



## RAISING THE BAR

Actor Shilpa Shetty has urged her Instagram followers to try new workout routines to break the monotony

LEISURE P2



## SPACE AMBITIONS

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos said he and brother Mark will be on the first space flight by his company Blue Origin

INTERNATIONAL P10



## GAUFF IN QUARTERS

17-year-old Coco Gauff reaches her first Grand Slam quarterfinal as she beats Ons Jabeur at the French Open

SPORTS P12

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## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Kind of confirmed that second wave has receded. He is on TV again addressing the nation

# FREE VAX ABOVE 18

Centre forced to change course after Supreme Court order

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 7:** The central government will provide free coronavirus vaccines to states and Union Territories (UTs) for inoculation of all above 18 years from June 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday. He announced that the Centre will take over the 25 per cent state procurement quota.

Asserting that vaccine supply would be increased significantly in the coming days, the prime minister said the Centre has now decided to buy 75 per cent of jabs from vaccine makers for free supply to states. Private sector hospitals will continue to procure 25 per cent of vaccines but they cannot charge more than ₹150 per dose over the pre-fixed price.

The change in the government's vaccine strategy comes days after the Supreme Court asked June 2 the Centre to place on record all relevant documents reflecting its thinking culminating in the Covid-19 vaccination policy, and states questioning the central government over the alleged shortage of vaccines. Justice DY Chandrachud had questioned the vaccine procurement policy and also



raised the issue of the digital divide questioning the policy of mandatory registration on CoWIN App for jabs.

In his televised address, Modi however, highlighted that it was due to the demands for de-centralisation from many states that his government decided to allow them 25 per cent procurement from May 1.

Sources said a plan for a centralised free vaccination was presented to the PM June 1 on completion of one month of the decentralised model. Modi had given in-principle approval in that meeting and the groundwork

for it began June 1 itself before being announced on Monday, they added.

"Various voices were raised like why age-group was chosen for vaccination. Someone asked why the Centre should decide on age limit. Some even said why the elderly were being given a priority."

"It has been decided today that the central government will take over the 25 per cent doses assigned to states and this will be implemented in the next two weeks. From June 21 (International Day of Yoga), the Centre will provide free vaccines to states...Till

## FREE FOODGRAINS FOR 80 CRORE TILL DIWALI

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Monday that the government will distribute free foodgrains to around 80 crore people till Diwali for providing relief to the poor amid the second wave of Covid-19. In April, the Centre had announced distribution of free foodgrains for the months of May and June under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). In his address to the nation, the prime minister announced the government's decision to extend the scheme till Diwali.

now, crores of people got free vaccines, now 18 years segment will be added to this," Modi informed.

"For all people, whether it is the poor, the lower middle class, the middle class, or the upper-middle class, under the central government programme, everyone will get free vaccines," the prime minister added.

Modi said seven companies are producing various vaccines and trials of three more are at an advanced stage. He added research is continuing on a nasal spray vaccine which can boost India's war against Covid-19.

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# Odisha set to call off global tender

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** In a major respite for all state governments, the Centre announced Monday that it will provide free Covid-19 vaccines to all above 18 years from June 21. Keeping this development in mind, the Odisha government is likely to cancel the global tender floated for procurement of vaccines directly from the international market.

"Every life is precious. No one is safe until everyone is vaccinated. As a nation we stand united in this fight against #Covid19 pandemic.

Thank PM Shri @narendramodiji for making vaccination a national mission," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tweeted Monday after the Centre's announcement.

The Odisha government was struggling to inoculate people in the 18 years to 44 years age group as the Centre had made it the responsibility of the state. Despite making serious efforts, the state government failed to get good response for its global tender floated May 14. The Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL), which floated the tender, had received only two bids.

## 50 KILLED IN PAK TRAIN ACCIDENT

**KARACHI:** Fifty persons were killed and 70 others injured as two passenger trains collided in Pakistan's southern Sindh Province early Monday morning. The toll may rise as the conditions of some of those injured are said to be very critical. The army and paramilitary forces have been called to carry out rescue operations. The accident occurred when the 'Millat Express' from Karachi to Sargodha derailed and fell on the opposite track and collided with 'Sir Syed Express' going from Rawalpindi to Karachi.

MORE P10

## Rise in fuel prices continues unabated

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 7:** The rise of fuel prices continued Monday with oil companies increasing the rates of both petrol and diesel for the second consecutive day. Accordingly, the retail prices of petrol and diesel were increased by 28 paise and 27 paise per litre to ₹95.31 and ₹86.22 per litre respectively in the national capital.

### CITY FUEL PRICES

PETROL	₹96.11 (+0.29)
DIESEL	₹94.01 (+0.29)

Kerala became the fourth state in India after Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where premium petrol went past the ₹100-per litre mark. The price of premium petrol hit the century mark at pumps in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Idukki, Palakkad, Wayanad and Kasaragod districts.

In the city of Mumbai, where petrol prices crossed ₹100 mark for the first time ever May 29, the fuel rate reached a new high of ₹101.53 per litre Monday. Diesel price also went up to ₹93.57 a litre, the highest among metros.

Across India, petrol and diesel prices increased between 24-28 paise per litre Monday but its retail prices varied depending on the level of local taxes in different states.

With Monday's price hike, fuel prices have now increased on 20 days and remained unchanged on 18 days since May 1. The 20 increases have hiked petrol prices by ₹4.91 per litre. Similarly, diesel has increased by ₹5.50 per litre in the national capital. In the last 13 months, petrol and diesel have risen by ₹25.72 and ₹23.93 per litre

## 18 dead in Pune fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, June 7:** At least 18 persons, mostly women, were killed in a major fire in a sanitiser factory in Pune district Monday afternoon, officials said. The blaze erupted around 3.00pm in private chemical company, 'SVC Ltd', in the MIDC area of Pirangut village. It quickly spread within the enclosed premises, trapping many working there.

Officials said that other than the 18 already confirmed dead, around 10 other workers are feared trapped or missing in the incident.

Thick clouds of black-grey smoke could be seen billowing out of the factory premises alarming the locals, who rushed to the spot. Fire Brigade teams from MIDC, Mulshi, disaster res-

cue teams and others rushed to the site of the accident. Pune Collector Rajesh Deshmukh, SP Abhivan Deshmukh and other officials also reached the spot to supervise the relief operations.

A company official said that while the blaze was brought under control by late evening, they were unable to provide any clues on how the fire could have started.

Tehsildar Abhay Chauhan had earlier said that 11 bodies were recovered as rescue operations were going on in full swing. Another six bodies were found later.

Eyewitnesses said that the bodies had been charred to such an extent that it was difficult to ascertain their gender or identity, but co-workers estimate that more than 12 women are among the dead.

## SPARE THE ROD, SPOIL THE CHILD



A policeman at Rajmahal Square gets ready to wield his stick as a two-wheeler with a helmet-less pillion rider tries to flee the spot to avoid paying a fine

OP PHOTO

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VI
SENSEX	52328.51	228.46
NIFTY	15751.70	81.40
DOLLAR	72.99	₹0.19
EURO	88.78	₹0.16
GOLD	₹49,046.	₹52
SILVER	₹71,660	₹121

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	38.2°C	38.4°C
TEMP MIN	26.3°C	27.0°C
Humidity	78%	74%
Rainfall	29.6mm	6.2mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

## HEAVY RAINFALL ON CARDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** Many places across Odisha are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall from June 10 under the influence of a low pressure area likely to form around June 11 over North Bay of Bengal.

"There is possibility that heavy to very heavy rainfall will occur at many places of Odisha between June 10 and 14. This low pressure will bring southwest monsoon to maximum places of the state," director of Bhubaneswar Met Centre, HR Biswas said Monday.

As per the forecast, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur June 10 at some places in the districts of



Heavy rains lashed parts of the capital City Monday afternoon

OP PHOTO

Balasure, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Puri, Angul, Keonjhar, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Boudh and Kandhamal.

Similarly, heavy to extremely heavy downpours are likely to occur at one or two places in Balasure, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Boudh, Sonepur and Kalahandi districts, June 11.

Waterlogging and flash floods are likely to occur in some places due to heavy rainfall, the Met Centre said in a bulletin.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena asked Monday all collectors to remain prepared to meet any flood-like situations.

## Covid infection rate will decrease: Official

Test positivity rate showing downward trend

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** Even as Odisha registered 6,118 new cases of coronavirus infections Monday, health services director Bijay Mohapatra said that the state will witness a further fall in the rate of fresh cases in the next seven to 10 days.

"The present trend of cases in the second wave of Covid-19 shows that the positivity rate will take a downward trend. Odisha currently has a test positivity rate of below 10 per cent," Mohapatra said.

The total fatality in Odisha rose to 3,085 with 41 fresh deaths reported in the last 24 hours according to a Health department official. Mohapatra clarified on the high number of fatalities. He said it can be attributed to a large number of critically-ill patients undergoing treatment at various healthcare centres. These highly critical patients are losing their battle against Covid-19, Mohapatra said.

Mohapatra also pointed out that even though there is no hundred per cent curative medicines for treatment of Covid-19, a task force has been set up by the Centre. It autho-



A youth in the 18-44 age category gets his jab Monday at a vaccination centre in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

rises all necessary treatment protocols and medicines for Covid-19. Odisha government is only following the suggestions of the special task force, Mohapatra said.

Of the new cases reported Monday, 3,453 were registered in quarantine centres and the rest detected during contact tracing, informed a Health department official. The current active caseload in the state stands at 76,750.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched an initiative, under which oxygen concentrators will be delivered at doorsteps in five cities - Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Cuttack, Rourkela and Sambalpur.

# Antigua police probing Choksi's 'abduction' claim

FUGITIVE DIAMANTAIRE CLAIMS HE WAS BEATEN UP BY 8-10 MEN, IDENTIFIES MYSTERY WOMAN, 2 OTHERS PRESENT AT THE SPOT

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 7:** The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has started investigations into the alleged abduction of absconding diamond-taire Mehul Choksi to neighbouring Dominica on a complaint filed by his lawyers, Prime Minister Gaston Browne told Monday a local media outlet. Browne said Choksi's lawyers gave the names of people involved in the alleged abduction to the police commissioner in a complaint, the 'Antigua News Room' reported. The Antigua and Barbuda prime minister also said that if the claims are true, then it is a serious matter.

Choksi, earlier Monday, had said through his lawyers that he was ab-

ducted and beaten up mercilessly by eight-10 men. They claimed that they were from the Antigua police force.

Choksi's lawyers have filed an official complaint with the Antigua police. They claimed that Choksi was taken by his abductors 'forcibly' to Dominica. He was then told by his abductors that he was to meet a high ranking 'Indian politician'. In his official complaint, Choksi named 'mystery woman' Barbara Jarabica, Narender Singh, one Gurmit Singh and 'unknown persons' as his abductors.

The Dominica police have claimed in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSJ) that Choksi was found seated in suspicious condition on the bayside near the jetty at Toucarie



Bay around 11.30pm May 24. Police charged him with 'illegal entry' offence around 9.00pm May 28.

"Choksi has filed a complaint with the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda to the extent that he was abducted. He made a formal claim through his attorneys that he was abducted from Antigua and taken to

**Choksi has filed a police complaint stating he was abducted and taken to Dominica. The Antigua police are currently investigating the charges**

GASTON BROWNE | ANTIGUA PM

Dominica forcibly. It is a report that police is taking seriously and they are currently investigating the abduction," Browne said.

However, another report in the 'Associates Times' poked holes in the theory of Dominica opposition leader Lennox Linton, who had reportedly claimed that Choksi was brought to

Dominica in the yacht 'Calliope of Arne' around 10.00pm May 23.

The family of Choksi had claimed that he was in Antigua till 5.00pm May 23 which makes it impossible to cover a 120-mile distance in four to five hours, that approximately takes about 12-13 hours, the publication said. The report said that according to Customs document, the boat had left Antigua at 10.00am May 23. So it clearly proves that Choksi was not on the boat when it left for Dominica.

It quoted unnamed doctors of the Dominica China Friendship Hospital, where Choksi is admitted, that a nail injury cited by his lawyers is an old one while other bruises could be new and could have been caused by even by a 'slight push'.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You will have too many choices today, if you are thinking on the lines of changing a job, or in business matters or even in relationships. Ganesha advises you to take into account long-term ramifications before making any commitments.

**TAURUS**  
This is a day for going on a shopping spree, says Ganesha. There are strong chances that you will be buying something durable and lasting, may be the latest fridge on the stalls. Later in the day, you are most likely to visit an exhibition and pick up some artistic and exotic objects.

**GEMINI**  
Ganesha advises you to remain steadfast and disciplined in any work that you take up today. You will be full of enthusiasm, and will try to complete all your pending work. However, you need to make sure that your energies are being channelled in the right direction.

**CANCER**  
A new friend will join your circle or you establish friendship with someone. You will be spending the day in entertainment or party with friends. But tension will prevail in the office. Yet, says Ganesha, a sense of joy will thrive on the domestic front.

**LEO**  
You are advised against being too emotional today. You will be able to excel in all spheres of your life today owing to your desire to change your attitude towards life. There is a possibility of re-decorating or renovating your house today.

**VIRGO**  
Your emotional outlook today will lead to many alterations in your personal behaviour. Ganesha says you are likely to focus on some options that will lead to high spending. In the afternoon, says Ganesha, you are likely to play host to some members of your extended family and friends at home.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says today a new romantic relationship may develop and you will enjoy the warmth and love of the companionship of your beloved. This will arouse an energetic and romantic feeling in you. You will be busy the whole day through.

**SCORPIO**  
You are all set to put on your trekking shoes as you gear up for an adventure trip. At work, your calibre and intelligence are highly commendable. And that's the reason you are in the limelight, predicts Ganesha. This may boost up your confidence, raising your bar.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You are bitten by the travel bug as you pack your bags and are off for business or leisure trip. You are over-protective when it comes to family members. This is where you score a point. Spend the evening in the company of people who matter to you.

**CAPRICORN**  
The Sun is shining bright for you today! During the meetings and at the time of execution of assignments, you will play a pivotal role in your team. This will certainly win you some accolades from your bosses at work, says Ganesha.

**AQUARIUS**  
While others may find it confusing to turn their dreams into reality, you can easily put your plans into action. You will learn to see the brighter side of life and accept things as they are. Inner peace and self-satisfaction, unusual feelings for many, but your new found spiritual approach will enable you to experience those emotions.

**PISCES**  
Due to the inauspicious period until afternoon, Ganesha advises you to stay away from the risks of betting, stock market and gambling unless you want to invite losses. The alignment changes after that are you will profit a great deal in this ideal time from the commodity market, share bazaar and other related fields.



## ASHLEY DOESN'T NEED A MAN TO SUPPORT HER

Singer Ashley Roberts says she does not need a man to financially support her or to take care of her. However, she insists that she is looking for love, as long as he loves her independence.

## 'LATEST THE CONJURING SEQUEL WILL GIVE AUDIENCE A 'COLON CLEANSE'

Actress Vera Farmiga says her latest release *The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It* is so scary that it will give the audience a 'colon cleanse'. The film is the new sequel in *The Conjuring* franchise that started in 2013, and sees Farmiga return as paranormal investigator Lorraine Warren.



# Shilpa's new workout tips to break monotony

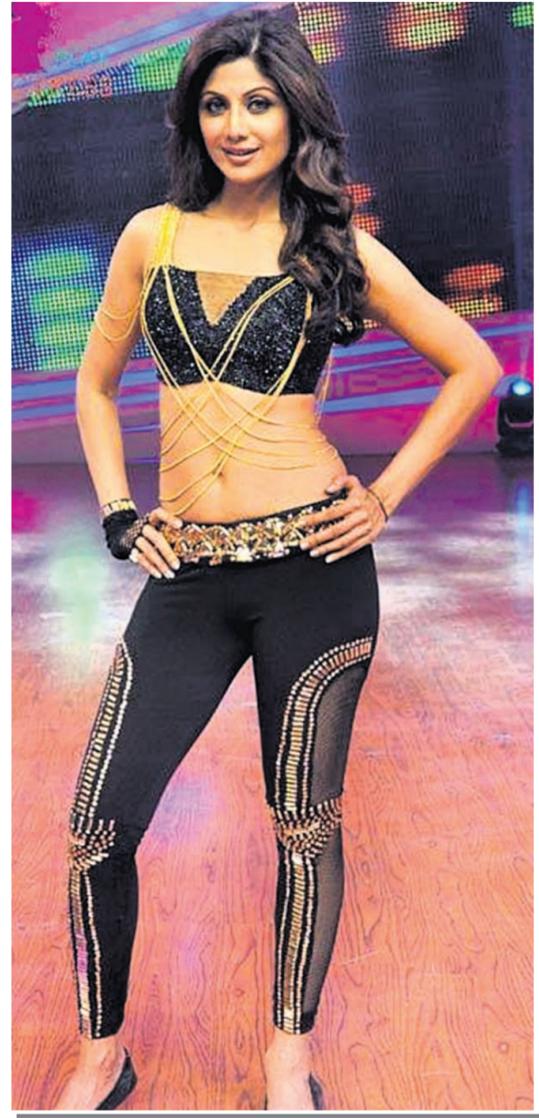
**Mumbai:** Shilpa Shetty Kundra Monday urged her Instagram followers to try out new workout routines to break the monotony and open up the mind, muscles and joints.

