



PAIN BEHIND SCENES

Indian-American actress Padma Lakshmi has shared the true story of struggle behind an old stunning photo shoot

LEISURE P2



MORE GRAVES

Remains of 182 people found in an indigenous residential school in Canada's British Columbia province

INTERNATIONAL P10



BELGIUM FACE ITALY

Belgium meet Italy for a place in Euro 2020 semifinals while the Netherlands face Switzerland in quarters

SPORTS P12

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Milk prices have gone up, ma'am. See, even water is costly these days!

NAXALITE KILLED

RAIPUR: A Naxalite was killed Thursday in a gun battle with security forces at a forest near Elanganar village under Darbha police station limits in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Bastar district, police said Thursday. The encounter took place late Wednesday night when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, IGP (Bastar range) Sundarraj P stated. The deceased has been identified as Madvi Joga and he was carrying a reward of ₹3,00,000 lakh on his head.

GOGOI RELEASED

GUWAHATI: Assam legislator Akhil Gogoi walked free Thursday after more than 18 months in jail as a special NIA court cleared him of all charges under UAPA for his alleged role in the violent anti-CAA stir in the state in December 2019. Gogoi is an Independent MLA from Sivasagar constituency. He walked out of the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital where he was undergoing treatment for various ailments. "Truth has finally prevailed, though no efforts were spared to keep me behind the bars," the Rajior Dal chief told reporters after his release.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	52318.60 ↓ 164.11
NIFTY	15680.00 ↓ 41.50
DOLLAR	74.74 ↑ ₹0.21
EURO	88.47 ↑ ₹0.32
GOLD	₹47,171 ↑ ₹332
SILVER	₹68,912 ↑ ₹777

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	36.0°C	36.2°C
TEMP MIN	26.2°C	25.0°C
Humidity	76%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely

VOICING THEIR GRIEVANCE



Doctors and nurses protest against the sixth Pay Commission's recommendation to delink NPA from basic salary on National Doctors Day in Patiala

PTI PHOTO

9 nations clear Covishield

INDIANS VACCINATED WITH SII JAB FREE TO TRAVEL TO THESE COUNTRIES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 1: A total of nine countries have cleared Serum Institute of India's (SII) Covishield vaccine amid a row over vaccines accepted for a 'green passport' allowing free travel in the region. They are Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Spain, Estonia and Switzerland.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), the EU's top medical body, has approved only four vaccines so far - Pfizer-BioNTech's 'Comirnaty', US pharma giant Moderna's Covid vaccine, the AstraZeneca shot manufactured and sold in Europe as 'Vaxzevria', and Johnson & Johnson's 'Janssen'. Only those who have been given these shots are granted vaccination passports and allowed to travel hassle-free amid the pandemic.

Covishield, manufactured by SII is not on the EMA list and so is Bharat

BB HOPEFUL OF QUICK APPROVAL

NEW DELHI: Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech (BB) is expecting approval for Covaxin soon from the (WHO) as the entire process is not likely to take much time since other vaccines of the company in the past have already been approved by the world body, it's co-founder Suchitra Ella said. "We are working closely with the WHO for the inclusion of Covaxin in its Emergency Use Listing. Approval from WHO is not expected to be a long-drawn process as the majority of our facilities have already been audited and approved by WHO for our other vaccines in the past," she tweeted Thursday

Biotech's Covaxin.

The EU does, however, also say 'member states may decide to extend this (the certificate) also to EU travellers that received another vaccine'.

Under these rules, Indians - vaccinated with Covishield or Covaxin - may be subject to quarantine if they travel to the EU nations, unless these vaccines are cleared by the respective countries. Now however the situation is set to change with seven EU and two other nations clearing passengers travelling to those countries.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry had said Wednesday that India will begin a reciprocal policy when it comes to exemption from quarantine. This would mean that unless the EU accepts those vaccinated with Covishield and Covaxin, people from EU will also face mandatory quarantine upon arrival in India.

Serum Institute's CEO Adar Poonawalla had said Wednesday that the company is hoping the European drug regulators will approve Covishield in a few weeks.

In a separate development, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Thursday that any Covid-19 vaccines it has authorised for emergency use should be recognised by all countries as they open up their borders to inoculated travellers.

In addition to the vaccines mentioned above, the WHO has also given green light to the two Chinese jabs, made by 'Sinovac' and 'Sinopharm'.

"Any measure that only allows people protected by a subset of WHO-approved vaccines to benefit from the reopening of travel... Would effectively create a two-tier system, further widening the global vaccine divide and exacerbating the inequities we have already seen in the distribution of Covid-19," a WHO statement said. "It would negatively impact the growth of economies that are already suffering the most," the WHO added.

Offline HSC exams from July 30

POST NEWS NETWORK

TIMETABLE

JULY 30: First language (Odia, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Telugu and Alternative English)
JULY 31: Second language (English or Hindi)
AUGUST 2: Mathematics
AUGUST 3: Science papers
AUGUST 4: Social Science
AUGUST 5: Third language subjects

X exams were cancelled due to the Covid-19 situation in Odisha.

Students appearing in the exams will not have to pay any registration fees. They can fill up forms by visiting

www.bseodisha.ac.in website from July 5 to July 14.

Earlier, a day after Class X students and their parents staged protests alleging discrepancies in evaluation of High School Certificate (HSC) examination marks, the BSE had said offline exams will be held in July.

BSE president Ramashis Hazra defended the assessment marking system. "The assessment was done on the basis of analysis for four years. Following this, the marking was done in a graded manner. The Class IX and pre-board marks were considered for preparation of the merit list," Hazra said.

ZYDUS SEEKS DCGI CONSENT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 1: Zydus Cadila announced Thursday that the company has applied for emergency use authorisation to the DCGI for ZyCoV-D - its needle-free plasmid DNA vaccine against Covid-19. ZyCoV-D is a three-dose, intradermal vaccine and as it is needle-free, it reduces the chances of any kind of side effects. Interim analysis has shown the Zydus vaccine to be 66.6 per cent effective for symptomatic RT-PCR positive cases. P9

Vax drive stutters as stocks dry up

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The Odisha government halted Thursday vaccination drive in 16 districts due to 'shortage' of Covishield doses, even as new Covid-19 cases and fatalities continued to rise in the state. The inoculation exercise was temporarily stopped during the day in the districts of Angul, Bolangir, Balasore, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur and Jharsuguda, informed a Health department official. He also added that there was no vaccination drive in the districts of Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Subarnapur and Sundargarh.

However, the Odisha government Thursday received a total of 1 lakh doses of Covishield and around 1.4 lakh doses of Covaxin. One can hope that the vax drive will gain momentum once more, as the state is expected to get another large stock of Covid-19 vaccines Friday. "Today (Thursday) we received around 1 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine and around 1.4 lakh doses of Covaxin. We are also expecting Friday a delivery of around 8.4 lakh doses of Covishield which will help us continue with the vaccination drive. The drive is now likely to see an impetus for the next few days," Bijay

Pregnant women to get jab soon

BHUBANESWAR: Days after the (ICMR) approved use of Covid-19 vaccine for pregnant women in India, the Odisha government Thursday said that the vaccination for this segment would start soon. Health Services director Bijay Mohapatra said, "Earlier pregnant women were barred from Covid-19 vaccination as there was no data available. Now that the ICMR has given the green signal, we will soon start vaccinating pregnant women. It is expected that they will receive their jabs from this month onwards."

Panigrahi, State Health and Family Welfare director told **Orissa POST.**

Only 114 sessions were held Thursday, including 72 in the state capital where Covaxin doses are being administered to the people. Meanwhile, 3,087 more people tested positive for Covid-19 Thursday, taking the tally in the state to 9,12,887, informed an official. Odisha's active case-load now stands at 31,231, while 8,77,540 patients have recovered from the disease. Forty-five fresh fatalities pushed the death toll in Odisha to 4,063. According to a government audit 1,264 people have died due to Covid-19 in Odisha in June.

Xi: Will bash up anyone bullying China

Chinese Premier issues veiled threat to the US as CPC celebrates its centenary

AGENCIES

Beijing, July 1: A defiant President Xi Jinping said Thursday that the Chinese people will not allow any 'foreign force' to 'bully, oppress or subjugate' China. He spoke of its military might to defend its sovereignty, as the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) celebrated its centenary with a massive colourful show at the historic Tiananmen Square here. Xi also said that integrating Taiwan with the Chinese mainland is a historic mission of the party.

Both former US president Donald Trump and his successor Joe Biden have pursued a hardline policy towards China, targeting it on several fronts including trade, human rights and the origins of the Covid-19, which first emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan before becoming a pandemic. "Chinese people will never allow any foreign force to bully, oppress, or sub-



A Tibetan activist wearing a mask resembling Xi Jinping sits in a tub filled with red fluid representing blood protesting against the 100th anniversary of the CPC

jugate us," the 68-year Xi said in front of a well-choreographed crowd of about 70,000-odd. "Anyone attempting to do so will find themselves on a col-

lision course with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people. We have never bullied, oppressed, or subjugated the people of any other

Anyone who tries to bully China will find themselves on a collision course with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people

XI JINPING

country and we never will (ask Taiwan and Hong Kong)," he said. "We have the strength to bash up any forces bullying China. Our military is ready to do that," added Xi.

The celebration, which was telecast live began with a flypast by helicopters and the latest fighter jets. Xi had in the past talked about increasing China's military strength and Thursday was no exception. "We must accelerate the modernisation of national defence and the armed forces. We must elevate our armed forces to world-class standards so that 'we are equipped with greater capacity and more reliable means for safeguarding our national

sovereignty, security, and development interests," asserted Xi.

In his speech, Xi named all his predecessors for contributing to the development of the party. He paid tributes to party elders Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De, Deng Xiaoping, Chen Yun and Liu Shaoqi. "We express our highest respect to them," he said.

Founded by Mao July 1, 1921, the CPC formally completed 100 years of existence Thursday. It also remained in power since the People's Republic of China (PRC) was formed in 1949.

Highlighting the importance of CPC to China, Xi said any attempt to divide it from the Chinese people is 'bound to fail'. "The more than 95 million party members and the more than 1.4 billion Chinese people will never allow such a scenario to come to pass," Xi asserted. He also spoke strongly against dissent in the party saying that 'any viruses that would erode CPC's health' should be rooted out.

leisure



'SPENDING TIME IN MOUNTAINS REMINDS ME WE HAVE ONE LIFE'

The *Kissing Booth 2* famed star Taylor Zakhar Perez has been vacationing in the mountains. He says after spending time in the mountains it reminded him that there is only one life, family, planet and that one needs to respect all.

LOVATO TO DEBUT AS TALK SHOW HOST

Singer Demi Lovato is all set to launch her talk show July 30. *The Demi Lovato Show* aims to focus on a variety of topics including sex and body positivity and feminism. Guests lined up to feature on the show include Jameela Jamil, Lucy Hale and Nikita Dragun.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
Today is a bright day, and the stars foretell success for you. If you find yourself in a creative mood, indulge in some activity that will satisfy the urge. But, Ganesh says, if you are driving alone, exercise a great deal of caution to be on the safe side.

TAURUS
Your business is going to thrive this day, says Ganesh. Your plans, projections, speculations and gambles are likely to pay off and give you good dividends. You will be admired and respected in the business world for your honesty and integrity.

GEMINI
You need to pay more attention to yourself today. Your kind and generous nature means you often think about others rather than about yourself. Now is the time to pay attention to your own needs. You need to spend more time with your family and friends as well, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will secure your place with hard work in your job or business. Ties with partners will improve. Closeness with spouse is indicated. Melody and joy will mark domestic bliss. You will spend the evening with your beloved. Ganesh's blessings are with you.

LEO
The pressure at work will be high. Some person may try to tempt you with lucrative offers to go against your principles. However, you will be able to resist the lure of easy money. Your health may suffer today, so be on guard, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will stay calm and steady today, and there is hardly anything that can disturb your peace of mind. Your family and friends will back you fully and motivate you to overcome hurdles. You will work with devotion, says Ganesh. You may ask for work that others may find very difficult to do.

LIBRA
Ganesh says people will try to take advantage of your amiable nature and disposition. Small issues will crop up today making your nature a little tensed and enhance your anger too. You will be inspired to take chances in monetary matters. Ganesh says you need to keep your mind steady and regain your lost charm soon.

SCORPIO
Your imagination runs wild today. Though you do not travel geographically, your mind travels beyond boundaries. Think and act according to your will, advises Ganesh. However, practice caution before taking any major step.

SAGITTARIUS
You will be loaded with responsibilities at work today, fore sees Ganesh. But, you are pro challenges and will take it up sportingly. On personal front, the list of your friends is likely to get longer. All in all, Ganesh sees you in an active avatar today.

CAPRICORN
Don't let your emotions play a spoilsport while deciding about the future. Think practically, otherwise, your expectations and reality will not be on the same boat, guides Ganesh. Friendly and supportive, today you will spread happiness and win the love of one and all.

AQUARIUS
Set any target, take up any activity or accept any challenge; you will succeed in any of them with flying colours, foresees Ganesh. Your well-wishers will shower praises upon you for those hard earned achievements. Friends are like family to you, take them out and have a gala time before another busy day begins.

PISCES
You will be busy with romance throughout the day. While singles are likely to find the person of their dreams, those who are married will establish a new closeness in their relationship. Your attitude towards work will begin to change. You will become more serious about your career, and the fruits of this transformation will be reaped by you shortly in the near future, says Ganesh.

Avika opens up on her 'true privilege'

Mumbai: Actress Avika Gor says making eight movie announcements on her birthday has been a privilege. The actress celebrated her birthday June 30.

Although she did not divulge details, Avika claims these eight films are in different languages, too. "Eight movie announcements in a day are absolutely maddening and unbelievable stuff and that too in different languages. I am blessed and can't thank the universe enough for bringing all this to me. It's a birthday I will never forget and one of the greatest days of my life. It also comes with huge responsibilities and challenges," said Avika.

"But I am up for it. A huge thank you to all my fans for all the wishes and prayers. It's just because of them, it's all happening. Let's get vaccinated and stay safe. The pandemic is not over yet and let's be accountable for one another," she added. IANS



Padma reveals her struggles behind stunning photo shoot

Los Angeles: Indian American model, TV host, author and activist Padma Lakshmi has shared the true story of struggle behind an old stunning photo shoot that had turned heads when it was launched.

The 50-year-old star posted the throw-back photograph on Instagram, of a jewellery campaign shoot.

"This is me in our jewelry campaign for *The Padma Collection*. I'm exhausted here, not only from doing *Top Chef*, losing the weight and running a jewelry company on the side but from all of the stresses that come with being a sole business owner. A year from when this picture was taken I had to make the difficult decision as a new mom to close my company, my lover was dying of cancer, and I just couldn't handle it all," revealed the *Boom* actress.

She welcomed her daughter Krishna, whom she shares with her former-partner Adam Dell, in February 2010. IANS



When Ray actor Dibyendu dialled up Ray

Mumbai: Actor Dibyendu Bhattacharya, who was recently seen in the anthology series *Ray*, inspired by the writings of Satyajit Ray, recalls the time when he actually dialled the late auteur's number.

"I once dialled him up back in the nineties and he picked up the phone at the other end! But I chickened out and kept it down," recalls the actor, who hails from Kolkata.

Dibyendu, who made a mark with roles in *Dev.D*, *Criminal Justice* and *Undekhi*, says being a part of Ray's work is a dream come true. He is seen in the second story of *Ray*, titled *Bahrupiya*. He plays a Muslim seer, whose presence changes the entire story of the protagonist.

"When I was offered a movie that is inspired by Ray, my first thought was how I have grown up on films from him and literature by him. He is such a huge name across the world because of the work he has done," adds an excited Dibyendu. IANS



Netflix India announces dating reality show IRL: In Real Love

Mumbai: Streaming giants Netflix India are stepping into the world of reality shows with their first dating show, *IRL: In Real Love*.

"We are excited to expand our offering in the reality genre with a distinctive dating format, *IRL: In Real Love*. The concept is a true reflection of the times we love and live in. The choices and conundrums we experience everyday will be put to test in the show's unique social experiment." Tanya Bami, Director, International Originals, Netflix India, said. *IRL: In Real Love* complements the series *Indian Matchmaking*, *Love Is Blind* and *Too Hot to Handle* amongst others. IANS

LGBTQ tales find new life on OTT

Though the community has been represented in a farcical way in commercial cinema, with time, content creators have now learnt to give same-sex stories mainstream importance

When Ayushmaan Khurrana kissed Jitender Kumar in *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*, it wasn't anymore an eye-opener for mainstream films viewers. The audience had learnt to embrace same-gender love stories in films and web series with open arms.

However, the emerging medium of OTT has effectively addressed the elephant in the room, providing a secure platform to LGBTQ community stories.

Here are some on-screen same-gender that left an impact on the viewers in the digital space.

A Married Woman, this ALTBalaji series is about two women Astha (Ridhi Dogra) and Peeplika (Monica Dogra) who discover that love happens when you least expect it.

The Married Woman
Directed by Sahir Raza based on Manju Kapur's book

Made In Heaven
Created by Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti, this Amazon Prime series weaves two parallel stories -- involving gay Karan Mehra (Arjun Mathur) and lesbian Tara Khanna (Sohita Dhulipala) in multiple stories.

Four More Shots Please!
Directed by Anu Menon and Nupur Asthana, this Amazon Prime original is an ode to friendship and sisterhood, and also highlights a fairytale romance between two women, Umang Singh (Bani J) and the Bollywood superstar Samara Kapoor (Lisa Ray).

