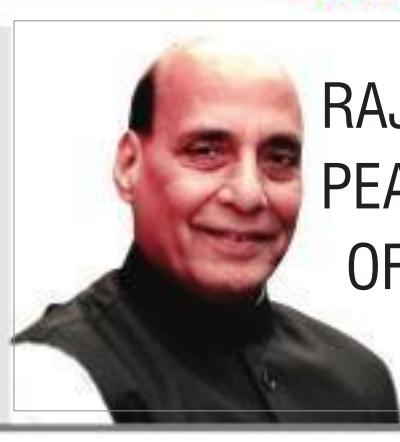




SUU KYI IN DOCK



EU CHIEF GIVES
INITIAL APPROVAL TO
NATIONAL RECOVERY
PLANS



RAJNATH CALLS FOR
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION
OF DISPUTES



'ASHWIN, JADEJA
SHOULD PLAY AT
SOUTHAMPTON'

P6

P10

P4

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky with possibility of very light rain/thundershower. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 37 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 77% Min: 55%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 34.2°C (-5) Min: 26.2°C (-2)

SUN RISES

05:24 hrs SUN SETS

MOON RISES

11:27 hrs MOON SETS

00:32 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Students and travellers completing paperwork before being vaccinated at a dedicated vaccination centre for travellers, in the Capital on Wednesday.

AMARJEET SINGH

Fire breaks out at AIIMS: A fire broke out at an AIIMS hospital building in Delhi on Wednesday night, Delhi Fire Service officials said. In the preliminary report no injury was reported in the fire that broke out on the ninth floor of the hospital's Convergence Block, they said adding that a call about the fire was received at around 10.30 pm after which 22 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Fire-fighting operations were underway and the cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained.

Crash course for frontline workers: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a customised crash course programme for Covid-19 frontline workers on Friday through video conferencing, the Prime Minister's Office said. The launch will commence the programme in 111 training centres spread over 26 states, the PMO said. Modi will launch 'Customized Crash Course programme for COVID-19 Frontline workers' on 18 June at 11 am through video conferencing, it said.

Guj: Two kids among nine killed in car-truck collision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ANAND, 16 JUNE



Two children and seven adults were killed in a road accident after the car collided with a truck near Indranaj village in Gujarat's Anand district on Wednesday morning, police said.

Apart from the two children, who were aged between three and five years, two women also died in the accident, they said.

Police revised down the number of victims of the accident, which took place on a state highway connecting Tarapur (in Anand district) to Vataman (in Ahmedabad district), to nine from 10, which they had previously said.

The bodies of all the victims have been pulled out of the mangled car, officials said.

"The front seat of the car was badly mangled, and we were initially not sure about the number of bodies on the

front seat," DSP Bhartiben Pandya said.

The victims, who have been identified, were from Vartej in Bhavnagar district, she said, adding that they were on their way back home from Maharashtra.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem.

The accident took place on the state highway when the car was hit by a loaded truck which was going from Morbi in Saurashtra towards south Gujarat, said SP, Anand district, Ajit Rajyan.

Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani and Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed grief over the incident.

Modi urges world to invest in India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today invited the world to invest in India based on five pillars of talent as he hailed country's start-up community for bolstering the fight against Covid-19.

"Indian tech-talent pool is famous across the world as the youth have given tech solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems," he pointed out while addressing the Viva Tech summit.

Modi said the challenges the world faced today could only be overcome with a collective spirit and a human centric approach. "For this, I call upon the start-up community, dominated by youngsters, to take the lead. These are people free from the baggage of the past, best placed to power global transformation."

Talking about innovation in the context of Covid-19, the PM noted that digital technology helped India to tackle problems stemming from the pandemic by connecting,

History has shown that leadership in new technology drives economic strength, jobs and prosperity. But our partnerships must also serve a larger purpose, in service of humanity. This pandemic is not only a test of our resilience, but also of our imagination

NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER

comforting and consoling people. "Through digital platforms, we could work, talk with our loved ones, and help others," he said, adding that Aadhar has enabled timely financial support to the poor and providing food to 800 million people, and delivering cooking-fuel subsidies to many households.

Innovation made the fight against pandemic more effective and the role of start-up has been paramount, he said.

He recalled that when the pandemic ravaged the country, testing capacity was nascent, there was shortage of masks, PPE, ventilators

and essential kits. "Our private sector played a key role in addressing this shortage. Our doctors adopted telemedicine in a big way so that some Covid and other non-Covid issues could be addressed virtually," he added.

Modi noted that two vaccines were being made in India and more were in the trial stage. "On the government side, our indigenous IT platform, Arogya Setu enabled effective contact tracing. COWIN digital platform has already helped ensure vaccines to millions. Had we not been innovating, our fight against Covid-19 would have been much weaker," he added.

Modi said India, as an open society and economy, was committed to the international system. "History has shown that leadership in new technology drives economic strength, jobs and prosperity. But our partnerships must also serve a larger purpose, in service of humanity. This pandemic is not only a test of our resilience, but also of our imagination," he added.

their top envoys to Washington and Moscow as relations chilled in recent months.

Russia's ambassador to the US, Anatoly Antonov, was recalled from Washington about three months ago after Biden called Putin a killer; US

Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan left Moscow almost two months ago, after Russia suggested he return to Washington for consultations. Putin said that the ambassadors were expected to return their posts in the coming days.

Biden and Putin plunged into the face-to-face talks Wednesday at a lush lakeside Swiss mansion, a highly anticipated summit at a time when both leaders say relations between their countries are at a low point.

Biden nodded when a reporter asked if Putin could

India reports 62,224 new cases, 2,542 fresh fatalities

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

As single day rise of 62,224 new Covid-19 cases were reported taking India's caseload to 2,96,33,105, while the active cases were recorded below nine lakh after 70 days, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Wednesday. The Covid-19 death toll climbed to 3,79,573 with 2,542 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The active cases further declined to 8,65,432 while the national recovery rate has improved to 95.80 per cent.

The daily positivity rate dropped to 3.22 per cent.

Recoveries continue to outnumber daily new cases for the 34th consecutive day.

The number of people who have recuperated surged to 2,83,88,100, data stated.

Delhi cases: Delhi today recorded 212 fresh coronavirus infections and 12 Covid-linked fatalities while the positivity rate was then 0.32 per cent.

per cent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The city had yesterday reported 228 coronavirus infections and 12 Covid-linked fatalities while the positivity rate was then 0.32 per cent.

SEE P2

*I would rather have an army of Pandavas than that of the Kauravas*

BINOY TAMANG, LEADER, GORKHA JAN MUKTI MORCHA

ON WHAT HE SAID WAS HIS DESIRE FOR A FEW 'FRUITFUL' LEADERS THAN MANY UNPRODUCTIVE ONES

Centre nixes Delhi probe panel into O2-linked deaths: Sisodia

3rd Covid wave preparations: Delhi govt to train 5K youths as 'health assistants', says CM Kejriwal

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia today said the Centre has denied approval to a committee set up by the Delhi government to probe deaths caused by lack of oxygen supply during the second Covid wave and award compensation to families of such deceased in the city.

He urged the Centre not to obstruct the formation of this four-member panel. The Delhi government had sent the file seeking approval for the committee to Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal.

Referring to the severe oxygen crisis in Delhi during the second Covid wave in April-May,

Sisodia said the oxygen supply was diverted to other places. There were also some deaths due to lack of supply of oxygen, he said.

"The Delhi government announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for families of those who lost their lives in incidents (of lack of oxygen supply). Following the directive of the (high) court, the Delhi government constituted a committee of health experts to ascertain what led to these deaths," the deputy CM said.



Twenty-one Covid patients had died at the Jaipur Golden Hospital here in April as the hospital waited for oxygen to be replenished during the second wave.

"It is extremely saddening that the central government committee is unreasonable and without any logic. I would like to request the central government to stop such interference," he added.

Questioning the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre, he said why does it "like to obstruct any good step or work being done by the state governments".

"There have been many incidents of unnecessary interference by the central government," he said, adding that it should not have any issue

with a state government offering compensation to families of Covid patients who lost their lives due to lack of oxygen supply.



ment is not letting this happen," the senior AAP leader alleged.

Appealing to the Centre to stop its "unnecessary intervention and quit their childlike practices", Sisodia said the people of Delhi want the government they elected to work without any obstructions, but the Centre "has continued to act as an objector against the rights of the people".

Meanwhile, CM Arvind Kejriwal said that the Delhi government will train 5,000 youths to assist doctors and nurses as part of preparations for a possible third Covid wave.

Kejriwal announced that his government would train 5,000 youngsters as "health assistants" in the coming weeks as part of its prepara-

third wave of Covid-19. During the past few days, I have visited hospitals and many oxygen plants being installed. Arrangements are also being made for oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders and oxygen storage tanks."

Explaining where these health assistants will be needed, Kejriwal said, "For example, if we create a huge Covid centre, if assistants are appointed along with doctors, then the doctors will be able to work efficiently and patient care will also improve. They will be called for doing their duty when there is a need for them. They will be given their salary according to the number of days they work. Online applications can be filled starting 17 June.

The training programme will start on 28 June in batches of 500.

The first batch of 500 youngsters will be trained for two weeks and after that, another batch of 500 will be trained. A total of 5,000 people will be trained in this manner."

He said youngsters who have passed their class 12 exam are eligible to apply for training.

They should be aged 18 years or more, and their applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

drains and this is likely to inundate Delhi this time again, Bidhuri said, adding 1400 kms of drains on both sides of the road in Delhi are cleaned by PWD and 400 kms of small drains are cleaned by the three Municipal Corporations of Delhi.

The PWD has not undertaken any cleaning of the drains this year whereas the BJP-ruled Municipal Corporations have already cleaned the small drains, claimed Bidhuri, a senior BJP leader.

If big drains are not cleaned and desilted properly, it will invite the outbreak of malaria and dengue and Delhi would not be able to deal with such a situation, the LOP said.

LOP seeks probe into pre-monsoon cleaning of big drains in Delhi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Wednesday urged Lt Gov Anil Baijal to initiate a probe over the cleaning of big drains in the national capital failing which, he claimed, Delhi would again face a flood-like situation.

"Many parts of Delhi would again face flooding and waterlogging due to the failure of Delhi government to clean the big drains and desilt the pre-monsoon," alleged Bidhuri.

The Public Works Department has not undertaken the cleaning and desilting of such

Judo coach held now in wrestler murder case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

area on Tuesday night, police said.

The arrested judo coach is alleged to be one of the main conspirators in the Chhatrasal Stadium murder case, police claimed. With Subhash in custody, the Delhi Police has arrested 11 persons so far in the Sagar Dhankar murder case.

Subhash, a resident of Asuada village in Delhi, is also a physical training (PT) teacher in a government school. It is stated that he is a close associate of Olympian wrestler Sushil Kumar. He was arrested from the Kiradi

health bulletin.

The city had yesterday reported 228 coronavirus infections and 12 Covid-linked fatalities while the positivity rate was then 0.32 per cent.

Today's cases were detected out of 77,891 tests, the health bulletin said.

The national capital's cumulative Covid caseload rose to 14,31,710 now. Its Covid toll mounted to 24,876, the bulletin stated.

The Covid patients who recovered over the last 24 hours in the city numbered 516.

Delhi now had 2,749 active coronavirus cases. The Covid patients being treated under home isolation in the city numbered 781, the bulletin said.

The count of containment zones stood at 6,169, the bulletin added.

There were now 22,316 hospital beds vacant out of a total of 23,953 beds meant for Covid patients in the city.

It also noted the commit-

Delhi: Man kills wife after she objects to his extramarital affair

PTI
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

they said.

A 25-year-old man was arrested here on Wednesday for allegedly killing his wife and in the night, he stabbed her to death with a knife, police said.

After killing her, Vikas made an acquaintance of his call the police control room (PCR). He stated that a thief entered his house in south Delhi's Ranholi area and killed his wife, they said.

On reaching the spot, police found stab injuries to the woman's neck. Her body was on a bed, police said.

They said a case of murder

was registered. When Vikas was questioned, he initially said that the thief had entered the house and escaped from one of the upper floors after killing his wife, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Parvinder Singh said.

"During the course of investigation, it was revealed that at that time Priyanka and Vikas were sleeping in the same room with their newborn. The version narrated by Vikas was, however, not found to be convincing. The spot was carefully examined, which

revealed that neither the main gate nor the other doors of the house were tampered from outside," he said.

When Vikas was questioned about minor injuries on his body, he could not give any satisfactory explanation and after sustained interrogation, Vikas revealed that he had killed his wife as she used to frequently object to his extramarital affair, Singh said.

He also had differences with his wife over taking care of the baby, the officer said.

"On Tuesday, Vikas had an argument with his wife and to teach her a lesson, he bought a cutter knife blade and stabbed her during the night. Thereafter, in order to save himself, he cooked up a false story and got a person known to him make a PCR call that some thief entered his house and murdered his wife," the DCP said.

Vikas, who previously worked as a cab driver, was not found involved in any other case, police said, adding the knife was recovered on his instance.

NGT seeks panel report on environmental violations by Wave City project

PTI
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

The National Green Tribunal Wednesday directed a committee to file a report regarding illegal cutting of trees, violation of Environmental Clearance (EC) conditions and illegal extraction of the groundwater by a real estate developer in Ghaziabad and Noida.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel passed the order after taking note that the committee formed to report the violations has not been able to make an assessment of the environmental compensation on the ground that data is awaited from the realty developer.

It also noted the commit-

tee's submission that it would make the assessment within two months of receiving the data.

"We find that the approach adopted by the Committee in deferring the matter till the project proponent gives data to be unsound. If the project proponent is avoiding giving data, there should be no difficulty in drawing adverse inference based on 'best judgement assessment', based on inferences from the circumstances.

"Indicative scale of compensation already stands approved by this Tribunal on the basis of expert Committee report. We also find that with regard to illegal cutting of trees the Forest Department has merely imposed some fine," the bench said.

The tribunal had formed a joint committee comprising officials from the Central Pollution Control Board, Member Secretary, State Level Environment Impact Assessment

Authority, UP state pollution control board, Central Ground Water Authority and Ghaziabad District Magistrate.

The tribunal said that neither prosecution has been initiated, as required, nor adequate compensation recovered on the principle of restitution, based on value of the ecological services forgone forever.

"Accordingly, we direct the joint Committee, in coordination with any other expert/institution to take/recommend further remedial action. The statutory authorities may exercise their jurisdiction in the matter to comply with the rule of law and file a compliance report before the next date by e-mail," the bench said.

The matter is posted for further consideration on September 23.

The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by UP resident Mahakar Singh alleging illegal cutting of trees, extraction of groundwater and construction without the EC for the project of Wave City at Ghaziabad and High Tech City at Noida by real estate developers.

The total project area of Uppal Chadha Hi-Tech Developers Pvt Ltd (Wave Hi-Tech Township) is covered 4,494.31 acres in three phases.

"The first phase of project area having an area 1,671 acres, comprised of sector 1 to 7, which is covered only in Ghaziabad district.

CoWIN app," said Atishi.

"The present stock of Covaxin will last for 6 days, and Covishield for 11 days," she added.

For vaccine stock available for people aged 45 and above, as on June 16, she said, 7,64,000 were available, out of which Covaxin would last for 7 days and Covishield for 42 days.

On Tuesday, 53,247 people were vaccinated against COVID-19 in the city, of whom 28,584 got the first dose and 24,663 the second dose.

So far, 62,04,209 people have been given the vaccine doses, including 14,48,000 who have got both doses, in the city, according to official data.

The Statesman

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Sisodia reviews pilot project by school students

PTI
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

A total of 41 students of School of Excellence are being mentored by 11 MBA students of Delhi Technological University (DTU).

logical University (DTU). Seven



Uncleji going to Delhi on 15th June he says... Do us a favour WB Governor Sahib ~ don't come back

TMC MP MAHUA MOITRA
AS GOVERNOR VISITS DELHI

The Statesman

03

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2021

Covid: 4.38L in HP get fully vaccinated

Cong however slams BJP-led HP govt over vax policy, especially with regard to youths

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 16 JUNE

As many as 4,38,461 persons have been completely vaccinated against Covid-19 in Himachal Pradesh till date after taking the 2nd dose of the Covid vaccine ~ Covishield in the case of the hill state so far ~ a state health department official said on Wednesday.

The official said as many as 9,83,580 persons above 45 years of age and 7,36,647 persons above 60 years of age have received the 1st dose of Covishield vaccine in the state.

"In view of the possible third wave of Covid-19 in the country, all the people who are due for their 2nd dose of vaccination should come forward and get themselves vaccinated as early as possible.

These people should come forward for their vaccination as per the due dates at the nearest vaccination centre and get their appointment booked on site on the specified days," he added.

He said that the state government had decided to administer second dose of Covishield vaccine to people after completion of 12 to 16 weeks since their first dose.

The decision had been taken as per the recommendations of the National Expert group on vaccine administration for Covid-19 (NEGVC) and the schedule to administer the 2nd dose at 12-16



weeks (i.e. 84 days) interval after administration of 1st dose," he said.

The official also said that the people who want to go for international travel for genuine reasons like education purposes or employment opportunities or as part of India's contingent for Tokyo Olympic Games etc can get 2nd dose of their Covishield vaccine after 28 days of the first dose.

"As per NEGVC guidelines, permission for such administration of second dose of Covishield would be given by concerned Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) in the state only after checking whether a period of 28 days has elapsed after the date of first dose.

The genuineness of the purpose of travel based on documents related to whether a

person is already studying in a foreign educational institution and has to return to that institution for continuing education, interview calls for a job, offer letters for taking up employment or nomination to participate in the Tokyo Olympic games will also be decided by CMOs," he said.

He added that the guidelines in this respect had already been issued to districts and the Co-WIN system is now providing facility for booking schedules of 2nd dose to those who have taken their first dose in such exceptional cases after 28 days of the 1st dose. Such an arrangement would not only help students who have to travel abroad but also other people like seafarers, merchant navy etc, he added.

Meanwhile, the HP Congress accused the BJP-led

state government of misleading youths on vaccination campaign in the state and said the government was issuing "contradictory statements" on vaccination of persons in the 18 to 44 years age group.

The HP Congress's media department chairman Harshwardhan Chauhan said one day the government made an announcement for onsite registration for vaccination for persons in the 18-44 years age group and then retracted it the next day.

He accused the state government of not having any vaccination policy of its own and said it was following the directions of the Union government without giving thoughts to its merits and demerits.

"The vaccination of persons in the 18-44 years age group has become a tough task as the youth aren't able to schedule appointments for Covid vaccine. This resulted in youth from other states getting Covid jab in the state while our youth kept on their struggle for online registration," he charged. He said that the state government had failed to handle the Covid pandemic situation effectively, which resulted in the death of over 3,400 persons in the state. He urged the state government to carry out onsite registration and vaccination of persons in remote areas and tough terrains of the state so that vaccination campaign could be completed at the earliest.