The actress shared a video of her open and close squat workout session and wrote: "Why count on Sundays for fun workouts? Let's make Monday a funday. Love trying out something new that challenges me. This lockdown hasn't been easy on a lot of us. So, this is one way to

break the monotony; and open your mind, muscles, & joints. Today we do the OPEN & CLOSE SQUAT CHALLENGE."

Revealing the health benefits of the workout, the actress added: "It works on cardio respiratory endurance, all lower body muscles, shoulders, brain and body arm and leg coordination."

On the work front, Shilpa currently features as a judge on the Sony TV dance reality show *Super Dancer: Chapter 4*. **IANS**



## DILIP KUMAR'S HEALTH UPDATE

# Saira appeals not to believe in rumours

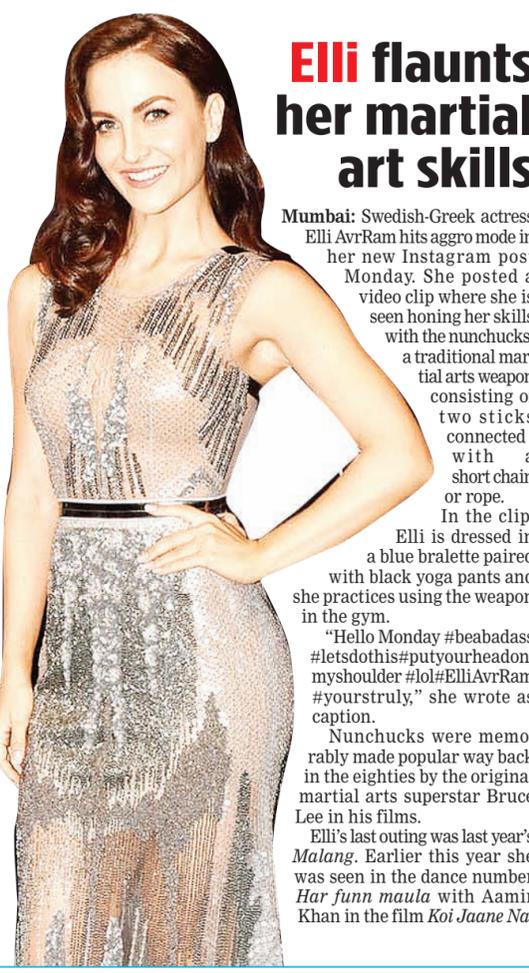
**Mumbai:** Veteran actress Saira Banu shared a social media post Monday evening updating about her husband, ailing legend Dilip Kumar's health. In her statement shared on Dilip Kumar's official Twitter account, Saira Banu assured netizens that the 98-year-old is stable and would be discharged soon.

Her statement reads: "Past few days my beloved husband, Yousuf Khan, has been unwell and recuperating at a hospital in Mumbai. Through this note, I want to thank all of you for keeping him in your prayers and for all the love and

affection. My husband, my Kohinoor our Dilip Kumar Sahab's health is stable and doctors have assured me that he should be discharged soon."

Requesting netizens to not pay heed to rumours, the actress further wrote: "I urge you not to believe in rumours. While I ask you to pray for Sahab's health, I am praying that the almighty keep all of you safe and healthy during this pandemic."

Dilip Kumar was admitted to a Mumbai hospital Sunday after complaining of breathlessness. **IMS**



# Elli flaunts her martial art skills

**Mumbai:** Swedish-Greek actress Elli AvrRam hits aggro mode in her new Instagram post Monday. She posted a video clip where she is seen honing her skills with the nunchucks, a traditional martial arts weapon consisting of two sticks connected with a short chain or rope.

In the clip, Elli is dressed in a blue bralette paired with black yoga pants and she practices using the weapon in the gym.

"Hello Monday #beabadass #letsdothis#putyourheadonmysoulder #lol#ElliAvrRam #yourstruly," she wrote as caption.

Nunchucks were memorably made popular way back in the eighties by the original martial arts superstar Bruce Lee in his films.

Elli's last outing was last year's *Malang*. Earlier this year she was seen in the dance number *Har funn maula* with Aamir Khan in the film *Koi Jaane Na*.

# Auction calendar for art connoisseurs

More than 500 historic manuscripts, exceptional first editions, intimate letters and beautiful bindings will be offered across three auctions at Sotheby's starting July 2

Auction houses globally may have seen very different trends during the Covid-induced lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, but a mix of online and live auction formats is keeping the art market going, and the collectors' community thriving.

Here is what one can look forward to in the upcoming months:



**Women in Art**  
For the first time, Christie's in France will hold a sale dedicated to women artists June 16, covering all mediums - ancient and modern paintings, sculptures, books and autographed letters, photographs, engravings, design, jewels, fashion. The panorama will pay tribute to women artists working over five centuries, from different nationalities, all of whom have

marked art history, from the 16th to the 21st century.

**Asian Modern and Contemporary Art**  
The inaugural edition of a major contemporary art auction, Contemporary Curated: Asia by Sotheby's, will take place both as an evening sale and in an online format. It is curated by musical legend and avid art collector Jay Chou. The Hong Kong live sale

will be June 18, while the auction runs online from June 10-22.

**Literary and Historical Collectibles**  
A 'lost library' of British literature emerges after decades to be offered at Sotheby's across three auctions. Thought lost for almost a century, the Honresfield Library was assembled with passion by self-made Victorian industrialists Alfred and William Law at the turn of the

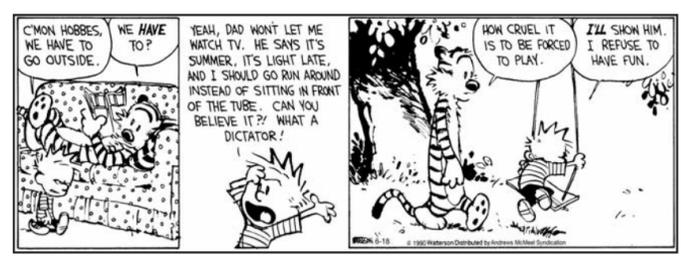
20th century and has since been maintained with care by generations of the Law family. More than 500 historic manuscripts, exceptional first editions, intimate letters and beautiful bindings will be offered across three auctions at Sotheby's starting July 2.

**Memorabilia**  
Christie's is also holding the largest sneaker auction ever for the auction house in partnership with Stadium Goods, featuring rare early samples; a complete set of Original Air Jordans 1-14; game worn shoes; and Jordan-related items from Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Drake, Eminem, Derek Jeter, Russell Westbrook, Ray Allen, and Jimmy Butler. Bidding begins online June 22. **AGENCIES**

## PEANUTS



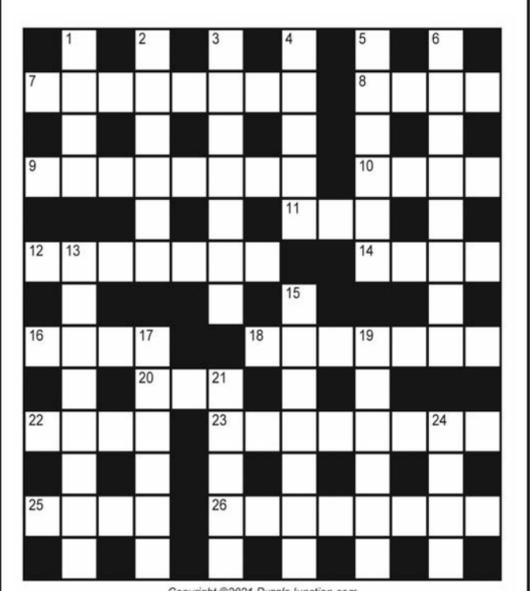
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



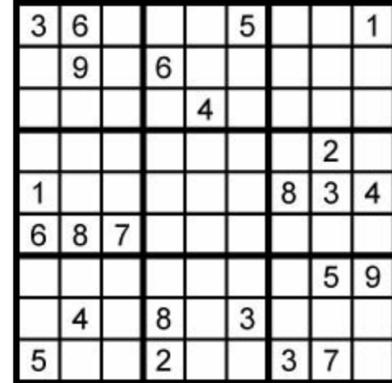
## FUN post CROSSWORD



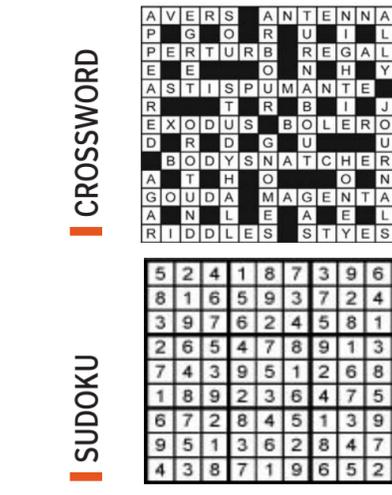
- Across**
- 7 Type of reading course
  - 8 Like the Gobi
  - 9 Fluorescent dye, e.g.
  - 10 Kite part
  - 11 Chap
  - 12 Brush-footed butterfly
  - 14 Police action
  - 16 Dentist's order
  - 18 Obstructs
  - 20 Flue residue
  - 22 Belgian river
  - 23 Salve
  - 25 Aria, e.g.
  - 26 Cloudy
  - Down**
  - 1 Achilles, e.g.
  - 2 Periwig
  - 3 Go-between
  - 4 Toss
  - 5 Joan of Arc, for one
  - 6 Denigrate
  - 13 Fake
  - 15 Understudy
  - 17 Thin
  - 19 Talk indistinctly
  - 21 Hunting dog
  - 24 Verb preceder

## 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.



## SOLUTIONS

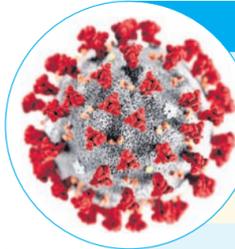


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**INFUSING LIFE**

Senior BJD leaders, including Debashish Samantaray and Arup Patnaik, at a blood donation camp hosted by Odisha-Mo Parivar at Mahanadi Vihar in Cuttack, Monday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	17,41,15,273	15,71,56,689	37,45,363
India	2,89,09,975	2,71,59,180	3,49,186
Odisha	8,19,214	7,47,805	3,035

**Six ECMO units at SCB soon**

DMET SAYS AVAILABILITY OF TRAINED MANPOWER TO RUN THE MACHINES IS A PROBLEM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** Following public outrage over dearth of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machines in state-run hospitals, the state government has decided to install the critical infrastructure at various government hospitals in a phased manner. In the first phase, six such machines would be installed at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, to provide treatment to critically-ill Covid-19 patients, said Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET) CBK Mohanty while speaking to media here Monday.

“Earlier, the ECMO treatment was very limited and the cost was also not very high. But, the need for the machines has increased manifold during the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic. We are making arrangements to install six machines at SCB Medical College and Hospital for critical Covid patients,” said Mohanty.

Later, such units will be opened at various healthcare facilities in other parts of the state, he said.

“Procuring the machines is not an issue. The problem lies with availability of trained manpower to run ECMO machines. After opening of the ECMO units in Cuttack, required trained manpower will be created and accordingly they will be deployed in other places,” the director added.

Sources said Odisha State Medical Corporation (OSMC) has formed a



**What is ECMO?**

ECMO is a method in which blood is drawn out of the body into a machine and then oxygen is mixed with blood using a special bypass pump-circuit. The blood is pumped back into the body. It works as an artificial heart-lungs machine.

six-member technical committee for installation of the machines at SCB. The machines are likely to be installed at the ICU units of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) department of SCB Medical College and Hospital.

In the prevailing Covid-19 situation, there is huge demand for ECMO treatment especially for critical patients suffering from lung ailment.

As the ECMO facility is not avail-

able in government-run hospitals in the state, many patients have been airlifted to cities like Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata to avail the treatment.

Lack of this machine in the state has come to fore after former MLA Naveen Nanda's son Sambit Nanda breathed his last due to Covid-19. Before Sambit succumbed to serious lung infection, his father made a desperate plea to the state government to save his son's life by facilitating ECMO support because the hospital where he was undergoing treatment lacked the facility.

Recently, Amrit Pradhan, a young engineer from Berhampur, was airlifted to Chennai for lung transplantation.

The advanced treatment with ECMO which can cost around ₹2 lakh per day is generally used on a critical patient when his/her body fails to respond to almost all types of oxygenation support in

**CRITICAL SUPPORT**

Since ECMO facility is not available in government-run hospitals in the state, many patients have been airlifted to cities like Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata to avail the treatment

In the first phase, six such machines would be installed at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, to provide treatment to critically-ill Covid-19 patients

Odisha State Medical Corporation has formed a six-member technical committee for installation of the machines at SCB

The machines are likely to be installed at the ICU units of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) department of SCB Medical College and Hospital

the wake of serious lung infection and pneumonia.

The state government always makes tall claims that it has taken all the steps in advance due to which Covid-19 situation is under control. Now, questions are being raised from several quarters as to why the government has not yet taken any initiative to install ECMO machines in any of the government hospitals.

**High Court nixes petitions against abolition of OAT**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 7:** The Orissa High Court Monday turned down a batch of petitions challenging the Centre's decision to abolish the Odisha Administrative Tribunal (OAT).

While quashing the pleas, a division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BP Routray observed that the Centre as well as the state had decided to abolish the tribunal as they felt that the very objective of the institution to ensure speedy justice to employees could not be achieved.

If the OAT is abolished, around 60,000 cases pending with the tribunal will be transferred to the HC.

According to sources, the state Cabinet had approved abolition of OAT September 9, 2015. Subsequently, the state government had sent the proposal to the Centre for notification on abolition of the tribunal.

It was in August 2019 when the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions issued a notification to abolish OAT by virtue of the powers vested on the Centre in accordance with the Section 2 of the Administrative Tribunal Act 1985 and Section 21 of the General Clauses Act.

Following the decision, OAT Bar Associations in Bhubaneswar and



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Cuttack moved the High Court challenging the Centre's move. In 1997, the Supreme Court had

held that approaching the apex court against an order of the tribunal as allowed under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 was unconstitutional. It said the provision was inconsistent with the basic structure of the Constitution.

As a result, aggrieved parties could approach the High Court first. Hence, the very objective of the establishment of the tribunal to deliver quick justice could not be achieved, the court had observed.

Established July 14, 1986, the OAT has its principal bench in the state capital of Bhubaneswar, a regular bench in Cuttack and circuit benches at Sambalpur and Berhampur.

**MORE VAX SLOTS TO OPEN FOR CITY'S 18-44 AGE GROUP**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Monday said that more slots will be opened for 18-44 age group as fresh consignments would reach the Capital city this week.

Sources at the BMC said that the state capital, which had been facing acute crunch of Covaxin doses (especially for those seeking first dose in the 18-44 age group), will soon see an increase in stocks.

“The state government is in talks with the Union government for transfer of surplus stocks. We have also intimated our needs to the state government. We are planning to issue about 2,300 fresh slots

The BMC plans to issue about 2,300 slots for drive-in vaccination centres once the necessary approvals are given

for drive-in vaccination centres once the necessary approvals are given,” said a BMC official.

It can be mentioned here that the civic authority till Sunday had 37,080 doses of Covaxin with itself. The stocks had increased more than 10 times Saturday, which saw the city struggling with only 2,440 vials. The Covaxin stock for 45+ age

group stood at 4,17,840 doses, Sunday

The BMC, Sunday, had issued about 3,300 fresh slots for those seeking their first dose. However, due to excessive demand all slots reportedly got booked within a few minutes of opening. As a result, the civic authority is still prioritizing beneficiaries seeking their second dose and has even opened walk-in centres to avoid pre-booking.

“Bhubaneswar is still under critical category as far as daily Covid cases are concerned. Thus, we are aiming to speed up the vaccination drive for the younger group. However, we have widely covered vaccination for the vulnerable groups with launching of near-to-home and old-age vaccinations initiatives,” the official added.

**BJD, Cong slam Centre over fuel price hike**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** With petrol price breaching Rs 100 per litre mark, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress Monday slammed the Centre for persistent rise in the fuel prices during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Senior BJD leader Sanjay Das Burma said people are suffering a lot due to rising prices of essential commodities including petrol and diesel.

The Union government had earlier claimed that the agriculture cess will not impact people.

“But, in reality, the fuel prices have escalated, hitting the common man hard at a time when they are already dealing with Covid-19 pandemic,” he said.

Congress leader Sura Routray criticised both the Centre and the state government for the fuel price hike as both collect taxes on petrol and diesel.

“The petrol and diesel prices are rising each passing day. Neither the state nor the Centre is concerned about the plight of the people,” Routray said.

Responding to Burma's allegations, state Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Satyabrata Panda said, “Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the economy. But blaming the Centre only for petrol and diesel price hike is not justified as the state government too is collecting revenue from petroleum products which have been kept out of GST purview.”

**Tardy probe into OSCB job 'scam'**

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** The bureaucrats often go scot-free even after committing blatant irregularities while in office. Wielding their clout, the bureaucrats manage to suppress the probe in the alleged corruption cases and Odisha is no different on this count.

The undue delay in completion of the probe into the allegations of irregularities during the appointment of 14 system managers for the Odisha State Cooperative Bank (OSCB) is a glaring example of bureaucratic ruse to sweep such matters under the rug.

An RTI reply exposed that Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) is yet to complete the investigation into illegal appointment of the system managers in 2013-14. The applicant, Pradip Kumar Pradhan, had sought the details regarding the date on which the inquiry was completed and the particular date of submission of the report.