Romil And Jugal
Directed by Nupur Asthana, ALTBalaji's original is set in a fictional Indian hill station Colwynnang. The story is about boy next door Jugal (Manraj Singh) who falls in love with his new, hunky neighbour Romil (Rajeev Siddhartha). Their love faces many obstacles including the homophobic residents of the Colwynnang, disapproving parents, and Romil's internalised homophobia.

His Story
Directed by Prashant Bhagi, an ALTBalaji and ZEE5 original, the story is about Kunal (Satyadeep Mishra), Sakshi (Priyamani) and his lover Preet (Mrinal Dutt) and the social issue of acceptance of homosexuals by society and family.

The 'Other' Love Story
Directed by Roopa Rao, this YouTube film set in the nineties, the two girls Aadya (Spoorthi Gumaste) and Aanchal (Shweta Gupta) start off a tentative friendship that leads to a secret romance.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

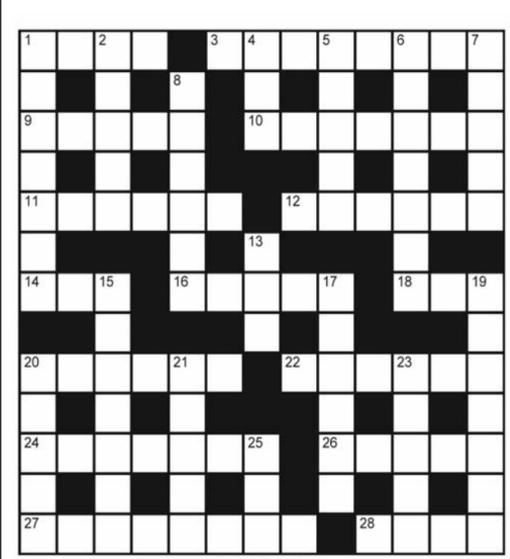


BREVITY



FUN post

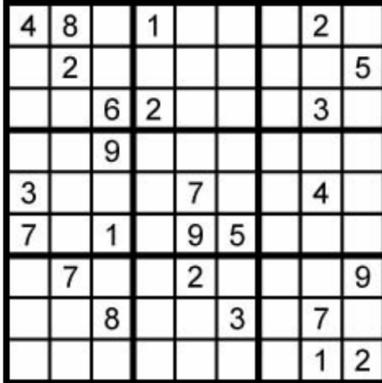
CROSSWORD



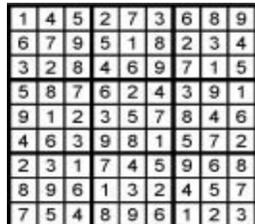
- Across**
- 1 After curfew
 - 3 Juvenile
 - 9 Unworldly
 - 10 Grind (3,4)
 - 11 Wiggle room
 - 12 Author's output
 - 14 Goose egg
 - 16 Call forth
 - 18 Soft shoe
 - 20 Pugilists
 - 22 Organ stop
 - 24 Buckle under
 - 26 Parlour piece
 - 27 Type of belt
 - 28 Depressed
 - Down**
 - 1 Ointment ingredient
 - 2 Variety meat
 - 4 Disfigure
 - 5 Storage room
 - 6 Radioactive metal
 - 7 Construct
 - 8 Mom's warning
 - 13 Decompose
 - 15 Knowledge of words
 - 17 Make secret
 - 19 Bathe
 - 20 No-frills
 - 21 Roulette bet
 - 23 Blacksmith's block
 - 25 Life story, in brief

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



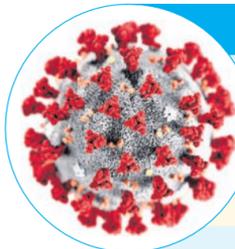
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



PRE-SCHOOL FACILITY

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash inaugurates a model Anganwadi centre at Bantugram in Nimapara area of Puri district, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	18,31,20,778	16,76,65,488	39,65,350
India	3,04,11,634	2,94,88,918	3,99,459
Odisha	9,12,887	8,80,997	4,063

State sees 13.13% jump in OGST collection for June

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The state recorded Odisha goods and services tax (OGST) collection of ₹858.83 crore during June this year, posting a 13.13 per cent growth against the corresponding period of the previous year.

According to Commissionerate of CT & GST, Cuttack, the state collected ₹858.83 crore in June 2021 against a collection of ₹759.17 crore in same month of previous year. "The collection of OGST upto June 2021 is ₹2,812.93 crore against a collection of ₹1,560.20 crore upto June 2020 recording a progressive growth of 80.29 per cent, Sushil Kumar Lohani, Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (CT) & GST.

"The growth of 13.13 per cent in OGST collection during June 2021 is the result of better compliance by dealers having turnover of more than ₹5 crore during previous year, increased collection from iron and steel as well as mining sector and collection from matured GST demand made by tax officers after return scrutiny," Lohani said.

There is also collection of ₹743.16 crore in CGST, ₹842.65 crore in IGST & ₹555.27 crore in Cess during June 2021. The total GST col-



REVENUE BOOSTER

Collection of OGST upto June 2021 stands at ₹2,812.93 crore against a collection of ₹1,560.20 crore in June 2020, a growth of 80.29%

The growth of 13.13% in OGST collection during June 2021 is the result of better compliance by dealers having turnover of more than ₹5 crore during previous year, increased collection from iron and steel as well as mining sector and other factors, says SK Lohani

Total collection of VAT (on petrol and liquor) is ₹709.32 crore during June 2021 as against ₹424.57 cr during June 2020

lection during June 2021 stands at ₹2,999.91 crore as against ₹2,693.75 crore during June 2020 registering a growth of 11.37 per cent. The progressive GST collection till June 2021 is ₹10,046.14 crore against ₹5,192.30 crore till June 2020 with growth of 93.48 per cent.

Total collection of VAT (petrol and liquor) is ₹709.32 crore during June as against ₹424.57 crore during June 2020. Out of the above, collection from petroleum products stands at ₹585.49 crore during June 2021 as against ₹408.81 crore during the corresponding period of last year. Similarly, collection from liquor is ₹123.82 crore during June 2021 against ₹15.75 crore during June 2020.

Govt offices to work at 50% staff

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The General Administration and Public Grievances department Thursday issued a notification asking all the state government departments to work with 50 per cent staff till July 15.

It said that all officers above deputy secretary rank should attend offices daily while employees who have taken both the doses of vaccines also need to attend offices mandatorily.

The department said that head offices in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack can decide on the manner of selection of employees who are not fully vaccinated. It, however, allowed offices of the Special Relief Commissioner, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, Police, Fire and municipal bodies to work with full capacity. The notification also said that others can work from home and special arrangements in terms of their connectivity and others should be taken care of by the departments concerned.

"They must be available on telephone all the times to attend to any office work of urgent nature at short notice. Employees with disability and pregnant women may be exempted from attending office and can work from home. Administrative departments will decide about the scale of operations," the notification said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Mining CoE at Keonjhar in 3 years

Government College of Engineering to be developed as Centre of Excellence

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The state government has initiated the process for development of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for research in earth science and technology in the mineral-rich Keonjhar district. For the purpose, the Government College of Engineering (GCE) will be developed as the CoE within three years at a cost of ₹42.50 crore. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra held a meeting in this regard though virtual mode with officials concerned, Thursday.

Mahapatra informed the meeting that Odisha has got the potential to become the 'mineral hub' of India. He directed the officials to develop GCE on the lines of the IIT-run Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad. The Chief Secretary asked officials concerned to create a high-class research and academic ecosystem to attract talent

The Centre of Excellence to be developed at a cost of ₹42.5 crore

Officials were asked to develop Government College of Engineering on the lines of the IIT-run Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad

The CoE will have departments in Rock Mechanics, Rock Excavation, Mineral Processing, Extractive Metallurgy, Material Testing, Characterisation, Geology, Environmental Engineering and Mining Planning & Design

from different parts of the globe. He said that the target will be to get talented Odia scientists who have achieved acclaim in the fields of mining, engineering and geophysics in different countries for CoE.

Development Commissioner PK Jena advised the officials to have

a specialised geology division with a five-year integrated course in applied geology, geo-physics and geo-engineering. Jena suggested officials to create a strong corpus fund for the institute to back innovative research and development (R&D) activities.

It was decided at the meeting that the institute would have similar research facilities like those that exist in ISM, Dhanbad. The CoE will have departments in Rock Mechanics, Rock Excavation, Mineral Processing, Extractive Metallurgy, Material Testing, Characterisation, Geology, Environmental Engineering and Mining Planning & Design.

Mahapatra asked Skill Development and Technical Education department to prepare a detailed proposal with architectural design of the CoE building. He said it should be ready to function within three years from the date of ground breaking.

Cop suspended for kicking tea stall boy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: A cop of the twin city police was suspended after he was caught in a video kicking and brutally thrashing a minor boy at a tea stall in Kesura area under Sahid Nagar police station.

According to sources, the erring officer, Ajay Kumar Biswal, along with three other cops attached to

a PCR van of Badagada police station, reached the tea stall of the victim at Kesura June 29. The officials asked the boy why he had opened his stall after 1pm which is violation of Covid norms.

Later, the cop started thrashing the minor boy who was found requesting Biswal to spare him. However, the cops did not pay any heed to the hapless boy's request

and allegedly took away milk packets and other items from his stall.

The whole incident was captured in CCTVs installed near the spot. The CCTV footage later went viral on social media evoking sharp criticisms against the inhuman act by the police officials.

It is pertinent to mention here that the stall of the minor boy comes under Sahid Nagar police

jurisdiction and the erring officials were from Badagada police station.

Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Umashankar Dash, swung into action and placed Biswal under suspension. Speaking to media persons, Dash said that action would be taken against cops after the examination of CCTV footage.

LIFE VS LIVELIHOOD



Shops at Unit-II market in Bhubaneswar resume business Thursday, a day after the state government partially eased the Covid-19 restrictions

FTCs in 15 districts to fast-track cases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Chief Justice of Orissa High Court S Muralidhar Thursday inaugurated 15 fast track courts (FTCs) that would help expedite hearing of cases of sexual harassment against women and children.

The courts were opened in Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Kendrapara, Khurda, Koraput, Kandhamal, Rayagada and Sambalpur districts.

These courts will provide justice to the people of Odisha, said High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar while inaugurating the FTCs on virtual mode. The FTCs will deal with cases registered under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and sexual assault on women.

This apart, he also inaugurated



Dignitaries at the inauguration of JMFC court at Erasama in Jagatsinghpur

Civil Judge (Junior Division) JMFC courts at Erasama in Jagatsinghpur and Polsara in Ganjam district.

The FTCs were inaugurated in the presence of Justice Kumari Sanju Panda, Justice SK Mishra,

Justice CR Dash, Justice Biswajit Mohanty, Justice BR Sarangi, Justice S Pujahari, Justice Biswanath Rath, Justice SK Sahoo,

Justice KR Mohapatra, Justice BP Routray and Justice SK Panigrahi.

Justice Muralidhar also inaugurated JMFC courts at Erasama in Jagatsinghpur and Polsara in Ganjam

Earlier, Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court had inaugurated a host of e-services for the benefit of litigants and lawyers and to make all the courts across the state technologically more advanced and accessible. He had launched a facilitation centre for e-payment of court fees on the HC complex.

Justice Muralidhar had also inaugurated the district court digitisation centre in four districts - Cuttack, Ganjam, Sambalpur and Balasore - on virtual mode.

Currently, the High Court is functioning virtually in the wake of surge in Covid-19 cases.

Seamless O2 supply to needy states lauded

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Covid-19 pandemic provided Odisha an opportunity to be part of the mission to save precious lives across the country by supplying medical oxygen to the needy states at a critical time, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Thursday.

Odisha, which has surplus production of the life-saving gas, has helped many states with supply of medical oxygen at the crunch moments during the second wave of the pandemic.

"Commend all who ensured seamless supply of life-saving oxygen to states facing shortage," Patnaik tweeted, posting a link of a NatGeoIndia video, which shows how all the forces and departments joined hands to fight the crisis together.

The eastern state facilitated oxygen supply to numerous states including Delhi, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana when they were gasping for breath during the dan-



gerous second spell of the virus in April-May.

The video posted during the day is titled 'Fighting the Crisis Together: Mission Oxygen'. The NatGeoIndia said it was a partner content for the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). "When India was hit by the second wave of Covid-19, the Odisha government took on a massive mission to supply medical oxygen and save lives," NatGeoIndia posted on social media platforms.

"Despite facing challenges, Odisha swung into action to use its industrial base to be part of the mission to save precious lives across India," the CMO tweeted.

'Fighting the crises together,' the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority said as it retweeted the CMO post.

Involve locals in developmental planning: CM

ALTOGETHER 56 SENIOR ECONOMIC INVESTIGATORS INDUCTED TO PLANNING & CONVERGENCE DEPARTMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Systematic developmental planning requires involvement of the community and elected representatives who have better knowledge of the local needs and resources, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said here Thursday.

He said such an approach will not only help address any distortion in the local level planning but also lead to balanced regional growth.

The Chief Minister said this at an induction programme for 56 senior economic investigators in Planning & Convergence department.

These investigators will be involved in collection, compilation, scrutiny and analysis of data pertaining to local area development schemes. They also provide support to district level planning and monitoring units and assist in preparation of comprehensive district plan and monitoring of local area development schemes.

Patnaik emphasised on evidence-based outcome-oriented planning, that would help achieve Sustainable



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and 5T Secretary VK Pandian during the induction programme, Thursday

Development Goals (SDGs) and better Human Development Indices. This will ensure growth with justice and equity, he said.

"Planning is the most critical tool for achieving any goal. A proper planning supported by appropriate data analysis and better implementation is a pre-requisite for the success of our development process," he said.

Underscoring the significance of Planning & Convergence department, the Chief Minister said that it formulates the state's overall de-

velopment strategies. It also strives to remove regional disparities through various local area development programmes so as to making the growth process inclusive across regions. It oversees convergence of resources, and their utilisation to serve the developmental needs of the state, he further said.

"You are now part of the state's planning process. I believe your talent and energy will be an asset for the state. I expect you to excel in your work and make best use of your knowledge for the develop-

ment of the state," he told the newly-recruited senior economic investigators.

He advised them to keep themselves abreast of the latest developments in technology, expanding frontiers of knowledge. He called upon the young officials to adopt the strategy of 5T - Technology, Teamwork, Transparency and Time leading to Transformation - and work for an empowered Odisha. Joining the event, Planning & Convergence Minister Padmanabha Behera outlined the role of the department in

The CM said that involvement of local community and elected representatives will not only help address any distortion in the local level planning but also lead to balanced regional growth

Patnaik emphasised on evidence-based outcome-oriented planning, that would help achieve Sustainable Development Goals and better Human Development Indices

decentralising planning and monitoring of development schemes.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said that the department has a crucial role in planning for sustainable development. He added that the department makes a close monitoring of schemes to realise developmental goals.

Development Commissioner PK Jena said the new officers will undergo a three-month training on various aspects of planning at local level. Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian moderated the programme.

NHRC summons Energy officials over electrocution

Above 3K cases, 45 fatalities in 24 hrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued conditional summons to the principal secretary of Energy department and chief electrical inspector of Bhubaneswar in connection with the electrocution of a 27-year-old contractual employee of Cesu in April 2020.



The officials are required to appear before the commission at 11am September 27, 2021 with an action-taken report (ATR) relating to the electrocution that occurred at Choudwar in Cuttack. If the officials file the report at least a week before the scheduled date, their personal appearance is not required. However, if the officials fail to comply with the order without any lawful excuse, the commission may initiate criminal proceedings under Sections 175 and 176 of the IPC apart from other relevant provisions in the law, the NHRC said while passing the order June 28, 2021.

The commission has also issued a reminder to the twin city police commissioner to submit a status report relating to the case (169/20) registered with the Choudwar police in Cuttack under Sections 304A of the IPC within four weeks. In case of failure, the commission shall invoke Sections 13 of PHRA against the top cop, said the rights body.

Akshaya Kumar Bhuyan, a contractual employee of Choudwar electrical section under Cuttack electrical division of Cesu, was electrocuted due to the sheer negligence of Cesu authorities

The fact that the victim was repairing an electrical junction with bare hands—without any basic safety gears like gloves—shows severe departmental negligence, jeopardising safety of the discom employees, the petitioner told the NHRC

(Electrical) Subhranshu Kumar Barik were guiding him from the ground. It was barely a few minutes into the work when Bhuyan was electrocuted and fell off the pole, leading to his death on the spot. A regular lineman, too, met with a similar fate on the same day, but had a narrow escape," Pakal informed the apex rights body.

The fact that the victim was repairing an electrical junction with bare hands—without any basic safety gears like gloves—shows severe departmental negligence, jeopardising safety of the discom employees, the petitioner pointed out, demanding justice for the victim.

Notably, the commission had on several occasions—May 11, 2020, October 23, 2020 and January 28, 2021—sought reports in connection with the mishap from the Energy department.

However, the department was yet to revert.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The state Thursday reported a total of 3,087 new cases of Covid-19, taking the tally to 9,12,887, said a Health department official. Forty-five fresh fatalities due to the infection pushed the death toll to 4,063, he said.

Of the new cases, 1,775 were reported from quarantine centres, and the remaining 1,312 detected during contact tracing.

Khurda district, of which the state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest number of fresh cases at 584, followed by Cuttack (462) and Balasore (246).

Two deaths each were recorded in Angul, Cuttack and Sambalpur and one patient each succumbed to the infection in Balasore, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Mayurbhanj and Nabarangpur.

The state has so far tested over 1.38 crore samples for the highly infectious virus, including 74,000 Wednesday

After a gap of around two months, bus services resumed in some places Thursday as the state government had announced partial relaxations in Covid restrictions in some parts of the state.

