



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



BEAR'S EMBRACE



WON'T MEET WITH
BIDEN: IRAN'S
PRESIDENT-ELECT



'AAP'S CM FACE
FOR PUNJAB WILL
BE A SIKH'



'LACK OF EXPERIENCE
PROBABLY
HURT INDIA'

P6

P9

P5

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 38 and 29 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 87% Min: 45%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 37.4°C (-1) Min: 25.5°C (-3)

SUN RISES

05:25 hrs

MOON RISES

16:49 hrs

SUN SETS

19:22 hrs

MOON SETS

03:44 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Security personnel during an encounter at Sopore in Baramulla district on Monday resulting in three militants being killed. (P5)

Fresh trouble for Alapan: Centre is mulling to hold 'major penalty proceedings' against former state chief secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay. West Bengal Chief minister's top adviser's reply has been sought within 30 days, failing which an inquiry may be held against him ex parte.

Mamata challenges HC order on Narada in SC:

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Calcutta High Court's denial for filing of affidavits by her and state Law Minister Moloy Ghatak on their role on the day of arrest of four TMC leaders on 17 May by the CBI in connection with the Narada sting tape case. A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Aniruddha Bose will be hearing the separate appeals filed by the chief minister, Ghatak and the West Bengal Government on Tuesday. Earlier, the top court had said that it would hear on 22 June the appeal filed by Ghatak. On 9 June, a five-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court had said it will decide later on considering the affidavits by the Banerjee and Ghatak on their respective roles on the day of the arrest of four leaders in connection with the case.



Active count declines; 53K new cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

witnessed 3,88,135 deaths so far. According to the Union Health Ministry, daily recoveries outnumber daily new cases for 39th consecutive day.

A total of 78,190 people have been discharged in the last 24 hours, taking the total discharge to 2,88,44,199 till date.

Current recovery rate in the country has increased to 96.36%, the data showed.

Delhi sees 89 cases, lowest this year: The national capital today reported 89 fresh coronavirus cases — the lowest this year so far — and 11 Covid-related

deaths while the positivity rate dipped to 0.16 percent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

This is the first time since 16 February, when 94 people were diagnosed with the Covid infection, that the number of single-day infections has dropped below the 100-mark.

Since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic in the country early last year, Delhi has recorded a total of 14,32,381 Covid cases till date.

Oftentimes, over 14.05 lakh patients have recovered so far. (See P2)



HC dismisses Bengal govt's plea; NHRC to probe post-poll violence

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 21 JUNE

A larger bench of Calcutta High Court today rejected a petition of state government seeking a review of the HC order directing National Human Rights Commission to set up a committee to look into post-poll violence in the state.

In all, 541 allegations have been filed before NHRC but not a single one before State Human Rights Commission, Justice Harish Tandon said. "This is alarming," Justice Tandon observed.

Even one and a half month after the elections, allegations are being made, acting

The NHRC will simply investigate the incidents which in no way prejudices the state
CALCUTTA HIGH COURT

Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal pointed out. Police is allegedly not taking complaints, Bindal said. Will it raise the confidence on the administration, he asked.

The bench while hearing the recalling prayer filed by the government of West Bengal, *prima facie* found that there has been violence and violation of human rights across the state and also found that the state machinery has failed to redress the

same.

During the pendency of these PILs, large numbers of complaints were received by the committee already formed, alleging displacement of people from their residences, physical assault, destruction of property and ransacking of places of business owing to post-poll violence in the state and that the police authorities are still not maintaining law and order.

The NHRC will simply investigate the incidents which in no way prejudices the state, it was directed.

The recalling application was dismissed as the order dated 18 June, 2021 requires no interference.

SNS & AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 21 JUNE

Ahead of Prime Minister's meeting on Jammu and Kashmir, Opposition leaders in Delhi are scheduled to hold a meeting at Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar's residence on Tuesday at 4 p.m.

The Opposition parties meeting has been called to explore a common front against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, not just in the 2024 Parliamentary election but also in Uttar Pradesh, where elections are due next year.

Invitations have gone to several parties on behalf of Sharad Pawar and former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha, who joined the Trinamul Con-

gress of Mamata Banerjee just before the Bengal election.

"Sharad Pawar and Yashwant Sinha are co-chairing a discussion on the present national scenario. Yashwant Sinha has requested your kind presence and participation in the meeting," says the invite sent out by Rashtriya Manch, Mr Sinha's outfit.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Manoj Jha, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s Sanjay Singh and Congress leader Kapil Sibal are some of the invitees.

Mr Sibal has reportedly declined, so has Mr Jha. Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK says it is not aware of the meeting.

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor on Monday met NCP chief Sharad Pawar, their second meeting this month amidst heightened speculation about the possible formation of a Third Front

month amidst heightened speculation about the possible formation of a Third Front

The closed-door discussions between Kishor and Pawar at the latter's residence lasted for about one-and-a-half hours, sources said.

'Optional Class 12 exams for those unhappy with grading criteria'

The examinations for such candidates shall be conducted any time between 15 Aug to 15 Sept provided situation is conducive

NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

The CBSE informed the Supreme Court on Monday that the optional examinations for Class 12 students, who are unsatisfied with its assessment criteria, would be held between 15 August to 15 September.

The exams would be conducted if the environment is conducive amidst the ongoing Covid pandemic.

On Monday, a bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar agreed to hear on Tuesday a plea for holding physical examinations for Class 12.

The CBSE after the cancellation of Class 12 examination, developed an assessment process with theory and practical components.

Earlier, the apex court had asked the CBSE to develop a dispute resolution mechanism. The CBSE said, disputes regarding computation of results will be referred to a committee constituted by the board.

"After declaration of result by 31 July, if the candidates are not satisfied, CBSE will provide online facility for registration for the examination. The exam will be conducted by the board only in the main subjects as and when conditions are conducive for holding the examinations," said the affidavit.

SNS

NSA unlikely to meet Pak counterpart at SCO meet

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

There is virtually no possibility of a meeting between National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and his Pakistani counterpart Moeed Yusuf on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, said today.

The two NSAs will be attending the 16th meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Council (SCO) in the Tajikistan capital on 23-24 June.

The participation of both Indian and Pakistani NSAs in the session had sparked speculation that they could also hold bilateral talks on the

margins of the SCO meet amidst increasing pressure on the two countries by some Gulf nations to open channels of communication.

The SCO comprises Russia, China, India, Pakistan and Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Last year in September, Doval had walked out of the SCO's virtual meeting of NSAs after Pakistan showed a "fictitious" map violating the agenda of the gathering.

The meet coincides with PM Modi's all-party meet on J&K, the first such outreach since the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two UTs.

Yoga remains 'ray of hope' as world fights Covid: PM

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

On the seventh International Yoga Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the ancient Indian discipline remains a "ray of hope" and a source of strength for the people in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

Addressing a Yoga Day programme, Modi also announced that in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), India has taken another important step as the world is going to get the power of 'M-Yoga' application,

which will have many videos of yoga training based on Common Yoga Protocol available in different languages.

Terming this as a great example of fusion of modern technology and ancient science, the PM expressed hope that the M-yoga app will help in spreading yoga world over

PM LAUNCHES 'M-YOGA' APP: In collaboration with WHO, India has taken another important step as the world is going to get the power of 'M-Yoga' application, which will have many videos of yoga training. The PM expressed hope that the M-yoga app will help in spreading yoga world over

and contribute to the efforts of 'One World, One Health'.

Talking about yoga's role during the pandemic, Modi said there were several instances of yoga sessions conducted by doctors and nurses in hospitals and experts were stressing the importance of breathing exercises

like *pranayama* and *anulom-vilom* in strengthening the respiratory system.

"At a time when the whole world is fighting the coronavirus pandemic, yoga remains a ray of hope," Modi said.

The Prime Minister noted that there may not have been any major public events in

countries across the globe and in India for around a year and a half, but the enthusiasm for Yoga Day has not diminished. In the last one-and-a-half years, lakhs of new yoga practitioners have been added in every corner of the world, Modi said.

"When the unseen coronavirus knocked on the doors, no country was prepared for it in terms of resources, capability and mental toughness. We all have seen that in such difficult times, yoga has become a great source of inner strength," he said.

The prime minister said despite the pandemic, this year's theme for the International Yoga Day "Yoga for wellness" has raised the morale of people.



Students perform yoga in Srinagar on the International Day of Yoga.

paper . thestatesman . com

Delhi got 57L jabs from Centre against 2.94 crore needed: Sisodia

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE



We still need 2.30 crore doses to vaccinate all our citizens. When CM Arvind Kejriwal said that Delhi needed 2.94 crore vaccines to inoculate the city's population within three months, why did we receive only 57 lakh vaccines in total? Delhi still needs 2.30 crore doses of vaccines to inoculate all its residents and if we are going to receive only 15 lakh vaccines next month, this indicates that we

need approximately 15-16 more months to vaccinate all the citizens in Delhi."

Sisodia stated all that the Central government did was to sell vaccines to other nations for its image management, and then told the state governments to float global tenders and purchase vaccines from abroad.

He said, "Now they are claiming to inoculate all citizens for free from 21 June onwards. On inquiry about this free vaccination drive, it was confirmed that not a single dose of free vaccine has been distributed in Delhi. Only 15 lakh doses of vaccines have been earmarked for Delhi for July, not enough to vaccinate all."

Reiterating the vaccination drives across other nations, Sisodia said, "The Covid vaccine is the only way to defeat the crisis in India. Many countries across the world prioritised vaccinating their citizens first, and with pride announced that people can roam about mask-free because most of them are vaccinated."

Speaking on the distribution of free vaccines by the Centre to Delhi, Sisodia said, "Whether the Central government-led vaccination drive is the world's largest drive or not, it is definitely India's longest vaccination drive. And the most mismanaged and mangled-up drive. If we

look at the statistics right now, Delhi needed vaccines for a cumulative of 2.94 crore citizens, out of which 92 lakh for those in the 18-plus age group and 57 lakh for those in the 45-plus age group.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

"General Public is informed through this notice, that clients

Babu Singh & Sons, Mahadeo Kaur Path No. H-10/16, Ground

Floor, Malviya Nagar, New

Delhi had discovered their son,

Jagbir Singh for all intent and

purposes, and debar him from

inheriting all their moveable

and immovable properties,

in their name. Jagbir Singh

is living separately from our

client since long. Our client

will not be responsible for

his liabilities and activities.

Anybody dealing with them

shall do so on their own risk

and consequences.

Ranji Singh & Associates

Advocates

70, Lawyer's Chamber

Saket District Court

Complex, New Delhi"

MY CLIENT Mr. Uttam

Mahajan, Mr. Biswajit Roy,

Mr. Dipanjan Goswami, and

Mrs. Rupa Singha together

being owner of a Bastu

Land measuring about 2 Cottahs 8 Chittoks, situated Mouza Bally, RS Dag No. 7129, P.S. Khatian No. 3168, J.L. No. 14, P.S. - Nischinda, District - Howrah, have lost three mother Deeds related to the said property, Being No. 1555 for the year 1965, 4204 for the year 1982, 4940 for the year 1983. All registered in the office of the Sub Registrar at Howrah, to that effect a General Diary has also been lodged in the Nischinda Police Station on 19.06.2021 being General Diary No. 784.

If any person has any claim / objection / encumbrance regarding the aforementioned Deeds or the said property, then he / she may contact me at the address written below, within 15 days from the date of publication of this newspaper notice. Be it noted that, failing to raise any claim / objections / encumbrance within the said time period, no further claim / objection or claim of encumbrance will be entertained.

2. Last date of submission of a detailed proposal is 02 July, 2021.

SITUATION VACANT

ARNAB KUMAR NEOGI

Advocate

Bar Association

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High Court at Calcutta

Contact: 983076109

1. ORDNANCE Club

Hastings, Kolkata-22 invites application

from Professional Chartered Accountant with adequate experience and ability to undertake Internal Audit of Club Accounts. The company will be required to:

(a) Place suitable Staff Member(s) at Club office to provide advice to Club Staff and undertake daily / weekly Audits.

(b) Interact with Govt. offices / Revenue Department for resolution of queries raised related to accounts / Taxes.

2. Last date of submission

of a detailed proposal is 02

July, 2021.

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The Gorkha community knows how to respect people who are in the Constitution

RAJU BISTA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, DARJEELING

ON HIS CLAIM THAT PROTESTS AGAINST THE GOVERNOR WERE ORCHESTRATED BY THE CM MAMATA BANERJEE

Delhi logs 89 new Covid cases, lowest this year

11 corona fatalities reported, positivity rate dips to 0.16 pc, active cases drop to 1,996

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

The national capital today reported 89 fresh coronavirus cases — the lowest this year so far — and 11 Covid-related deaths while the positivity rate dipped to 0.16 per cent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

This is the first time since February, when 94 people were diagnosed with the Covid infection, that the number of single-day infections has dropped below the 100-mark.

Since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic in the country early last year, Delhi has recorded a total of 14,32,381 Covid cases till date. Of this caseload, over 14.05 lakh patients have recovered so far. The city's Covid toll has now climbed to 24,925, the health bulletin stated.

Today's fresh cases were detected out of 57,128 tests, including 45,468 RT-PCR tests, the bulletin said.

Delhi's active cases dropped to 1,996 from yesterday's 2,091. The patients getting treatment under home isolation numbered 563, the bulletin said.



A health worker administers vaccine against Covid-19 at RML Hospital on Monday.

had stood at 165 with a positivity rate of 0.22 per cent while the death count was 14 on Friday. On June 14, the city had registered 131 cases and 16 deaths, according to official figures.

Despite a fall in daily cases over the last few weeks, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has however cautioned the people that the possibility of the third Covid wave is "quite real", even as he asserted that his government was making preparations on a "war-footing" to combat it.

Delhi was severely hit by a brutal second wave of the pandemic that swept the country claiming a staggering number of lives daily, with the shortage of oxygen, hospital beds, and essential medicines making the unprecedented crisis in the national capital apocalyptic. Since April both daily cases and death count in Delhi had been on the upward spiral.

On 20 April, Delhi had reported 28,395 cases — the highest in the city since the beginning of the pandemic. On 22 April, the city's positivity rate was 36.2 per cent — the highest so far. The highest single-day count of Covid fatalities — 448 deaths — was reported on 3 May.

'Delhi to have four technical agencies for tree transplantation'

NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

The Delhi government on Monday approved the empanelment of four technical agencies to carry out tree transplantation in the national capital.

The four agencies are -- Green Morning Horticulture Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad; Rohit Nursery, New Delhi; DD MEP Engineers, Gurgaon; and RP Entrepreneurs.

"After rigorous research and study, the environment department of the Delhi government has approved the empanelment of four agencies to carry out tree transplantation in the capital. Applicants will be required to select an agency from among the empanelled agencies only," an official statement read.

In response to the advertisement published by the forest department, 13 agencies had sent their expression of interest for empanelment, it said. Under the tree transplantation policy, which was notified late last year, agencies concerned have to transplant 80 per cent of the trees affected by their projects to a new location. Ten saplings have to be planted for each tree transplanted or felled.

4 members of notorious gang held after shootout

NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

Four members of a notorious gang were arrested following a shootout in Delhi's Jafarpur Kalan, police said on Monday.

Three of the four accused suffered bullet injuries during the shootout, they said.



So, around 32,000 teachers will be appointed by next March. This will definitely help our school education

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Set up district level clusters for MSMEs: Khattar to officials

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 21 JUNE

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday directed the officers to prepare a plan for setting up clusters at the district level for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to encourage new start-ups.

He said that under this scheme, maximum employment opportunities should be made available to the youth, the CM said while presiding over the



review meeting of the cluster scheme of MSMEs here today.

The officers concerned were directed to make an extensive plan for land, planning, types

of product, technology, testing, certification, research and development, processing, marketing, financing, export, designing, packaging, etc.

He said that the export work should be mainly looked after by the foreign cooperation department. Suggestions should be invited on the portal from the people after making a complete plan as to which type of industries they are interested in setting up.

Khattar said that if required meetings with such entrepreneurs should be called so that the cluster scheme can achieve its real purpose. He also directed the officers concerned to make timely arrangements of land for setting up the clusters.

Khattar said that an advisory board or council should be constituted for the exporters by preparing a detailed report regarding the items that are being exported from Haryana so that problems that are likely to be faced while exporting can be resolved easily.

The CM said that work should be done towards setting up clusters based on the products grown district-wise. During the meeting, Khattar also learned about setting up product-based clusters in various districts and said that

focus should be given to setting up food product-based clusters.