The PIO of RCS office revealed April 28 that the enquiry into the matter is still in progress.

“Inquiry in connection with illegal appointment of 14 system managers by OSCB is under process. Hence, the relevant information as sought cannot be supplied as per Section 8 of the RTI Act,” replied the PIO. The RCS in its February 2020 letter had directed the Assistant RCS, Chandrakant Mohanty, to investigate the allegations and submit a

An RTI reply exposed that Registrar of Cooperative Societies is yet to complete the investigation into alleged illegal appointment of system managers in 2013-14

probe report within a month.

Notably, OSCB had issued an advertisement seeking application from interested candidates with B'Tech/MSc in Computer Sc/MCA degree and 2 years of experience for the appointment of 14 system managers during the incumbency of Sethy in 2013. The state Vigilance directorate too found prima facie evidence in connection with the allegations and reportedly informed the government seeking an open enquiry into the matter.

However, the General Administration (Vigilance) department sidelined the request for open enquiry and instructed the Secretary of department of Cooperation to conduct a departmental inquiry January 1, 2020. Speaking to **Orissa POST**, Pradhan alleged that the OSCB officials avoided Institute of Banking Personnel Selection and initiated the recruitment process on their own. Pradhan also accused the officials of showing undue favours to some selected candidates.

**CAR FEST AHEAD**



Chariot construction in full swing at Rath Yard in Puri, Monday

OP PHOTOS

# 41 fresh fatalities push Covid toll past 3k-mark

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** Odisha's Covid-19 toll Monday surpassed 3,000 with 41 fresh deaths, while 6,118 new cases in the coastal state pushed the tally to 8,19,214, a Health department official said.

The total number of fatalities rose to 3,035. Of the 6,118 new cases, 3,453 were registered in quarantine centres and the rest detected during contact tracing, the official said.

Cuttack reported the maximum number of new cases at 640, followed by Jajpur at 563, Khurda at 495 and Angul at 416. This is the first time since the second wave of the pandemic began that Khurda district reported less than 500 daily cases.

Odisha currently has 76,750 active cases.

Taking to Twitter, the Health department said, "Regret to inform about the demise of forty one Covid patients while under treatment in hospitals (sic)."

Khurda reported six deaths, followed by Sundargarh at four, and Puri and Ganjam three each.

This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients in the state have died of co-morbidities.

As many as 7,39,376 patients, including 7,358 Sunday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease. The coastal state's positivity rate stands at 6.69 per cent.

Over 1.22 crore samples have been tested for Covid-19 thus far, including 67,178 Sunday.



## HIGHLIGHTS

**C**uttack reported the maximum number of new cases at 640, followed by Jajpur at 563, Khurda at 495 and Angul at 416

**K**hurda reported six deaths, followed by Sundargarh at four, and Puri and Ganjam three each

**O**ver 1.22 crore samples have been tested for Covid-19 thus far, including 67,178 Sunday

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched an initiative, under which oxygen concentrators will be delivered at doorsteps in five cities—

Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Cuttack, Rourkela and Sambalpur.

"It will give huge respite to people who are looking for oxygen concentrators and strengthen our preparedness against current & future waves of #COVID-19," Patnaik tweeted.

He also shared a list of portals, where people can book the concentrators.

Once a patient books the oxygen concentrator, a response team from the civic body would visit the house with the instrument and advise the family members about its usage.

Official sources said that at present the service will be available only in five municipal corporation areas but later if required it would be extended to other needy districts.

# Advisory panel formed for Ekamra Plan

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** The state government Monday formed a project advisory committee (PAC) to guide and coordinate various matters related to implementation of Ekamra project for beautification of the area around the Lingaraj Temple here.

Santrupt Misra has been appointed as the chairman of the 19-member committee while managing director of Odisha Building and Construction Corporation (OBCC) has been appointed as member convener.

Among others, Works department secretary, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation commissioner, Khurda Collector and Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police have been included in the panel as members.

The state government had launched a special scheme called Ekamra Plan for development of Ekamra Kshetra in old town, Bhubaneswar for which an area of about 80 acres has been identified around the temple.

"It is a unique opportunity for me to serve my home state and make a small contribution towards shaping and showcasing the best that Odisha has to offer. Having widely travelled in India and overseas to many locations of historical and religious significance, I have experienced a variety of plans, designs and offerings. I hope to bring all my ideas, skills and experience to bear in making this project a huge success," said Misra.

Now, all plans, projects, interventions, and initiatives in the project area will be approved by this Committee.

## TWIN CITIES & LOCKDOWN



Many localities in the twin cities, including Bapuji Nagar market in Bhubaneswar (top) and a road near Puri Ghat in Cuttack, witness a rush, Monday, even during the ongoing lockdown

OP PHOTOS

# NCC's digital helpdesk comes to rescue of needy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 7:** In a bid to reach out to the needy during the second wave of the pandemic, the cadets and officials of 4(O) CTC of National Cadet Corps (NCC) Group HQ Cuttack have created a digital Covid helpdesk under "NCC Yodhan".

Through the helpdesk, ANO Lt Rudra Prakash Nanda and cadets—SUO Ankit Raj Biswal, JUO Aniket Nayak, JUO Bishant Nayak and JUO Siddhant Shekhar of Aryan and ITER colleges—under the guidance of officer commanding Lt Col Umesh Marwaha have been facilitating assistance to those facing issues in getting oxygen, ICU beds, ambulance services, medicines and even home delivery of food.

"In a short span of time, the team has established an efficient network to get updated information and built a reputation for offering accurate as well as speedy help. Taking advantage of the social media and links with cadets of other states, the team has even rendered help on an urgently needed ICU bed in Bihar's Danapur," said a source familiar with the development, adding that till date, the team has successfully helped over 70 Covid patients.

# Brown sugar worth ₹1Cr seized; 3 held

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, June 7:** The twin city Commissionerate Police has arrested three drug peddlers after recovering brown sugar worth Rs 1 crore from their possession, an official said Monday.

Police also seized a four-wheeler, a motorcycle and four mobile phones from their possession.

Police commissioner Saumyendra Priyadarshi said that acting on reliable information, the personnel of the drug unit and special squad of the Commissionerate Police intercepted a motorcycle and a four-wheeler near checkpoint of Madhusudan Setu at CDA in Cuttack Sunday and seized brown sugar weighing 1 kg and 38 gram from their possession.

The police commissioner said that the drug peddlers were coming from Athagarh side to CDA while they were caught.

Police identified the accused as Sk Tamir, 20, Sk Ersat, 18, and Sk Allauddin alias Allamuddin, 18, of Govindpur village under Baisingha police station of Mayurbhanj district.

During interrogation they con-



**The police commissioner said that the drug peddlers were coming from Athagarh side to CDA while they were caught**

fessed that they are vendors and illegally supplying the contraband to local dealers of Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur and Puri after procuring huge quantities of brown sugar from Kolkata.

The commissioner of police said that the Cuttack urban police district had seized more than four kg of brown sugar and arrested 27 drug peddlers during the special drive in 2021.

# NHRC for action against OAS officer who flouted Covid norms

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Jagatsinghpur Collector to take action against a group of people including a state cadre officer for dancing in a marriage procession in blatant violation of Covid protocol.

Acting on a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the rights body has issued the direction June 3 asking the authority to take appropriate action within eight weeks and inform the commission.

As per the petition, Bulbul Behera, an Odisha administrative officer, serving as Sukinda tehsildar had May 21 last danced during the marriage procession of her brother at Jagannathpur village under Jagatsinghpur district, violating the Covid guidelines.

The petitioner also alleged that



**The NHRC was urged to give direction for arrest of those who flouted Covid guidelines and ensure fair trial of the case**

the people who participated in the procession violated Covid norms as they did not wear masks and

did not maintain social distance.

Although as per the guidelines issued by the government a maximum of 25 people can participate in the marriage function, more than 40 people participated in the event, violating the Covid norms, Tripathy alleged.

The petitioner requested the apex rights body to seek replies from the state authorities on why cases against all the participants of the procession have not been registered and who had given the permission for holding the procession.

The petitioner further urged the NHRC to give direction for arrest of all those who flouted Covid guidelines and ensure fair trial of the case and take legal action against the local magistrate (in-charge of Covid protocol), police and the sarpanch who allowed the procession in violation of Covid guidelines.

# Two more special trains under ECoR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** The Ministry of Railways has decided to run two pairs of special trains through East Coast Railway (ECoR) and increase the frequency of one special train.

Shalimar-Secunderabad-Shalimar Special will leave Shalimar at 12:20 hrs every Wednesday between June 9 and June 30. This train will leave Secunderabad at 04:00 hrs every Friday between June 11 and July 2, 2021.

This train will have stoppages at Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Berhampur, Sompeta, Palasa, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam in ECoR jurisdiction between Shalimar and Secunderabad from both the directions. Howrah-Yesvantpur-Howrah Shalimar Special will leave Howrah at 12:40 hrs every Thursday between June 10 and June 24. This train will leave Yesvantpur at 05:15 hrs every Sunday between June 13 and June 27, 2021.

# FUEL PRICE HIKE DENOUNCED



CPI workers stage a demonstration at Bhagabati Bhawan at Ashok Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Monday, condemning the skyrocketing fuel prices

OP PHOTO

# Comics on Covid appropriate nutrition launched

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** A launch ceremony of "Tiki Mausi" comics on Covid Appropriate Nutrition (CAN)/scaling up of Complementary Feeding Campaign / IEC (information, education and communication) materials on Covid was organised virtually Monday.

The event was graced by Tukuni Sahu, minister, WCD&MS department, Principal Secretary Anu Garg and others.

The second wave of Covid-19 has been worst of its kind to have hit mankind. This phase has also seen children and adolescents getting affected. If experts are to be believed, the third wave may be knocking on the doors in months. It has, therefore, become highly necessary to reach out to the community with correct information through effective messaging.

It is in this pursuit that the department has issued several advi-



sories and also oriented field functionaries on basic precautions, Covid Appropriate Nutrition (CAN), continued services such as Infant Youth and Child Feeding (IYCF), Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND), immunisation etc and emerging issues such as child protection, domestic violence to address Covid-centric challenges head on by engaging the community through our

FLWs on preventive and curative aspects of Covid. The programme was to release and disseminate IEC materials on Covid Appropriate Nutrition (CAN); Scaling up of Complementary Feeding Campaign and other IEC materials on Covid through the protagonist of the department Tiki Mausi.

In order to reach out to the community particularly to the women, adolescent girls and children ef-

fectively and to sensitise them about the schemes and programmes of the state, Tiki Mausi was created as the face of the department.

Tiki Mausi is to convey Covid Appropriate Nutrition (CAN) messages through a comics book which will be both interesting and informative. In the comics, she will be talking about appropriate breastfeeding, complementary feeding, nutrition and care during pregnancy, nutrition for adolescents and growth monitoring of children, identification of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children and their referral to Nutrition and Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) during Covid.

Tiki Mausi will also be centrestaged in scaling up of the campaign for complementary food and feeding in 23 districts during Covid-19. Based on the successful initial implementation in Koraput, Nabrangpur, Rayagada and Keonjhar districts, it is hoped that it will be a game changer.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8995550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri-Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baisnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

# NGT issues notices to Nayagarh DM, DFO

A PETITION SEEKS STAY ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD ON FOREST LAND IN THE DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, June 7:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the District Magistrate of Nayagarh and Divisional Forest Officer of Nayagarh on a petition that sought stay on the construction of a road on forest land in the district.

A bench comprising judicial member B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta held that the matter requires consideration of the tribunal and asked the respondents to file their response within four weeks. The tribunal asked the DM and DFO to file own counter-affidavits before the next date of hearing, June 28.

During the hearing, the counsel for the petitioner, Sankar Prasad Pani, contended in the tribunal that the construction of road through forest land has started without considering the availability of alternative non-forest land. The



petitioner argued that the alternative forest land will reduce the distance between the destinations with better connectivity and access to public utilities such as banks, school, hospitals and district headquarters.

It may be mentioned here that an

original application was filed in the tribunal by Hemant Kumar Nayak, a resident of Gudupangi village in Nayagarh, district claiming that the Nayagarh DM in connivance with Rural Works department made an illegal and unlawful attempt to construct a 6 km-long road

from Balabhadrapur to Dhipmal of which a stretch of 600 meters is on forest land. The petitioner further claimed that the road is being constructed without obtaining any clearance from the Forest department as required under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

The road is being constructed under the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana/Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. "Any kind of passage through forest land will cause irreparable damage to the forest and wildlife, which have been conserved at the sole effort of Gudupangi villages," the petitioner contended.

The petitioner stated that the forest area is also home to a wide range of wild animals such as bear, wild boar, otter, porcupine, rabbit, wild dog, wild cat, monkey, pangolin, jackal, elk, deer, fox, wolf, and various species of birds and reptiles.

## LOSS ASSESSMENT



A Central team making an assessment of losses due to cyclone Yaas in Dhamra area of Bhadrak district, Monday

## No let-up in jumbo deaths: Second death in two days

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 7:** A day after a tusker was found dead in a mango orchard at Gobindaprasad village under Sadar forest range of Dhenkanal district, another jumbo was found dead in Ganjam district Monday.

The elephant, in all probability, came in contact with a high voltage electric live wire in a cashew orchard near Dhaupalli village under North Ghumsur forest division in Ganjam district.

Confirming electrocution as the reason for the animal's death, local villagers said an 11KV power transmission line passes at a low height above the orchard. Searching for food, a herd of eight elephants were passing through the area Sunday night. One of them could have come in contact with the live wire and got electrocuted. On being informed, Forest department officials reached the spot and started an investigation into the matter.



Notably, a tusker was found dead in a mango orchard at Gobindaprasad village under Sadar Forest Range of Dhenkanal district Sunday. While locals were of the view that the elephant must have died after coming in contact with solar fencing around the orchard, the Forest department officials were of a different opinion. According to them, the voltage in solar fence is not enough to kill a huge animal like an elephant. The fence must have been charged with high voltage electricity, the officials said.

"We are waiting for the post-mortem report. Action will be taken based on the post-mortem report," ACF Rashmiranjan Swain had said.

## Man slits sister-in-law's throat, sexually assaults mother-in-law

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 7:** In a ghastly incident, a man allegedly killed his sister-in-law by slitting her throat and then sexually assaulted his mother-in-law in a forest under Bolani police limits of Keonjhar district.

The incident took place Sunday. However, the police recovered the body from a stone quarry in the area Monday. Subsequently, they sent it for postmortem. Registering a case in this connection, they have launched a probe and a manhunt for the accused Rup Singh Siddhu, who is absconding.

According to sources, Rup Singh Siddhu had a long-standing dispute with his in-laws, residents of Murgapada area under Bolani police limits. Like any other day, Siddhu's mother-in-law and sister-in-law had gone to nearby Karo Reserve Forest to collect firewood and other forest produces. The for-



est is close to neighbouring Jharkhand. Meanwhile, Siddhu, while searching for them since morning, reached the forest. On finding the duo, he picked up a quarrel with them. The situation turned ugly when Siddhu lost his cool and slit his sister-in-law's throat with a sharp weapon, killing her on the spot. He then dumped

the body in an iron quarry pit.

After committing the crime, Siddhu vented his anger on his mother-in-law as well. He tied her to a tree and assaulted her sexually. However, she managed to get herself free and fled the spot to save her life. Later, she found herself in Jharkhand. She went to Kiriburu police post there and narrated everything that had happened to her daughter and her.

After hearing her out, the police officials contacted their counterparts at Bolani police station and passed the information.

A team from Bolani police station brought the victim and visited the crime spot Monday. Subsequently, they recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem.

After recording the statements of the woman and some of her neighbours, the police have registered a case in this regard and launched a manhunt for the accused.

## 29 Jajpur panchayats opt for shutdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jajpur, June 7:** Sarpanchs of Binjharpur block in Jajpur district have decided to impose a shutdown in their panchayat areas amid rising Covid-19 cases.

The announcement was made after all 29 panchayats of the block passed a resolution to this effect. A copy of the resolution was also sent to the district Collector, seeking co-operation to impose the shutdown.

The shutdown will be imposed in two phases - from June 8 to June 10, and June 14 to June 17, the resolution said. There will be no shutdown on June 11, and June 12 and 13 will be covered by the weekend shutdown imposed by the state government.

Sarpanch of Mansada panchayat Rama Chandra Behera said the decision was taken following discussions with residents, local market committees and traders. Binjharpur block reported 1,664 Covid-19 cases till Sunday.

"Due to violation of social distancing norms in the villages and rural markets, the Covid-19 cases in the block witnessed a surge. The markets will be more crowded as both Raja and Sabitri festivals are

approaching," said Uttangara sarpanch Minati Sahoo.

This is the first instance in the state where people have voluntarily opted for a shutdown to contain the spread of the virus.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2021-07, Date : 04.06.2021

**NAME OF THE WORK :** TELECOM ZONAL WORK IN THE CONTROL SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / TELECOM/TITILAGARH & SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/ TELECOM/KANTABANJI, SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / TELECOM / MAHASAMUND & JUNIOR ENGINEER/ TELECOM / MUNIGUDA OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS.

