C	35.2°C
MIN	27.5°C	26.5°C
Humidity	92%	87%
Rainfall	Trace	2.2mm
		Party cloudy sky



PROTECTING TOMORROW'S FUTURE : Parents pose Wednesday with their children at a community health centre at Unit-IV in Bhubaneswar after the infants were administered vaccine against pneumonia under the Universal Immunisation Programme launched by the Odisha government

OP PHOTO

Covid restrictions eased in 20 dists

WEEKEND SHUTDOWN TO CONTINUE IN 10 ZONES WITH MORE THAN 5% TPR

POST NEWS NETWORK

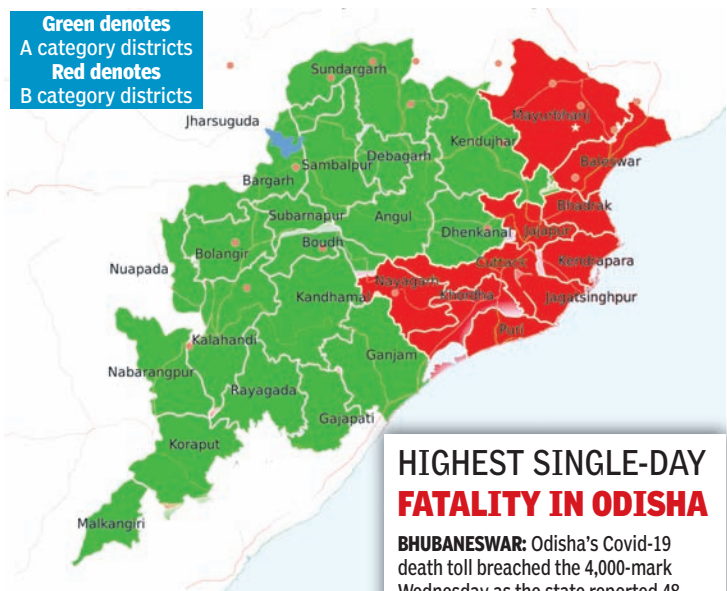
Bhubaneswar, June 30: As Covid-19 cases continue to remain high in some districts of Odisha, the government Wednesday extended the partial lockdown in the state for 15 more days till 5.00am July 16. Giving this information, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said that while extending partial lockdown, an effort has been made to strike a balance between life and livelihood.

The state government has divided the 30 districts in Odisha into two categories, 'A' and 'B'. The districts where the test positivity rate (TPR) is less than five per cent are in 'A' category, while the remaining 10 coastal zones, where the number of cases is high, are in 'B' category, informed Mahapatra.

The districts in 'Category A' are: Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Nuapada, Sonepur, Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Boudh, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Angul, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar. The districts in 'Category B' are: Nayagarh, Cuttack, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj.

There will be no weekend shutdowns in districts that are in Category A. Shops will remain open from 6.00am to 6.00pm. Buses will be allowed to ply with passengers not exceeding seating capacity. Also taxis and auto-rickshaws will be allowed to operate with a maximum of two passengers.

In the 'A' category districts, daily markets and small salons will be allowed to open. Outdoor and indoor



shooting of films and TV serials have also been permitted in these districts, informed the chief secretary.

In the 'B' category districts, the existing restrictions including weekend shutdowns will continue.

Night curfew from 6.00pm to 6.00am shall remain in force across the state but people and services in essential and emergency segments will be permitted to function during the restricted hours, Mahapatra informed.

Religious places, educational institutions and cinema halls shall continue to remain closed in the state. The ban on public gatherings, trade fairs, exhibitions, theatre and jatra will continue. Restrictions on weddings and funerals shall also continue as im-

HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY FATALITY IN ODISHA

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha's Covid-19 death toll breached the 4,000-mark Wednesday as the state reported 48 more fatalities due to the infection. It is the highest single-day count recorded in the state, a Health department official said. The new fatalities raised the toll to 4,018, the official informed. A total of 3,371 new Covid-19 infections pushed the tally to 9,09,800. The current active caseload in the state now stands at 31,422.

MORE P4

plemented earlier. Economic activities will also continue in the state. All other restrictions will continue till July 16, Mahapatra said.

The lockdown was first imposed last May 5 following the resurgence of Covid-19 cases. Since then it has been extended a number of times with partial relaxation of restrictions.

YouTube classes for Plus-II students to start very soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The Odisha Government has decided to conduct online classes for Plus-II students on YouTube as schools and colleges continue to remain closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With most students confined indoors, the government has decided to turn to YouTube to help out the trapped Plus-II students.

The classes will be shot and web-cast from seven higher secondary schools. They are BJB Higher Secondary (HS) School and Rama Devi Women's Higher Secondary School (both in Bhubaneswar), Ravenshaw HS School (Cuttack), SCS HS School (Puri), Khallikote HS School (Khallikote), MPC HS School (Baripada) and FM HS School (Balasore).

Sources said that in the first phase, students of Class XII will attend the online sessions. Slowly the students of Class XI will then be inducted into the system once the programme turns out to be a success.

The principals of the seven selected schools have been directed to select a room of average size with proper lighting, AC and sufficient electric fittings for plugs. They have been permitted to spend ₹50,000 from the HSS development funds. However, they will have to take prior approval from their respective school committees to install air conditioners and electrical fittings.

Earlier, in the absence of physical classes in schools, the Odisha government from June 21 started the live streaming of classes on YouTube platform for Class I to Class X students.

The School and Mass Education (S&ME) department has prepared a detailed blue print to reach out to students through virtual mode. The department has also prepared the time table for the subjects to be taught every day.

'Ex-gratia must for Covid victims' kin'

APEX COURT DIRECTS NDMA TO FIX AMOUNT AND GUIDELINES

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 30: Families of Covid-19 victims must get financial compensation, the Supreme Court said Wednesday. The apex court also said that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) must decide within six weeks on the amount and frame the guidelines.

A special bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and MR Shah said the apex court cannot direct the Centre to fix a particular sum of financial help but the government can fix the minimum amount of compensation to be paid as ex-gratia to family members of those who lost their lives due to Covid-19 while keeping various aspects in mind.

The apex court observed that the NDMA can determine the amount taking into consideration the requirement/availability of the fund under the NDRF/SDRF for other relief compensations.

"There shall not be any justification to provide for the same/similar amount by way of ex-gratia assistance as provided in the case of other disasters/natural disaster; i.e. ₹4 lakh," the bench stated.

The apex court made it clear that these guidelines would be over and above those already recommended for the minimum standards of relief to be provided to persons affected by Covid-19. The bench said the government can fix an amount keeping

- NDMA given 6 weeks time for formalities
- SC wants simplification of rules for providing death certificates to Covid-19 victims

ing in the mind the funds and resources available.

The top court also asked the Centre to consider formulating an insurance scheme for cremation workers as proposed by the Finance Commission.

The Supreme Court also directed authorities to issue guidelines for simplifying the process of issuing death certificates for Covid-19 fatalities. "The Appropriate Authority is directed to issue simplified guidelines for issuance of Death Certificates/official documents stating the exact cause of death, i.e., 'Death due to Covid-19', to the family members of the deceased who died due to Covid-19," the court ruled.

It should be stated here that two public interest litigations were filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Union and state governments to provide ex-gratia monetary compensation of ₹4 lakh to the families of the deceased who have succumbed to the pandemic of Covid-19.

The top court's verdict came on two separate pleas filed by lawyers Reepak Kansal and Gaurav Kumar Bansal.

PATIENTS TESTING COVID -VE AT DEATH

Family allowed to perform last rites

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Families of patients who tested Covid-19 negative but died due to other complications, can now take the bodies for the last rites, the Odisha government said Wednesday. These patients during admission to the hospital were Covid-positive, but at the time of their death had tested negative. However, due to other health complications they failed to survive while undergoing treatment.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health, PK Mohapatra has issued instructions to all the collectors, municipal commissioners and chief district medical officers in this regard.

As per existing norms, the dead body of a patient who died during treatment due to Covid-19 are disposed of by the local authorities, in consultation with family members. It was done in a dignified manner and in observance of all Covid-19 protocols.

Family members of deceased will have to give an undertaking that they will not open the body bag or touch the deceased

However, if at the time of death, the patient is found to be Covid-19 negative, then the body can be handed over to the deceased's relatives in a sealed body bag with safety advice.

However, before taking the body the relatives will have to sign an undertaking stating that the bag will not be opened. They will have to vouch that the body will not be touched and the last rites will be performed following Covid appropriate behaviour, Mohapatra said in his letter.

The district and municipal authorities have been asked to sanitise and pack the body as per government guidelines before handing it over to the deceased's family members.

Brazil suspends 20mn Covaxin deal

Health ministry points out alleged irregularities during finalisation of contract

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, June 30: The Brazilian government Wednesday announced the temporary suspension of its 20 million doses Covid-19 vaccine contract with Bharat Biotech. This development came about following allegations of irregularities in the deal. However, the Indian drug maker insisted that it has not received any advance payments.

The city-based firm said that it has followed a 'similar approach' in Brazil towards contracts, regulatory approvals and supplies in several countries worldwide where Covaxin is being supplied.

Announcing the Brazil government's decision, its Health Ministry said in a statement that 'with the rec-



- Emergency use authorisation for Covaxin was granted by Brazil June 4
- Pricing for Covaxin in Brazil fixed at USD 15 per dose

US boost for Indian vax

WASHINGTON: Covaxin, developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), effectively neutralises both Alpha and Delta variants of coronavirus, the US' National Institute of Health has said. The NIH said results of two studies of blood serum from people who had received Covaxin suggest that it generates antibodies that effectively neutralise the B.1.1.7 (Alpha) and B.1.617 (Delta) variants of SARS-CoV-2, first identified in the UK and India, respectively.

P10

ommendation of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Union (CGU), the Ministry of Health has temporarily suspended the contract for the purchase of Covid-19 vaccine from Covaxin this Tuesday (June 29). "The measure does not affect the

pace of the vaccination campaign to fight the pandemic in Brazil and follows compliance practices in public administration," the ministry informed.

Bharat Biotech responded to Brazilian health ministry's statement

and said it has not broken any rules. "As of 29th June 2021, Bharat Biotech has not received any advance payments nor supplied any vaccines to MOH Brazil. Bharat Biotech has followed a similar approach towards contracts, regulatory approvals and supplies in several countries worldwide, where Covaxin is being supplied successfully," the company said in a statement.

'Precisa Medicamentos' is Bharat Biotech's partner in Brazil. It provides assistance, guidance and support with regulatory submissions, licensure, distribution, insurance, conduct of phase III clinical trials, etc.

The Covaxin contract to Brazil landed in controversy after the South American country's Attorney General reportedly launched a probe

into the deal. The minister of the CGU, Wagner Rosrio, explained that the suspension is a preventive measure. He said the CGU began a preliminary investigation June 24 into possible irregularities in the contracting of Covaxin. "By recommendation of @CGUonline, we decided to temporarily suspend the Covaxin contract," Rosrio said.

Bharat Biotech Ltd had earlier said February 26 it entered into an agreement with the Brazilian government for the supply of 20 million doses of Covaxin during the second and third quarters of 2021.

It should be stated here that the deal has put Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro under fire with critics stating that he has turned a blind eye to possible corruption issues in the deal.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Carry the peace sign if you have to, because today, people will literally pull you into arguments. You could even be facing some kind of litigation or trouble with peace-keeping forces, warns Ganesha. Meditate, walk, or simply seek the company of friends and loved ones.

TAURUS

Armed with ingenuity and lateral thinking, you are all set to take on today with practised ease, feels Ganesha. The toughest of problems will crumble like a house of cards before your intellect. A promotion or salary hike is also likely today.

GEMINI

An extremely profitable and progressive day awaits you. You may come into a handsome inheritance. Your responsibilities will increase along with a possible promotion at work. However, do not let your success go to your head, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Ganesha says that you will carve out your path for progress. You will get respect and recognition from people. Business rivals and illness may bother you. Beware of enemies' actions. Your alertness will thwart their designs.

LEO

You will be in a light-hearted mood today. Be it at the office or at the home, you will be full of joy and will be looking to pass your time leisurely. You will spend time with family and friends. You will be unable to implement your plans for tackling work today in your current mood, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

You may relieve all the tension and pressure inside you today, a day which will be full of light and relaxing moments. Ganesha foretells a beneficial and progressive day for you. You will receive many invitations to social gatherings and parties.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that to gain future opportunities you may have to rely on past experience. You will tend to become possessive about things close to you. You will also have to deal with unpleasant situations where your integrity is questioned.

SCORPIO

Today, Ganesha is in the mood to give you health tips. Cultivate healthy eating habits and exercise regularly to stay away from disorders like obesity. Irregular eating habits and unhealthy lifestyle may lead to many other troubles. Eat healthy, stay happy.

SAGITTARIUS

You are on a high today and a feeling of ecstasy surrounds you. You are performance driven and shall give you best in anything you take up. Listen to your inner voice, it will guide you to the correct path. Ganesha showers His benevolent blessings on you. Make the most of this day.

CAPRICORN

You have meticulously planned every aspect of your plan and prepared the check list. The only thing left now to do is execution of that plan. Delays and obstacles, however, will block your path and will leave you disheartened. Don't doubt your abilities though.

AQUARIUS

Don't let your emotions play a spoilsport in the important decisions of your life. The tendency to be sentimental when you need to be rational will become an obstacle in your path. Learn to curb this habit otherwise you may have to pay a heavy price, advises Ganesha.

PISCES

Take one cautious step at a time today, says Ganesha. You will discuss intimate matters at home and official matters at work but be careful about whom you trust and deception from someone close might lead to worry and stress in the future. Even though you are an emotional person, lay onus on working with your head over your heart today as people might try to take advantage of your nature and step on your shoulder, feels Ganesha.



SHEER QORMA WINS AT 34TH CONNECTICUT LGBT FILM FEST

Hindi film *Sheer Qorma*, starring Shabana Azmi, Swara Bhasker and Divya Dutta, has won the Best Short Film Audience Award at 34th Connecticut LGBT Film Festival. The film's director Faraz Arif Ansari tweeted the news Tuesday.

I'M A BIG JONATHAN LARSON FAN: VANESSA HUDGENS

Hollywood actress Vanessa Hudgens says she is a big fan of American composer Jonathan Larson. "I was introduced to his work... fell in love with a world that Jonathan Larson wrote and created," Hudgens, who is working in a film based on Jonathan's musical, said on *The Drew Barrymore Show*.



Ananya's drive to hail social media heroes

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday took to Instagram Wednesday and announced a campaign titled *Social Media For Social Good*, on the occasion of Social Media Day. The actress uploaded a video on Instagram and addressed her followers, saying: "Hope y'all are doing well and taking all the necessary precautions. I want to applaud all those people who have used social media constructively for social good. I will be interacting with some of these social media heroes with So Positive's new series."

The actress, who will soon be seen in *Liger* alongside Vijay Deverakonda, feels it is important to focus on positive things in life during the time of pandemic. She wrote as caption: "We often talk about the negative side of social media -- the bullying, trolling and hatred. During the pandemic, I saw the power of people on social media -- the humanity. Strangers helping strangers, sharing resources and informa-

tion, saving lives. Social Media For Social Good is a series in which I'm going to be talking to some of the 'Heroes' of social media who have used it positively and constructively for the good of society." IANS



TAMANNAAH DOESN'T WANT TO BE TYPECAST

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia has been acting for 16 years now. She feels her idea is to not let any particular image dictate the kind of work she wants to do. Tamannaah made her acting debut in

2005 at the age of 15 with the Hindi film *Chand Sa Roshan Chehra*. The same year, she made her Telugu debut with *Sri* and the following year she made her Tamil debut with *Kedi*. "I have evolved as a person and at every different point of time. I have continuously worked, so for me, most of my life is divided into the films I have worked on. I enjoy it. For me, it is as new as it was on the first day," says

Tamannaah. She feels the process of breaking an image has become challenging now. "In fact, it is a lot more challenging now because I feel like there is a constant need of unlearning and you are making something that has already been created in terms of an image, and moving forward my idea is to not let an image take over the kind of work I want to do," she said. IANS

5-day online painting workshop by Lalit Kala Akademi kicks off

Bhubaneswar: A five-day online painting camp, organised by Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi, was virtually inaugurated by Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Wednesday. The theme of the event is 'Lord Jagannath and Rath Yatra' and it will see participation of more than 100 artists from Odisha. "The participants will send in their works to the Akademi office while each of them will get a cash prize of Rs 10,000 at the end of the camp," said Akademi's President Sudarsan Patnaik. Minister Panigrahi said the state government, in collaboration with Lalit Kala Akademi, had



organised such programmes during the lockdown to help out the artistes and to promote Odisha's art and culture. A traditional mural art camp was organised recently at craft

village Raghurajpur in Puri district which was participated by more than 150 artists and all of them received a cash assistance of ₹10,000 from the government, added Panigrahi. PNN

Mandira's husband, filmmaker Raj Kaushal no more

Mumbai: Actress Mandira Bedi's husband, filmmaker Raj Kaushal, passed away Wednesday morning. Kaushal reportedly succumbed to a heart attack. Several friends and industry colleagues took to social media Wednesday to mourn his demise. Actor Rohit Roy, who was a close friend of Raj Kaushal, posted on Instagram: "One of the nicest guys you could ever have met.. keep spreading the cheer where ever your next abode is... REST

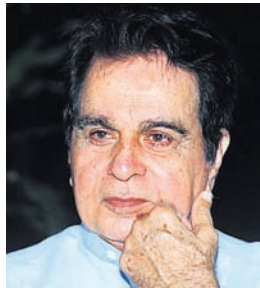
IN PEACE @rajkaushal." "Gone too soon. He was one of those few who believed in our vision and supported us. Prayers for his soul," tweeted filmmaker Onir. Sharing a photo from Sunday's party with Raj Kaushal, his friend Neha Dhupia wrote: "Raj, we took this picture to create more and more memories... can't believe you are nt with us anymore... I'm shaken up and in disbelief as I write this, RIP Raj."