Accused arms supplier Sonu Panwar alias Baba Khan was arrested from Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, police said, adding he has also been found previously involved in a 2009 case of attempt to murder registered

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 16 JUNE

Himachal Pradesh Police have arrested 22 persons in 16 cases of illegal trade of wild animal parts and skin in the state since January 2021.

HP Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said in its pursuit of protection of wildlife in Himachal, the police was keeping a continuous vigil and taking strict action against perpetrators of wildlife crimes.

"Since January 2021, the police have arrested a total of 22 persons under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and several sections of the IPC.



They were found involved in 16 different cases of unlawfully detaining, killing and smuggling of wild animal skins and other parts of different kinds including leopards, sambar, cobras and lizards etc," he added.

Kundu said that police on 15 June had recovered and seized one more skin of an adult leopard in Solan and arrested the accused red-handed before he could reach the inter-state barrier near Parwanoo.

During interrogation, the accused identified as Rajender Singh revealed that he was going to smuggle the skin out of state with the skin concealed in his bag.

The police officials were now interrogating him to identify the buyer to whom the accused was trying to sell leopard skin, he stated.

Kundu further stated that on 6 June, Shimla Police had recovered and seized three leopard skins, teeth and nails from a shop in New Shimla and arrested three accused. Besides, police officials had also recovered three leopard skins in Dehra in Kangra district on 17 February, he added.

Delhi Police arrest man from UP for supplying arms to a gang

PTI
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

at Kotwali police station in the state.

Last week, Delhi Police had arrested three men, identified as Rizwan (28), Shamshad (29) and Nasir (20), all residents of Loni in Ghaziabad, from Garhmukteshwar in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly supplying illegal firearms to members of a gang, police said on Wednesday.

The arrest follows after three members of the Santro gang were apprehended for their alleged involvement in series of crimes, including robbery-cum-murder, committed within a span of a few hours in a night in the national capital, they said.

According to the police, they arrested Panwar based on the disclosure made by Rizwan during interrogation. He had told them that he had purchased his pistol from a man based in Ahera village of Baghpat district in UP for Rs 45,000.

Rizwan also disclosed that after committing the crime, he returned the pistol to the arms supplier and asked him to replace it as it was having some error while firing, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest Delhi) Usha Rangnani said a team of special staff was constituted which traced the arms supplier through local intelligence. Thereafter, a trap was laid in Ahera village of Baghpat district and subsequently, the accused arms supplier identified as Sonu Panwar was nabbed on Tuesday.

The accused confessed that he had supplied the firearm to Rizwan for a sum of Rs 45,000 and a few days back, Rizwan had returned the same to him saying that

there was some error while firing from the pistol. The firearm used by Rizwan during the (robbery) incidents was also recovered from his possession.

The Santro gang members were involved in series of crimes in a single night, including robbery-cum-murder of a truck driver, in Punjab Bagh area during the intervening night of June 7-8. The same night, the gang also committed one more robbery at gunpoint and attempted two more in different areas across the city, according to the police.

The stolen vehicle used in the commission of the crime has already been recovered from the gang members in burnt condition, the police said.

NSCA seeks hike in IT slab for SCs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 16 JUNE



The National Scheduled Castes Alliance (NSCA) on Wednesday urged the Centre to immediately enhance the Income-Tax exemption slabs for Scheduled Castes (SC) in the country—from the present Rs 2.5 lakh per annum to Rs 8 lakh per annum—keeping in view their plight.

NSCA president Paramjit Singh Kainth, in a statement, said prices of all essential commodities have risen sharply and hence the tax slab must be connected to the price index, so that persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes get relief.

"The ever-increasing prices are pushing the Scheduled Castes towards the poverty line," Kainth said.

On the fixation of criteria in this connection, Kainth further demanded that this

must be connected to the price index so that the scheduled castes will get a relief over this front.

He said that due to the ever-increasing prices the people belonging to the scheduled castes are pushed towards the poverty line so it is the Constitutional duty of the Central government to help them out by increasing the IT slab.

Another farmer dies by suicide at protest site

PTI
CHANDIGARH, 16 JUNE

ople slept on mats outside on Tuesday night, Pala Ram went to sleep in a tent erected at the site and consumed poison," Singh said. Pala Ram used to serve food and tea to the protesting farmers at the toll plaza for the past few months.

Farmers at the protest site told the police that he seemed dejected for the past few days as the demands of the peasants agitating against the farm laws for over six months now had not been met.

A few cases of suicide by farmers have been reported during the agitation. In December last year, a Sikh preacher had also allegedly ended his life near the Singhu border protest site, claiming that he was "unable to bear the pain of the farmers".

A lawyer from Punjab had allegedly killed himself by consuming poison near the protest site at the Tikri border.

"While two to three people

Ensure one vet hosp in each dist for injured cows: Khattar to dept

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 16 JUNE

Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, on Wednesday directed the animal husbandry and dairying department to arrange one hospital each in all the districts across the state for the timely treatment and care of desitute cows injured in road accidents. Presiding over the review meeting of the Haryana Gau Sewa Aayog held today, the CM said timely treatment of every injured cow should be ensured

in these hospitals.

While directing the officers concerned, Khattar said dedicated medical arrangements should be made for the treatment of the cows in at least one veterinary hospital at the district level as well.

There should be a system to keep at least 50 cows in these hospitals and if any hospital is not able to make such an arrangement then an arrangement of a temporary hospital should also be established in a nearby cowshed and the arrangement for giving med-

ical treatment should be made under the supervision of a government veterinarian, the CM directed.

While reviewing the various works and new projects of Haryana Gau Sewa Aayog, the CM directed the officers of animal husbandry and dairying department that the grant which is to be released to Gaushalas (cow shelter homes) should be given on the recommendation of the Aayog.

Haryana Gau Sewa Aayog is working with a dedicated spirit for the welfare of the cows, he added.

Talking about making the gaushalas self-reliant, the CM also directed the officers to prepare an action plan for increasing the income of gaushalas.

He also directed to prepare a plan to integrate Gaushalas with natural farming.

Haryana Gau Sewa Aayog chairman, Sarvan Kumar Garg informed that solar plants have been installed in 331 gaushalas of the state and the process of setting up solar plants in 229 gaushalas is in progress.



HC asks Delhi govt to reply to plea against decision to limit non-PDS beneficiaries

PTI
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

The Delhi High Court Wednesday sought response of the Delhi government on a plea challenging its non-PDS guidelines putting an arbitrary limit of 20 lakh beneficiaries for providing them dry ration.

A vacation bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Asha Menon issued notice to the Delhi government and Centre on an application filed by NGO Delhi Rozi Roti Adhikar Abhiyan which said food grains be given to all the needy persons.

The application has also sought direction to the AAP government to modify the May 27 guidelines to the extent that it should not be a mere one time relief measure and that the beneficiaries may receive dry ration (food grains) for every calendar month until further orders.

The petitioner's counsel said the Delhi government has stopped distributing dry ration to non-PDS beneficiaries at several centres.

The impugned guidelines (of May 27) have put an arbitrary limit of 20 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme. This limit of 20 lakh appears



600 दिन सरकार के प्रगति और विस्तार के

Govt. of Haryana

“Our Government has defined the development and social welfare in the second year of its tenure, as a result, the public welfare schemes are reaching the eligible person. Along with inclusive development, the Government has given new dimensions to Svavlamban, Svabhiman, Suraksha, Svamitva, Sanrakshan, Svayata, Shiksha and Samadhaan. Upholding the spirit of Antyodaya, we have always taken care of every section of the state. These efforts will be continued in the future as well to make Haryana the best state of the nation.”

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Sushasan se Parinaam <p>One time registration for Government jobs, Intergration of 100 schemes and services with the Parivar Pechn Patra portal, 'Operation Shudhi' in the Transport Department, Redressal of complaints through CM window, NDC Portal to obtain land-related no-due certificate, Resolution of disputes related to arrears of VAT, GST, Transport taxes, Mining and stamp duty etc. with various departments and boards</p>	New dimensions of Svabhiman <p>Mukhya Mantri Antyodaya Parivar Utthan, Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana, Procurement of Maximum 11 Crops on MSP, Meri Fasal Mera Byora, e-Kharid Portal, Meri Pani Meri Virasat, Har-Hit Retail Store, Bhavantar Bharphayee Yojana, Promotion of horticulture commercial crops, Welfare schemes for SC/ST, Social Security Pension, Incentives to Divyang etc.</p>	Shiksha for Better future <p>Aim to implement the New Education Policy by the year 2025, Shiksha Setu App during Covid-19, Online education through Edusat and Sampark Baithak mobile application, Tele-counselling for children and parents, Coaching facility under Super-100 programme, Free passport to students , Digital Library/e-Granth Kosh</p>
Sanrakshan <p>Restructuring of CADA to MICADA, Ground water and environment conservation schemes, Encouragement to sprinkler plant system, 'Oxy-Van' Panchkula and Karnal, Improvement in sex ratio</p>	Right of Svamitva <p>Haryana is the first state to implement 'Lal Dora' Mukt Yojana, Enabling the ownership of urban property for small shopkeepers</p>	New definition of Svavlamban <p>Efforts for Skill development of youth, various vocational and industrial training opportunities, employment opportunities, Expansion of industries, Facilities to traders</p>
Better Health Facilities <p>Adopted the policy of test-track-trace-treat, Setting up of covid care centres equipped with oxygen beds, Covid Sanjeevani hospitals are functional, Free covid vaccination, Health and financial package implemented for covid affected patients</p>	Ensuring Suraksha <p>Narcotic Control Bureau, Student Transport Safety Scheme, Digital Testing and Technical Analysis Centre in Haryana</p>	Opportunities of Svayata <p>Formation of inter-district council, Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority, Formation of Haryana Smart Gram Pradhikaran, Reservation to women in panchayats, Formation of new municipal corporations, Councils and municipalities, Increase in financial resources of urban local bodies and panchayats.</p>



A view of Qutub Minar that reopened for public during unlocking process in New Delhi, on Wednesday.

AGENCIES

Sudhakaran takes charge as KPCC chief: Senior Congress leader and Kannur MP K Sudhakaran took charge as new president of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee at a function held at the state Congress headquarters, Indira Bhavan, in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

SNS

Actor Chandrashekhar passes away: Actor Chandrashekhar, best known for featuring in *Chha Chha*, and *Surang*, and playing the role of Arya Sumant on TV serial *Ramayan*, passed away on Wednesday due to age-related ailments. He was 98.

PTI

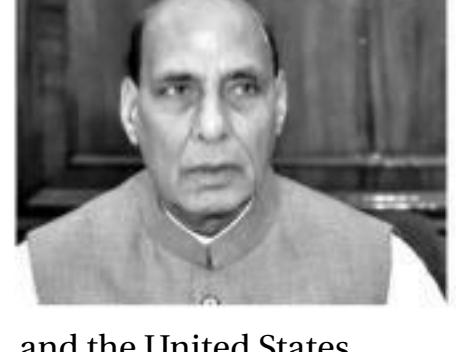
MeToo case: Self-styled godman Shiva Shankar Baba, wanted in a sexual harassment case, was arrested in Ghaziabad near Delhi by a CB-CID team from Chennai. This is the fourth such arrest by Tamil Nadu Police in connection with the MeToo allegations by school children in the state.

SNS

Rajnath calls for peaceful resolution of disputes, freedom of navigation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE



Amid the ongoing Sino-Indian tension over the military stand-off in Eastern Ladakh, defence minister Rajnath Singh today called for peaceful resolutions of disputes through dialogue and adherence to international laws and freedom of navigation in international waters, including the South China Sea.

Addressing the 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus via video-conferencing, he also called for an open and inclusive order in Indo-Pacific based upon respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations.

The ADMM Plus is an annual meeting of defence ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries and eight dialogue partners - Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia

and the United States.

Noting that the developments in the South China Sea have attracted attention in the region and beyond, Singh strongly supported freedom of navigation, overflight, and unimpeded commerce in international waters, including the disputed South China Sea.

He said maritime security challenges were an area of concern to India and hoped the Code of Conduct negotiations regarding the South China Sea would lead to outcomes that were in keeping with international law.

"India has strengthened its

cooperative engagements in the Indo-Pacific based on converging visions and values for promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. Premised upon the centrality of ASEAN, India supports the utilisation of ASEAN-led mechanisms as important platforms for the implementation of our shared vision for the Indo-Pacific," he added. He also emphasised that the sea lanes of communication were critical for peace, stability, prosperity and development of the Indo-Pacific region.

Terming terrorism and radicalisation as the "gravest threats" to peace and security, the minister said India remained committed to combating financing terrorism as a member of the Financial Action Task Force. India shares global concerns about terrorism and believes only through collective cooperation can terror organisations and their networks be fully disrupted, he said.

"India has strengthened its

WORD OF CAUTION



Vehicles move through waterlogged road after heavy rainfall at Hindmata area in Mumbai on Wednesday.

AGENCIES

'Sasikala's 'audio politics' won't work with AIADMK cadres'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHENNAI, 16 JUNE

In yet another leaked audio clip, expelled AIADMK general secretary VK Sasikala said party coordinator O Panneerselvam had resigned 'voluntarily' as chief minister in February 2017 and she would have made him the CM of Tamil Nadu had he not started 'dharma yudham' against her.

Responding to the continued leak of audio clips where Sasikala has been interacting with AIADMK functionaries, party spokesperson DJayakumar on Wednesday asserted that the 'audio politics' of Sasikala won't work with the party cadres as they are fully vigilant about her designs.

He said party cadres won't fall prey to her 'divide and rule' tactics, even as Sasikala continued her interaction with them on Wednesday. So far, she has spoken to around 60 functional members.

In a latest audio clip, in response to observations of her supporter Sivanesan of Theni, who was heard telling her 'If Ayya (Panneerselvam)

Despite getting bail, Delhi student activists to remain in jail as trial court defers release order

PTI

NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

had not quit then, he would even have prevented you out from undertaking 'vana vasam' (her going to a Bengaluru jail to serve four-year sentence)", Sasikala said. "Had he not done that, I would have retained him (as chief minister)."

She said she will 'come soon and set the party straight.'

The latest clip emerged a day after the AIADMK headed

by Panneerselvam and former CM Edappadi K Palaniswami sacked 15 people she spoke with recently.

"Other elections are coming up. We have to win and protect J Jayalalithaa's legacy. I am pain that party workers are expelled when we are in Opposition," she is heard saying.

"I have a responsibility. I am confident that I will be able to set the party straight. My wish is that the AIADMK should be strong even if it turns 100 years. We'll definitely bring Amma rule. I'll meet all of you soon," she added.

"The AIADMK regime could have retained power had they cooperated and heeded to her call for unity," Sasikala said.

from prison.

During the course of proceedings, the Delhi police sought more time from the court to verify their addresses, sureties and authenticity of the Aadhaar cards before releasing them on bail and said that three days would be required to complete the verification process.

Advocate Adit Pujari, representing the accused, objected to it and alleged that the police was intentionally delaying their release despite the order of the high court.

You are keeping them in illegal custody. I have been granted bail and 24 hours have passed since then, he said.

The high court on Tuesday granted bail to Narwal, Kalita and Jamia Millia Islamia stu-

dents Tanha, who were arrested in May last year, and directed them to furnish a personal bond of Rs 50,000 each along with two sureties of the like amount.

The Delhi Police has moved the Supreme Court challenging the high court judgement granting them bail in the case.

The three student activists were accused of being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 violence, which had left 53 people dead and hundreds injured.

They were arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

After securing bail in the case, Kalita and Narwal moved the trial court seeking their immediate release from jail.

PNB scam: Chargesheet against ex-officials of Gitanjali Group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

The CBI has filed a chargesheet against the former international head of the Gitanjali Group of Companies, Sunil Verma, and others in con-

nection with an alleged fraud in the PNB involving an amount of over Rs 7,080 crore, in which the promoter of the group, Mehl Choksi, is wanted by the agency, officials said on Wednesday.

Two officials of the Punjab

Our party as a peace loving party will continue to fight the battle for the restoration of our rights constitutionally, peacefully.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEADER OMAR ABDULLAH

HITTING OUT AT BUREAUCRACY FOR MISTREATING CITIZENS

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ndia



Karnataka govt doing well under BSY: Arun

Says BJP is united; makes no direct statement on leadership change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU, 16 JUNE



BJP's national general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Arun Singh on Wednesday said the party's state unit was united and the government here was doing a good job under chief minister B S Yediyurappa's leadership. There are no differences of any kind, he said.

Singh, who began his three-day visit to the state, amid speculation in some quarters about replacing Yediyurappa, did not wish to make any direct statement on the leadership change stating that he has already spoken on the issue.

On his arrival in the city, he asked party legislators not to make any media statements and speak to the leadership individually if they have any concerns.

"Work in your constituency, work for your people and take the party forward," Singh told legislators, as he asserted that good work was going on under Yediyurappa's leadership.

To a question on leadership change, he maintained: "I have said what has to be said on this several times, there is no use of asking it again and again."

Singh had recently ruled out replacing the chief minister, while asserting that Yediyurappa will continue in the top post.

Speculation has been rife for some time now that a section of the ruling BJP is trying to push for unseating

vice is organisation) programme under which our workers during Covid, without caring for their lives, have done 11 kinds of seva (service) at the ground level, and see how we can take it forward," Singh said.

Also work on tree plantation drive that the party will take up, programme against the use of single-use plastic, preparation for International Yoga Day, and other future activities of the party will be reviewed, he said.

Slamming the Opposition, the BJP leader alleged that the Congress was only involved in levelling allegations and took a dig at the JD(S), saying it was in quarantine during the pandemic.

Cong takes a dig at Singh over his visit:

The Congress on Wednesday took a dig at Arun Singh over his visit to the state, claiming that instead of serving the people, he was coming to resolve bickering within the ruling party.

The party in Karnataka tweeted ahead of Singh's visit: "Dear Arun Singh, you are rushing here to hold a 'Platform Panchayat meeting,' but don't you have the time to address the grievances of people?

From the day one of coming to power, this government has been making news about squabbling and not any achievements."

The Opposition party alleged that the BJP's internal strife has hit a climax at a time when the state was facing serious problems.

Some want CM replaced: Eshwarappa



BENGALURU, 16 JUNE

Six Maoists killed in gun-battle with security forces in Vizag

HYDERABAD, 16 JUNE

The Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Kalpetta, on Wednesday ordered a case be registered against BJP Kerala president K Surendran on the allegation of giving a bribe of Rs 50 lakh to CK Janu, a tribal leader and president of Janadhipathyam Rashtriya Party (JRP), a constituent of the National Democratic Alliance, during the recent Assembly elections.