Tender value in (₹) : 28,19,773/-  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 28.06.2021

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

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 / corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (Signal), PR-138/M21-22 Sambalpur

## Widow kidnapped, gangraped; 3 including minor held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 7:** A minor boy and two others were arrested on charges of kidnapping and gang-raping a widow in Barbil area of Keonjhar district, Monday.

The two adult accused have been identified as Akshay Ojha and Rishi Tarua. All the three accused were produced in a local court Monday. While Ojha and Tarua have been remanded to judicial custody, the minor has been sent to juvenile home.

According to sources, the victim, a vegetable seller, was returning from Koida market in Sundargarh district to Barbil, June 3. The trio travelling



in an SUV stopped near her at Gurdwara Chowk in Barbil town and forced her to get into the vehicle and sped away.

They took her to a forest near Mundanala under Barbil police limits and gangraped her for two days. They threatened to kill her if she disclosed what had happened to her before anyone, including the police. They also looted cash worth ₹13,000 from her.

However, she managed to escape from their clutches and lodged a report against them with Barbil police, June 5.

Taking the matter seriously, the police launched an investigation and arrested the trio. A detailed investigation is underway, it was learnt.

## Industrialist Himansu Das passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Balasure, June 7:** Noted industrialist Himansu Das died at the district headquarters hospital here, family sources said Monday.

He was 77-years-old and survived by his wife and two sons. Das was ill for some time and under treatment. He was the founder of the

Hari group of companies and President of the Balasure Chamber of Industries and Commerce.

Das was also the president of Odisha PVC manufacturer association. He was associated with many socio-cultural organisations in Odisha. He was President of Balasure Law College and Balasure Arts and crafts college.

## CM lauds Chinmayee's effort

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhendipada, June 7:** For transgender Chinmayee from Jarpada area in Angul district, it was dream come true when Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik called her up Friday to thank her for her extraordinary work in helping out families of Covid-19 victims.

During the second wave of the pandemic, Chinmayee is the go-to person to cremate bodies of Covid-19 victims.

Recognising her noble work, the Chief Minister heaped praises on her on his Twitter handle. Chinmayee's mobile phone rang just after 12 noon, Friday. She was on cloud nine after learning that the person talking to her is the Odisha Chief Minister.

"The conversation lasted about 40 seconds. The Chief Minister said I have set an example for others by cremating bodies of poor and helpless people".

## Encroachments push Gobari river to brink of disappearance

PROPOSAL TO LINK THE RIVER WITH BRAHMANI REMAINS A NON-STARTER



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Pattamundai, June 7:** A number of encroachments on Gobari riverbed by influential people under Pattamundai civic body limits in Kendrapara district have pushed the river to the brink of disappearance, a report said.

As a result, a 20-km stretch of Gobari river is slowly getting buried. The Odisha State Construction Corporation (OSCC) has recently started excavation of the riverbed following demands by local residents who are peeved over the vanishing of the river.

Rampant encroachment of the riverbed has hit an ambitious plan to link nearly 20-km-long of Gobari river with Brahmani. For several years, local residents have been demanding that the river be linked with Brahmani river. A public interest litigation (PIL)

was also filed before the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in this connection.

The judge of the district legal services authority, Malay Kumar Pradhan also intervened into the matter and directed the engineer-in-chief (EIC) of irrigation department to take necessary steps in this regard.

However, despite all hue and cry, some influential persons have allegedly managed to grab land on both sides of the riverbed by manipulating the records during the settlement works in 1930. They managed to obtain hand written notes from the then landlords and their children and fudged the teshil records to grab the land.

They even managed to get land patas in their names during the consolidation work in 1984. Consequently, farmlands on both sides of the river

have remained uncultivable due to lack of irrigation facilities.

Locals alleged that the Gobari river is fast turning into a 'dead river' due to the apathetic attitude of the district administration. This has triggered sharp resentment among the residents, local intelligentsia and social activists. The residents have demanded that the river land be cleared of encroachment.

Reports said that residents of riparian villages on both sides of Gobari would be benefitted if it is linked with Brahmani. In past, the river was linked with Brahmani which made it perennial and was useful for carry out marine trade. Gobari river has been losing its water-retention capacity owing to the large-scale encroachments on its banks. The encroachments are more in the urban areas than in rural areas as the Pattamundai to Gandakia stretch of the river is getting buried.

If the river is excavated and linked with Brahmani it would benefit over 50,000 farmers in Pattamundai, Mahakalapara, Kendrapara and Rajnagar blocks, the residents and local intelligentsia said.

However, the connecting point of the two rivers, known as 'Das Hajari bandh', was covered up during the construction of Cuttack-Chandbali road in the 1950s.

No.A-172

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, NAYAGARH**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
**BID IDENTIFICATION NO-EEMIDN-01/2021-22**  
Letter No- 1285 Dt- 02.06.2021

1. Name of works	: Dam Protection and Repair of Works under Critical grant of M.I. Projects for the year 2021-22.
2. No. of works	: 8 (Eight) No
3. Estimated Cost	: Varies from Rs. 13.39 lakh to Rs. 44.41 lakh Approximately
4. Class of Contractor	: Class "D", "C" and "B".
5. Tender paper cost	: Rs.6000.00 (Non-refundable)
6. Period of Completion	: 3 (Three) & 6 (Six) Calendar months.
7. Availability of Bid Documents	: From 10.00 AM of 08.06.2021 to 17.00 hrs of 21.06.2021 in website ( <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a> ).
8. Time of receipt of bid through online	: From 10.00 AM of 08.06.2021 to 17.00 hrs of 21.06.2021 through online.
9. Date of opening of bid documents	: At 11.00 hrs of 22.06.2021 in the O/O E.E., M.I. Division, Nayagarh.
10. Date of Transparent Lottery (if cases arise)	: At 11.00 hrs onwards of Dt. 06.07.2021.
11. Digital Signature certificate	: The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of class II or class-III

The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website <http://dowrorissa.gov.in>  
Name and address of the OIT- Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Nayagarh, Tel No. (06753)253277, e-Mail ID: [eemidivisionnayagarh@gmail.com](mailto:eemidivisionnayagarh@gmail.com)  
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement market place, <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>  
(Er. Bishnupada Pattayat)  
OIPR-32260/11/0003/2122 Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Nayagarh.

**THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)  
JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-22  
Ph: 0674-2541545, 2542921, Fax: 0674-2541543,  
E-mail: [ophwc.od@nic.in](mailto:ophwc.od@nic.in), Website: [www.ophwc.nic.in](http://www.ophwc.nic.in)

**e-procurement notice No. - 05/OPHW/2021-22**  
No.CAD-403: **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

- The Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC), Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the work as detailed below:
- Nature of work : **Building works**
- No. of Works : **10 No.**
- Bid Cost : **Rs.11,800/- (To be paid online)**
- Value of Tender : **Rs.50,01,000.00 to Rs.05.00 Cr.**
- Class of Contractor : **'B' Class to 'Special' Class**
- Availability of Bid Documents in the website : **Dt.07.06.2021 to Dt.25.06.2021**
- Last date/time of Receipt of Bids in the Portal : **Dt.25.06.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.**
- Date of Opening Bid : **Dt.28.06.2021 at 11.30 A.M.**
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC), odisha

N.B.- The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T. as applicable Under works contract.

OIPR-12025/11/0007/2122

**GOVT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
**MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, GAJAPATI**  
AT/PO: PARALAKHEMUNDI, DIST: GAJAPATI  
PHONE No: 06815-222365, e-mail- [eemi\\_gajapati@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eemi_gajapati@yahoo.co.in)  
e-Procurement Notice No. 809 Date. 01.06.2021

**BID IDENTIFICATION NO. MIDGJP-02/2021-22**  
No.A-168:- The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Paralakhemundi on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of following works as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N) from the eligible class of contractors.

- Name of the work: **Improvement to MIPs under Critical Grant.**
- No of works: **11 Nos. (Eleven)**
- Estimated cost: Varies approximately from Rs. 8.50 Lakhs to Rs. 25.00 Lakhs.
- Period of completion: 3 (Three) Calendar months.
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal: from **10.00 Hours of 09.06.2021 to 17.00 Hours of 18.06.2021.**
- Last date/ time for receipt of bids in the portal: **17.00 Hours of 18.06.2021.**
- Original document to be submitted in sealed box ID No.MIDGJP-02/2021-2022 from 09.06.2021 to 18.06.2021 on Office Hours.
- Date of opening of Bid: **11.00 Hours on 19.06.2021.**
- Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid: Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Gajapati, At/Po- Paralakhemundi, Dist- Gajapati. PIN-761200.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd/- Er. P.K.Rout, Executive Engineer  
MI Division, Gajapati, Paralakhemundi

OIPR-32013/11/0002/2122

FOCUS ECONOMY

# INDIA'S EXPORT OPPORTUNITY



Even if India's share in world merchandise trade goes from the present 1.5 pc to 3 pc, which is eminently achievable, it will mean a doubling of exports to around 600 billion dollars annually

India's stock markets, the sentiment there remains quite bullish and the market is scaling new heights every week. Maybe the stock market is anticipating a strong economy a year from now. But the stock market rally is also due to excessive liquidity induced by a liberal monetary policy pursued by the RBI. With so much liquidity and growth in money supply, it is bound to fuel a stock rally. It is important to note that when stock market zooms, it increases the wealth of those at the higher end of the income spectrum. This might actually worsen inequality, since the incomes of the poor are still stagnant owing to the economic slump.

The situation overseas is quite different. The two largest economies in the world, the USA and China, are experiencing very strong economic momentum. This is mainly on account of two reasons. One is vaccine optimism. The rate of vaccination is high and the proportion of the population covered is reaching or has crossed critical mass. The second reason is a very strong fiscal stimulus. In the US the stimulus was 15 per cent of the GDP last year, and is expected to exceed that amount this year too. China too has injected strong fiscal support, although its slowdown wasn't as acute. Due to these factors, these two economies, which are about 35 trillion dollars of the world economy, will grow by at least 5 per cent or even more. India's economic

size is one tenth of that. So, 5 per cent growth of US and China together is equivalent to India's economy growth by 50 per cent! That's the impact of a high base. That's the scale of the aggregate demand that's out there. No wonder there are supply bottlenecks becoming visible. Input costs are rising. The Bloomberg commodity price index is nearly 60 per cent higher than last year. Iron ore prices reached nearly 250 dollars, thanks to the demand from China. Steel prices reached 1000 dollars a tonne, a price never seen before! World trade is also experiencing an adrenaline rush, manifested in shipping costs. Bulk freight prices are 700 per cent higher compared to one year ago.

The question is whether India is ready to tap into this great export opportunity. Even if India's share in world merchandise trade goes from the present 1.5 per cent to 3 per cent, which is eminently achievable, it will mean a doubling of exports to around 600 billion dollars annually. This will be a boon not just to big industry, but also to small and medium enterprises, and employment intensive sectors like garments, footwear, electronic assembly.

For all this to happen, India must ensure that the export incentive schemes are in place. The Return of Duties and Taxes on Export Scheme (RODTEP), which was supposed to replace Manufacturing Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS) and for services (SEIS) has been delayed by six months. GST refund delay is still a problem. High import tariffs and inverted duties are hurting all the export businesses which use imported ingredients. The exchange rate is too strong and hurting export prospects. We need to also aggressively welcome and set up global value chains on Indian soil. All these aspects have to be taken care of and only then can we hope to ride the export opportunity.

Otherwise, we will miss the bus once again. Learn from Bangladesh, our neighbour who is enjoying that bus ride.

*The writer is an economist and Senior Fellow, Takshashila Institution.*  
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Ajit Ranade

**PRESENTLY AS THE COUNTRY IS GRAPPLING WITH THE SECOND WAVE OF COVID, BOTH THE CONSUMER AND INVESTMENT SENTIMENTS ARE WEAK**

India's export of goods has been clocking a healthy performance for the past three months. It has been 34, 30 and 32 billion dollars in March, April and May respectively. These are a substantial jump over corresponding numbers for the three months of the last year. That's because the whole world had gone into a lockdown by March last year, and the global movement of merchandise had slumped. So compared to last year, the growth rate of April number is around 195 per cent, and for March and May, the growth number is equally impressive. So, the proper perspective is to compare the present performance to pre-Covid levels. Here, interestingly, the export number for May 2021 now exceeds that of May 2019 too, showing a healthy growth of around 8 per cent. If this momentum continues, this bodes well for the overall export of goods, which constitute a significant driver of growth.

India is a major exporter of refined petrol and diesel, thanks to giant refining capacities which are much in excess of domestic demand. Hence nearly one fifth of merchandise exported constitutes refined petrol and diesel. It is thus an important source of earning foreign exchange for the country. There is a large import component to these petro-product exports, since crude oil has to be completely imported. There is a similar situation in the gems and jewellery sphere, where uncut diamonds are imported, and polished stones and ornaments are exported. India is a major player in the export of these items, and just like petro-products, these too add to the overall dollar earnings.

Both of these crucial exports depend on the state of the world economy. For instance, the demand for gems and jewellery would naturally fall during economic slump, as consumer sentiment is weak. But thanks to the stock market rally, if wealth is rising, that will induce an increase in demand for luxury goods. However, in the present context, even if one excludes these two components - petro-products and gems and jewellery, the country's export per-

## US-India Tariff War

As US President Joe Biden reinvigorates his tariff war with India and gets ready for his European trip later this week, the message that is emanating from Washington is that the President wants to reposition his country in the world stage after having busied himself with fixing internal affairs, including the fight against COVID-19.

It is bad news for India that even before the President wrote a post-edit in Washington Post outlining the purpose of the first foreign trip of his presidency, including a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin June 16, the US Trade Representative Katherine Tai had announced June 2 the plan for the 25 per cent increase in the tariffs on 26 items from India. Of course, there is the rider that the hikes will be put on hold till December, but this is more to leave some elbow room to India rather than any real concession. For, President Biden seems to be planning to simultaneously take on China, Russia and India.

Significantly, the Russian President Vladimir Putin has already made it clear that no treaty among countries should be directed against any other country. Putin was referring to the Quad grouping of the US, Japan, Australia and India which ostensibly seeks to checkmate China's ambitions in the South China Sea. That he wants to wean India away from the group and goad it to make peace with China is clear from his apparent praise of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping who, according to him, are both capable of sorting out their areas of differences.

It is precisely this patronising attitude of the Russian President towards India that seems to raise the hackles in the US administration. Maybe because of this that President Biden has written in his article that he wants an alternative force to counter China and Russia. Putin's bid to nudge India not to play ball with the US as part of the Quad group and instead improve its relations with China probably has made the US watch India's reaction.

This may explain the hardening of the US stance on a renewed tariff war with India threatening to increase import duties on a range of imports from prawns and Basmati rice to furniture and jewellery in retaliation against New Delhi's imposition of Digital Services (DS) Tax on tech giants, including Amazon, Google and Facebook. Twitter blocking Donald Trump while he was still POTUS and supporting Biden during the American election in November 2020 is known to all. The recent Indian government effort to scratch Twitter and make it succumb to local political pressure could also be an important secondary story in this scuffle.

Since the European or ASEAN countries are not interested in confronting China in any way, the USA was so happy to get India as a partner country of the Quad. It seemingly secured India's consent taking advantage of the country's continuous diplomatic blunders and the Kashmir tangle. Though the US Trade Representative made the announcement on the tariff war June 2, it was widely reported only after Putin's briefing of international media, including from India, patting both Modi and Xi and encouraging them to iron out their border differences.

On the other hand, the series of European summits that President Biden will hold later this week will signal the reversal of many a crucial policy of his immediate predecessor that antagonised some major allies of the USA.

President Biden is slated to first attend the meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations in Britain. Then he will head to a NATO summit in Brussels where the majority of the European Union leaders will take a relook of the Trump administration's decision to dissociate the US from the NATO. The main purpose of Biden's trip seems to be to check the US' democratic allies whether they and the liberal order they claim to uphold can prove their capacity against modern-day threats and adversaries, including China and Russia and also assess whether they will be able to face the illiberal, nationalist forces gaining ground in many Western societies.

Biden wrote that the US is "back in the chair on the issue of climate change" and will deepen transatlantic cooperation on driving a global clean-energy transition. He hailed the weekend's agreement between G-7 finance ministers over setting a minimum global corporate tax rate.

It is not yet clear whether many in Europe will fully buy the American view. But, Biden's European counterparts have reasons to be relieved by the drastic change of tone between his administration and that of Trump, who cast long-standing allies as national security threats, questioned the merits of NATO, dismissed the science behind global warming and encouraged autocrats such as Putin.

### WISDOM CORNER

- There are no shortcuts in evolution. **LOUIS D. BRANDEIS**
- Well done is better than well said. **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**
- Things start out as hopes and end up as habits. **LILLIAN HELLMAN**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Nidicolous

If your offspring are proving recalcitrant or obstreperous you may like to hurl the epithet nidicolous at them. It will be accurate and tantalisingly unclear; it might even provoke them to crack open a dictionary to discover whether you're insulting them. The term is unlikely to be encountered outside a specialist and rather formal book on zoology or ornithology. It was found in the article on birds in the 1911 edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Latin scholars will recognise that the first part derives from the classical nidus, which is a relative of our nest as well as the source of niche and a component of a number of other specialist words. The second part is from the Latin verb colere to inhabit. However, it's more specialist than just "nest-living". It refers specifically to a bird or other animal that's hatched or born in an undeveloped state and that requires its parents to feed and care for it until it reaches maturity. Some young birds are the reverse of this - they leave the egg at least partially able to fend for themselves. They are said to be nidifugous, nest-fleeing. You may be reminded of newly hatched ducklings waddling after mum from their nest to reach water. Curiously, English has another pair of terms which form an equivalent pair to nidicolous and nidifugous. You may instead use altricial and precocial, two terms introduced by the Swedish zoologist Carl Jakob Sundevall in 1836. He coined the former from classical Latin altrix, a foster mother or wet nurse, and the latter from scientific Latin praecoces, the plural of the classical Latin praecox, premature or early. Why both pairs should stay in use is unclear.

