

Womenia

Baljeet Oberoi shares their success mantra in handling virtual school experience



Baljeet Oberoi



Oakridge International School, Bachupally Front View

After pandemic, lives of many people have changed including kids. Virtual schooling is the new study mode for students across the globe. Students got stuck to mobiles as everything is virtual now. The students join the teacher online and learn together through a series of tasks and activities using online tools. Learning has changed dramatically, whereby teaching has been undertaken remotely on digital platforms bringing about a significant transformation. 2020 - 2021 proved a seamless stretch of the wonderful learning process and Oakridge Bachupally has left no stone unturned.

Baljeet Oberoi, Principal of Oakridge International School, Bachupally and professional in the field of education for almost two decades explains how they handled VSE (virtual school experience) and got succeeded.

What are the tips you followed to bring out the creativity in students?

Asynchronous learning turned out to be a boon for students giving them access to all the resources and material at their fingertips. The curriculum proved itself holistic and robust along with music, drama, PE, and Yoga as added savor to the curriculum. The Visual & Performing Art departments have come up with evolved tasks- Oak Talent, Oak Spectrum, Music and Dance clubs that blossomed the creativity of the students. The PE department came up with a novel idea of organizing the Fitness gala, a quiz named Khel Gyan, Dangan Competition, and celebrating the International Yoga Day.

What are the instructions given to teachers and what mediums used?

The Shift to online classrooms has forced the teachers and facilitators to reconsider their goals and methods of teaching. Teaching methods that helped to develop and transfer specific skills that serve both the purposes of knowledge development and dissemination were incorporated. Cognitive approaches to learning, with a focus on comprehension, analysis, synthesis, decision-making, problem-solving and creative thinking were followed at Oakridge Bachupally. We used unified communication and collaboration platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, Choice grids which allowed the teachers to create educational courses, training, and skill development programmes that keep classroom transactions more organized and easy to work.

The teaching and learning process was supported by the sharing of a variety of content like Word, PDF, Excel files, audio, videos, and many more. Creative and critical thinking skills were promoted among students, through the Technology Free learning initiative to boost the children's dormant skills without the use of the screen. The students exhibited their talents explicitly and presented their ideas in the form of models and experiments. Tracking of student learning and assessment was done by using quizzes and the rubric-based assessment of submitted assignments.

What are the steps taken to betterment the skills of the students?

Excellence is never an accident; it is the result of high-intention, sincere effort, intelli-

gent direction, skillful execution, and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities. Online learning opened up vast craters of academic and emotional development of students. This year witnessed the launch of various virtual events where students participated in an endeavor to meet their emotional needs and work on their hobbies contributing to their social needs and working towards the betterment of their skills. Oakridge Affinity, Graduation Day, Virtual MUNs, Tedx, Student-led conference, Student council, Virtual Independence day, Literary carnivals, Science fests, World Children's Day, PYP Exhibition are some of many avenues that opened doors for students to present their skills and innate talents.

What is the main aim of Oakridge International Schools?

The role of education is not limited to creating students of academic excellence but also aims to motivate and empower

the students to be lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and productive members of the global society.

Various opportunities and platforms like 'Share a dream' and 'Box of happiness' were provided to create awareness and give an assurance to the society that even students can bring about a great impact in various aspects. Being a part of these initiatives, a sense of responsibility and humility and employed research skills are developed while connecting with community partners and other schools on this platform. Teachers weaved social-emotional skills into academic instructions to help children swim through the complex emotions during the pandemic and evolve successfully.

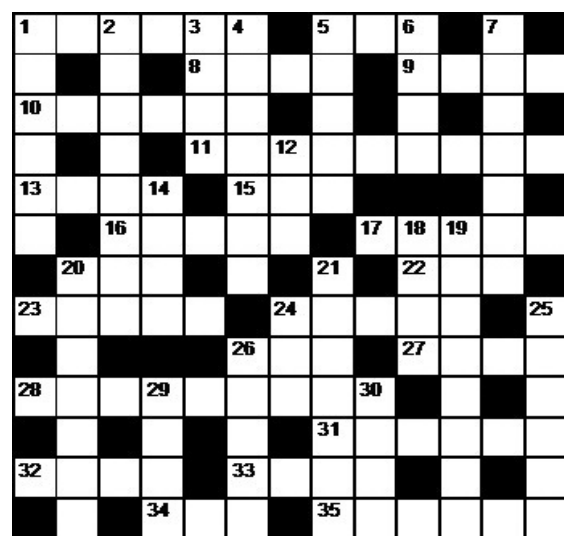
The opportunities that were discussed above will lead us to introspection whether our children need a school that looks at the growth mindset of the child and builds them into entrepreneurs and leaders of the future technological world or a school that offers rosy discounts on finances but not on the development of the child.

We affirm in faith that our students really look forward to being a part of all the tasks and events in our school and cherish them forever. The creative learning engagements leave a lasting impact on the mind of the child and bring about an overflowing entity of wisdom and knowledge that is appreciated at all standards of life.

"Excellence is not being the best, it is doing the best"- The school in which good training is most practiced, will, as a rule, turn out the best scholars.

The care we take at Oakridge schools in this pandemic

- Classes with your child's own teachers: continuity of care
- Live classes: ask and answer questions, join classes with your own classmates
- Full timetable: From 8.30 am till 3 pm: your child's learning continues
- Regular timetable: breaks, meals etc are at the time your child's mind and body are used to
- Fun activities: online learning has inspired our teachers
- Feedback: your child is not learning alone: our teachers encourage and feedback on their work
- Online schooling not just learning: our teachers offer the same emotional support and encouragement, including individual time with your child, as they do in when our buildings are open. We are here for you.



SOLUTION TO JUNE 14

CROSSWORD

Across

- Of the eye (6)
- Jazz style (3)
- Dried up (4)
- Encourage (4)
- Russian country houses (6)
- Endocrine gland (9)
- On the briny (4)
- Author ___ Brown (3)
- Rub vigorously (5)
- Vigilant person (5)
- A long way (3)
- Illustrative craft (3)
- Residences (5)
- Main artery (5)
- Bend in a pipe (3)
- Hairstyle (4)
- Exclude from group (9)
- Casual garment (1-5)
- Tall, stately trees (4)
- Extent or measure of surface (4)

- Add up (3)
- Erase (3,3)

Down

- Period of trial (6)
- USA personified (5,3)
- Letters of urgency (4)
- What is left (7)
- Started (5)
- Fraction (4)
- Listen fully (4,3)
- Label (3)
- An area of land (4)
- Pro ___ (4)
- Rude wall decoration (8)
- Available for purchase (3,4)
- Pouch for a pistol (7)
- Boxing great (3)
- Small bird (6)
- Showy display (5)
- Repose (4)
- Biblical birthright seller (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JUNE 14



TWEET PATROL

PREITY G ZINTA
@REALPREITYZINTA
Smiles are contagious....
be a carrier #ting



Things you must do while grooming your nails

Nail trimming or grooming is not a style statement but an essential part of hygiene and self-care routines. Clean and trimmed nails promote wellbeing by harbouring fewer germs and dirt. Regular manicures don't just keep the nails in proper shape but also strengthen your nails. However, it is important to know basic nail care techniques so as to avoid any unnecessary injuries or infections. Nail clipping mistakes can cause problems like onycholysis, hangnails, ingrown nails (mostly in toes) etc. Here are some important tips that everyone should follow while trimming the nails

Avoid cutting nails in odd shapes

Trimming or filing the nails into pointy, almond, square or other shapes can weaken the nails. Weak nails increase the risk of breaking or chipping and may even hurt you. So, trim the nails straight across from one end to the other, file the corners a little bit rounder.