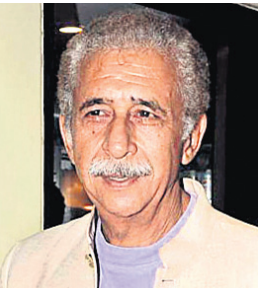
A file photo of Mandira and Raj
Kaushal's funeral in Bandra was attended by his friends from the industry including Huma Qureshi, Apurva Agnihotri, Samir Soni and Ashish Chaudhary among others. Kaushal is survived by wife Mandira, and children Veer and Tara. IANS

Dilip, Naseer hospitalised; both stable

Mumbai: While the film fraternity was yet to come to terms with the sudden demise of filmmaker Raj Kaushal, the news of hospitalisation of thespian Dilip Kumar and veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah that broke Wednesday has left many in a state of shock. The 98-year-old actor was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of Hinduja Hospital, Khar, after reportedly complaining of breathlessness. He was sta-



ble till the filing of this report. This is the second time this month that the thespian has been admitted to hospital. He was hospi-



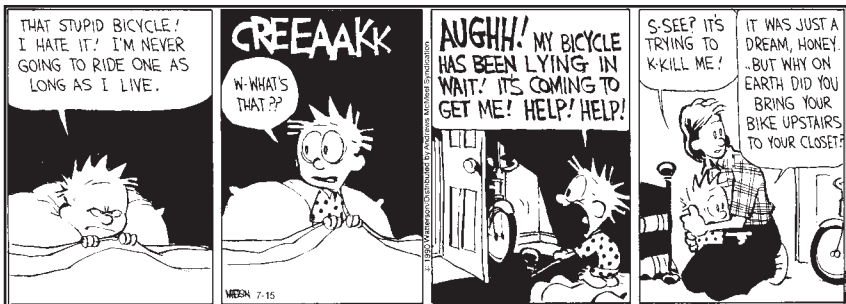
talised June 6 after experiencing breathlessness and discharged after a couple of days. On the other hand, 70-

year-old Naseer has reportedly been diagnosed with pneumonia and a patch in his lungs, and is undergoing treatment over the past couple of days. "He has been in the hospital for two days. He's under medical supervision. He was brought in for Pneumonia. There was a patch found in his lungs and it became necessary for him to be hospitalised immediately," the actor's manger told Bombay Times. IANS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

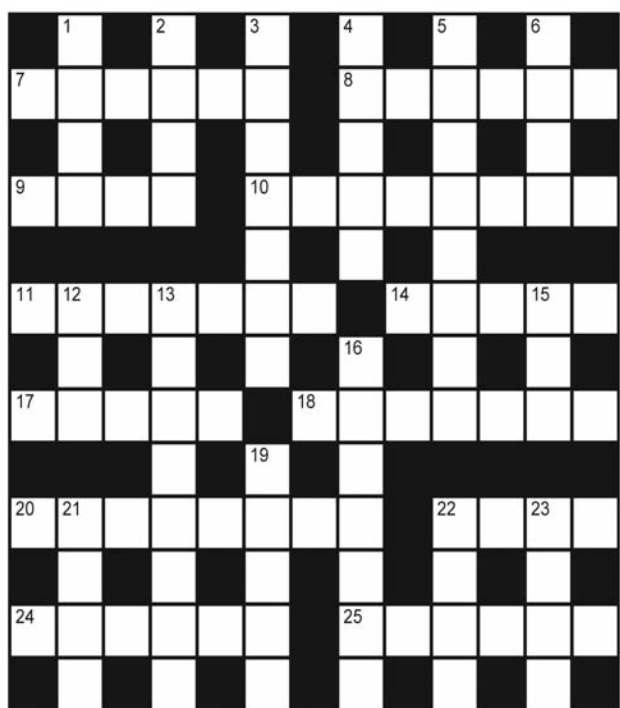


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Gully
 - 8 Skeleton's place?
 - 9 Lowly worker
 - 10 Reserved for a rainy day (3-5)
 - 11 Common pet
 - 14 Lollygag
 - 17 Incentive program
 - 18 Equilibrium
 - 20 Small intestine part
 - 22 Minor setback
 - 24 Serbian province
 - 25 Instructed
 - Down**
 - 1 Highlands
 - 2 Flub
 - 3 Gang member
 - 4 Critical
 - 5 Aubergine and ground lamb dish
 - 6 Pinocle move
 - 12 Big deal
 - 13 Naval unit
 - 15 Mythical bird
 - 16 Gigantic
 - 19 Emissary
 - 21 ET rides
 - 22 Insult
 - 23 Distress signal

SUDOKU

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

1							8	9
	7		5					
3		8	4			7		
5			6					
			3	5	7			
4					1			2
	3		7					
8							5	
		4		9			2	3

SOLUTIONS

Y	P	G	R	R	P
D	E	G	R	E	C
A	A	S	V	V	R
T	R	A	T	R	A
I	U	L	R	G	
F	O	U	N	D	R
R	G	E	B	E	A
K	A	R	M	A	S
T	A	L	F	A	
S	O	U	N	D	O
D	I	V	E	N	O
O	S	R	N	I	Y

9	8	3	7	2	1	4	5	6
5	7	6	4	3	9	1	8	2
4	1	2	5	8	6	3	7	9
6	5	1	8	9	7	2	3	4
8	3	9	6	4	2	7	1	5
2	4	7	1	5	3	9	6	8
3	6	8	2	7	4	5	9	1
7	2	5	9	1	8	6	4	3
1	9	4	3	6	5	8	2	7

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Pneumonia vax drive launched

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Health Minister Naba Kishore Das Wednesday launched a statewide immunisation programme of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) for infants.

Each child will require three doses of the vaccine - the first dose at six weeks of age, the second at 14 weeks, and a booster dose at nine months - to get full protection from pneumonia which is one of the leading causes of death among children below five years.

Speaking at the programme, the Health minister said that

Odisha has always given priority to providing quality health-care services for children to rapidly reduce both infant and under-5 morbidity and mortality. "Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, other health services like routine immunisation, maternal and child health services are continuing due to the effort of healthcare workers," Das said.

"The new vaccine will benefit eight lakh infants every year and protect the children from pneumonia and meningitis," the Health department tweeted.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) P K Mohapatra had

asked all district Collectors, municipal commissioners and chief district medical and public health offices to make arrangements for smooth conduct of the vaccination programme.

Presenting the Union Budget for 2021-22 February 1, 2021, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that pneumococcal vaccines, a 'Made in India' product and limited to just five states then, would be rolled out across the country.

"It will save over 55,000 children's lives each year," Sitharaman had said.

DMET ENDORSES PARTIAL UNLOCK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The Health department Wednesday endorsed the decision of the state government for partial easing of Covid-19 restrictions in high-burden districts.

Director of Medical Education and Training CBK Mohanty said, "The need of the hour is to protect people from spread of Covid infec-

tion. Thus, we still need some stringent measures to prevent crowding and violation of Covid-appropriate behaviour. We need to take special measures in areas where the disease burden is high. We hope the high-burden areas also come under control by maintaining the restrictions of lockdown."

The official also said that the government has been tak-

ing special measures to counter the spread of the virus. "We have also decided to ramp up the vaccination programme in the state."

The official also admitted that Covid deaths are still a concern. "The deaths are still a concern and it should come down slowly. But many such deaths are old cases of Covid-19 that were under treatment at several hospitals," he said.



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CAR FEST PREP

Chitrakara servitors of Srimandir paint a pair of wooden parrots for decoration of chariots ahead of this year's Rath Yatra in Puri, Wednesday

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	18,27,55,891	16,73,27,228	39,56,650
India	3,03,62,848	2,94,27,330	3,98,454
Odisha	9,09,800	8,77,540	4,018

Avoid online transactions in free wi-fi zones: CB

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 30: In the wake of recent surge in cybercrimes in the state, the Crime Branch (CB) Wednesday issued a set of advisories for the social media users and cautioned people against financial transactions in free wi-fi zones.

Through the advisories, the CB has advised the people to check the privacy policy and third party application of any social media site before opening their personal accounts.

The advisory said that social media users should not click on unknown links and download anything from unknown mails. Similarly, people should be cautious while logging in their social media accounts in free wi-fi zones.



"People should not do financial transactions online in free wi-fi zones. Hackers may steal details regarding bank accounts and other personal information in free wi-fi zones," said the advisories.

Besides, people have been advised not to share their personal information on social media. This apart, people should crosscheck doubly before accepting friend requests from unknown persons.

"Social media users must not accept friend requests from unknown men/ women. People should avoid opening multiple social media accounts in one name. One should not believe in any social media post without checking the facts. Similarly, people should check the facts before posting anything on social media and sharing others' posts," said the CB in its advisories. The CB has asked people not to promote nudity, hatred and fake information on social media. These types of activities are regarded as crimes, said the CB.

"People should not forward any message on social media without checking the facts. This may invite legal action. Social media users should sign out their accounts properly after every single use," added the CB.

VAX DRIVE HALTS IN 11 DISTRICTS

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The state government Wednesday stopped the Covid-19 vaccination drive in 11 districts due to an 'acute shortage' of Covishield doses, officials said.

The inoculation exercise was temporarily halted during the day in Angul, Bolangir, Balasore, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara, Koraput and Sonepur, they said.



The authorities were administering over 3 lakh doses of the vaccines to eligible beneficiaries every day since June 21 after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked officials to accelerate the inoculation process before the possible third wave of Covid-19.

The Health department, however, was able to give only 1.18 lakh jabs Tuesday, an official said.

Covaxin is being administered to people in the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area, while Covishield is being used in other parts of the coastal state.

"On Tuesday, no vaccination drive was conducted in Kendrapara and Balasore. Today, the authorities stopped the immunisation programme in 11 districts due to the acute shortage of doses. The state has a stock of 38,380 vials of Covishield till this morning, and the next allocation is likely to be made July 2," another Health department official said.

CM doles out ₹386 crore to 18L landless farmers

THE FIGHT WILL CONTINUE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MS SWAMINATHAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, SAYS CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday distributed ₹386-crore special assistance to about 18 lakh landless farmers covered under Kalia scheme.

The assistance was transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

All the beneficiaries will get ₹1,000 assistance for Covid-19 in addition to Kharif assistance under Kalia scheme.

Addressing the gathering, Naveen said that he was happy to provide the Chief Minister's Covid assistance to 18 lakh landless farmer households in the state. The hard-working people including farmers, workers and labourers are the nucleus of the state economy.

"The sacrifice of all these people is the strength of our economy. The landless farmers are behind all the successes that the agriculture sector has achieved. We respect their sacrifices," he said.

The state government has been demanding implementation of MS Swaminathan Committee recommendations and will continue to do so in future, Patnaik said.

"Farmers are our pride and glory. Therefore, the protection of the interests of the farmers has always been my priority," he further said.

Stating that Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income



ELIGIBLE FARMERS WILL GET ₹1,000 ASSISTANCE FOR COVID-19 IN ADDITION TO KHARIF ASSISTANCE UNDER KALIA SCHEME

ECONOMY HAS BEEN SEVERELY AFFECTED DUE TO PREVAILING COVID SITUATION. IT WAS AGRICULTURE THAT SAVED THE ECONOMY DURING THE FIRST WAVE OF COVID, SAID THE CM

Augmentation (Kalia) scheme has brought smiles on the faces of lakhs of farmers in the state, he said, "This is my favorite scheme."

Economy has been severely affected due to prevailing Covid situation. It was agriculture that saved the economy during the first wave of the pandemic.

The second wave has affected people's lives and livelihoods. That is why the state government has announced special

Covid packages for various sections of people like farmers, labourers, street vendors, dairy farmers and others, he said.

Among others, Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo, ST secretary VK Pandian, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra, agriculture production commissioner (APC) RK Sharma and agriculture secretary SK Vashishth attended the meeting. Farmers from all 30 districts also joined the event.



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Slithering out



As many as 27 baby pythons Wednesday hatched out from 30 eggs collected from Gadaniala village of Khurda block May 22. Forest department officials made all arrangements for safe hatching of the eggs. The baby snakes would be released into Chandaka forests in phases

OP PHOTO

NAVEEN LAUDS ODIYA ARTIST FOR GETTING UAE’S GOLDEN VISA

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated Mona Biswarupa Mohanty, for becoming the first Odia artist to receive UAE’s coveted Golden Visa, a long-term residence visa for 10 years.

Patnaik tweeted that her remarkable achievement will inspire others to excel in various fields globally.



Mohanty is an artist from Baripada of Mayurbhanj district. A Golden Visa enables foreigners to live, work and study in the UAE without the need of a national sponsor and with 100 per cent ownership of their business on the UAE’s mainland.

Mohanty who has been living in Dubai since 2007, worked in the academic field and in the design industry for about 8 years and realised that art is her true calling. In 2016, she left her design job to start a completely new journey as an artist.

Biswarupa Mohanty is a self-employed art practitioner registered with the Dubai Economic Department. She has a bachelor’s degree in Fashion Design from NIFT New Delhi, master’s degree in Fashion and Textile Design from IED Milan and a diploma in Fine Arts from School of Art and Crafts, Baripada.

Biswarupa Mohanty said, “I am truly honored to have received the Golden Visa. These milestones in life mean a lot. They reassure you that if you follow your heart and put your soul into your passion, slowly and eventually you will be rewarded in more ways than you can imagine.”

Pristyn Care’s latest surgical technology

Bhubaneswar: Pristyn Care, a healthcare startup, Wednesday announced that it has expanded its surgery services to Bhubaneswar. The healthcare startup performs general surgery (laser & laparoscopy), urology procedures and vascular surgeries. It is further working to bridge the medical accessibility gap for residents of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and surrounding areas. “We have successfully completed over 6,000 minimally invasive surgeries (MIS) across the Tier 2 & 3 cities and we are now present in 23 small towns apart from Top 7 metros,” said Vaibhav Kapoor, co-founder of Pristyn Care.

Internet connectivity at HE department

Bhubaneswar: The Higher Education (HE) department directed the Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) for internet connectivity at the department office. In a letter to OCAC authorities, Higher Education department additional secretary Surendra Kumar Parida directed to ensure internet connectivity at the newly- created teacher education section and NCET-1 section of Higher Education department. He said that after repeated contact over telephone there is no response from OCAC on this.

Highest one-day deaths take state’s Covid toll beyond 4K

THE STATE HAS SO FAR CONDUCTED OVER 1.37 CRORE SAMPLE TESTS, INCLUDING 75,649, THE HIGHEST IN A DAY, IN THE LAST 24 HOURS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Odisha’s Covid-19 death toll breached the 4,000-mark Wednesday as the state reported 48 more fatalities due to the infection, the highest single-day count, a Health department official said.

The new fatalities raised the toll to 4,018, he said. At least 3,371 fresh coronavirus cases pushed the tally to 9,09,800.

Taking to Twitter, the Health and Family Welfare department said, “Regret to inform the demise of forty-eight Covid positive patients while under treatment in hospitals.”

Of the 48 fatalities, seven were reported from Khurda, five each from Cuttack and Nayagarh and four each from Ganjam and Sundargarh districts.

Three deaths each were recorded in Bargarh, Boudh and Dhenkanal districts, two each in Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak and Jharsuguda and one each in Jagatsinghpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Puri and Sambalpur, said the official.

Khurda district, which comprises the state capital Bhubaneswar, has so far accounted for 647 Covid-19 deaths, followed by Sundargarh (353), Ganjam (337)



Khurda has so far accounted for 647 deaths, followed by Sundargarh (353), Ganjam (337) and Cuttack (285)

All the 30 districts of Odisha reported fresh Covid-19 cases

and Cuttack (285). Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have also died due to comorbidities, he said.

All the 30 districts of Odisha reported fresh Covid-19 cases.

Of the new cases, 1,922 were reported from quarantine centres, and the remaining 1,449 were detected during contact tracing.

Khurda district recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 530, followed by Cuttack (468), Balasore (258), Mayurbhanj (222),

Of the 48 fatalities, seven were reported from Khurda, five each from Cuttack and Nayagarh and four each from Ganjam and Sundargarh

Three deaths each were recorded in Bargarh, Boudh and Dhenkanal districts, two each in Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak and Jharsuguda and one each in Jagatsinghpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Puri and Sambalpur

Kendrapara (219) and Jagatsinghpur (210).