The incident took place at Theegalametta forest areas under Mampa police station limits of Koyyuru mandal in Vizag agency. The state's anti-Maoists forces launched a combing operation after receiving a tip-off. The Maoists had fired on the security forces following which there was a heavy exchange of fire. A search operation was underway in the dense forest area and six bodies were recovered. Weapons have been recovered from the encounter site, according to a statement from the state DGP.

According to the police, an AK-47, a SLR, a carbine, three 303 rifles and one country pistol were also recovered from the spot. Superintendent of police B Krishna Rao said some of the Maoists who got away have suffered injuries during the encounter.

Meanwhile, additional forces have been rushed in and the security forces are continuing their search operations. No casualties were reported from Greyhound personnel. This is one of the biggest encounters in recent times in the Vizag agency area.

Court orders probe against Kerala BJP president Surendran in bribery case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 16 JUNE

The court also issued a directive to Station House Officer, Sultan Bathery police station, to investigate the allegations. The court ordered that a case be registered under various sections of the IPC.

The order came in a petition filed by Muslim Students Federation state president PK Navas. Navas, alleged that Surendran had bribed Janu on two occasions to contest in the recent Assembly election as the NDA candidate in Sultan Bathery Assembly constituency.

TENDER

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (ELECT., PLUMB., AIR COND.)

Room No. 219, 11th Floor, Zonal Office Building

Dhansara Stand, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer (Electrical), Najafgarh Zone on behalf of the Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation invites online dual bids for the open tender on item rate basis from the infrastructure providers/specialized firms for the following work NIT No EE/Electrical/Najafgarh Zone/2021-22/02, Date- 16.06.2021.

Name of Work:- Proposal for laying Structure Overhead/ Aerial Optic Fiber Cable using the Street lighting poles under SDMC jurisdiction.. Earnest Money: Rs. 0/-, Time of Completion: Under 1 Year from the date of payment, Publish Date: 16.06.2021 at 13:00 hrs, Document Download/Sale Start: 16.06.2021 at 13:00 hrs, Bid Submission start date: 16.06.2021 at 13:00 hrs, Pre-bid Meeting: 23.06.2021 at 14:00 hrs, Document Download / Sale End Date: 07.07.2021 at 14:00, Bid Submission closing date: 07.07.2021 at 14:00 hrs, Bid opening date: 08.07.2021 at 14:00 hrs

Any corrigendum, if required, shall be uploaded online. Press publicity of the same may not be undertaken. It is advised to the intending bidder to keep a track of the same online regularly for any update. All details are available on: www.etenders.gov.in

EE/NGZ

Himachal Pradesh Jai Shakti Vibhag

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On line item rated bids are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jai Shakti Division Padhar on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work form the contractors/ Firms of appropriate class registered with any department/ Government undertaking as per his/her enlistment is allowed with the condition he has got himself registered in appropriate class with Jai Shakti Vibhag before award of work.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Cost of tender form	Time
1.	Restoration of rain damages to WSS Padhar in Tehsil Padhar Distt. Mandi (HP). Sh- C/o Glass fused storage tank of 100,000 ltrs capacity at Padhar.	19,19,00/-	40,000/-	400/-	Three Month

1. Last date of filling/ uploading the tender is 21.06.2021 upto 5.00PM which shall be opened on dated 22.06.2021 at 11.30AM.

2. Tender Documents and other detail instruction can be downloaded or view online from the portal <http://htptenders.gov.in> by the firm/ individual.

1552/2021-2022



India needs quick and complete vaccination~ not BJP's usual brand of lies and rhyming slogans to cover-up vaccine shortage caused by Centre's inaction

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2021
ACCUSING MODI GOVT FOR COVERING UP VACCINE SHORTAGE

The Statesman

05

THUMBNAILS



Traffic jam on Vikas Marg after further ease in lockdown restrictions, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. PTI

Taj Mahal reopens: A 40-year-old woman from Brazil was one of the early tourists to step inside the Taj Mahal premises as the monument reopened on Wednesday after being closed for around two months due to the Covid. Melissa Dalla Rosa said that it was a "special moment for her to see the Taj Mahal during sunrise and being totally alone at the wonderful place". PTI

Ajanta & Ellora to reopen: With the improvement in the Covid situation, world heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora Caves along with three other historical monuments in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra will reopen for tourists from Thursday after remaining shut for more than three months, an official said on Wednesday. PTI

Two die after consuming surgical spirit: Two persons died and two were in serious condition on Wednesday after they allegedly consumed surgical spirit procured from a private hospital at Pathanapuram in Kollam, police said. Police said Muruganandan and Prasad died at a hospital where they were admitted after they consumed the spirit. PTI

Wild elephant rescued: A wild elephant that had fallen into an open well in a tribal settlement under Neriamangalam forest limit was rescued on Wednesday, Forest officials said. The incident was reported from Pinavarkudy tribal settlement under Valara forest station this morning. PTI

Lion dies of Covid in TN: Another lion at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Vandalur, Chennai, succumbed to SARS-CoV-2 on Wednesday. Confirming the death of the Asiatic male lion named Pathbhanathan, aged 12 years. PTI

Shankaracharya demands dissolving Ram Temple trust

BHOPAL, 16 JUNE

Dwarka Sharda Peeth and Jyotish Shanakaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati has accused the members of the Ram Temple Trust of being politically bent and demanded that the trust be dissolved.

Swaroopanand Saraswati told some media persons at Jhoteswar in Narsinghpur district of Madhya Pradesh that the accusations of financial corruption and money laundering in the Ram Temple have surfaced because the members of the trust were politically motivated and inclined towards the RSS and the BJP.

The seer demanded that the trust be dissolved and its responsibility be handed over to a body consisting of the Shankaracharyas of all the four peeths, the heads of Akhadas and other seers.

The Shankaracharya said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi must remove the current members of the trust and a new one should be constituted. Swaroopanand Saraswati also reiterated his earlier statement that the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Ram Temple was done on an inauspicious date and time and due to that all such accusations are being faced. SNS

Chirag attacks JD(U) for split in LJP

Describes himself as 'sher ka beta,' asserts he will fight for the cause of the party founded by his father Ram Vilas Paswan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE



Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Paswan on Wednesday blamed Janata Dal (United) for engineering the split in his party and rejected the decisions taken by the faction headed by his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras, saying the party's constitution does not authorise them any such power.

In his first interaction with media after the split in the party, he struck a combative note by describing himself as "sher ka beta" (lion's son) and asserted that he will fight for the cause of the party founded by his father Ram Vilas Paswan.

While blaming the JD(U) for the split, he steered clear of questions regarding the role of the BJP in the development and added that what has happened is also an internal matter of his party for which he will not target others. He, however, replied wryly, when asked if "Hanuman" who is in trouble now will seek help from Ram, then what good is Hanuman and what good is Ram," he said in Hindi.

It is going to be a long battle, Paswan said, as the group headed by him fights the faction of five other party MPs, led by Paras, to claim ownership of the LJP.

The JD(U), he alleged, had been working to cause a split in the party even when his father was alive. Targeting the party, he said it has always worked to divide Dalits and weaken its leaders. The LJP draws its support from Paswans, the largest Dalit caste in Bihar.

"A conspiracy was hatched behind my back while I was ill," Paswan said. He had recently suffered from typhoid.

The 38-year-old MP from Jamui expressed determination to take on the rival group

Review decision to recognise Paras as LJP leader: Paswan to LS Speaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Paswan has contested Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's decision to name Pashupati Kumar Paras MP as Leader of LJP party in the Lok Sabha is contrary to provision of Constitution of our party," he wrote.

Paswan's paternal uncle Paras has been elected as their leader by the five of party's six MPs in place of him.

Both factions have now moved to control the party and project their group as the real LJP, founded by Paswan's father Ram Vilas Paswan.

While the wing led by Chirag Paswan has expelled the five MPs from the party, the rival group has removed him as its president.

while also taking swipe at his paternal uncle without using any strong words to attack him.

"I did not feel orphaned when my father died last year. I do feel now," he said, adding that he had expected his uncle to play the role of the family's patriarch but was instead

Parliamentary Board of the party to decide who would be Leader of our Party in Lok Sabha, hence, the decision of announcing Sh. Pashupati Kumar Paras MP as Leader of LJP party in the Lok Sabha is contrary to provision of Constitution of our party," he wrote.

Paswan's paternal uncle Paras has been elected as their leader by the five of party's six MPs in place of him.

Both factions have now moved to control the party and project their group as the real LJP, founded by Paswan's father Ram Vilas Paswan.

While the wing led by Chirag Paswan has expelled the five MPs from the party, the rival group has removed him as its president.

Paswan has also contested Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's decision to name Paras as the leader of the party in the House, saying it is "contrary" to the constitutional provisions of his organisation.

In a letter written on Tuesday, Paswan also informed

birla of the party's decision to expel five MPs, who have joined hands against him, and urged the Speaker to review the earlier decision and issue a new circular naming him as the LJP leader in the Lok Sabha.

"Since Article 26 of the Constitution of Lok Jan Shakti Party empowers Central Parliamentary Board of the party to decide who would be Leader of our Party in Lok Sabha, hence, the decision of announcing Sh. Pashupati Kumar Paras MP as Leader of LJP party in the Lok Sabha is contrary to provision of Constitution of our party," he wrote.

"All decisions they have taken are in contravention of the party's constitution," he said, accompanied by a number of senior party leaders.

Though the LJP played the role of spoiler for the JD(U) in the assembly polls in over 35 seats, it itself won only one seat and the lone MLA later defected to Kumar's party.

Paswan, however, asserted that the polls were a "big win" for his party as it got nearly six per cent votes.

Paswan has also contested Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's decision to name Paras as the leader of the party in the House, saying it is "contrary" to the constitutional provisions of his organisation.

In a letter written on Tuesday, Paswan also informed

Guj govt gives 'clean chit' to Patil for distributing Remdesivir



AHMEDABAD, 16 JUNE

Gujarat government has given a clean chit to BJP state president C.R. Paatil for "illegally" procuring and distributing Remdesivir injections among party supporters in Surat even as he has sought another week's time from the High Court to file his reply on the matter.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed in the High Court in April seeking action against state BJP president C.R. Paatil for illegally procuring, storing and distributing 5,000 vials of Remdesivir to party supporters in Surat even as he has sought another week's time from the High Court to file his reply on the matter.

The PIL was filed by Leader of Opposition Paresh Dhanani as a memorandum submitted to the Governor elicited no response and the Gujarat Government refused to take any action against the state BJP president.

SNS

Why BJP isolates Chirag in time of crisis!

MANOJ CHAUHAN
PATNA, 16 JUNE

ister Nitish Kumar cancelled the dinner organised in honour of the visiting BJP leaders in Patna just when the party issued ads in the media showing Nitish shaking hands with Narendra Modi, then Gujarat chief minister. An angry Nitish even returned Rs 5 crore cheque to Modi who donated it for 2008 Kosi flood victims yet the BJP remained silent. That explains the BJP's compulsions not to annoy Nitish at any cost.

The BJP remained junior ally of the JD-U in matter of number as well in the past 15 years. The last time the BJP had won more seats than the JD-U was during 2000 assembly polls when it won 67 seats against JD-U's only 21.

The scene changed after that. In the next February 2005 assembly polls, the JD-U won 55 seats against BJP's 37. In the next assembly polls held in October the same year, the result was on similar line—JD-U winning 88 against

BJP's 55.

The BJP continued to be the junior ally in 2010 state polls again—BJP winning 91 seats against JD-U's 115 while in 2015 assembly polls, the Nitish contested the elections in alliance with the RJD. The BJP on its part could win only 53.

For the first time in 20 years, the BJP emerged as the single largest party in Bihar NDA winning 74 seats against only 43 bagged by the JD-U which was relegated to the third slot. This happened only because Chirag had fielded candidates against the JD-U which split the NDA votes. At every election rally, the JD-U continued attacking the LJP, reminding the voters that it was not a part of the NDA but this is the "internal" matter of the LJP. "This (split) is the internal matter of the LJP and we have nothing to do with it," comment just every BJP leaders including state BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal.

So, why has been the BJP silent? Inside story is that the BJP is fully dependent on Nitish to stay in power in Bihar and it doesn't want to lose power in the state. So far the BJP had looked supporting Chirag who was not expelled from the NDA despite repeated demands from the JD-U but now the saffron camp doesn't look in a position to come to the rescue of Chirag. "It's an open secret that

win maximum number of seats.

The BJP, however, is silent when Chirag needs its support and is now fighting obviously the toughest battle of his political career to stay afloat.

The only comment coming from the BJP at this time is that this is the "internal" matter of the LJP. "This (split) is the internal matter of the LJP and we have nothing to do with it," comment just every BJP leaders including state BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal.

So, why has been the BJP silent? Inside story is that the BJP is fully dependent on Nitish to stay in power in Bihar and it doesn't want to lose power in the state. So far the BJP had looked supporting Chirag who was not expelled from the NDA despite repeated demands from the JD-U but now the saffron camp doesn't look in a position to come to the rescue of Chirag. "It's an open secret that

Chirag went alone on the instructions of the BJP but now he finds completely isolated. There is not word of sympathy for him. This is very distressing," commented a political expert.

For any kind of information such as timings, composition and stoppages enroute passengers are advised to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

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

Punjab & Sind Bank
Zonal Office, Noida

Zonal Manager

Punjab & Sind Bank
Zonal Office, Noida

Zonal Manager

EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF PUJA SPECIAL TRAINS

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Puja Special Trains as under:

Train No. & Name	Extended Upto
02511/02512 Gorakhpur-Kochuveli-Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05115/05116 Chhapra -Delhi-Chhapra Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05018/05017 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur Sp. Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05101/05102 Chhapra-Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Chhapra Special Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
02597/02598 Gorakhpur-Chhatrapati Shivaji (T)-Gorakhpur Sp. Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
02595/02596 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar (T)-Gorakhpur Sp. Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
02581/02582 Manduadih-New Delhi-Manduadih Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05029/05030 Gorakhpur-Pune-Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05022/05021 Gorakhpur-Shalimar-Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
02587/02588 Gorakhpur-Jammu Tawi-Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05097/05098 Bhagalpur Jr. - Jammu Tawi - Bhagalpur Jr. Sp. Exp.	30.06.2021 to till further advice
05045/05046 Gorakhpur - Okha - Gorakhpur Special Express	30.06.2021 to till further advice

For any kind of information such as timings, composition and stoppages enroute passengers are advised to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION & DIVERSION OF TRAINS

In order to upgrade the infrastructure, Lucknow Division of Northern Railway will undertake the Pre-Non-Interlocking and Non-Interlocking work in connection with doubling of track between Jais - Fursatganj - Rupamau Stations on Lucknow - Rae Bareli Jn - Patapgarh Jn - Varanasi Jn Section. To execute this work Lucknow Division will take suitable traffic blocks of different durations upto 25.06.2021. During this period following trains will be cancelled/diverted on the dates shown against each:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No.	Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
04265	Varanasi Jn	

Suu Kyi in dock

The renewed privation of Aung San Suu Kyi was reinforced on Monday when she went on trial with distinct symptoms of being unwell. She faces a bevy of charges since being overthrown by the army in a coup on February 1, one that cut short a decade of tentative democratic reforms and has increasingly plunged the South-east Asian country into chaos. "Daw Aung San Suu Kyi seemed not very well but throughout the hearing she seemed quite interested and paid keen attention," the head of her legal team, Khin Maung Zaw, said in a statement after the day's hearing. Her supporters are emphatic that the charges are politically motivated and basically intended to end the political life of a person who championed democracy for decades under previous military administrations, much of the time under house arrest. The icon of democracy had, it would be pertinent to recall, suffered the predicament since the early 1990s. Thirty years later, Myanmar bears witness to almost a repetition of history. The omnipotent military (Tatmadaw) has denied her the right to assume power despite the spectacular election victory. She is now in the dock in a decidedly spurious attempt to add salt to the wound. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate faced three cases on Monday at the specially built court in the capital, Naypyidaw, where she had already appeared at preliminary hearings. As it turned out, two of Monday's cases were linked to the possession of the radios and one under the Natural Disaster Management Law for violating coronavirus regulations while campaigning for the election last November. Monday's hearings lasted more than five hours. She also faces charges of incitement and more serious charges of violating the Official Secrets Act and under the Anti-Corruption Law. Her legal team has denied any wrongdoing by Suu Kyi and her chief lawyer, Khin Maung Zaw, binned the most recent corruption charges as "absurd". Phil Robertson, Deputy Asia Director, Human Rights Watch, said that the charges Suu Kyi faces "are bogus, and politically motivated" and "should be dropped, resulting in her immediate and unconditional release". Nonetheless, vis-a-vis the authorities she is on a weak wicket. The army says it assumed power by force because Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), won the election through fraud, an accusation rejected by the previous Election Commission and international monitors. The people's revolt against the military takeover and her arrest have been greeted with brutal severity. Myanmar's security forces have killed at least 862 people during the crackdown on protests since the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, an activist group. Predictably, the junta disputes the number. Pro-democracy supporters took to the streets of Yangon on Monday, some chanting "revolutionary war, we participate", according to social media posts. Violence is intensifying and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, has condemned the army's "outrageous" use of heavy weapons. Suu Kyi fights her battles in court.

Iran goes to polls

Friday's presidential election in Iran has been referred to as a "coronation" for a hardline candidate backed by the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Though there are as many as seven candidates who have thrown their hats into the ring, the presidential election will have profound implications for the Middle East in the wider canvas not the least because the region - with nuclear ambition - has been roiled by years of tension between Tehran and the West, pre-eminently America. Granted that Khamenei has the final say in matters nuclear and military, the fact remains that it is the President who controls domestic matters such as the economy and serves as the public face of the Islamic Republic. His decisions can affect how the rest of the world interacts with Iran. The tenures of the hardline President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and that of the relative moderate, Hassan Rouhani, whose administration reached the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, are a reflection of the dominant paradigm that shapes state policy. Attention is riveted to the prospects of the hardline judiciary chief, Ebrahim Raisi, who is the clear front-runner after a panel overseen by Khamenei disqualified his major rivals. Even the Western powers are sceptical of his candidature. He has presided over a judicial system in Iran that remains one of the world's top executioners, with Revolutionary Courts conducting many trials behind closed doors. It bears recall that in 2019, the US Treasury under President Trump sanctioned Raisi "for his administrative oversight over the executions of individuals who were juveniles at the time of their crime and the torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners in Iran." Raisi as the head of the judiciary also oversees a system long criticized by families of detainees and activists as targeting dual nationals and those with Western ties to use them as bargaining chips in negotiations. In early January, Raisi had threatened Trump, still the US President, with assassination while speaking at the first anniversary of the US drone strike in Baghdad that killed the Iranian General, Qassem Soleimani. In recent presidential debates, however, Raisi said he would oversee a return to the nuclear deal reached by Rouhani. That accord saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Since Trump's unilateral withdrawal of America from the agreement, Iran has been enriching small amounts of uranium to up to 63 per cent purity - a record high though still below weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent. Iran's economy has been torpid ever since America's withdrawal from the accord. Rejoining the deal, even though the agreement has been opposed by hardliners, could help ease the economic hardship.