He said given that tomatoes are produced more in Dadri, dairy products in Rewari, mustard in Mahendragarh, and kinnu is produced more in Sirsa district, the setting up of clusters based on these products in these districts will thus prove to be more effective.

With the establishment of small-scale industries, people will get more employment opportunities and new start-ups will also emerge, Khattar added.

Virbhadra recovers from Covid infection

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 21 JUNE

ond time where he was admitted for treatment of breathing related issues.

Earlier, he was tested positive for Covid on 12 April after which he was admitted in a hospital in Chandigarh.

He recovered from the disease and returned to Shimla on 30 April but on arrival, he developed post Covid complications and he has been admitted in IGMC Shimla since then.

Meanwhile, Vikramaditya Singh, the son of former chief minister, appealed to all to visit him on the occasion of his birthday on 23 June and instead pray for his health from their homes in view of Covid pandemic.

On-site Covid vaccination for HP rural people: Jai Ram



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 21 JUNE

The Himachal Pradesh government has relaxed norms for Covid vaccination for persons residing in rural areas and they will get Covid jabs with onsite registration facility, chief minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Monday.

However, the persons in the age of 18-44 years age group in urban areas will have to seek online appointments to get Covid jabs in the state, he said after launching Covid-19 Immune Vaccination Campaign from Town Hall in Shimla.

Thakur stated that till date, as many as 27.45 lakh doses of vaccine had been administered in the state

and adequate doses were available for vaccination of all age groups.

Under this special vaccination campaign, about one lakh doses would be administered to people between the age group of 14-44 years per day.

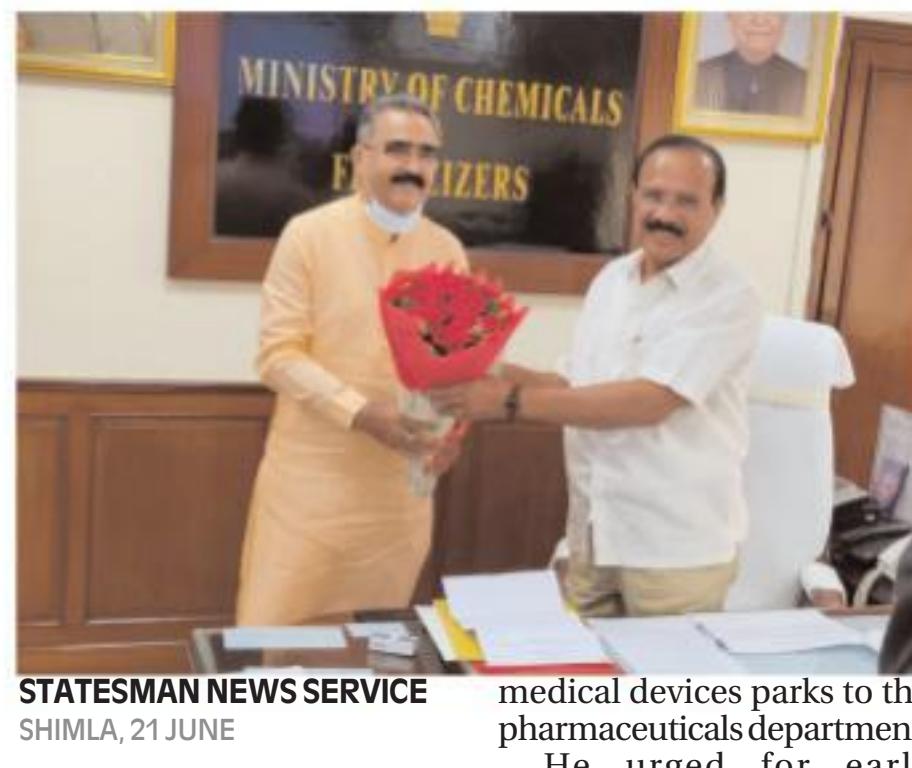
About three lakh people of this age group would be administered the vaccine during this three-day special campaign," the CM said.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing free vaccination to the people for the age group of 18-44 years as well.

He further stated that under this special campaign, 100 per cent population will be covered with at least first dose through on-spot sessions in the tribal districts of Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur and Pangi region of Chamba district.

In addition, the remote areas of Dodra-Kwar region in Shimla district will also be covered with at least first dose by 25 June 2021 by modality of daily sessions,

Himachal urges Centre for early allocation of bulk drug parks



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 21 JUNE

Himachal Pradesh industries minister Bikram Singh on Monday urged the Central government for early allocation of bulk drug parks to the pharmaceuticals department.

He urged for early announcement of the results for these parks as it will stabilize the API prices and also result in import substitution.

He stated that presently, the state was home to more than 700 Pharma companies and emerged as the largest Pharma formulation hub in the country.

In addition, the state had witnessed phenomenal industrial growth especially in the Pharma sector after the Union government's industrial pack-

age to hilly areas including Himachal Pradesh, he said.

Gowda assured the industries minister to provide all possible assistance to the state.

Singh also called on Union minister for jal shakti Ajendra Singh Shekhawat at New Delhi and requested him to release Rs 23.94 crore for completing 11 schemes.

The schemes had been approved in three phases for Jaswan Pragpur constituency in Kangra district under Jal Jee-

van Mission for providing 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'.

He apprised the minister that Rs 10.43 crore had been allotted for the schemes against which Rs 7.76 crore had already been spent.

He urged Shekhawat to release the rest of the amount required so that the schemes may be completed soon.

He further stated that Jaswan Pragpur was a far-flung area and has a lot of khuds (small rivulets) which cause

erosion to adjacent areas in the rainy season.

"Food protection and anti-erosion measures are required to be undertaken in the areas and a detailed project report amounting to Rs 505.71 crore has been submitted to Central Water Commission," he added.

He urged the Union Minister for according approval to the proposal to which Shekhawat assured him of all possible assistance.

VACCINE FOR ALL FREE FOR ALL

Thank You PM Modi!

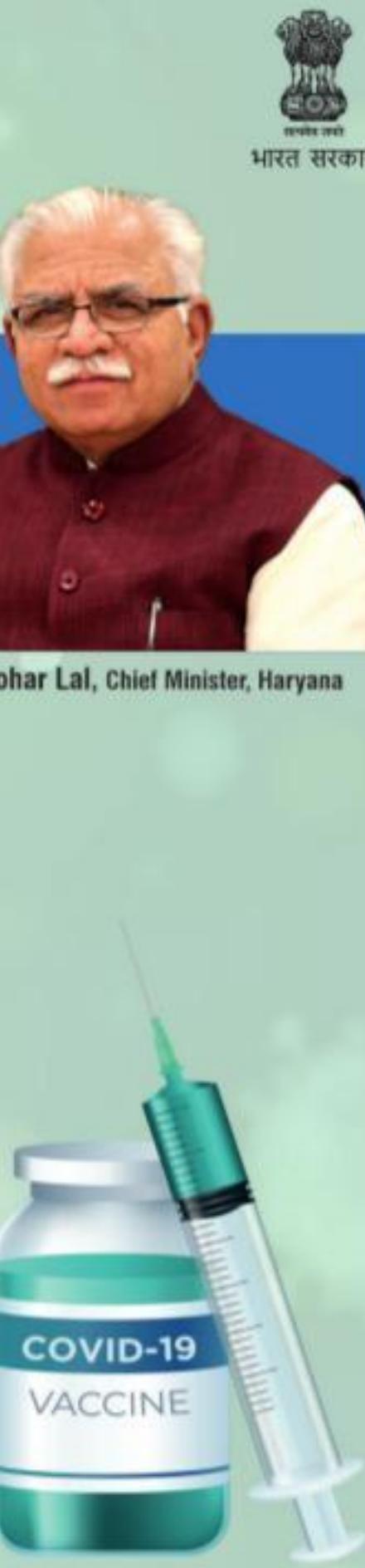
Now, the World's Largest Free Vaccination Campaign

Corona Will Lose, India Will Win

- Free COVID-19 vaccination for everyone above 18 years of age in India
- So far, vaccines were free for people of 45 years age and above
- Vaccines will be available free of cost in Government-run vaccination centres
- Government of India is providing free vaccines to all States
- Central Government has provided 30 crore vaccine doses so far
- Three vaccines approved in India so far, several new vaccines in approval process

Get Vaccinated, Stay Safe

- Vaccines are safe, ignore rumours
- Visit www.cowin.gov.in to register and get full details on vaccination centres and vaccines
- Follow COVID-appropriate behaviour even after vaccination



Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Central Government is providing free Vaccination under a special campaign to every Indian from now. The biggest beneficiary of this phase of India's vaccination drive shall be the poor, the middle class and the youth of the country. All of us should pledge to get ourselves vaccinated. Together we will defeat COVID-19.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**TOGETHER LET US DEFEAT COVID-19,
GET YOURSELF VACCINATED AS PER YOUR TURN**

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in | @Cmohry @DiprHaryana



सार्वजनिक सूचना	
यह परिस्कर्न नोटिस इमारे मुख्यमंत्री के अनुसार दिया गया है, जो कि गाँव सिलानी पाना जालम व मरता एक एफडॉल को खरीदना चाहता है। यह कृषि भूमि आज के दिन निम्नलिखित व्यक्तियों को मलकीयता और कबौद्धीयों में है—	
क्रमांक खेत / खाता नं।	
1.	गाँव सिलानी पाना जालम किला नं/रक्का नं।
2.	तेजपाल पुत्र नारायण सिंह पुत्र रामसरल/ 1/18 भाग, तेजपाल पुत्र नारायण सिंह पुत्र रामसरल/ 1/18 भाग, मनोज - राकेश समान 1/6 भाग पुत्रान व श्रीमति पूर्णा - तेजी समान 2/15 भाग, व श्री लक्ष्मीराम 1/30 भाग तेजपाल रामसरल पुत्र लक्ष्मीराम
3.	मरननगांवल - सुनील कुमार पुत्रान इंश्वर सिंह पुत्र चतुरसिंह समान सातल
4.	रामकिशन पुत्र मिठनलाल पुत्र प्यारेसरल 1/6 भाग
5.	रामकिशन पुत्र मिठनलाल पुत्र प्यारेसरल 1/6 भाग
6.	रामकिशन पुत्र रामसरल पुत्र खुशीराम 51/71 भाग, दिवालसिंह पुत्र बलरामसिंह पुत्र रिसालसिंह 20/71 भाग
7.	सरीश पुत्र बलराम पुत्र रिसालसिंह
8.	उमेद - जयकरण समान 1/2 भाग व हवासेह 39/160 भाग व श्रीमति सावधी किला 1/10 भाग व शुकेश - दिवेश पुत्रान व श्रीमति सुनील पुरी दिलबासिंह पुत्र रिसालसिंह समान 3/20 भाग
9.	रामकिशन पुत्र रामसरल पुत्र खुशीराम 51/71 भाग, दिवालसिंह पुत्र बलरामसिंह पुत्र रिसालसिंह 20/71 भाग
10.	रामकिशन पुत्र रामसरल पुत्र खुशीराम 51/71 भाग, दिवालसिंह पुत्र बलरामसिंह पुत्र रिसालसिंह 20/71 भाग
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12.	रामकिशन पुत्र रामसरल पुत्र खुशीराम 51/71 भाग, दिवालसिंह पुत्र बलरामसिंह पुत्र रिसालसिंह 20/71 भाग
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16.	रामकिशन पुत्र रामसरल पुत्र खुशीराम 51/71 भाग, दिवालसिंह पुत्र बलरामसिंह पुत्र रिसालसिंह 20/71 भाग
17.	रामकिशन पुत्र रामसरल पुत्र खुशीराम 51/71 भाग, दिवालसिंह पुत्र बलरामसिंह पुत्र रिसालसिंह 20/71 भाग
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23.	रामकिशन पुत्र रामसरल पुत्र खुशीराम 51/71 भाग, दिवालसिंह पुत्र बलरामसिंह पुत्र रिसालसिंह 20/71 भाग
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29.	रामकिशन पुत्र रामसरल पुत्र



Don't be under illusion that Covid has gone, we'll have to wear masks, maintain distance, sanitize our hands...

KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER B S YEDIYURAPPA

AS THE STATE ENTERED INTO ANOTHER PHASE OF RELAXATION OF LOCKDOWN MEASURES



THUMBNAILS



Firefighters attempt to douse blaze at a shoe factory at Udyog Nagar in New Delhi, on Monday. AGENCIES

Lakshadweep legal jurisdiction: Lakshadweep administration on Monday said reports about shifting legal jurisdiction of the archipelago from Kerala High Court to Karnataka High Court, are baseless and is devoid of truth. SNS

Antilia bomb scare-Hiran killing: A Mumbai court on Monday remanded three persons in NIA custody till 25 June in Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hirant murder case after the Central agency said it wanted to jointly question them with arrested ex-police officer Pradeep Sharma. PTI

Telangana BJP terms KCR's decision to lift restrictions at one go 'criminal neglect'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 21 JUNE

Terming it as a criminal neglect Telangana BJP today slammed chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for lifting lockdown restrictions at one go, particularly the decision to reopen schools and allowing students to attend physical despite the threat of a third wave of Covid 19 looming large.

BJP spokesperson K Krishnasagara Rao said it was a "careless" and "callous" decision and would actually negate all benefits of the lockdown. Rao said: "Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao operates on two extremes. On one he does not impose a lockdown till High Court pushes him to, on the other he lifts all restrictions at one go and lets all outcomes of the lockdown go completely

Committed to greater autonomy: TN Governor

In his speech, Purohit says DMK govt will also maintain cordial ties with Centre

SNS & PTI
CHENNAI, 21 JUNE 2021

Outlining the newly elected DMK government's policy, Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Monday said Tamil Nadu is fully committed to achieving greater autonomy for states and at the same time maintain cordial ties with the Centre as partners in the process of nation-building. "This is in line with our policy of extending our hands in friendship, even as we speak up for our rights," he said.

The first session of the 16th Tamil Nadu Assembly began to a rousing start with the announcement of its new Economic Advisory Council to the CM on Monday.

In his customary speech, Governor Purohit said the council would constitute former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo, former Chief Economic Adviser to Union government Arvind Subramanian, development economist Jean Dreze and former Union finance secretary S



AIADMK co-coordinator and leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Edappadi K. Palaniswami arrives to attend governor's address of the 16th Tamil Nadu Assembly session, at Kalaiavanar Arangam, in Chennai, on Monday.

Narayan.

He said based on the recommendation of the advisory council, the government will revitalise the state's economy and ensure that benefits of economic growth reach all segments of society.

Purohit said the government is guided by the spirit of the Dravidian movement and identifies social justice, gender equality, economic equity, opportunity for all through reservations and progress through education and social reforms as its core values.

"These values will drive every

project proposal of Karnataka.

As announced by finance minister PTR Palanivel Thiagarajan earlier, the governor said a white paper on Tamil Nadu's finances will be released within two weeks. He reportedly said this would be the first step to bring down overall debt burden and improve fiscal position.

Congratulating the government in its Covid containment policies, the governor said the health infrastructure is being further strengthened to counter the possible third wave as warned by medical experts.

"The chief minister very rightly prioritised the battle against the pandemic above all other tasks, to overcome the inertia that had set in during the election process in Covid prevention activities," the governor added.

He said the unprecedented spike in the requirement of oxygen and essential lifesaving drugs has been met through special efforts.

"Tamil Nadu's vaccination delivery performance has improved considerably," he said.

action, every legislation, every scheme, every initiative of this government," he said.

AIADMK co-coordinator and leader of the Opposition, K Palaniswami, speaking to reporters, expressed disappointment over the address by saying there was no mention of implementing even DMK's important poll assurances.

Purohit, in his address, said the government would take all necessary measures to counter the "possible third wave" of Covid-19 and urged the Centre to increase allocation of vaccines and reject the Mekedatu dam

project.

He said the unprecedent spike in the requirement of oxygen and essential lifesaving drugs has been met through special efforts.

"Tamil Nadu's vaccination delivery performance has improved considerably," he said.

CPM: Govt must pay compensation to Covid victims

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

The chief minister who is on an inauguration spree was at Warangal today to lay the foundation of a superspecialty hospital at the erstwhile Warangal Central jail.

Rao blamed the media for spreading panic among people about Covid-19. He said he had only taken paracetamol and antibiotics when he was infected by the virus. Rao had very mild symptoms.

Meanwhile, a team of AIMIM leaders led by party chief Asaduddin Owaisi visited the 100-year-old Osmania medical college and hospital building and demanded Rs 1,000 crore should be allocated for a new building since the old heritage structure was in a dilapidated condition as lessons are being imparted online.