### LOL

#### Try to get some rest

A man had been driving all night and by morning was still far from his destination. He decided to stop at the next city he came to, and park somewhere quiet so he could get an hour or two of sleep. As luck would have it, the quiet place he chose happened to be on one of the city's major jogging routes. No sooner had he settled back to snooze when there came a knocking on his window. He looked out and saw a jogger running in place. "Yes?" "Excuse me, sir," the jogger said, "do you have the time?" The man looked at the car clock and answered, "8:15".

The jogger said thanks and left. The man settled back again, and was just dozing off when there was another knock on the window and another jogger. "Excuse me, sir, do you have the time?" "8:25!" The jogger said thanks and left. Now the man could see other joggers passing by and he knew it was only a matter of time before another one disturbed him. To avoid the problem, he got out a pen and paper and put a sign in his window saying, "I do not know the time!" Once again he settled back to sleep. He was just dozing off when there was another knock on the window. "Sir, sir? It's 8:45!"

### SPECTRUM WORLD OCEANS DAY

# Ocean literacy for sustainable earth

If the ocean was an economy, it would be the seventh largest in the world but ironically only 5 per cent of this huge water body has been explored.

For today's changing world, the oceans are defining features on our blue planet. Millions of years ago, the first photosynthetic life forms flourished in the oceans that transformed our planet, converting carbon dioxide into oxygen. Since then, the phytoplankton - tiny plant like organism containing chlorophyll dwelling on upper ocean water column are responsible for producing at least 50 per cent of the oxygen on earth. Overall, oceans provide 70 per cent of oxygen, hence one should know that it doesn't matter how far we live from the sea, for every 10 breaths we take 7 come from the ocean. All most all the rain that drops from sky to replenish rivers, ponds, reservoirs to a glass of water we drink is a part of a water cycle which is supplied by 90 per cent of ocean water. Therefore, each one of us should have rudimentary understanding of the processes that operate in oceans that make our planet habitable.

To encourage people to celebrate oceans and take steps to look after their health, the United Nations has designated June 8 as World

Oceans Day. This year, the prime focus will be on life and livelihood that ocean sustains.

The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected. Ocean influences human lives by moderating climate, creating job opportunities, boosting national economies and acting as social cultural heritage for people around the world. Studies suggest, by the end of 2030, worldwide maritime industries will employ more than 40 million people. Approximately 3 billion people rely on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods.

Oceans provide the largest living space on earth that supports great diversity of species to flourish. Top ocean predators like blue whales, sharks, all the creatures that live, play important role in the trophic chain of the diverse marine ecosystem. Excessive fishing of a single species or one population in coastal areas leads to trophic cascade eventually leading to fisheries collapse. About 25 per cent of marine fish and small sea creatures find food, shelter and reproduce in pristine marine habitats of coral reef ecosystem. Over half a billion people depend on this coral reef ecosystem for food and income. These coral reefs often

nicknamed as "rainforests of the sea" act as first line of defence against tropical storms and erosion of coastlines. Scientific evidence clearly points towards anthropogenic activities like burning fossil fuel for energy and industry, deforestation, farming livestock and fertilising crops put thermal stress on sea water causing half of the coral bleaching in tropical sea. Tonnes of wastes from landfills and industries, single use plastics and abandoned plastic fishing nets inevitably escape into the sea and suffocate, starve or kill sea animals damaging sensitive habitats. Micropalstics, chemicals in plastic ingested by seafish and heavy metal concentration in seafood have entered the food chain making it harmful for humans.

The ocean and the atmosphere are intertwined as the former sequestered 50 per cent of carbon and absorbed 90 per cent of heat added to the global system in the past 200 years. However, since the industrial revolution, human-induced greenhouse gases are making ocean water too acidic, driving out massive sink of carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere in a dangerous feedback loop. Overheating of massive salty water

is disrupting the global network of interconnected deep and surface ocean currents drastically changing the world's climate.

These changes in the ocean eventually impact not only the life forms existing in it but also above and beyond. Humans are the prime agent of this dangerous transformation putting their own and others' existence at stake. It is high time we develop sensitivity and duty to protect, save and restore the health of our life supporting system, the oceans. 'Ocean literacy' - introducing fundamental concepts to public about the ocean's influence on human and vice versa will help in protecting mother earth.

One does not need huge missions to contribute to change but easily doable actions such as avoiding single use plastic, reducing toxic household pollutants, saving water, energy, volunteering to clean beaches and using eco-friendly products will make the ocean a better place for life and livelihood.

Famous poet, WH Auden once said: "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water." So act wisely and save oceans.

*The writer is Assistant Professor in Department of Geology, Utkal University.*

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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

### Birth & evolution of OED

Sir, Sudha Devi Nayak's article on the birth and evolution of the Oxford English Dictionary (Orissa POST, June 7) made for interesting reading. To those of us who believed that Dr Samuel Johnson, the famous lexicographer, was the author of the tome and that the dictionary was mostly improved upon subsequently by others on both sides of the Atlantic, notably the Oxford University, the Cambridge University in England and some American Universities by adding and embellishing upon the lexicographer's original output. It is unfortunate, in my view, that the Oxford University Press does not even cursorily mention in a preface to its various editions about the struggles of Dr James Murray, William Chester Minor and, of course, Eliza Merret in developing the dictionary. The fact the OED was published first in 1927 is unknown to many. I, for one, did not know about the OED's origins until I read Sudha Devi Nayak's article. The article merits reading by students and teachers of English alike.

MSR Seshu, SECUNDERABAD

### TMC's dynastic turn

Sir, Buoyed by a massive victory in Assembly elections held last month, TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appointed her nephew Abhishek Banerjee as the party's all-India general secretary. With this appointment Abhishek Banerjee became heir of Mamata Banerjee through the dynastic route to the political leadership. Now, the TMC is a new addition to the big list of political parties which have practiced the dynastic route rather than democratic process to choose the parties' leadership. The episode throws up a larger question about the resilience of dynastic politics - where the bloodline determines the political leadership. This isn't just true for the Congress nationally, but the entire gamut of regional parties. While the vast majority of political parties are crowned by dynasts and family members, there is an uncertain future for parties like AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, the BJD in Odisha and Nitish Kumar's JD(U). It appears that Mamata has looked at all these experiences and, unfortunately, instead of pioneering a democratic method of leadership selection, picked a family member. While there are complex factors behind the resilience of dynastic politics - the brand recall value of leaders, a quicker route to mass legitimacy, control over finances - it leaves Indian democracy poorer. Mamata has followed, rather than led, this time around.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

# Pak pushing narco-terror via Raj Delhiites can get vax at polling booths

After adopting a similar model in Punjab to turn it into a drug haven, the neighbouring country is making efforts to pave way for narco-terrorism in the desert state

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, June 7:** After the Border Security Force (BSF) recently made one of its biggest drug hauls by seizing 56-kg of contraband in the Bikaner sector on the Rajasthan-Pakistan border and arrested two accused, officials are suspecting the role of Pakistan rangers in this smuggling and are of the opinion that the neighbouring country is making efforts to pave way for narco-terrorism in the desert state after adopting a similar model in Punjab to turn it into a drug haven.

After interrogating the two youths arrested in this case, officials believe that the role of Pakistan rangers is suspicious. Both of them have been sent to remand after they were produced in a court.

Speaking on this, a senior official confirmed, "The matter is under investigation by the NCB. We cannot say it with certainty at the moment, but there is a Pakistani post situated just fifty metres away



from the place where this drug consignment was seized. Soldiers are stationed here round the clock. This indicates that it should be in the knowledge of rangers."

Other officials confirmed that the dossier is being made ready and if required Interpol help will also be taken to reach the last person involved in this case.

Meanwhile, an NCB team was

here at the site to probe the matter. NCB deputy director Gyaneshwar Singh reached the BSF office and investigated the evidence seized from the two accused. Thereafter, he along with BSF DIG Pushpendra Singh Rathore called a joint press conference where the two said that all efforts shall be taken to reach the last person in this chain.

Gyaneshwar Singh said, "India

is situated between the 'Golden Crescent' and the 'Golden Triangle' where the former signifies nations of South Asia namely Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan while the latter is the area where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong rivers."

Afghanistan is the biggest producer of heroin. From Afghanistan, the drug consignment generally reaches Pakistan and from Pakistan, it reaches India. India is a major transit point, he said adding that the biggest ever recovery of such a consignment from near the Rajasthan frontier along the International Border (IB) makes this case sensitive. "Two accused have been arrested in the case. We are making all efforts to find the main suppliers and the main receivers to expose the gang. All those involved in the chain will be brought to fore. Presently, we think the links in this case are connected to Punjab," he added.

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 7:** In a bid to push inoculation of 45-plus age group, the Delhi government will send booth level officers (BLOs) door to door for allocating slots to eligible persons to get the jabs closer home at their designated polling centres under its 'Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination' campaign, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Monday.

The exercise will be replicated to vaccinate people aged 18-44 years as well whenever adequate doses of COVID-19 vaccine are available with the government, Kejriwal said in an online briefing.

There are 57 lakh people in Delhi in the 45 plus age group and of them, 27 lakh have been given the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine while 30 lakh are yet to get the job, he said.

"We have noticed that people in the 45 plus age group are not coming to vaccination centres set up by the Delhi government and vaccines are not being utilised," he said.

There are around 280 wards in Delhi. The BLOs will visit households in 72 wards from Tuesday to identify and send eligible persons



for vaccination at the polling booths by allocating slots, he said.

The chief minister said polling booths are close to the homes of the people so they will not have to travel long distances to get the vaccine. Also, the government has arranged e-rickshaws to ferry people to the vaccination centres.

There are around 2,700 polling stations in Delhi spread across 70 Assembly constituencies.

The BLOs will give slots for vaccination to people in the 45-plus

age group at the nearest polling centre. In a cycle of five days, all the eligible persons will be covered.

"After covering all the 280 wards in four weeks, the government will be able to say that all those eligible (45 years and above) have received the vaccine," Kejriwal said, hoping there will be no shortage of doses since the central government is providing the vaccines for 45+ age group.

He said a similar drive will be conducted again for their second dose vaccination after three months.

## Doorstep diesel delivery picks up pace in Rajasthan



Doorstep diesel delivery is approved by the government and is a new-age concept of effective distribution of diesel

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, June 7:** Doorstep diesel delivery is a new revolution in the field of energy distribution in Rajasthan which is easing the lives of end-consumers without the hassles of diesel procurement.

Four fuel entrepreneurs are bringing change in the fuel industry in Rajasthan with this door-to-door delivery model which includes Bikaner-based Hiralal Bhattar Petroleum. It has started the facility of doorstep diesel delivery through its mobile petrol pumps. This new fuel startup is run by Suresh Bhattar, who owns a Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) retail outlet.

"While having discussion with BPCL officials, they gave me the information so I thought this should be done for the welfare of the society," Suresh said.

Barmer-based Shree Mahadev Petroleum has also started the facility of doorstep diesel delivery. The startup is run by Mahendra Kumar, who is in the fuel business since 2011 and is also a dentist by profession. They have recently acquired a mobile fuel pump and will deliver within a 40 km radius.

"There is a gas terminal near my petrol pump and so I saw a constant demand for diesel and thought of delivering it at people's doorsteps and to other bulk consumers, too," said Mahendra Kumar.

Pali-based Manish Kishan Filling Station has also started the facility of doorstep diesel delivery. Manish Kishan Filling Station is run by Manish Choudhary who owns a Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) outlet. He has recently acquired a mobile fuel pump -- which will go

around Pali to meet the demand for diesel by various end-users at their doorsteps.

"I was searching for a solution regarding this issue when I came in contact with Tata-Repos Energy. They had developed a new fuel delivery system and I was impressed with the technology they were using. I did my research and bought Repose Energy's Bowser (Doorstep Diesel Delivery System) in 2019. This type of system is very innovative and helps to resolve a genuine problem faced by industries," said Manish Choudhary.

M/s Sirohi Petroleum has started the facility of doorstep diesel delivery through their mobile petrol pumps in Nagaur. This fuel startup is run by Akhil Sirohi, who is into this business since 2010 and started doorstep diesel delivery from April 17, 2021 by partnering with his cousin brother Ashok Sirohi. He belongs to a family of Nagaur who have been in mining and quick lime industry for the last 40 years.

"Every business needs to change with time. And we want to take the first mover advantage of introducing door-to-door diesel delivery services in our area," Akhil Sirohi said.

Doorstep diesel delivery is approved by the government and is a new-age concept of effective distribution of diesel. It allows fuel startups to maintain quality and create availability of fuel for the consumers. It will hugely benefit the agricultural sector, hospitals, housing societies, heavy machinery facilities, mobile towers, etc.

Earlier, the bulk consumers of diesel had to procure it from retail outlets in barrels which used to cause a lot of spillage and dead mileage in energy procurement. Efficient energy distribution infrastructure was lacking. Doorstep diesel delivery will solve many such problems and will provide diesel to bulk consumers in a legal manner.

## Markets, malls reopen in Delhi on odd-even basis

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 7:** Markets and malls in the national capital wore a dull and deserted look and only a few shops and outlets reopened on odd-even basis Monday after being closed for over one-and-half month in view of the aggressive second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Only a few customers were seen in several markets as shopkeepers cleaned and sanitised their premises, hoping for more people to come during the day and the situation to improve in the coming weeks.

According to the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, the ongoing lockdown, which had been imposed April 19, has been extended by one more week (up to June 14).

The central market in Lajpat Nagar, one of the most crowded markets and a popular shopping destination in the city wore a deserted look as shopkeepers with allotted odd numbers slowly set up their shops after a gap of nearly two months.

While many shops with odd numbers slowly opened their outlets Monday, there were several others who chose to wait for a few more days to monitor the situation to finally restart their business.

Sixty-year-old Kujeet Singh, whose family has been running "Classik Electronics" at the central market for the last 35 years, said his shop has been allotted number 25, so it's an odd day but he is not looking to start his sales for at least two more days.

"I recently lost my mother. I am still trying to cope up with the loss. Today, we have opened the



A customer takes a look at a watch at the Select City Walk Mall in Saket after the unlocking process of COVID-19 lockdown began in a phased manner, in New Delhi, Monday.

shop only for cleaning and sanitising. We will close it early and will try to resume work from maybe the next two days. We still stay away and since, the shop is run by my family members, so that's a relief," Singh said.

On the contrary, shopkeeper Amit Kukreja (38) is hopeful to make an earning gradually as he and his staff slowly put up clothes for sale on display.

"Even during the first wave, the unlocking began after months. Initially we did face issues but slowly and gradually, our sales picked up. I am hopeful that this time too, we will manage to get back to our business as usual. We got to deal with the losses suffered in the past few months but hope-

fully we can make it up gradually," he said.

Meanwhile, 52-year-old Mohit Verma, who is also into clothing business was happy to welcome his first customer of the day who bought a kurta.

"Usually, we used to set up our shops by 9.30 am but today, the scene is quite different. I have just had one customer since morning but I am hopeful that customers would start coming in slowly in the coming days," he said.

Verma said many of the shopkeepers have also stayed away from opening their shops because it's Monday, but eventually, we are all hopefully of being functional just like old times depending on the circumstances.

## A special police station to check water theft!

THE RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT SHALL OPEN THIS UNIQUE POLICE STATION TO PREVENT THEFT OF IRRIGATION WATER WHICH FLOWS THROUGH THE INDIRA GANDHI CANAL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, June 7:** This may sound bizarre but is true that a special police station is coming up in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan to prevent water theft.

The Rajasthan government shall open this unique police station to prevent theft of irrigation water which flows through the Indira Gandhi Canal running in the area.

A staff of 60 policemen will be deputed to take immediate action on water theft cases reported frequently in this area.

The new police station coming up to check water theft will be



headed by a CI and will have a staff of 5 sub-inspectors, 8 head constables and 40 constables, said Nohar MLA Amit Chachan, adding that "Influential and dominating farmers take water to their fields

leaving other farmers to suffer." Officials confirmed that it is for the first time that a police station has been started to stop water theft in any state.

Recently, 12 new police stations



istered in Bhirani police station. Additional SP (Hanumangarh) Jassaram Bose says that the theft incidents are higher in Nohar and Bhadra Vidhansabha areas as there is no 'chakbandi'. "A few people from Haryana steal water leading to water crisis in the tail areas here. People caught stealing water are booked under IPC section 397," he said.

Water theft cases have also been reported from Sriganganagar district. In such a situation, the number of such police stations will increase in future as the Canal Department also wants the police to be stationed at a certain distance from the canal. Police sources say a long pipe is inserted into the canal and water is taken into the field, surreptitiously.

Indira Gandhi Canal is the longest canal of India which traverses through seven districts of Rajasthan -- Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Sriganganagar.