The Vaccine Challenge

Instead of waiting for the vaccines or raw materials to be made available and delivered from other countries, our own production should be in place. In addition, the establishment of a national centre of excellence in virology for fundamental research on viruses and their cure can place India in a powerful position to fight future epidemics



Covid-19 has exposed the vulnerability of even the most self-sufficient nations, and India has been no exception to this. So, instead of the current debate on whether the virus was man-made or natural, we need to focus on putting in place protective measures to overcome the current wave and anticipated future threats.

Ever since the onset of the pandemic, India has faced a crisis of enormous magnitude - from the hundreds of thousands who have sadly lost their lives, to our overburdened health care system, to the extreme shortage of oxygen and life-saving drugs. The Union government has done its best to pool national and international resources and has been able to control the situation to a large extent but only after a colossal loss of life and a severe impact on the economy.

Some more advanced countries have managed to restore normality by developing and implementing their vaccination programmes, thereby allowing them to succeed in vaccinating a large percentage of their populations. Approximately 75 per cent of the world's vaccine production is in the hands of some 10 countries.

The wealthier countries have secured the first 80 per cent of the Covid vaccine production. Meanwhile, the response of the Indian authorities' in sourcing vaccines has been lacking the speed and decisiveness needed.

India's sheer numbers are a staggering challenge and thus far, by early June only 14 per cent of the population has received a jab.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had foreseen such a situation well in advance, which is evident from the fact that he intro-

duced the concept of Atma Nirbhār Bharat - a self-reliant India. He did not imply that self-reliance meant making every item in India. But it must manufacture critical items, on which the security of the country depends.

While India depended on two local vaccine manufacturers, it did not factor in their production capacities which were unable to meet the entire nation's demand. Furthermore, these

companies have their commercial interests and commitments due to which they cannot reserve their entire supply for India. Serum Institute of India (SII) does not have its own know-how for vaccine production, but has the production facilities, while Bharat-Biotech and ICMR have developed their vaccines from the inactivated virus but have limited production capacity.

The Global Covax Programme was started in 2020 in an attempt to provide for the equitable distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine. However, its vaccine delivery schedule was thrown off course by the ferocity of India's second surge, forcing the Indian government to push SII to cater to India's needs.

A country with a population of India's size cannot allow itself to be in a position where it is over-reliant on third parties for critical ingredients. Therefore, the time has come for us to become independent in our endeavors to fight the virus. This is why the vision of Atma Nirbhār Bharat is

crucial for India, an emerging global power.

Instead of waiting for the vaccines or raw materials to be made available and delivered from other countries, our own production should be in place. In addition, the establishment of a national centre of excellence in virology for fundamental research on viruses and their cure can place India in a powerful position to fight future epidemics.

Despite our PM sharing his vision when he first came to power, much remains to be achieved. His motive behind Atma Nirbhār Bharat Abhiyan has been to place India in a self-reliant and independent position, free from the control and influence of any other country. Thus, we should be producing the critical items as our coun-

try's security and livelihood depend on them. India's latest Covid-19 outbreak spread with such speed and force throughout the country in part because we lacked the required resources in vaccines and basic vaccine ingredients to manage and control the virus. We had to seek help and rely on support from other countries to combat the virus. This took time and the delay lost us too many lives. To ensure we do not suffer a similar fate in the future, we need to become far more self-reliant.

When thinking about our current situation, the Pokhran-II tests come to mind. Our Former Prime Minister, the late Atal

Bihari Vajpayee, undertook nuclear testing for research and peaceful purposes. Other countries imposed the strictest sanctions on India to block our research in nuclear energy and even impact the country's economic growth. However, Indian scientists rose to the occasion to develop unique and high-tech products to harness nuclear energy to become a self-reliant nation.

The present article aims to prompt a sense of self-esteem and belief so Indian scientists can rise to the occasion and create world-class modern and multi-purpose research facilities in virology to develop the know-how for the production of vaccines for different types of lethal viruses and the key ingredients they need. The Prime Minister is a visionary who can provide decisive leadership. The Government must set a target to complete the entire vaccine project as quickly as possible, with funding and a task force of the nation's 100 top scientists in place to complete the work required.

This is a unique opportunity for India, and if we get this right, we will emerge as a world leader in pharmaceutical production.

The advantages of our production and research facilities should include, but not be limited to;

- * Reduced cost owing to scale.
- * Strengthening of research and development leading to better preparation against life-threatening diseases.
- * Increasing the country's ability to help its neighboring and friendly countries, thereby, strengthening its relations.
- * The intellectual growth of the nation as a global power.
- * Emergence of India as a world pharmaceutical producer.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES
Road map to reopen

The government has relaxed certain restrictions in Kathmandu Valley and across the country while extending the prohibitory order by a week, Tuesday onward. Shops selling essential supplies, including books and stationery supplies, can now operate until 11 am. A similar arrangement has been made for shops selling construction materials from 4 pm, and there are no restrictions for agricultural work. Authorities have also allowed hotels and restaurants to resume takeaway and home delivery services. Although not in the official correspondence, officials have also said there'll be no restrictions for morning or evening walks, provided people abide by mandatory public health protocols against Covid-19.

It's been almost two months since the government imposed one of the world's strictest stay-at-home orders as the second wave took hold in Nepal, collapsing our health system and unleashing mayhem of deaths and sufferings. While the decision to relax restrictions, owing to a decline in new infections, deaths and hospital admissions, is a welcome one, public health experts say it is a continuity of ad hoc decisions by the government. Authorities, however, say the extension with a revised modality was made after consultation with various stakeholders. Whatever the case, it is a policy failure in the first place to have bureaucrats making decisions amid a pandemic with a variant of concern in circula-

THE KATHMANDU POST
INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF THE DAY
tion. Sans any measures to break the chain of transmission, an extension by a week shows how clueless the administration is. So how should Nepal gradually and safely lift the prohibitory order?

The answer lies in our end goal. We cannot have a scenario where there will be a lockdown again. To avoid a future resurgence, facts, not beliefs, should guide the authorities to plan and implement the modalities and the timeframe for relaxing the restrictions. While at it, the government should also offer practical solutions to individuals and businesses who've been out of wages and operation. The reopening discourse should start with assessing whether hotspots have conducted adequate testing and tracing, and whether the current downward trend of new infections is real. Without an actual dip in new infections for two consecutive weeks vis-a-vis adequate testing and continued adoption of safety protocols, any plan to reopen is destined to fail.

The road map to reopen should first consider how today's decisions will impact the country shortly. As essential as reopening is to our society so that the economy gets going and people can return to their jobs and businesses, and resume "normal life", both the government and the public must reflect on the blunders last year, and ensure that we behave appropriately to prevent getting stuck in lockdown cycles and further jeopardising our fragile situation and the economy.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Tackling China

SIR, One long year has passed since the bloody skirmishes at the Galwan valley between the Indian army and the Chinese PLA. Apart from Galwan valley, China had also intruded into Hot Springs and Pangong Tso to alter the status quo. China's

through bilateral negotiations. But China has rebuffed these efforts because of its sinister agenda. Building up road infrastructure on the Indian side of the LAC in recent years has been a constant effort. So far, the border road infrastructure along

col. Apart from partial pull back from Pongong Tso by PLA, nothing significant has been achieved so far. After one year of the Galwan clashes, we must introspect. From the 1960s to the 1980s, India and China were on a par in military might. But after that China made monumental strides in infrastructure, economy and def-

sure on China and corner the country.

Yours, etc., Chanchal Nandy,

Durgapur, 15 June.

THOUGHT FOR PEOPLE

SIR, I read "Focus on Sundarbans - I and II" by Jaydev Jana (June 11 and 12) with great interest. The Sundarbans was home to my maternal grandparents who nearly 35 years ago lived happily in this unique part of the world where the land is inhabited by the man-eating tiger and water is infested with crocodiles, where every year storm and flood cause havoc to life and livelihood, and where maintenance of the river bank is as essential as the supply of fresh drinking water. Owing to this great interest in the region and socio-economic conditions of people inhabiting therein, I did my PhD thesis (2005) on this delta, later published as a book titled, "Life in Sundarbans: Participatory Rural Appraisal" (2012) where mundane affairs of daily life revolving around agriculture and animal husbandry were depicted. "Of cyclones and the tigers of Sundarbans" by Abhiroop Chowdhury and Armin Rosencranz (13 June) states that "there are villages dotted across the Sundarbans housing 'tiger widows'. They are the women who lost their husbands to tiger

WHY A THREAT?

SIR, I was very impressed by the article, "Saint or Sinner" by Valson Thampu, published in your esteemed paper on 15 June. I have read and heard about Fr Stan Swami. Most news reports provided sketchy details and appeared to blame the Jesuit Father for his plight.

After reading the article by Mr Thampu, I got a clearer picture. I fail to understand why the frail, 83-year-old Swami is considered a threat to the mighty Indian state. Is justice being denied to the Jesuit Father? Or is he really guilty of treason? If granted bail, can he harm our country's interests? These questions need answers.

Yours, etc., Mihir Kumar Chakrabarti, Kolkata, 16 June.



ever expanding agenda, buttressed by its military might, mammoth economy and hegemonic intentions often led to intrusions into India. The dragon doesn't honour the LAC and has relentlessly tried to grab Indian territory. An ill-defined and non-demarcated 3,488 km long boundary has always been a bone of contention. India had tried to settle the boundary dispute

ng LAC was a Chinese monopoly. Indian initiatives in this area have infuriated the Chinese and made them intrude into our territory. After having been on the back foot initially, India responded robustly. After the clashes, a series of meetings - diplomatic and military - were held to resolve the impasse. In the dialogue of negotiations and truce, China often flouted proto-

col. Apart from partial pull back from Pongong Tso by PLA, nothing significant has been achieved so far. After one year of the Galwan clashes, we must introspect. From the 1960s to the 1980s, India and China were on a par in military might. But after that China made monumental strides in infrastructure, economy and def-

enses". Perhaps, it is allegorical - the idea of "widow village" is an innovation of outsiders reflecting the overwhelming number of deaths due to tiger attacks in Sundarbans. For my PhD field study I stayed nearly one week in each of the two purposefully selected forest-fringe villages in Sundarbans - Jem-spur (Gosaba Block) and Samser Nagar (Hingalganj Block) - where villagers entered deep inside the forest for honey, wood and crab collection risking tiger attack, but no exclusive widow village existed, though many villagers lost their lives to tiger attacks leaving their widows back at the village. There is no dearth of literature on Sundarbans focusing on the mangrove ecosystem, environment, ecology, geology, tiger conservation, man-animal conflict, fish and fishing, and so on, but there is a dearth of literature focusing on man and his problems living in this unique region risking life and livelihood.

"Forest of Tigers: People, Politics and Environment in the Sundarbans" by Annu Jalais (2011, Routledge) analyses complex issues of conservation and livelihood in-depth and holistically focuses the people and their needs. Conservation and development of Sundarbans must take into account people's perspective whose lives and livelihoods depend on this treasure trove keeping in mind that man is more important than the tiger and the forest, and if tigers are protected, forest and its resources can also be protected to serve the man who inhabited this inhospitable region by default. Yours, etc., Samares Kumar Das, Jalukie, Peren (Nagaland), 14 June.



There is nothing special about Twitter or any company. The sovereignty and laws of India are more important than any MNC.

T V MOHANDAS PAI
IT INDUSTRY VETERAN

THUMBNAILS

Adani group shares tumble: Shares of Adani group companies further tumbled on Wednesday, with Adani Ports falling up to 7 per cent, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone tumbled 7.17 per cent and Adani Enterprises tanked 5.77 per cent on the BSE. Shares of Adani Transmission dived 5 per cent, Adani Total Gas Ltd dipped 5 per cent, Adani Power slumped 4.97 per cent and Adani Green Energy declined 3.10 per cent. PTI

Govt to bring Inland Vessel Bill: Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said the government will introduce the Inland Vessel Bill in Parliament to ensure safe transportation and trade through inland waters. The bill also envisages bringing uniformity in the application of the law relating to inland waterways and navigation within the country. Addressing a press conference, Mandaviya said the Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved this decision. PTI

LNG to Bangladesh: H-Energy on Wednesday said it has signed a preliminary agreement with Petrobangla for the supply of LNG to Bangladesh. The companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding and "will soon finalise a long term supply agreement to commence the supply of re-gassified LNG to Bangladesh through a cross border natural gas pipeline," the company said. PTI

ICICI Bank: With corporate loan demand stuttering amid difficulties on the economic front, ICICI Bank on Wednesday launched a solution, aimed at profiting by offering a wider set of services to high-value clients. The second-largest private sector lender also said that the corporates are slower in adopting digital solutions as compared to the retail segment, and added that the solution focuses on tech-based new age offerings. PTI

'RBI likely to maintain status quo in August'

According to the SBI's research report inflation may remain elevated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 16 JUNE

With retail inflation witnessing significant uptick in May, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to maintain status quo in its August monetary policy review, according to a report.

According to the SBI's research report- Ecowrap, inflation may remain elevated in the coming months due to several global and domestic factors.

"We expect a status-quo in August. We believe RBI would still try to find a marriage of convenience of regulatory and developmental measures and monetary policy in August post," the research report said on Wednesday.

It further noted that "the die has been cast, but the RBI can still hold out with a firm message of ratcheting up inflationary pressures in the August policy statement."

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation hit a six-month high of 6.3 per



cent in May, from 4.3 per cent in April. The inflation reading has breached the RBI's target range of 2-6 per cent.

In the second bi-monthly monetary policy announced on June 4, the central bank left the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent.

The next Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting is scheduled from August 4 to 6. The report said rising food and commodity prices, as well as localised lockdowns,

have led to a sharp increase in headline numbers. The core inflation also increased to 6.55 per cent in and the last time it was seen around this level was in June 2014.

It further noted that inflation may remain elevated going forward and this is likely to raise anxiety levels in the RBI and the MPC.

"We are now revising our CPI average for FY22 to 6.1 per cent and core inflation is likely to print at 6.4 per cent," the

report said.

It said ravages after the second wave of the pandemic and location-specific lockdowns in major Indian states have further dislocated supply chains even in rural areas which are going to manifest in rising prices on essentials. Cumulatively, this could significantly ratchet up core inflation, it said.

Once that happens on a durable basis, it would be impossible for the MPC to look through inflation pressures and remain supportive of growth, given its primary mandate of ensuring price stability, it said.

If the RBI has to ultimately increase interest rates / change its stance to combat inflation, it may impact any incipient signs of recovery; on the other hand, being a mute spectator can seriously impair RBI's credibility in fighting inflation," the report added.

The report also said the country must meaningfully vaccinate a large segment of the rural population in the second quarter so that it can effectively beat the new mutant strain in the town. PTI

Power consumption grows 9.3 pc in first half of June

NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

Power consumption in the country grew by 9.3 per cent in the first half of June to 55.86 billion units (BU), indicating a slow recovery in commercial and industrial electricity demand, according to power ministry data. Power consumption was recorded at 51.10 BU in the first half of June last year (June 1 to 15), the data showed.

According to experts, the recovery in power consumption and demand was slow in the first half of June despite the low base of last year, which indicates a slow recovery in commercial and industrial demand.

In the entire June last year, power consumption slumped by nearly 11 per cent to 105.08 BU from 117.98 BU over the same month in 2019, mainly due to fewer economic activities amid Covid induced restrictions.

Experts are of the view that the recovery in power demand and consumption in the rest of June is not likely to be robust because of the early onset of Monsoon. In the first fifteen days of May this year, power consumption was 55.23 BU despite lockdown restrictions imposed by many states amid the second wave of Covid-19. PTI

Cabinet approves hike in DAP fertiliser subsidy by ₹700 per bag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

One bag has 50 kilograms of the fertiliser.

According to him, the subsidy for DAP fertiliser has been increased to Rs 1,200 per bag from Rs 500 per bag to provide relief to farmers.

The minister also said the additional subsidy burden on the exchequer will be Rs 14,775 crore.

Last year, the actual price of DAP was Rs 1,700 per bag, on which the central government was giving a subsidy of Rs 500. The companies were therefore selling the fertiliser to farmers for Rs 1,200 per bag. With rise in global prices, the actual price of DAP reached Rs 2,400 per bag. In order to ensure that the farmers get DAP at the old rate of Rs 1,200 per bag, the Centre has decided to increase the subsidy to Rs 1,200 per bag.

Mandaviya said that in the case of urea, the MRP (Maximum Retail Price) is fixed while the subsidy amount keeps changing. On an average, he said the government is providing Rs 900 per bag subsidy on urea.

Sebi enhances disclosure requirements pertaining to listed debt securities



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

Sebi on Wednesday decided to bring listed companies' promoters and directors' dealings in listed debt securities under the purview of system driven disclosures.

The stock exchanges and depositories will make necessary arrangements so that disclosures pertaining to listed debt securities along with

equity derivative instruments futures and options of the listed company by such entities.

The disclosures for equity and equity derivative segments are being displayed on the exchange website under 'system driven disclosures'.

It has now been decided to include the listed debt securities of equity-listed companies under the purview of the system driven disclosures for these entities, Sebi said.

In July 2020, Sebi amended insider trading norms, whereby listed entities will have to maintain a structured digital database containing unpublished price sensitive information.

The names of persons who have shared the information, automation of the process of filing disclosures to stock exchanges, and restriction on trading in equity shares and

Centre plans to simplify green nod for quick operationalisation of mining projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE



The Centre on Wednesday said the government is planning to simplify the green clearances required for the quick operationalisation of mining projects, including coal.

It assumes significance as mining projects in various states face delays in production due to lack of approvals such as forest and environmental clearance.

"With regard to EC (environment clearance) and FC (forest clearance), we are actually trying to do something with the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). I think some simplification is going to be done."

"The secretary MoEF... told us in a meeting that EC, FC norms are of course friend-

lier so that we will be able to have operation in a quicker way," Coal Additional Secretary M Nagaraju said.

He was speaking during the Virtual Chhattisgarh Mining Summit organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The additional secretary also stressed that the state government should ensure that the mines that are allotted are operationalised at the earliest by hand-holding the allottees and holding regular meet-

ings, among others.

"Expect these two clearances (EC and FC), rest of clearances come from the state government. In fact, for EC and FC, a lot depends on the efficiency of the state government's forest department."