Never cut your nails when they are dry

Dry nails are harder and clipping them can be tougher. You cut deep or the cutting may not be smooth or shaped well if they are dry. Instead, soak your nails in warm water for a few minutes to soften your nails before clipping them.



Don't cut the cuticle

Cuticles are the thin strip of tissue present at the base of the nail bed. They protect the nail roots and prevent any germs from getting inside the nail. Never cut them with a nail clipper as that may cause hangnails or infections. Instead, use a cuticle pusher to push them back and you can scrape the dead skin around them. You can also use cuticle oil to keep them hydrated.

Clean the nail cutter with sanitizer

It is best not to share your nail care tools but if you are using common ones, then you must disinfect the tools before and after using them. This will help reduce your chances of getting an infection. You can clean them with an alcoholic sanitizing solution and scrub the tools using a brush soaked in sanitizer. Let them dry before using.

Don't cut your nails too short

Cutting the nails too short can expose the nail bed. This can be very painful and it may even cause bleeding. A break in the skin of your hand brings with it the risk of infections. So, it is recommended that you trim the nails short but never cut them deep enough to expose the nail bed. You can also just file the nails if your nails are too short to be cut.

Use Moisturiser after cutting nails

Trimming or filing nails can make the nails lose moisture, making them dehydrated. This can worsen with age and the nails may become hard and lose their smooth texture. To protect your nails from drying, always apply a hand moisturizer after cutting your nails and gently massage it into your nails and cuticles.

NEWS ROUNDUP



Work is an extension of my beliefs, says Vidya Balan

Actress Vidya Balan, who is gearing up for the release of her new film "Sherni", says she wants to do work that is an extension of her belief. "Honestly, it's not like I plan to do it but I always wanted to do work that meant something to me, I want to do work that is an extension of my beliefs, work that would excite me and fulfil me. Therefore, I went ahead and made the choices that I made," Vidya said. She added, "I was at the right place at the right time and not only did it work for me but it began to change something for Hindi cinema, but I cannot take the credit for any of that. But yes, it's been an exciting and fulfilling journey so far and I hope it only gets better from here." Vidya will be essaying the role of an upright forest officer on the lookout for a man-eating tigress. Sharat Saxena, Mukul Chadha, Vijay Raaz, Ila Arun, Brijendra Kala and Neeraj Kabi essay pivotal roles in "Sherni", directed by the award-winning filmmaker Amit Masurkar.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



Every year and on the 15th of June, it's time to observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

The abuse of the elderly is a serious issue and something that this day aims to raise much-needed awareness of. The elderly should be given support and protection all year round, and today ensures their plight is not ignored.

Financial, emotional, or physical abuse and neglect can be a real every-day issue for some elders in the world – in fact, it is estimated that around 500,000 elders in the UK alone are being subjected to abuse today.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day encourages us to make steps towards a world where elder abuse is no longer an issue, by raising awareness and providing resources and information to help the battle against it.

There are a number of ways you can help fundraise for the cause of this day if you so wish. You can also donate to charities which support the elderly and their well-being.

Perhaps today you could play your part by volunteering somewhere which ensures the happiness of the elderly, such as in a retirement home. You could also visit an elderly relative and spend some time chatting or having a cup of tea.

Be sure to spread the word by posting about the day on your social media accounts.



RAJBHAR ON ALLEGED AYODHYA LAND DEAL FRAUD

BJP, RSS have made Ram Temple a ‘medium of business’



BALLIA/LUCKNOW

BACKING the demand for a central agency probe into the alleged corruption in the purchase of a piece of land in Ayodhya by the Ram temple trust, SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar on Monday said the BJP and the RSS have made the shrine a “medium of business”. He also asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath when action will be taken against the accused. Hitting out at the opposition over the allegations, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said some people do not miss any opportunity to defame the Ram Janmabhoomi. On Sunday, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged that Shri-

ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai purchased 1.208 hectares of land worth Rs 2 crore in Ayodhya’s Bag Bjaishi village at an inflated price of Rs 18.5 crore with the help of trust member Anil Mishra. Terming it a case of money laundering, SP leader Pawan Pandey and AAP leader Sanjay Singh sought a probe by the Central Bureau of Investi-

gation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the matter. Rai, however, strongly refuted the allegations. Speaking to reporters in Ballia, Rajbhar said, “The temple is a symbol of faith for common people but the BJP and the RSS have made it a medium of business.” The Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party chief claimed the said

piece of land was purchased for Rs 2 crore on March 18 for the construction of the Ram temple and five minutes later, it was bought by the Ram temple trust for Rs 18.50 crore. The SBSP leader also sought a probe by the CBI and the ED into the “scandal”. Targeting Modi and Adityanath, Rajbhar, a former BJP ally, said, “Both the leaders claim zero tolerance (for

corruption). Modi ji and Yogi ji should make it clear as to when a case will be registered against the trustee of the Ram temple trust and when the accused persons will be sent to jail.” “The sentiments of crores of devotees have been hurt by this scandal,” he said. The SBSP chief also claimed that BJP president J P Nadda had called him a few days ago but he refused to speak to him.

Covid curfew extended for another week in U’khand

Chardham Yatra opens for locals

DEHRADUN

THE Uttarakhand government on Monday extended the Covid curfew in the state till June 22 but announced some important relaxations such as opening the chardham yatra for locals on the condition of a negative RT-PCR test report. The period of the current curfew in the state was to come to an end at 6 am on Tuesday morning. “We have decided to extend the curfew for another week to June 22 in view of the COVID-19 situation. The old SOPs will largely remain in force except a few major changes such as opening the doors of the Himalayan temples for locals with negative RT-PCR reports,” Cabinet Minister and state government’s official spokesman Subodh Uniyal said. “People of Chamoli district now have the permission to visit



Badrinath temple for ‘darshan’ if they have a negative RT-PCR test report. Similarly, people of Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi districts can also now visit Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri re-

spectively with a negative RT-PCR test report,” the minister said. The famous four Himalayan temples in Uttarakhand though open since May for daily prayers

have been out of bounds for pilgrims. Revenue courts have also been reopened with certain restrictions, he said. Means of public transport like auto rickshaws and tempos have been allowed to ply on the roads and shops selling sweets can now open for five days in a week, Uniyal said. Fifty people can now attend marriage ceremonies and funerals instead of the present permission for 20. However, those attending weddings will have to bring a negative RT-PCR test reports. District Magistrates have been authorised to relax the restrictions for market places in rural areas based on their assessment of the Covid situation, he said. On the decision to extend the curfew, Uniyal said the cases of COVID-19 may have come down but it would be premature to say that the pandemic challenge has been overcome.

e-auction of mine sandstone to be used for Ram temple

JAIPUR

THE Rajasthan government will soon begin an online auction of a special pink sandstone variety, much sought after by builders including those constructing the Ram temple in Ayodhya, found in the Banshi Paharpur area of Bharatpur. A state government official Monday said putting the mining blocks on auction became possible after the Union Ministry of Forest and Environment gave an in-principle approval for converting 398 hectares of Bandh Baretha Wildlife Sanctuary land for mining sandstone. About 70 mining blocks will be developed in the area soon for mining of the pink sandstone which is expected to generate a revenue of Rs 500 crore for the state government, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Mines and Petroleum Subodh Agrawal said. It would enable legal mining in the area and sandstone would be made available for Ram temple in Ayodhya



through legal channels, he said. Mining was officially banned in the area in 2016 but illegal operations continued and the Banshi Paharpur’s pink sandstone was available in the grey market. The special pink sandstone is much sought after by builders including those constructing the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The Dholpur variant of the stone is said to be no

match to the Banshi Paharpur stone. Agrawal said that due to the tireless efforts of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Banshi Paharpur mining area has been marked out of Wildlife Sanctuary area in March last year. He said the permission for diversion of 398 hectare area of Banshi Paharpur area was issued by the Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate on June 11.