The movement of buses and public transport has been allowed in 20 districts where the test positivity rate (TPR) remains below 5 per cent. The Odisha government Wednesday extended the partial lockdown in the state for 15 more days till 5am July 16.

HIGHLIGHTS

Of the fresh fatalities, nine were reported from Khurda, five each from Nayagarh and Puri, four each from Ganjam and Keonjhar, three each from Bargarh and Sundargarh districts

Two deaths each were recorded in Angul, Cuttack and Sambalpur and one patient each succumbed to the infection in Balasore, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Mayurbhanj and Nabarangpur

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CYBER CROOKS SWINDLE ₹2.27 CRORE IN 3 MONTHS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Cyber fraud cases have increased manifold during Covid-induced lockdown as gullible citizens in the state have lost more than ₹2 crore to the crooks during the last three months.

The cyber fraudsters have duped 1,468 persons of ₹2, 27, 92,490 during the period.

The cyber cell of Commissionerate Police managed to refund and block ₹33, 47,246 out of ₹2.27 crore during the last three months.

As per the data released by Commissionerate Police, as many as 463 people have lost ₹83, 08,662 to cyber fraudsters in June.

On the other hand, the miscreants had duped 529 victims of ₹70.78 lakh in May. In April, 476 victims contacted the cyber help desk of CP. The crooks had withdrawn ₹74.05 lakh in April itself.

The cyber cell of CP managed to refund and block ₹33, 47,246 out of ₹2.27 crore during the three months

In June, the cyber help desk received 229 calls from victims in Bhubaneswar while the remaining 234 calls were made by people from different parts of the state.

The number of frauds through hacking of UPI and credit related data rose significantly in June. The help desk received 93 UPI related fraud cases in June as compared to 63 in May.

Similarly, cyber criminals duped 77 persons of their hard earned money through credit card frauds in June as against 48 in May.

However, the desk succeeded in blocking and refunding ₹16.05 lakh to the victims in June.

RENOVATED RAJ BHAWAN



Governor Ganeshi Lal inaugurates the renovated Raj Bhawan in Puri, Thursday. Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Governor, Pramod Meherda and Puri Collector Samarth Verma among others were present on the occasion OP PHOTO

BUS FARES HIKED FOR THIRD TIME IN A YEAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The state government Thursday made an upward revision of fares for all government-operated buses citing exorbitant increase in fuel prices in past four months.

In a notification issued by the State Transport Authority (STA), the transport commissioner stated that due to increase in diesel prices from ₹88.77 per litre March 3 to ₹97.25 July 1, the government has

decided to increase the carriage rates. The rates were effective from July 1 itself.

"Fare for ordinary buses has been increased from 85 paise per km to 89 paise per km. Similarly, rates for express and deluxe buses have been increased from 89 paise/km to 93 paise/km and 121 paise/km to 129 paise/km respectively. Meanwhile, charges for AC deluxe and super premium buses will increase from 149 paise/km to 157 paise/km and 232 paise/km to 244

paise/km respectively," the notification read.

It can be mentioned here that this is third consecutive hike in fares within a period of seven months.

The first hike came in January when diesel prices jumped from ₹78.17 per litre to ₹88.77 per litre while the second hike came in February.

However, the STA mentioned that there will be no hike in the fare of city buses.

ECMO at City AIIMS likely by July 15

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Days after several critical Covid patients were flown to other states for advanced treatment with the help of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machines, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar here is likely to launch the service by July 15.



According to sources, the premier hospital received an ECMO machine recently. The installation work of the life support system is now going on in full swing.

The machine is likely to be made operational by July 15, AIIMS sources said.

The hospital is likely to receive one more ECMO machine by the end of this month, sources added.

ECMO machine is an important life support system which is used

in the treatment of critical Covid-19 patients.

It provides external support to the patients whose lungs are compromised due to the disease.

Notably, several critical Covid patients from Odisha had been taken out to cities like Kolkata to avail the ECMO facility.

Earlier, the facility was available at a few hospitals across the country.

Thunderstorm warning

Bhubaneswar: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here Thursday issued thunderstorm and lightning warning for the four days, beginning Friday. The weatherman also predicted light to moderate rain in different parts of the state during the period. A few places also witnessed light to moderate rain, Thursday.

UTP escapes custody in Hyder episode rerun

Bhubaneswar: In a rerun of Hyder episode at SCB in Cuttack, a dreaded criminal undergoing treatment at a private hospital here managed to escape police custody Thursday. The absconding under-trial prisoner (UTP) was identified as Nuruddin Khan, alias Noor. A case has been filed with Khandagiri police on the basis of a complaint by Ladu Kishore Pradhan, a Khurda police official, who was guarding Noor at the hospital. Sources claimed that Noor was arrested in a murder case registered at Khurda model police station in 2017. He had been lodged in Khurda jail for the last six months. Noor, who was recently found positive for coronavirus, was admitted to the private hospital at Dumunda in Khandagiri area June 15. Khandagiri police launched a manhunt to nab Noor after a registering a case.

Oman Odia Assn donates ₹3.82L to CMRF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Oman Odia Association Thursday presented a cheque of ₹3.82 lakh to Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra as their contribution to CMRF for the ongoing battle against Covid-19.

The executive members of the association, Sampad Kumar Bal, Budyutlata Mohanty and Sanjeev Kumar Mohanty presented the cheque to Chief Secretary in Lok Seva Bhawan. The members of the association have raised the amount from their own sources.

Bal said, "Odias living in Oman want to help the brothers and sisters of Odisha in this trying times and for that we contributed whatever we could to the CMRF to help the government's fight against the pandemic."

Earlier, the Odisha Society of The Americas (OSA) had also donated a Covid testing-cum-vaccination van to the Health department.

The van is equipped with advanced facilities and was assembled at New Delhi. Earlier, the group had sent two vans which are already in use in several districts of Odisha.

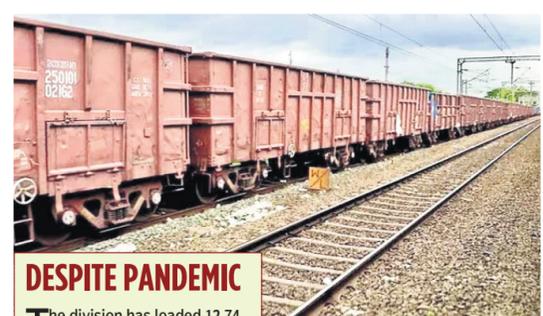
Khurda Road division tops country in freight loading

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: In spite of the unfavourable condition caused by the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the Khurda Road division has ranked top in freight loading for Indian Railways in the just concluded month of June.

The division has loaded 12.74 million tonne freight in June, which is 11 per cent of the total 112.66 million tonne freight loading carried out by the Indian Railways and 67 per cent of the total 19.11 million tonne freight loading carried out by the East Coast Railway (ECoR), sources said.

The division has loaded 2.52 million tonne freight more as compared to its last year's figure for the same month. In June this year, an average of 115 rakes of freight were loaded by the division per day from various loading points at Talcher, Paradip, Dhamara, Nayagarh, Meramandali, Sukinda and Budhapank. The loaded goods include coal, iron ore, fertilizers, petroleum products and raw materials. The goods were transported to power houses, manufacturing companies, production units and in-



DESPITE PANDEMIC

The division has loaded 12.74 million tonne freight in June, which is 11 per cent of the total 112.66 million tonne freight loading carried out by the Indian Railways and 67 per cent of the total 19.11 million tonne freight loading carried out by ECoR

The division has loaded 2.52 million tonne freight more as compared to its last year's figure for the same month

dustries across the country. The division has registered its best ever loading of 37 rakes from Jindal railway siding at Sukinda. This apart, it loaded 11 rakes from

Nalco siding at Budhapank.

In addition to this, the division has also made a record unloading of 32 rakes at Jagannathpur goods shed in June this year.

During the second wave of the pandemic, the division has transported 2,799 tonne liquid medical oxygen from various steel plants under its jurisdiction to different states having inadequate oxygen for treating Covid patients.

ECoR General Manager Vidya Bhushan said, "Right thinking with positive attitude and continuous hard work has been the hallmark of Khurda Road division."

PLEA TO RESTORE LIVELIHOOD



Beauty parlour and spa centre owners demonstrate near Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar demanding resumption of the services, Thursday OP PHOTO

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TIDAL WAVES RAZE HOUSES IN GANJAM



The village comprises people mostly from the fishermen community. These people earn their living by catching fish from the sea

The tidal waves have moved towards the village and are breaching the coastline after the southern wind changed its direction and blew towards the village. The water of Bahuda river entering the sea also compounded the problem

The incident was first reported in 2016 when sea waves crossed the coast. Later, the sea waves took a violent form and destroyed 27 houses in 2019. Even a street in the village got submerged in the sea

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gopalpur, July 1: Rising tidal waves crossed the coast at Rameyapatna village under Golanthara police limits in Ganjam district and washed off three houses during last five days, a report said.

The tidal waves are breaching the coast sparking panic among the residents as they live in peril in the village with the tidal waves crossing the coastline and damaging their houses every year.

The village comprises people mostly from the fishermen community. These people earn their living by catching fish from the sea. After reports surfaced, executive engineer Jaydeep Panda of the irrigation department, Chikiti tehsildar Biswa Ranjan Kanhar and senior officials visited the spot and took stock of the development.

The tidal waves have moved towards the village and are breaching the coastline after the southern wind changed its direction and blew towards the village. The water of Bahuda river entering the sea

also compounded the problem. Villagers claimed that this had been happening every year as sea waves cross the coast and damages houses and properties of the villagers.

The damaged houses were identified as that of L Bhogaraju, L Apanna and K Bhima. The villagers claimed if urgent steps are not taken at the earliest, the village getting submerged in the sea cannot be ruled out.

The incident was first reported in 2016 when sea waves crossed the coast. Later, the sea waves took a violent form and destroyed 27 houses in 2019. Even a street in the village got submerged in the sea. The district administration assured remedial steps to the villagers but did not deliver on its promise. As a provisional measure, the administration barricaded the coastline by putting up sand bags to prevent the sea water from entering the village.

However, that failed to be of any use as the barricade was destroyed by the wind. The administration

also provided pucca houses to the villagers under Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP) scheme. However, fishermen abandoned those houses and started living near the coast by constructing houses as it was not possible for them to catch fish from the sea by living far from the coastline.

Tidal waves were seen changing direction and surging towards the village. Recently, the sea water crossed the coastline and entered the village. High-level technical committees have visited the area at various points of time and have reviewed the problem. The committee has submitted its report to the state government. However, nothing has been done so far in addressing the problem. The matter is under review of the state government.

Panda said a protective wall be built in the area at a cost of ₹23 crore a plan for which has been sent to the state government for its approval. The protective wall be built after the plan gets sanctioned by the state government, Panda added.



Traffic at Birsamunda Square in Sambalpur was disrupted Thursday, following a road blockade by BJP Krushak Morcha over mismanagement in paddy procurement in the district

OP PHOTO

Min seeks maximum crop coverage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo launched two vehicles to create awareness on the occasion of the Crop Insurance Week Thursday. The two vehicles will visit 10 districts of the state such as Gajapati, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Dhenkanal, Bolangir, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Rayagada to raise awareness about Fasal Bima Yojana. The crop insurance week will be observed till July 7.

Sahoo said the Fasal Bima Yojana aims to provide security cover to each

farmer. He also said that in 2020 Kharif season more than 11.38 lakh hectares of land of 15.5 lakh farmers were insured under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. This year we aim to insure 12.5 lakh hectares. The registration for insurance for this Kharif season will end July 30.

The minister said the state government and insurance companies have an important role in the implementation of this scheme. He stressed the need to expand the scheme in the country so that its coverage can be increased and more farmers get benefits.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Maitan Ispat Limited registered office 6, Strand Road, Diamond Hege, 14th Floor, Room-1412, Kolkata releasing notice against ex-employee, Mr. Souvik Kajal Kumar Dash for his illegal action, gross misconduct, misbehaviour with directors as well as misdemeanours committed in the course of his employment. Even after separation from the company, he has been tarnishing company's reputation in the market, circulating inappropriate, incorrect, fabricated, frivolous and misleading facts via different medium i.e. emails, letter, to its clients, customers, investors, bankers and business partners; for leaking sensitive and commercial financial information to different agencies including company's competitor and for demanding unreasonable money which amounts to extortion. Due to these reasons, my client filed police complaint against Souvik Kajal Kumar Dash, R/O. Khaparakha (Byepass), P.O.- Ghasipura, Dist.- Keonjhar, Odisha - 758015 for offences punishable under Sections 500 (Defamation), 384 (Extortion) and 507 (Criminal Intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Jyoti Srivastava
73, Patiala Court, New Delhi

Sambalpuri handloom co-op opens outlet in Bargarh, aims ₹5-7cr biz



AGENCIES

Sambalpur, July 1: The Sambalpur Bastralaya Handloom Cooperative Society Ltd has opened its first mega showroom near its head office in Bargarh town and is aiming at ₹5-7 crore annual turnover from the outlet, an official said Thursday.

The objective of opening the showroom is to offer new designs to its customers and provide work regularly to the weavers associated with the cooperative, its marketing officer Hemanta Mishra said.

"We have set a target to achieve around ₹5-7 crore business from the mega showroom annually," he said. The outlet was inaugurated by Textiles, Handlooms and Handicrafts Minister Padmini Dian Wednesday in the presence of Bargarh MLA Debesh Acharya.

Bargarh District Collector Jyoti Pradhan and Sambalpur

Bastralaya Managing Director Sisir Kumar Bag were also present at the function.

Spread over 2,800 sqft area, the showroom is located at Gobindpali Road and was constructed at a cost of ₹1.77 crore, of which ₹1.33 crore was provided by the state government under the Promotion of Handloom Industries scheme, the official said.

"The showroom will have all the latest handloom designs from sarees to readymade garments," he said, adding that products of the Sambalpur Bastralaya will also be available on our website for on-line shopping.

Currently, 5,913 weavers are associated with the cooperative and 2,950 of them are working with the organisation regularly.

With the inauguration of the mega showroom, the number of outlets of Sambalpur Bastralaya Handloom Cooperative Society increased to 42.

Surge in brown sugar trade in Nayagarh dist

EXCISE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WORK AS CONDUITS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, July 1: Easy availability of brown sugar and its consumption has assumed chaotic proportions in the district. Consumption of these drugs has created mayhem in peaceful villages and society.

Peace-loving and innocent youths get violent upon using these drugs. Once taken, they forget any semblance of human values. Students take money from their parents on different alibis and buy drugs. If they do not get money when they want it, it does not take them much time to resort to crimes such as robberies and loots.

Ironically, the hubs of brown sugar trade in the town is the district excise office, the office of the excise department's mobile squad inspector at Trinath Chhak, Collector office, Telephone Bhawan near Town police station, town railway station and Rajiv Market. The drug is plentifully available at Ranapur, Nayagarh, Bhapur, Daspalla, Gania, Nuagaon and Odagaon blocks. It was alleged that some excise department officials are using college students to push the narcotic trade.



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

The brown sugar trade in Nayagarh district is controlled by brown sugar dealers in Khurda who make daily visits to the district to deliver drugs. It has been proved during raids at some of the brown sugar dens in the district. As there is fat income with no hard work, many youngsters in the district are being lured by this trade. Raids by police and excise officials have failed to dent their network.

A woman teacher from

Champatipur village under Nayagarh block said, her son was a very good student and well-behaved. However, his behavior began changing. He insisted on money from parents. Later, we found out it was due to his addiction to brown sugar.

A student of the Nayagarh Autonomous College said, many students in his college consume brown sugar. First, he stole money from home, and then from friends. However, he was saved by his sister who tipped off his father and the latter put him in an de-addiction centre. I am cured now, he said, adding excise department staff encourage students to join this trade.

Illegal patholabs mushroom in Pattamundai

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pattamundai, July 1: There is a sudden surge in the number of illegal patholabs and X-ray labs in the town. The health authorities are keeping quite even though they are aware of the situation. So much so that the chief district medical officer (CDMO) has not ordered an inquiry even as he has been made aware of the illegal practices.

The government has laid down clear policies on the structure and equipment to be made available in a patholab. However, the patholabs here are running from one-room setups. There are primary health centres (PHCs) at Alapua, Tulasidia, Andari, Sanjaria, Badapada, Chandannagar and Adajodi that come under the subdivisional hospital at Pattamundai. These PHCs are surrounded by illegal patholabs. The locals have demanded a survey of these illegal patholabs and their immediate closure. Demands are mounting for actions



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

against the owners of the illegal patholabs. Similarly, there are private clinics running in Pattamundai. Locals allege that the private clinics violate health department rules. What has concerned the intelligentsia here is that there is a fast fall in the gender ratio in Pattamundai. The number of men far outnumbered that of women in Pattamundai. The reason for this imbalance is the practice of

pre-natal tests and female foeticide at the illegal patholabs and clinics.

Allegations are pouring in about such tests and practices in the illegal patholabs. Even though there are boards fixed outside these patholabs, stating that pre-natal tests are illegal and they are never carried out there, in practice the patholabs encourage such tests and facilitate female foeticides.

Unhealthy trend

It is alleged that the illegal patholabs encourage pre-natal tests

The number of female population in Pattamundai is far less than that of men

Health authorities sitting quite even though there are complaints against patholabs

That the health authorities are completely silent on these illegal activities raises questions on their sincerity. Locals have sought intervention of the health minister. They said the health minister immediately order an investigation and subsequent actions against their owners.

Chief district medical officer Anita Patnaik said she has not received complaints in this regard and she will definitely take actions against the patholabs and private clinics once such complaints come to her notice.

SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED					
Regd. Office: A-54/1 & A-55/1, Dinalipi Bhawan, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003					
Email: suryofoods.industries@gmail.com, web site: www.suryofoods.com, CIN - L05004OR1989PLC002264					
Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2021					
(Rs. in '000, except EPS)					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
		31.03.2021 (Audited)	31.12.2020 (UnAudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)
1	Total Income from operation (net)	0	0	0	15,583
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	-3,935	-885	-1341	-7,250
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	-3,935	-885	-1341	-7,250
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	-3,715	-855	-1182	-7,030
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-3,715	-855	-1182	-7,030
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each)	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-73,368	-69,344	-65,872	-73,368
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
	1. Basic:	-0.94	-0.22	-0.30	-1.78
	2. Diluted:	-0.94	-0.22	-0.30	-1.78

Note:

- The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2021 have been reviewed by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on 30th June, 2021.
- The above financial results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) prescribed under section 133 of the companies act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The full format of the financial results of the Company for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2021 are available at the Company's website <http://www.suryofoods.com>, and websites of all Stock Exchanges, where the Equity shares of the Company are listed.

For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
Sd/-
Amarendra Dash
Chairman Cum Managing Director

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, SURADA, GANJAM

Phone No.: 0681-9270061(O), 0681-9270028 (CC), E-mail: ori-sorada@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Tender Call Notice 01/2021-22 Dt.02.07.21

The Block Development Officer, Surada Block, Ganjam on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single for the works as Detailed in Table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Value of the works put to bid in Rs. (Approximate amount)	BID Security (EMD) 1% (in Rs.)	Cost of BID Documents not refundable (Rs.)	Period of Completion in Calendar month	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Dining Hall & Multipurpose hall at Belapanka S/S	17.44215	17442	6000/-	6 months	C & D
2	Construction of Dining Hall & Multipurpose hall at Khajuripali A/S	17.44215	17442	6000/-	6 months	C & D
3	Construction of Dining Hall & Multipurpose hall at Bhaliapali A/S	17.44215	17442	6000/-	6 months	C & D
4	Construction of Dining Hall & Multipurpose hall at Kandhabakhara S/S	17.44215	17442	6000/-	6 months	C & D

- The sale of bid document shall from Dt.02.07.21 at 3.00 P.M. and close on dated 16.07.21 at 5.00 P.M. during office hours in the office of the undersigned. Bids shall be received on or before 5.00 P.M. of Dt.22.07.21 through Registered Post, Speed Post or it can be placed in the box kept in Office for the said purpose.
- Bid documents consists of specification, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contractors and other necessary documents & collected from Block Office or can be downloaded from the website www.ganjam.nic.in.
- After the date, time and receipt of bid is over the original bids security and Demand Draft towards cost of bid document shall be submitted along with the bid or Registered Post in the office of the undersigned from Dt.02.07.21 at 3.00 P.M. to 16.07.21 at 5.00 P.M. during office hours on working days failing which the bid will be rejected. The received BID security and BID cost will be verified at 11.00 A.M. on Dt.22.07.21.
- The bid received shall be opened at 11.00 A.M. on Dt.22.07.21 in the O/o. the Block Development Officer, Surada in the presence of bidders who wish to attend. The bidders who participated in the bid can witness the opening of the BIDs. If the office happens to be closed in the last date of the opening of the bids as specified the bids will be opened in the next working day at the time of the same time and venue of bid.
- The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation can also be seen in the paper.
- Engineering contractors desiring to avail to exemption facility of EMD should applied specifically their application with an affidavit and submit the same tender document. He/She should also produce original contract licences at the time of opening of tender document to make necessary entry to the effect as such facilities are limited to three participants in tender during a financial year, otherwise the tender rejected on the spot during opening tender.

Sd/- Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Surada

FOCUS ECONOMY

STAGFLATIONARY DEBT CRISIS



THE NATIONAL DEBT
Years of ultra-loose fiscal and monetary policies have put the global economy on track for a slow-motion train wreck in the coming years. When the crash comes, the stagflation of the 1970s will be combined with the spiraling debt crises of the post-2008 era, leaving major central banks in an impossible position

will be pushed up by three factors. First, higher public and private debts will widen sovereign and private interest-rate spreads. Second, rising inflation and deepening uncertainty will drive up inflation risk premia. And, third, a rising misery index – the sum of the inflation and unemployment rate – eventually will demand a “Volcker Moment.”

When former Fed Chair Paul Volcker hiked rates to tackle inflation in 1980-82, the result was a severe double-dip recession in the United States and a debt crisis and lost decade for Latin America. But now that global debt ratios are almost three times higher than in the early 1970s, any anti-inflationary policy would lead to a depression, rather than a severe recession.

Under these conditions, central banks will be damned if they do and damned if they don't, and many governments will be semi-insolvent and thus unable to bail out banks, corporations, and households. The doom loop of sovereigns and banks in the eurozone after the global financial crisis will be repeated worldwide, sucking in households, corporations, and shadow banks as well.

As matters stand, this slow-motion train wreck looks unavoidable. The Fed's recent pivot from an ultra-dovish to a mostly dovish stance changes nothing. The Fed has been in a debt trap at least since December 2018, when a stock and credit-market crash forced it to reverse its policy tightening a full year before Covid-19 struck. With inflation rising and stagflationary shocks looming, it is now even more ensnared.

So, too, are the European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan, and the Bank of England. The stagflation of the 1970s will soon meet the debt crises of the post-2008 period. The question is not if but when.

The writer, Chairman of Roubini Macro Associates, is a former senior economist for international affairs in the White House's Council of Economic Advisers during the Clinton Administration.

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In April, I warned that today's extremely loose monetary and fiscal policies, when combined with a number of negative supply shocks, could result in 1970s-style stagflation (high inflation alongside a recession). In fact, the risk today is even bigger than it was then.

After all, debt ratios in advanced economies and most emerging markets were much lower in the 1970s, which is why stagflation has not been associated with debt crises historically. If anything, unexpected inflation in the 1970s wiped out the real value of nominal debts at fixed rates, thus reducing many advanced economies' public-debt burdens.

Conversely, during the 2007-08 financial crisis, high debt ratios (private and public) caused a severe debt crisis – as housing bubbles burst – but the ensuing recession led to low inflation, if not outright deflation. Owing to the credit crunch, there was a macro shock to aggregate demand, whereas the risks today are on the supply side.

We are thus left with the worst of both the stagflationary 1970s and the 2007-10 periods. Debt ratios are much higher than in the 1970s, and a mix of loose economic policies and negative supply shocks threatens to fuel inflation rather than deflation, setting the stage for the mother of stagflationary debt crises over the next few years.

For now, loose monetary and fiscal policies will continue to fuel asset and credit bubbles, propelling a slow-motion train wreck. The warning signs are already apparent in today's high price-to-earnings ratios, low equity risk premia, inflated housing and tech assets, and the irrational exuberance surrounding special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs), the crypto sector, high-yield corporate debt, collateralised loan obligations, private equity, meme stocks, and runaway retail day trading. At some point, this boom will culminate in a Minsky moment (a sudden loss of confidence), and tighter monetary policies will trigger a bust and crash.

But in the meantime, the same loose policies that are feeding asset bubbles will continue to drive con-

sumer price inflation, creating the conditions for stagflation whenever the next negative supply shocks arrive. Such shocks could follow from renewed protectionism; demographic aging in advanced and emerging economies; immigration restrictions in advanced economies; the reshoring of manufacturing to high-cost regions; or the balkanisation of global supply chains.

More broadly, the Sino-American decoupling threatens to fragment the global economy at a time when climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic are pushing national governments toward deeper self-reliance. Add to this the impact on production of increasingly frequent cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure and the social and political backlash against inequality, and the recipe for macro-economic disruption is complete.

Making matters worse, central banks have effectively lost their independence, because they have been given little choice but to monetise massive fiscal deficits to forestall a debt crisis. With both public and private debts having soared, they are in a debt trap. As inflation rises over the next few years, central banks will face a dilemma. If they start phasing out unconventional policies and raising policy

rates to fight inflation, they will risk triggering a massive debt crisis and severe recession; but if they maintain a loose monetary policy, they will risk double-digit inflation – and deep stagflation when the next negative supply shocks emerge.

But even in the second scenario, policymakers would not be able to prevent a debt crisis. While nominal government fixed-rate debt in advanced economies can be partly wiped out by unexpected inflation (as happened in the 1970s), emerging-market debts denominated in foreign currency would not be. Many of these governments would need to default and restructure their debts.

At the same time, private debts in advanced economies would become unsustainable (as they did after the global financial crisis), and their spreads relative to safer government bonds would spike, triggering a chain reaction of defaults. Highly leveraged corporations and their reckless shadow-bank creditors would be the first to fall, soon followed by indebted households and the banks that financed them.

To be sure, real long-term borrowing costs may initially fall if inflation rises unexpectedly and central banks are still behind the curve. But, over time, these costs



Nouriel Roubini

LOOSE MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICIES WILL CONTINUE TO FUEL ASSET AND CREDIT BUBBLES, PROPELLING A SLOW-MOTION TRAIN WRECK. THE WARNING SIGNS ARE ALREADY APPARENT

Pandemic and female leadership

One in four: That's the proportion of American women who are considering downshifting their careers or leaving the workforce due to the impact of Covid-19. In just one year, the pandemic has driven more than two million women in the United States out of the workplace, resulting in the largest male-female unemployment gap in two decades.

Working mothers, more than 40% of whom are their family's primary breadwinner, have been especially hit hard. Many simply are unable to balance their careers with overwhelming increases in household responsibilities at home. This mirrors similar trends globally – across all regions, women lost jobs at a greater rate than men in 2020, as they took on an average of 30 more hours of childcare per week.

Covid-19 is causing women to leave the workforce in droves just when we urgently need to elevate more of them into leadership positions across sectors, including in our own field of global health. Without women's expertise, leadership talents, and unique perspectives, the road to recovery could be far longer, and we risk being underprepared for the next health crisis, particularly given the pandemic's clear gendered effects.

And having women in leadership positions has been shown to result in more policies that improve people's quality of life and reflect the priorities of families and marginalised communities – the very groups disproportionately affected by this pandemic. In global health, women's voices are crucial to driving intentional, holistic action on important challenges that too often are missed when the vast majority of decision-makers are men.

When women are not at the table, the consequences are serious. This pandemic has led to increases in domestic violence and suspensions or delays in sexual and reproductive health services, often leaving unprepared governments struggling to respond. For too long, we lacked sex-disaggregated data, including on how both Covid-19 infection and vaccination affect pregnant women, simply because researchers do not routinely investigate these questions. We will continue to struggle with these and other issues unless women are better represented in decision-making.

But as we rebuild from the devastation of Covid-19, we have an opportunity to embrace new and better ways of working so that parents do not have to choose between their careers and their family responsibilities – and so that women can thrive and lead. In global health, like in other fields, this starts with acknowledging and breaking down barriers and urging those in positions of power to embrace the necessary changes in policies, allocation of resources, and cultural norms.

For starters, we must make our workplaces more family-friendly through measures such as flexible schedules, subsidised childcare, and family leave. We must also dismantle the sexist biases that hold back women in their careers, including false, negative assumptions about mothers that have adverse implications in hiring and promotion decisions.

Furthermore, we need to recognise that pandemic-related challenges are not affected all women equally. In the US, like in many other countries, women who already face additional hurdles – whether because they are Black, Hispanic, or unpartnered mothers – have shouldered an even heavier load. We must advocate for policies that can correct this imbalance. In particular, such policies should include universal childcare, which helps address inequalities faced by marginalised women.

Women should not have to sacrifice their health, work, or leadership potential in the pursuit of the mythical “work-life balance.” The best leadership we can muster – drawing from all humankind, and not just 50% of it – is needed to improve health outcomes and the well-being of people around the world.

Millions of women have already left the workforce during this pandemic, and many more are thinking of doing so. If we do not act now to reverse this trend, the gap may become insurmountable. We cannot afford to lose the very people who will help lead us out of this health emergency and future one too.

Michele Barry is Chair of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health and a professor of medicine and tropical diseases at Stanford University. Geeta Rao Gupta is a senior fellow at the United Nations Foundation.

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Michele Barry & Geeta Rao Gupta

Covid-19 is causing women to leave the workforce in droves just when we urgently need to elevate more of them into leadership positions across sectors

WISDOM CORNER

The whole secret of a successful life is to find out what is one's destiny to do, and then do it. HENRY FORD

Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can. HILLARY CLINTON

Life imposes things on you that you can't control, but you still have the choice of how you're going to live through this. CELINE DION

WORDSWORTH

■ Caltrop

The military mind is often both twisted and ingenious. A caltrop consists of four pointed legs or spines splayed out at the points of a tetrahedron so that however it falls, it will sit on three of the points with the fourth uppermost. It was apparently thought up in medieval times as a way of slowing pursuit, and was updated for the motorised age earlier this century. Scatter some behind you, and pursuit becomes instantly more difficult, whether it's on horseback or in a vehicle with pneumatic tyres. The military device, sometimes written and said caltrap, appears to have been named after one of a number of plants with spiny burrs. For obvious reasons it's another name for the star thistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*). It's a local name for the curled pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), which produces lots of winter seeds that are hard and burr-like. A plant called the water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) is also known as the water caltrop, which has fruit with two spines that are hard enough to penetrate the hooves of stock as well as human feet. The word derives from the Old English *calketrippe*, for any plant that tended to catch the feet. In turn this comes from the medieval Latin *calcatrappa*, a compound either of *calx*, “heel” or *calcare*, “to tread”, with a word related to “trap” that came from one of the Germanic languages. The military sense of the word probably came into English from French.

LOL

Stop sign ahead

There's a blond and a brunette in a car. The brunette is driving while the blonde is in the passenger seat. They're going down a steep hill when the brunette realizes that the brakes



don't work. The brunette tells the blonde that the brakes don't work and they will drive off the side of the cliff because they failed to stop. The blonde then replies, “Don't worry! There's a stop sign ahead.”

SPECTRUM EDUCATION

Blend it (not) like UGC

Leo Tolstoy wrote “All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” One can say the same about the digitally deprived people. Digital deprivation has created more problems for students than any other section of the society. And, now the proposed blended learning may add to their problems.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has circulated a concept note on ‘Blended mode of learning and teaching’ and sought the views of different stakeholders. The note has proposed different ways of combining digital learning tools with the conventional mode of classroom learning. It is a welcome move and is also in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP). However, it failed in blending the model with ground reality.

The reality of digital divide may make blended learning difficult to implement. Digital divide is the new form of social and economic inequality which not only affects the present but will have serious repercussions on the future of students. So, any intervention in the field of education cannot ignore the issue of digital divide.

According to the recently re-

leased All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report, more than 40% of the universities and 60% of the colleges are located in rural areas. Moreover, 65% of the colleges are private without any aid from the government. Digital divide is not just a problem in rural areas. Even in the urban areas less than 25% of students have access to computers. The UGC's blended learning model will be ineffective if rolled out with such infrastructural bottlenecks.

The NEP stressed on the importance of public investment and recommended that it should touch 6% of the GDP. We are far behind that target. Both the Central and state governments need to make huge investments in developing the digital infrastructure and bridge the digital divide. Government may establish digital learning centers where the students can access the well curated relevant digital study material, strengthen libraries in colleges, provide round-the-clock electricity, and create mobile e-libraries. The corporate entities may be encouraged to join hands with the government through their CSR initiatives.

Along with creating physical infrastructure, there is a need to train the teachers to become digi-

tally capable of handling blended learning. Blended learning is not just taking classes on the virtual platforms. It requires the teachers to design their curriculum focusing on the learning outcomes and contribute to the overall development of the learners. As per the AISHE report, more than 65% of teachers in higher education are lecturers and assistant professors.

Student-teacher ratio is another important indicator to check whether we are ready for the blended learning. India trails behind several countries in terms of student-teacher ratio in the higher education segment. As per the AISHE report, the ratio increased from 21 to 28 in the last five years, i.e. more students per teacher, which is not desirable. Most teachers are also burdened with lots of administrative work. With the increase in their workload it may be difficult for the teachers to spend time on learning the new skills for implementing blended learning. Blended learning cannot be implemented in true spirit without decreasing this ratio. Let us now turn our attention to the demand side. Students love technology and technology has the ability to make learning more enjoyable. But the majority of the students fail

to leverage technology due to digital poverty. According to the National Statistics Office, less than 5% of students in rural areas have access to computers and less than 10% of rural students can operate them. Even those who can afford to acquire such gadgets face network connectivity problems.

During the last one year, several students faced different types of problems in submitting assignments, giving term-end examinations and interacting with their teachers and peers. It affected their learning and impacted their overall performance. Implementation of blended learning without addressing the problems faced by the majority of the students will make education elitist.

Does that mean we should not go for blended learning? No, we should go for it. But, after bridging the digital divide by creating proper infrastructure, strengthening the existing public institutions and providing proper training to the teachers. While learning is always affordable for some, let blended learning make it accessible and equitable for all by leveraging technology.

The writer is a Professor at XIMB, Bhubaneswar.