"So, state governments, Chhattisgarh and other state government, they all need to partner the entrepreneurs in quicker operation of coal mines or any mines for that matter, because you should not lock the capital for long

time," Nagaraju said. Any delay in operationalisation of mines will give risk to the capital invested and it gives a bad reputation to the industry as such, he added.

"If there is a quicker operationalisation of mines, the banking industry will also see that this (mining industry) is more efficient and they would be able to lend more," he said.

Nagaraju also said there is a need to bring in small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs into the mining business.

"Some of the large industrialists are there in the mining industry). "In fact, we should dispel the notion that the mining business is only for large industrialists or big industrialists...we need to encourage these people (small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs)," he said.

Net direct tax mop up doubles to more than ₹1.85 lakh cr so far this fiscal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

The net direct tax collection has doubled to over Rs 1.85 lakh crore so far this fiscal, mainly driven by personal income tax and advance tax mop up, the I-T department said on Wednesday.

The net direct tax collection also includes corporate income tax (CIT) collection at Rs 74,356 crore and Personal Income Tax, including Security Transaction Tax (STT) at over Rs 1.11 lakh crore.

The net direct tax collections (after adjusting refunds) between April 1-June 15 stood at Rs 1,85,871 crore, compared to Rs 92,762 crore over the corresponding period of the preceding year, representing an increase of 100.4 per cent over the collections of the preceding year, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

Refunds amounting to Rs 30,731 crore have been issued in current fiscal.

The gross collection of direct taxes for this fiscal

stood at over Rs 2.16 lakh crore, compared to Rs 1.37 lakh crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

The gross corporate income tax (CIT) mop up stood at Rs 96,923 crore and personal income tax (PIT) stood at over Rs 1.19 lakh crore.

While Advance Tax mop up stood at Rs 28,780 crore, Tax Deducted at Source was at Rs 1,56,824 crore. Self-Assessment Tax stood at Rs 15,343 crore and Regular Assessment Tax at Rs 14,079 crore.

"Despite extremely challenging initial months of the new fiscal, the Advance Tax collections for the first quarter of the FY 2021-22 stand at Rs 28,780 crore against Advance Tax collections of Rs 11,714 crore for the corresponding period of the immediately preceding Financial Year, showing a growth of approximately 146 percent," the CBDT said.

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Refunds amounting to Rs 30,731 crore have been issued in current fiscal.

The gross collection of direct taxes for this fiscal

Commercial real estate will continue to face pressure in near term: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 16 JUNE

The commercial real estate sector will continue to face pressure in the near term due to the Covid-19 pandemic related disruptions in the office and retail leasing segments, according to a report.

"With the second wave peaking in the first quarter of FY22, the sector is expected to confront similar challenges as in the previous financial year, Icra Ratings said in the report. While the retail leasing segment prospects are closely linked to the recovery in retail sales and discretionary consumption spending by the urban population, demand recovery in the office leasing segment is influenced by multiple factors as corporates evaluate the

challenges and opportunities created by the pandemic on their real estate resource planning, it added. Though cash flows remained materially unimpacted in FY21, we are seeing increasing vacancy levels in the rated portfolio as the pandemic has resulted in deferment of new leasing transactions by tenants, while the available inventory builds up in line with scheduled completions," Icra Group Head and Senior Vice President, Corporate Ratings, Shubham Jain told reporters at a virtual press conference.

The delay in the conclusion of new leasing is on account of multiple factors, including restrictions on international travel and deferment of decision making until there is clarity on employees returning to offices at earlier numbers, he added.

The report has increased forecasts for South East Asia and Oceania, as well as for India, with India remaining a region with one of the highest monthly usage per smartphone rates, at around 15 GB at the end of 2020.

The average traffic per smartphone in the India region stands second-highest globally and is projected to grow to around 40 GB per month in 2026.

Ericsson mobility report said that traffic growth can be

200 insolvency applications filed since suspension of fresh proceedings ended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

Around 200 applications for resolution of stressed assets have been filed under the insolvency law since the suspension of fresh proceedings ended on March 24, according to IBBI.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic that had significantly impacted economic activities, certain provisions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) were suspended with effect from March 25, 2020. The suspension was in place for one year till March 24, 2021.

Talking about fresh insolvency filings after the expiry of the suspension, IBBI Chairperson M S Sahoo said the higher threshold of default of Rs 1 crore coupled with support and forbearances limit the flow of applications," Sahoo told PTI.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is a key institution in implementing the IBC.

In June 2020, an ordinance was promulgated to suspend fresh insolvency proceedings and the same came into force retrospectively from March 25, 2020 -- the day when the nationwide lockdown to curb spreading of coronavirus infections had come into effect.

During the suspension period, fresh proceedings under the IBC were not allowed.

"Since expiry of suspension filing, about 200 applications have been filed. This is on expected lines and has been the experience internationally. The higher threshold of default of Rs 1 crore coupled with support and forbearances limit the flow of applications," Sahoo told PTI.

The corporate affairs ministry had suspended Sections 7, 9 and 10 under the IBC to provide relief for companies hit by the pandemic.

Sections 7, 9 and 10 deal with initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process by a financial creditor, operational creditor and corporate debtor, respectively. Insolvency proceedings are initiated once an application is admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

India may have 330 mn 5G subscribers by 2026



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

India is likely to have 330 million 5G subscribers by 2026 and the monthly data consumption per smartphone is expected to grow over 3-fold to 40 gigabyte per smartphone, telecom gear maker Ericsson said in a report on Wednesday.

Average data consumption per smartphone at 14.6 GB per month in India continues to be the second-highest in the world, according to the Ericsson Mobility Report 2021.

"In the India region, 4G subscriptions are forecast to rise from 680 million in 2020 to 830 million in 2026. 5G will represent around 26 per cent of mobile subscriptions in India at the end of 2026, estimated

connection, Ericsson India head and chief of Network Solutions for Market Area South East Asia Oceania and India Nitin Bansal said.

"50 per cent consumers in India are willing to pay 50 per cent more for 5G with bundled digital services compared to just 10 per cent premium for 5G connectivity. 40 million users could take up



China's policy on the EU has been consistent. China always sees EU as a comprehensive strategic partner.

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ZHAO LIJIAN
COMMENTS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S., EU AND CHINA

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2021

09

Israeli airstrikes target Gaza sites, first since ceasefire

On Tuesday, hundreds of Israeli ultranationalists chanted "Death to Arabs"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM, 16 JUNE

Israeli aircraft carried out a series of airstrikes at militant sites in the Gaza Strip early Wednesday, the first such raids since a shaky cease-fire ended the war with Hamas last month. The airstrikes targeted facilities used by Hamas militants for meetings to plan attacks, the Israeli military said, blaming the group for any act of violence emanating from Gaza. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

On Tuesday, hundreds of Israeli ultranationalists, some chanting "Death to Arabs," paraded in east Jerusalem in a show of force that threatened to spark renewed violence. Palestinians in Gaza responded by launching incendiary balloons that caused at least 10 fires in southern Israel. The march posed a test for Israel's fragile new government as well as the tenuous truce that ended last month's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas.

Palestinians consider the march, meant to celebrate Israel's capture of east Jerusalem in 1967, to be a provocation. Hamas called on Palestinians to "resist" the parade, a version of which helped ignite last month's 11-day Gaza war.

With music blaring, hundreds of Jewish nationalists gathered and moved in front of Damascus Gate. Most appeared to be young men, and many held blue-and-white Israeli flags as they danced and sang religious



songs.

At one point, several dozen youths, jumping and waving their hands in their air, chanted: "Death to Arabs!" In another anti-Arab chant, they yelled: "May your village burn."

In a scathing condemnation on Twitter, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said those shouting racist slogans were "a disgrace to the Israeli people," adding: "The fact that there are radicals for whom the Israeli flag represents hatred and racism is abominable and unforgivable."

The crowd, while boisterous, appeared to be much smaller than during last month's parade. From the Damascus Gate, they proceeded around the Old City to the Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray.

Ahead of the march, Israeli police cleared the area in front of Damascus Gate, shut down roads to traffic, ordered shops to close and sent away young Palestinian protesters.

erment. Abbas said the police and public security minister should have canceled the event. "I call on all sides not to be dragged into an escalation and maintain maximum restraint," he said.

In past years, the march passed through Damascus Gate and into the heart of the Muslim Quarter, a crowded Palestinian neighbourhood with narrow streets and alleys. But police changed the route Tuesday to avoid the Muslim Quarter. Instead, the route went around the ancient walls of the Old City and through Jaffa Gate, a main thoroughfare for tourists, and toward the Jewish Quarter and Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray. Damascus Gate is a focal point of Palestinian life in east Jerusalem. Palestinian protesters repeatedly clashed with Israeli police over restrictions on public gatherings during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in April and May. Those clashes spread to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a flashpoint site sacred to Jews and Muslims.

Tensions at the time were further fueled by protests over the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by Jewish settlers, also in Jerusalem.

At the height of the tensions, on May 10, Israeli ultranationalists held their annual flag parade. While it was diverted from the Damascus Gate at the last minute, it was seen by Palestinians as an unwelcome celebration of Israeli control over what they view as their capital. In the name of defend-

ing the holy city, Hamas fired long-range rockets at Jerusalem, disrupting the march and sparking the Gaza war, which claimed more than 250 Palestinian lives and killed 13 people in Israel. After capturing east Jerusalem in 1967, Israel annexed it in a move not recognized by most of the international community. It considers the entire city its capital, while the Palestinians want east Jerusalem to be the capital of their future state.

The competing claims over east Jerusalem, home to Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy sites, lie at the heart of the conflict and have sparked many rounds of violence.

Hamas had called on Palestinians to show "valiant resistance" to the march. It urged people to gather in the Old City and at the Al-Aqsa Mosque to "rise up in the face of the occupier and resist it by all means to stop its crimes and arrogance." In the afternoon, Hamas-linked Palestinians launched some incendiary balloons from Gaza, setting off at least 10 blazes in southern Israel, according to Israel's national fire department.

PM Mohammad Shatayeh, of the internationally backed Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, called the march an "aggression against our people."

In neighbouring Jordan, the Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the march as "unacceptable," saying it undermined efforts to reduce friction between Israel and the Palestinians.

China set to send first crew to new space station Thursday

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JIUQUAN, 16 JUNE

The three members of the first crew to be sent to China's space station say they're eager to get to work making their home for the next three months habitable, setting up testing and experiments and preparing for a series of spacewalks.

The three met with reporters Wednesday from inside a germ-free glassed-in room, hours before they were to blast off on Thursday morning. "First of all, we need to arrange our home in the core module, then get started on a whole range of diagnostic tests on crucial technology and experiments," said mission commander Nie Haisheng, 56, the most senior of the three who is making his third trip to space. "The task is very arduous and there are many challenges. My colleagues and I will cooperate closely, operate carefully and overcome all difficulties," Nie said. Unsurprisingly, all said



they had complete confidence in the mission, which carries special political meaning for the ruling Communist Party as it prepares to celebrate its centenary next month.

Liu Boming, 54, whose one previous flight in 2008 included China's first spacewalk, said there would be multiple such activities during the mission as the astronauts carry out their science experiments, conduct maintenance and prepare the Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, core module to receive two

other modules to be sent up next year. Tang Hongbo, 45, who is making his first flight since being selected among the second batch of astronauts in 2010, said he had been training virtually nonstop for years. "There is pressure," Tang said. "But where there is pressure there is motivation and ... I have confidence in myself and have confidence in our team." Thursday's launch begins the first crewed space mission in five years for an increasingly ambitious space program.

NOVEL PROTEST



Workers wearing face masks to help protect against the spread of the coronavirus shave their heads during a rally demanding job security in Seoul, South Korea. ■AGENCIES

'Record number' of Chinese jets in Taiwan's air defence zone

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

TAIPEI, 16 JUNE

As many as 28 Chinese military aircraft were seen flying into Taiwan's air defence zone, said its defence ministry, the largest reported incursion so far. Fighters and nuclear-capable bombers were among those in the so-called air defence identification zone (ADIZ), the BBC reported. The incident comes after Nato leaders on Monday warned of the military challenge posed by China. While democratic Taiwan sees itself as a sovereign state, Beijing views the island as a breakaway province. According to Taipei, the Chinese mission included 14 J-16, six J-11 fighters, four nuclear-capable H-6 bombers as well as anti-submarine, electronic



warfare, and early warning aircraft. An air defence identification zone is an area outside of a country's territory and national airspace but where foreign aircraft are still identified, monitored, and controlled in the interest of national security. It is self-declared and technically remains international airspace. The Chinese aircraft flew close to the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands, as well as around the southern part of Taiwan itself. On January 24, a similar mission saw 15 aircraft entering Taiwan's air defence zone while on April 12, Taiwan reported 25 jets.

FATF to take stock of Pak's progress on implementation of its plan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 16 JUNE

The global watchdog for money laundering and terror financing has prepared a preliminary report on Pakistan's progress on the implementation of the 27-point action plan and will present it at FATF's next plenary meeting from 21 June, according to a media report.

The report has been prepared by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG), which includes the US, the UK, France, China and India.

Currently placed on the FATF's 'grey list', Pakistan has been scrambling in recent months to avoid being added to a list of countries deemed non-compliant with anti-money laundering and terrorist



financing regulations by the global watchdog, a measure that officials here fear could further hurt its economy.

The Express Tribune quoted sources in the Ministry of Finance as saying that Pak-

istan's progress was reviewed at a virtual meeting of the ICRG by international observers on Tuesday.

According to the sources, Pakistan has implemented 26 of the 27-point FATF action

plan starting from June 21 to 25, the report said on Monday.

However, sources said that in view of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan is likely to remain on the grey list as it would require two to three more months to implement the remaining one point.

But in terms of performance, Pakistan is very optimistic that it will get good news from the FATF; the report said.

According to the report, the situation is likely to change further by September when the US withdraws its troops from Afghanistan and due to Pakistan's best strategy, the influence of the FATF is expected to be diminished.

Until this last meeting, Pakistan had implemented 24 points. The FATF had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018, urging Islamabad to

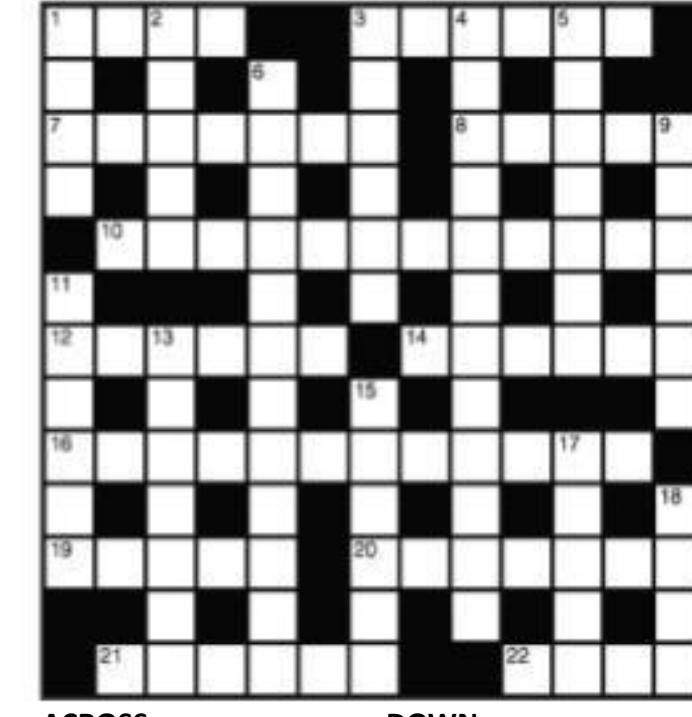
implement a 27-point action plan to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019. However, the deadline was extended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In February, the FATF gave a fourth extension to Pakistan to fully implement a 27-point action plan and "strongly urged" it to meet the remaining three conditions about terror financing investigations and the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Against the government's hopes of exiting the grey list, the FATF plenary found the country's progress on three out of the remaining six points less than satisfactory. Pakistan would remain on the grey list till June 2021, a statement issued by the FATF from Paris had said.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Number in a quartet (4)
- Seized (6)
- Coupon (7)
- Rolling upland (5)
- Railway worker (6,6)
- Sweet, of sound (6)
- Wood-destroying fungus (3-3)
- Branch of dentistry (12)
- Arm support (5)
- Spread through (7)
- Erase (6)
- Eraser (7)
- Overthrow (6)
- Badges (6)
- Abysmal (5)
- Honey drink (4)

DOWN

- Number in a quintet (4)
- Driving manoeuvre (1-4)
- Eye part (6)
- Insurance company (12)
- Day bed (6,6)
- Layers (6)
- Repugnant (6)
- Camp toilet (7)
- Overthrow (6)
- Unwind, (6)
- Badges, (6)
- Drinking (5)
- Honey drink (4)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

Ambulance

FD Block Association (Amb)
9630453-9630453
Haji Qurtabans 24400160
City Point Nurses Centre
2567-4113, 9831142623
People's Relief Committee
2280-4943/9444

24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery

BOC India Ltd. 9831277777

Blood Banks

Ashok Laboratory 24720333
Central Blood Bank 23515293;

Lahore 2284-6940
People's Blood Bank
2455-5164/5557
RK Mission Seva Pratishthan
2475-3636/39

Police/Fire

Lalazar (Police Control Room) 22143230
S.P. (North 24-Pgns)
25-32-33
S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-
3333/1311
Bawali Bhawan
24791761/9, 24791933
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;

Four RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

SCRABBLE® BRAND

TESTER'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

PACK 1

PACK 2

PACK 3

PACK 4

PAR SCORE 90-100

by JUDD

JUDD'S TOTAL

243

JUDD'S TOTAL

243

JUDD'S TOTAL

243

JUDD'S TOTAL

243

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2479-6285

Civic Services

Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000

Water: 2543-1602

Calcutta Telephones

Changed Number Announcement: 1951, 1952, 1953

Tax Refusal

SMS 57576: Complaint and registration

Police Toll Free No. 1073
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-5718

CESC Fault Reporting

1912 and 4403-1912

Trains

Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638

7412/2542/2591 (manual).

Sealdah Station 2341-3533/3534

Shalimar Station 2341-1121, Eastern Railway and 2341-1121, Eastern Railway: 139.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with 3x3 boxes. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.

Answer to previous puzzle

2/18 Conceptis Puzzles,



We are seeing this big fight within the Democratic Party right now over anti-Semites and whether they're going to stand up and confront this problem.

STEVE SCALISE, REPUBLICAN LEADER

ON ISREAL AND ANTI-SEMITIC ISSUE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	31	26 H
HONG KONG	33	29 H
TOKYO	25	21 H
LONDON	29	18 S
DUBAI	39	29 S
SAN FRANCISCO	24	13 H
NEW YORK	27	14 S
MOSCOW	24	13 S

S= sunny, CL= clear, H= hazy, R= rainy...