However, in rural areas and students belonging to economically backward section are badly affected by the closure of schools and have even dropped out.

The state government has announced lifting of all restrictions and even the local train

service MMTS will resume service from 23 June.

Besides political parties, parents and guardians are criticising the move as well since the state Cabinet has decided in favour of reopening of schools.

It is being alleged that the government succumbed to pressure from school authorities to reopen schools in order to allow the collection of annual fees. Many parents have refused to pay full amount of fees, particularly for primary and primary classes as lessons are being imparted online.

However, in rural areas and students belonging to economically backward section are badly affected by the closure of schools and have even dropped out.

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service MMTS will resume service from 23 June.

The CPI (M) today rejected

"the government's plea" that distribution of ex-gratia payments to families of Covid-19 victims would strain its finances, and insisted that compensation must be paid in accordance with the Disaster Management Act.

The party said government's argument was specious, as it can "very well raise the required resources if it abandons its preoccupation with maintaining the levels of fiscal deficit in a crisis of this dimension." It said "such fiscal fundamentalism in this catastrophe makes no sense." Under the provisions of Disaster Management Act, compensation to victims of a disaster has to be paid.

Sharath (Kamareddy district) touching the feet of chief minister KCR in government programmes yesterday. Never seen this in independent India! Death of democratic institutions in Telangana!"

Krishnasagara Rao of BJP said: "It is unbecoming of IAS officers to stoop down to this low and be sycophants to their bosses."

prompting the collector to issue a statement that the CM was a "fatherly figure" and it was part of the culture to take blessings of the elders.

The district collector of Kamareddy too had touched the CM's feet prompting Congress president N Uttam Kumar Reddy to tweet: "District collectors and magistrates Venkata Reddy (Siddipet) and

Sharath (Kamareddy district)

touching the feet of chief minister KCR in government programmes yesterday. Never seen this in independent India! Death of democratic institutions in Telangana!"

Krishnasagara Rao of BJP said: "It is unbecoming of IAS officers to stoop down to this low and be sycophants to their bosses."

Association in their social media posts.

Siddipet district collector touched Rao's feet after the CM inaugurated the new building of the district headquarters on Sunday. After formally sitting on the designated chair the official touched the feet of Rao who tried to scramble away. But the district collector was not deterred. The video went viral

on the occasion of the seventh International Yoga Day, Namo Siddha Swadeshi Yogasana was launched and dedicated to the world and the country.

After completing all the scientific formalities of 'Namo Asana', ANURIS (Agastya Nath University for Research and Innovation in the State of Being) has launched it and officially dedicated it to the nation on Monday in Delhi.

Considering the basic mantra of 'Dharma Rakshati Rakshitaha', Namo Siddha Swadeshi Yogasana focused on the process of healing or restoring the mental as well as physical health with a very simple yet crucial balancing mechanism from ancient yoga practices and Quantum Physics principles.

The name of 'Namo Asana' is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the idea of an International Yoga Day was first proposed by him, during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on 27 September 2014.

Dr S N Bhavasari, a scientist, who was associated with the making of India's first supercomputer 'Param' guided the formulation of Namo Yogasana.

The same may also be

streamed through the Shrine Board's mobile based application which can be downloaded through the play store.

SNS

Following documents should accompany the application for tenders.

1. G.S.T. number.

2. Valid copy of Registration.

3. Machinery will be of the contractor where required.

4. Certificate regarding possession of machinery.

5. Telegraphic/Fax tenders are not acceptable.

6. The tender documents can be received by registered/ Insured post which should be received in this office on or before the date of opening of tender by 11.00 A.M positively.

7. Contractor should have successfully executed two works of similar nature of 1/3 amount of estimated cost or similar single work of amount equal to estimated cost during the last preceding three years.

8. The Contractor will have to submit affidavit along with application for issue of tender that he has not more than two works in hand . Next tender will be issued only after completion of previous works in hand.

SNS

1736/2021-2022 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 21 JUNE

The 56-days pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the mountains of south Kashmir has been cancelled for the second year running in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cancellation of the pilgrimage was announced by the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday. He is also chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB). The pilgrimage was earlier scheduled to start on 28 June and culminated on 22 August.

The pilgrimage was also cancelled last year due to Covid-19 and earlier in 2019 the yatra was abruptly curtailed ahead of abrogation of the Article 370.

Sinha announced that in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the J&K government has decided that the annual pilgrimage would be symbolic only however, all the traditional religious rituals shall be performed at the Holy Cave Shrine as per past practice.

"It's important to save people's lives. So, it is not advisable to hold and conduct this year's pilgrimage in the larger public interest. SASB is aware of and respect the sentiments of millions of devotees, and to keep the sentiments alive, the Board shall continue the live telecast of morning and evening Aarti

on the official website and app specifically dedicated for the devotees. The devotees can pay their virtual obeisance to the Holy Ice Lingam online through the Shrine Board's link www.shriamarnathjishrine.com/AartiLive.html.

The same may also be

streamed through the Shrine Board's mobile based application which can be downloaded through the play store.

SNS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

Amarnath Yatra will be kept symbolic this year due to Covid: J&K Lt-Governor

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 21 JUNE

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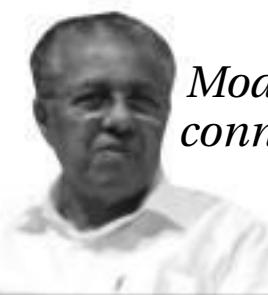
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store.

SNS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE



Modern Yoga is not something that needs to be seen in connection with any particular religion or spirituality...

KERALA CHIEF MINISTER PINARAYI VIJAYAN
TERMING YOGA AS A FORM OF HEALTHCARE

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2021

THUMBNAILS



Culture and tourism minister Prahlad Singh Patel performs yoga on International Day of Yoga at Red Fort, in the Capital on Monday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

Indian workers allegedly held captive: Two Indian workers are being held captive by their employer in Yanbu city of Saudi Arabia despite an assurance by authorities that they will be allowed to return by April-end, a local Congress leader alleged on Monday and appealed to President Ram Nath Kovind to intervene. PTI

Transit anticipatory bail granted to journalist: The Bombay High Court on Monday granted transit anticipatory bail to journalist Rana Ayub for a period of four weeks in connection with an FIR registered against her by the Uttar Pradesh police for allegedly circulating a video in which an elderly Muslim man claimed he was thrashed and asked to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. The police in their FIR claimed the video was circulated to create communal unrest.

Harsh Vardhan unveils book: The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan unveiled a book 'My Joys and Sorrows - as a Mother of a Special Child' written by the author Krishna Saksena.

Vardhan said that he feels lucky to read this book and also get inspired by the simple language used by the author. This book is an epitome of the bravery and endurance of a mother, in the best tradition of Indian motherhood, according to a Press release.

Shah inaugurates bridges: Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday inaugurated three bridges in Ahmedabad city and a newly built office building of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) at Kalol in Gandhinagar district.

Sonia convenes meet on 24 June: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of the party's general secretaries and state in-charges on 24 June to chalk out a strategy to plan protests against the government on issues such as the hike in petrol and diesel prices.

BJP will continue to induct people from other parties: Himanta

GERUKAMUKH, 21 JUNE

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday that the process of inducting people from different political parties into the BJP will continue, as he welcomed former Congress MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi to the party fold.

Speaking at a party programme in the Dhemaji district, Sarma said that inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ideals and hard work to build a developed nation, many political leaders and workers have joined the BJP.

"It is my firm belief that a day will come when all people and organisations of the state will be associated with the BJP and help in building a strong and developed nation," he said.

The process of inducting people into the BJP from other parties began in 2014, it continued with many leaders joining before the assembly polls this year, while several others have expressed their interest to join after the polls, Sarma said.

Referring to Kurmi, the chief minister said that he is a youth leader who represents not only the aims and aspirations of the tea tribe community but also the people of the state.

Bond among MVA allies strong: Sena MP Raut

Says attempts to create a rift among Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress will not work



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 21 JUNE

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Monday said the coordination among allies of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra was a model example of how a coalition government should function.

Attempts to create a rift among the ruling allies - Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress - will not work, Raut told reporters here.

"The bond among the three parties is strong," he asserted and said all of them were also working to strengthen their respective party organisations. Raut's comments came days after Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole spoke about going solo in future elections.

"There is no decision yet on how to contest future elections and it will be taken at an appropriate time. The commitment of the three parties is that the present government will last for five years. The common minimum programme (CMP) is the soul of this

alliance," he said.

Raut also made it clear that any attempts to create a rift among the allies will not work, and said chief minister Uddhav Thackeray is maintaining an excellent rapport with the Congress and NCP.

Notably, Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik, who is under the Enforcement Directorate's scanner for alleged money laundering, has urged Thackeray to reconcile with the BJP

and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "before it is too late", saying such a move will save leaders like him from problems being created by "Central agencies".

Pratap Sarnaik is a Sena leader and "is in trouble", Raut said, adding that the MLA had mentioned he and his family were being harassed by central investigating agencies and that he wanted the party to reconcile with PM

Modi.

He further said harassment of political rivals by central investigating agencies was also witnessed by Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders in West Bengal.

"This doesn't suit Maharashtra's culture," Raut said.

Asked what 'asana' he would suggest to the BJP on the occasion of the International Yoga Day, he said, "Shavasan."

Meanwhile a three-hour protest led by BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sambhaji Chhatrapati in Nashik on Monday.

Wadettiwar's comment that he would not allow local bodies polls to be held in the state till the OBC quota issue is resolved.

To a query about Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik's letter to chief minister Uddhav Thackeray where-in he alleged that the Congress and NCP were weakening the Shiv Sena by creating divisions in its ranks, Mushrif dubbed it as an attempt by the BJP to destabilise the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra.

Meanwhile a three-hour protest led by BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sambhaji Chhatrapati in Nashik on Monday.

DGP: Good number of foreign militants present in Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, 21 JUNE

Pakistani among 3 terrorists killed in Sopore encounter

Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Monday said a "good number" of foreign militants are present in the valley, but they are 'lying low' and 'keeping a distance'.

Addressing a press conference at the Police Control Room (PCR) here, he said only two foreign militants have been killed in Kashmir this year in two encounters.

"Both were killed in Sopore (in north Kashmir's Baramulla district), including one on Monday. Both were from the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist group, who recently shot two municipal councilors, policemen and civilians, were on Monday killed in an encounter with security forces in the Gund Brath village of Sopore of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

LeT commander Mudasir Pandit was among those killed in the encounter and his elimination is being considered as a "big relief for the local population", said the IGP (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar.

The Pakistani terrorist has been identified as Abdullah alias Abu Asrar who was active in north Kashmir since 2018.

On receiving intelligence input around midnight, a joint team of the Rashtriya Rifles Battalion, Special Operations Group of Police and CRPF launched search operation. Three AK rifles, one pistol, grenade, ammunition and other war-like stores were recovered from the slain terrorists.

them in the coming days," he said. Asked whether there was any active militant in Srinagar, the DGP said there was "no big presence" of ultras in the city.

Centre to increase vaccination pace in July-August: Shah



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD, 21 JUNE

Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday said the central government has decided to increase the pace of vaccination against Covid-19 in July and August.

Talking to reporters after visiting a vaccination centre in Ahmedabad, Shah said with PM

No local body polls in Maha till 70% of people is vaccinated: Min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 21 JUNE

Maharashtra Rural Development minister Hasan Mushrif on Monday said there will be no elections to local bodies in the state till 70 per cent population is vaccinated against Covid-19.

Till Sunday, 29.99,419 people were inoculated against Covid-19 in Maharashtra, according to the health department.

NCP leader Mushrif was talking to reporters in Kolhapur when he was asked about Maharashtra minister and Congress leader Vijay

Wadettiwar's comment that he would not allow local bodies polls to be held in the state till the OBC quota issue is resolved.

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Swingback in Iran

Iran bears witness to a watershed swingback from a theocracy helmed by a moderate to an Islamic Republic under a hardcore conservative. The change of guard at the presidential level will likely entail a paradigm shift in the country's dealings with Western nuclear powers, not the least in the context of the nuclear deal of 2015. It was pretty obvious on Saturday afternoon, that the hardliner, Ebrahim Raisi, the conservative head of the judiciary, had an unassailable lead in the presidential election after 90 per cent of the votes had been counted. The question now uppermost in the minds of Iranians must be – can a new President make a difference? Conservatives are poised to be in control of an intrinsically theocratic nation, grappling with an economic crisis. Three candidates in the fray conceded defeat to Raisi, a protégé of Supreme Leader Ali Hosseini Khamenei who was widely seen as the frontrunner in Friday's election that was marred by a low turnout and the disqualification of many candidates. Ironically, the electoral turnout is the barometer of democracy in Iran. The outcome was a virtually settled fact even before the first vote was cast. Hardliner Mohsen Rezaei, a former commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, received over 3.3 million votes. He was followed by the former central bank chief, Abdolnaser Hemmati, the only moderate in the race, who got over 2.4 million votes, and conservative lawmaker Amir Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi who got over one million votes. In a statement, outgoing President Hassan Rouhani – a moderate by Iranian standards – congratulated the people and the supreme leader for an "epic and rare presence" in the elections, saying "your glorious and enemy-breaking participation led to the remorse and dejection of enemies and those who wish ill on this nation". Earlier, Rouhani in a remarkable expression of graciousness, congratulated "the people's elected President", without naming Raisi. The interior ministry refused to confirm reports that the number of void votes were more than those secured by Rezaei. In the immediate perspective, the country's nuclear proliferation programme and the pact with the Western powers, not to forget the role of America – specifically Donald Trump's rejection and now President Biden's overtures – will be of uppermost importance to the new President. Of considerable moment will be the role of President Biden. Whereas Rouhani was a moderate in his conduct of domestic and foreign policies, his successor in Tehran's presidential palace is a hardcore conservative, who will predictably play to Ayatollah Khamenei's orthodox gallery and arguably the Islamic bloc generally. At home, he will have to address the torpid economy, which means he can scarcely afford to offend the Western powers, least of all the United States of America. How well he walks that tightrope will determine Iran's immediate future.

UN intervenes

In a rare initiative, the United Nations – known for its prevarication – has advanced an equally rare call to halt arms sales to Myanmar. The response comes close to five months after this year's violent military coup in February 1. The General Assembly on Friday adopted a resolution condemning the military junta, which overthrew the country's elected government. And the electoral outcome in favour of Aung San Suu Kyi was no less spectacular than her victory in the early 1990s. In what must rank as an unusually robust intervention, the UN has also called for the release of political detainees, pre-eminently Suu Kyi, and an end to violence against peaceful protesters. According to a monitoring group, security forces have killed more than 860 people and detained nearly 5,000. While not legally binding, the resolution is hugely significant when viewed through the political prism and cannot but rock the Tatmadaw's (military) boat in Naypyidaw. "The risk of a large-scale civil war is real," the UN's special envoy on Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, told the General Assembly. "Time is of the essence. The opportunity to reverse the military takeover is narrowing." The resolution was supported by 119 countries, with Belarus the only one to vote against it. Another 36 countries abstained, including Russia and China – the two biggest arms suppliers to Myanmar. According to some of the countries that abstained, the relentless crisis is an internal issue for Myanmar. Theoretically, perhaps it is. Others claimed that the resolution did not address a brutal military crackdown on the Rohingya Muslim population four years ago, which forced almost a million people to flee the country. In 2017, Myanmar's army responded to attacks on police by Rohingya militants with a deadly crackdown, driving more than half a million Rohingya Muslims across the border into Bangladesh in what the UN later called a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing". The two issues – the Rohingyas and Suu Kyi being denied the democratic opportunity to form a government – are radically different. That said, the UN appears to have eventually realised that governance in Myanmar has been in limbo for as long as it has. For several years, the country was in unsplendid isolation.

The resolution also calls for an end to violence against peaceful protesters. The EU's UN ambassador, Olof Skoog, said the resolution "delegitimises the military junta, condemns its abuse and violence against its own people, and demonstrates its isolation in the eyes of the world". But Myanmar's UN ambassador, Kyaw Moe Tun, who represents the country's elected civilian government, said he was disappointed by how long it took for the General Assembly to pass what he called a "watered down" resolution. It must be accepted that the UN intervention has come terribly late in the day. Suu Kyi who turned 76 on Saturday has been under house arrest, and little has been seen or heard of her, with the exception of brief court appearances.