Around 650 km long, it starts from Harike Barrage in Punjab and terminates in irrigation facilities at the Thar Desert in Rajasthan.



## of the day quote

A group of specialists will frame protocols and handhold private hospitals for enhancing paediatric beds and treatment protocols

AMARINDER SINGH | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

We all know who are experts in compromise. The case against Praveen Togadia was withdrawn by the Congress party. We are not worried. We are not from your school of politics. We will not compromise

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

India is also one of the world's fastest countries in terms of number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered so far. Out of 88.7 crore people who have been administered at least one dose globally, India accounts for 17.9 crore, which is 20.2 per cent of the global coverage

V K PAUL | MEMBER (HEALTH), NITI AAYOG

## SHORT TAKES

### Two farmers released on bail

**Tohana (Har):** The Samyukt Kisan Morcha called off a plan to hold protests at "all" police stations in Haryana after the release of two arrested farmers on bail Monday but said a sit-in at Tohana will continue since another man is still behind bars. The two farmers were arrested for allegedly trying to gherao JJP MLA Devendra Singh Bahl's residence last week. "Ravi Azad and Vikas Sisar were released from jail in the early hours after which today's programme to gherao all police stations in the state has been put off," Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Joginder Ghansi Ram Nain told reporters here.

### 2 illegal arms suppliers held

**Gurugram:** The police in Gurugram have claimed to have arrested two arms smugglers and seized from them 11 pistols, 22 magazines and 15 live ammunition which were supposed to be supplied to local criminals and gang members. "Kuldeep, also known as 'CM', 27 and Mukesh Kumar, 24 a resident of Muthra in Uttar Pradesh, were arrested from Maharaja Agrasen Bhawan, Sohna in Gurugram Sunday following a tip-off.

### WB Class X, XII exams cancelled

**Kolkata:** In a major announcement, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday that the Madhyamik (Class X) and Uchha Madhyamik (Class XII) board examinations will not be held this year in view of the Covid situation in the state. The evaluation process for the students will be decided by the respective boards in consultation with the expert committee and the state education department, which will be announced within seven days.

### BJP expels hooch tragedy accused

**Aligarh:** The BJP Monday expelled Rishi Sharma, the alleged kingpin in the hooch tragedy case, from the party. District president of BJP Rishipal Pal Singh has cancelled Rishi Sharma's primary membership, a party press release said. Aligarh Police has started the process of charging all the five main accused including Sharma, who was arrested Sunday, under the stringent National Security Act and the Gangster Act. Senior Superintendent of Police Kalandi Naithani said.



**Sasikala was an aide at the house of late party supremo J. Jayalalithaa, and did not have any connection with the AIADMK**  
CV SHANMUGHAM | AIADMK LEADER

### HERBAL SANITISER UNITS IN RURAL INTERIORS OF UP

The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) in Lucknow will help set up herbal sanitiser manufacturing units in rural parts of the state



# 30K kids orphaned amid Covid, SC told



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 7:** As many as 30,071 children were orphaned, lost a parent or abandoned mostly due to the Covid-19 pandemic as per data submitted by different states till June 5, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) informed the Supreme Court Monday.

Of the total, 26,176 children have lost a parent, 3,621 have been orphaned and 274 have been abandoned, the NCPCR.

The commission further said that the state-wise data received regarding children who have lost either their mother or father or both parents from April 1, 2020 to June 5, 2021, irrespective of their reason of death (not only death due to Covid-19), was uploaded on its 'Bal Swaraj' portal and collated by it. It said Maharashtra has been worst affected with 7,084 children being orphaned, abandoned or have lost a parent mostly to the deadly virus since April 1 last year.

In its affidavit filed in the suo motu matter taken up by the apex court, the NCPCR said other states where children are most affected include Uttar Pradesh (3,172), Rajasthan (2,482), Haryana (2,438), Madhya Pradesh (2,243), Andhra

Pradesh (2,089), Kerala (2,002), Bihar (1,634) and Odisha (1,073). It said that in Maharashtra out of the total 7,084 children, 6,865 have lost one parent, 217 have been orphaned and two children have been abandoned, while Madhya Pradesh tops the chart where 226 have been abandoned.

The NCPCR said that among the affected, boys are 15,620, girls (14,447) and transgender (4), with most children falling in the category of 8 to 13 years of age (11,815).

The commission clarified that the total data given in the present affidavit includes the data already submitted to the court till May 29, which said that 9,346 children were abandoned, orphaned or lost a parent mostly to the Covid-19 pandemic. It said that data uploading is an ongoing process, which is for identification of the CNCs (Child in Need of Care and Protection) and the real time tracking to ensure welfare for those children.

The NCPCR once again flagged concern that it has been receiving many complaints in the past month or so alleging that there are private people and organizations involved in data collection of such children stating that they want to provide assistance to the children and the families. These organizations/

### Top court gives Centre more time

The Centre told the Supreme Court Monday that it needed some more time to apprise the court of the modalities on the recently launched 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme for kids orphaned by Covid-19. A bench of Justices L N Rao and Aniruddha Bose was informed by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, that they are in consultation with states and ministries to work out the modalities of the 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme. "We need some more time to apprise the court about the modalities of the scheme as the consultation is still going on. We have made district magistrates directly responsible for the children who have been abandoned or have been orphaned," Bhati said. The bench said that it is inclined to give some more time to the Centre to formulate the modalities of the scheme and how they will implement it.

people are giving away these orphaned children to families in adoption without following the procedure given under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, it added.

"The Act, besides providing for an extensive procedure for children who have lost family support or are in need of assistance, also provides for an exhaustive procedure for adoption of orphan/abandoned/surrendered children."

"The adoption of orphan/ abandoned/ surrendered children is lawful only after the adoption procedure as given under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 is followed and the final adoption order is passed by the prescribed authority," it said.

## PICKING FLAVOUR



Workers pluck tea leaves during monsoon season at a tea estate in Dibrugarh

PTI PHOTO

# LAND GRABBERS CAN'T TAKE REFUGE OF LAW: SC

The top court was hearing a plea filed on behalf of residents of Khori Gaon Basti in Faridabad, Haryana, seeking stay on the proposed demolition of about 10K houses in the area

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 7:** The Supreme Court Monday ordered eviction of around 10,000 residential constructions, which had come up in Haryana's Lakkadpur-Khori village in the Aravalli Forest area.

A bench comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari said: "We had passed an interim order in February 2020 since it was an encroachment of forest land, and it has to be vacated."

The bench noted that it will ask the Faridabad Municipal Corporation, why after its February order, the encroachments were not removed till June 2021.



The bench said as far as forest land was concerned there cannot be any compromise irrespective of policy, or whether the state wants to accommodate them it's up to them. The bench queried counsel, representing the municipal cor-

poration, why its order on removal of encroachments on forest lands has not been complied to till date? The counsel submitted that people in the area were trying to encroach further. The bench reiterated that no concession can be granted in connection with encroachment on the forest land.

The top court was hearing a plea filed on behalf of residents of Khori Gaon Basti in Faridabad, Haryana, seeking an immediate stay on the proposed demolition of about 10,000 houses in the area. The plea challenged the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran Rehabilitation Policy, which limits the cut off for rehabilitation to 2003.

### FIR against Suvendu, brother & aides

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, June 7:** Police has registered an FIR against West Bengal Assembly's Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and his brother Soumendu Adhikari for "stealing relief materials" from Contai municipality in East Midnapore.

The FIR was registered on Sunday evening on the basis of a complaint by Ratnadip Manna, a Member of the Board of Administrators of Contai Municipality May 29.

According to the complaint by Manna - Himangshu Manna and Pratap De took away a truckload of tarpaulin worth ₹2 lakh from the official godown of Contai Municipality meant for Cyclone Yaas devastation relief.

# Lokpal received 110 corruption complaints

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 7:** As many as 110 complaints, including four against Members of Parliament, were received by anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal during 2020-21, registering over 92 per cent decline from the number of complaints received in 2019-20, according to latest official data.

The Lokpal had received 1,427 corruption complaints in 2019-20, it said. Of the total complaints received in the last fiscal, 57 were against Group A or Group B central government officials, 44 against chairpersons, members and employees of different boards/corporations/autonomous bodies wholly or partially financed by the Centre, and five were in the "others" category, it said. President



Ram Nath Kovind had March 23, 2019 administered the oath of office to Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose as the chairperson of Lokpal, the apex body to inquire and investigate into allegations of corruption against public functionaries, including the Prime Minister. The Lokpal's eight members-

four judicial and the rest non-judicial-were administered the oath of office by Justice Ghose March 27 that year. At present, the Lokpal has vacancy of two judicial members. The Lokpal ordered preliminary inquiry into 30 complaints and closed 75 plights after preliminary examination, the data said.

A total of 13 complaints were closed after considering preliminary inquiry report in 2020-21, it said. As many as 14 complaints sent for preliminary inquiry against Group A and B officials were pending with the chief vigilance commissioner (CVC) and three with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), said the Lokpal data.

An action taken report in one case was pending with the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), it said. Of the 1,427 complaints re-

ceived by the Lokpal during 2019-20, 613 were related to state government officials and four against Union ministers and Members of Parliament (MPs), according to the data.

It said 245 complaints were against central government officials, 200 against those in public sector undertakings, statutory bodies, judicial institutions and autonomous bodies at the central level, and 135 were against private persons and organisations.

There were six complaints against state ministers and members of legislative assemblies and four against Union ministers, the data said.

Of the total complaints, 1,347 were disposed of, it said, adding that 1,152 complaints were beyond the Lokpal's jurisdiction.

## UDID card now acceptable for vaccination: Govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 7:** To further facilitate access to vaccination for persons with disability, the government has decided to include the UDID card in the list of prescribed photo ID documents for Covid vaccination and the necessary provisions for the same are being made and would be available in Co-WIN shortly, the health ministry said Monday.

The ministry has advised the states and Union territories to widely publicise the use of the UDID card as a permissible photo ID for accessing Covid vaccination.

The Centre has been supporting the efforts of the states under the "whole of government" approach for ensuring a smooth and effective vaccination drive since January 16. It has developed the CoWIN digital platform to streamline the process of vaccination for various categories of beneficiaries across the country. CoWIN provides the technological backbone to effectively roll out and scale up the mechanism for the Covid vaccine distribution system, the ministry said in a statement.

It has been the Centre's constant endeavour to streamline the vaccination process for its universalisation. In this backdrop, the health ministry wrote to the states on Monday to include the Unique Disability Identification (UDID) card as a photo ID while registering on Co-WIN 2.0. According to the guidance note for Co-WIN 2.0 issued March 2, seven photo IDs were specified and prescribed for the verification of beneficiaries prior to their vaccination.

# BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19

## ISRO develops three types of ventilators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore June 7:** The Indian Space Research Organisation has developed three types of ventilators, and has come forward to transfer the technology to industry for clinical usage as the country battles the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

A low-cost and portable critical care ventilator, 'PRANA' ('Programmable Respiratory Assistance for the Needy Aid') is based on the automated compression of an AMBU (Artificial Manual Breathing unit) bag. The system has a sophisticated control system that includes airway pressure sensor, flow sensor, oxygen sensor, servo actuator as well as expiration and PEEP (Positive End Expiratory Pressure) control valves, according to an interest exploration note posted on the website of Bengaluru-headquartered space agency.

The clinicians can select the ventilation mode and set the required parameters through a touch

screen panel and monitor various parameters like pressure, flow, tidal volume and oxygen concentration on the same screen. The ventilator can deliver the required flow of oxygen-air mixture to the patient's lung at a desired rate set by the clinicians.

It has a provision to attach external battery for backup during power failure. ISRO said PRANA supports both invasive and non-invasive ventilation



modes and is capable of giving mandatory breaths (controlled by ventilator) as well as spontaneous breaths (controlled by the patient).

A robust algorithm for controlled and safe ventilation of the patient is implemented which

raises alarm and opens safety valves to prevent barotrauma, asphyxia and apnoea during the ventilation. Alarm is also raised in case of wrong or improper connection of the ventilation circuit or inadvertent disconnection of the hose or sensors.

There are also provisions to attach bacterial viral filters at each interface to prevent cross-infection and the contamination of air. The ICU grade positive pressure mechanical ventilator titled 'VaU' (abbreviation of Ventilation assist Unit) can assist or replace the spontaneous breathing in patients under respiratory distress, ISRO said.

VaU is based on a centrifugal blower which draws in filtered ambient air, compresses it and delivers it to the patient to achieve ventilation and can therefore operate without a compressed pneumatic source.

Provision is also given in the ventilator to connect a high pressure oxygen source, from which

oxygen is metered automatically, to achieve the desired oxygen concentration (FiO2) in the inspiratory flow. Microcontroller based control module in the ventilator acquires signals from an array of sensors and commands the electro-pneumatic components to effect closed loop control. VaU also comes with an intuitive Human Machine Interface (HMI) System running on a medical grade touch screen PC, which allows the operator to set and monitor various ventilation parameters in real time.

A power supply unit, which can operate with 230VAC or an internal battery pack, is used to power the electro-pneumatic components, controller, and the HMI system of the ventilator. VaU has been configured to operate in a variety of patient/ventilator triggered invasive and non-invasive ventilation modes and has provisions to detect fault conditions and raise alarms through the HMI system to alert the operator.

# international



We are witnessing the greatest election fraud in the history of the country, in my opinion in the history of any democracy  
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | ISRAELI PM

## BACK IN PUBLIC EYE, TRUMP TEASES 2024 PRESIDENTIAL RUN

Advisers say Trump, who faces a potential indictment in New York over his business dealings, has been discussing the possibility of another presidential campaign



### of the day quote

Let us commend to the Lord the souls of all of the dead children in the residential schools of Canada and let us pray for the families and the native communities of Canada shattered by pain

POPE FRANCIS | ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HEAD

For the G7 to pay (for vaccinating the poor) is not charity, it is self-protection to stop the disease spreading, mutating and returning to threaten all of us

GORDON BROWN | FORMER BRITISH PM

Yes, there were misunderstandings (with India) at one time, but now those misunderstandings are gone. We should not be stuck in past misunderstandings but move forward looking at the future

KP SHARMA OLI | NEPAL PRIME MINISTER

### SHORT TAKES

#### 119 killed in 2 days in Afghanistan

**Kabul:** As the level of violence remains high in Afghanistan despite efforts to jumpstart the stalled peace process, a total of 119 people were killed in clashes and security incidents in just two days, June 3-4, an official said here. The official, on the condition of anonymity, said that 196 security personnel were injured also during this period. According to the official, 54 people were killed June 3, while there were 65 casualties the next day. Of the 119 victims, 102 were members of the security forces.

#### Six killed in knife attack in China

**Beijing:** A deadly knife attack in eastern China has killed at least six people and left 14 wounded, local officials have said, in what was the third such indiscriminate assault on civilians by the disgruntled citizens in recent weeks. A 25-year-old unemployed man, Wu from Huaining county attacked the civilians Saturday to vent out his anger as he was going through family problems, local officials in Anqing city in Anhui province said. "He killed out of anger, because of family troubles and pessimism," the municipal government said in a statement.

#### Global Covid cases top 173.1mn

**Washington:** The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 173.1 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.72 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University. In its latest update Monday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 173,197,944 and 3,726,107, respectively. The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,362,471 and 597,627, respectively, according to the CSSE.

#### Three dead in US shooting

**Miami:** At least three people were killed and multiple others injured during a shooting at a graduation party in Miami-Dade County located in the US state of Florida, police said. A barrage of gunfire broke out in Kendall at around 2 a.m. Sunday when two cars pulled up into a strip mall where a graduation party was underway at a hookah lounge restaurant. Someone from inside one of the vehicles opened fire on people leaving the restaurant following the graduation party, he said.

## China policies could cut millions of Uyghur births in Xinjiang

REUTERS

**Beijing, June 7:** Chinese birth control policies could cut between 2.6 to 4.5 million births of the Uyghur and other ethnic minorities in southern Xinjiang within 20 years, up to a third of the region's projected minority population, according to a new analysis by a German researcher.

The report also includes a previously unreported cache of research produced by Chinese academics and officials on Beijing's intent behind the birth control policies in Xinjiang, where official data shows birth-rates have already dropped by 48.7% between 2017 and 2019. Adrian Zenz's research comes amid growing calls among some western countries for an investigation into whether China's actions in Xinjiang amount to genocide, a charge Beijing vehemently denies.

The research by Zenz is the first such peer reviewed analysis of the long-term population impact of Beijing's multi-year crackdown in the western region. Rights groups, researchers and some residents say the policies include newly enforced birth limits on Uyghur and other mainly Muslim ethnic minorities, the transfers of workers to other regions and the internment of an estimated one million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in a network of camps.

"This (research and analysis) really shows the intent behind the Chinese government's long-term



This picture taken June 25, 2017 shows police patrolling in a night food market near the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, a day before the Eid al-Fitr holiday

plan for the Uyghur population," Zenz told Reuters.

The Chinese government has not made public any official target for reducing the proportion of Uyghur and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. But based on analysis of official birth data, demographic projections and ethnic ratios proposed by Chinese academics and officials, Zenz estimates Beijing's policies could increase the predominant Han Chinese population in southern Xinjiang to around 25% from 8.4% currently.