Odisha now has 31,422 active cases, the official said.

At least 3,520 more people were cured of the disease Tuesday, taking the total number of recoveries to 8,74,307.

The state has so far conducted over 1.37 crore sample tests for Covid-19, including 75,649 in the last 24 hours, and the positivity ratio stands at 6.61 per cent, the official added.

BMC sets 30-day target to vaccinate Capital city

Bhubaneswar, which has officially about 10 lakh population, has recorded about 8.47 lakh people taking the first dose

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: With an aim to fully vaccinate the whole population of the state capital, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), has set a 30-day target to achieve the feat of first 100% vaccinated city in the country.

As per sources, the Capital city which has officially about 10 lakh population has seen about 8.47 lakh people taking the first dose. Similarly, 4,79,647 persons have been administered the second dose constituting 54% of the targeted population.

“About 95% of the targeted population has already been given the first dose. We are targeting to inoculate 28,000 persons aged 18-44 per day in next five days which will complete 100% first dose vaccination.

If we manage to complete the first dose goal by July 3, the complete vaccination in will be over by July 31,” said a BMC official.

The official also added that Bhubaneswar is also achieving highest percentage of vaccination target.

“More than 50% of the eligible population in Bhubaneswar has been vaccinated while in other cities, the vaccination is in the range of 25%,” the official added.

It can be mentioned that the BMC had earlier launched special vaccination drives for potential super spreaders such as delivery boys, drivers, staff of hotel and restaurants, bank employees and newspaper vendors.

Moreover, the city has also begun to deliver Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V, Tuesday, priced at Rs 1,145 per dose.

“While earlier we had struggled to procure and provide vaccines, the vaccination rate has tremendously been increased after we got enough stock. We have opened more vaccination slots as compared to May. Similarly, no inconvenience will occur to those who will be eligible for their second dose in the month of July,” said the BMC official.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Wednesday issued warning of heavy rainfall in different districts of the state Thursday.

The department while issuing Yellow Warning (be updated) said that rains are likely to lash eight districts of the state while thunderstorms and lightning could also be seen in several districts of the state during the

BIG CATCH



A huge fish weighing around 35 kg was caught from River Mahanadi near Mundali bridge in Cuttack, Wednesday. The fish could fetch around ₹14,000 in the market

OP PHOTO

102 helpline to be merged with 108 Ambulance service

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The state government has decided to merge the 102 helpline for health services with 108 Ambulance service.

The Health department has planned to do away with the 102 Ambulance service with time and use a single helpline for ambulance services in the state.

Earlier, 102 Ambulance service was used for requirements of pregnant women.

“Now, pregnant women or their attendants can call 108 Ambulance and use the service to reach the nearest health centre for institutional delivery,” said Sabysachi Biswal, project head of 108 Ambulance.

According to the working model of 108 Ambulance, people who need to ferry patients in emergency situations like accidents, medical emergencies and others can dial the single 108 Ambulance service where hundreds of tele-callers attend the calls and link them with the nearby 108 Ambulance.

CBSE, CISCE urged to refund form fill-up fee

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The Odisha Parents’ Federation (OPF), a state-level parents’ body, Wednesday urged the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) to refund Class X and XII registration or form fill-up fee to the students in view of cancellation of the examinations owing to Covid-19 pandemic.

In its letters to CBSE chairperson Manoj Ahuja and CISCE chairman G Immanuel, OPF head Basudev Bhatt said that both the Class X and XII board examinations were to be cancelled in view of the pandemic in the country.

Bhatt said OPF had requested the CBSE and CISCE boards to consider waiver of registration or form fill-up fee during the pandemic as it could have gone a long way in helping numerous students and their parents many of whom were already bearing the brunt of the pandemic.

“But your office rejected our proposal as it collected huge amount of money by way of registration or form fill-up fee,” the OPF chief said, highlighting that there is no point in the fee at a time when the examinations were already cancelled.

The parents’ body urged the exam boards to refund the registration fee at the earliest.

Spl train to Udhna from July 5

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: For the convenience of passengers and to avoid long wait lists in western India-bound regular trains, the Ministry of Railways Wednesday decided to run one pair of special trains between Khurda Road and Udhna in Gujarat.

The Khurda Road-Udhna-Khurda Road Special via Vizianagaram and Titilagarh will leave Khurda Road at 20:30 hrs July 5 (Monday) and reach Udhna at 03:40 hrs July 7, 2021 (Wednesday). In the return direction, this train will leave Udhna at 6:00 hrs July 7, 2021 (Wednesday) and arrive at Khurda Road at 15:40 hrs July 8, 2021 (Thursday).

This train has one composite coach of both 1st & 2nd AC, one AC-2 tier, four AC-3 tier, eight sleeper class, four second class bogies, one guard-cum-luggage van and one guard-cum-divyang coach in its composition having stoppages at Berhampur, Palasa, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagaram, Bobbili, Parvatipuram, Rayagada, Kesinga,



Titilagarh, Kantabanji, Khariar Road, Mahasamund, Raipur, Durg, Gondia, Nagpur, Badnera, Akola, Bhusaval, Jalgaon and Nandurbar between Khurda Road and Udhna from both the directions.

Earlier, the Ministry of Railways has decided to run another special train between Puri and Kamakhya.

The Railways has also decided to run nine pairs of long distance special trains from and through East Coast Railway jurisdiction.

It had also decided to extend the services of 22 special trains originating from various stations under ECoR jurisdiction till first week of July.

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NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY PROUD OF YOU, DOCS

DOCTORS ARE ESSENTIAL PART OF AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

City doctors have shared their harrowing experiences during the Covid-19 times. While leading the Covid response team, braving huge mental and physical stress, they exposed their families to the deadly virus. The challenges were overwhelming. Working for long hours with face masks on was really stressful. But they fought from the front and saved precious lives, never minding the risks to their personal lives and families. Orissa POST pays its tribute to these frontline warriors on the occasion of the National Doctors' Day

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 30: There is a popular saying in India that doctors are second to god on this earth. During the last two Covid 19-affected years, this adage has come true as doctors had put their lives at risk to serve patients and saved them. Apart from treating patients, the doctors carried out a lot of frontline tasks such as Covid testing and vaccination of people. As per an official report by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), 798 doctors have died during the second wave of Covid-19 across country. Doctors form an essential part of an effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic. They have a duty to participate in pandemic response due to their special skills, but these skills vary between different doctors, and their duties are constrained by other competing rights.

Dr Veena Panda, a gynecologist,



said during Covid-19 times the challenges are to remain safe and follow the norms and guidelines and to not avoid any patient. We have to be extra cautious by wearing double medical masks and other es-

sential protective gear. She said that during this time the system of tele-medicines has increased. But as a gynecologists my job demands handling pregnant women personally. Our job teaches us to serve the patients without bias.

Dr Bishwajit Mishra, a pae-



diatrician of Jagannath Hospital, said Covid-19 has increased the workload and the consequent stress factor. He said the main challenges was to put the family in safety because as doctors we are in front exposing ourselves to the virus daily. He said that the government should try to increase vaccination as the vaccination rate in the state and country is very low. We must increase that.

Dr Amrit Pattojoshi, a psychiatrist at Hi Tech Medical College and Hospital, said everyone is stretched and more so the doctor community during this Covid times—financially physically and mentally. Many are swamped with lots of patients while most have very few patients. Burnout is prominent and lots of doctors having PTSD, anxiety, depression and sleep issues are coming up for consulta-



tions. The number of deaths and sufferings all around as well as the fact of having to face death of colleagues and family members has been too overwhelming. Add to it the Google experts, Whatsapp taught patients and the misinformation campaigns running against doctors. They have played a huge role in building stress during this trying times.

Dr Subasish Behera, a den-



tist, said the potential transmission of the virus through dental procedures and in dental settings has attracted much attention leading to either mandatory or voluntary suspension of routine dental care.



The concern about dental practice spreading coronavirus transmission has been widely recognised around the world. Dentistry was the most at-risk profession for Covid-19 compared to other occupations. Based on the nature of the dental procedures, and the proximity of the dental team with patients, the disease could readily spread from infected patients to the dental team, and vice versa, and subsequently to other patients, if appropriate protective infection control measurements are not undertaken.

It's mandatory to strike a balance between the safety of the healthcare professionals yet providing optimum dental care to the patients requiring emergency intervention.

Dr Braja Kishore Behera, a paediatrician of IMS & SUM Hospital, said due to a sudden surge of patients during the pandemic, within the previously structured healthcare system, it becomes difficult to discharge regular services for eight to 10 hours every day at a stretch. With face masks on all the time, it becomes a cumbersome task to tackle the hurdle. At one end we



have to treat the patients and save their lives, while at the same time we are exposing our families and kids to a deadly virus.

Dr Vijayprajna Acharya, Department of Biochemistry, KIMS & PBH, Bhubaneswar, said the pandemic has been affecting us equally from different directions. I as a diagnostician, face the threat of being exposed to infected samples being run in our lab. The hope and despair is reflected on our computer screen in the form of lab reports. From laboratory end, we are the first ones to get first hand information about

the intensity of the infection and how people are being affected. This disease has shown varied responses in different people, affecting all age groups.

Apart from being a doctor, I am also a mother of two daughters. Striking a balance between work, managing home and grooming kids has posed a new challenge to



us. They also sometimes apprehend about us getting infected from work source but then they understand that this war has to be fought by the white coat army.

Carcass of rare dolphin species on Paradip shore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, June 30: Local fishermen found the carcass of a rare species of dolphin Wednesday morning on the shore at Paradip. According to sources, the species is usually known as long-snouted spinner dolphin 'Stenella' which is a genus of aquatic mammals in Delphinidae. The family is informally called oceanic dolphins. The male dolphin was around 4.5 feet in length and would weigh around 20 to 25 kilogram. The dolphin had already died when it was spotted by local fishermen near gate No 5 of Paradip Port. Some youths buried the carcass after it was found on the beach. Later, Kujang forest officials reached the spot after getting in-



formation about it. The officials seized the recovered dolphin's carcass and sent it for postmortem. Reason behind the death of the aquatic animal can be ascertained only after the report comes in, a forest official said.

Notably, the Stenella dolphins are rarely found in the Bay of Bengal. The species are usually seen in temperate and tropical oceans.

'PACEMAKER IS GAME CHANGER IN CONTROLLING HEARTBEATS'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Dr Milan Kumar Ghadei, consultant cardiologist & cardiac electrophysiologist at Sum Ultimate Medicare Hospital, Bhubaneswar, stated that the pacemaker, a small device that's placed under the skin in your chest to help control heartbeat, is very useful if the patient's heart's natural pacemaker is not fast enough, or because there is a block in the heart's electrical conduction system and also in some cases of heart failure associated with electrical abnormality of heart.

Ghadei explained that pacemaker can do two functions—pulse generator and leads (electrodes). Pulse generator is a small metal container that houses a battery and the electrical circuitry that regulates the rate of electrical pulses sent to your heart. While leads (electrodes) is one to three flexible, insulated wires each placed in a chamber, or chambers, of your heart and deliver the electrical pulses to adjust your heart rate.

According to the doctor, there are six types of pacemakers—single chamber pacemaker, dual chamber pacemaker, implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), biventricular pacemaker, physio-

logical pacing (his/left bundle pacing) and lead less pacemaker.

Single chamber pacemaker usually carries electrical impulses to the right ventricle of your heart. Dual chamber pacemaker carries electrical impulses to the right ventricle and the right atrium of your heart to help control the timing of contractions between the two chambers.

Implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) carries electrical impulse/shock to heart to control fast heart beat and prevent sudden cardiac death.



Biventricular pacemaker also called cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT-P/D), is for people with heart failure with abnormal electrical systems for improvement of abnormal electrical impulse and heart failure.

Physiological pacing (his/left bundle pacing), these are newer pacemakers which carry electrical impulse to both heart muscle and electrical system of heart, in comparison to others which stimulate the heart muscle only. Lead less pacemaker; these are the devices that are small enough to allow the generator to be placed within the heart, therefore avoiding the need for pacing leads.

Ghadei highlighted that there could be risks during pacemaker implantation like infection where the pacemaker was implanted, swelling, bruising or bleeding at the generator site, especially if you take blood thinners, damage to your blood vessels or nerves near the pacemaker and collapsed lung.

Doctor said there will be special precautions for those having pacemakers like keeping cellphone at least 6 inches (15 centimeters) away from your pacemaker and hold it to the ear opposite the side where your pacemaker was implanted.

Also, certain medical procedures, such as magnetic resonance imaging, cancer radiation treatment, electrocauterization to control bleeding during surgery, and shock wave lithotripsy to break up large kidney stones or gallstones could interfere with your pacemaker. He advised to stand at least two feet (61 centimeters) from welding equipment, high-voltage transformers or motor-generator systems.

He explained that cardiac electrophysiologist decides the types of pacemaker that gives benefit to patients; they implant the pacemaker in the body and programme the software of pacemaker.

"After implantation pts should check the pacemaker software, battery status every 3-6 months. If the patient develops difficulty in breathing, swelling of legs, abnormal heart beat, transient black out of vision, loss of consciousness, they should immediately consult a doctor," he said.

RSP labour unions stage stir over wage



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 30: Hundreds of dissident labourers and employees of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) staged a sit-in in front of the gates of the plant Wednesday morning at around 5 am, a source said.

According to sources, under the banners of several labour unions, they have been on a 24-hour agitation seeking an early adoption of their eight-point charter of demands including revision of wages.

With the support of most of the trade unions, the dissidents had been protesting at Birsa Munda Square in Rourkela Tuesday. The agitation assumed larger proportions and a huge congregation of the RSP labourers and employees got down to the streets at SAIL Square, Hirakud Square as well as Fertilizer Gate here, the source added.

"We demand release of arrears, implementation of nine per cent pension, 15 per cent growth in minimum guaranteed benefit (MGB) on basic pay, perks and other benefits with withdrawal of action against the laid off labourers. Our demands include job to one of the family members of employees who died of Covid-19," an agitator stated.

Wage agreement of the workers is revised once every five years. The management has failed this time in finalising wage revision that irked the labourers. The agitation will be intensified further if RSP authorities turn a deaf ear to our demands, the protestor added.

Notably, the cease work has severely hit the RSP's production, a senior official expressed requesting anonymity.

'WE DON'T PRESCRIBE MEDICINES FOR ASYMPTOMATIC CHILDREN'

Thousands of children, across all age groups from across the country, have tested positive for Covid-19 during the second wave, creating panic among parents. Dr Narendra Kumar Arora, a paediatric gastroenterologist and a senior member of the National Covid-19 Task Force, tells us how to treat and care for children who have contracted Covid-19. Excerpts from an interview

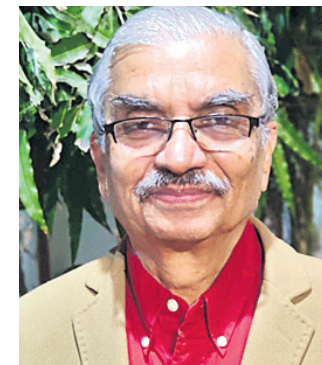
If a child is affected by Covid-19 but parents are not, how to take care of the child?

This can happen if the child has contracted the infection from someone outside the family. So, firstly, each member of the family should get oneself tested for Covid-19. The caregiver should wear full protection gear—double masks, face shield, gloves—while nursing the child. Care should be provided under the guid-

ance and supervision of a doctor.

Are children more prone to the disease this time?

A vast majority of children either remain asymptomatic or develop a mild disease. In a household, if several adults are diagnosed with Covid-19 infection, there is a high possibility that the children will also be infected. Fortunately, in most such cases, the children particularly those



below 10 years are usually asymptomatic or have mild, common cold like symptoms, or diarrhoea. However, children with congenital heart disease, diabetes, asthma, or those suffering from childhood cancers, or on immune-suppressants

are at a higher risk of developing severe disease.

How is the treatment for children different from that for adults?

We don't recommend any medicine for asymptomatic children. In mild cases, we prescribe simple paracetamol to manage fever and other mild symptoms. Similarly, diarrhoea is managed with oral re-

hydration fluids and plenty of fluid. In moderate to severe cases, the treatment is the same as that for adults. Immediately consult a doctor if you observe respiratory distress, increased respiratory rate, severe cough that is interfering with feeding, hypoxia, uncontrolled fever, or any other unusual symptoms like skin rash, excessive sleepiness in children.