THUMBNAILS



People watch as fireworks explode over New York Harbor as New York and other cities around New York state recognize a rate of 70% for single dose vaccinations against the Covid in New York.

AGENCIES

US military diversity: The Navy never had to look too hard to fill its elite SEAL force. For years, eager recruits poured in to try out for naval special warfare teams but they were overwhelmingly white. Now, Naval Special Warfare Command leaders are trying to turn that around, developing programs to seek out recruits from more diverse regions of the country.

AP

U.S inflation: The White House believes it has an ally in the bond markets to make the case that inflation isn't an economic threat. Republican lawmakers have interpreted the jump in consumer and producer prices as a sign that inflation is spiking at levels that will hurt growth, saying that President Joe Biden's \$1.1 trillion coronavirus relief package overcooked the economy.

AP

Divergent goals for Biden, Putin at summit

Two top world leaders arrive in Geneva for path-breaking meet; there isn't much love lost between them

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA, 16 JUNE

An American president won't side with Moscow over his own intelligence agencies. There will be no talk of a reset in Russian relations. And it is highly doubtful that anyone will gaze into Vladimir Putin's eyes and discuss his soul.

But beyond that, it's not clear what will happen Wednesday in Geneva when President Joe Biden meets Putin for the first time since taking office.

Both sides acknowledge that the relationship between the two nations is dismal and neither holds out much hope for meaningful areas of agreement. Still, each man brings his own goals to the summit table.

Biden and his aides have made clear that he will not follow in the footsteps of his recent predecessors by aiming to radically alter the United States' ties to Russia. Instead, the White House is looking for a more modest though still vitally important goal: to move toward a more predictable relationship and attempt to rein in Russia's disruptive behaviour.

Biden's first overseas trip was deliberately sequenced so that he will meet with Putin only after spending days meeting with European allies and powerful democracies, including a gathering at NATO, the decades-old alliance formed

to serve as a bulwark to Russian aggression.

He hoped to project a sense of unity and renewed cooperation after four years of tumult under former President Donald Trump, who often tried to cozy up to the Russian president.

Biden will push Putin to stop meddling in democratic elections, to ease tensions with Ukraine and to stop giving safe harbor to hackers carrying out cyber and ransomware attacks. Aides believe that lowering the temperature with Russia will also reinforce the United States' ties to democracies existing in Moscow's shadow.

National security adviser Jake Sullivan said Biden will look for areas where, in our common interest, we can work together to produce outcomes that are that work for the United States and for the American people."

Sullivan, who briefed reporters on Air Force One heading to Brussels for the NATO summit, said that Biden's other message would be more stick than carrot: How do we send a clear message about those harmful activities that we will not tolerate and to which we will respond? There have been brief moments of common ground. Moscow and Washington have shown a shared interest in restarting talks on strategic stability to work out a follow-up deal to the New



START, the last remaining U.S.-Russian arms control pact that was extended for five years in January.

Biden will exhort Putin on human rights, including the poisoning and imprisonment of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, not to support the regime in Belarus that carried out a recent skyjacking and to stop interfering with other nations' elections.

Cyber will also be a focal point, with the Geneva summit coming just days after NATO expanded its Article 5 mutual defense pact to include cyberattacks.

But the president acknowledged that there may be no way to keep Putin in check.

There's no guarantee you can change a person's behaviour or the behavior of this country. Autocrats have enormous power and they don't have to answer to a public, said Biden

during a news conference Sunday after the Group of Seven summit in England.

And the fact is that it may very well be, if I respond in kind which I will that it doesn't dissuade him and he wants to keep going.

Biden had not minced words when it comes to assessing Putin. He said in an interview earlier this year that he agreed with an assessment that Putin was a killer, and he once declared that Putin didn't have a soul.

That was far colder rhetoric than that of his immediate predecessors.

Trump spoke warmly of Putin and was deferential to him during their one summit, held in Helsinki in 2018, in which he turned his back on his own intelligence agencies.

President Barack Obama's administration, though wary

of Putin, expressed hope in a reset and improvement of relations with Moscow. And George W. Bush said that he looked the man in the eye and found him very straightforward and trustworthy. I was able to get a sense of his soul, Bush said.

Biden won't.

WHAT PUTIN WANTS Putin also won't be expecting to warm up ties. His main goal will be to draw his red lines for the new U.S. administration and negotiate a tense status quo that would protect Moscow's vital interests.

The Russian leader doesn't hope for a new detente to mend the rift caused by Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Nor does he count on a rollback of the crippling U.S. and EU sanctions that have restricted Moscow's access to global financial markets and top Western technologies.

Putin's task now is more modest to spell out Russia's top security concerns and try to restore basic channels of communication that would prevent an even more dangerous destabilisation.

The main red line for Moscow is Ukraine's aspirations to join NATO. Fearing its bid for the alliance membership, Putin responded to the 2014 ouster of Ukraine's Russia-friendly president by annexing Crimea and throwing Moscow's weight behind a separatist insurgency in the

Asia.

Russia also has been involved in painstaking international talks to help repair a nuclear deal with Iran that was spiked by Trump, and it has expressed a willingness to cooperate with the U.S. in efforts to restart the stalled Mideast peace talks.

And the Kremlin would be interested in working out a deal on Syria, where Moscow's military campaign helped President Bashar Assad's government reclaim control over most of the country after a devastating civil war and the U.S. has maintained a limited military presence.

Russia has said it's ready to include its prospective doomsday weapons such as the Poseidon atomic-powered, nuclear-armed underwater drone and the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile in the talks on condition the U.S. brings its missile defense and possible space-based weapons into the equation. Putin also has emphasized Russia's readiness to make joint efforts to address climate change and cope with the coronavirus pandemic.

He called for establishing a dialogue on cybercrime, noting that Moscow could agree to extradite cybercrime suspects to the U.S. if Washington assumes the same obligation. The White House has strongly downplayed the idea of a cybercriminal prisoner exchange.

UK expands Covid-19 vaccination drive to cover all over-21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 16 JUNE



Senate Democrats press ahead on voting bill despite dim odds

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 16 JUNE

Senate Democrats pledged Tuesday to forge ahead with a likely doomed vote on their sprawling elections and voting bill next week, even as it faces universal opposition from Republicans, as well as from a key senator in their own party.

Democrats have made the elections bill a major focus, touting it as the best way to counteract voting restrictions that have advanced in Republican-controlled statehouses across the U.S. in the wake of Donald Trump's false claims about a stolen 2020 election.

With a vote nearing, a delegation of Texas state legislators met with senators Tuesday to make the case for congressional action.

The legislators talked about their dramatic walkout last month, which effectively blocked Republicans in the Texas legislature from approving new voting limits.

Carol Alvarado, a Texas state senator from Houston, said she hoped the visit gave Congress some fight, some strength. Democrats gave the group multiple standing ovations.

Yet Sen. Joe Manchin, a key holdout on the elections legislation, did not attend the lunch. And with Republicans united against the measure, Democrats seemed to be careening toward a failed vote next week that is certain to add to the frustrations of liberal activists and others in the party who fear that a chance to safeguard access

to the ballot is slipping away. Many of them say Democrats should change the Senate's filibuster rules to muscle the bill through, but Manchin and others are against taking that step.

Sen. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., vowed to press ahead. He said Democrats will hold a special meeting later this week to discuss the path forward. We have to get it done, Schumer said.

Schumer said Republicans are passing the most draconian restrictions since the beginning of Jim Crow, potentially disenfranchising tens of millions of Americans.

The Democrats' bill would bring about the largest overhaul of U.S. voting in a generation, touching nearly every aspect of the electoral process. It would remove hurdles to voting erected in the name of election security, like voter ID laws, while curtailing the influence of big money in politics.

It would create a nonpartisan process for redrawing congressional districts, while

expanding mail voting and early voting, while restoring the rights of felons to cast a ballot, among scores of other provisions.

Passing the bill was always going to be a huge lift in an evenly split 50-50 Senate, where Vice President Kamala Harris can cast tie-breaking votes. Senate procedural rules require 60 votes to overcome a filibuster, and Republicans are united against the bill, calling it a power grab.

The core desire they have is to federalize all elections to try to achieve a benefit to the Democrats at the expense of the Republicans. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Tuesdays. Not surprisingly, there will not be a single Republican who supports it.

Manchin, a moderate West Virginia Democrat, has also said he would vote against the bill because it doesn't have bipartisan support. What exactly will be palatable to Manchin, however, remains unclear. He supported previous versions of the bill and has said that action on voting rights is needed.

than 30 million people in the UK have received their second doses, which has been shown to provide maximum protection against the Delta variant first identified in India.

The largest ever NHS vaccination campaign is in the home stretch of the first dose roll-out the vaccine is the most important step you can take to protect yourself, your friends and family so it's really important everybody in the latest eligible groups books themselves in to get their jab and plays their part in this huge national effort, said Dr Emily Lawson, lead for the NHS Covid Vaccination Programme.

The NHS has said that over 1 million appointments were booked by people in their 20s in just one day last week. When invited, people are able to book at one of the 1,600 Vaccination Centres, pharma-cy and general practice sites across the country that are available through the national booking service. Vaccination centres are also available at accessible locations such as mosques, temples, museums and rugby grounds.

The NHS confirmed that people aged 39 and under and pregnant women will be offered the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines in line with updated guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, following reports of some extremely rare blood clotting related to the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine in younger age groups.

EU chief gives initial approval to national recovery plans

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LISBON, 16 JUNE

European Union authorities are moving a step closer to deploying the bloc's massive pandemic recovery fund as the president of the 27-nation bloc's executive commission begins a tour of some EU capitals to announce the initial endorsement of national spending plans.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrived Wednesday in Portugal, which was the first EU member to formally present ideas for spending its share of the 750 billion euros (\$909 billion) earmarked to help countries out of a sharp economic downturn caused by COVID-19.

The money is to be distributed in the form of grants and credit. The EU's 1.1 trillion-euro (\$1.3 trillion) seven-year budget from next year



will also help national economies.

In Portugal, Von der Leyen was expected to tell Prime Minister António Costa that his government's plan for how to use its 16.6 billion-euro windfall (USD 20 billion) has earned the European Commission's blessing. Final approval of EU countries' plans is still weeks away.

Portugal says much of its expenditure will go to improving the public health network, reducing pollution from public transportation, making housing more energy efficient

and buying computers for schools.

So far, 23 of the EU's 27 countries have submitted their spending plans to Brussels authorities, which vet them to ensure they are in line with the bloc's policy goals and plan to follow up to check whether they are abiding by their commitments.

After Portugal, Von der Leyen was scheduled in Spain later in the day to meet with Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. She plans to visit Greece, Denmark and Luxembourg later this week.

Medicine, University of Oxford, and Joint Chief Investigator for the RECOVERY trial, declared the results as very exciting.

The hope was that by giving a combination of antibodies targeting the SARS-CoV-2 virus we would be able to reduce the worst manifestations of Covid-19. There was, however, great uncertainty about the value of antiviral therapies in late-stage Covid-19 disease, said Horby.

It is wonderful to learn that even in advanced Covid-19 disease, targeting the virus can reduce mortality in patients who have failed to mount an antibody response of their own, he said.

The treatment uses a combination of two monoclonal antibodies casirivimab and imdevimab, known as REGEN-COV in the US that bind specifically to two different sites on the coronavirus spike protein,

neutralising the ability of the virus to infect cells.

We now know that this antibody combination is not only bad for the virus but it is also good for the sickest patients who have failed to mount a natural immune response of their own, said Sir Martin Landray, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford, and Joint Chief Investigator of the trial. That is excellent news it is the first time that any

antiviral treatment has been shown to save lives in hospitalised COVID-19 patients. We are incredibly grateful to the many NHS staff and patients who have contributed to today's discovery, he said.

Among patients who were seronegative at baseline, or that they had not mounted a natural antibody response of their own, the antibody combination significantly reduced the primary outcome of 28-day mortality by one-fifth compared with usual care alone.

Thus, for every 100 such patients treated with the antibody combination, there would be six fewer deaths, the trial found. The National Health Service (NHS) is planning to make use of this antibody injection within the community to avoid people having to require hospitalisation at all.

These encouraging results from this trial carried out in and by the NHS suggest a new treatment option to help save the lives of some patients hospitalised with Covid and are the latest example of research and innovation for patients, which the NHS has played a role in

finding means, for patients hospitalised with COVID-19 who do not make their own antibodies to the virus, being treated with antibody-based drugs to the spike protein can reduce their risk of death and time spent in hospital, said Professor Fiona Watt, Executive Chair, Medical Research Council, which helped fund the study. Patients who have made their own antibodies to the virus do not benefit from the new treatment, which is also important information given the cost of drugs, Watt said.

Professor Nick Lemoine, Medical Director at the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network, added: It is fantastic news that the RECOVERY trial has provided evidence to establish another lifesaving treatment against Covid-19 through this monoclonal antiviral antibody combination.

UK trial finds Regeneron anti-viral therapy saves lives from Covid-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 16 JUNE



Sir Peter Horby, Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Nuffield Department of



Tagore & the Geheeb

This book is a study of the Indo-German cultural exchange in the early 20th century that was initiated by three educators and their pedagogical vision... A review

SOMDATTI MANDAL

Martin Kämpchen, the literature scholar, author, translator and journalist who has been residing in Santiniketan for more than 30 years, really needs no introduction. His work focuses on German-Indian cultural exchange and his books – *Rabindranath Tagore and Germany: A Documentation* (1991), *Herman Hesse and Kali-das Nag: A Friendship* (1994), *Rabindranath Tagore in Germany: Four Responses to a Cultural Icon* (1999) – and his edited volume along with Imre Banga, *Rabindranath Tagore: One Hundred Years of Global Reception* (2014), have been well-received. Now, after several years of painstaking archival research, a new book authored by him called *Indo-German Exchanges in Education: Rabindranath Tagore Meets Paul and Edith Geheeb* has been published recently.

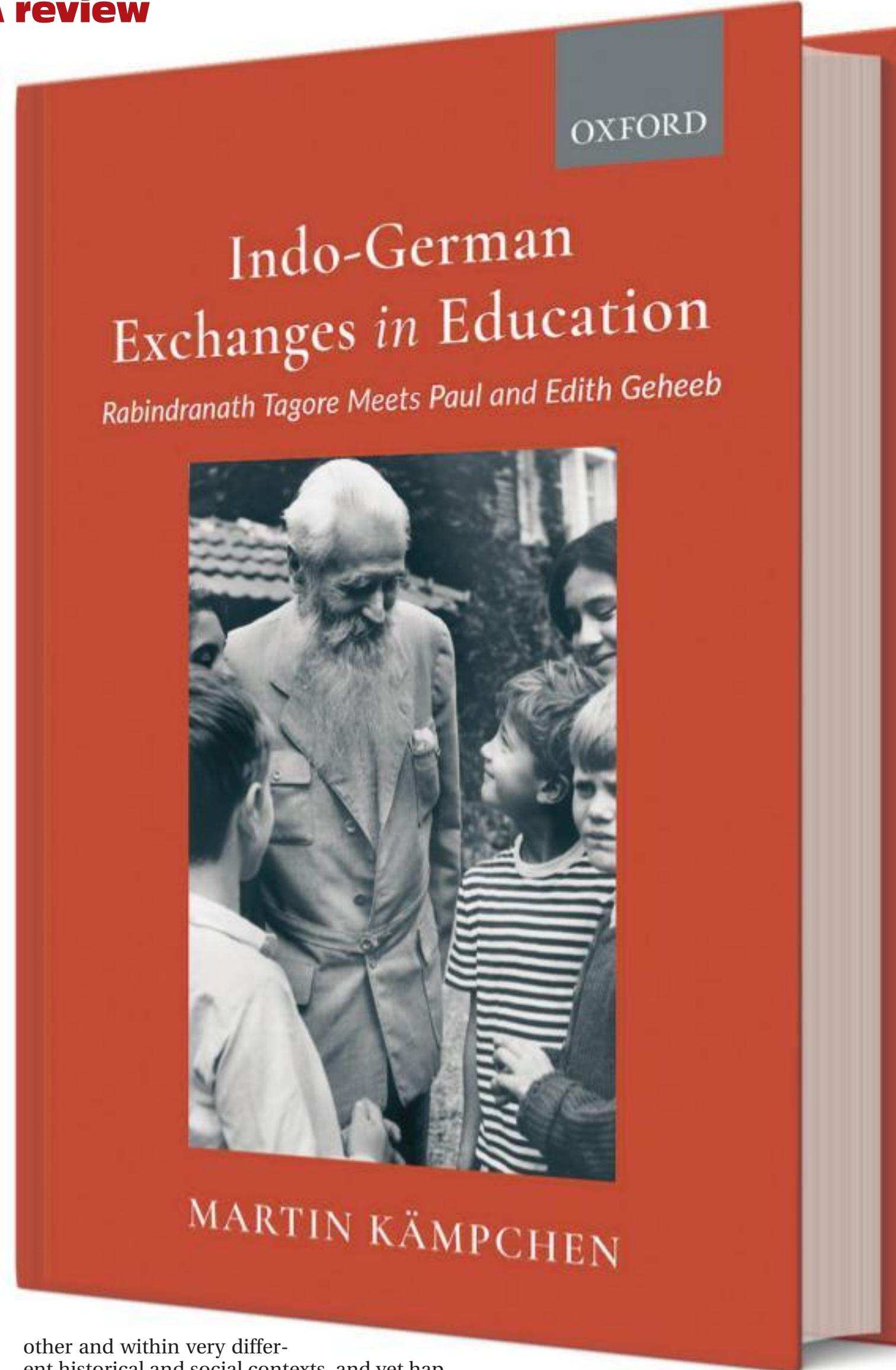
One is well aware that apart from being a poet, Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was also an educator and he founded the Brahmacharya Ashram in Santiniketan in 1901. It emerged from the desire to give an alternative to the British school system and was a vision nourished by the ancient narratives of ashram life in our epics. At the same time, it was a protest against foreign cultural and political hegemony. For Tagore, education was part of a holistic vision of how mankind should relate to the outside world, which included society, nature, the cosmos and transcendence.

Paul Geheeb (1870-1961) and Edith Geheeb (1885-1982) founded the Odenwaldschule in Germany in 1910. From the beginning Paul Geheeb was an educator and he never attempted to be anything else. As a backlash to industrialisation and urbanisation, the New School Movement to which he belonged believed in a return to a natural environment and simplicity, primary and direct experience. During the Nazi regime, the Geheeb family emigrated to Switzerland in 1934 and the school was first started inside the Institut Monnier in the mountains above Geneva. Later, it moved into its own buildings and was given the name Ecole d'Humanité. Since 1946 till now, it has been situated in Switzerland's Hasliberg Goldern.