"This goal is only achievable if they do what they have been doing, which is drastically suppressing (Uyghur) birth rates," Zenz said. China has previously said the current drop in ethnic minority birth rates is due to the full implementation of the region's existing birth quotas as well as development factors, including an increase in per capita income and wider access to family planning services.

At indeed Interactive 2021, we're gathering thought leaders, CEOs and some very entertaining people who'll explore current and future hiring challenges as, together, we reimagine recruiting in the new world of work.

"The so-called 'genocide' in Xinjiang is pure nonsense," China's Foreign Ministry told Reuters in a statement. "It is a manifestation of the ulterior motives of anti-China forces in the United States and the West and the manifestation

### 'END UYGHUR DOMINANCE'

Chinese birth control policies could cut between 2.6 to 4.5 million births of the Uyghur and other ethnic minorities in southern Xinjiang within 20 years

The Chinese government has not made public any official target for reducing the proportion of Uyghur and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang

It is estimated that the population of ethnic minorities in Uyghur-dominated southern Xinjiang would reach between 8.6-10.5 million by 2040 under the new birth prevention policies

of those who suffer from Sinophobia."

Official data showing the decrease in Xinjiang birth rates between 2017 and 2019 "does not reflect the true situation" and Uyghur birth rates remain higher than Han ethnic people in Xinjiang, the ministry added.

The new research compares a population projection done by the government-run Chinese Academy of Sciences based on data predating the crackdown, to official data on birth-rates and what Beijing describes as "population optimization" measures for Xinjiang's ethnic minorities introduced since 2017.

It found the population of ethnic minorities in Uyghur-dominated southern Xinjiang would reach between 8.6-10.5 million by 2040 under

the new birth prevention policies. That compares to 13.14 million projected by Chinese researchers using data pre-dating the implemented birth policies and a current population of around 9.47 million.

Zenz, an independent researcher with the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, a bipartisan non-profit based in Washington, D.C., has previously been condemned by Beijing for his research which has been critical of China's policies on detaining Uyghurs, mass labour transfers and birth reduction in Xinjiang.

China's foreign ministry has accused Zenz of "misleading" people with data and, in response to Reuters' questions, said "his lies aren't worth refuting."

Zenz's research was accepted for publication by the Central Asian Survey, a quarterly academic journal, after peer review June 3.

Reuters shared the research and methodology with more than a dozen experts in population analysis, birth prevention policies and international human rights law, who said the analysis and conclusions were sound.

Some of the experts cautioned that demographic projections over a period of decades can be affected by unforeseen factors. The Xinjiang government has not publicly set official ethnic quota or population size goals for ethnic populations in Southern Xinjiang, and quotas used in the analysis are based on proposed figures from Chinese officials and academics.

## Boko Haram leader is dead, says ISWAP militant group



REUTERS

**Abuja, June 7:** The Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) militant group said in an audio recording heard by Reuters Sunday that Abubakar Shekau, leader of rival Nigerian militant Islamist group Boko Haram, was dead.

Shekau died around May 18 after detonating an explosive device when he was pursued by ISWAP fighters following a battle, a person purporting to be ISWAP leader Abu Musab al-Barnawi said on the audio recording.

"Abubakar Shekau, God has judged him by sending him to heaven," he can be heard saying.

Two people familiar with al-Barnawi told Reuters the voice on the recording was that of the ISWAP leader. A Nigerian intelligence report shared by a government official and Boko Haram researchers has also said Shekau is dead.

Last month, Nigeria's military said it was investigating Shekau's alleged death, also reported in Nigerian and foreign news outlets. The audio statement is ISWAP's first confirmation that its arch rival in the Lake Chad region has been killed.

## No 'Biden bounce' to US image in France, Germany

The US' reputation as the leading global power has suffered in France and Germany because of Washington's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic

REUTERS

**Paris, June 7:** The United States' reputation as the leading global power has suffered in France and Germany because of Washington's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic that has killed nearly 600,000 Americans, a poll showed Monday.

On the eve of President Joe Biden's trip to Europe, the survey by the German Marshall Fund and the Bertelsmann Foundation said he had not won back the standing of the United States as it was before Covid-19 struck. China's reputation had risen slightly.

According to US research papers released March 26, the United States under Biden's predecessor Donald Trump could have avoided nearly 400,000 deaths with a more effective strategy.

"The first three months of the Biden administration have not affected French and German views of US influence in the world," the study of views in 11 countries said. "These numbers are in line with the results of the 2020 survey, which had fallen by about 10 points from the pre-pandemic numbers, to the advantage of China."

That compares with the perception within the United States that US influence abroad has risen, the survey found.



Biden embarks on his first European tour as president Wednesday to attend G7, NATO and European Union summits. He faces the challenge of repairing transatlantic ties damaged by Trump, whose withdrawal from international agreements and sharp criticism of NATO undermined European faith in Washington.

Only 51% of Germans see the United States as a reliable partner, rising to 60% in France, 67% in Britain and 76% in Poland. Less than a quarter of Turks trust the United States. Most Americans regard the European Union as a reliable partner, the study said.

A majority of respondents surveyed still think that the United States should be involved in the defence and security of Europe, except in Sweden, where views are divided, and Turkey.

## Jeff Bezos to fly to space next month

REUTERS

**Washington, June 7:** Amazon's billionaire founder Jeff Bezos said Monday he and his brother Mark will fly on the first crewed space flight from his rocket company Blue Origin.

"Ever since I was five years old, I've dreamed of traveling to space. On July 20th, I will take that journey with my brother," Bezos said in an Instagram post.

Bezos, who would step down as Amazon's chief executive July 5, will join the winner of an auction for a seat on the first space flight from Blue Origin in the same month.

Bezos and fellow billionaire Elon Musk have been investing heavily on their rocket startups, but Blue Origin and Musk's SpaceX have so far only sent satellites for clients into orbit.

## VENEZUELA'S DANCING DEVILS



A member of Venezuelan brotherhood "Dancing Devils" dances during their annual Corpus Christi celebration with a call for the end of the coronavirus, in Naiguata, Venezuela

## 50 die, 70 hurt as trains collide in Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Karachi, June 7:** Two passenger trains collided in Pakistan's southern Sindh Province early Monday morning, killing at least 50 people and injuring 70 others, prompting authorities to call in the Army and paramilitary forces for the challenging task of rescue and relief operations.

The accident occurred when the Millat Express train from Karachi to Sargodha derailed and fell on the opposite track and collided with Sir Syed Express headed from Rawalpindi to Karachi, a spokesperson of Pakistan Railways said.

The collision, in which bogies of the Millat Express train overturned,



took place near Dharki, a city located in the Ghotki district of upper Sindh. An emergency has been declared at hospitals in Ghotki, Dharki, Obaro and Mirpur Mathelo where injured were rushed.

At least 50 people have lost their lives and 70 others sustained in-

juries, ARY News quoted Ghotki Deputy Commissioner Usman Abdullah as saying.

The deceased included women and some railway officials.

Reacting to the train accident, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he was "shocked by the horrific

train accident". "Shocked by the horrific train accident at Ghotki early this morning leaving 30 passengers dead. Have asked the Railway Minister to reach the site & ensure medical assistance to injured & support for families of the dead. Ordering comprehensive investigation into railway safety faultlines," he said on Twitter.

Sir Syed Express train's driver Aijaz Shah said that he was rescued by locals after two hours of the collision. He said that the train was running at its normal speed when he suddenly saw the derailed bogies of Millat Express train at the track. Due to the short distance, the train rammied into the derailed bogies of Millat Express.

## Meghan, Harry name baby daughter after Queen, Diana

THE CHOICE OF NAME PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE QUEEN ELIZABETH AFTER A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR THE COUPLE AND THE WIDER ROYAL FAMILY

REUTERS

**California, June 7:** Meghan, Britain's Duchess of Sussex, has given birth to her second child, a girl, whom she and husband Prince Harry have named after Queen Elizabeth and his late mother Princess Diana.

Lilibet 'Lili' Diana Mountbatten-Windsor was born Friday at the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital in California, with Harry in attendance. The couple's first child, Archie, was born in 2019.

The choice of name pays tribute to the queen after a difficult year for the couple, and the wider royal family. Lilibet is a family nickname for the 95-year-old British monarch.

Buckingham Palace said the queen, Harry's father Prince Charles and his brother and wife, Prince William and Kate, were delighted with the news. Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson joined them in sending his congratulations.

William and Kate said via their official Twitter account: "We are all delighted by the happy news of the arrival of baby Lili. Congratulations to Harry, Meghan and Archie."

Meghan and Harry announced the birth with a statement.

"On June 4th, we were blessed with the arrival of our daughter, Lili. She is more than we could have ever imagined, and we remain grateful for the love and prayers we've felt from across the



Members of the media wait outside Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, where Meghan, Britain's Duchess of Sussex, gave birth to her and Prince Harry's second child, Lilibet 'Lili' Diana Mountbatten-Windsor, in Santa Barbara, California

globe," they said.

"Thank you for your continued kindness and support during this very special time for our family."

Harry and Meghan said Lilibet's middle name was chosen to honour her grandmother, Princess Diana, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997.

Both mother and baby - who is eighth in line to the throne - were doing well and were back at home, their press secretary said.

The nature of the announcement, almost two days after the birth, reflects the new life the couple have chosen in the United States.

When William's wife Kate gave birth to her three children in recent years, she emerged each time alongside her husband from a London

hospital just a few hours later to be photographed by the world's media that had camped out in the street.

The birth of Lilibet comes almost a year and a half after Harry and Meghan announced that they intended to step down from their royal roles, plunging the family into crisis. The situation deteriorated sharply in March this year when they gave an explosive interview to US chat show host Oprah Winfrey, accusing one unnamed royal of making a racist remark and saying Meghan's pleas for help when she felt suicidal were ignored.

The 39-year-old, whose mother is Black and father is white, said she had been naive before marrying into royalty.

# business



**MHCV (medium and heavy commercial vehicles) volume, which was hurt more in the past two fiscals, should see a strong 35-40% growth this fiscal, driven by the government's infrastructure thrust and revival in economic activity**  
**HETAL GANDHI | DIRECTOR, CRISIL RESEARCH**

## TATA DIGITAL INVESTS \$75MN IN CUREFIT

Tata Digital, a subsidiary of Tata Sons, Monday announced to invest up to \$75 million in fitness startup CureFit. Mukesh Bansal, CureFit Founder and CEO, will join Tata Digital as President, Tata Digital. In addition, he will continue in his leadership role at CureFit, the company said



## of the day quote

Exports surprised a bit on the downside, maybe due to the Covid cases in Guangdong province which slowed down the turnover in Shenzhen and Guangzhou ports

**ZHIWEI ZHANG | CHIEF ECONOMIST, PINPOINT ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Car ownership patterns in India are changing fast and in the last few months, the company has witnessed a clear bias towards personal transportation as against the use of public transportation

**SANDEEP GAMBHIR | MD AND CEO, ORIX INDIA**

Parle is expanding its portfolio with the launch of 'Parle G Chakki Atta'. Branded atta segment is a huge opportunity and has gained momentum since the pandemic outbreak. There is conversion happening from unbranded and loose atta to packaged branded atta

**MAYANK SHAH | SR. CATEGORY HEAD, PARLE PRODUCTS**

# Crisil cuts country's FY22 growth projection to 9.5%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 7:** Domestic credit ratings agency Crisil Monday cut its FY22 growth estimate for India to 9.5% from the earlier 11% due to the hit to private consumption and investments following the second wave of Covid-19. The rating agency joins other watchers who have cut their FY22 growth projections, with some pegging it as low as 7.9%.

The economy had contracted by 7.3% in FY21. Cutting its forecasts, economists at Crisil said "the downward revision is premised on the clearly evident hit to the two engines of growth - private consumption and investment - by the second wave."

Their note said daily cases have "mercifully" peaked, but added that states will be cautious about unlocking anytime soon owing to

## BACK TO SQUARE ONE

The rating agency joins other watchers who have cut their FY22 growth projections, with some pegging it as low as 7.9%

Economists at Crisil said that the downward revision is premised on the clearly evident hit to the two engines of growth: private consumption and investment, by the second wave

The agency further said it has assumed that Covid-19 restrictions will continue and mobility will remain affected in some form or other, at least till August

risks of another wave and tardy vaccinations. It underlined that this is unlike what was witnessed after the first

wave last fiscal, when a largely uniform and calibrated reopening spurred quite a sharp recovery.

The agency further said it has assumed that Covid-19 restrictions will continue and mobility will remain affected in some form or other, at least till August, adding that the pace of recovery will also be a function of how the vaccination drive progresses in the coming months.

Noting that the government's target to get 68% of the adult population vaccinated by end of the year is a "tall order", the agency said countries with over 40% of their population vaccinated are seeing a faster and more broad-based economic recovery.

"A third wave would pose a significant downside risk to the growth forecast, as would a slower-than-anticipated pace of vaccination. In such a pessimistic case, we see GDP growing at 8%," the economists said.

They said the gains made in the last quarter of FY21, when the economy went over the pre-pandemic levels by reporting a growth rate of 1.6%, have been erased and it will take more than a quarter to revisit the pre-pandemic levels.

In its base case of 9.5% growth, the pre-pandemic levels will be achieved some time after September, while in the pessimistic scenario of 8% growth, quarterly GDP would surpass the pre-pandemic level only in the third quarter.

# PSU bank privatisation plan could face hurdles amid Covid, says Fitch



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 7:** Fitch Ratings Monday said the plan to privatise two state-owned banks in the current financial year ending March 2022 could face delays amid renewed challenges for the Indian banking sector due to the second wave of Covid-19.

The government in the Budget announced plans to privatise two public-sector banks. NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the task of selecting the banks and one general insurance company for the privatisation. "The Indian government's plan to privatise two state-owned banks in the current financial year (FY22, ending March 2022) could face delays amid renewed challenges for the Indian banking sector," Fitch said in a statement.

Fitch said the current privatisation plan is an extension of the government's broader agenda to reform the Indian banking sector and reduce the number of state-owned banks further, which have come down from 27 in 2017 to 12 in 2020 after three successive rounds of consolidation.

"Nonetheless, the bold move to privatise state-run banks faces risk from political opposition and structural challenges including heightened balance-sheet stress due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which is likely to keep bank performance subdued for the next two to three years," it added.

Fitch believes that political support in favour of legislative changes to the Act, which are required in order to go through with the sale, could be a significant hurdle for the government. "There could also be more resistance from the trade unions this time around, who will be against the safety-net withdrawal of state ownership."

Success of the plan would also require sufficient interest from investor(s) willing to acquire large stake(s) in state-owned banks and run them," it added. The rating agency said that state banks in general have long been plagued with muted investor appetite due to structurally weak governance frameworks which have resulted in persistently weak performance, reflected in significant asset-quality problems.

# GMB to set up India's first intl maritime services cluster

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 7:** Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will be setting up country's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City. The Maritime Cluster will be developed as a dedicated ecosystem comprising of Ports, Shipping, Logistics services providers and pertinent Government Regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity (i.e. GIFT City). The cluster will further leverage the proximity and accessibility of these stakeholders to enable a synergistic collaboration.



Welcoming the new cluster, Tapan Ray, MD & Group CEO, GIFT City, said, "Establishing a maritime cluster is a much-needed step towards advancing India's credentials and economic viability in this sector. We are delighted that India's first international maritime cluster will be located in GIFT City which will help in realising the full potential of India's marine prowess."

The Cluster intends to host an array of maritime industry players, such as key regulators/government agencies to ensure 'Ease of Doing Business' for the cluster members; maritime/shipping industry Associations and businesses; intermediate services providers, such as Shipping Finance, Marine Insurance, Maritime Arbitrators, Maritime Law Firms, etc.; and support Services Providers, such as Maritime Education Institutes, etc.

## SHORT TAKES

### BSE crosses 7 cr registered users

**New Delhi:** Domestic stock exchange BSE has crossed the milestone of 7 crore registered users based on Unique Client Code (UCC) June 7. The exchange also completed the journey from 6 crore to 7 crore users in just 139 days, as compared to 2,41,652 and 939 days needed for the previous milestones of 6 crore, 5 crore and 4 crore, respectively. Of the 7 crore users, 38% fall in the 30-40 age bracket, followed by 24% in 20-30 age bracket, and 13% in the 40-50 age bracket.

### Sony launches 'Mobile ES' series

**Bhubaneswar:** Sony India introduced the new Mobile ES line-up which represents its top-of-the-line products in the world of car audio. The Mobile ES line-up features car speakers and subwoofers including XS-162ES, XS-160ES, XS-690ES and XS-W104ES, setting a new standard for superior in-car entertainment. The unparalleled sound and visual quality achieved with these line-up showcases the uncompromising passion of Sony's engineers. Developed with various technical updates, the Mobile ES line-up helps customers experience their favorite music, boosting their mood and transforming their car environment.

### Sensex, Nifty end at record highs

**Mumbai:** The Indian stock market climbed to fresh highs on Monday with both the BSE Sensex and the Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) ending at their record closing highs. Nifty also touched a new intra-day all-time high of 15,773.45 points. It closed at 15,751.65, higher by 81.40 points, or 0.52%, from its previous close of 15,670.25 points. Sensex closed at 52,328.51, higher by 228.46 points, or 0.44%, from its previous close of 52,100.05.