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

EAST COAST RAILWAY


Tender Notice No. ST-OT-LHS-CTC-TLHR-224, Dated : 25.06.2021	
Name of Work : (i) PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) IN LIEU OF THE EXISTING MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO.CT-49 AT KM.456/21-23 IN BETWEEN SADASHIBAPUR (SSPR) AND HINDOL ROAD (HND) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. (ii) PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) IN LIEU OF THE EXISTING MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO.CT-60 AT KM.468/13-15 IN BETWEEN HINDOL ROAD (HND) AND MERAMANDALI (MRDL) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. (iii) PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) IN LIEU OF THE EXISTING MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO.CT-16 AT KM.412/08-10 IN BETWEEN CHARBATTIA (CBT) AND GURUDIHATIA (GJTA) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. (iv) PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) IN LIEU OF THE EXISTING MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO.CT-19 AT KM.414/40-42 IN BETWEEN GURUDIHATIA (GJTA) AND MACHAPUR (MZY) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. (v) PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) IN LIEU OF THE EXISTING MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO.CT-34 AT KM.431/20-22 IN BETWEEN RAJATHGARRH (RJGR) AND JORANDA ROAD (JRZ) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Tender Value: ₹ 39,88,958.70	
Bidding start date : 02.07.2021, Tender closing date & time : 11:00 hrs. of 16.07.2021.	
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : http://www.irps.gov.in	
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.	
Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), Khurda Road	
PR-179/M/21-22	

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RAIRANGPUR (R&B), DIVISION
e-mail: - eerbrairangpur@yahoo.co.in
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.EE 09 / 2021-22
1. Nature of work:- Building Works
2. Number of works: 02 (Two) Nos. Building Works
3. Amount put to Tender: - Rs.25.07 Lakh to Rs.26.54 Lakh
4. Class of Contractor: - "C" & "B"
5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: - Dt.05.07.2021 at 10:00 AM
6. Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal: - Dt.13.07.2021 up to 04:00 PM
7. Date of opening of bid : - Dt.14.07.2021 at 11:00 AM
8. Name & address of the Office inviting bid: - Executive Engineer, Rairangpur (R&B) Division
9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>." All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.
Sd/- 24.06.2021, Executive Engineer Rairangpur (R&B) Division
OIPR-3404/11/0003/2122

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There is a knowledge in the heart of sleep.

SRI AUROBINDO



Post-Covid Education

As many countries cautiously reopen classrooms, schools remain crucial barometers of our progress toward ending the Covid-19 crisis. We need to keep children healthy while protecting their right to education, but the pandemic has hit the most vulnerable children hardest and exposed the worsening inequality of learning opportunities. We must now heed these harsh lessons and transform education systems to make them more equitable, effective, and resilient.

School closures have been one of the many measures that governments have adopted to contain a virus that so far has claimed 3.4 million lives. At their peak, over 1.6 billion children were cut off from education – half of them in low and lower middle-income countries.

Although we cannot yet fully grasp the long-term implications of this lost learning for the hundreds of millions who are still missing out on school, it clearly will have a life-changing impact on the most vulnerable children, especially girls. An estimated 20 million girls may never set foot in a classroom again because they have been sent to work to help provide for their families. As many as 13 million could be forced into early marriage and thus forego their education altogether. For millions of others, school closures have increased their risk of teenage pregnancy or of becoming victims of domestic violence.

Given this grim reality, each school reopening is a victory that can potentially change children's lives permanently for the better. But rather than simply return to pre-crisis approaches to learning, we must transform education systems entirely. We cannot go back to a status quo of unequal opportunities and poor learning outcomes, in which a quarter-billion children were already out of school and over half of all 10-year-olds in lower-income countries lacked basic reading skills.

Together, we must deliver a global recovery built on a foundation of education systems that deliver quality learning to all children, no matter where they live, how prosperous or poor their families might be, or who they are. And we need to begin by ensuring that children can return safely to schools that offer a clean environment with effective ventilation, sufficient toilets, and other basic amenities.

Countries can also use distance-learning tools to reach children outside the classroom, opening up new possibilities to educate those who were previously cut off from formal education. School closures due to Covid-19 have only hastened the need for alternative delivery methods so that every child can continue to learn.

Even before the pandemic, organisations like the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) were helping to enable learning beyond the traditional classroom. In Afghanistan, for example, advanced learning centres and more accessible and equitable community-based education have proven successful. These options give children in remote areas – especially girls, who had often been excluded from education altogether – a chance to learn.

In Pakistan's Balochistan and Sindh provinces, we have seen how technology, including smartphone applications like WhatsApp, can support teachers in serving children in less accessible areas. And Sierra Leone, drawing on its experience during the 2014-16 Ebola outbreak, has emphasised radio learning during the current crisis, with GPE support enabling children to benefit from education programmes that were broadcast while schools were shut.

Initiatives like these can be woven into education systems to make them more inclusive, so that they deliver learning at the scale needed to address past inequities. That in turn can help to bridge the education gaps left not only by the Covid-19 pandemic, but also by conflicts, poverty, natural disasters, or the effects of climate change.

By channeling support through partner-country governments to national education systems, the GPE has so far helped to get 160 million more children into school, more than half of them girls. Moreover, GPE funds attract other donor contributions to multiply the organisation's financial support, in line with national education priorities.

This approach is fundamental to catalysing necessary change and delivering it at the scale demanded by today's education emergency. To date, 97 per cent of GPE-backed education sector plans include strategies to reach the most marginalised children in lower-income countries, particularly girls and children with disabilities.

In the wake of the pandemic, governments also must find the funds to shock-proof their education systems for the future. That means not only developing and integrating distance-learning options, but also ensuring that schools have proper sanitary facilities and are teaching basic hygiene. Teachers need training in new methods, and we need to ensure that children who rely on their school for at least one meal a day don't go hungry during a crisis.

To achieve all of this, we must immediately help governments in lower-income countries to ensure that their education budgets are protected from any belt-tightening resulting from the pandemic's economic fallout. Domestic resources account for the vast majority of education funding, but international support can play a bigger role to help insulate and expand existing resources. That will allow governments to start reshaping learning even before their countries' economic rebounds are underway.

This year, the GPE is asking governments to pledge at least \$5 billion toward transforming education for children in 90 countries and territories where schools are not only essential for learning but also critical to children's welfare and security. Safe, inclusive, and quality education can be a springboard for recovery from the pandemic, and a buffer against the next crisis.

The writer, a former Prime Minister of Australia, is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Global Partnership for Education.

WISDOM CORNER

- “

The main difference between a cat and a lie is that a cat only has nine lives.

MARK TWAIN
- “

Science is the father of knowledge, but opinion breeds ignorance.

HIPPOCRATES
- “

Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold.

BOB MARLEY

WORDSWORTH

Nutraceutical

This combines nutrition and pharmaceutical to describe foods containing supplements from natural sources that are thought to deliver a specific health benefit. Other terms employed are functional food, pharmafood and FoSHU (Food for Specified Health Use). One nutraceutical that has been in the news is beta-carotene, used as a dietary supplement to stave off heart attacks, but whose efficacy has been challenged by recent studies. The field is diffuse and difficult to define exactly, as the term includes many natural remedies known for centuries, such as valerian, ginseng, and herbal teas, as well as substances that have been extracted from natural products, such as Vitamin E, and natural biological flora, often called probiotics.

FOCUS CRYPTOCURRENCY

TECHNOLOGY'S DARK SIDE

There's a popular web series on Netflix called Startup. It's about three very different individuals - a corporate honcho, a Haitian thug and a brilliant Stanford dropout - who create a new cryptocurrency. When cheated out of their company, they create a new darknet that is more secure than Tor. While it is about the human side of the story, the implications about technology and its potential to affect all of us are worth considering.

We read about the price of Bitcoin and about the mythical darknet but don't really concern ourselves as we feel we aren't affected by them. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case.

Take cryptocurrency - central banks across the world are highly concerned about it as it is beyond their control and its availability and value are dependent completely upon demand and supply - not within national boundaries but across the world.

There are other issues as well - the process of generating or mining cryptocurrency is highly power intensive. As more and more of it is created, the mining process becomes more complex, requiring enormous amounts of computing power which in turn requires enormous amounts of electricity.

By its very nature, the ownership data of cryptocurrency is spread across thousands of computers through what is called blockchain, which essentially stores the ledger in a serverless peer to peer environment. The advantage is that even if one (or many of the computers) where the ledger is stored crashes or is hacked, the data still remains safe.

However, the blockchain system is also highly power intensive and in a recent study conducted at Cambridge University, it was found that Bitcoin consumes 121.36 terawatt-hours annually - more than Argentina (121 TWh) and the Netherlands (108.8 TWh). According to Digiconomist, a platform dedi-

THE DARKNET, DESPITE THE ANONYMITY IT OFFERS, IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS FOR THE ORDINARY USER

Chandra Shekhar Chitrala



Cryptocurrency's core attraction lies in its anonymity. But that is also one of the reasons it facilitates crime, both digital and physical, with criminals demanding payment in cryptocurrency to evade law enforcement agencies

cated to exposing the unintended consequences of digital trends, typically from an economic perspective, one Bitcoin transaction requires about 707.6 kilowatt-hours of electrical energy, the amount of energy the average US household consumes in 24 days. To put it in an Indian context, the annual per capita consumption of electricity in 2019-20 was 1.208 kilowatt-hours. In other words, the average amount of electricity an Indian would consume in seven months is needed for one Bitcoin transaction.

This completely virtual existence of cryptocurrency has another facet - forgetting the password to the wallet containing the cryptocurrency can mean that it is lost forever. Even if you can prove that it belongs to you, there is no way anyone can help in retrieving it - as Stefan Thomas, a German-born programmer who lives in San Francisco found out to his dismay, when he lost access to nearly \$220 million in Bitcoin.

The core attraction of cryptocurrency lies in its anonymity. But that is also one of the reasons it facilitates crime, both digital as

well as physical, with criminals demanding payment in cryptocurrency to evade law enforcement agencies. An example of this is the rise in ransomware events across the world.

Cryptocurrency's anonymity is due to its use of the darknet - a private network built upon the traditional internet. To access it, one uses a web browser called The Onion Ring or Tor for short.

Tor has two basic features - it can be used to access websites with a .onion domain, which cannot be accessed by regular browsers.

Secondly, when accessing a website, the browser uses a unique Tor network that hides the user's IP address from the server on which the website resides. Everytime we use the Tor browser, it generates a unique set of hops, or servers spread throughout the world. For example, it may first connect with a server in France, then to one in Indonesia, from there to a server in Brazil and then to one in the US. Now, when we access any website, the IP address that the web server would see and record would be the IP of the server in the

US - not our actual IP address. Similarly, even if our internet service provider tracks our browsing it wouldn't know which websites we visited.

This anonymity, while ensuring individual privacy, comes at a great cost as it is used by criminals. Practically every type of illegal activity is thriving on the darknet - drugs, rape and child pornography, sale of fake identity documents and currency and even murder for hire. All paid for in cryptocurrency.

With it being available easily, cryptocurrency can wreak havoc on ordinary citizens too. With the amount of any cryptocurrency that can be mined being limited, as the limits are approached, there is a rise in its value due to higher cost of mining. This causes the impression that it has value by itself and can be an investment. This tempts people to buy, not to purchase something with it, but in the hope of profiting by selling it when its value increases. Like the housing bubble of the USA, where people bought houses, not to live but to sell at a higher price, it is just a matter of time before this bubble bursts too.

The darknet, despite the anonymity it offers, is highly dangerous for the ordinary user. There are many predators who constantly lookout for newbies, and by offering apparently free access to illegal content, infect the users' computers with a variety of dangerous malware that could lead to identity theft, monetary loss or even legal prosecution.

It needs to be kept in mind that the Tor network is funded by the US government along with other governments like that of Sweden. While the management of the network says it is independent and ensures privacy, what remains to be seen is how strong it can remain if put under pressure.

The writer is an alumnus of XIMB, an IT entrepreneur and a startup mentor.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Economics needs a climate revolution

Nowhere are the limitations of neoclassical economic thinking – the DNA of economics as it is currently taught and practiced – more apparent than in the face of the climate crisis. While there are fresh ideas and models emerging, the old orthodoxy remains deeply entrenched. Change cannot come fast enough.

The economics discipline has failed to understand the climate crisis – let alone provide effective policy solutions for it – because most economists tend to divide problems into small, manageable pieces. Rational people, they are wont to say, think at the margin. What matters is not the average or totality of one's actions but rather the very next step, weighed against the immediate alternatives.

Such thinking is indeed rational for small discrete problems. Compartmentalisation is necessary for managing competing demands on one's time and attention. But marginal thinking is inadequate for an all-consuming problem touching every aspect of society.

Economists also tend to equate rationality with precision. The discipline's power over public discourse and policymaking lies in its implicit claim that those who cannot compute precise benefits and costs are somehow irrational. This allows economists – and their models – to ignore pervasive climate risks and uncertainties, including the possibility of climatic tipping

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Forever grey

Sir, Pakistan has again failed to come out of the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental organisation that is seized of the policies to monitor and fight global money laundering and terror financing. Keeping Pakistan's history of terror financing in mind, and its old game of providing fertile ground for terror breeding, the latest FATF decision appears justified. However, as expected, Islamabad has accused India of jeopardising its chances to come clean. In reality, Islamabad has consistently been given some leeway by the watchdog. In hindsight, it has to thank the FATF for not keeping it in the black list. The top watchdog committee said that Pakistan's inability to fulfil one of the 27 remedial actions it had to undertake following its failure to comply with the same last time was striking. The one action was quite major - prosecution of terror group leaders banned by the United Nations. The supreme leaders of major terror groups like LeT and JeM are still free birds. Without their prosecution nothing much can be achieved on the terror front in the region. The FATF does not want Pakistan to stop short of exemplary steps to put brakes on terror activities on its soil. The Imran Khan dispensation should be a worried lot because the country is on the grey list since 2018, after being removed from the list in 2015 when it was on the list for seven years beginning 2008. A positive nod from the widely respected FATF means a lot to the Pakistan Prime Minister who finds himself in a tightrope, harrowed by the relentless attacks of the opposition parties of Pakistan.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Unnecessary comments

Sir, The President's candid but unnecessary comments on his salary and the amount of tax he pays were unprecedented and surely unfortunate, coming as they did from the Constitutional Head of State. And to compare his perceived meagre post-tax earnings with a teacher's supposedly more decent salary and savings was like adding insult to injury. Curiously, His Excellency forgot to take into account the astronomical Presidential perks (tax free, of course) he enjoys including his super-luxurious stay at the sprawling Rashtrapati Bhavan and the huge expenditure incurred on taxpayers' money towards its annual upkeep. Did the President indirectly express an opinion on the country's regressive tax structure?

Bhaskar Roy, NEW DELHI

Work on Lower Suktel project resumes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, June 30: Works on the Lower Suktel irrigation project got a fillip as the district administration launched an eviction drive in the project affected Pardhiapalli village for the first time, 20 years after the start of the project, Tuesday, a report said.

Tuesday marked an important day for the project as the district officials accompanied by nine platoons of police supervised the demolition of eight houses in the village. Similarly, houses of 50 villagers were demolished on the second day, Wednesday. The project which was launched with an outlay ₹217 crore has now reached ₹3000 crore.

However, for the first time, villagers did not oppose the demolition drive and only sought some more time in evacuating the village. They urged the district and police officials not to evict them from the village during the Covid pandemic and rainy season.

However, the officials informed them that the houses of only those persons will be demolished who have received the ex-gratia and second installment of compensation. Later, the houses of Seshadev Gadatya, Dagar Biswal, Sabitri Bariha, Netaji Gadatya,



Durga Dharua, Pitambar Bag, Laba Barik and a club building were demolished with the help of a JCB earth mover during the drive.

The displaced villagers carrying their belongings in the vehicles arranged by the district administration and accompanied by their family members soon left the village for elsewhere. People have been cooperating in the displacement drive as they have been provided with compensation, sub-collector Lambodar Dharua said. As a result, the first phase demolition drive concluded peacefully

by Tuesday evening.

The demolition drive started in the morning in the presence of Lambodar Dharua, sub-collector, Mahendra Mohapatra, project director, rehabilitation and resettlement (R & R) of Lower Suktel Irrigation Project, Niranjan Rout, chief engineer, Kumar Nagbhusan, special land acquisition officer, Meghaban Bag, tehsildar, Tophan Bag, Sadar SDPO and other administrative and police officials.

According to available reports, 222 families out of 290 families in the village have been paid ex-gratia and the second installment

of the compensation over last four months. The rest of the families having some problems in evacuating have been spared from the demolition drive. All the villagers will have to be displaced from the village but their problems will be resolved first and their houses will be demolished in phases, the officials said.

The displacement drive will soon begin in Koindapalli and Khuntapalli, two other affected villages, the officials said.

Notably, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the irrigation project in 2001. However, the project failed to start due to stiff opposition from the locals. Later, some works started but it soon got mired in a controversy due to a land scam and other problems. Similarly, parallel agitations also took place to finish the project works at a faster pace as it is an important project for the district.

The project works only moved ahead after a high-powered committee formed by the state government intervened and appointed various officials for the project. The project work moved only after the problems of the displaced villagers were resolved in public hearing camps and ex-gratia paid to them.

THREAT TO COMMUTERS



A roadside tree which stands partly uprooted near Shatrusola village in Buguda of Ganjam district poses serious threat to the passersby and power cables

Asst BEO caught for taking bribe in Keonjhar dist



POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, June 30: A team of Vigilance sleuths caught an assistant Block Education Officer (BEO) red-handed Wednesday while he was demanding and accepting ₹10,000 from a school headmaster to drop the proceedings against the latter, a source informed.