DV Ramana

THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION HAS CIRCULATED A CONCEPT NOTE ON ‘BLENDED MODE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING’ AND SOUGHT THE VIEWS OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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Ignoring the courts

Sir, It is matter of great concern that our government failed to learn any lesson from Kumbha Mela as a wrong decision led to thousands of people being infected by coronavirus. Now, the Uttarakhand government has taken a haphazard decision to start the Char Dham yatra for locals in Chamoli, Rudrapur and Uttarkashi. However, an alert Uttarakhand High Court has stayed the state Cabinet's decision for four weeks. The court took note of experts' opinion that the decision of holding the Kumbha Mela in Haridwar in April was one of the contributory factors for the Covid-19 second wave. According to experts, it will take 18 months to vaccinate 70% of the population in Uttarakhand. Even if 100% population of Uttarakhand is inoculated, there is no guarantee that they will be protected from the Delta Plus variant. Hours after the court order, an SOP issued by the state government on Covid curfew said that the first phase of Char Dham yatra will start from July 1 for local residents. It is a matter of concern that instead of abiding by the High Court order, a spokesperson of the government said that it would examine the order and move the Supreme Court, if necessary. The political motive is to exploit the religious feelings of the general people keeping in view the ruling party's prospects in the coming election.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Futuristic security

Sir, India has taken the right direction by raising the issue of terror attack using drones in the United Nations by alerting and cautioning the global community as to how these aerial machines can cause death and destruction if they are used for evil purposes by those elements that are against peace and humanity. The recent terror attack, the first of its kind in our country, using drones have undoubtedly made us think seriously about how dangerous it is if technology is used for wrong purposes. It has also made us think of the pitfalls in our security that have to be patched and improved immediately, especially when hi-tech knowledge is used for anti-national and anti-humanitarian purposes. These flying objects, in wrong hands, can definitely cause heavy destruction. Terrorists around the globe have started using drones for attacks as they are cheap and can fly to a good distance escaping the radar system. Being a technologically sound nation with a strong IT background, India must now be ready to tackle such modern warfare.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Farmers allege large-scale corruption at Barchana PACS



Lakhs of rupees were misappropriated by a section of unscrupulous staff at Barchana PACS in the district by registering fake names as farmers

The matter came to the fore after some farmers recently took up the issue with Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare and Cooperation Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain

The registrar of State Cooperative Society and Registrar Cooperative Society has asked the deputy registrar (Credit) to conduct an inquiry into the matter and submit a report within a week

the Markandpur PACS by forging documents in the name of four members of a farmer's family. A case was lodged in the High Court. Subsequently, the secretary and two other employees of the PACS were suspended on the directive of the High Court.

Similarly, acting on the complaint of some farmers regarding corruption at Mahisara PACS under Dharmasala block, the deputy registrar of State Seva Cooperative Society in his letter (No-8857/03-05-2018) had asked the secretary of Cuttack Central Cooperative Bank to undertake a probe and submit report.

This apart, such allegations have also been reported from Bandal, Dharmasala and Rakhidipur PACS under Korei block. However, the probe into the allegations was stopped due to pressures from some influential persons.

When asked for his comment, secretary in-charge, Barchana PACS, Bikas Kumar Swain denied the allegations of corruption in the PACS. In this regard, Jajpur assistant registrar of cooperative societies (ARCS), Prashant Kumar Mallick said DRCS is investigating into the allegations. The next course of action will be decided as per the report.

Prior to this, a sum of about ₹20,00,000 was misappropriated at

LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD



With buses and public transport vehicles staying off the road due to Covid-19 induced lockdown and shutdown, trolley rickshaw pullers in Birmaharajpur of Subarnapur district have been robbed of livelihood opportunities

Sigh of relief as state eases Covid curbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul/Dhenkanal, July 1: Residents of Angul and Dhenkanal districts are happy that the state government has eased the Covid-19 restrictions and included the two districts in Grade-A category.

Barring malls, parlours, cinema halls and gyms, all shops were open from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Thursday. The lanes and by-lanes of these two districts came alive once again with usual activities, Thursday.

"After saving many lives by imposing lockdown from May 5, the government has now given importance to save livelihoods. During the second wave of Covid-19, salon owners were the worst affected. Though some shops selling grocery and vegetables were allowed to do business during the period, salons were not permitted to open. We experienced lots of hardships in running our families. As of



now, we are happy to get back to our earning days," observed Suryamani Barik, a salon owner in Angul town.

"From now markets will remain open from the morning till evening and it is good for both businessmen and customers. However, we need to be careful. The customers should come to the markets wearing masks and maintain social distance at the shops," said Pradyumna Sahu, an Angul-based businessman.

Residents of both districts are happy that the weekend shutdowns are being lifted.

"Due to the Covid-induced lockdown and shutdown restrictions, the small-time businessmen were the worst-affected. With improvement in the situation, the restrictions have been withdrawn, but partially. But that doesn't mean that we will be careless. We have to follow the guidelines strictly to see better days ahead," maintained

Prasit Kumar Sahu, a resident of Dhenkanal town.

Echoing Sahu's view, Raj Kishore Behera, a social activist in Dhenkanal town, said, "If we start being careless and don't follow the Covid-19 guidelines, the number of positive cases will go up once again, paving way for imposition of more stringent restrictions."

Besides auto-rickshaws and taxis, permission has also been given for buses to ply "Around 150 buses that ply in Dhenkanal district and over 70 of them run on Dhenkanal-Cuttack and Dhenkanal-Bhubaneswar routes. Since permission to ply buses to Cuttack and Bhubaneswar has not been granted, local buses will only ply within the district," said Rudranarayan Tripathy, a private bus owner.

While restrictions have been eased off to some extent, curbs on holding social feasts and organising religious, cultural and political programmes are still in place.

Woman's body found hanging in Mayurbhanj

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairangpur, July 1: The body of a woman was found hanging from a tree at Baidaposi residential colony near Rairangpur police limits in Mayurbhanj district Thursday.

According to an official of Rairangpur police station, the deceased has been identified as Surya Munda. Some local residents spotted the body early in the morning and informed the police station, the official said.

Rairangpur police rushed to the spot and recovered the woman's body. Later, police sent the body for post-mortem and launched a detailed probe, the official added.

An unnatural death case has been registered in this connection. The precise cause of the woman's death has not been ascertained yet. It will be known after post-mortem report is received, the official said.

Lady posing as doc defrauds man of ₹4 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nischintakoili, July 1: A woman impersonating as a doctor and settled in the United Kingdom allegedly defrauded a man in Cuttack district of ₹4 lakh through a matrimonial website. The victim was identified as Sarba Prasanna Panda, a resident of Gopinathpur village under Nischintakoili block of Cuttack district.

Police launched an investigation after Panda lodged a complaint at the Nemalo police station. Panda, in his complaint, alleged that the woman introduced herself as Preeti Rajput, a native of Chhattisgarh and a medical practitioner at a private hospital in the UK. The woman said she was living with her mother in the UK, Panda alleged in his FIR.

According to reports, Panda had registered himself for marriage in the matrimonial website Odia Matrimony. He met the woman through the website in May and soon the two started conversing with each other. They even shared their Whatsapp numbers and spoke

with each other over phone. Later, Preeti expressed her desire to marry him and promised to solemnise the marriage after her return to India, which, according to her, would take a couple of months.

Panda said he had downloaded the Odia Matrimony website and registered himself to receive marriage proposals. The woman contacted him over the application and soon started talking to him on phone and Whatsapp. She also expressed her desire to marry him.

Later, Preeti told Panda that her mother wished to send some gifts for him and urged him to give his address. The woman said the gifts included a watch, a bracelet, a gold chain and some dollars and promised that once she returns to India, the two would get married, Panda said.

A few days later, a woman, claiming to be an employee of a private airline, contacted him over phone from Delhi and informed him about the arrival of a parcel in his name.

The caller said he needed to pay some charges online for the delivery of the parcel. Panda said he paid



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

₹ 38,000 accordingly. The next day the same lady called him again and said when the box was scanned by the authorities, they found US dollars, worth about ₹37 lakh in Indian currency, and asked him to pay a penalty of around ₹4 lakh, failing which the dollars would be seized by the Customs department, Panda informed.

Panda contacted Preeti and informed her about the development. Preeti requested him to pay the compensation and take the

gifts. Panda managed to arrange around ₹3.95 lakh from his friends and kin and paid the money in two different bank accounts after three days.

The woman again called him the same day stating that anti-money laundering certificate was required to convert the money into Indian currency for which he was required to pay another ₹5 lakh, Panda added.

Panda realised that he has been defrauded and immedi-

ately lodged an FIR at Nemalo police station.

When contacted, Salipur SDPO Prashant Majhi said a case has been registered in this connection and investigation is on. "We have sought the assistance of the cyber cell. We are investigating the bank accounts and Whatsapp number. We hope the swindler will be nabbed soon," added the SDPO. However, police are yet to make any headway in the case.

2-year-old boy meets watery grave

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, July 1: A two-year-old boy drowned in a pond at Telibandh village of Nuagaon under Rajnagar panchayat of Patana block in Keonjhar district, Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Sunil Munda, son of Shatrughan Munda and Jhilli Munda.

According to sources, some children had gone to a pond to catch fish, Thursday morning.

Seeing other children going towards the pond, Sunil also went there. At that time, all his family members were away at their farmland. As some other children were catching fish, Sunil also entered the water and subsequently drowned.

Not finding him at home, Sunil's family members launched a search for him and later found his body floating in the pond.

On being informed, police reached the spot and after autopsy at Patna CHC handed the body over to the family members.

As the news of the incident spread, a pall of gloom descended on the village.



AWARENESS VEHICLE

DFO Rinku Kumari flagging-off an awareness vehicle Sabuja Rath (Green Van) aimed at ushering in green cover in Koraput district, Thursday

Kadakhnath chicken farming changing lives of villagers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, July 1: Till some months back, it was a difficult task for Pratima Swain to run her family. But the situation has changed now. Her financial condition has improved significantly and she is now able to meet all the family expenses.

When asked how she could make this possible, Pratima ascribed it to rearing Kadakhnath breed of chicken.

"A Kadakhnath fowl fetches anything between ₹700 and ₹900. Currently, I have 12 such chickens. I have already contacted the local Krishi Vigyan Kendra to procure more such birds," she added.

Besides Pratima, there are many others in Kendrapara district who have taken up rearing this breed of chicken to augment their earnings.

Kadakhnath chicken is mostly reared in Dhar and Jhabua regions of Madhya Pradesh. The colour its meat and bones make it different from the common chicken. Its meat and bones are black in colour. Compared to the common chicken, its meat contains more calcium



and less cholesterol. During the Covid-19 pandemic, people have started consuming this variety of chicken more often as it is believed that its meat helps to improve the immune system.

According to senior scientist at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Surya Narayan Mishra, farmers who are rearing Kadakhnath chickens are earning more profit. "Rearing this breed of fowl has proven to be a good source of income. As fowls of this breed are fetching more profit than the common breed, more and more farmers are coming forward to rear Kadakhnath chicken. We are procuring the chicks from Bhubaneswar and supplying them to farmers. This apart, we are organising awareness camps in several places, urging farmers to take up rearing of Kadakhnath breed of chicken," said Mishra.

Like Pratima, Parameswar Swain, a farmer from Rajnagar area, also said Kadakhnath chicken has changed their lives. "Prior to the first wave of the pandemic, I used to work in Pune. The Covid-19 outbreak forced me to return my village. After coming to know about the benefits of rearing Kadakhnath chicken, I gave it a try in July last year taking a bank loan of ₹2,00,000. The price of the meat of this variety of chicken is more than that of the common chicken. While broiler chicken meat sells for something between ₹120 and 160 a kilogram, Kadakhnath chicken meat fetches something between ₹400 and ₹450.

A chick is bought for ₹70 and after two months, it grows to give around one or one-and-a-half kilogram meat. At present, my poultry firm has 500 such chickens. They are being supplied to various places in Paradip, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack," Swain said, adding that the farmers of his village and neighbouring areas are taking a page of his book and showing interest in rearing this variety of chicken.

POST-POLL VIOLENCE

SC seeks Centre's response on imposing President Rule

The plea also sought direction to the Centre to deploy armed paramilitary forces in the aid of the administrative authorities to bring normalcy in the state and to save it from internal disturbances

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The Supreme Court Thursday agreed to hear a plea seeking direction to the Centre to impose President's Rule in West Bengal in view of deteriorating law and order situation due to the post-poll violence which started May 2, the day of assembly election results.

The plea also sought direction to the Centre to deploy armed paramilitary forces in the aid of the administrative authorities to bring normalcy in the state and to save it from internal disturbances.

Besides, the PIL has sought setting up of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) for probing the causes and reasons of post-poll violence in West Bengal.

A bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari issued notice to the Centre, West Bengal and Election Commission of India on the plea, which also sought to central and state governments to award compensation to the victims and their family members after ascertaining the nature of loss sustained by them in post-poll violence in the state.



Advocate Hari Shankar Jain - appearing for petitioners Ranjana Agnihotri, a UP based practicing lawyer and social worker Jitender Singh - said that the plea is against post-poll violence in West Bengal. The bench said, "We are issuing notice to respondent number 1, (Union of India), respondent number-2 (West Bengal government) and Respondent number 3 (Election Commission of India). The bench, however, did not issue notice to respondent number 4 - Mamata Banerjee as the president of Trinamool Congress Party (TMC). The plea filed through advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain said that the

PIL has been filed in extraordinary circumstances as thousands of residents of West Bengal are being terrorized, penalised and tortured by the workers of TMC for supporting the opposition party. The bench said, "The petitioners are espousing the cause of thousands of citizens of West Bengal who are mostly Hindus and are being targeted by Muslims to take revenge for supporting BJP as they want to crush Hindus so that for years to come the power may remain with the party of their choice," the plea said.

Assam fails to achieve target

This is a part of our Enhanced Immunisation Drive. From June 21, we shall be targeting three lakh vaccinations daily till June 30, the Chief Minister had said in a press meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 1: The BJP-led Assam government could vaccinate only 16.63 lakh people in the last 10 days, almost 45 per cent less than Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's target of inoculating 30 lakh people, due to a massive shortage of Covid-19 vaccines, a senior health official said Thursday.

As per the daily Covid-19 bulletin issued by the National Health Mission under the state Health Department, a total of 16,63,405 people were inoculated across the state from June 21 to June 30.

This figure is way below the ambitious 30-lakh target set during Sarma's meeting with all the stakeholders of the districts June 19.

This is a part of our Enhanced Immunisation Drive. From June 21, we shall be targeting three lakh vaccinations daily till June 30, the chief minister had said in a press meet after reviewing preparations with the districts.

According to the NHM data, the government could touch the daily target of three lakh vaccines only on two days - June 21 (3,30,667 jabs) and June 23 (3,60,315 jabs).

The state government could vaccinate more than two lakh people

VAX CRUNCH



on one day, one lakh on four days and less than one lakh on three days, a compilation of the bulletins showed.

The Health Department even witnessed one of the lowest vaccination figures till now - 14,551 doses June 30, NHM said.

The administration vaccinated 3,30,667 people on June 21, 2,84,643 on June 22, 3,60,315 on June 23, 1,79,595 on June 24, 1,66,934 on June 25, 1,52,956 on June 26, 19,924 on June 27, 1,08,623 on June 28, 45,197 on June 29 and 14,551 on June 30, it said. When contacted, NHM Mission Director Lakshmanan S told PTI that the supply of COVID-19 vaccines dropped after three

days of commencement of the Enhanced Immunisation Drive on June 21, leading to a lower number of vaccinations.

During the first three days, we had enough vaccines and inoculated more than 9.75 lakh people. However, the numbers went down as we did not get enough supplies, he said.

Initially, there was a short supply of only Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, but later the availability of Covishield by the Serum Institute of India also became an issue, Lakshmanan said.

Yesterday, we got six lakh doses of Covishield. We immediately distributed these to the districts. So,

you will see the vaccination numbers rising again in the next three days. However, we do not have any idea when we will get the next supply in the coming 15 days, he said.

The NHM mission director also said that the government had prepared more than 2,000 centres to achieve the daily target of vaccinating three lakh people, but many of them became inactive after the supply declined.

These centres were opened mostly in local hospitals and health centres. Now, they are engaged in giving other vaccines like polio and TB to children and other people under the Universal Immunisation Programme.

We also have in stock 40 lakh Japanese Encephalitis vaccines for adults, but we could not start the drive due to engagement with Covid-19 inoculation programme, the official said.

On June 19, the chief minister had said that if the Assam government could meet the target of inoculating at least 2.80 lakh to 3 lakh people daily for 10 days from June 21, the Centre would ensure that the state continues to get more vaccines in July as well.

To meet this humongous target at a time when the state was vaccinating only 50,000 to 1 lakh people daily, he had even said that there would be no government work for one week and the entire machinery would be involved in the inoculation exercise.

The launch of the programme coincided with the day when the Centre restarted free vaccination for all people in the country.

Disappointed SC pulls up NGT, stays Baghjan panel

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 1: The Supreme Court Thursday said it is disappointed with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order on setting up a 10-member committee, which included an Oil India Ltd (OIL) official, to examine the damage caused by fire, to the biodiversity at Assam's Baghjan oil well.

A bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud noted that the NGT included OIL official on the committee, despite holding the corporation responsible for losses.

The bench also comprising Justice MR Shah put on hold the green tribunal's order for constituting the committee.

The bench said, "We are surprised that NGT first holds that Oil India responsible for the damages to the environment and for destroying the wetlands and then its officer is made member of the committee to go into these issues."

The top court passed the order on an appeal challenging the February 19 tribunal order. The bench emphasized the tribunal must have some alacrity and concerns for the environment.

The panel was tasked to assess damage to the environment and develop a remedial restoration plan, including Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, the Maguri-Motapung Wetland.

Well number 5 at Baghjan in Tinsukia district had caught fire June 9, 2021, killing two of OIL's fire fighters at the site.

Justice Chandrachud noted OIL was accused of polluting the

wetlands, but its MD was put on the inquiry committee.

Senior advocate Siddharth Mitra, representing petitioner Bonani Kakkar, called it a breach of the principal of justice, and stressed that somebody having direct conflict of interest was asked to adjudicate the matter.