Bear's Embrace ~ I

The world once believed that Russia would become a 'responsible stakeholder' in global affairs by being integrated into rule-based international institutions. Instead, it threatened the sovereignty of neighbours like Georgia and propped up dictators in Libya, Syria and Venezuela



Power is not a means, it is an end", George Orwell had said in 1984. "We know that no one ever seizes power with the intention of relinquishing it." For 21 years, Vladimir Putin, a former KGB officer, has ruled Russia with an iron hand, as President or Prime Minister, never letting loose his absolute grip on power. He has ruthlessly used the force of blunt repression against opponents, manipulated the constitution and public opinion at home to keep himself in power, while meddling in democratic elections in other countries. He is the second longest-serving European president, after Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, another ruthless dictator he is in cohorts with.

Workers of the world will perhaps never unite, but dictators are automatically united by their ways. In April 2021, Putin amended the Russian Constitution that otherwise limits presidency to two consecutive terms to allow himself to seek re-election twice more, virtually extending his presidency to 2036, when he would turn 84. A close parallel is Xi Jinping, aged 68 years who, like Putin, also amended the Chinese Constitution to become President for life and like Putin remains the single man to embody a nation's destiny. Under Putin, between 1998 and 2008, powered by a five-fold increase in the global price of oil which accounts for 60 per cent of Russia's exports and 30 per cent of its GDP, the Russian economy grew twofold after years of chaos and impoverishment following the disentangling of the USSR. Real wages trebled and poverty and employment halved. Prudent economic and fiscal policies saw Russia's geopolitical power rise along with the nation's self-esteem which was reinforced by his annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Russia, the hegemon in its neighbourhood, became a member of the G-8 in 1997 and a partner at the NATO-Russia council in 2002, though both were suspended since 2014 following its annexation of Crimea. It also joined the WTO in 2012. As a member of the P-5, it already has a seat at the global decision-making table. Putin used all this masterfully on the promise of restoring Russia's great power status to increase his own popularity and power which is now absolute.

The world once believed that Russia would become a "responsible stakeholder" in global affairs by being integrated into rule-based international institutions, which did not happen. Instead, it threat-

eatened the sovereignty of neighbours like Georgia and propped up dictators in Libya, Syria and Venezuela. To avoid sanctions by USA and NATO, it has forged closer ties with Beijing. To silence the opposition, it resorted to their assassination, sometimes even on foreign soil. And now, being unsuccessful in eliminating his fearless opponent Alexey Navalny through poisoning, Putin has put him in prison on bogus charges, brutally crushed his supporters' protests and outlawed all groups founded by him, branding them as "extremists" – thus muzzling all critics ahead of the parliamentary election in September 2021. He apparently has nothing to fear now, except the fear that always lurks in the mind of every dictator and makes them use repression and propaganda with increasing force. The days of soaring oil prices, oil-fuelled growth and high living standards are behind him now. International sanctions have deterred foreign investments, while tight state control and re-nationalisation of key sectors of economy has suppressed innovation and modernisation. Infrastructure is crumbling and corruption and cronyism by oligarchs are rampant. Citizens are restive and protests are breaking out spontaneously. As many as 53 per cent of 18-24-year-old Russians want to emigrate. Putin's popularity has nosedived as real household income has been falling continuously since 2013. The Russian economy grew only by 1.3 per cent in 2019 before the pandemic and the consequent free fall in oil prices contracted its GDP by 3 per cent in 2020.

Putin has, as Timothy Fry said in Foreign Affairs, "weakened institutions such as courts, bureaucracies, elections, parties, and legislatures so that they cannot constrain him, meaning that he cannot rely on them to generate economic growth, resolve social conflicts, or even facilitate his peaceful exit from office." Repression is the only tool he has, and he is running what Fry calls a "personal autocracy" to stifle opposition, like Hungary, Turkey, Venezuela and most Central Asian countries that once were part of the USSR. As history testifies, autocrats, once they relinquish power, usually end up in exile, jail, or before the firing squad. To quote Fry again, repression has a "self-reinforcing momen-

tum", whose increasing use only signals that his other tools are failing and his absolute hold over power is weakening. Putin is now waging a war upon his own people, presiding over a fiefdom of crony oligarchs.

But Russia still remains a formidable military and economic power and a nuclear superpower. In terms of military capacity, it ranks as the third most powerful country in the world. It is the 11th-largest economy in the world and sixth in PPP terms, with per capita income higher than China's. Its major weapons though are oil and gas – about a quarter of Europe's oil and gas comes from Russia and most European countries are overwhelmingly dependent on Russia for their energy. The dependence varies from 100 per cent for Finland, Slovakia or Estonia to 80 per cent for Czech Republic, Bulgaria or Lithuania to 60 per cent for Austria, Hungary or Greece. Even Germany gets about half its energy from Russia. This gives Russia tremendous leverage in the foreign policies of these countries because prices depend on relations with Russia. Major investments in space weapons, intelligence, and cyber-capabilities have enabled Russia to pose serious threats to US and NATO,

as the USA has recently learned the hard way.

Putin by no means can be said to be presiding over a declining power, and he is a deft politician who knows how to play his cards. Russia is not yet a dictatorship like China though very close to it, and Putin is yet to face a major popular backlash with potential

enough to unseat him. With important economic sectors placed under state control, he has enough economic resources at his disposal to pursue an aggressive foreign policy agenda. Earlier this year, he had sent more than 100,000 troops to the Ukraine border, the largest number since 2014, and his navy threatened to block the Kerch strait, cutting off parts of Ukraine from the Black Sea. Though the troops were pulled back in April, Russia has the capability to engineer trouble in Ukraine and other neighbouring countries any time. It supports separatists in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, where at least 14,000 people have been killed in seven years of fighting between Ukrainian troops and Russia-backed

GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

The writer is a commentator, academic and author

BRI which is not known for transparency. The US-led Blue Dot Network plans to cover a \$2.5-3.5-trillion investment in the projects related to the developing economies.

The Blue Dot Network can offer a unique opportunity to India as New Delhi was not keen to join the BRI project. As a member of the Quad, it could be an attractive option and India can share its experience of being donor or investor in several African and Asian nations..

Yours, etc., HN Ramakrishna,

Bengaluru, 18 June.

UNFORGIVABLE

SIR, The erstwhile TMC MLA from Domjur Mr Rajib Banerjee resigned as Forest Minister on 22 January 2021, speaking out against nepotism in the party and making various allegations. He even complained that as

minister he had not got cooperation from the party. With his lofty political ambitions and greed for power, he joined the BJP. Immediately thereafter, he started attacking his former leader vehemently and his derogatory comments about her had confounded the people of West Bengal. He intensified his attacks during political rallies with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

He contested the Assembly election from Domjur as a BJP candidate and faced a deplorable defeat. He then started to canvas top TMC leaders to return to the party. It is palpable that he does not deserve any post as he has treated politics as a plaything. Miss Mamata Banerjee may choose to forgive him but the people of the state must never do so.

Yours, etc., Achyut Mukherjee, Howrah, 18 June.

BATTLES AHEAD
SIR, The perceived bias of social media platforms against the present government was bound to have repercussions. After the manipulated media tag against some of the tweets of the top BJP leadership, the actions of the government were predictable as there was no way they would afford to ignore it.

If the government of the day is better placed to take action, it is inevitable that the opposition too would be in a position to file charges. Some of the posts on social media platforms against the Congress and Sonia Gandhi are extremely scurrilous and actionable. Courts are likely to be inundated with cases of this nature in the near future.

Yours, etc., Anthony Henriques, Mumbai, 17 June.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Blue Dot a chance for India

SIR, This refers to 'Finding an alternative to Belt Road Initiative' (The Statesman, June 18). China has signed more than 170 agreements with 125 countries, according to Chinese state media.

Between 2013 and 2018, these deals totalled more than \$90bn in Chinese investment.

China is stepping up efforts to replace the US dollar for bilateral trade with Belt Road countries to internationalize the use of the yuan. This is part of its long-standing goal of internationalising its currency through loans.

Except for Pakistan whose options are limited to taking yuan loans, not many countries have availed of it. The goal for China is to promote regional connections and economic integration, thereby expanding its eco-



nomic and political influence. When debts cannot be repaid, China can appropriate select assets as has happened with some countries. On the flip side large numbers of Chinese workers are sent to the host country with their own living areas and leave when projects are complete. This takes care of the unemployment problem for China. Stability is a pre-condition for the success of One Belt, One Road or the Maritime Silk Route and that is the Achilles heel of the projects. On the other hand, the United States, Australia and Japan in 2019 announced the Blue Dot Network, a certification mechanism to make quality infrastructure projects and maintain robust standards for development. They hope to make the Blue Dot Network a globally recognized symbol of market-driven, transparent, and sustainable infrastructure projects unlike the

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Covid-19 and internet

With life beyond the pandemic closer to becoming a reality, predictions are starting to circulate about what a post-Covid-19 world will look like in Southeast Asia. While so many aspects of the near-term future remain uncertain, one thing is clear: consumers undoubtedly will maintain their reliance on digital services. Coronavirus introduced a massive digital adoption spurt, with more than one-in-three digital services consumers being new to the service and more than 90 per cent intending to continue post-pandemic, according to research by Bain, Google and Temasek based on Kantar data covering Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Forty million new Internet users were added in 2020, bringing the total to 400 million users. Now, 70 per cent of the region is online.

The research also found that Southeast Asians spent on average an hour more a day on the internet during Covid-19-imposed lockdowns. It's easy to see why. The Internet sector provided access to essential goods, healthcare, education and entertainment while helping businesses keep the lights on. With eight out of 10 Southeast Asians viewing technology as very helpful during the pandemic, it has become an indispensable part of people's daily lives.

The internet economy remains resilient at \$100 billion gross merchandise value (GMV), even with the global slowdown. As consumers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) come online, and with a supportive ecosystem and regulatory environment, the predicted 2025 total stands strong at over 300 billion, indicating growth despite a challenged environ-

The Jakarta Post

ment. The big hotspots include Vietnam and Indonesia. The big shift in consumer behavior to digital services has massive implications both for traditional companies venturing into the digital realm and digital native companies. Education and Groceries benefited most from the influx of new digital consumers. For example, 55 per cent of users of online education service were new to the service in 2020. In grocery e-commerce, 47 per cent of consumers were new. Meanwhile, 34 per cent of survey respondents in the region said they used food delivery more than they had before the pandemic. While Covid-19 accelerated adoption in these and other sectors, it also set back some, like transport (ride hailing) and online travel. Our research helped us clearly see how changes in consumer behavior will unfold. Shoppers are buying more groceries online and they are not going back. As intra-city travel resumes, so will ride hailing – but it will take time. And the surge in users of digital streaming is likely to continue. As evidence, consider that streaming video on demand providers have not seen a significant increase in churn and that more than half of the users (six out of 10) intend to continue their video and music subscriptions indefinitely. Yet, that prediction comes with a caution: users have also indicated that there is a likelihood of unsubscribing once the trial period ends.

Some of the biggest opportunities exist in the budding digital financial services sector, which spans the payments, remittance, insurance, investing and lending subsectors. Consumers and SMEs have adopted digital financial services like never before, and behavioral changes are here to stay, driving adoption and penetration. Leading financial institutions enhanced their apps and saw engagement increase.

(To be Concluded)

HARSHA KAKAR

Kargil in 1999 and Ladakh in 2020 had a few things in common, the most obvious was to have been surprised, followed by a reaction. The Indian polity had closed its mind to the fact that China was a threat, while in 1999, it never expected Pakistan to risk an offensive manoeuvre, considering differences in military power. The political belief was that diplomacy and economic bonding would contain Chinese adventurism. Post Doklam, General Bipin Rawat had stated at a seminar in CLAWS, "Salami slicing, taking over territory in a gradual manner, testing our limits of threshold is something we have to be wary about." It was a warning, yet when China entered Ladakh, India was unprepared.

Kargil was a failure of intelligence and laxity by forces deployed in the region. Ladakh was no different. The Chinese had planned and prepared for the incursion, keeping it below thresholds of war. The use of medieval handheld weapons at Galwan were indicative of their in-depth planning. They exploited Indian involvement in stemming the pandemic, while Pakistan exploited Indian casualness. Indian reserve formations, which deploy in Ladakh for exercises to counter additional forces, were held back on the premise that China was conducting routine training exercises. Subsequent Indian reactions were similar during Kargil, which was to rush forces to the region.

The Lahore summit between Prime Ministers Atal Behari Vajpayee and Nawaz Sharif had taken place in February 1999, while the Mahabalipuram summit between PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping occurred in October 2019. In both instances, India trusted diplomacy and believed that bonding and peace talks would ensure the borders remained peaceful. Conversely, while their leaders discussed peace, cooperation and trade, the armed forces of our two neighbours were planning offensive manoeuvres in Indian territory. In Kargil, Pakistan had studied our routine and exploited it, in Ladakh the Chinese did the same. Trust deteriorated subsequently.

The major difference between Kargil and Ladakh was in the levels of violence. In Ladakh, apart from Galwan where India lost 20 of its bravest, there were no other instances of violence, and talks have been adopted to resolve the dispute. In Kargil, the army was compelled to take offensive action to evict intruders, leading to large loss of lives. The other difference was the Indian

India must not always be on the back foot



offensive action of occupying the Kailash Ridge, pushing China on the defensive and leading to resolution on both banks of Pangong Tso. We reacted to hostile actions by our neighbours, which occurred due to our own shortcomings.

Another commonality was induction of additional formations and reassigning operational responsibilities. In Kargil, an additional division was inducted, as also 14 Corps raised, splitting the responsibility of the erstwhile 15 Corps. In the case of Ladakh, an offensive Corps in the plains has been reassigned for similar tasks in the region, enhancing offensive capabilities. Additional troops have been deployed all along the LAC to cater for any future Chinese misadventures.

Pragmatism and correct assessment of national threats over the years, as also logical allocation of funds for national security would have avoided sudden spurts in expenditure, reduced the capability gap and possibly resulted in the Chinese thinking twice before attempting misadventures. The mountain strike corps, whose raising was stalled by the government due to paucity of funds, has been revived.

Thus, defence expenditure has witnessed an increase, rather than a reduction. The same occurred post Kargil.

During Kargil, there were increased allocation of funds to procure equipment essential to make up shortfalls in capabilities, as defence budgets had reduced over years. A near-similar scenario of poor allocation for defence continued until the government was shaken by the Chinese intrusion. The forces had been forced to re-adjust procurement plans due to poor allocation of capital funds, despite repeated requests to the finance ministry. Governments slept, unwilling to accept that threats to national security had not reduced and China would exploit its military superiority at some stage.

When Ladakh happened, the government woke from its slumber and hurriedly released funds for procurement. To shift procurement responsibility on to service HQs, they enhanced financial powers of service chiefs. The government ignored the fact, in both instances, that defence equipment is never available off the shelf and there is always a gap between placing orders, procuring equipment and enhancing capabili-

ties. Had it continued with logical financial allocations in defence budgets, such haphazard solutions would not have been resorted to.

Similar to the post-Kargil scenario, once the Ladakh intrusion occurred, the government realised the importance of logistics and connectivity. Infrastructure towards the LAC once again came into focus. Connectivity projects along the entire LAC, from Ladakh to Arunachal, saw infusion of funds. Deadlines were reduced, projects closely monitored, and every completed project inaugurated by a senior government functionary, aimed at sending a message. Procurement of essential ammunition stocks and winter clothing, slowed due to paucity of funds, picked up steam. Such was the initial shortfall that the US released winter clothing from its reserve stocks. Currently, the army is procuring for future use.

Post Kargil there were multiple committees established to study causes, shortcomings and suggest remedial measures. The take-off point was the Dr K Subramanyam-led Kargil Committee. Failures were identified and creation of additional

coordinating bodies and institutions recommended. Many were created. No such committee has yet been announced for determining the causes of the Ladakh crisis as also recommending remedial measures.

It appears that the government is unwilling to accept criticism or even an assessment into how the nation was surprised and compelled to react.

India has always claimed to be a state which desires peace and tranquillity. It expects the same from its neighbours. However, every time it was led up the garden path and surprised. National leaders of both Pakistan and China engaged in talks with India, while their military planned offensive actions. Thus, they were part of strategic deception, willingly or unwillingly. In such a scenario, there is bound to be a trust deficit, which will impact future relations. India needs to ensure that it is never again compelled to react as also deter misadventures by enhancing military capabilities. Our political leadership must never blindly trust the adversary's leaders.

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.

Pakistan's dark national secret

PARVEZ HOODHBOY

on earth.

In one book from 1996 I did find a diagrammatised rabbit. But with essential parts fuzzed out, it is difficult to figure out whether it was male or female or the equipment that rabbits need to reproduce themselves. That someone should think an unfuzzed diagram of this little animal would titillate students or stimulate promiscuous behaviour stumps me.