A trap was laid by the Vigilance team of Balasore division leading to the arrest of Sahu. He was demanding and accepting the bribe from the complainant

According to a Vigilance official, the accused identified as Abhimanyu Sahu is presently working as assistant BEO in Anandpur block of Keonjhar district.

A trap was laid by the Vigilance team of Balasore division leading to the arrest of Sahu. He was demanding and accepting the bribe from the complainant and headmaster of Panasadeha upper primary school Somanath Ram working under Anandpur block in the district.

“The bribe money has been recovered and seized from the accused. The residential house of Sahu is being searched on disproportionate assets angle,” the Vigilance official said. Further investigation is underway, the team member added.

Man thrashes wife to death in Nabarangpur, held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, June 30: A man beat his wife to death in Umargaon village under Kosagumuda police limits in Nabarangpur district Tuesday. A family dispute is said to be the reason behind the murder.

The deceased has been identified as Budamani Bhatra, wife of accused Banamali Bhatra.

According to sources, the couple often engaged in quarrels over a certain family issues. Tuesday morning they entered into a verbal duel. Soon the scene turned ugly as Banamali lost his cool and attacked his wife with a wooden plank, killing her on the spot.

On getting information, a team from Kosagumuda police reached the village, sent the body for post mortem and arrested Banamali. A detailed probe is underway, it was learnt.

Markfed buys groundnuts from Deogarh farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, June 30: Farmers in this district will now be able to get the right price on their harvest as the state owned Markfed will purchase the groundnuts cultivated by them at minimum support price, a report said.

The matter came to the fore after the District Collector Sudhansu Mohan Samal launched groundnut procurement from the farmers by the Odisha State cooperative marketing federation ltd (Markfed), Tuesday. Joining as chief guest,

Collector Samal launched the programme organised on the premises of Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra at Dandasingha panchayat under Barkote block in the district.

Over 120 farmers registered their names and sold their harvest to Markfed at ₹5,275 per quintal. The groundnuts from the farmers in rest of the blocks will be purchased soon in phases.

In the first phase, Markfed has been assigned to purchase 200 metric tonnes of groundnuts from the farmers. Among others, Sambit Tripathy, the chief executive offi-



WOMEN POWER



Women of Kanpur Irrigation Project-affected Murusuan village outside the district collectorate in Keonjhar after submitting a memorandum to the Collector seeking more time for relocation, Wednesday

Show-cause notices to 53 brick kiln owners in Jaleswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, June 30: Acting on a directive from Balasore Collector K Sudarshan Chakravarty, Jaleswar tehsildar Shankar Patnaik Wednesday issued show-cause notices to 53 brick kiln owners operating in the tehsil limits.

According to a source, illegal brick kiln owners have been dumping quarried soil and other minerals at secret locations by giving a slip to officials and thereby duping the administration of revenue worth crores of rupees.

It is being alleged that brick kiln

owners have been importing coal from other states without paying royalty and producing about 40,000 to 50,000 bricks a day. They are also engaging child labourers, the source added. Notably, amid several allegations of illegal sand quarrying from Subarnarekha riverbed under Jaleswar tehsil limits and duping the administration of revenue, cases were earlier filed with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi and Kolkata.

Similar allegations have been raised at different times against brick kilns mushrooming in the tehsil limits and quarrying soil here.

Holy Trinity recovering; ‘Osua’ ritual today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, June 30: Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadrika are gradually recovering from fever following Phuluri oil treatment.

The Daitapati sevaks will offer herbal medicines made of various herbal plants, oil and benzoin resin after the Madhyana Dhupa rituals. The Suddha Suar servants have prepared the herbal medicines called ‘Osua’ which will be applied on the bodies (Sri Anga) of the ailing deities for three days beginning today, the sixth day of the Anasara period.

Subsequent to the offering of

‘Osua’, the deities will further recover from the fever. On the tenth day of the Anasara period, the ‘Dasamula Modaka’- a kind of herbal medicine, prepared by the Raj Vaidya (royal physician) will be offered. After consuming the Dasamula Modaka, the Trinity will recover fully and give darshan to the devotees in an event called Naba Jauban Darshan.

Meanwhile, the construction of chariots is in progress by the Maharana servitors, Bhoi servitors and painters. The painters are continuing the painting activities. Painting of ‘Olata Sua’ has also begun.

Harley Crabs may soon become a thing of past

RELEASE OF MASSIVE INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS TO SEA WATER, ENVIRONMENTAL IMBALANCE, MUSHROOMING OF ILLEGAL PRAWN GHERIES IN THE RESTRICTED ZONES HAVE TAKEN A HEAVY TOLL ON THE LIFE OF THESE RARE MARINE CREATURES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, June 30: The contribution of Harley Crabs to maintenance of local bio-diversity and fertility of land along with environmental balance is significant. These marine crabs dig holes of one inch wide and 10-ft deep each in the sandy land and alluvial soil adjoining the sea beaches.

These holes facilitate land aeration and allow nutrients to go inside the land raising its fertility. These crabs prefer to make their habitats in the mangroves area and under trees and bushes on the saline lands.

They feed on marine reptiles, small creatures, small fish, wastages and decomposed material that col-

lect around their habitats or wash into these holes. As oxygen enters these holes during stormy activities in the sea, these crabs indirectly help in the growth of mangroves and lead to a raise in the number of the wildlife creatures.

The yellow colour of their bodies and black stripes on their back make them look wonderful. The Harley Crabs live in hoards and rush inside their holes at the slightest perception of external threats. While normal crabs have 10 legs each, these coloured crabs have nine legs. Their two main legs are relatively large and help them in gathering food and defending against enemies.

These crabs are largely seen in hoards in the vast sand beds ad-



joining Gahirmatha in Mahakalapara block of Kendrapara district. Lunchghola, Shola Muhana, Hukitola and Tandabaluka sea beaches are their

main habitats. However, discharge of tonnes of industrial effluents and illegal prawn gheries have jeopardized their existence leading to a steady decline in their number now.

It's noteworthy to mention that tourists and local visitors throng these sea beaches during winter to enjoy the natural sight of these yellow Harley Crabs moving in hordes. They click selfies with these crabs. Jackals, wild cats, stray dogs, eagles and kites eat these crabs.

The rare Harley Crabs enrich the land fertility by adding nutrients to soil. They also help in maintaining the bio-diversity and ecological balance of the area. Their mating season starts in June and July. An interesting aspect of their nature is that they could sense the arrival of natural calamities such as cyclones at least 24 hours in advance. During such times, they leave their natural habitats and

move in file to upper reaches of the land and sand before the calamities strike.

Environmentalists and convener of the conservation of marine life Samarendra Mahali says, Harley Crabs are a very old marine species and their number has been fast dwindling over recent years. Release of massive industrial effluents and toxic chemicals, environmental imbalance, mushrooming of illegal prawn gheries in Gahirmatha restricted waters have taken a heavy toll on the life of these rare marine creatures, he added. There is an urgent need to create local awareness to protect Harley Crabs before they go completely extinct, said local environmentalists.

Cops begin house-to-house probe days after drone strike

A TEAM OF THE ELITE NATIONAL SECURITY GUARD VISITED THE IAF BASE, BUT IT WAS IMMEDIATELY NOT KNOWN WHAT ACTIONS IT TOOK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, June 30: Police began a house-to-house verification drive in residential colonies near the Jammu airport, three days after an Indian Air Force (IAF) station there was targeted in a first-of-its-kind terror attack using drones, officials said Wednesday.

In the drive that began from Peer Baba in the Chhatta area, police personnel collected details of residents, including their contact numbers.

The IAF also deployed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) fitted with camera that hovered over its station and nearby residential areas for several hours in the afternoon, the officials said.

They said additional floodlights have been installed at the IAF base and more lights on high masts are being set up.

A team of the elite counter-terrorism unit National Security Guard (NSG) visited the IAF base, but it was immediately not known what actions it took.

In what was the first instance of Pakistan-based terrorists deploying drones to strike vital installations, two bombs were dropped at the IAF station in the early hours of Sunday, causing minor injuries to two airmen.

The explosions took place around 1.40 am within six minutes of each other. The first blast ripped off the roof of a single-storey building at the technical area of the airport



manned by the IAF in Satwari on the outskirts of Jammu. The second one was on the ground.

The aerial distance from the Jammu airport to the international border is 14 km.

There were also reports of sighting of unidentified drones over vital military installations during the previous three nights.

The Army Monday had confirmed the presence of drones over its brigade headquarters at the Ratnuchak-Kaluchak station and said a major threat was thwarted by the alertness and proactive approach of the troops who engaged the unmanned vehicles after being spotted twice at 11.45 pm and 2.40 am Sunday night.

Both the drones disappeared after firing by the troops but no debris was found during the subsequent search operation in and around the camp.

Reports also claimed sighting

of drones over Ratnuchak and Kaluchak around 1.08 am and 3.09 am Tuesday and again over the Kunjwani garrison around 4.19 am.

Suspected drones were also spotted over army installations at Miran Sahib at around 9.32 pm Tuesday and Kaluchak and Kunjwani at 4.40 am and 4.52 am Wednesday, respectively, the officials said, adding that there was no reaction from the Army troops on the ground as the drones were flying at a high altitude.

An Army officer, when contacted, neither confirmed nor denied the sighting of drones over the past few days.

The Kaluchak Army station was attacked by terrorists in 2002, in which 31 people including 10 children were killed. Six soldiers and a civilian lost their lives in another terrorist attack at the Sunjwan military station in February 2018.

Madras HC directs state govt to vaccinate homeless

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 30: The first bench of the Madras High Court, comprising Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, has directed the Tamil Nadu government to vaccinate the homeless and pavement dwellers without any identity cards.

The court was hearing a petition moved by a petitioner Karpagam Wednesday, urging it to direct the authorities to ensure that the homeless and pavement dwellers without any identity cards are protected against the virus through vaccination.

Tamil Nadu government Counsel P. Muthukumar submitted that the state has initiated a programme to ensure that all such vulnerable persons are inoculated as early as possible.

The bench in its order said, "All corporations, municipalities, panchayats and other places should be sensitised by the department to ensure that these vulnerable persons be regarded as candidates for immediate vaccination as they stand more exposed to contract the virus than others."

'No impact on party'

Salem: Seeking to play down expelled general secretary V K Sasikala's purported interaction with party workers, AIADMK co-coordinator K Palaniswami Wednesday said her telephonic conversations will not impact the 1.5 crore cadre based organisation a wee bit. Making it clear she is no longer with the AIADMK since her expulsion in 2017, the former chief minister said there has been an "overreaction" to her speaking to a few party members. "She is not with the AIADMK and has no contact with the party."

Sasikala team is planning meticulously to discredit EPS and OPS regularly and sources indicated that she was using different languages to different functionaries. To some people she evokes the name of MGR, to some she uses the name of Jayalalithaa, and to some leaders, she speaks ill of both Palaniswami and Panneerselvam.

Her released tape that she would have made Panneerselvam the Chief Minister was a meticulously planned telephone call to create a wedge between the two leaders.

The war room members claimed that Sasikala is getting several calls from disgruntled AIADMK cadres from across the state to take over the reins of the party but she is waiting for an opportune moment for the same.

The callers, according to her aides are mostly from Tiruppur and Namakkal which are the strongholds of former Chief Minister Palaniswami.

TN rated best in handling of 2nd wave

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 30: Tamil Nadu has emerged as the top state in its overall handling of the second Covid wave.

As per a survey by LocalCircles, on an aggregate basis, 59 per cent of Tamil Nadu residents rated the state government's handling of the second wave as effective or higher.

Tamil Nadu was followed by Andhra Pradesh as on an aggregate basis, 54 per cent of Andhra Pradesh residents rated the Andhra Pradesh government's handling of second wave as effective or higher.

Fifty-one per cent of Uttar Pradesh residents rate the government's handling of second wave as effective, 47 per cent of Maharashtra residents rated their government as effective and only 46 per cent of Gujarat residents rated Gujarat government's handling of the second wave as effective or higher.

BETTER INFRA

The state had the benefit of the late arrival of the second wave and a relatively better hospital infrastructure than many other states

Despite having its Assembly elections, the state did a reasonably good job of handling the pandemic

tive or higher:

Only 43 per cent of Uttarakhand residents were impressed along with Odisha at 43 per cent, Kerala at 39 per cent, Rajasthan at 36 per cent, Haryana at 34 per cent, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh at 28 per cent, Karnataka at 25 per cent, Telangana at 23 per cent, Delhi at 20 per cent and Bihar also at 20 per cent.

Seventeen per cent of residents rated the performance of the West



Bengal government's handling (availability of testing, containment, hospital beds, oxygen, medicines) of the second wave as 'effective,' and 41 per cent said 'somewhat effective.' Seventeen per cent of residents surveyed rated it as 'total failure,' and 25 per cent said 'ineffective.'

Tamil Nadu, the highest-rated

state had the benefit of the late arrival of the second wave and a relatively better hospital infrastructure than many other states. Despite having its Assembly elections, the state did a reasonably good job of handling its second wave of Covid with 59 per cent of its residents rating it as effective, the survey said.

DELIMITATION PANEL TO VISIT J&K FROM JULY 6-9



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: The delimitation commission on Jammu and Kashmir will be on a four-day visit there from July 6-9 to interact with political parties, their leaders and government officials to gather "first hand" inputs on the ongoing process of redrawing the boundaries of electoral constituencies there, a statement said Wednesday.

The decision was taken after a meeting of the commission Wednesday at the poll panel headquarters here which was chaired by commission head Justice (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai and also attended by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra.

The Jammu and Kashmir chief electoral officer is another member of the three-member committee who was not in attendance.

"During the visit period, the commission will interact with political parties, public representatives and Union Territory administration officials including district election officers/deputy commissioners of 20 districts of the UT to gather first hand information and input concerning the ongoing process of delimitation as mandated under the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019," the delimitation commission said in a statement.

The commission, it said, expects that all stakeholders will "cooperate" in this endeavour and provide their valuable suggestions so that the task of delimitation is completed timely, it said.

It is understood that the commission will hold its first series of meetings in Srinagar before going to Jammu July 8.

The statement added that the commission already has had a series of meetings on data/map of the districts and constituencies related to census 2011.

"Earlier, it invited all associate members for interaction, which were participated by two of the associate members. A number of representations have also been received on various aspects concerning delimitation from civil societies and members of the public from the UT," it said.

It added that the commission has already taken note of all such suggestions and directed that these may be deliberated further in the context of ground realities concerning delimitation.

The commission for redrawing the parliamentary and assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir was constituted in March last year with a one-year time frame.

It was given an extension of 12 months by the Union government in March this year in view of the

Covid pandemic.

The visit of the delimitation commission comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with the leaders of mainstream political parties from Jammu and Kashmir last week where he stressed that the delimitation exercise has to happen quickly so that polls can be held in the UT.

During the visit, the members of the commission will hold talks with various political parties, their representatives and also the five associate members who are the five Lok Sabha MPs from the UT.

Of the mainstream parties, the National Conference, which has won all the three Lok Sabha seats from the Kashmir Valley, had earlier decided to stay away from the proceedings of the commission tending there was no need to redraw the constituencies at this stage.

However, there are indications that the party is having a rethink as it recently authorised its president Farooq Abdullah to decide whether to participate in the deliberations of the commission.

The prime minister, during the June 24 meeting, had said the ongoing delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir has to conclude quickly so that polls can be held to form an elected government that gives strength to its development trajectory.

Sikh body seeks anti-conversion law in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 30: A Sikh organisation here Wednesday demanded the implementation of the Inter-Caste Marriage Act and the enactment of an anti-conversion law in Jammu and Kashmir.

This comes amid a row over the allegations of alleged forced conversion of four women from the Sikh community to Islam in the union territory.

"I, on the behalf of the Sikh community, would request that the Inter Caste Marriage Act is implemented in Jammu & Kashmir. Once this Act is put in practice at this place, the inter-caste marriages would come to an end automatically," All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee Chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina told reporters here.

Raina, also a senior office-bearer of the Apni Party, said these laws would safeguard the interests of the people belonging to different faiths and religions.

"The elements who want to take mileage out of such marriages would also face an inevitable defeat," he added.

Raina said that over the years, the members of elite political families of Jammu and Kashmir have entered into inter-caste marriage but nobody pointed fingers at them.

"Whenever such an incident happens in a normal (ordinary) family, the issue gets blown out of proportion. This needs to be analysed and people should be vigilant so that the opportunistic politicians don't exploit them," he said.

"At the same time, it is also important that Anti-Conversion Law is implemented in Jammu & Kashmir. This would stop the forcible conversion of people belonging to any religion whatsoever. As a result of the same, the friction between the different communities would also come to an end once for all. There would be no tensions between the communities and all the people would live without fear," he said.

149-yr-old tradition of capital shifting concludes

THE PRACTICE, UNDER WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION USED TO FUNCTION IN JAMMU DURING THE SIX MONTHS OF WINTER AND IN SRINAGAR DURING THE SUMMER, WAS STARTED BY MAHARAJA GULAB SINGH IN 1872

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, June 30: The Jammu and Kashmir administration Wednesday cancelled residential accommodations of 'darbar move' employees in Jammu and Srinagar; days after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced an end to the age-old practice.