One held with 30 kg cannabis

NOIDA

THE Noida Police on Monday said it has arrested a suspected drug trafficker here and seized nearly 30 kg of cannabis. The suspect is part of a larger network of a drugsyndicate working in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), officials said. Lalit Gupta was arrested within a fortnight of seizure of around 100 kg of cannabis here, they said. “On June 2, a team of Phase-2 police station officials had arrested three men and recovered around 100 kg cannabis from them. One of the accused was in police remand and during interrogation, he revealed to police some of his links and network,” a police spokesperson said. “Based on the information, Lalit Gupta, who hails from Hathras district in western Uttar Pradesh, was nabbed on Monday morning and 29.60 kg of cannabis, estimated worth Rs 3 lakh, was seized from him,” the spokesperson said. Gupta has a criminal history in drug-related cases and has been booked two times – in 2012 and 2019 – by police in his home district of Hathras, the officials said. They said a fresh FIR has been lodged against him at the Phase-2 police station under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Police are further probing links of these cases to a wider drug racket spread in Delhi-NCR, the officials said.

Man lynched in Raj over suspicion of smuggling cattle

JAIPUR

A man was lynched while another injured by a group of people who attacked them on suspicion of smuggling cattle in Rajasthan’s Chittorgarh district, police said on Monday. Police said the victims were taking three oxen to their village in Madhya Pradesh from Begun town of Chittorgarh for agriculture work when a group of people hit them with sticks accusing them of smuggling cows. The incident occurred near Bhilkhanda in the intervening night of June 13-14. “Babu Bhil and Pintu Bhil, both hailing from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh, were critically injured in the attack and were rushed to a hospital where Babu Bhil succumbed to injuries,” Superintendent of Police Deepak Bhargav said. He said that 7-8 persons have been detained in connection with the incident. Circle Officer Begun Rajen-



dra Singh said the victims were taking three oxen in a van. “The local men alleged that they were smuggling cows and attacked them. However, the animals were oxen. The injured man has stated that he and Babu purchased the oxen from Begun town of Chittorgarh and were taking them to their village for farming work,” he said. The officer said that

Pintu could not produce any document pertaining to the purchase and the animal trader has been called for verification of his claim. “A case of murder has been registered and stern action will be taken, Additional Director General, Crime, Ravi Meherda said in Jaipur. Inspector General of Police, Udaipur range has also reached Chittorgarh, he added

Senior Congress leader Indira Hridayesh cremated

DEHRADUN

THE mortal remains of senior Congress leader Indira Hridayesh were consigned to flames with full state honours on Monday at Rani-bagh’s Chitrashila ghat, around six km from her home town Haldwani. Before the body of Hridayesh was taken for cremation, people from across the political spectrum turned up at her Haldwani residence and then at the party office at Swaraj Ashram to pay their last respects to the departed leader. Uttarakhanda Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat laid a wreath on her body at her Haldwani home. “The state government will carry forward the unfinished work of Indiraji, a popular leader who always placed matters of Uttarak-



hand’s interest above everything else,” the chief minister said in a tweet. One of the seniormost Congress leaders from Uttarakhand, Hridayesh, an MLA from Haldwani, was the leader of opposition in the state Assembly. Other prominent leaders who paid their last respects to her included state BJP president Madan K a u s h i k, Nainital MP Ajay Bhatt, former chief minister Harish Rawat, All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge of Uttarakhand Devendra Yadav and former state Congress chief Kishor Upadhyay. A large number of Congress leaders, supporters and relatives gathered at the Chitrashila ghat for the last rites of the departed leader. Hridayesh died of a cardiac arrest in New Delhi on Sunday at the age of 80.

Out for morning walk, 51-year-old man shot dead

CHANDIGARH

A 51-year-old man, who was out on a morning walk, was allegedly shot dead by unidentified armed assailants on Monday in Haryana’s Jind district, police said. Suresh Kumar was out on a morning walk in Alipura village of Uchana sub-division when some youths shot at him from close range leaving him dead, Uchana police station Sub-Inspector Ravinder Singh said over the phone. He said the assailants who had parked their car nearby later escaped in their vehicle. Kumar used to run a school in his village for several years, he said, adding that police are not ruling out enmity as the reason in the case. “Kumar’s son was stabbed to death in a college in Rohtak in December 2018. Suresh Kumar was the complainant in the case, the trial of which is currently going on. Eleven people had been arrested in that case... So, we are not ruling out the enmity angle,” the SI said.

‘Parkash Singh Badal not to appear before SIT on Jun 16’

CHANDIGARH

FORMER Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal will not appear before the special investigation team (SIT), probing the 2015 Kotkapura police firing incident, on June 16 due to health reasons, Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema said on Monday. The SIT had summoned the 93-year-old Akali leader, asking him to appear before it with “relevant records” on Wednesday at a resthouse in Mohali. Cheema said Badal had a check-up at AIIMS-Bathinda and he would not be able to appear before the SIT due to health reasons. “It is not possible (to appear) on June 16 due to medical reasons. When his condition improves, he will definitely cooperate with the SIT,” he said. A written communication from Badal’s side in this regard will be sent to the SIT, said the Shiromani



Akali Dal spokesperson. Badal was the chief minister when the sacrilege and subsequent police firing incidents took place in Faridkot in 2015.

The Punjab government had formed the new SIT led by Additional Director General of Police L K Yadav to probe the Kotkapura police firing inci-

dent following the directions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The new SIT is investigating the two FIRs registered on October 14, 2015 and

August 7, 2018 in connection with the Kotkapura incident. The high court had on April 9 this year quashed a report by an earlier Punjab Police SIT into the firing at people protesting in Kotkapura in 2015 over the alleged desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in Faridkot district. The court had then directed the state government to set up a new SIT without Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh, an Indian Police Service officer who was part of the earlier team. Singh took voluntary retirement after the court order. Police had also opened fire at a similar demonstration in Behbal Kalan, also in Faridkot, where two people were killed. A separate probe is underway in that case. Badal had been questioned in 2018 by the previous SIT probing the matter. He had then said the SIT probe was “politically motivated” and an attempt to defame him.

Foundation stone laid for BJP’s office in Har uprooted

CHANDIGARH

AN FIR has been registered in connection with the uprooting of the foundation stone of a BJP party office in Jhajjar hours after it had been laid by the party’s state unit chief O P Dhankar, police said on Monday. The foundation stone laid for the party office on Rewari road of the district on Sunday was allegedly removed by a group of farmers protesting the new farm laws. The protesters, including women, were carrying black flags and raising slogans against the Centre for not rolling back the laws despite protests by thousands of farmers near the borders of Delhi for over six months. “Strict action will be taken as

per the law,” Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij said in Ambala, responding to a question about the incident. Several farmer groups have been opposing public functions of the BJP-JJP leaders in Haryana over the issue of the farm laws. Scores of farmers have been camping at Delhi’s borders since November last year, demanding that the Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers’ (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 be rolled back and a new law made to guarantee minimum support price (MSP) for their crops.