When enforced, clerical interpretations of modesty — translated as *sharm-o-haya* — cause people to suffer grievously. For example, ex-senator Maulana Gul Naseeb Khan, former provincial secretary of the MMA, roundly condemned diagnostic devices that can look inside women's bodies because, "We think that men could derive sexual pleasure from women's bodies while conducting ECG or ultrasound". Claiming that women would lure men under the pretext of medical procedures, the maulana's party banned ECG and ultrasound for women by male technicians and doctors when in power in KP. Trained females, however, were not to be found.

While *sharm-o-haya* applies to all, females bear the brunt. Culturally, 'breast' is a taboo word and so breast cancer cannot easily be called 'breast cancer'. This makes early detection hugely difficult and accounts for Pakistan's rate of breast cancer being the highest in South Asia. Most women feel embarrassed in coming forward; only when the pain becomes unbearable.

Inhibitions about the human body, of course, have been around for much longer than SNC. It's just that henceforth there will be still more. I have looked at a few biology textbooks published in past years by the Punjab and Sindh Textbook Boards and could not find meaningful accounts of mammalian organs and processes needed to sustain life

able and when the cancer metastasizes does a woman finally confide in someone. By that time it is too late. Ovaries? Thousands of Pakistani women die yearly of ovarian and cervical cancer but 'ovaries' and 'cervix' are words too delicate to ever mention.

With such deep social inhibitions, should women become doctors? This appears an odd question. Presently, about 70 per cent of medical students in Pakistan are female. Our brightest girls get sent to medical college by their parents but mostly to become trophy brides who never practise their profession. Nevertheless, this begs the question: can females become real doctors with their restricted medical knowledge? Would they ever be permitted to study the whole body, including the male anatomy? Or are women doctors only to treat sore throats or become midwives?

Over time the clerically supervised PTI school curriculum will magnify body-related taboos. Even today no one in government dares talk openly about population planning or contraceptives except with bated breath and only after looking over their shoulder. Although Pakistan produces as many people as the state of Israel every two years, yet it abolished the ministry for population planning long ago. It was replaced with some obscure, non-functioning organisation in each province.

Called the Population Welfare Department, the replacement was named to suit our 'cultural sensitivities'. The name implicitly suggests welfare for Pakistanis is possible irrespective of how many of us there are. PWD websites have fancy graphics but no content because ways to limit conception would violate *sharm-o-haya*. How the human species propagates appears to be a dark national secret that must be kept under wraps. Presumably, the morals of Pakistani society will be wrecked if we discover how babies are made. Somehow it's okay to breed like rabbits but not okay to know how rabbits breed.

Denying basic anatomical knowledge keeps minds clean, say our clerics. This could not be more false. Unsated curiosity and sexual repression drove internet pornographic traffic from Pakistan so high that PTA finally blocked porn sites. Until November 2011 internet cafes were principal porn dispensers and these promptly collapsed after the ban, ruining their owners. One hears, however, that paths to proscribed materials have simply shifted elsewhere. Who knows?

Sharm-o-haya makes protecting children from sexual predators much more difficult. Sometime ago, the PTI minister for human rights, Dr Shireen Mazari, declared at the launch of the Child Protection Campaign that "Pakistan was ranked as the country with the largest numbers

of child pornography viewers". She suggested that campaigns should be launched at the school level to sensitise students to the menace.

Mazari is, of course, very correct. Her proposal would work far better at protecting children than having child killers and rapists swing from lamp posts, a popular demand. But such educational campaigns require making children aware of basic biological facts so that they can tell between proper and improper behaviour. How can that possibly square with Imran Khan's and Shafqat Mahmood's clerically supervised SNC?

The guardians of *sharm-o-haya* find undraped diagrams shameful. Yet, to protect their own kind, they suppress every scandal that might implicate them. Earlier this week, unchallengeable video evidence emerged of a mufti's sexual wrongdoing with a madressah lad. While he was stripped of his madressah teaching post after investigation, no cleric suggested Sharia punishment and all religious parties stayed mum.

Saudi Arabia and the GCC countries used to be the world's most stoutly conservative countries while Pakistan was counted among the more open, relaxed ones. This has changed. Presently, Pakistan is not just in reverse gear, it is hell-bent upon moving backward as fast as possible. The kind of mixed-up, confused and ignorant generations PTI's curriculum changes will produce in times ahead is absolutely terrifying.

Dawn/ANN

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The first results of the British miners' ballot are disappointing. They are not decisive, but the fact that, according to the returns ascertained up to June 16 more than a hundred thousand of the men had voted against the proposed terms of settlement, while fewer than 36,000 had voted in their favour, discloses more strength on the side of the opposition, and less reason, than had been expected. At the moment of writing we are still awaiting news of the final result. In the meantime it is pointed out that the returns hitherto announced do not include such districts as South Yorkshire, where a majority in favour of the settlement is anticipated. A two-thirds majority is needed for the rejection of the proposed terms, and it is deemed probable that this will be narrowly averted. If so, the opposition will fail and the settlement will be carried, but such a termination of the dispute will be considerably less satisfactory than a settlement carrying with it the concurrence of the bulk of the men concerned. Some allowance, however, must be made for reluctance on the part of the miners to vote for what may have been, quite wrongly, represented to them as a surrender. It is quite probable that many of those who have already voted against the settlement will be glad at heart if the settlement should be carried.

NEWS ITEMS

RETRENCHMENT IN MYSORE

Mysore, June 21

In the Mysore Representative Assembly the debate on the Budget was continued. Most speakers insisted upon the necessity for immediate retrenchment in the State services which were described as top-heavy, and it was suggested that they should be reduced by fifty per cent. Mr. Abbas Khan proposed that the salaries of all officers, including the Dewan, should be reduced, and that the posts of no fewer than five departmental heads should be abolished. It was urged that the land revenue might be increased by improvement of large tracts of waste land, so as to make them available for agricultural purposes, and a suggestion for the levy of a special educational cess received considerable support. Eventually, however, except for a few minor amendments, all the items in this year's budget estimates were passed.

NAGPUR CONTEMPT OF COURT CHARGE

Nagpur, June 21

Mr. Siran Mohamed heard the notice issued against Mr. Maroti Rao Poharkar to show cause why proceedings for contempt of court should not be started for having filed a written statement in which it is stated: I pity Government that it has to resort to the shameless farce of charging a person for a supposed offence through one of its servants before another servant, and support the prosecution by the statement of other servants, and such a court can have no power to try my case. Mr. Bobade assisted by Mr. Brahmashash argued that this was criticism against the system of Government and no reflection upon the judge, who did not feel insulted at that time. The case will be tried tomorrow.

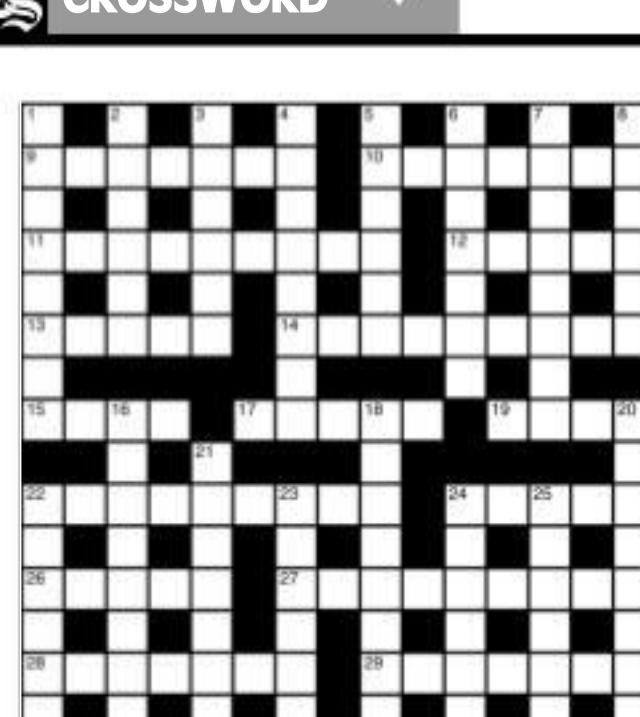
SERIOUS DISTURBANCE AT CHINTAMANI

News has been received of serious rioting at Chintamani, 30 miles from Kolar, between Hindus and Mahomedans about four days ago. It is stated that when a Hindu wedding procession accompanied by musicians was passing a mosque the Mahomedans requested them to stop playing. They refused to do so, and at a signal by the Mahomedans, large numbers of them appeared on the scene armed with various missiles and began to assault the Hindus. The Police Superintendent of Kolar who was in camp at Chintamani and the Amildar of the taluk came on the scene with a posse of armed police, and finding they were unable to quell the disturbance which had assumed serious proportions, the police were ordered to fire into the mob.

DARJEELING HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

The Hon. Mr. P.C. Mitter, Minister of Education received a deputation representing the Darjeeling High School Teachers' Association. Mr. W.W. Hornell, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, was also present. In the course of their address the members asked for the reorganisation of the teachers' service with improved pay and prospects; an ad-interim allowance pending sanction of the reorganised scale of pay, and a house allowance for the teachers and the clerk of the Darjeeling High School. In reply the Hon. Minister pointed out that the question of house allowance might be discussed by the Hon. the Maharajahdhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan for such orders as might be deemed fit. He would try to push the scheme as best as he could in the circumstances.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 9 Sketch duck until flying to end of lake (7)
- 10 Concerning sight of news stories as leader moves further right (7)
- 11 Stress concerning angry packing note (9)
- 12 Boycott lecturer in the end (5)
- 13 Dutch dive's needing a clean (5)
- 14 Allegiances of kings and queens changing sides (9)
- 15 E.g. an 'A' written in hexameters (4)
- 16 Food that's brought up, say (5)

DOWN

- 19 Group of boys that is ejected from women's loos (4)
- 22/5 Broadcast idiocy mutates on The Young Ones for instance (9,6)
- 24 Antelopes with nothing to eat in reserves (5)
- 26 Simple computational device – one with slide? (5)
- 27 American however is like Trump (9)
- 28 Values Spain's players in report (7)
- 29 She has her pride (7)
- 1 Stir something for

- breakfast (8)
- Morality of French and this Latin rests on semantics ultimately (6)
- Promising girl full of dynamic energy (6)
- Trader's ego interrupting upset storyteller (8)
- See 22 Across
- Start of beard – with subtle changes (7)
- Starting to snort cocaine, one with a nervous twitch and a nervous complaint (8)
- Bodies of water covered in fine snow? (6)
- Struggling to detain a

- counter-agent (8)
- Girl friend seen around Fourth of August every year (8)
- Tension of pole markers when in service (8)
- Head covering for when the rain is scattered (7)
- Laid out with gaps, changes to lower case when written over maybe? (6)
- Damage as coming up we sullied boxes (3,3)
- Last place as explosion envelope races (6)
- Source of leather in Smiffield compounds? (6)

NO 28950

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)



We know that industry growth will largely be led by next-generation technologies and services.

THEIRY DELAPORTE
WIPRO CEO

THUMBNAILS

OIL profit falls: Oil India Ltd, the nation's second-largest state oil explorer, on Monday reported 8 per cent drop in March quarter net profit on lower crude oil production. Net profit in January-March 2021 at Rs 847.56 crore, or Rs 7.82 per share, was lower than Rs 925.65 crore, or Rs 8.54 a share, profit in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement. The firm got \$59.80 for every barrel of crude oil in the quarter, up from \$5.18 a year back. But oil production fell by 5.28 per cent to 0.72 million tonne in January-March 2021. PTI

Govt notifies PLI scheme: Production linked incentives for manufacturing advanced chemistry cell batteries will be offered only to those firms that have been allocated the production capacity under the national programme on ACC battery storage through a transparent mechanism. According to a notification issued by the Department of Heavy Industry, the incentives will not be offered to conventional battery pack segment of the industry as such manufacturing activities are already happening in the country. PTI

Net profit of big cement firms surges: Pandemic-hit FY21 has turned out to be a good year for the big cement companies, as their net profits surged and market position strengthened, a report said. The net profits of 10 major listed cement companies surged by 29.6 per cent on an average in FY21, although aggregate revenues grew modestly by 3.8 per cent, according to an analysis undertaken by Acuite Ratings. PTI

Ikea & Rockefeller Foundation: The Ikea Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation said they will join forces to set up a \$1 billion global platform to fight climate change and energy poverty. The platform launching this year aims to empower 1 billion people with distributed renewable energy. PTI

'Sign of revival in economic activity as states unlock'

This time it was not just demand in urban areas that was constrained but even the rural areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

With states easing lockdown curbs due to declining number of Covid-19 cases, there are immediate indications of improvement in economic activity as companies are hopeful of better performance in the next 6 to 12 months, according to a survey.

About 60 per cent of 212 companies, which participated in the survey conducted by Ficci and Dhravu Advisors, said there was a high impact on their businesses due to the state-level lockdowns.

With different parts of the country under different sets of restrictions and consumer sentiment impacted due to the ferocity of the second wave of Covid-19, an evident dip in demand was witnessed by companies, it added.

This time it was not just demand in urban areas that was constrained but even the rural areas saw a compression in demand, according to the survey.

"While the impact of the



second wave-induced lockdowns on businesses is clearly visible, there is a silver lining on the horizon...With different states getting into the unlock mode, there are immediate indications of improvement in economic activity," the survey said.

Ficci said that with the number of new cases ebbing and states getting into the unlock mode, there is hope that business and economic activities would regain normalcy in the months ahead.

"Even as we see signs of improvement, we must prepare ourselves well for the subsequent waves...Clearly, vaccination at scale has to be the

priority if we have to beat Covid-19 and put it behind us," it added. For dealing with any subsequent waves, it suggested five measures - ramping up investments in healthcare infrastructure in small cities and rural areas; maintaining a sufficient pool of essential medicines; continuing with newly created temporary facilities; strengthening testing infrastructure, and setting up a national facility for vaccine manufacturing with government funding.

The survey also suggested setting up vaccination facilities at airports, railway stations, bus depots, schools and village panchayat ghars;

organizing mobile vans that can undertake vaccination in slums, rural areas and planning for vaccination of the elderly and people with disabilities, who have limited mobility, at home.

Need calibrated steps to support economic recovery: Calibrated measures are needed to support the country's economic recovery and to diminish the daunting impact caused by the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic on trade and industry, PHDCCI President Sanjay Aggarwal said on Monday.

He also pitched for doing away with the customs duties

on the imports of primary raw materials for industrial use for at least the current fiscal year and imposing export duties on various primary commodities, which are showing huge price increases - rising 50 per cent over the last fiscal. Aggarwal said that trade and industry have to be rejuvenated for achieving a high economic growth trajectory in 2021-22.

"There is a need to re-fuel household consumption to enhance demand in the economy as it will have an accelerated effect on the expansion of capital investments in the country," he added.

He said that frontloading the National Infrastructure Pipeline expenditure would provide a much-needed multiplier effect to create aggregate demand in the economy and strengthen the economic recovery.

"Government/ PSU payments must not be delayed due to Work From Home issues or shortage of funds as these are crucial to maintain the working capital cycle," Aggarwal said.



Industry needs to make pricing of financial products transparent: RBI DG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar on Monday urged the industry to make the pricing of financial products and services transparent to minimise chances of mis-selling.

Speaking at an event organised by think-tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), he said there is an amount of pricing in even the case of free services.

Citing an example of such opaque arrangement, Sankar said bundling of products in the financial sector is one such arrangement.

Observing that the digital payments industry is yet to enter into its teens, Sankar said it has become a global leader in certain areas while it is evolving.

Digital payment in India gathered traction after 2010.

Noting that there is tremendous scope for the growth of digital payments in India, he said there is a need to develop an ecosystem in a way that gives comfort to all citizens that his or her money is safe over the online system.

The RBI has taken a lot of steps for the advancement of digital payment in the country, he said.

Airtel and Tata Group team up for 'Made in India' 5G network solutions



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

Bharti Airtel and Tata Group on Monday announced a strategic partnership for implementing 5G network solutions for India.

Tata Group has developed "O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network) based Radio and NSA/SA (Non-Standalone/standalone) Core and has integrated a totally indigenous telecom stack, leveraging the Group capa-

bilities and that of its partners", according to a joint statement. This will be available for commercial development starting January 2022.

"Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) brings its global system integration expertise and helps align the end-to-end solution to both 3GPP and O-RAN standards, as the network and equipment are increasingly embedded into software," it said.