He pointed out another committee led by former High Court judge BP Katakay has submitted a comprehensive report on the matter, which was followed by a progress report, and if new committee is set up, it will eventually delay the entire process.

Shah observed why another committee was set up after the first report what is this.

After a hearing in the matter, the top court stayed the NGT order, and slated it for further hearing after two weeks.

The bench said it will constitute a new committee, which would examine all the issues and submit a report expeditiously. We may monitor this ourselves. We are disappointed by the manner in which the NGT has simply pushed this off its hands, said the bench.

In February this year, a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice AK Goel said it prima facie agrees that there was failure on the part of the OIL in taking safety precautions. The tribunal had emphasized that there was need for ensuring that such incidents did not recur.

On June 24, 2020, the NGT had constituted a committee headed by former High Court judge Katakay to look into the matter and submit a report.



An adult leopard that fell down in a well at Madhab Nagar on the fringe of Garbhanga Reserve Forest, in Guwahati, Thursday

Akhil Gogoi acquitted of all charges

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, July 1: After one-and-a-half years, jailed MLA and a local party president Akhil Gogoi is likely to be freed as the Guwahati-based special NIA court, Thursday, acquitted him in the second of the two cases filed against him in connection with the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act stir in Assam in December 2019.

Gogoi's lawyers told the media that he is expected to be freed from the Guwahati Central jail soon.

Gogoi and his three associates were accused in two cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The Independent lawmaker and his associates were last week



cleared of all charges in the first case. The 46-year-old jailed farmers' leader and Rajior Dal President Akhil Gogoi, was elected from eastern Assam's Sibsagar seat in the March-April assembly polls and currently lodged in Guwahati cen-

tral jail. He is currently under treatment at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital.

The right activist has been in jail since December 2019, for allegedly fomenting violence during the anti-CAA agitations.

The National Investigation Agency had taken up the cases against him and his associates on the basis of two FIRs registered at the Chandmari police station in Guwahati and Chabua police stations in eastern Assam's Dibrugarh district.

The NIA special court released him today (Thursday) in the Chandmari case. Last week the court discharged him in the Chabua case, Gogoi's lawyer Rahul Sensowa told the media.

'SELF-PROCLAIMED PM'

Mamata mocked for leasing a plane

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, July 1: The West Bengal state transport department's decision to hire a 10-seater air-conditioned plane on a wet lease of three to five years, has sparked huge political controversy. The BJP is labelling the state government's decision politically motivated and procured for a self-proclaimed Prime Minister (Mamata Banerjee).

On June 11, the West Bengal Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd floated an e-tender for wet-leasing a fixed-wing, twin-engine aircraft for three to five years. The plane should be a twin-engine air-conditioned 'Falcon 2000' category aircraft with a minimum seating capacity of 8-10 passengers, the tender said. In a wet lease, the owner provides the aircraft as well as the crew to the lessee and is responsible for maintenance. The Bengal government will assure a minimum business of 45 hours every month, the tender document states.

Senior transport department officials said several states, including Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, had this arrangement. They stressed that there was no scope for any irregularity as the e-tender was a public document and could be accessed by any willing participant.

Mocking the TMC supremo, Suwendu Adhikari, leader of the opposition in the Bengal assembly, up-



loading the first page of the tender, wrote a tweet saying the aircraft was being hired at public expense to campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Without naming chief minister Mamata Banerjee, Adhikari said a Pushpak Rath (the mythological flying chariot) was being procured for a self-proclaimed Prime Minister.

BJP state president Dilip Ghosh said, "The government already has a helicopter. Why does it need an aircraft when there are only three operational airports in the state? This is a waste of public money."

TMC Lok Sabha member Saugata Roy said, "Many states in India have more than one plane. Adhikari should be aware that before the 2014 Lok Sabha polls Narendra Modi used the Gujarat government's plane to fly between different states for carrying out campaigns."



Rail museum new destination for social ceremonies

One can savour a slice of history as they walk past immaculately preserved old locomotives, starting from carriages to early diesel and electric engines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 1: Couples willing to tie the knot can now embark on their marital journey with 150-year-old steam locomotives standing as symbolic witness, as the Eastern Railway has decided to rent out the premises of its museum in Howrah for social ceremonies.

With the museum lying shut for months due to Covid-19 related restrictions, the railways, as part of its measures to generate revenue, has decided to open its gates for people who wish to celebrate their special occasions in an intimate setting, interspersed by glorious artefacts, an official said. One can savour a slice of history

as they walk past immaculately preserved old locomotives, starting from carriages to early diesel and electric engines, the senior Eastern Railway (ER) official said.

Among other things on display are narrow-gauge, metre-gauge, and broad-gauge steam locomotives, including those which were in service in the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, old wooden coaches, inspection saloon and a Pakistani steam locomotive captured during the 1971 war.

The decision to allow private functions at the rail museum was taken to supplement income. All social gatherings will have to be conducted in strict adherence to the COVID-19 norms laid down by the government, Eastern Railway



spokesperson Ekalavya Chakraborti told PTI here.

Inaugurated in 2006, the sprawling museum also accommodates

century-old drawings, a fascinating collection of philately, time-keeping machines and photographs depicting historically significant

events about the evolving railway system in the eastern region.

Of late, very few patrons have been visiting the railway heritage, which is otherwise a very popular destination, especially among children, as it offers them a joy ride, another ER official said.

The operational maintenance of the rail museum at Howrah has been outsourced to a private party, which, after seeking permission, is renting out the auditorium and open spaces for family functions and social gatherings, he added.

The move to outsource the museum's operational maintenance and rent out its complex for private functions, however, has met with stiff opposition from the ruling TMC.

of the day quote

Reviewed the progress of Health Information Management System (HIMS). We are creating the most modern health information system in Delhi. Due to Corona, there are some delays. Hopefully, it should start by March

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

I'm seeing irresponsible statements from various leaders regarding the largest vaccination drive. Stating facts so that people can judge intentions of these leaders

HARSH VARDHAN | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

Out of the 10.75 lakh persons eligible for the vaccination in Goa, around 8 lakh have taken the first dose. Our target is to complete 100 per cent coverage of the first jab by July 30

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

'Speed up release of Indian prisoners'

New Delhi: India Thursday called on Pakistan to ensure early release and repatriation of Indian civilian prisoners and missing defence personnel languishing in Pakistani jails. The two countries exchanged lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody in line with the provisions of a 2008 agreement. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India handed over a list of 271 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 74 fishermen who are in Indian custody. Similarly, Pakistan shared a list of 51 civilian prisoners and 558 fishermen in its custody, who are Indians or are believed to be Indians, the MEA said.

Man stabbed to death in Delhi

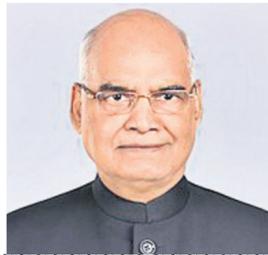
New Delhi: A 20-year-old man was Thursday stabbed to death in front of his father during a scuffle in northwest Delhi's Azadpur area, police said. The deceased has been identified as Dev Priya, a resident of Burari, they said. Police said they have arrested six people in connection with the incident. A senior police officer said information regarding the incident near Kewal Park, Azadpur was received at the Adarsh Nagar Police Station at 12.20 am.

12 kids rescued

Lucknow/Moradabad: Twelve children being taken to Punjab from Bihar allegedly to work as labourers were rescued and five people arrested in this connection here, police said Thursday. In another case, around 40 children were taken off a Punjab-bound train at Moradabad Thursday, with police saying that they are investigating if they are the victims too. In Lucknow, police said the 12 rescued children aged 12 to 15. They were taken off a bus in the Chihat area Wednesday evening.

Militant held

Hyderabad: One of the two alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Hyderabad for June 17 blast at Darbhanga Railway Station in Bihar had visited Pakistan and received training. Imran Malik alias Imran Khan and his brother Mohd. Nasir Khan alias Nasir Malik, originally hailing from Shamli district in Uttar Pradesh and residing in Hyderabad were arrested by the NIA Wednesday. The NIA investigations revealed that Nasir Khan had visited Pakistan in 2012 and had received training from handlers of LeT in fabrication of IED from locally available chemicals.



Losing the life of even one person is very saddening but India has also saved the lives of lakhs of its people from coronavirus. A big credit for it goes to our hard working doctors, healthcare workers and frontline workers

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

SCRAP LAW THAT ALLOWS ANIMAL SACRIFICE: PETA

Ahead of the Eid al-Adha festival, during which animals such as goats and sheep are sacrificed, PETA India has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap a section of a law which allows killing of an animal as a religious ritual



PNB FRAUD

Nirav's sister transfers ₹17.25 cr to ED

Purvi Modi alias Purvi Mehta (47) and her husband Maiank Mehta were granted the 'tender of pardon' in the case by a special Mumbai PMLA court in January on the condition that they will make "full and true disclosure" and help the agency in the probe

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 1: The ED Thursday said fugitive businessman Nirav Modi's sister has "remitted" over ₹17 crore from a UK bank account to that of the Indian government following her turning approver in the over ₹13,000 crore PNB loan fraud case.

Purvi and her husband are British citizens and have never joined the probe. "On June 24, Purvi Modi intimated Enforcement Directorate that she had received the knowledge of one bank account in London, United Kingdom in her name, which was opened at the behest of her brother Nirav Modi and that the funds did not belong to her."

"As Purvi Modi was allowed tender of pardon on conditions of



making full and true disclosure, she remitted an amount of \$ 23,16,889.03 from her UK bank account to the bank account of the government of India, Directorate of Enforcement," the central probe agency said in a statement.

With the "cooperation" of Purvi Modi, it said, the ED has been able to recover about ₹17.25 crore (\$

2316889.03) from the proceeds of crime, it said.

According to the agency, Purvi Modi had assured the ED that she would help the agency in getting confiscated assets worth ₹579 crore that included flats in New York and London and swiss bank deposit. The ED had earlier got issued an Interpol arrest warrant against

her in 2018 and had filed two charge sheets under the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in which she and her husband were arraigned as accused in the alleged bank loan fraud case.

In her application made to the court for pardon, Purvi Modi had said that she was not a prime accused and has been attributed only a limited role by the investigating agency. She had said that she fully cooperated with the ED in this investigation by providing all requisite information and documents.

Her plea said that on account of being Nirav Modi's sister, she was in a unique position to provide "substantial and important evidence, information, proof, and documents and access to bank accounts, assets, companies and

entities that are relevant to Nirav Modi and his actions/dealings".

The ED had earlier said the assets in the names of Purvi Modi or her companies, that are expected to be repatriated with her help are: A ₹19.5 crore worth flat near Breach Candy on Bhulabhai Desai Road in Mumbai, two flats in Central Park south area of New York (in the name of a trust) worth ₹36.52 crore and ₹182.82 crore respectively, two swiss bank account deposits worth ₹168.08 crore and ₹108.23 crore, a ₹62.1 crore flat at Marylebone Road in London and bank deposits worth ₹1.96 crore kept in a Syndicate Bank branch at Nariman Point in Mumbai.

Nirav Modi, 50, is presently lodged in a UK jail and has lost his extradition plea to India in connection with this case that is also being investigated by the CBI.

GULSHAN KUMAR MURDER CASE

Bombay HC upholds life-term for killer, acquittal of Taurani



AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 1: The Bombay High Court Thursday upheld the life imprisonment awarded to convict Abdul Rauf alias Daud Merchant for the sensational daylight murder of music baron and T-Series owner Gulshan Kumar Dua near a temple here 24 years ago.

The court also confirmed the acquittal of TIPS music company co-founder Ramesh Taurani, but set aside the lower court's order acquitting Merchant's brother, Abdul Rashid Merchant, and sentenced him to life imprisonment, said the Merchant brothers' lawyer Satish Maneshinde.

A division bench comprising Justice Sadhana Jadhav and Justice NR Borkar has found the Merchant siblings guilty of murder, conspiracy, common intentions, and under the Arms Act.

The court further noted that soon after the 1997 incident, Abdul Rauf was absconding till his arrest in 2001, and was later released on furlough in 2009 and re-arrested in 2016.

The court's order came in the Maharashtra government's appeal through state counsel Prajakta Shinde against Taurani and Abdul Rashid's acquittal, and Abdul Rauf's appeal against his conviction and life sentence, which was awarded in April 2002 by the then Sessions Judge ML Tahilyani.

It may be recalled that August 12, 1997, Delhi-based music baron Gulshan Kumar was shot dead with 16 bullets fired at him outside a temple in Juhu in suburban Mumbai, triggering a massive upheaval in Bollywood.

Zydus Cadila seeks emergency-use nod from DCGI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 1: Zydus Cadila Thursday announced that the company has applied for emergency use authorisation (EUA) to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for ZyCoV-D - its needle-free plasmid DNA vaccine against Covid-19.

ZyCoV-D is a three-dose, intradermal vaccine, and is needle-free, also leading to a significant reduction in any kind of side effects. Interim analysis has shown it to be 66.6 per cent effective for symptomatic RT-PCR positive cases.

If regulators consent, ZyCoV-D could become the second home-grown shot, after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin; and fourth to get a DCGI nod for use against the viral infection in India after Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V.

"This breakthrough marks a key milestone in scientific innovation and advancement in technology. As the first ever plasmid DNA vaccine for human use, ZyCoV-D has proven its safety and efficacy profile in our fight against Covid-19," said Dr Sharvil Patel, Managing Director, Cadila Healthcare, in a statement. "The vaccine, when approved, will help not only adults but also adolescents in the 12 to 18 years age group," he added.

ZyCoV-D is a plasmid DNA vac-

cine which when injected produces the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and elicits an immune response mediated by the cellular and humoral arms of the human immune system, which play a vital role in protection from disease as well as viral clearance. The Covid-19 vaccine was also tested in the adolescent population in the 12-18 years age group in India and was found to be safe and very well tolerated.

ZyCoV-D had already exhibited a robust immunogenicity and tolerability and safety profile in the adaptive Phase I/II clinical trials carried out earlier: Both the Phase I/II and Phase III clinical trials have been monitored by an independent Data Safety Monitoring Board. The vaccine is stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius but has shown good stability at temperatures of 25 degrees Celsius for at least three months. The thermostability of the vaccine will help in easy transportation and storage of the vaccine and reduce any cold chain breakdown challenges leading to vaccine wastage, the company has said. The plasmid DNA platform also provides ease of manufacturing with minimal biosafety requirements (BSL-1). The Plasmid DNA platform also allows generating new constructs quickly to deal with mutations in the virus, such as those already occurring.



GROWING STRATEGIC SYNERGY



Indian Navy Ship (INS) Tabar and Greece Navy ship HS Themistoklis during an exercise conducted June 30 in the Mediterranean Sea

PM lauds docs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday hailed the contribution of doctors in saving lives from coronavirus and said his government has given maximum thrust on augmenting the healthcare infrastructure in the country.

Losing even one life is saddening, Modi said in his address at an Indian Medical Association event on National Doctors' Day and then emphasised that India saved lives of lakhs of its people and has fared better than more developed and prosperous countries in terms of the Covid infection and mortality per lakh population. A big credit for that goes to doctors, healthcare and frontline workers, he said. On the occasion, he also urged the IMA to undertake evidence-based studies on the benefits of yoga in "mission-mode" and commended the medical fraternity for spreading awareness about its helpful role in dealing with post-Covid complications. The Prime Minister said work for its propagation that should have been done in the last century is being done now.

Fight against drones will be a see-saw battle: Army chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Army Chief Gen MM Naravane Thursday said that easy availability of drones has increased the complexity of security challenges from both state and state-sponsored actors and called for shedding "old mindsets" to deal with the changing character of modern warfare encompassing a multitude of new threats.

Speaking at a think-tank, he said the transition of the military to the digital age is "contrarian" to the defence procurement procedure and that the first and foremost issue was changing the existing mindset to embrace change. The Army Chief's comments came days after explosives-laden drones were used to carry out an attack on the Jammu Air Force station in the first such instance of suspected Pakistan-based terrorists



deploying unmanned aerial vehicles to strike at vital installations in India. Gen Naravane said that there was a need for shedding old mindsets and make procedures "more flexible" and "adaptive" to bring in changes and incorporate niche technologies like artificial technologies to deal with emerging

challenges and prepare for future wars. "All this would require simplified procedures that facilitate the transition. Unfortunately, this has been one of our biggest stumbling blocks. The transition to digital age is contrarian to DPP (Defence Procurement Procedure) and DPM (Defence Procurement Manual) mindsets.

"In order to harness niche technologies like AI, exploit our depth in IT and realise the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), we need to shed old mindsets and make our procedures more flexible and adaptive," he said.

Even as the armed forces develop capabilities to deal with this threat "in both the kinetic and non-kinetic realms", there will continue to be a "see-saw battle" between development of drones and the counter-measures to thwart them.

North India has to wait longer for monsoon: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The unending wait for rains and respite from searing heat in north India, including Delhi, is likely to stretch a bit longer as there are no favourable conditions for advancement of the Southwest Monsoon till July 7, the IMD said Thursday, forecasting an overall normal precipitation in the country for July.

The IMD has also cautioned that the break in the monsoon could impact agricultural operations like sowing and transplantation of crops, irrigation scheduling, power requirement.

Although the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the country as a whole will receive normal rainfall in July, it has a forecast of "below normal to normal rainfall probability" over



many areas of northwest India and some parts of south peninsula, central, east and northeast India. "Normal to above normal rainfall" is most likely to be experienced over parts of central India and adjacent areas of peninsular India and Gangetic plains, it said. IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said rainfall is not expected to be good in the first week

of July and the precipitation activity is likely to pick up in the second half of the second week of the month.