Genocide perpetrator meets his nemesis

FORMER Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic was in 2017 jailed for life for genocide and other atrocities in the 1990s Bosnian war. He will remain in jail.

Mladic has lost his appeal against a 2017 conviction for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The UN court upheld the life sentence for his role in the killing of about 8,000 Bosnian Muslim (Bosniak) men and boys in Srebrenica in 1995.

Known as “the Butcher of Bosnia”, Mladic led forces during the massacre of Bosniaks in Srebrenica and the siege of Sarajevo. The UN tribunal in The Hague convicted him in 2017 on 10 of the 11 charges. The court delivered one small surprise in finding Mladic “not guilty” on one count of genocide relating to actions carried out by soldiers under his command in six municipalities starting in 1992. He was arrested in 2011 after 16 years on the run.

The end of the Mladic trial, during which 592 witnesses were heard and 10,000 exhibits were shown as evidence presented to the court, also marked the effective

end of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, or ICTY. Mladic, then 75, was not in court when the sentence was read out. He had been removed for shouting at the judges. Mladic denied all the charges and his lawyer promptly appealed the order. United Nations war crimes judges on June 8, 2021 upheld a genocide conviction and life sentence against former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic, confirming his central role in Europe's worst atrocities since World War II.

The appeals chamber dismissed Mladic appeal in its entirety, dismissed the prosecution's appeal in its entirety and affirmed the sentence of life imprisonment imposed on Mladic by the trial chamber. As the court was told his name should be consigned to the list of history's most depraved and barbarous figures. Far from learning from it, far from regretting it, Bosnia is as divided as ever, nationalism is rampant, and denial of what happened there over a quarter a century ago is the norm among Bosnian Serbs, many of whom see Mladic as a hero.

None of the harrowing testimony provided over the years in The Hague has been able to dent that deliberate ignorance. The genocide has long been an inspiration for far-right extremists and Islamophobes. Most infuriating for survivors was the award of the 2019 Nobel Prize for literature to the Austrian writer Peter Handke. He had delivered a eulogy at the funeral of the Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic and made a number of revisionist statements about the events of the Bosnian war that have led to accusations of genocide denial.

The origins of genocide denial in Bosnia lie with a small group of Serbian nationalists, supported by part of the Serb political and media establishment. The post-war situation generated a stance within Serb culture that Serbs were the aggrieved side and that certain historical events had curtailed national goals. This denialism ranges from challenging the judicial recognition of the killings as an act of genocide to the denial of a massacre having taken place, and uses a variety of methods.



Challenges galore in ensuring child welfare

SREE NAGESH MALLADI

THE year 2021 has been declared as an International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. This Year's World Day Against Child labour focuses on action taken for the year 2021. This is a universal ratification of the International Labour Organisation's Convention of 182 on the worst forms of child labour and takes place at time when Covid 19 crisis started and threatens to continue.

There are 152 million children including 64 million boys and 88 million girls estimated to be in child labour globally. It accounts for almost one in ten of all children engaged worldwide. Almost half of the child labour is in Africa with 72 million, followed by Asia and Pacific regions with another 62 million children. It is estimated that 75 per cent of the children are in agriculture and other allied fields.

According to the Census 2011, India's child labourers are around 10.1 million including 5.6 million boys and 4.5 million girls. These children are engaged in various fields mostly in brick kilns, garment manufacturing, working with restaurants, tea stalls and farming sectors. These children are exploited as child labour and in many forms of sexual abuse, other forms of discrimination with their social and economic backgrounds.

Besides to this, Covid 19 Emergency has been impacted children very badly and country is battling to save lives of the children and adolescents. Measures taken to safeguarding the children from virus spread by closure of schools and movement restrictions. But, due to lockdown and close of business establishments most of the migrant and wage labourers were lost their livelihoods, unable to feed their families. This is evidence that, during times of emergencies and crisis, there is a high risk of children entering the labour force.

The Covid 19 pandemic threatens India's commitment to end all forms of child labour under SDG-8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) even as the figure has in fact declined by 2.6 million between 2006- 2011.

According to 2011 census, working children in Telangana was 3.39 lakhs in the age group of 5-14 and 9.01 lakhs in the 15-19 age group (this includes both main and marginal workers) and 4,04,851 in Andhra Pradesh. There are 5 out of every 100 children are child labour includes 51 per cent are boys and 49 per cent are girls and 80 per cent of child labour are in Rural areas and 20 per cent are in Urban areas and according to 2011 census. These children are involved in construction work, rag picking, agriculture & allied sectors, working in hotels and involved in other domestic work.

Both the Centre and the States are putting their efforts but, those efforts must be strengthened by appropriate actions including creating awareness among communities, providing livelihood options for the families those who are depending on children income and law enforcement is one the key action to bring back the children for accessing their rights to lead dignified life.

All governments must keep a special agenda for children to address the challenges of protecting children from abuse, exploitation, child labour and protecting them from emergencies like Covid in particular. (The writer is Manager-Education, South India, Save the Children. The above views and recommendations have made based on the experience and desk reviews of various reports. The organisation is not responsible for the views and comments included in the article.)



A filmmaker inspired by Satyajit Ray

S SUJATHA

BUDDHADEB Dasgupta was a national and internationally- acclaimed filmmaker and poet with a rare sensibility and realistic check in the interwoven combination of thoughts and dreams in Bengali film making.

Dasgupta was born in February 1944 near Purulia. He was the third among his nine siblings. Young Dasgupta was sensitive to the beauty and richness of the life around him, which spoke to him through images. “I always used to think in terms of images which I kept storing in my hard disk through the years, and whenever I want to, I can recall and translate them into the idiom of cinema.”

Dasgupta says “I began in a small way with documentaries. I made a ten-minute documentary in 1968 titled The Continent Of Love. I did several more in the following years, including King Of Drums (1973), which won the Best Documentary Award” he remembered. going on to state that he never honed the skills and the art of film-making at any film school. “I learnt about my craft from watching films, reading about them and listening to people talk about them.”

Over the span of thirty years in films, Dasgupta has directed fourteen feature films which are dissimilar in mood and in style and bear the stamp of a changing persona behind the lens. He started his journey of directorial ship with his “humanist” trilogy—Dooratwa (Distance, 1978), Grihayuddha (Crossroads, 1982) and Andhi Gali (Cul-de-Sac, 1984). Fera (The Return, 1988), Bagh Bahadur (Tiger Man, 1989), Charachar (The Shelter of Wings, 1993). His Hindi film, Anwar Ka Ajeeb Kissa, (2013) based on his own story, starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui is another milestone in his cinema career. His last film was Urojahaj (Flight).

Dasgupta is known for his constant explorations and experimentation into different forms of breaking the conventional storyline like fragmented narratives, collages, flashbacks and flash forwards, elements of surrealism and postmodernism in his films.

He projected the harsh realities of the world from a very lyrical vantage point. Every film has his signature style statement, an era of greatness. He evolved into an independent filmmaker who worked and lived on his own terms and explored his own way of conceiving and giving birth to films that no longer relied on published literature, another source was Tagore's paintings. “My fondness for films was a natural off-spring of my passion for poetry and painting,” he recalled.