Airtel will pilot and deploy the indigenous solution as

part of its 5G rollout plans in India and begin the pilot in January 2022, as per the norms formulated by the government. "These 'Made in India' 5G product and solutions are aligned to global standards, and inter-operate with other products based on standard open interfaces and those defined by the O-RAN Alliance," the statement said.

The 5G solutions, once commercially proven in Airtel's diverse and brownfield network will open export opportunities for India, which is now the second-largest telecom market globally, it added.

Open RAN or open radio access network architecture is industry terminology for interoperability and standardisation of radio access network elements including products and software from various vendors.

MSCI India index premium races past 55% over emerging mkt peers, 12% over world: Report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 21 JUNE

Continuing foreign inflows \$8.1 billion YTD -- has driven up the valuation premium of MSCI India index past 55 per cent and 12 per cent against MSCI Emerging Markets and MSCI World indices, respectively, by mid-June, according to a brokerage report.

The domestic market has been the best performer globally YTD (year-to-date), with the Sensex rallying 56.2 per cent in the past 12 months, and 5.5 per cent in the past one month and 5.1 per cent in the last three months; while the same for Nifty has been 58.8 per cent, 5.1 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, Credit Suisse Wealth Management India report said on Monday.

Compared to this, S&P

500 gained 35.6 per cent in the past one year, 1.4 per cent in the past 30 days and 6.2 per cent in the last 90 days; Euro Stoxx 50 at 27.3, 8 and 8; MSCI emerging market 37.3, 9 and 1.5; MSCI Asia ex-Japan 36.6, 3.6 and minus 0.5; MSCI China 23.6, 1.5 and minus 5.5; Nikkei 29.2, 4.3 and minus 3; and the MSCI World index rallied 35.3 per cent, 2.3 and 5.4 per cent, as per the report.

The valuation premium of the MSCI India index has

the robust FPI inflows \$8.1 billion so far this year and \$2.3 billion since May, and improving corporate fundamentals like balance sheet health and higher return on equities.

It is extremely critical that the country avoids a harsh third wave by accelerating its vaccination drive in the coming months, if it manages to vaccinate its population faster, the higher-than-average valuation premium for India may sustain given the marked improvement in corporate leverage and return ratios, its India equity analysts Jitendra Gohil and Premal Kamdar said in a note.

The optimism is also backed by the good progress of the all-powerful monsoon that has already been 25 per cent in excess in June so far and the improving mobility indicators.

Windfall gains on bond portfolios aided PSBs report net profits in FY2021: Icra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 21 JUNE

After five consecutive years of posting losses, public sector banks (PSBs) reported net profits in the fiscal 2020-21, supported by windfall gains on their bond portfolio, rating agency Icra Ratings said in a report.

Apart from trading gains, the return to profitability was supported by lower credit provisions on their legacy non-performing assets (NPAs), after the high provisions made during the last few years, it said.

In FY21, PSBs reported a net profit of Rs 32,848 crore as against loss of Rs 38,907 crore in 2019-20, the agency's Vice President (Financial Sector Ratings) Anil Gupta said.

According to the agency's estimates, public sector banks booked profits of Rs 31,600 crore due to gains on bond portfolio compared to overall profit before tax (PBT) of Rs 45,900 crore in FY2021, the report said.

It said with a year-on-year (YoY) deposit growth of 11.4 per cent and muted credit



growth of 5.5 per cent in FY2021, the liquidity in the banking system remained abundant at Rs 5.7 lakh crore in FY2021.

With the rate cuts and abundant liquidity, the daily average for the benchmark 10-year government securities

declined from 6.42 per cent in Q4 FY2020 to 6 per cent in Q1 FY2021, 5.93 per cent in Q2 FY2021 and 5.90 per cent in Q3 FY2021 before rising to 6.06 per cent in Q4 FY2021.

The significant volatility in bond yields also provided banks with ample trading

opportunities, the report said.

"As the banks booked gains on their bond holdings, their fresh investments are closer to the market rates, thereby aligning the yield on their bond portfolios closer to the market rates. The yield on the investment book for the public banks declined to 6.18 per cent in Q4 FY2021 from 6.79 per cent in Q4 FY2020," Gupta said.

The agency further said notwithstanding the profits reported by the public banks in FY2021, the profits before tax (PBT) of other public banks (excluding State Bank of India (SBI)) were lower than their trading gains, reflecting the challenges posed by Covid-19 on the asset quality and profitability.

On an aggregate basis, the

reported a trading gains of Rs 25,500 crore as against profit before tax of Rs 18,400 crore, it said.

Like public banks, private banks saw an improvement in their trading profits to Rs 18,400 crore in FY2021 (Rs 14,700 crore in FY2020), which was 21 per cent of their PBT in FY2021 (28 per cent in FY2020).

According to Gupta, while banks make windfall profits amid the declining yield scenario, they could face challenges in their bond portfolios in a rising interest rate regime.

"While the RBI is unlikely to be in a rush to hike interest rates in the near term, banks would need to be mindful as treasury profits would be relatively muted in FY2022," he said.

PNB Housing Finance shares decline 5 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 JUNE

Shares of Punjab National Bank Housing Finance on Monday dipped 5 per cent after the Sebi restrained the company from going ahead with shareholders' voting on the proposed Rs 4,000 crore deal with Carlyle group.

The stock declined 5 per cent to close at Rs 702.40 its lower circuit limit on the BSE.

At the NSE, it dopped 4.99 percent to close at Rs 700.95. In a rare regulatory move, Sebi has restrained Punjab National Bank Housing Finance from going ahead with shareholders' voting on the proposed Rs 4,000 crore deal with Carlyle group, taking control of Punjab National Bank, which is a subsidiary of Punjab National Bank.

The company's meeting is scheduled 22 June 22 to take up the matter for approval of the shareholders.

Meanwhile, Punjab National Bank Housing Finance has reached the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), filing an appeal against the letter by Sebi asking it not to go ahead with its Rs 4,000-crore capital raise plan led by Carlyle group.

India Inc and on Monday stressed on the need to have a balanced life and encouraged the practice of yoga in order to maintain physical and mental wellbeing, especially during the ongoing pandemic.

Public sector companies too joined in the celebrations with yoga sessions at home and workplace while spreading the message to "embrace yoga for holistic health".

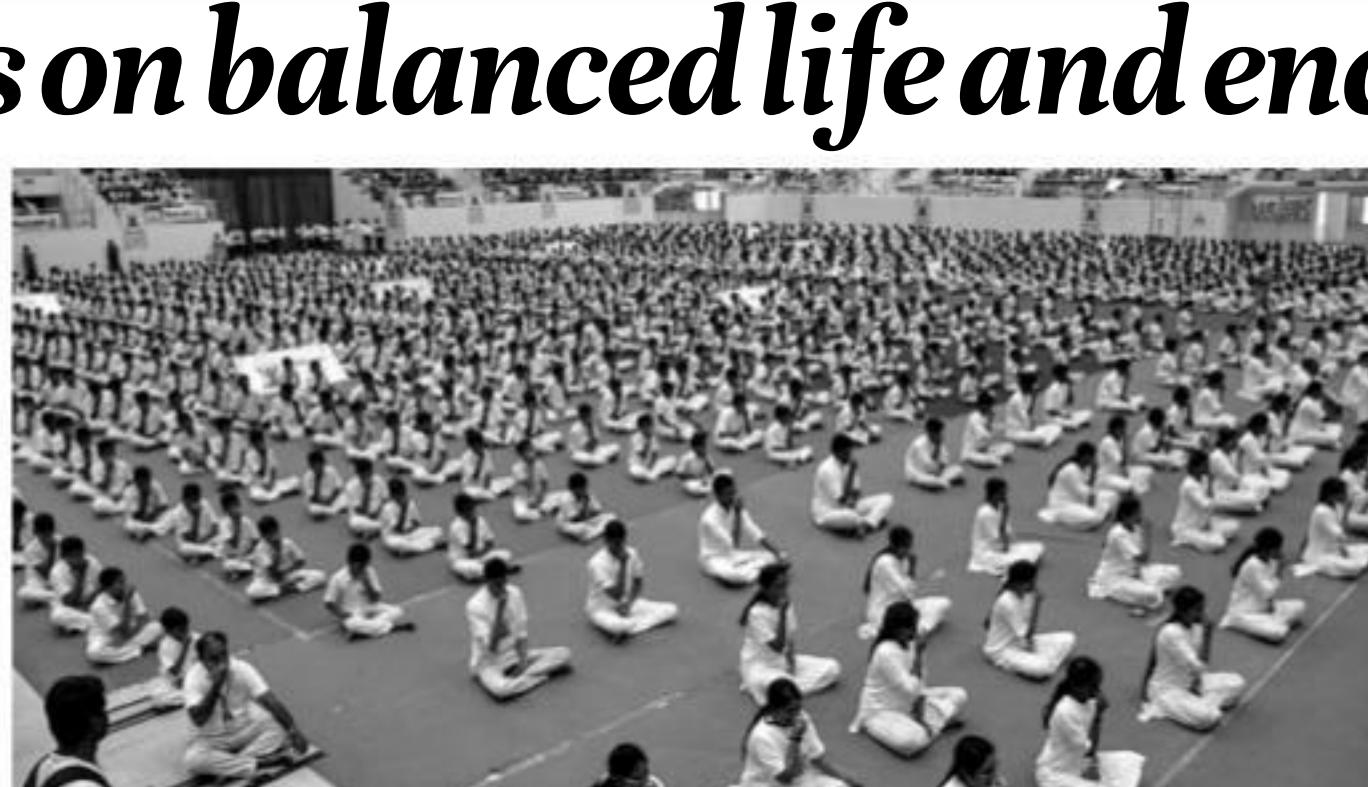
Celebrating the International Yoga Day, Biocon Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw tweeted a picture of herself performing yoga with a caption, "Yoga is all about creating a balance in your life. It is about balancing your senses, bal-

ancing your body, soul and mind in order to live a healthy life."

In her tweet she said, "On this #InternationalDayOfYoga let's pledge to integrate #yoga in our lives to keep us healthy and balanced both physically & mentally."

Similarly, Hiranandani Group Chairman and National President NAREDCO, Hiranjan Hiranandani also tweeted, "#yoga plays a vital role in shaping #professional & #personal mindset. It trains not just #body but mind & soul to #focus #strengthen #teamwork #resilience #vision #growth #Balance #flexibility & #peace #internationalyoga-day2021@hiranandanigrp @h_communities".

IndiGo Senior VP and Head



of Human Resources Raj Ragavan said, "Health and wellness has always been an integral part of IndiGo's culture since its inception, and Yoga is certainly a great way

to keep both the body and the mind fit."

He said the airlines is run-

ning a social media campaign #BendItLikeGE to motivate more people to take up Yoga. It has collaborated with Infinite Health Studios to organise yoga sessions for its employees and their families.

"We will continue with initiatives to encourage holistic wellness for our employees and their families," Ragavan said.

Like their private sector counterparts, top officials of state run enterprises also joined in the International Yoga Day celebrations.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) said its chairman S M Vaidya and other directors joined the yoga session. "On this #IDY2021, let us embrace Yoga for holistic health", it said. Likewise, BPCL in a tweet said, "On the occasion of

#IDY2021, Shri K Padmakar C&MD, Shri Arun Singh Director (Marketing) & Director (Refineries) and Shri N. Vijayagopal Director (Finance), leads the employees of #BPCL at a special virtual session of Yoga".

Another PSU, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) said practicing yoga regularly maintains inner balance, peace and well-being.

"On the occasion of #InternationalDayOfYoga, our C&MD, Dir-Refineries & Dir-Marketing, along with Yoga guru and #HPCL family joins the celebration of #YogaForWellness from the comfort for our homes," it said.

At Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), chairman Subhash Kumar, director-HR

Alka Mittal, director-exploitation RK Srivastava, director-technical and field services OP Singh and director-onshore Anurag Sharma attended a yoga session.

We are determined to achieve a qualitative leap in the political and parliamentary life.



AFTER FORMING A NEW COMMITTEE TASKED WITH OVERHAULING THE KINGDOM'S POLITICAL SYSTEM

JORDAN'S KING ABDULLAH II

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2021

09

Iran's president-elect says he won't meet with Biden

He will also not negotiate over Tehran's ballistic missile program and its support of regional militias

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, 21 JUNE

Iran's president-elect said on Monday he would not meet with President Joe Biden nor negotiate over Tehran's ballistic missile program and its support of regional militias, sticking to a hard-line position following his landslide victory in last week's election.

Judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi also described himself as a "defender of human rights" when asked about his involvement in the 1988 mass execution of some 5,000 people. It marked the first time he's been put on the spot on live television over that dark moment in Iranian history at the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

"The US is obliged to lift all oppressive sanctions against Iran," Raisi said at the news conference.



Raisi sat in front of a sea of microphones, most from Iran and countries home to militias supported by Tehran. He looked nervous at the beginning of his comments but slowly became more at ease over the hourlong news conference.

Asked about Iran's ballistic missile program and its support of regional militias, Raisi described the issues as "non-negotiable."

Tehran's fleet of attack aircraft date largely back to before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, forcing Iran to instead invest in missiles as a hedge against its regional Arab neighbors, who have purchased billions of dollars in American military hardware over the years. Those missiles, with a self-imposed range limit of 2,000 kilometers can reach across the Mideast and US military bases in the region.

Iran also relies on militias

like Yemen's Houthi rebels and Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group for counterbalance against enemies such as Saudi Arabia and Israel, respectively.

On a possible meeting with Biden, Raisi simply answered: "No."

His moderate competitor in the election, Abdolnasser Hemmati, had suggested during campaigning that he'd be potentially willing to meet Biden.

The White House did not immediately respond to Raisi's statements Monday. Raisi will become the first serving Iranian president sanctioned by the US government even before entering office, in part over his time as the head of Iran's internationally criticized judiciary — one of the world's top executioners.

The victory of Raisi, a protégé of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, came amid the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. Millions of Iranians stayed home in defiance of a vote they saw as tipped in Raisi's favour after a panel under Khamenei disqualified his strongest competitor.

Of those who did vote, 3.7 million people either accidentally or intentionally voided their ballots, far beyond the amount seen in previous elections and suggesting some wanted none of the four candidates.

In official results, Raisi won 17.9 million votes overall, nearly 62% of the total 28.9 million cast.

In Tehran, the election saw a 34% turnout, a number far lower than previous years that saw polling stations noticeably empty.

Israel eased some restrictions on Gaza: Palestinians

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZA CITY, 21 JUNE

Israel on Monday eased some restrictions on the Gaza Strip that have threatened a fragile cease-fire which halted an 11-day war last month with the territory's Hamas rulers, Palestinian officials said.

They said 11 truckloads of clothes were exported through Kerem Shalom crossing for the first time in 40 days. On Sunday, Israel said it will allow limited agricultural exports from Gaza.

The easing also included the resumption of mail service in and out of Gaza, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.



Since the 11-day war in May between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers, thousands of Gazan passports and other essential paperwork had accumulated on the way to the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority for further processing.

Israeli FM to make first visit to UAE

NEW DELHI, 14 NOVEMBER

Israel's new foreign minister will head to the United Arab Emirates next week for the first-ever visit by a top Israeli diplomat to the Gulf Arab country, the ministry said Monday.

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid's trip comes after the two countries normalized relations last year in an agreement brokered by the Trump administration.

Women wearing few clothes impact men: Pak PM Imran on rising sexual violence

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, 21 JUNE

Pakistan Prime minister Imran Khan drew flak after he once again blamed a rise in the cases of sexual violence on how women dress in the country.

"If a woman is wearing very few clothes, it will have an impact on the men, unless they are robots. It's just common sense," Imran Khan said in an interview with Axios on HBO. "This is cultural imperialism. Whatever is acceptable in our culture, must be acceptable everywhere else. It's not," he added.

Imran Khan's comments



in the interview have caused a massive outrage on social media, with opposition leaders and journalists expressing anger and disgust against the misogynistic ideology.

"Imran Khan is a peacock and hates women," Anaya Khan, one of the users,

tweeted with the video of the

interview on the microblogging site.

Reema Omer, a legal advisor with the International Commission of Jurists, expressed disappointment after Khan reiterated his stance in victim-blaming in cases of sexual violence.

"Disappointing and frankly sickening to see PM Imran Khan repeat his victim blaming regarding reasons for sexual violence in Pakistan. Men are not 'robots', he said.

Hundreds of people mobilised demanding an apology from him for his views and held a protest in Islamabad.