"Monthly rainfall for July 2021 over the country as a whole is most likely to be normal (94 to 106 per cent of Long Period Average)," the IMD said. "Below normal to normal rainfall probability is likely over many areas of northwest India and some parts of south penin-

sula, central, east and northeast India. Normal to above normal rainfall is most likely to be experienced over parts of central India and adjacent areas of peninsular India and Gangetic plains," it said. The Southwest Monsoon reached Kerala, which marks the official commencement of the four-month rainfall season, on June 3, two days after its normal onset date. But it quickly covered south, east, central, east, northeast India and even some parts of north India. The monsoon has covered the entire country except for Haryana, Delhi, parts of west Uttar Pradesh, west Rajasthan and Punjab. With no rains, temperatures have breached the 40-degree Celsius mark in several parts of north India. The IMD said due to likely dry westerly/southwesterly winds from Pakistan to northwest India at lower levels,

heat wave conditions in isolated/some pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, north Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and northwest Madhya Pradesh are likely during next two days.

"Forecasts based on model consensus show that the formation of a low pressure system over north Bay of Bengal is unlikely till July 7. Prevailing meteorological conditions, large scale atmospheric features and the forecast wind pattern by dynamical models suggest subdued rainfall activity to continue over northwest, central and western parts of peninsular India during next seven days," it said.

Since June 19, no progress has been observed in the advancement of the monsoon. June recorded 10 per cent more rainfall than normal. A large part of it was received between June 3 and 19.

international



The Workers' Party of Korea, by its firm unity with the Chinese Communist Party, would raise North Korea-China friendship to a new strategic point as required by the times and as desired by the people of the two countries
KIM JONG UN | LEADER, NORTH KOREA

US HOUSE APPROVES CAPITOL RIOT PROBE

The US House of Representatives voted along party lines Wednesday to investigate the deadly Capitol insurrection of January 6, green-lighting a Democratic-controlled select committee



of the day quote

I echo the Secretary-General's appeal to the United States to lift or waive its sanctions outlined in the plan, extend the waivers with regard to the trade in oil with the Islamic Republic of Iran
ROSEMARY DICARLO | UNDERSECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

Vaccine equity is not just the right thing to do. It's the best way to control the pandemic and reboot the global economy. Until we end the pandemic everywhere, we will not end it anywhere
DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | WHO CHIEF

Germany has been our strong partner in the uncompromising fight against antisemitism and has stood with Israel against the forces of terror who seek to wipe us off the map
RUEVEN RIVLIN | PRESIDENT, ISRAEL

More graves found at another indigenous school

The school was operated by the Catholic Church from 1912 until the early 1970s

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa, July 1: The remains of 182 people have been found in unmarked graves around another former indigenous residential school in Canada's British Columbia province, it was announced.

The Aq'am community, a member of the Ktunaxa Nation located near the city of Cranbrook, used ground-penetrating radar to find the remains close to the former St Eugene's Mission School, the Lower Kootenay Band said in a statement Wednesday.

"It is believed that the remains of these 182 souls are from the



member Bands of the Ktunaxa Nation, neighbouring First Nations

communities and the community of Aq'am," the band said in the

No reason to celebrate: Canada Day muted

Multiple cities scrapped Canada Day celebrations Thursday after the discovery of hundreds of remains of children at former indigenous schools sparked a reckoning with the country's colonial past. Traditionally the holiday is celebrated with backyard barbecues and fireworks much like July 4 in the United States, however this year Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the day would be "a time for reflection."

statement. The band said up to 100 of its members were forced to attend the school.

The schools were known for overcrowding, poor sanitation, unhealthy food and menial labour.

Harsh punishment was given to students who spoke their native language or took part in traditional

ceremonies.

The finding followed the discovery of the estimated remains of 215 people at the site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia and an estimated 751 unmarked graves near a site of the Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan.

'Britney loses court case against dad'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, July 1: Despite Britney Spears' bombshell testimony last week, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge denied a request from the singer's lawyer, Samuel D Ingham III, to have Jamie Spears dropped as his daughter's co-conservator.

"The conservator's request to suspend James P Spears immediately upon the appointment of Bessemer Trust Company of California, NA as sole conservator of estate is denied without prejudice," the document read.

This ruling follows Britney's impassioned public testimony at the virtual court hearing about her conservatorship June 23. During her hearing, the 39-year-old singer was highly critical of her father and alleged that he "loved the control to hurt his own daughter."

At the time, Jamie's attorney issued a statement that read, "Mr Spears is sorry to see his daughter suffering and in so much pain. Mr Spears loves his daughter and misses her very much."

Tuesday, Jamie filed a petition and called for an investigation into Britney's allegations of mistreatment against her conservatorship. In the document, Jamie also noted that he has not managed his daughter's personal or medical affairs for the past two years.

Africa's virus envoy blasts EU, COVAX over vax crisis



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nairobi, July 1: The African Union special envoy tasked with leading efforts to procure Covid-19 vaccines for the continent is blasting Europe as Africa struggles amid a crushing third surge of infections, saying Thursday that "not one dose, not one vial, has left a European factory for Africa."

Strive Masiyiwa also took aim at the global effort meant to distribute vaccines to low-and middle-income countries, accusing COVAX of withholding crucial information including that key donors hadn't met funding pledges.

Had African leaders known this, "we may have acted very differently," Masiyiwa told reporters, adding that "many countries were just sitting back saying, the vaccines are coming ... We as Africans are disappointed."

He stressed that Africa has purchased 400 million vaccine doses and can buy more, but he challenged donors: "Pay up your money ... We will no longer measure

pledges, we will measure vaccines arriving at our airports."

Just 1 per cent of Africa's population is fully vaccinated against Covid-19, John Nkengasong said.

Masiyiwa said COVAX had promised to deliver 700 million vaccine doses to Africa by December. But at mid-year, Africa has received just 65 million doses overall. Less than 50 million doses via COVAX have arrived.

"We are very far away from our target," Nkengasong said. "We don't want to be seen as the continent of Covid... (In Europe) the stadiums are full of young people shouting and hugging, we can't do that in Africa."

However, he and Masiyiwa announced that the first shipments of Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer vaccines with US support will begin arriving next week.

The African continent has had 5.5 million confirmed Covid-19 infections and has seen a "remarkable" 23 per cent increase in deaths over the past week, the Africa CDC director said.

Delta has EU's travel pass hitting roadblocks

The EU document, essentially a QR code available on smartphones or on paper, shows whether the bearer is vaccinated with one of the EU's approved jabs or whether they have recovered from an infection

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Brussels, July 1: An EU-wide Covid certificate for easier travel came into force Thursday, just in time for Europe's busy summer vacation period - but the highly infectious Delta variant is already threatening to curtail its use.

Under EU law, the certificate is meant to do away with the need for quarantines or further testing when travelling between the EU's 27 countries or four associated European nations (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein).

But a surge in the Delta variant, first detected in India and now quickly gaining ground elsewhere, could trigger an "emergency brake" provision suspending the certificate's acceptance.

Already Germany has a ban on incoming travellers from Portugal, where the Delta variant has become dominant. Only its own citizens or residents are allowed in from Portugal, and they must quarantine for two weeks upon arrival.



Berlin's decision has raised Brussels' ire, with EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders saying Wednesday that "we should avoid travel bans" within the EU and stressing that Germany should have consulted with its partners first.

The startling rise in Delta cases in former EU member Britain, with a rolling two-week infection rate more than seven times that of the bloc, is generating deep concern on the continent. The World Health Organization

added to the unease by warning Thursday that Covid case numbers in Europe were on the rise once again, up 10 percent after two months of decline.

But it forecast the EU certificate "will have very little impact on European tourism this year", observing that "most adults are not fully vaccinated and the Delta variant is making people and governments more cautious".

Airlines worry Airlines grouped together in an umbrella lobby group, A4E, have expressed worries that an inconsistent approach "among EU countries in vetting the EU Covid certificate could create lengthy lines in airports with the potential to "create new health hazards".

They called for the certificates to be checked online before travellers even arrived at the airport.

Overall, EU governments are weighing the public desire for a much-needed summer break against a race between vaccination and the Delta variant.

SHORT TAKES

Donald Rumsfeld passes away at 88

Washington: Former US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the main architect of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, has died, according to a statement by his family released Wednesday. He was 88. "It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Donald Rumsfeld, an American statesman and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. At 88, he was surrounded by family in his beloved Taos, New Mexico," the statement issued Wednesday said.

Pak inducts China made VT-4 tanks

Islamabad: The Pakistan Army has formally inducted the first batch of the China-made VT-4 battle tanks into its armoury. Produced by Chinese state-owned armoured vehicle manufacturer, Norinco, the delivery of VT-4 tanks from the manufacturer began in April last year. Pakistan is the third country to have bought these tanks from China after Thailand and Nigeria. The Army's media affairs wing in a statement said that Commander Mangla Corps, Lieutenant General Shaheen Mehmood, Wednesday visited the Armoured Division and inspected the first batch of VT-4 tanks.

Algerian FinMin named new PM

Algiers: Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has named Finance Minister Ayman Benabderrahmane as the new Prime Minister and tasked him with the mission to form a new government. An official statement issued Wednesday said that Benabderrahmane will replace Abdelaziz Djerad who presented the resignation of his cabinet earlier this week following the confirmation of the June 12 parliamentary elections by the Constitutional Court, reports Xinhua news agency.

Afghan airstrikes kill 33 militants

Kabul: A total of 33 militants were killed in Afghan airstrikes that struck Taliban gatherings in Kaldar and Shortepa districts of Balkh province, an army spokesman said Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, the fighter jets targeted Taliban gatherings in parts of the restive districts Wednesday afternoon, killing 33 insurgents and injuring 19 others.

UK opens new visa for int'l students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 1: The UK Home Office Thursday formally opened its new post-study work visa for international students, which would offer overseas graduates from India and other destinations the option to apply for the right to stay on for job experience at the end of their university courses.

The Graduate route visa, announced last year by UK Home Secretary Priti Patel, is now open for applications from this week and is expected to particularly benefit Indian students, who are known to choose their degree courses based on the prospect of work experience. The Graduate route is designed for international graduates who have been awarded their degree from a recognised UK university to stay on and look for work for at least two years. There are no minimum salary requirements or caps on numbers, allowing graduates on the route to work flexibly, switch jobs and develop their career.

NSA discloses hacking methods used by Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 1: US and British agencies disclosed Thursday details of methods they say have been used by Russian intelligence to break into the cloud services of hundreds of government agencies, energy companies and other organizations.

An advisory released by the US National Security Agency describes "brute force" attacks by operatives linked to the GRU, the Russian military intelligence agency, which has been previously tied to major cyber-attacks abroad and efforts to disrupt the 2016 and 2020 American elections.

Brute force attacks involve the automated spraying of sites with potential passwords until hackers gain access. The advisory urges companies to adopt methods long urged by experts as common-sense cyber hygiene, including the use of multi-factor authentication and

mandating strong passwords.

Issued during a devastating wave of ransomware attacks on governments and key infrastructure, the advisory does not disclose specific targets of the campaign or its presumed purpose, saying only that hackers have targeted hundreds of organizations worldwide. In a statement, NSA Cybersecurity Director Rob Joyce said the campaign was "likely ongoing, on a global scale."

The NSA says GRU-linked operatives have tried to break into networks using Kubernetes, an open-source tool originally developed by Google to manage cloud services, since at least mid-2019 through early this year. While a "significant amount" of the attempted break-ins targeted organizations using Microsoft's Office 365 cloud services, the hackers went after other cloud providers and email servers as well, the NSA said.

REMEMBERING DIANA



Britain's Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, look at a statue they commissioned of their mother Diana, Princess of Wales in the Sunken Garden at Kensington Palace, London PHOTO REUTERS

Turkey officially quits from treaty protecting women

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Istanbul, July 1: Turkey formally withdrew Thursday from a landmark international treaty protecting women from violence, though President Recep Tayyip Erdogan insisted it won't be a step backwards for women.

Erdogan ended the country's participation in the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention through a surprise overnight decree in March, prompting condemnation from women's rights groups and western countries. A court appeal to stop the withdrawal was rejected this week.

The leader announced his "Action

Plan for Combating Violence against Women" Thursday, which includes goals such as reviewing judicial processes, improving protection services and gathering data on violence.

"Some groups are trying to present our official withdrawal from the Istanbul convention July 1st as going backwards," he said. "Just like our fight against violence towards women did not start with the Istanbul Convention, it won't end with our withdrawal."

In March, the Turkish Presidency's Directorate of Communications issued a statement saying the Istanbul Convention was "hijacked" by

those "attempting to normalize homosexuality - which is incompatible with Turkey's social and family values."

Erdogan emphasised traditional family and gender values Thursday, saying combating violence against women was also a fight to "protect the rights and the honor of our mothers, wives, daughters."

Women, LGBT groups and allies have been protesting the decision. They say the convention's pillars of prevention, protection, criminal prosecution and policy coordination, as well as its identification of gender-based violence, are crucial to protecting women in Turkey.



Data by the We Will Stop Femicide group shows 189 women were murdered in 2021 in the country, and 409 were murdered last year

under suspicious circumstances. Amnesty International called Turkey's withdrawal "shameful" in a statement. "At the stroke of midnight today

Data by the We Will Stop Femicide group shows 189 women were murdered in 2021 in the country, and 409 were murdered last year

Turkey turned its back on the gold standard for the safety of women and girls. The withdrawal sends a reckless and dangerous message to perpetrators who abuse, maim and kill: That they can carry on doing so with impunity," said Amnesty International's Secretary General, Agnes Callamard

business

of the day quote

This tax reform (GST) was very essential...though we have completed four years of GST, I feel there is room for improvement and we can make it better with support of stakeholders

If there is a drop in passenger demand after a month of growth, it is not recovery. I would say, until we have 3-6 months of consistent numbers averaging over 50-60 per cent of pre-COVID-19 level, it is not recovery. We are not even close to recovery from Bengaluru airport perspective

With markets opening up and improvement in customer sentiments, the company is committed to deliver innovative and world class quality products and services meeting and exceeding customer aspirations

SHORT TAKES

SBI donates ₹62Cr to PM CARES Fund

Mumbai: The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) Thursday said around 2.5 lakh of its employees have contributed ₹62.62 crore to the PM-CARES Fund. The amount was donated on the occasion of 66th Foundation Day of SBI, a release said. In a separate release, the bank said it has launched a dedicated counter across its 360 select branches nationally catering to current account customers.

Myntra's EORS begins July 3

New Delhi: Myntra announces the arrival of the 14th edition of its flagship event, End of Reason Sale (EORS), slated to be held from July 3-8. The biggest-ever edition of the mega fashion carnival, brings with it over 9 lakh styles from over 3000 brands and is expected to cater to the fashion and lifestyle needs of over 50 million visitors. Traffic to the platform during the six-day period is expected to rise by about 75% over the previous edition of the sale held in June last year.

US-based C4V to invest ₹4,000Cr

Bangalore: US-based C4V, a leading company in the lithium-ion cell manufacturing sector, is willing to invest over ₹4,000 crore in the state in the electric battery manufacturing sector, Karnataka Medium and Large Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar said Thursday. A lithium-ion battery or Li-ion battery is a type of rechargeable battery commonly used for portable electronics and electric vehicles.

Fuel demand rebounds in June

New Delhi: India's fuel demand rebounded in June as a pick-up in economic activity following easing of coronavirus restrictions accelerated petrol sales to 90 per cent of pre-virus levels. Petrol sale rose 5.5 per cent year on year to 2.12 million tonnes in June. It was up 29.35 per cent from May but 10.4 per cent lower than pre-Covid time in June 2019, preliminary data from state fuel retailers showed. The sale of diesel rose 18.5 per cent from May to 5.35 million tonnes but was down 1.84 per cent from June 2020 and 18.8 per cent from June 2019.



The recovery that had commenced in the second half of 2020-21 was dented in April-May 2021, but with the wave of infections abating as rapidly as it had set in, economic activity has started to look up in late May and early June

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

GAP TO CLOSE ALL UK STORES

In another blow to Britain's retail sector, American clothing company Gap said that it will close all of its stores in the UK by the end of the year as it moves its business exclusively online. The closures will take place in a phased manner by September end



Covid 2.0 dents India's June manufacturing output: PMI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 1: India's manufacturing sector activities contracted for the first time in 11 months in June as rise in coronavirus cases and strict containment measures adversely impacted demand as well as resulted in job losses, a monthly survey said Thursday. The seasonally-adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) declined to 48.1 in June from 50.8 in May.

The index fell below the critical 50.0 mark for the first time since July 2020. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The latest reading highlighted renewed contractions in factory orders, production, exports and quantities of purchases. Moreover, with business optimism fading over the month, job shedding con-



tinued, the survey said. Covid-19 restrictions also curtailed international demand for Indian goods and new export orders decreased for the first time in ten months.

"The intensification of the Covid-19 crisis in India had a detrimental impact on the manufacturing economy. Growth of new orders, production, exports and input purchasing was interrupted in June as containment measures aimed at bringing the pandemic under con-

The intensification of Covid crisis in India had a detrimental impact on the manufacturing economy. Growth of new orders, production, exports and input purchasing was interrupted in June as containment measures aimed at bringing the pandemic under control restrained demand

POLLYANNA DE LIMA, ECONOMICS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, IHS MARKIT

Trump Organization CFO Weisselberg surrenders ahead of expected charges

AGENCIES

Washington, July 1: The Trump Organization's longtime chief financial officer (CFO), Allen Weisselberg, surrendered to authorities early Thursday ahead of an expected court appearance on the first criminal indictment in a two-year investigation into business practices at Donald Trump's company.