His involvement with film Society has drawn him into cinema with his expressionism in the form of images. In his long career of five decades artistic and visual images journey, Buddha da has evolved himself experimented continuously with fine refinement of cast and cream produced some gems of Bengali celluloid form.

His films have received awards in some of the most prestigious film festivals in the world including-Venice, Karlovy Vary, Locarno, Bangkok and nomination for Golden Bear a Berlin Film Festival etc. Dasgupta, inspired by Satyajit Ray like many other contemporaries of his, passed away on June 10.

Lakshadweep encountering dissent, turmoil



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

has deployed bio-weapon,” alleged local actress Aisha Sultana recently.

BJP's Lakshadweep unit president Abdul Khader filed a complaint with the Kavaratti police on June 9, alleging that Sultana's was an anti-national act, which tarnished the “patriotic image” of the central government. These allegations cannot make even the prima facie charge of sedition, as per the definition and judicial interpretation of Section 124A of IPC.

Despite the severe criticism of the Centre for its gross abuse of the draconian British law of sedition, and Supreme Court's admonition, the behaviour of rulers did not change. This case created furore in BJP unit of that UT as the secretary Abdul Hameed Mullipuzha and several other officer bearers resigned from their party positions. In a letter to Abdul Khader, these leaders wrote “when BJP workers in Lakshadweep have been protesting against undemocratic action of UT administrator how could you file a false and unjustified complaint against Sultana?”. Earlier eight BJP leaders left the party protesting the disturbing policies of the Administrator, Praful Khoda Patel.

The peaceful island group Lakshadweep is on boil. Not because of corona pandemic, but of policies worse than pandemic. A former Home Minister of Gujarat, Praful Khoda Patel became new Administrator of the Lakshadweep. His controversial policies aimed at perpetuating the dictatorial policies of Centre have become causes of serious concern. From food to employment to economy every thing is pushed into crisis suddenly, in this group of small islands.

Generally, an eminent statesman is appointed as the Governor of a state and a renowned civil servant with clean record is chosen as administrator and LG of Union Territory. First time a politician and former Home Minister has been appointed as Administrator to Lakshadweep. Once in this high office, the Administrator is expected to function as a matured statesman rather than as a party functionary implementing the orders of high command of party.

The UT is under the administrative control of Union government, which does not mean that it is beyond democratic rule. The rules at the Centre have recently changed the Constitutional provisions for administration of National Capital of Delhi giving all powers to Lieutenant Governor and depriving the elected Assembly of all its powers, in recent session of the Parliament. Though not elected the BJP will be ruling Delhi through the LG because of these changes, which are totally in contrast to the earlier Constitutional scheme and letter and spirit of two recent Supreme Court judgments on Delhi administration. The Centre wants to rule

through some UTs and recently Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are added to the list of Centrally-ruled Union Territories. In non-BJP ruled States, the Centre is empowering the Governors through central bureaucracy and exceptional powers the Centre was given to be used in emergency situations.

Recent policies proposed by Praful Khoda Patel invoked the anger and dissent from BJP functionaries also. In December 2016, Praful Patel, who was a BJP MLA and Minister of State for Home in Gujarat from 2010-12, was appointed as the Administrator for Dadra and Nagar Haveli. In January 2020, he became the first Administrator of the newly formed Union Territory of ‘Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu’. He was given additional charge of Lakshadweep in December 2020.

Dadra & Nagar Haveli MP Mohan Delkar (58) committed suicide on February 22, 2021. He left a 15-page suicide note in which he has named administrator Praful Patel and some officers including the Superintendent of Police and Collector of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Maharashtra Home Minister said: “Personally, I don't think that a man of his stature, who has been a seven-time MP and managed to win as an Independent, would commit suicide because of non-cooperation from some government officials. We need to investigate if the Centre was putting pressure on Praful Patel who in turn was pressuring the local administration whose harassment led Delkar to commit suicide.” The MP Delkar has mentioned that he is committing suicide in Mumbai as he knows he would get justice in the State. Media reported that this MP has donated a part of his medical college to another college, which is named after Namu.

Then local administration brought bulldozers to demolish his own medical college. They tried to demolish the ‘Adi-wasi Kalyan Bhawan’, which he had constructed. They tried to remove his people from jobs, he was fighting for them during Corona. He was not allowed to work with his own people, for his own people and they kept humiliating him at every given opportunity. It's a serious allegation against the UT Administrator, which needs to be probed. He should have been recalled from this position until the probe is completed. Opposition Congress party says with him as the top of administration, it is almost impossible to investigate. On-lookers certainly examine the Patel's governance of Lakshadweep with this background.

The smallest UT with 36 islands nearer to Kerala, Lakshadweep was once part of Madras Presidency's Malabar district. When Kerala state was formed in 1956, Lakshadweep became UT. It has population around 65,000 and 96 per cent of them are Muslims. The island is ruled by UT administrator from top and dweep panchayat councils at local level. The Congress party has won majority of wards in the district panchayat and dweep panchayat polls.

The administrator draws his power from Article 240(b) of the Constitution which allows the president to promulgate regulations for peace, progress and good governance in UTs, including Lakshad-



The UT is under the administrative control of Union government, which does not mean that it is beyond democratic rule. The rules at the Centre have recently changed the Constitutional provisions for administration of National Capital of Delhi giving all powers to Lieutenant Governor and depriving the elected Assembly of all its powers, in recent session of the Parliament. Though not elected the BJP will be ruling Delhi through the LG because of these changes, which are totally in contrast to the earlier Constitutional scheme and letter and spirit of two recent Supreme Court judgments on Delhi administration. The Centre wants to rule through some UTs and recently Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are added to the list of Centrally-ruled Union Territories. In non-BJP ruled States, the Centre is empowering the Governors through central bureaucracy and exceptional powers the Centre was given to be used in emergency situations

weep. These regulations have the force of an Act of Parliament. The President acts through the administrator in Lakshadweep and the Administrator is the real government of the UT. Can we say that such an executive action could be capable of changing the social, cultural, environmental and economic landscape of the entire UT.

The draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation 2021 gives enormous powers to Administrator to acquire any land, which the CPIM Rajya Sabha MP from Kerala fears to be used for grabbing land from residents and handed over to big corporates. But the administrator and Collector justify it for the development. Another apprehension is possible destruction of the island's ecology. Govt says it was ill-founded.

Legally speaking, the power to acquire land and other developments are supposed to be with the local civic bodies, whereas this proposal gives entire power to administrator which is in total violation of norms of 74th amendment to the Constitution. But the administration claims that proposed land regulation is common and nothing extra ordinary. There is no disaster resilient, or ecology and climate of the islands was not considered while LDAR are drafted. They did not tap the fishing potential of the island waters. It is estimated that only 10 pc of it was exploited without compromising ecological sanctity. Main criticism is against non-consultation before framing the regulations.

manage to stay together in distress, it becomes impossible for them to share the success as each one wants a bigger cake than the other. Congress being the oldest party and having ruled the nation for so many years has to take the lead and for that it has to reinvent itself totally and thoroughly. It can't shy away from the organisational elections and must allow the new talent to bloom and emerge.