The officials have been asked to vacate their quarters in the twin capital cities within three weeks. Sinha had June 20 announced that the Jammu and Kashmir administration has completely transitioned to e-office, thereby ending the practice of the bi-annual 'darbar move'.

"Now both the Jammu and Srinagar secretariats can function normally for 12 months. This will save the government ₹200 crore per year, which will be used for the welfare of the deprived sections," he had said.

In an order issued by Commissioner Secretary, Estates



Department, M Raju said sanction had been accorded to the cancellation of allotment of residential accommodation of officers and officials in Srinagar and Jammu.

Employees from Jammu had

been allotted residential accommodation in Srinagar and those from Srinagar in Jammu.

The estates department has 4,678 dwelling units in the Union Territory, comprising 3,200 units in

Jammu and 1,478 units in Srinagar. Many of the employees are also having private accommodation provided by the government.

Releasing the list of the employees whose residential accom-

modation has been cancelled on the basis of their location orders issued by the General Administrative Department, the order asked these officers and officials to vacate their government-allotted residential accommodation in the twin capital cities within 21 days.

There are over 10,000 employees working in the civil secretariat and the order covers all the move employees who were provided government accommodation, an official said, wishing anonymity.

As part of the 'darbar move', the Raj Bhavan, the civil secretariat - the seat of the Jammu and Kashmir government - along with many other offices used to shift between Jammu and Srinagar twice a year.

The practice, under which the administration used to function in Jammu during the six months of winter and in Srinagar during the summer, was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872.

of the day quote

The protesting farmer unions should not remain adamant on repeal of the new central farm laws, adding that making it a precondition for talks with the government does not serve any purpose

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR
HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

In 2022, there will be no election in UP, there will be a democratic revolution

AKHILESH YADAV
SAMAJWADI PARTY SUPREMO

We are not being given an adequate number of vaccines. While other states have received at least 3 crore doses, we have got one crore less. Had we received one crore more doses, we could have inoculated an additional one crore population. This has become a big area of deprivation

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Sidhu meets Rahul, Priyanka

New Delhi: Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has raised the banner of revolt against Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, met former party chief Rahul Gandhi Wednesday evening soon after meeting party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The meeting lasted for an hour but Sidhu, who had tweeted his photo with Priyanka Gandhi, was tight-lipped about what transpired, and neither did the Congress make an official statement.

Anil Kant new Ker police chief

Thiruvananthapuram: Senior IPS officer Anil Kant will be the new chief of Kerala police, succeeding incumbent DGP Loknath Behera who retired Wednesday, government sources said. A 1988 batch officer, Kant is presently serving as the Road Safety Commissioner in the state. A cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan picked Kant for the top post from the list of officers recommended by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), they added.

Lockdown extended in Pondicherry

Pondicherry: The territorial government announced Wednesday that the lockdown which was to end on the midnight of June 30 has been extended till midnight of July 15 to contain the spread of Covid. An order issued by Ashok Kumar Secretary (Relief and Rehabilitation), who is the member-secretary of the State executive committee, announced the extension. The curfew would be in force without any change from 10 PM to 5 AM the next day. The order prohibited opening ofcinemas, theatres and multiplexes.

4 killed in LPG blast

New Delhi: A 45-year-old woman, two of her sons and a daughter died of suffocation Wednesday when a fire broke out at their Shahdara residence following an LPG cylinder explosion, Delhi Fire Service (DFS) officials said here. According to the DFS, a call about a cylinder blast in Shahdara's Farsh Bazaar area was received around midnight Tuesday, and nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot. A portion of the roof had collapsed due to the explosion, the fire officials said.



The judiciary cannot be controlled, directly or indirectly, by the legislature or the executive, or else the Rule of Law would become illusory

NV RAMANA | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

TOP COURT ASKS RAMDEV FOR HIS ORIGINAL VIDEO

The Supreme Court Wednesday asked Baba Ramdev to place before it the original record of his statement allegedly given against the use of allopathic medicine during Covid-19 pandemic



Pressure mounts on Twitter

THE NCW HAS ASKED THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TWITTER INDIA TO REMOVE ALL PORNOGRAPHIC AND OBSCENE CONTENT FROM THE PLATFORM WITHIN A WEEK

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 30: Taking suo moto cognisance of pornographic content on Twitter, the National Commission for Women (NCW) Wednesday directed the micro-blogging platform to remove "all pornographic and obscene" content within a week while instructing Delhi Police to investigate and take appropriate legal action.

The NCW move comes a day after Delhi Police registered a case against Twitter for child pornographic content following a complaint by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The police action was taken amid ongoing tussle between the Centre and Twitter over the new IT rules and according to officials the NCPCR complaint pertains to alleged display of child pornographic content on the social media site.

NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma wrote to Twitter India's Managing Director Manish Maheshwari for immediate removal all such pornographic and obscene content from Twitter platform within a week. She also wrote to Delhi Police Commissioner to investigate and take appropriate legal action in the matter.



"The National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken suo motu cognisance of several profiles on Twitter sharing pornographic content," the NCW said in a statement. "The commission earlier upon receiving a similar complaint had brought the matter to Twitter's notice for immediate action; however, no action was reportedly taken by the platform."

"The Commission is disturbed with the fact that despite knowing of the availability of such banned content which not only violates Indian laws but also Twitter's own policy, no action has been taken till date towards removing it," said the statement.

The statement further said that the Commission has shared with Twitter details of few profiles sharing pornographic content on Twitter and has directed to remove all such content within one week.

Prasad hits back

Calling for accountability of big social media companies, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad Wednesday said Twitter invoked a US copyright act to block his account but it should also be cognisant of the law in India where it is operating and earning money. Speaking at the India Global Forum, the minister said Twitter last week blocked his account for an hour on a complaint made four years ago under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of the US. "If you are going to invoke the. Digital copyright act of America then you have to also be cognisant of the copyright rules of India. That is the point. "You cannot say my whole stand will be regulated by an ex-parte assessment of the US law. For a happy blending of the role of big tech and democracy, a solution has to be found," Prasad said. Micro-blogging platform Twitter has been at loggerheads with the government over various issues, including during the farmers' protest in January and later when it tagged political posts of several leaders of the ruling party BJP as "manipulated media", drawing a sharp rebuke from the Centre.

BEATING THE HEAT



Children play in a canal during a hot summer day in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Accept our vaccination certificate: India tells EU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: As the European Union relaxes travel restrictions under its 'Green Passport' scheme, India has requested the members of the 27-nation grouping to individually consider allowing Indians who have taken Covishield and Covaxin vaccines to travel to Europe, sources said.

The sources said India has requested the EU member nations to accept the vaccination certificate issued through the CoWIN portal.

The European Union's Digital Covid certificate framework to facilitate free movement during the Covid-19 pandemic is to come into effect Thursday. Under this framework, persons who have taken vaccines authorised by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) will be exempted from travel restrictions within the EU.

The individual member states have the flexibility to also accept vaccines that have been authorised at the national level or by the World Health Organisation. "We have requested EU member states to individually consider extending similar exemption to those persons who have taken Covid-19 vaccines in India, that is Covishield and Covaxin, and accept the vaccination certificate issued through the CoWIN portal," said a source. The sources said the genuineness of such vaccination certification can be authenticated on the CoWIN portal.



"We have also conveyed to EU member states that India will institute a reciprocal policy for recognition of the EU Digital Covid Certificate," the source said.

There have been apprehensions in India that people who took Covishield and Covaxin jabs are unlikely to be eligible to travel to the European Union member states under its 'Green Pass' scheme.

The EU Digital Covid certificate or 'Green Pass' will be mandatory to travel to European countries

and the document will serve as proof that a person is vaccinated against Covid-19. An EU official Tuesday said individual member states of the European Union will have the option to accept vaccines authorised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) like Covishield for obtaining the bloc's digital Covid certificate.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Tuesday took up the issue of inclusion of Covishield in the EU digital Covid certificate scheme during a meeting with Josep Borrell Fontelles, the High Representative of the European Union. The meeting took place on the sidelines of a G20 meeting in Italy.

3 terrorists gunned down in encounter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 30: One more terrorist has been killed in an ongoing encounter between militants and security forces in the Chimmer area in south Kashmir's Kulgam district Wednesday, taking the toll of terrorists killed to three, officials said.

"One more unidentified terrorist has been killed in the Kulgam encounter. Search is going on," the police said. The firefight between the terrorists and the security forces started after a joint team of the police and the army cordoned off the area and launched a search operation on the basis of specific information about the presence of terrorists there.

As the security forces zeroed in on the spot where the terrorists were hiding, they came under a heavy volume of fire that triggered the encounter. A search operation is currently underway in the area.

Nagaland declared 'disturbed area' for six more months



AFSPA ACT

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 30: The entire state of Nagaland has been declared a "disturbed area" for six more months, till December-end, under the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act which empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior warrant.

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said Wednesday the government is of the opinion that the area comprising the whole of the state of Nagaland is in such a disturbed and dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary. "Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (No. 28 of 1958), the central government, hereby, declares that whole of the state of Nagaland to be 'disturbed area' for a period of six months with effect from 30th June, 2021 for the purpose of the said Act," the notification, issued by Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry

Piyush Goyal, said. Official sources said the decision has been taken as killings, loots and extortion cases have been going on in various parts of the state which necessitated the action for the convenience of the security forces operating there. The AFSPA has been in force in Nagaland for decades.

It was not withdrawn even after a framework agreement was signed August 3, 2015 between Naga insurgent group NSCN-IM general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah and government interlocutor R N Ravi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The framework agreement came after over 80 rounds of negotiations spanning 18 years with the first breakthrough in 1997 when the ceasefire agreement was sealed after decades of insurgency in Nagaland.

However, there has been no progress in the peace talks as the NSCN-IM has sought a separate flag and constitution for Nagaland, which was rejected by the Central government.

STAY ON CHAR DHAM YATRA

U'khand govt moves SC against HC order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, June 30: The Uttarakhand government Wednesday moved the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court's stay on the Char Dham Yatra.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the state government's preparedness to deal with a possible third wave of Covid-19, the Uttarakhand HC June 28 put a stay on a state Cabinet's decision to open the yatra for residents of Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi districts from July 1. "We have gone to the apex court against the High Court's stay on the yatra," Cabinet Minister Subodh Uniyal told reporters. The Cabinet had decided to open the yatra for people from the districts where famous four Himalayan temples are located on the condition of strict adherence to Covid protocol, including bringing a negative RT-PCR or rapid antigen test report.

Claiming that all arrangements had been made for the yatra, Uniyal said the decision was taken by the

tricts from July 1. "We have gone to the apex court against the High Court's stay on the yatra," Cabinet Minister Subodh Uniyal told reporters. The Cabinet had decided to open the yatra for people from the districts where famous four Himalayan temples are located on the condition of strict adherence to Covid protocol, including bringing a negative RT-PCR or rapid antigen test report.

Claiming that all arrangements had been made for the yatra, Uniyal said the decision was taken by the



Cabinet after carefully thinking over all aspects. Last year, when the yatra was allowed for devotees from all over the country, 70 people visited Gangotri per day, 40 visited Yamunotri, 180 Kedarnath and around 400 turned up daily at Badrinath. "Keeping it in mind, it was decided to open the yatra strictly for locals with a daily cap on the number of devotees to visit the temples. It was decided that not more than 750 people will be allowed to visit the four Himalayan temples in a day," Uniyal said.

THE HEALTH EFFECTS IN TERMS OF MORTALITY DUE TO BLACK CARBON AEROSOL EXPOSURE HAVE NEVER BEEN EVALUATED IN INDIA

Black carbon could lead to premature mortality: Study

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 30: Black carbon could lead to premature mortality, said a study conducted by the Department of Science & Technology-Mahamana Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Research (MCECCR) at the Banaras Hindu University.

Black carbon has significant adverse effects on human health and leads to premature mortality, said the new study, which could help in the estimation of future burden of mortality associated with air pollutants more accurately.

The study explored the individual as well as the cumulative impact of BC aerosol, fine (PM2.5) and coarse (PM 10) particulates, and

trace gases (SO2, NO2, O3) on premature mortality in Varanasi. The findings have recently been published in the journal 'Atmospheric Environment'.

The Indo-Gangetic plain is exposed to black carbon with serious implications on regional climate and human health. However, most of the pollution-based epidemiological studies essentially relate exposure to particulate mass concentration (PM 10 and/- or PM 2.5) that invariably generalise all particulates with equal toxicity without distinguishing individuals by its source and composition, which genuinely have different health consequences.

Importantly, the health effects in terms of mortality due to black



carbon aerosol exposure have never been evaluated in India.

A typical urban pollution hotspot in the central Indo-Gangetic plain (IGP), Varanasi experiences very

high aerosol loading and trace gas concentration throughout the year due to the prevalence of a subsidence zone and observed decadal increasing trends both in aerosol

optical depth and black carbon aerosols.

The scientists from the MCECCR, supported by the climate change programme of the Department of Science and Technology, utilised daily all-cause mortality and ambient air quality from 2009 to 2016 to clearly establish a significant impact of black carbon aerosols, NO2 and PM2.5 exposure on mortality.

The inclusion of co-pollutants (NO2 and PM 2.5) in the multi-pollutant model increased the individual mortality risks for black carbon aerosols.

The effect of pollutants was more prominent on males in the 5-44 age group, especially during winter.

They found that the adverse effect of air pollutants is not limited to the current day of exposure, but can extend as high as up to five days. They further showed that mortality rises linearly with an increase in air pollutant levels and shows adverse impact at higher levels.

Inclusion of black carbon as a potential health hazard inspires and provides a background for more epidemiological studies to provide evidence of health effects of air pollutants from different parts of the country. RK Mall led the team of scientists who conducted the study, including Nidhi Singh, Alaa Mhawish, Tirthankar Banerjee, Santu Ghosh and RS Singh from the BHU.

international

of the day quote

The agreements to normalise relations recently signed by Israel with some Arab countries are an illusion that will not succeed



MAHMOUD ABBAS | PRESIDENT, PALESTINE

I do not want under-40s to get AstraZeneca... It is rare, but they are at an increased risk of getting the rare clotting syndrome. We've seen up to 49 deaths in the UK from that syndrome



JEANNETTE YOUNG | CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

I know that renewable energy, particularly solar power, is rapidly gaining ground in India and is an excellent example to the rest of the world



CHARLES | PRINCE OF WALES, UK

SHORT TAKES

Activists, journos released by Junta

Bangkok: Myanmar's government began releasing about 2,300 prisoners Wednesday, including activists who were detained for protesting against the military's seizure of power in February and journalists who reported on the protests, officials said. Deputy Information Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun earlier said that about 2,300 prisoners would be released nationwide. He told China's Xinhua news agency that the released detainees were "those are who took part in the protests but did not take part in the violence, who did not commit crimes and did not lead the riots."

B'desh extends Covid curbs

Dhaka: The Bangladeshi government has extended the ongoing closure of educational institutions for another month in light of the current Covid-19 situation in the country which will go into a nationwide lockdown from Thursday onwards. The country's Ministry of Education announced the decision Tuesday, saying that "all secondary and higher secondary level educational institutions, including Islamic schools, would remain closed till July 31", reports Xinhua news agency.

Passenger ferry sinks off Bali coast

Denpasar: Indonesian rescuers were searching for 11 people still missing after a passenger ferry sank off the coast of Bali in rough seas, killing at least seven, authorities said Wednesday. Dozens of survivors were plucked from the water Tuesday evening after the KMP Yunicee, carrying 57 passengers and crew, went down near Gilimanuk port at the western end of the holiday island. But 11 people remained missing Wednesday while authorities confirmed that they had pulled seven dead from the waters, updating an earlier toll.

Last German troops leave Afghanistan

Berlin: The last of the remaining German troops have left Afghanistan after nearly 20 years of deployment in the war-torn country, said Defence Minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. The German Defence Minister said in a tweet that the last Bundeswehr soldiers "left Afghanistan safely" Tuesday evening. She thanked more than 150,000 troops who have served there since 2001 and said that "they can be proud of this mission".



I want to make it clear that diplomatic relations will not be restored with India until it rescinds the illegal steps of 5th August 2019. Entire Pakistan stands by their Kashmiri brothers and sisters

IMRAN KHAN | PM, PAKISTAN

WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING MAN

Emilio Flores Marquez from Puerto Rico has become the world's oldest living man at an age of 112 years and 326 days old, Guinness World Records announced Wednesday. When asked about his longevity, he said the secret to his advanced years lay in compassion



'Covaxin effectively neutralises Alpha, Delta variants'

COVAXIN COMPRISES A DISABLED FORM OF SARS-COV-2 THAT CANNOT REPLICATE BUT STILL STIMULATES THE IMMUNE SYSTEM TO MAKE ANTIBODIES AGAINST THE VIRUS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, June 30: Covaxin's Covid-19 jab, developed and manufactured by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, generates antibodies that can effectively neutralise the Alpha and Delta variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) has said citing results from two studies of blood serum from people who received the shots.

Covaxin comprises a disabled form of SARS-CoV-2 that cannot replicate but still stimulates the immune system to make antibodies against the virus.