Global Covid caseload tops 178.4 million

WASHINGTON, 21 JUNE

The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 178.4 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.86 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

The current global case-load and death toll stood at 178,424,674 and 3,864,442, respectively. The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,541,849 and 601,826, according to University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE). IANS

Japanese firms, varsities begin on-site Covid vaccination

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

TOKYO, 21 JUNE



Japan's companies and universities on Monday began on-site Covid-19 vaccination for people aged under 65, while seven prefectures including Tokyo shifted from a fully-fledged to a quasi-state of emergency.

Major businesses administering the jabs included SoftBank Group Corp., Central Japan Railway Co. and Itochu Corp, reports Xinhua news agency.

On-site inoculation also began at the Keio University, Tohoku University and Hiroshima University, among others.

The companies and universities, he said, will also be in charge of sourcing their own medical personnel to administer the jabs amid the nation's lack of medical personnel qualified to give the vaccinations, which has contributed to the country's sluggish rollout.

As the government ramps up its vaccination drive, it lifted the coronavirus state of emergency covering nine prefectures including Tokyo and Osaka on Monday, with Okinawa remaining under the emergency measures until July 11 due to a surge in cases and an overstretched medical system.

Seven of the nine prefec-

tures including the capital are now under a quasi-state of emergency until July 11, which allows for targeted antiviral measures for particular areas within a prefecture, rather than the entire prefecture itself.

Around 16 per cent of Japan's population of 126 million has now received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Meanwhile, the Tokyo Olympic Games organising committee on Monday confirmed that up to 10,000 domestic fans would be allowed to attend events when the fortnight-long quadrennial showpiece commences on 23 July.

Spectators from outside

Japan have already been barred from attending the Games.

"The capacity will be set at 50 per cent for all venues at the Games, and 10,000 fans will be permitted providing it does not exceed that limit; decision on the Paralympic Games will be made by 16 July 2021," the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games wrote on its official Twitter account.

The other key decision taken during the meeting involving five parties - International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Tokyo 2020, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the government of Japan.

Vietnam receives China's Sinopharm vaccines

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

HANOI, 21 JUNE

said.

In his speech, Xiong said: "I believe this batch of vaccines will help both Vietnam's epidemic prevention and control and its socio-economic development."

The handover of the vaccine came after Vietnam's Ministry of Health announced the approval of the job for emergency use in the country on 4 June.

The new wave began in Vietnam in late April.

The country has so far registered a total of 12,978 Covid-19 cases, including 9,943 detected since the start of the latest outbreak, according to the Ministry of Health.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Chaos (5)
- 4 Aura (3)
- 7 Witch's pot (8)
- 8 Wealthy (4)
- 9 Short drama (7)
- 10 Umbilicus (5)
- 11 Synthetic material (9)
- 16 Type of beer (5)
- 17 Leopard (7)
- 20 Raised platform (4)
- 21 Runway (8)
- 22 Female sheep (3)
- 23 Brownish-orange (5)
- 24 Solutions to yesterday's crossword (4)
- 25 Haploid, with 11 letters (5)
- 26 Long division, writing (5)
- 27 20 Imitate, 21 Aim, 22 Sag, 23 Loyal (7)

DOWN

- 1 Undulating (5)
- 2 Assortment (7)
- 3 Temporary traffic marker (4)
- 4 Price paid for a flight (7)
- 5 Din (6)
- 6 Defect (5)
- 12 Supervise (7)
- 13 Small bird (7)
- 14 Martial art (6)
- 15 Danger (5)
- 18 Shabby (5)
- 19 Diplomacy (4)
- 20 Haploid, with 11 letters (5)
- 21 Aim, 22 Sag, 23 Loyal (7)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

1 Where, with, writing. 2 Hatred, 2 idiot, 3 Advisor, 4 Hydrogen, 5 Osaka, 6 Tombola, 7 Nits, 8 Trimmed, 9 Admit, 10 Exter-

12 Haploid, 13 Unwell, 14 Grass, 15 Italy, 16 Whoa.

1 Hatred, 2 idiot, 3 Advisor, 4 Hydrogen, 5 Osaka, 6 Tombola, 7 Nits, 8 Trimmed, 9 Admit, 10 Exter-

12 Haploid, 13 Unwell, 14 Grass, 15 Italy, 16 Whoa.

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

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23325320

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800125151
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Haryana Roadways 23861262
- Himachal Roadways 01772233838, 01772233838, 01772233838, 01772233838
- Gurugram 01772233838, 01772233838

FLIGHT INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Center 09910383838, 09910383838, 09910383838
- Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)
- Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

SCRABBLE® BRAND



PAR SCORE 140-150

by JUDD

TODAY'S SOLUTION TO ADD 4x3x1 IPS Site in the Internet	
PACK 1 = 16	
PACK 2 = 13	
PACK 3 = 26	
PACK 4 = 36	
JUDG'S TOTAL 91	
PAR SCORE 90-100	
by JUDD	
SCRABBLE® TRADEMARK OF HASBRO INC. © 1996 HASBRO INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED	



Positive results of the summit (Putin-Biden meet) absolutely do not indicate that the United States will abandon its policy of containing Russia

KREMLIN SPOKESMAN DMITRY PESKOV

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	31	27 R
HONG KONG	32	29 R
TOKYO	24	17 R
LONDON	23	12 S
DUBAI	42	29 S
SAN FRANCISCO	20	11 S
NEW YORK	22	13 H
MOSCOW	14	07 H

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

THUMBNAILS



Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives to deliver his speech to members of the State Duma, the Lower House of the Russian Parliament at the Great Kremlin Palace at Moscow in Russia on Monday.

Swedish PM loses confidence vote, sparking uncertainty

ASSOCIATED PRESS
STOCKHOLM, 21 JUNE

marker. People needing to rent a home can find themselves waiting for years for a contract, and buying property is increasingly hard amid soaring home prices. However, the Left Party fears that deregulating the rental market will lead to rapid price increases and deeper segregation between rich and poor.

After the vote, Lofven, 63, said that regardless of what happens, I and my party will be available to shoulder the responsibility for leading the country. My focus has and will always be to do the best for Sweden, he added.

Over the weekend, Lofven held last-minute meetings seeking to secure a majority in parliament for his proposed rent reforms. On Sunday, he sought to soften the reforms by inviting landlords and tenant organizations for talks. However, Left Party leader Nooshi Dadgostar said the party was standing by its decision to oppose Lofven and said his effort was a political show. We have done something that is perceived as unusual in politics... kept our word, she said.

The Left Party's initiative was supported by three other parties, including the Sweden Democrats, a right-wing populist party which the mainstream parties generally refuse to cooperate with because they consider it extreme. Lawmakers voted 181-109 against Lofven, with 51 abstentions. The Left Party said it lost confidence in Lofven over a proposal to abolish rent controls on newly built properties. Sweden has strict regulations on rents aimed at maintaining affordable prices in larger cities. However, this makes property developers less willing to invest in building new homes for the rental

market. The Sweden Democrats make huge gains in an election in September 2018 to become the country's third-largest party after a showing that was attributed to a backlash against large-scale migration.

In 2015, Sweden, with a population of 10 million, took in a record 163,000 refugees—the highest per capita of any European country.

SPECTACULAR SIGHT



Lava erupts from a crater of Mt. Etna, Europe's largest active volcano, near Catania, in southern Italian island of Sicily, late Sunday. ■ AGENCIES

Merkel's bloc pledges stability, renewal in German election

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 21 JUNE

Germany's center-right bloc is pledging to boost the economy without raising taxes and make the country climate-neutral by 2045 without endangering jobs in its program for the September election that will determine who succeeds long-time Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The Union bloc on Monday became the last major political force to set out its stall for the 26 September parliamentary election. The other two parties fielding candidates for the chancellor, the environmentalist Greens and the center-left Social Democrats, unveiled their programs in March.

The bloc made up of the Christian Democratic Union of Armin Laschet, who is

running to become Germany's next leader, and the Bavaria-only Christian Social Union released its program at a time when polls show it back in the lead. It had fallen behind the Greens earlier this year amid discontent with a slow start to Germany's coronavirus vaccination campaign, a scandal over some lawmakers' involvement with lucrative mask procurement deals and squabbling over who would seek the top job.

Its manifesto is titled the program for stability and renewal reflecting the challenge of building on the popularity of Merkel, who long since decided not to seek a fifth four-year term, while also offering something new.

"We want to make our country faster, more efficient and more digital," Laschet said.

Ethiopians vote in what govt Bills as first free election

AGENCIES
ADDIS ABABA, 21 JUNE

Results of the vote could reverberate beyond Ethiopia. The Horn of Africa nation is a diplomatic heavyweight in a volatile region, providing peacekeepers to Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.

Abyi's newly-formed Prosperity Party is the frontrunner in a crowded field of candidates mostly from smaller, ethnically-based parties. Billboards with his party's lightbulb symbol adorn the capital.

Former political prisoner Berhanu Nega is the only other prominent candidate not running on an ethnic ticket.

But his Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice party has struggled to attract support outside cities.

During the last election, the ruling coalition and its allies won all 547 seats. This time, more than 37 million of Ethiopia's 109 million people are registered to vote, choosing from 46 parties for parliament. The electoral board says more candidates are running this time than in any previous vote.

Not all parties are taking part. In Oromiya, Ethiopia's most populous province, the largest opposition parties are boycotting over alleged intimidation by regional security forces. Officials did not return calls seeking comment.

Problems with voting registration and simmering ethnic violence have delayed voting in a fifth of constituencies. A second round of voting will take place in September. No date has been set for voting in Tigray, where the government has been fighting the region's former governing party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, since November. The United Nations says some 350,000 people face famine there.

Claudette regains tropical storm strength after 13 deaths

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ATLANTA, 21 JUNE

Claudette was regaining strength early Monday and expected to return to tropical storm status as it neared the coast of the Carolinas just days after 13 people died including eight children in a multi-vehicle crash due to the effects of the storm in Alabama.

The children who died Saturday were in a van for a youth home for abused or neglected children. The vehicle erupted in flames in the wreck along a wet Interstate 65 about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Montgomery, Butler County Coroner Wayne Garlock said vehicles likely hydroplaned.

The crash also claimed the lives of two other people who were in a separate vehicle. Garlock identified them as 29-year-old Cody Fox and his 9-month-old daughter, Ariana; both of Marion County, Tennessee. Multiple people were also injured.

Additionally, a 24-year-old man and a three-year-old boy were also killed Saturday when a tree fell on their house just outside the Tuscaloosa city limits, said Capt. Jack Kennedy of the Tuscaloosa Violent Crimes Unit.

Makayla Ross, a 23-year-old Fort Payne woman, died Saturday after her car ran off the road into a swollen creek, DeKalb County Deputy Coroner Chris Thacker told WHNT-TV.

A search was also underway for one man believed to have fallen into the water during flash flooding in Birmingham, WBRC-TV reported.

Crews were using boats to search Pebble Creek.

Early Monday, Claudette had maximum sustained



winds of 35 mph (55 kph), the National Hurricane Center said in an advisory. The depression was located 55 miles (90 kilometers) south-southwest of Raleigh, North Carolina, and moving east-northeast at 20 mph (31 kph), forecasters said. The depression was forecast to become a tropical storm sometime Monday morning over eastern North Carolina. Claudette is then on track to move into the Atlantic Ocean, then travel near or south of Nova Scotia on Tues-

day. Rainfall totals around 1 to 3 inches (3 to 8 centimeters) are forecast for parts of Georgia and the Carolinas.

Tornadoes were also possible Monday morning across the coastal Carolinas.

A tropical storm warning was in effect in North Carolina from the Little River Inlet to the town of Duck on the Outer Banks. A tropical storm watch was issued from South Santee River, South Carolina, to the Little River Inlet.

The van in Saturday's crash



was carrying children ages 4 to 17 who belonged to the Talapoosa County Girls Ranch, a youth home operated by the Alabama Sheriffs Association.

Michael Smith, the youth ranch's CEO, said the van was heading back to the ranch near Camp Hill, northeast of Montgomery, after a week at the beach in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Candice Gulley, the ranch director, was the van's only survivor pulled from the flames by a bystander. Words cannot explain what I saw, Smith said.

Gulley remained hospitalized Sunday in Montgomery in serious but stable condition. Two of the dead in the van were Gulley's children, ages 4 and 16. Four others were ranch residents and two were guests, Smith said.

Garlock said the location of the wreck is notorious for hydroplaning, as the north-

bound highway curves down a hill to a small creek. Traffic on that stretch of I-65 is usually filled with vacationers driving to and from Gulf of Mexico beaches on summer weekends. The National Transportation Safety Board tweeted that it was sending 10 investigators to the area Sunday to investigate the crash.

Meanwhile, it seemed to be business as usual along North Carolina's Outer Banks on Sunday ahead of Claudette's arrival. At Stack 'em High in Kill Devil Hills, a restaurant that specializes in pancakes, co-owner Dawn Kiousis said Sunday morning restaurant service was busy.

You keep your eye on the weather and you prepare as much stuff in advance as you can, she said. Just know she's going to do what she's going to do, so you just prepare.

PM Boris Johnson sets out plans to make UK a global science superpower



Russia's ambassador returns to US

MOSCOW, 21 JUNE

Russia's ambassador has returned to the United States three months after being recalled as tensions rose between Moscow and Washington, according to a tweet from the Russian Embassy.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Joe Biden agreed at their summit in Geneva last week on the return of Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov and US Ambassador John Sullivan, who left Moscow in April.

In response to Biden's announcement, Afghan President Ghani said his country respects American counterpart's decision to draw down their troops by September this year and Kabul will ensure a smooth transition. Ghani pointed out that the Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces have been carrying out most of the operations independently since the US-Taliban agreement of February 2020 to defend the people and the country. Our forces are capable of defending Afghanistan against current threats, the Afghan president said in a statement in April.

In April, President Biden announced that the US will withdraw all remaining troops from Afghanistan by the 20th anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks, in an effort to end a deadly conflict that has cost trillions of dollars and the lives of more than 2,300 American troops.

Biden has made it clear that a continued military strategy was no longer sustainable

in Afghanistan. "We cannot continue the cycle of extending or expanding our military presence in Afghanistan hoping to create ideal conditions for the withdrawal and expecting a different result," he said in a major policy speech on 14 April from the Treaty Room of the White House—where former president George W Bush first informed the nation of US strikes on al-Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan in October 2001.

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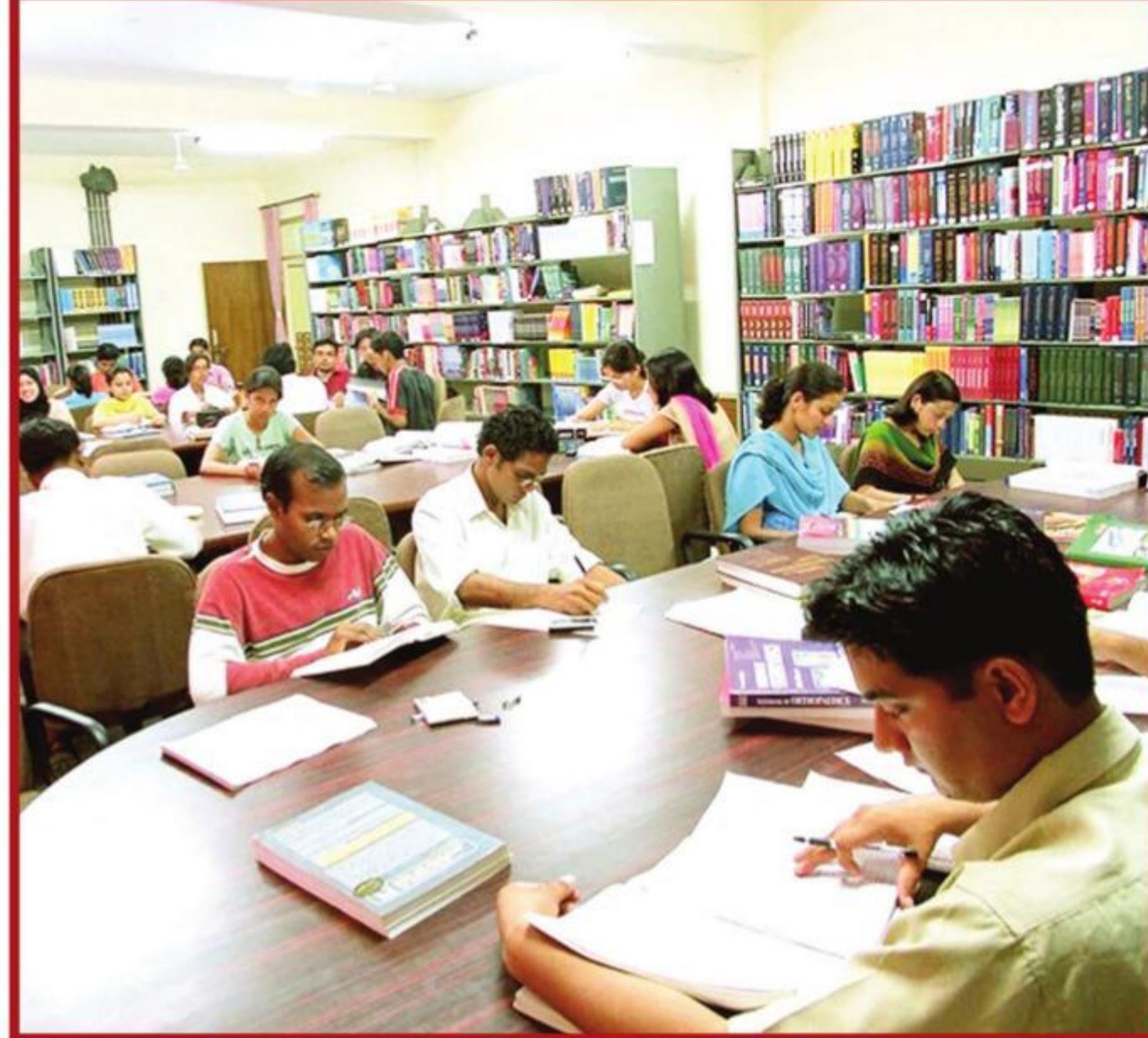
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Campus & Career

Focusing on native languages

The National Education Policy 2020 intends to revolutionise Indian pedagogy by introducing multilingual education



NIRANJAN HIRANANDANI

The linguistic domain of the Indian education system needs strengthening by initiating inclusive, plural and progressive structures. A multilingual approach can empower policies with the resources of a variety of cultures represented through a myriad of languages. And the National Education Policy 2020 intends to revolutionise the learning methodology by creating a multidisciplinary and blended learning model that shapes a student in alignment with Industry 4.0 learners.