The party needs to sit and sort out the internal differences plaguing the party. Rahul Gandhi is not able to come out of his despondency following the party's poor show in 2019. Though he lost the war, he did win some battles later but he is being unduly adamant in not talking the reins of the party and that could be unnerving many as the future looks directionless and rudderless. Congress could be the common goal that can bind the opposition parties together because of its network pan-India.

Only thing is those networks are to be revitalised and energised. Any front sans Congress is likely to collapse even before it is formed. KCR's efforts in this regard came to a naught. Sharad Pawar is too old

to be of any effective use. Other leaders like Kejriwal, Mamata, Akhilesh Yadav, Stalin etc are strong only in their respective zones.

Vinay Bhushan Bhagwat, Hyderabad

Performance is paramount

THIS refers to the article “Future of performance management” (June 13) which subject is very wide in sphere with adding new definitions by the researchers and management thinkers as this is related to employed or unemployed. Performance is always rated by successful result. Thomas S. Monsoon aptly says “When performance is measured, performance is improved. When performance is measured and reported, the rate of improvement accelerates”. One more expanded definition is: improvement, execution, prosperity, fulfillment, accomplishment, perfection, achievement, fineness, success, capability. At times hard work loses and casual attempt gains.

Dr NSR Murthy, Secunderabad

LETTERS

Huzurabad is no Dubbak

PROPOS news item, “Will Eatala in Asaffron brigade replicate Dubbaka win in Huzurabad segment” (Hans India, Jun 14). Mr Eatala Rajender, a frontline leader with his organisational and legislative calibre, once Man Friday of TRS supreme, K Chandrashekhara Rao was dropped like a hot potato, as he proved a threat to his authority, vis a vis the ‘Crown Prince’. It is unlikely, that the forthcoming bypolls in Huzurabad will be a cake walk for the former Minister. However, Eatala's win will make ‘beeline’ of disgruntled TRS volunteers into BJP. By coining Huzurabad as PV Narasimha Rao district, the Chief Minister even sent signals to the voters, their faith in TRS candidate, instead of Eatala, will not go a waste. It is therefore hard to believe, Huzurabad ballot box repeats a Dubbaka wonder.

Govardhan R Jilla, Mumbai

Only Congress can take on BJP

PROPOS your edit on the possibility of non-BJP, non-congress front, there is no need to keep Congress at bay. There is no anti-Congress wave or anything like that. If anything, it continues to have more presence than most parties across the country. Only thing is we have a reluctant bridegroom sitting at the helm of the party who is not aware of his own strength. There is nobody to guide him or goad him like Lord Krishna who propelled an inert Arjuna into action on the battlefield.

If all non-BJP parties can forge a front including Congress, it can turn into a formidable force to challenge BJP. But as history had shown, these divergent parties can't stick together as self-agenda is more important than common agenda for each constituent. There can't be symphony with so many divergent voices. Even if they

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Covid cases down in State: DPH

- Virus positivity rate falls to 1.4 per cent from 6.74 per cent
- 16.75 lakh high risk persons vaccinated since May 25
- Medical kits given to four lakh people during fever survey

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTI

DIRECTOR of Public Health Dr. Srinivasa Rao on Monday said that the number of Covid cases were gradually coming down in the State.

He told the media that the State which had 29,770 active cases in the first week of the lockdown, now had 8,360 active cases. The virus positivity rate had come down to 1.4 per cent from 6.74 per cent. Dr Rao stated that the percentage of Covid survivors had gone up to 96 per cent from 90 per cent in the State. The percentage of the virus patients who required beds in hospitals had come down to 16 per cent from 52 per cent in the first week of the lockdown.

"As against 55,442 available beds, only 8,734 were occupied in the State. Rao, while commenting on the ongoing vaccination process, said it was going on in the private sector.

The DPH said that the department was giving vaccines to people from high risk groups since May 25. It had administered vaccine to 16.75 lakh high risk people so far. The department had handed over medical kits to four lakh people during the fever survey.

Amaravati farmers knock HC door for annuity

They are not being paid the annuity since April this year



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELAPADU (AMARAVATI)

THE farmers of Amaravati, who gave their lands for the construction of the capital city, and have been waiting since April this year for the annuity from the state government, filed a writ petition in the High Court here on Monday.

It may be recalled that the last year also, the farmers filed a writ petition in the High Court forcing the government to pay the annuity due to them.

The farmers appealed to the High Court to instruct the state government to pay the annuity with an interest of 12 per cent for the delay in the payment.

Advocate for the petitioners Karumanchi Indraneel, who filed the writ petition, said that the state government was deliberately delaying the payment of annuity to the farmers. The desperate farmers are compelled to move the judiciary to get their due amount.

'Eatala and co joined a sinking ship'

- TRS leaders call the former minister's move of joining BJP as thoughtless
- Say those who joined the saffron party will see their political careers end soon
- Add that instead of quitting, Eatala should have faced inquiry and came clean

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Rashtra Samithi leaders attacked the former minister Eatala Rajender for joining the Bharatiya Janata Party and added that Eatala and others have joined a

sinking ship and all would soon see their political careers end.

The TRS leaders questioned Eatala joining the saffron party and said that it was a hasty and thoughtless move.

Addressing a press conference along with a host of other party leaders on Monday, Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy said that there was no relation between what Eatala was speaking and what he was doing.

"Eatala has joined the successors of Hitler. There were no issues for him in TRS, and all the issues would have been solved he had sat and



spoke. Till yesterday, he was speaking against BJP... what change did he see in that party in these last few days?" he asked.

"The BJP has failed on all fronts. Eatala has joined a sinking ship and not only him, but also all others who joined the ship would also get submerged," said Jagadish Reddy.

The TRS leaders alleged that Eatala had deceived people of Huzurabad, and they were ready to teach a lesson as they were with Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

"The TRS government has been

taking up welfare schemes and development works like no other State in the country. There have been no starvation deaths and suicides in Telangana ever since the TRS came to power. The State has now crossed Punjab in food grains production," said Jagadish Reddy.

He said that instead of leaving the party, Eatala should have continued in TRS, faced inquiry and came clean. Responding to the reports that he would also face the same fate as of Eatala, Jagadish Reddy said that it would not happen even in dreams. He said that some were spreading rumours against him. He claimed that the land sales were for the development of Telangana. Party leaders B Lingaiah Yadav, MLAs Gadari Kishore and P Shekar Reddy and others attended the press meet.

5 held for illegal sale of black fungus injections

SR NAGAR

THE North Zone Task Force, along with the SR Nagar police, on Sunday nabbed five persons for blackmarketing Amphotericin B injections. They seized six injections from the accused Venugopal (a medical agent), Naveen, Ashok, Prasad and Harish. According to the Task Force officials, the main accused Venugopal procured the vials from others, promising commission. As the four were well aware of the growing demand for the injections (being used to treat black fungus), they supplied them to him for sale to needy patients and earn illegal money. They agreed to share the com-



mission equally. On Sunday when they were selling the injections to a customer at BK Guda, they were nabbed. The Task Force officials handed them over to the police for further booking of cases.