Weisselberg was photographed walking into the complex that houses criminal courts and the Manhattan district attorney's office at around 6:20 a.m. with his lawyer. New York prosecutors were expected to announce an indictment Thursday accusing Weisselberg

and Trump's namesake company of tax crimes related to fringe benefits for employees.

The case against Weisselberg - a loyal lieutenant to Trump and his real estate-developer father, Fred - could give prosecutors the means to pressure the executive into cooperating and telling them what he knows about Trump's business dealings.

In a statement, Weisselberg lawyers Mary Mulligan and Bryan Skarlatos said he "intends to plead not guilty and he will fight these charges in court." The Trump Organization issued a statement defending Weisselberg, saying the 48-year employee is being used by

the Manhattan district attorney's office as "a pawn in a scorched-earth attempt to harm the former president." It said neither the IRS nor any other district attorney would ever think of bringing such charges over employee benefits. "This is not justice; this is politics," the company said.

The charges against the Trump Organization and Weisselberg remained sealed but were to be unveiled ahead of an afternoon arraignment at a state court in Manhattan, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The people were not authorised to speak about an ongoing probe and did so on anonymity.

Enhanced GST mop-up of recent months should now be new normal: FM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday said taxpayer base has almost doubled to 1.28 crore in four years of rollout of the historic tax reform and the enhanced GST mop up in the recent months should now be the "new normal".

In a written message to tax officers on the fourth anniversary of GST rollout, she said implementing any reform of this scale in a large and diverse country like India can be highly challenging, but GST has brought about ease in taxpayer compliance and reduced common man's tax burden.

For eight months in a row, Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues have crossed ₹1 lakh crore-mark and touched a record ₹1.41 lakh crore in April 2021.

"Commendable work has been done in the year gone by both in the area of facilitation and enforcement with numerous cases of fraudulent dealers and ITC being registered. The enhanced revenue collection in recent months should now be the 'new normal'," Sitharaman said.

In the last four years, the GST taxpayer base has almost doubled to 1.28 crore from 66.25 lakh.

Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur, in his message on GST Day, said in the past year a balance has been struck between trade facilitation and enforcement.

The enforcement drive launched by Central Board of Indirect Taxes

and Customs (CBIC) since November 2020 has resulted in detecting cases of fake ITC (input tax credit) and evasion of GST of more than ₹29,000 crore till now, Thakur said.

A nationwide GST, which subsumed 17 local levies like excise duty, service tax and value-added tax (VAT) and 13 cesses, was rolled out on July 1, 2017.

Expressing satisfaction on overcoming most of the GST implementation challenges, including two waves of the Covid-19 pandemic, the minister also thanked taxpayers for their support in making GST a reality.

The CBIC will be issuing certificate of appreciation to 54,439 GST payers for timely filing of returns and cash payment of GST in the last four years. More than 88 per cent of these taxpayers are from micro, small and medium enterprises.

Its positive externalities such as unified market, removal of cascading and improved competitiveness of goods and services has helped spur economic growth taking us further on the path to prosperity," she said while commending both the central and state tax officers for making GST a success.

"Any reform of this scale, in a large and diverse country such as ours, can only be highly challenging. The GST Council has shown immense sagacity and wisdom in redressing legitimate concerns of taxpayers and citizens by course correction whenever needed," Sitharaman added.

BIZ BUZZ

SBI celebrates 66th Bank Day



Bhubaneswar: State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Circle Thursday celebrated its 66th Bank Day across the state. On this occasion, all offices/branches of SBI participated in a plantation drive, felicitating of doctors (Doctor's Day) and donation of dry food items for the needy institutions. SBI Bhubaneswar circle also donated dry ration to Sree Sree Ma Anand Ashram, Damana and Jara Niwas, GGP Colony, Rasulgarh. On this occasion CGM Ruma Dey handed over dry ration kits viz. rice, dal, oil, chuda, and chhatua to Priyabrata Samal, Secretary of Sree Sree Ma Anand Ashram and Sri Ramanath Nayak, Secretary of Jara Niwas in the presence of Abhay Kishore Pandey GM (NW-I) and Bejoy Kumar Kuzur, GM (NW-II) and other officials of SBI. Samal and Nayak admired the bank for their noble work during the pandemic.

PPL donates sanitisers, masks to servitors

Bhubaneswar: Just like 2020, this year the annual Rath Yatra festival is going to be organised in Puri following all the necessary Covid guidelines and protocols. Keeping this in view, Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) donated sanitisers and masks worth ₹1 lakh to Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) that can be used by the servitors from 'Anasara Sebato Niladri Bije'. This will be a great help in checking the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the days of Rath Yatra, Bahuda Yatra and Sunabesha. Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Head of Corporate Affairs handed over the items to Krishan Kumar, Chief Administrator of SJTA at Temple administration office. Ajya Kumar Jena, OSA (SAG), Development Administrator was also present. Kumar thanked PPL management for this noble gesture.



Gross NPAs could rise to 9.8% of total assets by March 2022: RBI

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 1: Banks have strong enough capital and liquidity buffers to withstand future shocks as the impact of the pandemic on their balance sheets has not been as severe as projected earlier, a report from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

The Financial Stability Report is published bi-annually by the RBI on behalf of the Financial Stability and Development Council, an umbrella group of regulators which gives an overview of the health of India's financial system.

The report said banks' gross non-performing assets could rise to 9.8 per cent of total assets by March 2022 from around 7.48 per cent as of the end of March this year under a baseline scenario and to 11.22 per cent under a severe stress scenario.



The projections are much less pessimistic than the report released in January, in which the RBI had said that bad loans could double in a severely stressed scenario.

"Capital and liquidity buffers are reasonably resilient to withstand future shocks, as the stress tests presented in this report demonstrate," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das,

wrote in the foreword to the report. He also said there are new risks which have emerged on the horizon, including potential future waves of the coronavirus pandemic, international commodity prices and inflationary pressures and rising instances of data breaches and cyber attacks.

The report showed that Indian banks, which have been carrying a significant bad loan burden for several years, managed to bring down bad loans to 7.5 per cent in March 2021, compared with 8.5 per cent in March 2020 despite the pandemic-led challenges.

"Unprecedented policy support has contained the impairment of balance sheets of banks in India despite the dent in economic activity brought on by waves of the pandemic," the report said. Lenders also have sufficient capital even under a stress scenario, it stated.

How Covid-fuelled crowdfunding can revive small businesses

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, July 1: A pandemic-fueled boom in crowdfunding has small businesses flocking to capital-raising platforms that experts say could help many companies get back to normal — as long as small-business owners are able to launch effective campaigns.

Regulation crowdfunding, in which companies raise capital from investors via government-monitored online platforms, has mushroomed in the last two years, going from approximately \$100 million in 2019 to over \$200 million in 2020, according to Chris Lustrino, founder and CEO of crowdfunding analytics and ratings firm KingsCrowd. It's already exceeded



the \$200 million mark year to date in 2021, he adds.

"Covid has been a massive boon to this market," Lustrino says. When the pandemic disrupted traditional financing options, more small-business owners began look-

ing for alternative funding sources; that made them more open to the ideas of crowdfunding and of capital as a commodity, he says. More investors got comfortable with crowdfunding during the pandemic, too, he adds.

Three keys to an effective crowdfunding campaign

Crowdfunding may not be a good fit for small-business owners who are strapped for time or energy. Small businesses launching recovery-oriented crowdfunding campaigns should keep three things in mind, according to the experts.

Find a good fit: A small business may have more success on a platform that aligns with its mission and goals. Some crowdfunding platforms cater to businesses in certain industries; others focus on geography or businesses of certain sizes. "Look at how much money

their companies have raised or are raising right now so you can start to get a sense of how big their investor base might be," Lustrino adds.

Don't skip the legal work: "This isn't people just giving money to support someone like they do on Kickstarter and GoFundMe," Neiss says. "This is a highly regulated activity overseen" by the Securities and Exchange Commission and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. "And so you have to file disclosures for investors." Templates

and boilerplate language can go a long way, but have a lawyer review the final documents, he adds.

Promote your campaign: "Campaigns that just go up there without any marketing behind them get zero. They just get zero traction," Neiss says. "The people that put the effort in are the people that see the traction". Targeted social media efforts, email outreach and in-store promotions such as QR codes with campaign information are popular, according to the pros.

"There are so many angel investors and investors in general

out there who had a lot of skepticism about putting (money) into pri-

vate companies online," Lustrino says.



Italy would be high in confidence after an impressive run at the Euro 2020 and they would be keen to carry forward their strong show against Belgium

BELGIUM FACE ITALY THREAT

Munich, July 1: Belgium's leading scorer at the European Championship is no stranger to Italy's veteran defenders. They all play in Serie A.

Romelu Lukaku will likely be the main attacking threat when Belgium takes on Italy in Munich on Friday in the Euro 2020 quarterfinals. The Inter Milan forward has scored three goals in his team's four victories so far.

And with Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard both doubtful for the game, Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini and teammate Leonardo Bonucci — both defenders at Juventus — will know just who to focus on.

"It's a quarterfinal. It will be decided on small details," Belgium midfielder Youri Tielemans said.

"I think one phase can turn the game in our favour, or against us. We have to be concentrated from the first minute and finish strongly. It's going to be very, very tough, very physical."

Belgium, who are trying to win its first major soccer tournament three years after a third-place finish at the World Cup, haven't lost in 13 games and is the top-ranked team in the world.

The Italians haven't been beaten in a national team record 31 matches, though they were taken to extra time by Austria in the round of 16.

"It's a nice challenge to beat them after a run of 31 unbeaten games. I estimate the odds 50-50," said Belgium midfielder Thorgan Hazard, Eden's younger brother and the scorer of the only goal in

the team's 1-0 victory over Portugal in the last round. "It's an advantage that we didn't have to play extra time."

Both teams won all three of their group matches, and with France, Portugal, the Netherlands and Germany all eliminated from Euro 2020, the winner in Munich will certainly be among the favourites for the title.

"We must continue to believe in ourselves," Italy midfielder Jorginho said. "The most serious mistake would be to think that we've already done something great."

Neither De Bruyne nor Eden Hazard's injury worries are new. De Bruyne fractured his nose and eye socket in a collision with Chelsea defender Antonio Rudiger while playing for Manchester City in the

Champions League final, but the latest problem is a bruised left ankle sustained after a tackle from Portugal midfielder Joao Palhinha in the round of 16.

"I don't know if De Bruyne will play in the game, but he's definitely a player who makes the difference, with a higher-than-average football intelligence," said Jorginho, a Chelsea midfielder who plays against De Bruyne in the Premier League.

The injury-prone Hazard was also taken off early against Portugal with a hamstring issue. Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said Monday that both Hazard and De Bruyne were "50-50" for Friday's game.

Belgium has only beaten Italy once before in a competitive game — in the 1972 European Championship quarterfinals.

Pedri indispensable as Spain bid for semis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

St. Petersburg, July 1: Spain is on the charge at a major soccer tournament with a creative and technically gifted Barcelona player calling the shots from central midfield. Sound familiar?

Only 18 and already seemingly indispensable for the national team, Pedri Gonzalez has been given the keys to a midfield that was once the domain of two modern-day greats in Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta.

The comparisons are inevitable — and will only become more widespread if Pedri leads Spain to the European Championship title in the coming days, just as Xavi and Iniesta did in 2008 and 2012 amid a golden era for the country.

Certainly Switzerland need to be on top of Spanish football's new midfield conductor in the first quarterfinal match at Euro 2020 here Friday. That's easier said than done.

Pedri, who plays on the left side of Spain's ball-hogging central-midfield three, is playing in his first major tournament — he only made his senior international debut in March — and is tied for first place for most chances created (10

and has more passes in the opposition half (233) than any other player.

The youngest Spaniard to play at a European Championship, Pedri also became the youngest ever player in a knockout-stage game at the tournament — at 18 years, 215 days — against Croatia in the round of 16.

Perhaps most impressively, he is one of only two outfield players in Spain's squad to have played every minute of their team's games at Euro 2020.

Another European Championship record he holds comes with less distinction. After 20 minutes of the 5-3 extra-time win over Croatia, Pedri sent a back-pass

from near the halfway line to Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon, who failed to control the ball and only succeeded in deflecting it into the goal.

It is the longest own-goal in the tournament's history, yet Pedri shrugged off that misfortune to produce a dominant performance against a highly regarded Croatia midfield led by veteran Luka Modric.

Pedri's technique, vision and ability to maneuver himself into space and find teammates with his astute passing is astonishing given his age. He is coming off his first year at Barcelona, which he joined from Las Palmas in the offseason, and has already played 60 games for his club and his country this season.

Midfield will be an area Spain will look to take charge of against Switzerland, who will be missing captain Granit Xhaka because of suspension.

Xhaka was selected as UEFA's man of the match after Switzerland beat France in a penalty shootout — following a 3-3 draw through extra time — to advance to its first quarterfinal match at a major tournament since the 1954 World Cup.

Switzerland face the tough task of avoiding a natural comedown after one of the biggest wins in its history.



Svitolina overpowered by Linette



ELINA SVITOLINA

Wimbledon, July 1: No.3-seeded Elina Svitolina became the latest upset victim in the Wimbledon women's draw when she lost in the second round Thursday to Magda Linette of Poland, who earned the biggest victory of her career, 6-3, 6-4.

Eight of the top 11 players in the WTA rankings are out of the tournament due to defeat, withdrawal or injury. Linette had 28 winners to just eight for Svitolina, a semifinalist at Wimbledon two years ago. Linette, ranked 44th, had never be-

fore beaten a top-15 player in a completed match.

French Open champion Barbora Krejickova extended her winning streak to 14 matches by beating Andrea Petkovic 7-5, 6-4. Krejickova seeks to become the first woman since Serena Williams in 2015 to win Roland Garros and Wimbledon back to back. A former Wimbledon doubles champion, Krejickova is making her tournament debut in the singles draw.

In men's play, fourth-seeded Alexander Zverev hit 13 aces, lost only 12 points on his serve and advanced to the third round

Sania, Mattek-Sands enter second round

LONDON: Sania Mirza and her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands stunned sixth seeds Desirae Krawczyk and Alexa Guarachi to make the second round of the women's doubles event at the Wimbledon here Thursday. Mirza and Mattek-Sands were a bit rusty at the start but once they got their rhythm, they dominated the match and won 7-5, 6-3 against the American-Chilean combination in one hour and 27 minutes. However, Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan made an early exit after losing their men's doubles first round 6-7 (6-8), 4-6 to Edouard Roger-Vasselin and Henri Kontinen.

by beating Tennyson Sandgren 7-5, 6-2, 6-3. Zverev was the US Open runner-up in 2020 and a semifinalist at last month's French Open, but he has never been past the round of 16 at Wimbledon.

American Shelby Rogers matched her best Wimbledon result by reaching the third round when she beat No.15 Maria Sakkari 7-5, 6-4. No.16 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova swept past Kristyna Pliskova 6-3, 6-3. No.19 Karolina Muchova and No.30 Paula Badosa also advanced.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gill suffers injury

LONDON: India opener batsman Shubman Gill has sustained a serious shin injury which could keep him out of action for at least two months, a BCCI source told PTI Thursday. It is all but certain that Gill is unlikely to feature in the upcoming five-Test series against England starting in Nottingham from August 4. "The injury will keep him out of action for minimum two months, which effectively rules him out of the first three England Tests," the source said on conditions of anonymity. "It will be a race against time to get him fit for the final two Tests after completing rehabilitation," he added. It is understood that the shin injury got aggravated during the WTC final.

Enforced quarantine

ROME: Italy warned England football fans they shouldn't count on being allowed into the Stadio Olimpico for the Euro 2020 quarterfinal match against Ukraine Saturday unless they can prove they have observed five days of quarantine after arriving. The warning, posted on the website of the Italian embassy to Britain, made clear that even if they have tickets, proof of vaccination and negative COVID-19 tests, fans should 'not travel to Italy to attend the match'. It wasn't immediately clear how Italy could enforce the warning, given authorities have never policed quarantine requirements during the pandemic and don't put visitors in quarantine hotels, as some other countries do.

Abhimanyu youngest GM in chess history

NEW DELHI: Indian-American prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra Wednesday became the youngest ever chess Grandmaster after he scored his third GM norm in Budapest, Hungary, according to a report. The 12-year-old from New Jersey in United States became a GM from International Master, having crossed the required 2500 Elo rating barrier, 'chess.com' website said. Mishra broke GM Sergey Karjakin's record that has stood for 19 years. Karjakin secured the Grandmaster title at the age of 12 years and seven months, August 12, 2002. Mishra, born February 5, 2009, took 12 years, four months, and 25 days to obtain the highest title in chess, the website said.

Jhajharia rewrites record for Tokyo Paralympic berth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: India's greatest Paralympian, javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia, rewrote his own world record once again as he punched his ticket for the Tokyo Paralympics during a national selection trial here. The 40-year-old, who has won two gold medals in the men's F-46 category at the Paralympics, sent the spear to a distance of 65.71m during the trial here Wednesday.

With that effort, he not only sealed a spot for the Tokyo Paralympics but also bettered his own world record of 63.97m, set at the Rio Games in 2016.

"Today at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi, I qualified for the Tokyo Paralympics by setting a new world record of 65.71, breaking my older record of 63.97 in a qualifying event. This was possible because of my family's support, and the efforts of my coach Sunil Tanwar and fitness trainer Lakshya Batra," Jhajharia tweeted in Hindi.

The Tokyo Paralympics slated to begin August 24, will be Jhajharia's third Paralympics. He had won a gold at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games, setting a new world record of 62.15 metres.

He then repeated the feat 12 years later at the 2016 Rio edition bettering his own record with a throw of 63.97 metres and becoming the first Indian to clinch two gold medals at the Paralympics.

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