The NIH said an adjuvant, de-



veloped by the agency, has also contributed to the success of the

highly efficacious Covaxin Covid-19 vaccine, which roughly 25 mil-

lion people have received to date in India and elsewhere.

Adjuvants are substances formulated as part of a vaccine to boost immune responses and enhance a vaccine's effectiveness.

"Ending a global pandemic requires a global response," said Anthony S Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of NIH.

"I am pleased that a novel vaccine adjuvant developed in the United States with NIAID support is part of an efficacious Covid-19 vaccine available to people in India," he added.

The adjuvant used in Covaxin -

- Alhydroxiqum-II - was discovered and tested in the laboratory by the biotech company ViroVax LLC of Lawrence, Kansas with support exclusively from the NIAID Adjuvant Development Programme. The adjuvant comprises a small molecule attached in a unique way to Alhydrogel, a substance frequently called alum that is the most commonly used adjuvant in vaccines for people.

Bharat Biotech developed Covaxin in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology. Bharat Biotech expects to produce an estimated 700 million doses of Covaxin by the end of 2021.

BLACK SEA SPAT

US, UK both behind provocation: Putin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, June 30: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that a US reconnaissance aircraft was operating in sync with a British destroyer last week when the ship sailed through the Black Sea in what he described as a "provocation" to test Moscow's response.

Asked if the events could have triggered World War III, Putin responded that the West wouldn't risk a full-scale conflict.

"Even if we sank that ship, it wouldn't put the world on the brink of World War III because those who do it know that they can't emerge as winners in that war, and it's very important," Putin said during his annual live call-in show.

"It was clearly a provocation, a complex one involving not only the British but also the Americans," he said, adding that Moscow was aware of the US intentions and responded accordingly to avoid revealing sensitive data.

"We are fighting for ourselves and our future on our own territory,"



Putin charged that the US aircraft's apparent mission was to monitor the Russian military's response to the British destroyer

he said.

Putin emphasised that Moscow is concerned about NATO troops coming to Ukraine for training, reaffirming that a permanent Western military presence on the Ukrainian territory would challenge Russia's vital interests and represent a red line.

PANDEMIC DEFENCE

Kim berates officials for virus lapse

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Seoul, June 30: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un replaced several senior officials after a "crucial" Coronavirus incident, state media reported Wednesday, potentially signalling a breach in the country's pandemic defences.

Pyongyang closed its borders in January last year to try to protect itself against the virus that first emerged in neighbouring China and has gone on to sweep the world.

It has not publicly confirmed any cases of the disease at any point, either in state media or in the test statistics it has disclosed to the World Health Organization.

But analysts said the latest development was a clear indication there had been infections in the isolated North, which is under international sanctions for its nuclear weapons and ballistic mis-



sile programmes.

The impoverished country's ramshackle health system and lack of medical supplies would leave it struggling to cope with a major Covid-19 outbreak.

Members of the presidium of the politburo - the highest decision-making body of the ruling Workers' Party - and the politburo were recalled and new ones named at the meeting Tuesday, KCNA reported, adding that government officials were "transferred and appointed".

Officials had neglected their duties and caused a crucial incident, creating a great crisis in ensuring the security of the state and safety of the people and entailed grave consequences

KIM JONG UN | NORTH KOREAN LEADER

The KCNA dispatch "basically means North Korea has confirmed cases", defector-turned-researcher Ahn Chan-il told AFP.

"The fact that the politburo discussed this, and that the KCNA reported about it, signals Pyongyang is probably in need of international aid," he said.

"Otherwise they would not have done this as it inevitably involves acknowledging the regime's own failure in its anti-epidemic efforts."



malaria treatments, which led to the discovery in the 1970's of artemisinin - the core compound of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), which are the most effective antimalarial drugs

available. In the 1980's, China was among the first countries to extensively test the use of insecticide-treated nets to prevent malaria. By 1988, more than 2.4 million had been distributed nationwide.

China reported 30 million cases of malaria annually in the 1940's but has now gone four consecutive years without an indigenous case

By the end of 1990, the number of malaria cases in China had plummeted to 117,000, and deaths had been cut by 95 percent.

"China's ability to think outside the box served the country well in its own response to malaria, and also had a significant ripple effect globally," said Pedro Alonso, director of the WHO's global malaria programme.

Southern border surveillance

From 2003, China stepped up efforts across the board that brought annual case numbers down to around 5,000 within 10 years.

After four consecutive years of zero indigenous cases, China applied for WHO certification in 2020.

Experts travelled to China in May this year to verify its malaria-free status - and its plans to prevent the disease from coming back.

The risk of imported cases remains a concern, not only among people returning from sub-Saharan Africa and other malaria-hit regions, but also in the southern Yunnan Province, which borders Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, all struggling with the disease. China has stepped up its malaria surveillance in at-risk zones in a bid to prevent the disease re-emerging, said the WHO.

Dozens dead as heatwave breaks records

At least 134 people have died suddenly since Friday in the Vancouver area, according to figures released by the city police department and the Royal Canadian Mounted police

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Vancouver, June 30: Scores of deaths in Canada's Vancouver area are likely linked to a grueling heat wave, authorities said Tuesday, as the country recorded its highest ever temperature amid scorching conditions that extended to the US Pacific Northwest.

Canada set a new all-time high temperature record for a third day in a row Tuesday, reaching 121 degrees Fahrenheit (49.5 degrees Celsius) in Lytton, British Columbia, about 155 miles (250 kilometers) east of Vancouver; the country's weather service, Environment Canada, reported.

"Vancouver has never experienced heat like this, and sadly dozens of people are dying because of it," police sergeant Steve Addison said.

Other local municipalities have said they too have responded to many sudden death calls, but have yet to release tolls.

Climate change is causing record-setting temperatures to become more frequent. Globally, the decade to 2019 was the hottest recorded, and the five hottest years have all oc-



curred within the last five years.

The scorching heat stretching from the US state of Oregon to Canada's Arctic territories has been blamed on a high-pressure ridge trapping warm air in the region.

Temperatures in the US Pacific Northwest cities of Portland and Seattle reached levels not seen since record-keeping began in the 1940's: 115 degrees Fahrenheit in Portland and 108 in Seattle

Monday, according to the National Weather Service.

The chief coroner for the province of British Columbia, which includes Vancouver, said that it had "experienced a significant increase in deaths reported where it is suspected that extreme heat has been contributory."

The service said in a statement it recorded 233 deaths between Friday and Monday, compared to 130 on average.

Hottest week ever

Environment Canada has issued alerts for British Columbia, Alberta, and parts of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon and the Northwest Territories, saying the "prolonged, dangerous and historic heat wave will persist through this week." The heat wave has forced schools and Covid-19 vaccination centers to close in the Vancouver area, while officials set up temporary water fountains and misting stations on street corners. Stores quickly sold out of portable air conditioners and fans, so several people without cooling at home told AFP they hunkered down in their air conditioned cars or underground parking garages at night. The extreme heat, combined with intense drought, also created the perfect conditions for several fires to break out over the weekend, and one blaze on the California-Oregon border had already burned about 1,500 acres (600 hectares) by Monday morning.

PROTESTERS' PAROXYSM



Demonstrators tear down a statue of Italian explorer Cristobal Colon, also known as Christopher Columbus, during protests in Barranquilla, Colombia

REUTERS

China certified malaria-free after 70-year long fight: WHO

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Geneva, June 30: China was certified as malaria-free Wednesday by the World Health Organization, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease.

"We congratulate the people of China on ridding the country of malaria," said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Their success was hard-earned and came only after decades of targeted and sustained action. With this announcement, China joins the growing number of countries that are showing the world that a malaria-free future is a viable goal."

Countries that have achieved at least three consecutive years of zero indigenous cases can apply for WHO certification of their

malaria-free status. They must present rigorous evidence - and demonstrate the capacity to prevent transmission re-emerging.

China becomes the 40th territory certified malaria-free by the Geneva-based WHO.

The last countries to gain the status were El Salvador (2021), Algeria and Argentina (2019), and Paraguay and Uzbekistan (2018).

China's pioneering malaria battle

In the 1950's, Beijing started working out where malaria was spreading and began to combat it with preventative anti-malarial medicines, said the WHO.

The country reduced mosquito breeding grounds and stepped up spraying insecticide in homes.

In 1967, China launched a scientific programme to find new

of the day **quote**

Our green energy arm is on track to be the world's largest renewable energy company by 2030. No other organisation in the world has accelerated its renewables footprint as rapidly as the Adani Group



GAUTAM ADANI | CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP

There are two big trends clearly emerging (from a survey). First, an increased appetite for long-term incentives, especially from the younger workforce and second is the definition of benefits. It is no longer restricted to medical insurance



RITIKA MATHUR | BHARAT DIRECTOR (HUMAN CAPITAL CONSULTING), GRANT THORNTON

We have done a lot for power distribution reforms. It needs to be strengthened. Today, the Cabinet has approved the new scheme worth ₹3.03 lakh crore, including ₹97,000 crore central outlay



RK SINGH | POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Musk to invest \$30bn in Starlink

Barcelona: Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk is planning to invest up to \$30 billion to develop his ambitious Starlink satellite internet service. Starlink plans to deploy thousands of low-orbit satellites to provide high-speed internet to isolated and poorly connected areas. It has so far deployed over 1,500 satellites and by August it will be able to provide coverage everywhere in the world except the north and south poles, Musk said at the Mobile World Congress.

FinMin reimposes spending curbs

New Delhi: The finance ministry Wednesday reimposed expenditure curbs on various central ministries and departments for the July-September quarter of the current FY. Putting them into two categories, government feels that it is essential to regulate the expenditure plan for each bucket keeping in mind the cash position ahead of expected third wave. However, there will be no spending restrictions on Health, MSME and Rural Development.

Grofers to turn unicorn: Report

New Delhi: Food delivery app Zomato, which is working to explore public markets later this year, has reached an agreement to invest \$100 million in online grocer Grofers for about a 10 per cent stake. According to TechCrunch, the proposed investment values the seven-year-old startup Grofers, which counts SoftBank as its largest investor, at over \$1 billion. Zomato's proposed investment is part of a broader round, in which others are expected to chip in some capital.

Amul announces pan-India hike

Ahmedabad: Prices of Amul milk will be increased by ₹2 per litre with effect from July 1 across all brands, a senior Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) official said Wednesday. He said the price was being hiked after a gap of nearly one year and seven months which became necessary due to an increase in the production cost. "Prices of Amul milk will be increased by ₹2/L across India from today," said RS Sodhi, MD, GCMMF.

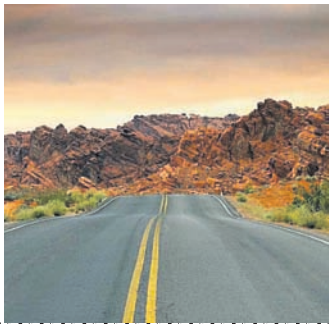


Right now what we are seeing is highly unequal access to vaccinations, including therapeutics and diagnostics. Therefore, what we're seeing is a diverging recovery

GITA GOPINATH | CHIEF ECONOMIST, IMF

'TRAVEL WILL BE BACK MUCH STRONGER'

Within a year, things will begin to settle down and travel will be back much stronger than ever before as history has proven on all occasions that it is a fundamental need of global citizens, Indian Hotels Co. Ltd MD and CEO Puneet Chhatwal has said. Global leaders must do everything to ensure that the right process and procedure are in place, so that travel can be started seamlessly, he added



Tesla is recalling nearly 3,00,000 EVs in China: Report



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, June 30: Elon Musk's EV maker Tesla will remotely update the Autopilot software in about 285,000 of its cars in China to prevent drivers from mistakenly activating the Autopilot feature while driving. According to GizmoChina, this is after the country's regulatory agency investigated claims that drivers inadvertently switch to Autopilot when driving. The remote update is understood to affect both cars made locally and those from abroad. The state regulator, China's State Administration for Market Regulation, believes there are safety concerns if the Autopilot is not firmed up. When the Autopilot turns on accidentally the vehicle may accelerate rapidly or quickly slow down. Sudden acceleration or slowing down could, in extreme cases, cause a collision. According to the state regulator, Tesla had already commenced the process of updating the software since Saturday. The bulk of the vehicles affected are the locally produced Model 3 and Model Y models, while more than 35,000 imported Model 3 will also be updated.

Retail inflation for industrial workers rises marginally to 5.24%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: Retail inflation for industrial workers rose marginally to 5.24 per cent in May 2021 from 5.14 per cent in April mainly due to increase in prices of certain food items and petroleum products, as well as higher mobile phone charges. "Year-on-year inflation for the month (of May) stood at 5.24 per cent compared to 5.14 per cent for the previous month (April 2021) and 5.10 per cent during the corresponding month (May 2020) a year before," a labour ministry statement said. Similarly, it stated that food inflation stood at 5.26 per cent last month against 4.78 per cent in April 2021 and 5.88 per cent in the corresponding month a year ago. The Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been compiling the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) every month on the basis of retail prices collected from 317 markets spread over 88 industrially important centres in the country.

'Nearly double-digit GDP growth expected in FY22'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 30: The Indian economy is likely to witness close to double-digit growth in the current fiscal year despite the second Covid-19 wave ravaging the country, Principal Economic Adviser (PEA) Sanjeev Sanyal said Wednesday. The economy is slowly getting back to normalcy as the number of Covid-19 cases is declining, he said while participating in India Global Forum event. "We are probably going to see close to double-digit, if not double-digit (growth) in this financial year," he said.

The growth will be bolstered by a slew of structural reforms undertaken by the government to address supply side constraints and opening more and more sectors



for foreign investment. "Most countries were focused on demand side measures (but) we were also focussed on supply

Most countries were focused on demand side measures (but) we were also focussed on supply side...virtually every week you will see new sectors being opened up. We have done major reforms in IT, BPO, geo-spatial sector and we can open up many other sectors because we want to be a part of the global supply chain

SANJEEV SANYAL | PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ADVISER

side...Virtually every week you will see new sectors being opened up. We have done major reforms in IT sector, BPO sector, geospatial sector and we can open up many

other sectors because we want to be a part of the global supply chain," he said.

It is to be noted that many global and domestic institutions, including the World Bank and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have slashed India's growth forecast for 2021-22 as economic recovery was halted by the devastating second wave of coronavirus infections.

Earlier this month, the World Bank slashed its 2021-22 GDP growth forecast for India to 8.3 per cent from 10.1 per cent estimated in April, while RBI lowered it from 10.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent.

RBI expects the economy to grow at the rate of 18.5 per cent in April-June, 7.9 per cent in the second quarter, 7.2 per cent in December quarter and 6.6 per cent in the fourth quarter.

Eight core industries' May production rises 16.8%

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 30: The low base of last year due to the stringent national lockdown aided in proping up India's eight major industries' output during May 2021 on a year-on-year basis.

The pandemic-triggered national lockdown (from late March 2020) during Q1FY21 had a massive impact on the economy, which suffered a GDP contraction of 24.4 per cent. It was only June 1, 2020, that the partial unlock measures were implemented.

Unlike last year, the lockdown in 2021 was more regional in nature. Production and manufacturing by several industries were allowed this time around.

Accordingly, the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) reading for last month showed an expansion of 16.8 per cent from a decline of 21.4 per cent in output during the same month of the last year.

On a sequential basis, however, the output of eight major industries declined 3.74 per cent in May at 125.8 (index reading) from 130.7 recorded in April.

"The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 125.8 in



UPTICK IN OUTPUT

Unlike last year, the lockdown in 2021 was more regional in nature

The ICI reading for last month showed an expansion of 16.8% from a decline of 21.4% in output during the same month of the last year

On a sequential basis, however, the output of eight major industries declined 3.74% in May at 125.8 (index reading) from 130.7 recorded in April

May 2021, which increased by 16.8 per cent (provisional) as compared

to the Index of May 2020," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement.

"The production of coal, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement, and electricity industries increased in May 2021 over the corresponding period of last year.

"Besides, the final growth rate of Index of Eight Core Industries for February 2021 is revised to (-) 3.3 per cent from its provisional level (-) 4.6 per cent."

The ICI index comprises 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). These industries comprise coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity.

BIZ BUZZ

BMW 5 Series 2021 edition launched

New Delhi: The new BMW 5 Series has been launched in India. Locally produced at BMW Group Plant Chennai, the car is available in one petrol (BMW 530i M Sport) and two diesel variants (BMW 530d M Sport and BMW 520d Luxury Line). The car is available at attractive introductory prices (ex-showroom) as follows - BMW 530i M Sport at ₹ 62,90,000, BMW 520d Luxury Line at ₹ 63,90,000 and BMW 530d M Sport at ₹ 71,90,000. Bookings can be made at all BMW dealerships from today onwards.



Xiaomi to raise prices of smartphones, smart TVs

New Delhi: Xiaomi Wednesday said it will increase prices of its smartphones and smart TVs by about 3-6 per cent from July 1 in India as the Chinese tech major faces pressures like shortage of components and higher shipping charges. A Xiaomi India spokesperson said since the last year, there have been shortages across the supply chain. "Due to massive demand-supply mismatch, the majority of components used in smartphones, Smart TV and other electronic gadgets have seen constant upward movement in their prices," the spokesperson added.