The Government of India launched the disruptive NEP in an effort to have a more holistic approach to education which appeals to learners of today. It is a comprehensive framework for students from the elementary to the higher education level that will include vocational and skill training. The NEP, as emphasised by the government, is "the need of the hour" as there has been no substantial change in the educational structure of India in the last 34 years. Indeed, the policy has proved to be

an agency for universal paradigm changes in the Indian pedagogical field. In fact, it restored the significance of multilingual learning with native and foreign local languages at the centre stage.

By highlighting the mother tongue, local or regional language as the medium of instruction, learning will be more comfortable, culturally sound and simultaneously, develop the art of seamless communication. Focusing on regional languages will be a wise approach in an effort to preserve and promote ancient knowledge, transcripts and manuscripts. Local-language learning will bridge the gap between the history and geography of any location on the global map. India has been a rich land of ancient education hubs like Takshila, Chanakya and Nalanda. Bringing back the flavour of varied regional-language education will allow learners to flourish multidimensionally.

In the new plan of action, several foreign languages will be offered additionally along with native languages at different levels of the education landscape. Moreover, Indian sign lan-

guage will also be standardised across the country, helping the specially abled strata of society, who are currently deprived of the best educational courses.

Correspondingly, other classical languages and works of Indian literature will also be available as options for students of all ages, putting India on the global education hotspot. For example, the NEP's recommendation of setting up an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation and National Institute (or institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, will prove a giant step towards a progressive learning direction.

The NEP directs to invest in incorporating a considerable number of language teachers for all regional languages across the country, and in particular all Schedule 8 languages. To augment the study of ancient and rich languages, provisions have been made for different Indian states to foster bilateral agreements and hire teachers in large numbers. Thus, satisfying the three-language formula in respective states, linguistic exchanges will surely pave the way for a pluralistic society. It acts as a boon for local

teachers to be a part of the global education sphere and promotes multifold employment.

Multilingual models of learning will enhance various cognitive, networking, inter-personal and social-linguistic skills, fostering global relationships. Learning to speak more than one language will increase one's attention and retention capabilities. Grasping the nuances of different languages will help modern learners hone their critical thinking and reasoning abilities. It will enhance their capacity to understand the subtle differences that characterise the structures of each language, which will further help them become proficient communicators. Also, knowing different regional languages can help students relate better, enabling them to internalise concepts more effectively. A study conducted by Alice Mada Proverbio, professor of cognitive electrophysiology at the University of Milano-Bicocca in Milan, showed how differently the brain absorbs and recalls the languages learnt in early childhood and those studied later in life.

Learners must be capable of self-assessing their interests, strengths

and skill-sets. The NEP aims to implement pedagogies that enable analytical thinking, independent learning, entrepreneurial abilities and active learning necessary in the rich, complex and ever-changing environment of today. Learning at a deep level from early years empowers students to become outstanding individuals.

Continual learning and reskilling is imperative to stay relevant. The industry prefers learners with a wholesome intellect, and social and versatile personality. The study of various languages can help strengthen one's persona. Each language has its own style, idioms, cultural references and heritage, which opens one to varied views and ideologies.

The NEP promotes an advanced and productive learning methodology for the creation of a constructive, inclusive and progressive nation. As societies and cultures evolve, an in-depth understanding of them can help to not only preserve rich heritages but also help students become the torchbearers of growth.

The writer is provost, HSNC University, Mumbai



ANOTHER AVENUE FOR MARKETING

A blend of gaming and advertising is set to create ripples in India's employment sector

SAHIL CHOPRA

The days of frequenting a gaming parlour are way past us. Today, to play games one has to only reach for their cell phones. The world of gaming has risen in popularity worldwide, and India has been fast to catch up with the trend. The Indian gaming market has secured its place among the top five globally.

The nationwide lockdown acted as a catalyst to expedite the number of downloads of trending games, including *Ludo King*, *Carrom* and battle arena simulation games. In the early days of lockdown, people spent 62 per cent more time gaming than the pre-Covid period.

According to a report by the Mobile Marketing Association and Kantar IMRB in association with Pokkt, the mobile gaming industry in India is estimated to reach \$ (United States) 934 million with 368 million gamers by 2022. The numbers promise more business for advertisers through online gaming. A different report found that the Internet user base, owing to the economical mobile data rates and extensive acceptance of smartphones and smart devices, will grow to 829 million by 2022. All these findings point to the yet-to-be-tapped potential for advertisers to invest in programmatic advertising to target millennials.

The surge in the online gaming

industry has created an opportunity for advertisers to reinvent marketing strategies that zero in on ever-changing consumer behaviour. Because of real-time targeting, mobile gaming is slowly becoming an efficient way to attract potential customers based on their behaviour and interests.

Drawing consumers

One often comes across mobile-game advertising in banners. The simple yet highly effective way of in-game advertising, banner advertisements are efficient at engaging consumers and offering them a thorough brand encounter. The only downside is that they interrupt a user's game, and the user is likely to skip or get annoyed by them. Shooting games like *Modern Combat 5* feature video adverts that offer unique rewards and in-game accessories to players upon being watched. This encourages gamers to watch more videos to unlock more bonuses and remember the ads they watched.

Brands leverage unskippable in-game advertisements to boost digital campaigns. Some of those in-game ads are interactive and allow gamers to play a short game within a game and earn special rewards. Brands and advertisers are collaborating to create engaging content. *PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds*, on various occasions, partnered with a prominent mobile phone company and offered players some unique in-game accessories on

the completion of different objectives. It encourages higher interaction between a brand and consumers.

Safe branding environment

One of the main reasons why brands rely on in-game advertising is because of the platform's safe environment. Gaming platforms have no user-generated content but consumers who are already engaged and will watch an advertisement. Brands have begun increasing their budgets for in-game advertising, primarily because it's easier for them to leverage more captivating media formats such as full-screen video adverts.

Online card-based games like *Teen Patti* and *Rummy* have become massively popular, as well as *Dream 11*, *Mobile Premier League* and other fantasy sports games.

Besides ensuring a safe environment for brands, the gaming industry accumulates a lot of data, which is a plus point for advertisers to target

by accurately defining age, gender, geography, gadget and behaviour interests to maximise return on investment. In addition, advertisers can quickly improve campaigns for better performance backed with real-time data and analytics. Mobile gaming offers a versatile mix of extending reach, demographic diversity and engagement in India, making it one of the most efficient digital marketing tools.

Driving employment

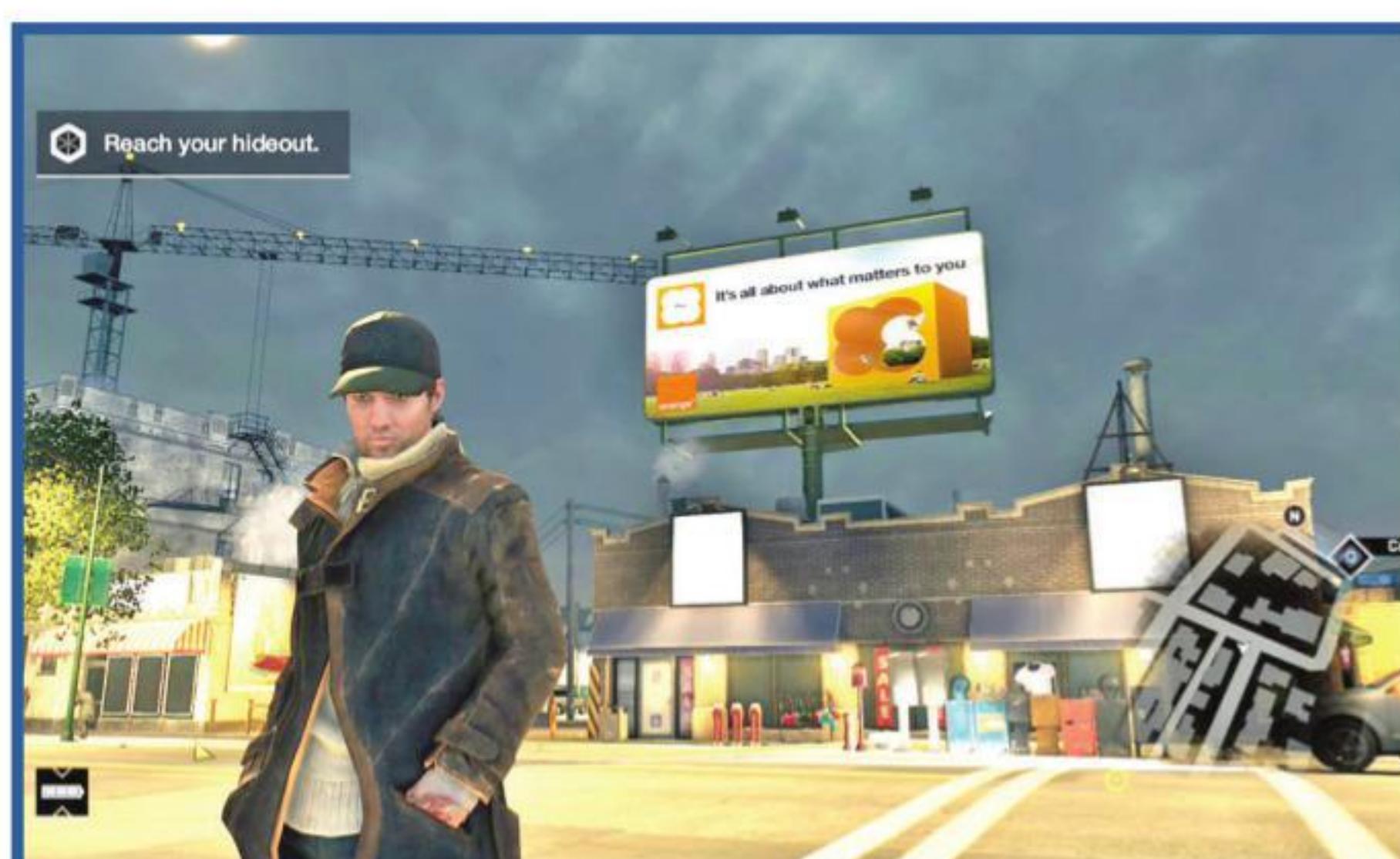
Gaming has undergone a sea change in the last few years and is consistently advancing to become a significant revenue generation source. The Indian market has always grappled with monetisation and retention. Such pressing concerns, however, are being addressed by new monetisation models coming into the picture, thanks to online gaming.

Online gaming as a tool for digital marketing and advertising is estab-

lishing a solid foothold in the market, and advertisers continue to acquire consumers through engaging content. With the advent of fifth generation and ever-advancing technology, the gaming sector is set to see new highs.

Gamification is positively influencing markets. Indian talent plays an imperative role by supporting global gaming studios and becoming an integral part of the worldwide gaming supply chain. The industry is yet to see exponential growth, but more gaming companies and startups are likely to take the lead in future. The blend of gaming and advertising is set to create ripples in the employment sector in India, where the former will be welcomed as a professional career with opportunities to participate in national and international gaming competitions.

The writer is founder and chief executive officer, iCubesWire, Haryana



PLUS POINTS

Things to know



Sanskriti University's School of Medical and Allied Science conducted a webinar on "Maxillofacial Perspective of Mucormycosis (black fungus)" among students and faculty members. The resource person for the webinar was Mohit Aggarwal, Bachelor of dental sciences (King George University) Lucknow. He acquainted students with theories of developing mucor, its symptoms, types, diagnosis and preventive measures.

Aggarwal said that Rhinocerebral (sinus and brain) mucormycosis affects people with uncontrolled diabetes or who have undergone kidney transplantation. Pulmonary (lung) mucormycosis, Gastrointestinal mucormycosis, Cutaneous (skin) mucormycosis occurs after fungi enter the body through a break in the skin (like after surgery, a burn, or other type of skin trauma).

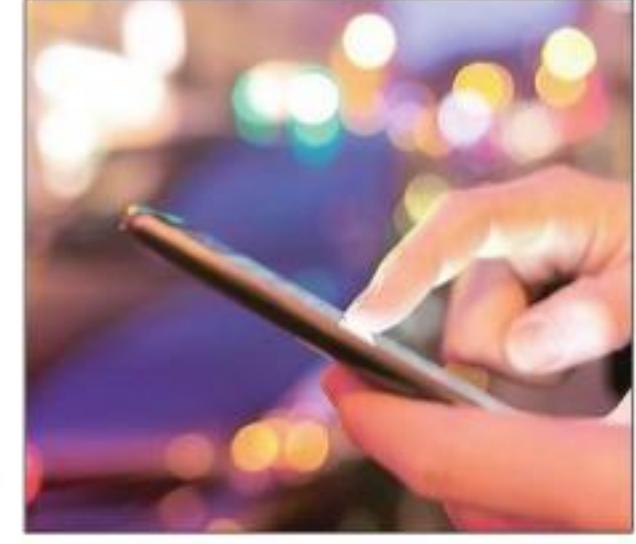
Aggarwal recommended that everyone use fresh masks, eat right, adopt correct sitting postures and urged to maintain good oral hygiene and live stress free.

Admission call



National Institute of Technology Andhra Pradesh is inviting applications for Master of technology courses. The institute offers MTech degrees in eight engineering departments with various specialisations. The last date to apply is 28 June. The admission for the courses will be through the Centralised Counseling for MTech-2021, based on the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering score of 2019, 2020 and 2021. It is being organised by Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur. For details visit, www.camt.nic or www.nitandhra.ac.in.

Effective learning



VLCC Institute of Beauty and Nutrition recently launched a new delivery methodology for its entry-level and skill upgrading courses, combining technology and digital media with traditional instructor-led classroom activities. This integrated blended learning format, enabled by a mobile app, will deliver higher reach to enroll and continuously upgrade a larger student body, with theory components and demos of all courses.

This new methodology of course curriculum delivery is being implemented in all 94 VLCC institutes across 67 cities in India. For uninterrupted course content delivery, each student is provided with a unique user ID to access the app and the course that they have enrolled for, which ensures their personalised learning.

Leadership talk

Ex-Post-graduate Diploma in Management placement committee, Xavier School of Management in its "XLRI Leadership Talk Series 2021" recently organised a leadership talk session with Krishnamurthy Subramanian, chief economic advisor to Government of India, on "Economic Reforms" in the virtual mode.

The talk series is designed to appreciate and learn from leaders' experiences from all walks of life. The audience comprised an eclectic mix of Master of business administration students across various fields like information technology, manufacturing, banking, marketing, engineering, aviation and shipping, oil and gas, faculty members, staff, alumni and guests. The students thoroughly enjoyed the question-and-answer session. Apoorva Mehta, Ex-PGDM 2022, later concluded the session by delivering a vote of thanks.