MANUU to hold national Urdu science congress

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JUBILEE HILLS

THE School of Sciences (SoS) of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is organizing fifth national Urdu science congress 2021 (NUSC) online on July 14 and 15. The main theme is "Impact of technology on multi-disciplinary scientific research". According to Prof Syed Najamul Hasan, Department of Mathematics and convener, paper presenters are required to submit a structured

abstract of not more than 300 words in Urdu through email - nusc2021.manuu@gmail.com by June 25. Information of acceptance will be communicated by June 30. The sub themes of the congress include health Sciences, agricultural sciences, environmental Sciences, pure & applied chemistry, pure & applied physics, pure & applied mathematics, ICT in sciences and communicating sciences. Research scholars and students who submit full-length papers on or before June 30 will be eligible for the award of

best paper. The e-certificate will be given to all registered participants. For registration click : <https://forms.gle/4htLLyTzeSAQDvFX9>. Prof. S.M. Rahmathullah, the In-charge VC, is the chief patron and Prof. Siddiqui Mohd. Mahmood, I/C Registrar, the patron of the congress. Prof. Parveen Jahan, Dean, School of Sciences, is the chairperson, whereas Prof. Salman Ahmad Khan, Doctors S Maqbool Ahmed, H Aleem Basha, Afroz, Syed Salahuddin are the co-conveners

TITA donates 110 each oxymeters, thermal scanners to 10 villages

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TO give a fillip to the rural health infra to successfully tackle Covid pandemic in Makthal, the Telangana Information Technology Association (TITA) global president Sundeep Makthala has come up with an action plan. He on Monday donated medical equipment, like 110 oximeters and 110 thermal scanners, to 110 villages which are under the community health centre at Makthal. The equipment will cater to the needs of locals from surrounding PHCs in the mandal. Sundeep handed over the equipment to ASHA workers from five PHCs in Makthal. Continuing its Covid relief work, TITA, which launched telemedicine T Consult for rural citizens during the first wave of the pandemic and Covid dawkhana, has decided to speed up efforts to fight virus by supplying medical equipment that will help in early detection and treatment of Covid in rural areas. During the recently held fever survey, it was noticed that the healthcare providers from PHCs did not have proper medical equipment. This equipment will help the ASHA workers and healthcare providers in the fight against Covid. Accordingly, TITA president Sundeep Makthala donated thermal scanners and oximeters to ASHA workers of five mandals - Makthal, Narwa, Utkoor, Maganoor and Krishna.

Public representatives create awareness on vaccination

M M FAROOQUI
CHARMINAR

A large number of people are hesitant to get their jab, resulting in low count of vaccination in the southern part of the city. Following which MLAs jumped in to create awareness for vaccination. Rejecting apprehensions about the vaccine they are visiting vaccination centres and giving a message that there should not be any hesitation about the vaccine and asked them to inoculate themselves at the vaccination centres.

Even after MLA's set up several inoculation drive in their constituency only a few people turned up. Witnessing such hesitancy, MLAs including Moazam Khan (Bahadurpura), Kausar Mohiuddin (Karwan), Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala (Malakpet), Syed Ahmed Pasha Quadri (Yakutpura) and also Corpora-



tors in each division are visiting primary health centres, area hospitals to create awareness over vaccination.

Several mass vaccination drives are going on in the city, whereas the vaccination centres

in the Old City have low turnouts. While for the last 15 days vaccination drive is going on in SA Imperial in Tolichowki under Karwan constituency and AIMIM party announced a 2-day mass vaccination drive last weekend

for all including frontline, age above 45 and age 18-45.

"In this mass vaccination drive with installing 30 counters with a target of 4000 vaccines per day, the people turned out in low numbers and hardly 1500 were vaccinated in these 2 days. To create awareness among people we are holding awareness campaigns, visiting UPHCs, area hospitals, vaccination centres, and asking people to get inoculated," said Mohammed Naseeruddin, Nalal Nagar division Corporator.

To remove vaccination hesitancy among people, on the first day of the drive MLA and all division Corporators have taken vaccine shots," added Naseeruddin. Similarly, MLAs Moazam Khan recently inaugurated a mass vaccination drive at Quli Qutub Shah Polytechnic College at Ramnasthpura under Bahadurpura constituency, and daily inspecting the centre.

AP ANNUAL CREDIT PLAN

Agriculture to get ₹1,48,500-cr

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the state annual credit plan of 2021-22 with a total outlay of Rs 2,83,380 crore at the 215th State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting held at camp office here on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said despite the pandemic-induced lockdowns and crises racked the world and the nation, stipulated targets were crossed in loan disbursement in the state and added that 105 per cent of targets were achieved in priority sectors and 114.16 per cent in agriculture sector adding that the role of banks in achieving this growth rate is commendable.

The Chief Minister said there are no tier-1 cities in Andhra Pradesh and people are going to Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai for treatment for tertiary care. Medical infrastructure is being developed from village clinics to teaching hospitals across the state, he said and added that 16 new medical colleges are being set up and in future a teaching hospital in every parliamentary constituency would be set up.

He said revolutionary changes were made in agriculture sector and Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) were introduced with one RBK for every 2,000 population. These RBKs will support farmers in all aspects from providing certified quality seeds to selling



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy along with bankers releases Annual Credit Plan-2021-22 at his camp office on Monday

the crop. He said agriculture infrastructure is being developed at RBK level and godowns, cold storages and all other facilities are being provided to farmers and added that secondary food processing units are being set up at parliamentary constituency level. The Chief Minister said 17,000 new greenfield colonies are being constructed in which 28.30 lakh houses will be built and poor eligible beneficiaries were selected in a transparent manner for housing scheme. He said 15 lakh houses are being constructed in phase I and facilities like drinking water, drainage, roads and other social infrastructure was being developed. An amount of Rs 34,000 crore is being spent on this scheme, he said and requested support of banks in these issues. The Chief Minister said Restart and Navodaya programmes are

introduced for MSMEs and loans restructuring programme was started. The Chief Minister said RBKs are set up at village level and e cropping is being done at village secretariat level and requested the bankers to focus on providing loans to tenant farmers.

The state annual credit plan for 2021-22 is with an outlay of Rs 2,83,380 crore of which 54 per cent, Rs 1,48,500 crore, will be given to agriculture sector. The target is to provide Rs 2,13,560 crore as loans to primary sector which is 75.36 per cent of state annual credit plan.

Participating in the meeting virtually, Union Bank MD and CEO Raj Kiran Roy said the Chief Minister took many measures to support people during the Covid pandemic and added that Andhra Pradesh has emerged as one of the top five performing states in

achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2020 as per the rankings released by Niti Aayog and congratulated the Chief Minister for it.

He said banks should focus on supporting tenant farmers and providing services in RBKs. He said while the loan disbursements target for primary sector is 1,87,550 crore, 1,96,9820 crore loans were disbursed and the target in agriculture sector was 1,28,660 crore and 1,46,879 crore loans were given. He said MSME sector had received Rs 40,312 crore as loans while the target was 39,600 crore and non priority sector had received Rs 60,652 crore as against the target of Rs 60,050 crore. He requested the Chief Minister to give priority to bank employees in Covid vaccination programme.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI/VIZIANAGARAM

IN a major setback to the state government, The AP High Court on Monday nullified the GO 74 appointing Sanchaita Gajapathi Raju as chairperson of Maharaja Alak Narayan Society of Arts and Science (MANSAS) trust of Vizianagaram thus restoring former Union minister Ashok Gajapati Raju in the post. It may be noted that the state government issued the GO on March 3, 2020 appointing Sanchaita by removing Ashok Gajapathi Raju. The government also removed Ashok Gajapathi Raju as trust board chairman of Simhachalam Devasthanam.