WB approves \$500mn loan to support informal working class

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 30: World Bank Wednesday said it has approved a USD 500 million (about ₹3,717.28 crore) loan programme to support India's informal working class to overcome the current pandemic distress. The loan will create greater flexibility for states to cope with the ongoing pandemic, future climate and disaster shocks, World Bank said in a statement.

Of the USD 500 million commitment, USD 112.50 million will be financed by its concessionary

lending arm International Development Association and USD 387.50 million will be a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The loan has a maturity period of 18.5 years including a grace period of five years.

World Bank said its total funding towards strengthening India's social protection programmes to help the poor and vulnerable households since the start of the pandemic stands at USD 1.65 billion (about ₹12,264.54 crore).

The first two operations approved

last year provided immediate emergency relief cash transfers to about 320 million individual bank accounts identified through pre-existing national social protection schemes and additional food rations for about 800 million (80 crore) individuals, World Bank said.

States can now access flexible funding from disaster response funds to design and implement appropriate social protection responses. The funds will be utilised in social protection programme for urban informal workers, gig-workers, and migrants, it said.

e-COMM RULES

Fight between Amazon, Flipkart vs RIL, Tata to deepen

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 30: As e-commerce regulations are tightened, fight between foreign companies Amazon, Flipkart and Indian companies Reliance, Tata Group is set to intensify. Foreign brokerage, Jefferies said in a note, "The proposed rules now target indirect ownership in vendors, own label, flash sales. Fight between foreign cos (Amazon, Flipkart) & Indian cos (Reliance, Tata Grp) is set to intensify."

India's e-commerce industry faces complex regulations, the note said. While B2B & single brand retail have a stable framework, FDI in inventory-led e-commerce is prohibited. 100% FDI is allowed in marketplace but regulations are evolving. 2018 rules pushed Amazon to reduce stake in a key seller. In July 2020, new regulations

were enacted with an intent to protect customer interest. However, in 2021, there have been amendments to those rules, still at a draft stage and open to public comments until July 6, these are applicable to both Indian and foreign backed platforms, but seem more relevant for Amazon & Flipkart, based on our reading, Jefferies said.

Increase in the scope of related parties to now include common chain of directors, more than 10% common ultimate shareholders, 5% shareholding in related entities etc. Related party, as defined above, cannot become a seller on the platform and also cannot do anything that e-commerce entity itself cannot do.

Marketplace cannot sell goods or services to any vendor on its platform. "Marketplace name or brand cannot be used for the product - 'Amazon' Alexa for example, in our view; > Marketplace subject to fall-



back when vendor fails to perform; flash sale favouring certain vendors only is not allowed etc", the note said.

Amazon started in 2013 as a marketplace but faced issues on FDI. In 2014, it entered into a partnership with Catamaran Mgmt.

Services (promoted by Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy), which owned 51% while Amazon owned 49% in Prione Business which owned Cloudtail India, the key vendor on Amazon India platform. However, the 2018 regulation pushed Amazon to reduce its stake to 24%

While B2B & single brand retail have a stable framework, FDI in inventory-led e-comm is prohibited. 100% FDI is allowed in marketplace but regulations are evolving

with Catamaran now at 74%.

FDI in any form of retail was banned in India until 1996. However, 100% FDI was allowed in wholesale cash & carry in 1997 which was also extended to B2B e-commerce in 2000. In 2006, 51% FDI was allowed in single-brand retail which was made 100% in 2012 with some restrictions (30% local sourcing etc.). Single brand retailers have been

also been allowed to run B2C e-commerce from 2015. In 2013, FDI was allowed in multi-brand retail (with some restrictions). However, the final approval was left to individual states and today, around 11 states and one UT allow FDI, while rest do not.

e-Commerce models: In 2016, the e-commerce policy allowed 100% FDI in marketplace but banned the Inventory-led model. Over the years, the marketplace regulations have evolved covering aspects like control over inventory and direct/indirect investments in vendors.

2018 regulations: The industry managed to create alternate structures in order to adhere to the regulations until 2017. This prompted lawmakers in 2018 to tighten their grip by restricting control over inventory which covered cases where a vendor buys more than 25% of its products directly or indirectly.

England shed agonising past



Harry Kane

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, June 30: As the Wembley Stadium announcer roared the final score — “England 2, Germany 0” — Gareth Southgate’s vision was momentarily diverted from his victorious players to the big screen. Shown beaming from the VIP seats, reveling in England’s passage to the European Championship quarterfinals Tuesday, were David Beckham and Ed Sheeran. Prince William, wife Kate and 7-year-old Prince George were also there celebrating, as fans just like their subjects rather than royalty. But it was the sight of David Seaman that caught Southgate’s eyes and made him pause, to think back — in one of his greatest moments as England coach — to the pain of 25 years ago. It was Southgate’s penalty miss at the old Wembley that denied an England side with Seaman in goal the chance to reach the Euro ’96 final.

“For the teammates who played with me, I can’t change that — so that’s always going to hurt,” Southgate said. “But what this group of players has been able to do is give a new generation a lot of happy memories and another afternoon where they have made a bit of history.” England are finally unburdened by the weight of their agonising history against the Germans. This was a day more reminiscent, albeit with a long way to go in Euro 2020, of the 1966 World Cup final win over them on the same site. Not that it came easily. Just like in England’s two group wins, Raheem Sterling was on the score-sheet, breaking the tense deadlock in the 75th minute. But this time Harry Kane finally scored his first goal at Euro 2020, easing the pressure on the 2018 World Cup Golden Boot winner’s shoulders. “With all the expectation and pressure, we delivered,” Kane said.

“It’s a moment none of us will ever forget. The perfect afternoon.” It was England’s second-ever win in the knockout stage of the European Championship. The last such triumph came on penalties against Spain at Euro ’96 before the hosts were denied a place in the final by Germany in that shootout. It was on penalties that Germany also beat England in the 1990 World Cup semifinals. Then there was the English goal wrongfully disallowed as Germany knocked the English out of the 2010 World Cup. Now England will play Ukraine in the Euro 2020 quarterfinals Saturday in Rome, eyeing a return to Wembley for the semifinals and the final. It marked the end of the 15-year reign of Joachim Loew as the 2014 World Cup-winning coach takes time out to consider his next steps. “We were not clinical enough,” he said. “The team need to mature to be more successful.” There will still be questions



Raheem Sterling

about Southgate’s team selection and persistence with Kane when he managed only one touch in the opposition penalty area in the first half. And it was a bad one, taking a ball too far past Manuel Neuer while trying to go around the goalkeeper. But while Sterling’s goals are spearheading England’s progress at this largely-home tournament, the saves of Jordan Pickford are proving vital, too, including using one hand to push over Kai Havertz’s shot at the start of the second half. The clamor to introduce Jack Grealish was growing in the second half. It’s what got fans chanting inside Wembley, with a crowd of about 40,000 the biggest in Britain since the pandemic began in March 2020. The winger finally entered with about 20 minutes to go and played a role in the opening goal. Sterling first took on the defenders, going past Antonio Rudiger before passing to Kane, whose layoff to Grealish then went to Luke Shaw. And it

was the left back’s cross that Sterling connected with, shooting past Neuer with his right boot. “We knew the intensity we can play at,” Sterling said, “and not many teams can deal with it.” For all the experience in Germany’s side compared to the youth of England, it was World Cup winner Thomas Muller who squandered a chance to equalise in the 81st minute. Clean through with only Pickford to beat, Muller put the ball wide. Kane showed him how it’s done, heading in a cross from Grealish in the 96th minute to get the 35th England goal that eluded him in the group stage. “When you’re a center forward it doesn’t matter what else you’re doing in the game,” Southgate said. “You need those goals.” England has yet to concede in its four games. Just like at the 1966 World Cup — and that ended well. “This,” Kane said, “will give us more self-belief going forward.”

Zinchenko, Dovbyk fashion Ukraine win

Shevchenko’s side stun Sweden with a late extra-time goal to enter Euro 2020 quarters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glasgow, June 30: Ukraine had reached the round of 16 at the Euro 2020 with two losses and the worst record of the advancing teams. And now the quarterfinals, too. Ukraine eliminated previously unbeaten Sweden 2-1 Tuesday with a goal in stoppage time at the end of extra time from a player who was left on the bench for the entire group stage. Substitute Artem Dovbyk stooped low to guide a header from Oleksandr Zinchenko’s cross past goalkeeper Robin Olsen. It was the 24-year-old forward’s first goal for the national team. Ukraine’s greatest ever forward, current coach Andriy Shevchenko, ran down the sideline to celebrate his players, who will now head to Rome to face England Saturday. Zinchenko also scored a goal on a day when Manchester City teammate Raheem Sterling got one in England’s 2-0 win over Germany. Zinchenko gave Ukraine the lead in the 27th minute when he rifled in a low shot set up by a crafty pass from captain Andriy Yarmolenko. Emil Forsberg’s deflected shot from outside the area in the 43rd minute equalised for Sweden. It was his fourth goal at Euro 2020, but a tournament lead-tying fifth eluded him in the second half despite curling shots off the post and the crossbar:

Sweden coach Janne Andersson cited the momentum shift in extra time when Sweden defender Marcus Danielson was sent off in the 98th minute for following through on a challenge with a raised boot on substitute Artem Besedin. The Ukrainians had needed a favor from Sweden just to advance after losing two group games and having a negative goal difference. After losing to Austria last week, Ukraine would have been out if Poland had beaten Sweden two days later. Sweden won that game 3-2 with Forsberg scoring twice. Neither team had ever won a knockout game at a European Championship in a combined eight previous tournaments. Both often-cautious teams played more freely in a wide-open 90 minutes, trying to seize a chance for a deep run in the arguably weaker half of the draw. Ukraine’s key creator had been Yarmolenko. To set up Zinchenko’s goal, Yarmolenko used the outside of his favored left foot to drift a curling pass across seven defenders toward their blind side in the penalty area. After scoring with a first-time shot, Zinchenko ran away with a finger to his lips in a gesture he said was telling critics to be quiet. Yarmolenko looked exhausted long before he was taken off for the final period of extra time — making way for Dovbyk to come on.



KNIGHTS ON THE NIGHT: Oleksandr Zinchenko and Artem Dovbyk (inset) celebrate their respective goals against Sweden, Tuesday

Low end to Loew’s tenure

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, June 30: Joachim Loew’s 15-year tenure as coach of Germany’s national soccer team is over, and many think it should have ended a long time ago. The Germans at least advanced from the group stage this time, unlike three years at the World Cup when they were defending champions, but then lost to England 2-0 at Wembley Stadium Tuesday in the round of 16 of the European Championship. Loew led Germany to the World Cup title in 2014, and a semifinal appearance at Euro 2016, but his team never recovered from their early exit at the last World Cup. An attempted reboot after the tournament in Russia failed to yield the desired results. First there was the embarrassing 0-6 loss to Spain last November, and then a 1-2 loss to North Macedonia in World Cup qualifying in March. Shortly before the second of those two surprising results, Loew announced that Euro 2020 would be his last tournament. And with no need to personally to persevere with the team’s rebuilding process, he recalled veterans Thomas

Muller and Mats Hummels for the pandemic-delayed tournament. Both Muller and Hummels played key roles in helping Germany advance from a difficult group that included World champions France, European champions Portugal and a well-organized Hungary team. But Germany’s chances at the tournament were ultimately undone by a failure to make more of their opportunities. Essentially, Germany still haven’t found a replacement Miroslav Klose and his goals. The World Cup’s all-time leading scorer with 16 goals retired after winning the title in Brazil seven years ago. Against England, Muller and Timo Werner failed to convert the best of Germany’s chances. Kai Havertz also went close, but England forwards Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane scored a goal each to show the Germans how it’s done. Loew’s 198th match in charge was his last. It was only the second time Germany had failed to reach the quarterfinals of a major tournament since Loew took over as coach after the 2006 World Cup. The problem for Loew is that it was right after the first. Hansi Flick, Loew’s former assistant, will take over for World Cup qualifying. Flick, who had a very successful spell in charge of Bayern Munich, will inherit the problems Loew faced — most notably the lack of an out-and-out scorer — but he has some excellent young players to work with.

European champions Portugal and a well-organized Hungary team. But Germany’s chances at the tournament were ultimately undone by a failure to make more of their opportunities. Essentially, Germany still haven’t found a replacement Miroslav Klose and his goals. The World Cup’s all-time leading scorer with 16 goals retired after winning the title in Brazil seven years ago. Against England, Muller and Timo Werner failed to convert the best of Germany’s chances. Kai Havertz also went close, but England forwards Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane scored a goal each to show the Germans how it’s done. Loew’s 198th match in charge was his last. It was only the second time Germany had failed to reach the quarterfinals of a major tournament since Loew took over as coach after the 2006 World Cup. The problem for Loew is that it was right after the first. Hansi Flick, Loew’s former assistant, will take over for World Cup qualifying. Flick, who had a very successful spell in charge of Bayern Munich, will inherit the problems Loew faced — most notably the lack of an out-and-out scorer — but he has some excellent young players to work with.

AIFF nominates Sunil Chhetri for Khel Ratna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: Talismanic India captain Sunil Chhetri has been recommended for this year’s Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, the country’s highest sporting honour, by the All India Football Federation. National women’s football team striker Bala Devi, who is currently playing for Rangers in the Scottish Women’s Premier League, has been recommended for the coveted Arjuna Award. “We have recommended Sunil Chhetri for the Khel Ratna and Bala Devi for Arjuna Award,” an official source told this agency on condition of anonymity. “We have also recommended Gabriel Joseph for Dronacharya Award,” the source added. The 36-year-old Chhetri has played 118 international matches, scoring 74 goals, both Indian records. He scored twice against Bangladesh in the recent World Cup Qualifiers in Qatar to become the second highest international goal scorer among active footballers, ahead of Argentine maestro Lionel Messi. He is, however, currently in the fourth spot with United Arab Emirates’ Ali Mabkhout (76) and Messi (75) having overtaken him. Chhetri is a recipient of Padma Shri (2019), the country’s fourth highest civilian honour, and the Arjuna Award (2011). Since making debut in 2005, Chhetri has been part of Indian team that won the AFC Challenge Cup (2008), SAFF Championships (2011, 2015), Nehru Cup (2007, 2009, 2012), Intercontinental Cup (2017, 2018).

Big W: Djokovic dispatches Anderson to enter 3rd round

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wimbledon, June 30: Novak Djokovic slid, slipped, skidded and stumbled into the third round on Wimbledon’s slick grass Wednesday by beating Kevin Anderson 6-3, 6-3, 6-3. Djokovic didn’t face a break point and committed just six unforced errors, including one with his forehand. But footing continued to be an issue on the third day of the tournament, and Djokovic went sprawling several times, as did players in other matches and at least one ball kid. “I didn’t slip just once; I slipped like six times,” Bianca Andreescu said after losing her first-round match. “The courts are super slippery. I have only played here once before, but they weren’t like this at all. I spoke to a couple other players, and they said it’s not that normal. But this is something we can’t really control.” Seven-time champion Serena Williams retired from her first-round match Tuesday with a leg injury after she slipped. Roger Federer’s opponent, Adrian Mannarino, had to call it quits after he fell and twisted his knee. Persistent rain the first two days of play created slick conditions. The weather also caused a scheduling backlog, with 27 first-round matches pushed into Wednesday. The retractable roof was open when the top-ranked Djokovic was first on Centre Court for his rematch against Anderson, who also lost when they played in the 2018 final. While Djokovic endured an up-



and-down performance on the slippery surface and rose from one spill muttering in frustration, he had little trouble with Anderson. The preternaturally limber Djokovic extended one rally by hitting a forehand while down on his knee — and won the point. Djokovic seeks his sixth Wimbledon title and third in a row. By winning the championship, he would also match the record total of 20 majors shared by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, and would need only a title at the U.S. Open to sweep all four Grand Slams in 2021. Andreescu made another early Grand Slam exit when she lost to Alice Cornet 6-2, 6-1. The Canadian won the 2019 Open but is 2-5 in majors since, including three opening-round defeats. Andreescu, who has battled injuries but was seeded fifth, committed 34 unforced errors to seven for Cornet. “I tried to stay positive the whole

match,” Andreescu said. “I tried to figure it out, how I can play her better. But honestly, she played really well.” Yoshihito Nishioka overcame a 15-inch height disparity to beat 6-foot-10 John Isner 7-6 (5), 2-6, 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-4. The match took place on Court 18, where Isner won a record fifth set 70-68 in 2010. Also advancing was Queen’s Club tournament champion Matteo Berrettini, who hit 20 aces and pulled away from Guido Pella 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0. American Sam Querrey upset No. 11 Pablo Carreño Busta 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-5. Former US Open runner-up Kei Nishikori ousted Alexei Popyrin 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 for his 100th Grand Slam match win. No. 10 Denis Shapovalov moved into the third round when Pablo Andújar withdrew because of a rib injury. In other women’s play, French Open runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova beat Ana Bogdan 6-2, 6-2.