Against the background of these two pioneering educational institutions, a remarkable chapter of an Indo-German encounter unfolded. Paul Geheeb, a name familiar in Germany and Switzerland for his contribution to the New Education Movement, however, has not really been recognised in India as a European personality close to Tagore, either in spirit or action. That is despite their having met each other in Germany in 1930 and maintained contact for a decade. Also, the affinity of their educational visions has never been elaborated in Tagore studies.

Indo-German Exchanges in Education ventures to do exactly so. Looking at these two systems, each of which grew and was shaped in their separate historical and geographical contexts, Kämpchen explains that phenomenologically they have a great deal in common. In them, one witnesses a transnational trend towards liberating children from the cage of strict formal rules of conduct and adult domination. They are attempts to understand the natural progress of a child from children's viewpoint, not from the expectations and more evolved mental outlook of the adult.

A pantheistic religious faith and a deep nature consciousness were apparently Geheeb's main sources of strength, which could fill him with satisfaction and allow him to bear the difficulties of life and complexities of his personality. Those were the features that gave strength and consolation to Tagore as well. In 1943 during World War II, Geheeb held a lecture in which he alluded to the striking similarity of the two schools. They had been founded only nine years apart and had evolved totally unknown to each



other and within very different historical and social contexts, and yet happened to be so eminently comparable.

Geheeb stated, "Psychologically, it is certainly interesting that Santiniketan and the Odenwaldschule developed totally independent from each other, not knowing of each other for many years, until gradually numerous students and friends of Tagore stayed with us in the Odenwald and praised our school as the Santiniketan of the Occident. When, finally, in the summer of 1930, Rabindranath Tagore spent a few days with me, he declared that the atmosphere of the school made him feel quite at home."

Similarly, in a letter to Geheeb, Tagore had written, "The only hope of saving civilisation is through 'enlightened' education, and organisations like your Institut Monnier and my Santiniketan have indeed a great role to play."

The Geheeb and Tagore saw themselves as deeply committed educators. Their respective school projects were at the heart of their creative lives and became the receptacle of their national and international contacts. Several other Indian figures, who were closely related to the three deeply committed educators, are also mentioned in the book.

The one Indian intellectual and associate of Tagore who dominated this web of contacts

was

Aurobindo Mohan Bose, a nephew of Jagadish Chandra Bose, the famous botanist. Aurobindo was among the very early students of Tagore's school in Santiniketan and he later went on to study at Cambridge and then in Germany. It was he who suggested and organised Tagore's visit to Geheeb's Odenwaldschule in Germany in 1930. After World War II, he made the Ecole d'Humanité in Switzerland his home, where he died in 1977.

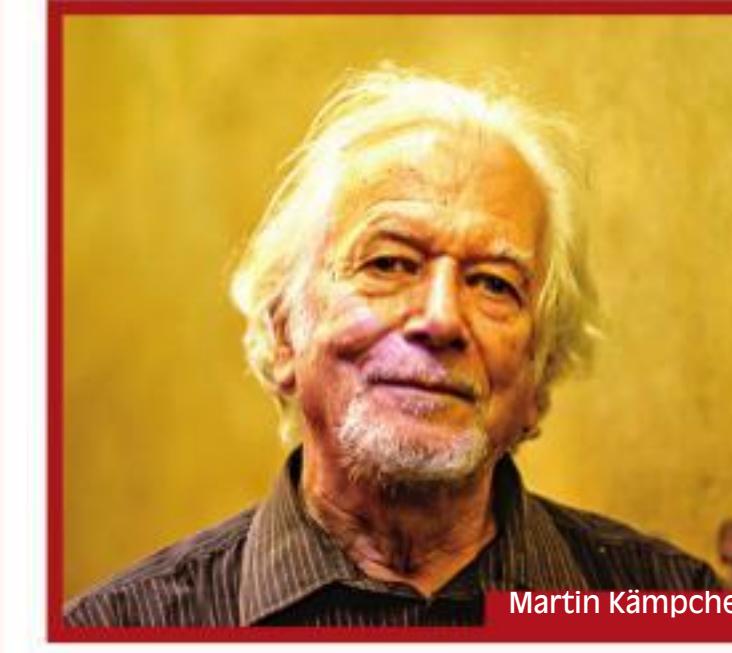
Another important contact was Venkatesh Narayana Sharma and his wife Ellen Teichmuller, who fled from Nazi Germany after four years of teaching at Geheeb's school and settled in Madras, where in 1937 they founded the Children's Garden School, following models of the Odenwaldschule and Tagore's Brahmacharya Ashram. Incidentally, Children's Garden still runs under the stewardship of Sharma's two daughters. Though the link between the school in Chennai and Santiniketan is not active, what is fundamentally similar, or in fact identical, in those schools is their emphasis on inclusiveness and appreciation of individual freedom.

Another string of contacts developed between Tagore's grand-nephew Saumya-

Spot Light

INDO-GERMAN EXCHANGES IN EDUCATION: RABINDRANATH TAGORE MEETS PAUL AND EDITH GEHEEB

BY MARTIN KÄMPCHEN
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS INDIA
260 PAGES, RS 1,295 (HARDCOVER)



Martin Kämpchen

dranath Tagore and his wife Shrimati Tagore (nee Hutheesing), who was in Europe with her husband and maintained years of contact with Edith Geheeb and hosted her in Calcutta during her maiden visit to India in 1965-66. Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi (who sent her two sons to study at the Ecole for a brief period in 1952) and Edith Geheeb's association in the early 1930s with two monks of the Ramakrishna Order, namely Swami Yatiswarananda and Swami Nikhilananda, enhanced her spiritual leaning towards India.

Another Indian visitor who arrived in the summer of 1931 and kept a steady contact with the Geheeb's school was Anath Nath Basu, who was a teacher at Santiniketan. Similarly, Premchand Lal, involved in the rural reconstruction work at Sriniketan, also kept in touch with them.

The similarity between Odenwaldschule-Ecole d'Humanité and Brahmacharya Ashram is a recurring theme of this book. But it also explores the period between the two World Wars when the lives of the Geheeb's and Rabindranath Tagore, and their respective circles, overlap. Rather than being a biography, a history, or a comprehensive description, this study is a comparison of Tagore and the Geheeb's and their schools. Making use of the repository of unpublished correspondence available at the Ecole's archive, Kämpchen studies the Indo-German cultural exchange in the early 20th century that was initiated by the three educators and their pedagogical vision.

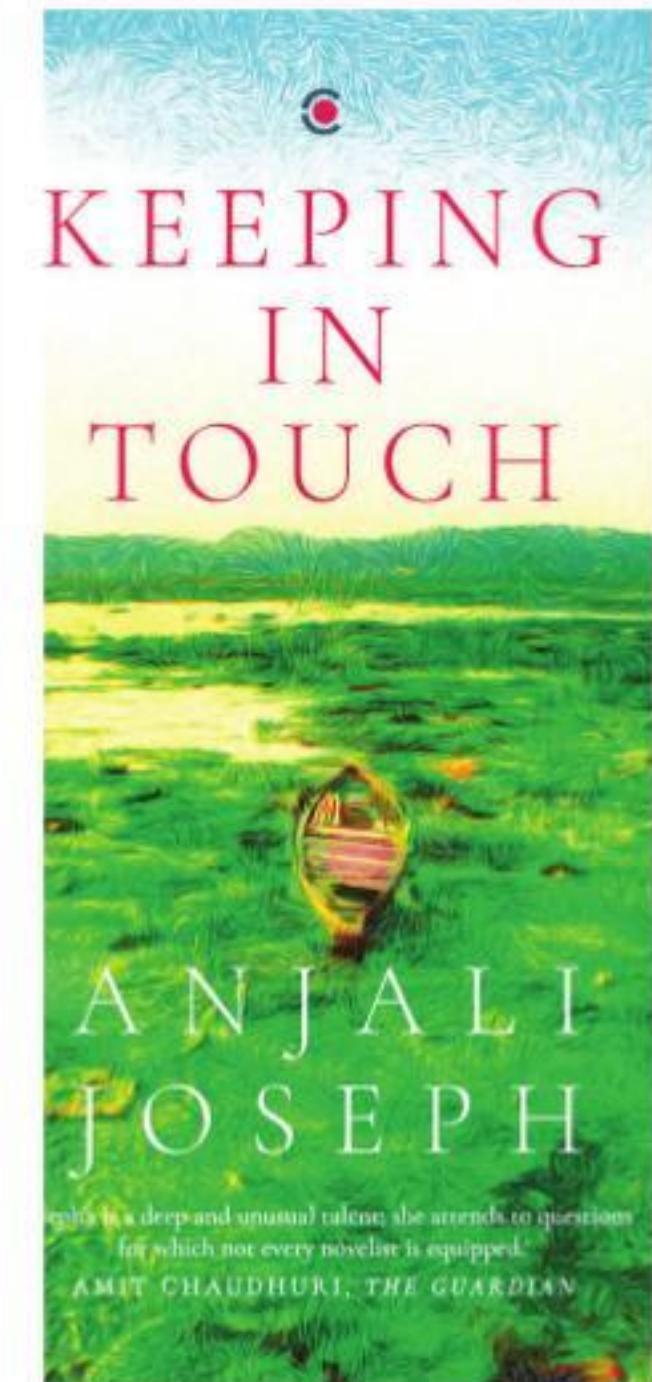
Histories of the Geheeb's schools and the New Education Movement have been written mostly in German and very little information is available in English. Also, information in English on Paul and Edith Geheeb's lives, on their circle of associates, and on their pedagogical lifework is extremely limited. In this context, this book is a valuable contribution by Kämpchen who, as a German himself, could access and evaluate all documents easily.

Here one must also mention the manner in which the author has provided all the original German letters and other documents as footnotes to the translations he made into English. This meticulousness to ensure that nothing is lost in translation is commendable and a chief characteristic of this book, whose appeal is also enhanced by the inclusion of several black and white archival photographs from private collections.

The reviewer is a former professor of English, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan

BOOKS RECEIVED

Modern romance

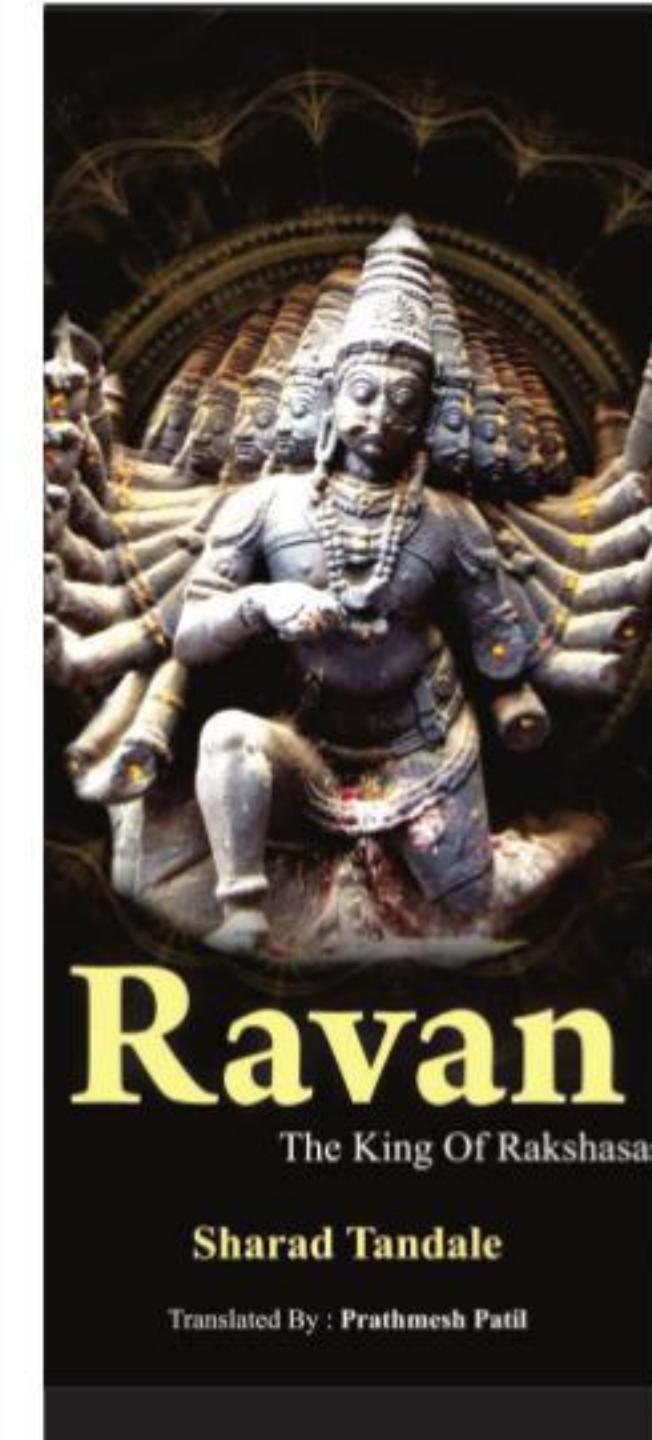


KEEPING IN TOUCH
BY ANJALI JOSEPH
CONTEXT, CHENNAI
FICTION, 221 PAGES, RS 599

Keteki is charming but allergic to commitment; Ved is smitten but something of a toxic bachelor. As they begin the intricate and transformative dance of a long-distance relationship, they also navigate through changes in their lives. Set in Assam and London, *Keeping in Touch* is edgy, funny, and uncompromisingly modern.

Anjali Joseph was born in Bombay. *Saraswati Park*, her first novel, won the Desmond Elliot prize, the Betty Trask Award and jointly won the Vodafone Crossword Book Award for fiction in India. *Another Country* was longlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize. *The Living* was shortlisted for the DSC Prize. She returns with a finely observed tale about love.

The king speaks



Ravan
The King Of Rakshasas

Sharad Tandale

Translated By : Prathmesh Patil

RAVAN: THE KING OF RAKSHASAS
BY SHARAD TANDALE
TRANSLATED BY PRATHMESH PATIL
NEW ERA PUBLISHING HOUSE, PUNE
MYTHOLOGY-FICTION, 400 PAGES, RS 380

"Born unknown to the true self, losing my identity to the cruelty of Devdas, I rose out of the ashes with an unceasing spirit and unstoppable tempest within me. I made my paths, expanded my horizons and raised my own empire with nothing but ambition, determination and the gift of intelligence."

You have burned me for a thousand years and I am still alive. You have never understood me, and as they say it is easier to hate what you do not understand.

I became the king of an empire that was defeated and I taught it how to win. I did not inherit the crown like some other kings from the comfortable laps of their fathers. I have lived as a spiteful myth in your hearts, but have you ever bothered to look inside me and know who I really was? I pity you, who burn me every year in your ignorance.

You say many things about me but many more have been hidden. Listen to me if you have the courage. Let me tell you the story of myself, Ravan, the king of the Rakshasas."

Looking for answers in Indian history

One is left thinking whether Prosenjit Dasgupta has bitten off more than he would be able to chew... A review

TAPATI BANERJEE

The title intrigues the reader. The preface suggests a reason, "In India, possibly more than in most other countries, there is 'nostalgia for eternity'". This fascination has marked Indian thinking for ages and brings one to the core of the book. It is an attempt at "a study of Indian history in both the far and immediate past, so as to provide a perspective in discussing and understanding some aspects of the present".

Prosenjit Dasgupta traverses a wide canvas, from pre-historic India, of which he provides glimpses, through findings of the Indus Valley civilisation, to the metaphysics of the *Rig Veda* and the *Upanishads*, to the epics. He also touches on Buddhism, the Indian logic systems, *Advaita* of Adi Shankara and explains how each has influenced Indian thinking and culture.

Dasgupta then goes into the works of later sages and saints such as Kabir, Guru Nanak, up to Ramakrishna Paramahansa and even Ramana Maharshi, and briefly considers the impacts of Mughal and British rule in India. Admittedly, much of this is documented but

the author has focused on the main trends for ease of reference for the not-so-academically minded.

In the first half of the book, he has supplemented mainstream historical facts and details with interesting notes from the works of the sage Manu, great grammarian Panini, pilgrim Yuan Chwang, scholar Al-Biruni and traveller François Bernier.

The second half considers "the Emergence of the Present", over the last 30 years or so, necessarily focusing on the broad outlines of the Hindutva movement that has assumed centre stage in social and political affairs of India today. He focuses in equal measure on the other backward classes and Dalit movements, both of which have occupied a good deal of the nation's attention over the last few decades.

Dasgupta provides nuggets of information not commonly known and presents some uncomfortable facts to the reading public. That throws up the question "So, now what?" He devotes a fairly long chapter to that, providing lateral inputs, including an interesting reference to *Studies in Animal and Human Behaviour* by ethologist and Nobel laureate Konrad Lorenz.