### Ducati rolls out new models

**New Delhi:** Luxury motorcycle brand Ducati Monday launched the much-awaited Ducati Panigale V4 and Diavel 1260, expanding its BS6 range in India. Ducati has already delivered on 8 of the 12 bike launches promised for India in 2021. Commenting on the launch, Bipul Chandra, its India MD said, "We set out with an aggressive BS6 bike launch plan for 2021 and I am delighted that we have been able to deliver on it."

# DPGC to create employment opportunities for 1.25L people



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** Darwin Platform Group of Companies (DPGC), a leading Indian Global Business Conglomerate, announced a slew of employment generation measures for 1.25 lakh people.

The company official said that Odisha would also see the opening of a few DP Retail mega stores in cities like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela and Puri in the current financial year. In pharma sector, the group is planning to open health centers across state. These health-care centers will create the awareness about the means of fighting the pandemic and provide necessary items.

This will give a big fillip to women empowerment also as

women will be given priority in recruitments.

Ajay Harinath Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, DPGC said, "The Group plans to provide direct employment to 4 million people. We have lakhs of business associates across the country and the Group would now take them on its payroll. We have already on boarded nearly 30,000 associates and a speedy process has been put in place to provide salary-based jobs to 1.25 lakh associates in each state including Odisha." The Group has ensured more than 50 per cent women participation as business associates and in other roles.

DPGC would take all its 1.25 lakh business associates across India on its payroll with a monthly salary of ₹20,000.

# RBI imposes penalty on BoI, PNB totalling ₹6 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 7:** The RBI Monday imposed penalty aggregating to ₹6 crore on Bank of India and Punjab National Bank for contravention of norms, including one related to "Frauds - Classification and Reporting". A penalty of ₹4 crore has been imposed on Bank of India and ₹2 crore on Punjab National Bank.

In a statement, the RBI said the statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE) of Bank of India was conducted with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2019.

The bank had also conducted a review and submitted a Fraud Monitoring Report (FMR) dated January 1, 2019 pertaining to detection of fraud in an account.

Examination of the risk assessment report pertaining to the ISE and the FMR revealed non-compliance with contravention of directions, viz., breach of stipulated transaction limits; delay in transfer of unclaimed balances to DEA Fund; delay in reporting a fraud to RBI and sale of a fraudulent asset, the statement said.



TOP GAINERS 7 JUNE		
BSE SENSEX		
POINTS		%
52,328.51	Power Grid Corp	4.44%
228.46	NTPC	4.07%
236.20	UltraTech Cem	2.78%
116.40	Reliance	1.68%
6848.65	IndusInd Bank	1.57%
2227.30	HCL Tech	1.36%
1025.10	Tech Mahindra	1.34%
949.65	L&T	1.28%
1032.40	ITC	1.27%
1557.35	TCS	1.23%
211.45		
3181.80		

# UCO Bank offers ₹127cr relief to 2,314 a/c holders

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 7:** In a bid to combat the second wave of Covid-19, Indian government-owned commercial bank UCO Bank provided relief of ₹127 crore to 2,314 accounts under Resolution Framework 2.0.

UCO Bank officials said that the bank is restructuring of stressed accounts to provide the relief ascertaining the impact of second wave of Covid-19. Eligible borrowers can apply Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) 3.0 till September 30, 2021 with additional 10%.

The bank also launched new loan products for individual and small businesses.

To resolve the urgent fund requirement of the healthcare sector, the Bank has come up with three new credit schemes, namely UCO Sanjeevani, UCO Aarogyam and UCO Kavach.

According to the bank, UCO Sanjeevani offers loans up to ₹2 crore for setting up oxygen plant, producing liquid oxygen, oxygen cylinders etc. is being provided at concessional rate 7.50%. UCO Aarogyam can Finance up to ₹100 crores for creating healthcare in-



frastructure. Also, UCO Kavach offers maximum ₹5 lakhs loan to individuals who are/were infected with Covid19.

Moreover, UCO bank announced deposit and Insurance products. deposit product UCOVAXI-999 is a unique of its kind term deposit scheme with 30 basis points higher ROI for a limited period till September 30, 2021.

The Bank along with its corporate channel partners is offering Corona Kavach and Corona Rakshak (COVID specific floater policies), Group Care 360 (family floater Top-up Health Policy), Star Group Health Insurance (Gold), UCO Health Suraksha (Indemnity based Group Health Insurance policies) and Group Credit Life Insurance Policies (covering the lives of retail loan borrowers).

# 'Businesses struggling with rising cost of raw materials'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 7:** As the nation tries to fight the second wave of the pandemic, which has brought with it a record number of infections and fatalities, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry conducted a quick survey to assess the impact of the current situation on industry.

The survey, which was conducted across 34 sectors, revealed that 73% of the respondents were struggling with the rising cost of raw materials as restrictions in many parts of the country have impacted the pace of economic recovery with an uncertain economic environment, disruptions in supply chains and contraction in demand.

Other key challenges faced by businesses are availability of working capital (64%), Maintaining price-cost margins/profitability (63%), Weakening of demand (62%),



Retaining of the full workforce (61%), Costs of deployed workforce (60%), Payment of wages/salaries to workers/employees (55%),

Repayment of loans/payment of EMIs (53%), Costs of capital (52%) and Costs of compliances (51%). Although the challenges are mul-

**Coronavirus 2.0 induced restrictions in the country have created a difficult time for the industry. The entire economic activity is severely impacted with the closure of offices and shops**  
**SANJAY AGGARWAL | PRESIDENT, PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

tifaceted, the survey found that companies are prioritising vaccination of employees (73%) as one of the key strategic plans/focus areas to tackle the situation. Businesses are also focusing on increasing sales volume (64%), increasing the scale of business operations (64%), enhancing competitiveness of business (64%), cut in costs of business operations (64%), enhancing the price-cost margin (55%), focusing on inno-

vation, research & development (55%), enhancing business operations in the domestic market (55%), reducing the workforce in business operations (45%), and enhancing business operations in the international market (36%).

"Coronavirus 2.0 induced restrictions in the country have created a difficult time for the industry. The entire economic activity is severely impacted with the closure of offices and shops," said Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "The supply chain disruptions are causing skyrocketing commodity prices, which have severely impacted the price cost margins of the businesses in the difficult pandemic time of coronavirus."

The survey, which was conducted by the PHD Chamber between April and May 2020, involved businesses across the micro, small, medium and large enterprises.

Respondents also rated the relief measures taken by the government to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. According to the survey, 47% of the respondents rated the government's measures at 7 out of 10, while 42% rated the vaccination drive at 6.

Aggarwal urged the government to speed up the vaccination process over the next 2-3 months to cover most of the population. In order to do so, he said, vaccine production capabilities needed to be enhanced domestically while also increasing imports from other countries.

"Going ahead, a substantial stimulus to create effective strides for futuristic growth trajectory for Indian Economy and for diminishing the daunting impact of the second wave of the pandemic on economy, trade and industry would be crucial to support the economic momentum in this extremely difficult time," said Aggarwal.

# GAUFF REACHES QUARTERFINALS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, June 7:** A day after Serena Williams was eliminated from the French Open, 17-year-old Coco Gauff showed the future in tennis for American women is bright. Gauff served superbly to reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Ons Jabeur Monday. Gauff lost only nine points on her serve and was also highly effective at the net, winning 13 of 17 points when she came forward — which was especially impressive against a player who is known for her shot-making skills.

"I feel like this has been the most consistent tennis I have played at this level," Gauff said. "Hopefully I can keep that going." Gauff also had a quick match in the previous round, when Jennifer Brady retired due to injury left foot after Gauff won the opening set. It wouldn't be the first time Gauff claims a title at Roland Garros, having won the girls' singles title in 2018. Gauff will next face Barbora Krejickova, who also reached her first quarterfinal at a major by beating 2018 French Open runner-up Sloane Stephens with a similarly lopsided score — 6-2, 6-0.

"I'm only going to be 17 once, so you might as well talk about it while I'm 17," Gauff said. Gauff has not dropped a set in Paris this year. She won both the singles and doubles titles at a warm-up tournament in Parma before coming to Paris. That came after a run to the semifinals of the Italian Open. In all, she's on a career-best nine-match winning streak. It's been a breakthrough year in singles for the 25-year-old Krejickova, who won her first WTA title in Strasbourg in the buildup to the French Open. Her victory over Stephens on Court Suzanne Lenglen extended her current winning run to nine matches.

Until now, Krejickova was mainly known for her doubles accomplishments. She is a former No.1 in the specialty and has won two Grand Slam titles with teammate Katerina Siniakova. They play in the doubles quarterfinals Tuesday. Stephens committed 26 unforced errors against Krejickova.

In the men's draw, Novak Djokovic won the first 16 points of the fourth set and pulled even at two sets apiece against 19-year-old Lorenzo Musetti of Italy at the French Open. Musetti took the first two sets in the fourth-round match 7-6(9-7), 7-6(7-2). Djokovic won the next two 6-1, 6-0 while losing only 14 points. Djokovic is seeded No. 1 and trying to overcome a two-set deficit for the fifth time in his career. He is seeking his second French Open title and his 19th at a Grand Slam. Musetti is ranked 76th and participating in his first Grand Slam tournament. He has played only one five-setter in his career. Djokovic is 33-10 in five-setters.

# Chhetri brace lifts Blue Tigers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Doha, June 7:** Talisman Sunil Chhetri handed India their first win in six years in FIFA World Cup qualifiers as his brace downed Bangladesh 2-0 in their preliminary round match here Monday.

Chhetri broke the deadlock in the 79th minute when he headed in Ashique Kuruniyan's cross from the left. He then sealed the result by curling in a shot from long range in added time.

Ashique delivered a cross from the left for Chhetri, who, after a bursting run and from an acute angle, headed in brilliantly from behind Topu Barman, at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium.

It was that man Chhetri again as he rounded off his night with another fine strike in extra time (90+2) after receiving the ball from Suresh Singh from the right flank.

It was India's first win in what was turning out to be one of their worst World Cup qualifying campaigns in many years. It was also their first victory in World Cup qualifiers away from home in 20 years. Their last victory in World Cup qualifiers was a 1-0 result



against Guam in November 2015 in Bangalore.

India are already out of contention for a berth in next year's World Cup but remain in the reckoning for a place in the 2023 Asian Cup.

A confident India found themselves pressing in the opposition half after Chhetri's 73rd goal in international football and the move worked for beleaguered coach Igor Stimac as the captain scored his and the team's second just before the final whistle.

In the end, the equaliser did not materialise but India surely ended on a high, giving their campaign the much-needed boost after a series of winless outings.

With his two goals, Chhetri, international football's second highest scorer among active players, more than made up for the fumble in the 63rd minute when the unmarked captain missed a free header after a fine ball from Brandon Fernandes.

Courtesy the result, India moved to six points from seven matches, while Bangladesh are at two points seven matches. India next play Afghanistan in their last group league match June 15.

## India tour of Sri Lanka to be played July 13-25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 7:** India will play three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals in Sri Lanka between July 13 to 25, broadcaster Sony announced Monday.

Indian selectors are expected to pick plenty of fringe players for the limited overs tour with Shikhar Dhawan and Hardik Pandya in the fray for leading the side. A fully-fit Shreyas Iyer is another captaincy option.

Sony Sports announced the schedule via social media. "Indian waves will crash against the Sri Lankan shore with #JeetneKIZID," the channel tweeted with the

schedule.

The ODIs will take place July 13, 16 and 18 while the T20Is will be played July 21, 23 and 25. The venues for the games are yet to be announced.

It will be a rare occasion when two India squads will be playing in different countries at the same time. The Virat Kohli-led side will be preparing for the five-match Test series against England at the same time.

The Test squad is already in the UK for the World Test Championships final against New Zealand from June 18 while the England series begins August 4.

## BCCI MAY PUSH BACK IPL FINALE TO OCTOBER 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 7:** The BCCI brass is exploring the option of using the full window of Indian Premier League by pushing the final back to October 15 in order to reduce the number of double headers in the UAE's searing September heat.

As this agency had first reported, the tournament will start Sunday, September 19 and while the final was tentatively planned for October 10, the BCCI as well as the Emirates Cricket Board are mulling stretching the lucrative T20 event till October 15.

"September 15 to October 15 is

the window. Initially, BCCI was thinking of having 10 double headers. But, in third and fourth week of September, having 10 afternoon matches can be physically exhausting for player in such short window," a BCCI source told this agency on the condition of anonymity.

"So if October 15, which is a Friday is zeroed in on, it's basically start of weekend in India and in Dubai, it's a holiday which will allow fans to come in and enjoy a high-profile game of cricket. It serves dual purpose. Also, the number of double headers could be reduced to five or six, instead of 10," the source said.

# 3 MORE DAYS TO GO...

It has taken more than a year for the world to find any semblance of normalcy in the midst of the Covid-19 carnage. The pandemic brought the entire world to a grinding halt last year, which forced all major sporting events to either be cancelled or postponed by a few months or even by one whole year, as is the case with UEFA Euro 2020. In less than a week's time, the long-awaited, month-long 24-team extravaganza will finally get underway. **Orissa POST** takes a look at the groups...



## GROUP C: Netherlands, Ukraine, Austria, North Macedonia

### THE NETHERLANDS (NED)

**FIFA ranking: 16 Euro appearances: 9 times Best finish: Champions (1988)**

The Netherlands are widely regarded as the most successful international team to have not won the FIFA World Cup. Their fortunes haven't favoured them in the European championships either, as they have a habit of disappointing in big tournaments. The Oranjes most notably missed out on both the 2016 Euro and the 2018 FIFA World Cup, failing to qualify for either of those competitions. After their disappointing start to the European qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup with a 2-4 defeat to Turkey, De Boer's men have done well to bounce back. They have secured back-to-back wins that sees them trail league leaders Turkey by just one point in their qualifying group. They are surely not among the best of teams in Euros this year but are tagged as favourites in Group C, primarily because of the fact that the Dutchmen play all three of their group games at the Amsterdam Arena, in front of at least 12,000 spectators.

**Coach: Frank de Boer**



**KEY PLAYER**  
Memphis Depay

GROUP C FIXTURES					
Date		Match			Time (IST)
June 13	AUT	vs	MKD		09:30 pm
June 14	NED	vs	UKR		12.30 am
June 17	UKR	vs	MKD		06:30 pm
June 18	AUT	vs	NED		12:30 am
June 21	UKR	vs	AUT		09:30 pm
June 21	MKD	vs	NED		09:30 pm

**Telecast: SONY TEN Network**

### UKRAINE (UKR)

**FIFA ranking: 24 Euro appearances: 2 times Best finish: Group Stage (2012, 2016)**

Ukraine have high hopes in Euro 2020, especially after a successful qualifying campaign that saw them finish ahead of defending champions Portugal and the Golden generation of Serbia in their group. As for the ongoing 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers are concerned, the Ukrainians are in an interesting situation. They are second in Group D behind France but are yet to win any of their first three matches, including a draw with minnows Kazakhstan and even Finland. Led valiantly by former Chelsea striker Andriy Shevchenko, Ukraine have the fourth-youngest team in the European championship this year. They will be hoping to use that to their advantage, knowing they will be far more pacy and athletic than their competitors. A change in the way they develop players has triggered an influx of talented and technically gifted players coming through their youth academies. Taras Stepanenko, Oleksandr Zinchenko and Ruslan Malinovsky are a midfield to be feared in Group C.



**KEY PLAYER**  
Oleksandr Zinchenko

**Coach: Andriy Shevchenko**

### AUSTRIA (AUT)

**FIFA ranking: 23 Euro appearances: 2 times Best finish: Group Stage (2008, 2016)**

Austria have taken on a more defensive approach in recent years, seen in dispatches during the 0-1 friendly loss to England at the Riverside. They have had a disastrous start to their European qualifying campaign for the 2022 World Cup. They have only one of their three games, including a 0-4 thrashing against Denmark. Their only victory also came against the lowly Faroe Islands, meaning Franco Foda's men are certainly not in the best of form heading into this tournament. Austria do indeed have one of the most hard-working roster in the competition. It might be a good thing as they might appear as one of the more athletic teams in the meet, but lack of too many experienced figureheads could prove to be an issue. They are, nevertheless expected to do well, perhaps even compete with Netherlands for the top spot. The Austrians have a couple of big names - newly-signed Real Madrid player David Alaba and RB Leipzig's Marcel Sabitzer.



**KEY PLAYER**  
David Alaba

**Coach: Franco Foda**

### NORTH MACEDONIA (MKD)

**FIFA ranking: 62 Euro appearances: None Best finish: N/A**

North Macedonia are one of only two nations to be participating in the European Championship for the first time this year, along with Finland, who are in Group B. Four wins and two draws from 10 group matches meant they qualified for this summer's tournament via the back door, a Path D play-off victory over Georgia. Any such complacency among their group counterparts will surely be punished, in the same way Germany were consigned to their first World Cup qualifying defeat (1-2) in 20 years only a few months ago. As far as their squad is concerned, North Macedonia are led valiantly by veteran striker Goran Pandev, whose decisive goal against Georgia helped his country book tickets for Euro 2020. Apart from him, the former Yugoslavia state has a few aggressive attacking players like Leeds United's Ezjan Alioski, Napoli's Eljif Elmas and Levante's Enis Bardhi. There is a slight weakness in the defensive department, as there are no certified top-class centre-backs to lead the backline.



**KEY PLAYER**  
Goran Pandev

**Coach: Igor Angelovski**