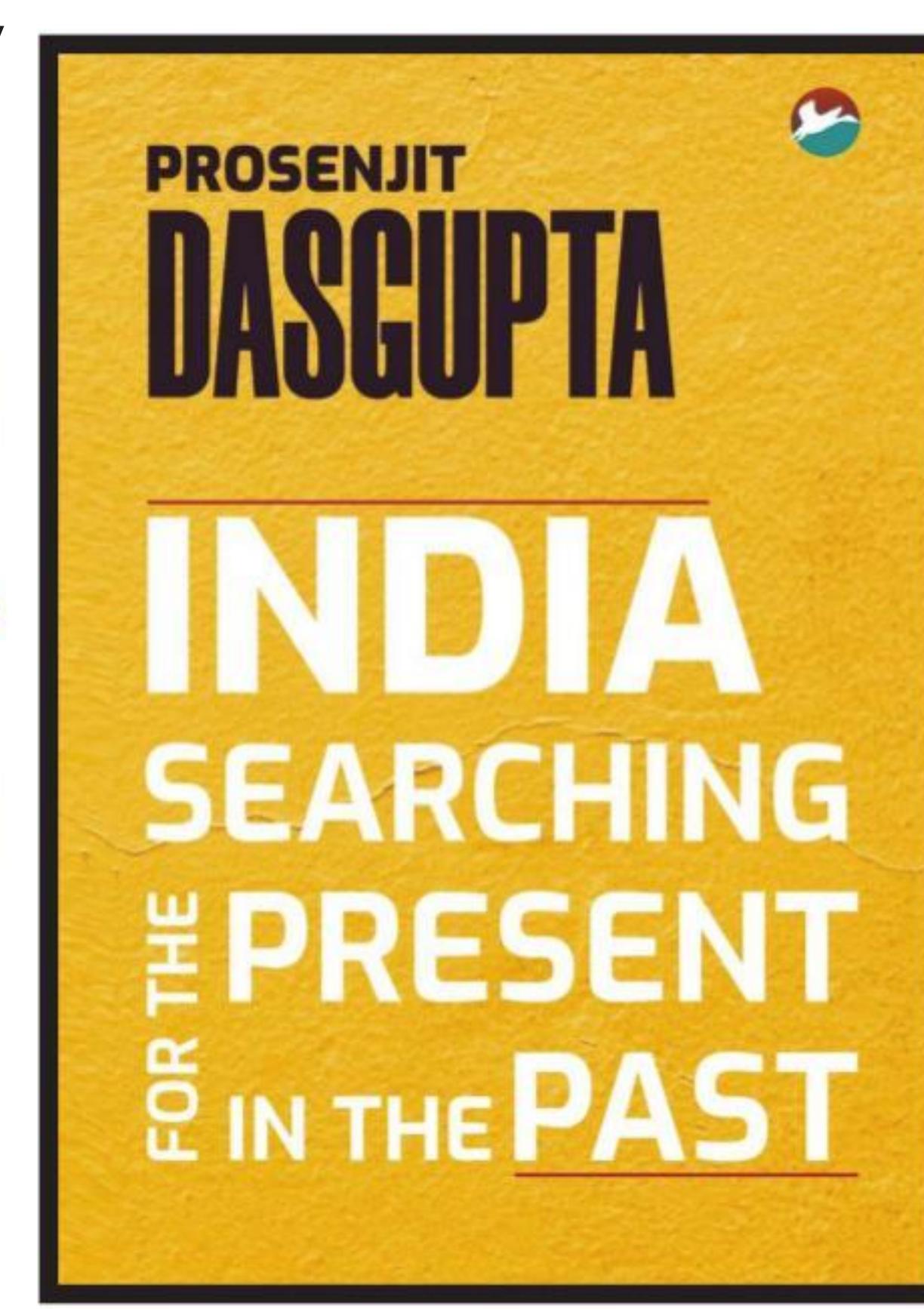
Spot Light

INDIA - SEARCHING FOR THE PRESENT IN THE PAST

BY PROSENJIT DASGUPTA
CINNAMONTEAL DESIGN AND PUBLISHING, GOA
260 PAGES, RS 550

One is, however, left thinking whether the author has bitten off more than he would be able to chew. Evidently, he has relied almost entirely on secondary sources and has stated as much. The bibliography is quite extensive and useful but the index could possibly have been better compiled for the convenience of readers.

The reviewer is a freelance contributor





Australia batsman Steve Smith (*in photo, left*) reclaimed the top position in the ICC Test rankings released on Wednesday. Smith, who claimed the top spot for the first time since the Boxing Day Tests last year, takes over from New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, who is set to lead his team in the WTC final. This means that Smith has been at the top for 167 Tests played worldwide in total, only behind Garry Sobers (189 matches) and Viv Richards (179 matches).

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Milkha Singh out of Covid ICU: Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh is 'stable' and he has been shifted out of COVID ICU to another section of the PGIMER hospital, a statement from his family said on Wednesday. The 91-year-old had contracted the dreaded virus last month. "Milkha ji is stable and is out of the COVID ICU, but is in the Medical ICU, a spokesperson of the Milkha family said.

Dutee expects Olympics spot: An Olympic qualifying spot within her grasp, national record-holding sprinter Dutee Chand on Wednesday said her target in the upcoming Tokyo Games is to reach the 100m final with an improved timing. Dutee is yet to breach the qualification timing of 11.15 seconds but is expected to make it to the Tokyo Games on the basis of world rankings.

Murray wins: Former world No. 1 Andy Murray defeated Benoit Paire 6-3, 6-2 at The Queen's Club grass-court tournament, dispatching the Frenchman in 65 minutes for his first match victory in more than a year. It was Murray's first grass-court match in three years and he felt right at home, converting all three break points and never facing one himself.

Chances for Repsol Honda Team: After a series of difficult races and a fruitful test, the German GP offers Marc Marquez and Pol Espargaro a chance to apply their learnings. The weekend begins with Free Practice 1 at 09:55 Local Time on Friday, June 18 with the flag for the 30-lap race on Sunday dropping at 14:00 Local Time on June 20. Immediately after the race the Repsol Honda Team will travel to Assen for the following round.

New field for Yuvraj Singh: Global sports brand PUMA extends partnership with former Indian Cricketer Yuvraj Singh. The World Cup-winning champion has been associated with the brand for over a decade. Moving from cricket to the fast lane, Yuvraj will now be seen in a new avatar as the face of PUMA Motorsport in India, showcasing his passion for fast cars and sports-inspired fashion.

Greenpeace apologises: Greenpeace has apologized and Munich police are investigating after a protestor parachuted into the stadium and injured two people before Germany's game against France at the European Championship.

Indian among top five contenders for medal at Tokyo Olympics: Oltmans

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

Former head coach Roelant Oltmans has picked the Indian men's hockey team among the medal contenders for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in July-August.

In an insightful conversation with 'Hockey Te Charcha', a podcast series initiated by Hockey India ahead of the Olympics, Oltmans emphasized that mental toughness will be a deciding factor for any team to succeed in Tokyo.

"For me, India is among the top five contenders to win a medal in Tokyo. The team has shown good consistency in competing with the best teams in the world over the last two years," he said.

However, Oltmans warned against needless panicking in pressure situations.

"India has already shown they can beat teams like Australia, Belgium and the Netherlands. However, doing it at the Olympics will be a different matter. The decisive factor when you are trying to win such a tournament is the mentalty of the team."

"You cannot panic if you are behind in a game or get overexcited when you are

Southampton is boiling hot, expecting both Ashwin and Jadeja to play: Gavaskar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 16 JUNE

Legendary opener Sunil Gavaskar (*in photo*) believes that India will go in with both Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin against New Zealand in the World Test Championship final as Southampton's "boiling hot" weather is going to ensure that the pitch dries up progressively and assists spinners. Gavaskar is part of the match's commentary panel and is currently in Southampton with first-hand knowledge about the pitch and conditions for the match starting June 18.

"In Southampton, it's been boiling hot over the last few days so the pitch will definitely be dry and help spin as the match progresses, so yes both Ashwin and Jadeja will play," Gavaskar told PTI in an exclusive interview. Southampton's

"That (Ashwin and Jadeja together) also gives depth to the batting as well as give a fine balance to the bowling attack. For the series later (vs England) much will depend on the weather and pitch conditions."

maximum temperature has been over 25 degree Celsius for the past few days but there is a forecast of rain from Thursday. For Gavaskar, it's not just bowling but all-round abilities that give India the kind of balance they need going into a marquee match like this.

"That (Ashwin and Jadeja together) also gives depth to the batting as well as give a fine balance to the bowling attack. For the series later (vs England) much will depend on the weather and pitch conditions."

While New Zealand will be on a high after their series win against England, Gavaskar feels that watching the Tamil Nadu tweaker is as fascinating an experience as it was playing alongside Erapalli Prasanna and

because it didn't get any practice matches.

"(In) today's tours there are barely one or two practice games before the Test series begins and the Indian team has had intra-squad matches so they have had that practice.

"The team is a good blend of youth and experience and most of the players have been to England several times so they know the conditions and what to expect," said the former India captain. Ashwin is expected to play a significant role with his experience. Gavaskar feels that watching the Tamil Nadu tweaker is as fascinating an experience as it was playing alongside Erapalli Prasanna and



also having watched another match-winner Harbhajan Singh in action. "They are all awesome bowlers. Prasanna is called the wily fox because he had this wonderful ability to trick the batsmen into playing bad shots. Apart from varying degrees of off-spin, he had

a deceptive floater where he got batsmen clean bowled or caught at slip with the ball that went straight through.

"Harbhajan has the same clever variations plus he had the doosra which often turned quite sharply from leg to off with little visible change in action.

Wonderful bowler."

"Ashwin has all these plus he has added the flicker or carrom ball and is bold enough to actually bowl a leg spinner to fox the batsman."

But what separates these champion bowlers from others is their big hearts while facing world class batters.

"I was privileged to play with Prasanna and I am fortunate to be able to watch Harbhajan and Ashwin win matches for India."

Over the years in England, save skipper Virat Kohli, who absolutely dominated the English bowling during the 2018 tour, odd numbers by Ajinkya Rahane, Murali Vijay (both in 2014) or Cheteshwar Pujara (2018) have been indicators that consistent success in conditions conducive to seam and swing is missing.

What is it that makes Kohli so special across conditions?

"The influence of one-day cricket had made some batsmen play the ball on the rise or through the line as it is called. Most times, they get away where the ball doesn't move but in England where it moves, it's important to get closer to the ball," he said. Playing "on the rise" or "through the line" in cricketing parlance means when a batsman makes contact with the ball even before it has reached the top of its bounce.

"Virat Kohli hardly ever plays through the line even on flat pitches and he plays late covering any movement off the pitch and that's why he is successful on all types of surfaces. "In the recent series against England in India he didn't get a century but his 60 odd in Chennai was a wonderful exhibition on how to play spin bowling. He was smilling the ball and that's the hallmark of all great batsmen," the master batsman said.

NZ have advantage but we are mentally prepared: Rahane

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

SOUTHAMPTON, 16 JUNE



Bombay HC sets aside arbitration award that required BCCI to pay ₹4,800 crore to DCHL

MUMBAI, 16 JUNE

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday set aside the arbitration award that directed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to pay over ₹4,800 crore to the Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd (DCHL) over the alleged illegal termination of the latter's IPL franchise team, Deccan Chargers Hyderabad, from the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2012.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the counsel for the BCCI, had argued before the Bombay HC that the arbitrator had proceeded contrary to the contract between the cricket board and the DCHL.

Mehta had said the arbitrator had held the termination to be valid even though several terms of the contract had not been complied with by the DCHL. In the verdict pronounced on Wednesday, Justice Patel held that the arbitrator had indeed proceeded with the matter without applying its mind. PTI

The arbitrator had held

year-old Rahane said the team management is backing the India youngsters to play fearless cricket and perform with freedom. "I am not telling them

anything. They know their game-plans, they know they have played their best cricket for one, one-and-a-half years," he said.

anything. They know their game-plans, they know they have played their best cricket for one, one-and-a-half years," he said.

Format of WTC final can be changed in future: Southee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SOUTHAMPTON, 16 JUNE



New Zealand pacer Tim Southee (*in photo*) on Wednesday said changes can be made to the format of the World Test Championship final going ahead, instead of it being a one-off match.

Earlier this month, India head coach Ravi Shastri said that the WTC final should be decided in a best-of-three match series, which he feels would have been a fitting finale after two and a half years of cricket. "At the start of the two-year cycle, we knew that it was going to be a one-off final. Maybe it's something they can look at going forward and then potentially make changes," Southee said during a virtual press conference.

"It was made clear two years ago at the start of the cycle, what was required to win the championship.

"It's been great to put context around the Test game, to have the two-year cycle. There have already been adjustments going forward to the next cycle. So, it'll be an evolving thing."

The Kiwis finished runner-up in the last two ODI World Cups and talking about the Black Caps' run in the recent ICC tournaments, the 32-year-old said, "It's been long time since we won the Champions Trophy in 2000. We've come very close in

the last last couple."

We know that it's going to be a tough week. Having a number of the guys that have been very close to winning an ICC event in the side, we have the experience of playing in the finals.

Southee, who has scalped 309 wickets in 78 Tests, said the team has prepared well for the marquee Test against India, starting here on Friday.

We've played two Tests against England, which obviously has been pretty good for us. It's been a great preparation leading up to this Test final good number of guys that have had good performances throughout those two Test matches.

A couple of good days training today and tomorrow. And as you know, we're all looking forward to what is the ultimate goal of this tour.

Aware that the Indian side has a potent batting line up with likes of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in their ranks, the pacer said Kiwi bowlers will have to be on top of their games to succeed.

England Women consolidate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BRISTOL, 16 JUNE



Indian Women picked up the crucial wicket Tammy Beaumont (66) (*in photo*) in the second session but England Women consolidated their position by reaching 162 for two at tea on the opening day of the one-off Test here on Wednesday.

After getting rid of Lauren Winfield-Hill (35) in the first session of the day, India Women toiled hard for most part of the post-lunch period before debutant off-spinner Sneh Rana picked up her maiden Test wicket. She got rid of in-form of Beaumont, who was brilliantly caught by Shafali Verma at short-leg. Beaumont faced 166 balls and decorated her innings with six fours en route to her second Test fifty.

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In the next over, Winfield-Hill got lucky again. Debutant Pooja Vastrakar induced a thick edge from the batter but

the ball flew between second slip and gully to the boundary.

After a slow and cautious start, England picked up the pace. Winfield was the more positive of the two batters as she lofted Pandey over the mid-wicket to hit the first six of the innnings and in the process brought up England's fifty in the 17th over.

An over later, Winfield hit another maximum, this time over backward square leg off Vastrakar. Vastrakar eventually had the last laugh as she had Winfield caught by wicketkeeper Taniya Bhatia, giving the breakthrough.

As many as five players made Test debut for India, including Verma, Deepa Sharma, Vastrakar, Rana and Bhatia, while for England Sophia Dunkley was the lone player to earn a Test cap.

Indian women team is playing its first Test match in seven years. It last played the traditional format of the game in November 2014 against South Africa in Mysuru.

Brief Scores: Lauren Winfield Hill 35, Tammy Beaumont 66, Heather Knight 47 (not out) batted cautiously and remained unbeaten in the company of Natalie Sciver (11 not out) as England made 76 runs off 28 overs in the second session.

Earlier, the hosts made a solid 86 for one in the opening session. The Indian pace duo of veteran Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey made a promising start, doing just enough to trouble the English batswoman on more than one occasion.

In the seventh over, Goswami induced an edge from Winfield-Hill as the batter went for an extravagant drive but Smriti Mandhana dropped the chance in the slip cordon despite getting both hands on the ball.

In the next over, Winfield got lucky again. Debutant Pooja Vastrakar induced a thick edge from the batter but

the ball flew between second slip and gully to the boundary.

It promises to be an emotional return for a team that is still processing Saturday's incident and has spent the last few days just figuring out how to feel OK about playing a game again.

But with Eriksen recovering well, and telling his teammates they should re-focus on the Euro 2020 tournament, Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said the players are able to move forward with a clean conscience.

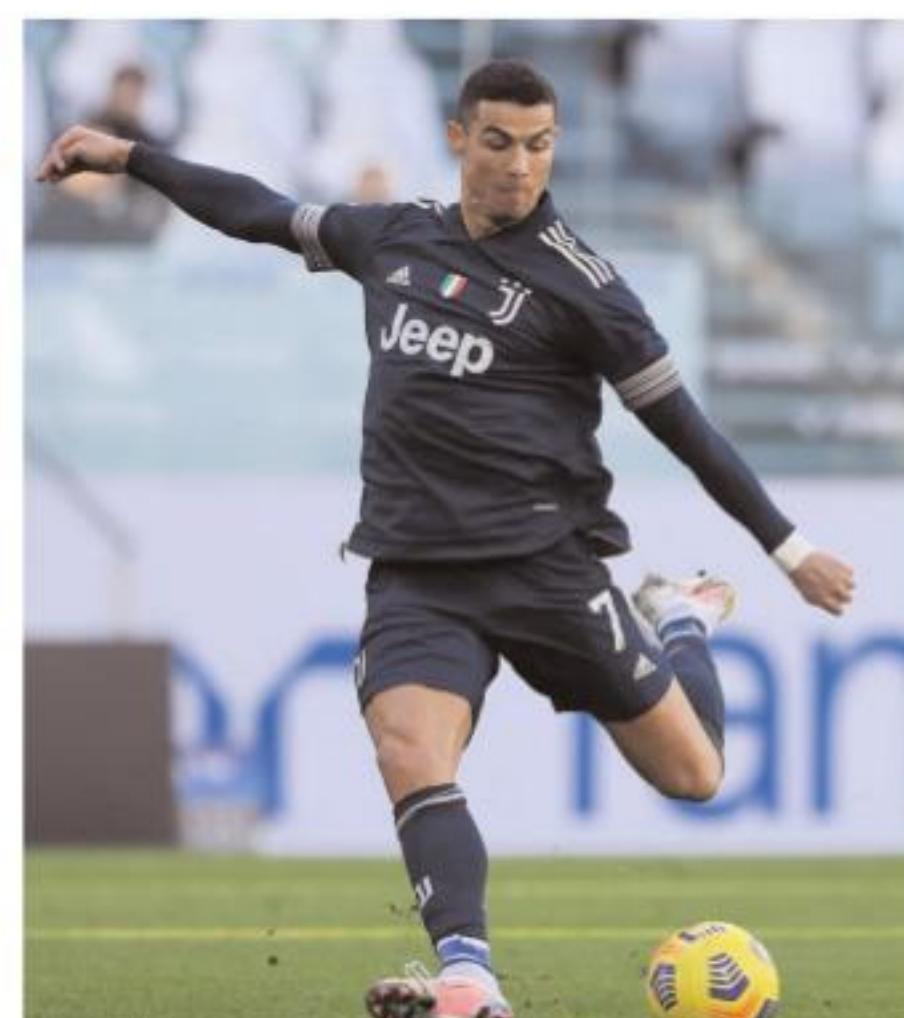
"We are ready to show who we are once again," Hjulmand said. "We showed it on the pitch (and) off the pitch Saturday. And again Thursday we will

show who we really are, and how we fight. They are also ready for a very special atmosphere at Parken Stadium." About 25,000 fans will be allowed in amid loosened pandemic restrictions up from 15,000 for the Finland game and they are sure to show their appreciation for a team that has been widely hailed as heroes by the entire country in the wake of Eriksen's collapse. The players formed a ring around the Inter Milan midfielder to shield him from public view as a team of medics performed emergency CPR. Eriksen suffered cardiac arrest but was resuscitated with a defibrillator.

Ronaldo knocks off \$4 billion from Coca-Cola's value

AGENCIES

BUDAPEST, 16 JUNE



Ronaldo has been quite vocal in his support for healthy diet and is known to admonish his son when he finds him eating food referred to as junk. "Occasionally my son drinks Coca-Cola or Fanta and eats crisps and he knows I don't like that," Ronaldo has said in the past.

Portugal beat Hungary 3-0

Cristiano Ronaldo set the record for most career goals at the European Championship.

The Portuguese great scored from the penalty spot in the 87th minute and then added another in injury time to give the defending champions a 3-0 victory over Hungary on Tuesday.

Ronaldo's goals, however, weren't the only interesting part of the game. On the fifth day of the Euro 2020 tournament, this was the first match played in a full stadium.

The 67,215-capacity Puskás Arena was packed with mostly Hungarian fans, and they made their presence known throughout the match. Hungary is the only one of the 10 countries hosting matches at the tournament to allow full crowds.

That gave Ronaldo plenty of witnesses to history.

The Juventus forward was

playing in his fifth European Championship, dating back to Euro 2004. He entered this year's edition even with Michel Platini at nine goals, but that lasted 87 minutes.

The 36-year