The TDP senior leader filed a petition in High Court challenging the state government's order. After completion of the hearing, the court quashed the GO issued by state government and directed reappointment of Ashok Gajapathi as chairman of MANSAS trust agreeing the argument of petitioner that the trust chairman post is hereditary as per trust guidelines. Reacting on the High Court judgement on Mansas Trust, endowments minister Vellampalli Srinivas said that the government will appeal on the order. Stating that the government did not violate the rules, the minister said that the government will file petition challenging the High Court order.

Ashok Gajapathi Raju said that the judgement proved that judiciary and Constitution were func-



Former Union Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju addressing the media at his residence in Vizianagaram on Monday

tioning well in the country and appealed to the government to respect the judiciary and Constitution. Ashok Gajapathi Raju's daughter Aditi Gajapathi Raju is currently member of the governing body of the trust. There have been serious differences among the family members of the two brothers for the last few years after the death of Ananda Gajapathi Raju. All of a sudden, Sanchaita had come into politics just before the elections and campaigned for the BJP in the state.

Along with the endowments department, the trust controls 108 temples, including Simhachalam Devasthanam, and 14,800 acres of costly lands in Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts including popular Varaha Narasimha Swamy temple at Simhachalam and Ramateertham temple.

The trust also looks after several educational institutions, including MR College, and MVGR College of Engineering and temples in East Godavari district.

Release of Disha movie stopped for two weeks

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

THE High Court on Monday heard Disha's father's appeal who sought to stop director Ram Gopal Varma's film based on the Disha incident.

Director of the film Anand Chandra and producer Anurag informed the court that they have changed the title of the film to "Asha Encounter". Earlier on April 16, the censor board has given "A" certificate to the film.

However, after hearing the petitioner's copy counsel, the High Court directed to stop the release of the film for two weeks and closed the hearing on plea.

Scam in the name of Lord Ram in Ayodhya, Oppn hits back

‘Lord Ram, what kind of days are these? Scams are happening by taking donations in your name’

LUCKNOW/DELHI/MUMBAI

AMID charges of corruption in the land purchased by the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust in Ayodhya, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday said misuse of donations by devotees is a sin and an insult to their faith.

"Crores of people made their offerings at the feet of God out of their faith and devotion. Misuse of those donations is unrighteous and is a sin and an insult to their faith," she said in a tweet in Hindi.

The Congress alleged that scams are happening by taking donations in the name of Lord Ram after two opposition leaders accused Shriram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai of buying a piece of land at an inflated price for the Ram

temple premises. The allegation that the land worth Rs 2 crore was brought at an inflated price of Rs 18.5 crore was made by AAP's Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh and a former minister in the Samajwadi Party government, Pawan Pandey.

The allegation was strongly refuted by Rai.

Tagging a tweet on Rai refuting the allegation, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala had said "Lord Ram, what kind of days are these? Scams are happening by taking donations in your name. Shameless robbers are intoxicated with arrogance like Ravana and are selling faith."

"The question is how the land bought for Rs 2 crore was sold after 10 minutes to 'Ram Janmabhoomi' for Rs 18.50 crores?" he asked.

"Now it seems Kans are ruling, Ravana is every-



where!" Surjewala had said in a tweet in Hindi.

Terming it a case of money laundering, Singh and Pandey had sought a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Monday demanded "clarification" from the Trust and other leaders, saying the construction of the temple is a matter of faith for the saffron party and the common people.

Talking to reporters here, Raut said AAP MP Sanjay Singh spoke to him on the issue this morning and the "evidence provided by him is shocking".

"Lord Ram and the fight for the Ram mandir is a matter of faith for us. For some, it is a political matter. The Trust formed for the construction of the temple should clarify if the allegations are true or false. The temple's 'bhoomipujan' ceremony was also attended

by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. They should also speak out. RPeople have made donations out of faith. Even Shiv Sena had contributed Rs one crore to the Trust," Raut said.

If the money collected out of faith is misused then what is the use of having faith? he asked.

"We need to know what is happening. We need to know whether the allegations are true or false," the Sena leader said.

Raut said the members of the Trust were appointed by the BJP. "Representatives of organisations like the Shiv Sena should have been included in the body as the Sena had participated in the agitation for the construction of the Lord Ram's temple...That was our earlier demand".

WINDOWS

Child rescued from borewell in Agra

AGRA: Five-year-old Shiva has finally been rescued from inside a borewell on Monday evening, almost eight-and-a-half hours after he fell into it. The child is said to be well and conscious and has been sent to a hospital for medical examination. The rescue operation was successfully executed by the SDRF team along with the local police. The incident took place at about 8:30 am under the Nibohara police station area in Fatehabad in Agra rural. "We had dropped a rope into the borewell which the child had caught and he has been responding to our queries," a villager had said during the rescue operation. Sub-divisional magistrate Rajesh Kumar said that oxygen was also being provided to Shiva. District authorities, police and medical teams were on the spot, where a large crowd had gathered.

5 miners trapped in Meghalaya mine

SHILLONG: An Indian Navy team joined the non-stop rescue operations for five miners trapped in a coal mine in the East Jaintia Hills district in Meghalaya for two weeks, said top officials on Monday. Ibashisha Mawlong, the Executive Director of the State Disaster Management Authority, said uninterrupted rescue operations involving the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are ongoing since the five workers got trapped inside the coal mine on May 31. "NDRF and SDRF (State Disaster Response Force) personnel along with local people are continuing their efforts to rescue the miners. Various equipment, including water pumps, are also being used for the purpose. "A 13-member Indian Navy team also joined the rescue operation on Sunday with remotely operated vehicles (ROV) and other equipment," Mawlong told IANS. Mawlong, who is also Joint Secretary in the Revenue and Disaster Management Department of Meghalaya, said senior officials, including the Deputy Commissioner of the East Jaintia Hills district are supervising the operations.

5 LJP MPs join hands against Chirag Paswan

PATNA

FIVE of the six Lok Janshakti Party MPs in the Lok Sabha have joined hands against their leader Chirag Paswan and elected Pashupati Kumar Paras in his place, causing a big churn in Bihar politics.

Paras on Monday lauded Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as a good leader and "vikas purush" (development-oriented man), highlighting the deep fault lines within the party as his nephew Chirag Paswan has been a strong critic of the JD(U) pres-

ident. "I have not broken the party but saved it," Paras, MP from Hajipur, told reporters.

He asserted that 99 per cent of LJP workers were unhappy with the turn of events in Bihar as Paswan led his party against the JD(U) and fared poorly in the 2020 assembly polls.

Paras said his group will continue to be part of the BJP-led NDA, and said Paswan can remain part of the organisation.

The group of five MPs has conveyed their decision of electing Paras as the LJP leader in Lok Sabha to the Speaker.

NEW DELHI

INDIA has reported a little over 26,000 cases of Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) and 488 deaths linked to post-vaccination complications between January 16 and June 7, according to CNN-News18 report.

To put things in perspective, 23.5 crore doses have been administered in this period. This means AEFI cases — at 26,200 — accounted for just about 0.01% percent of the total doses administered.

In other words, over a period of 143 days, one out of every 10,000 people vaccinated against COVID-19 developed complications after receiving the jab. Two in every 10 lakh people vaccinated died.

According to the Union health ministry, AEFI cases are untoward medical occurrences that take place after immunisation. To be sure, they do not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of vaccines.

Benefits of vaccines outweigh the risks and the shots used in India are safe, according to experts, who also say an effective inoculation campaign is India's best bet to end the pandemic that has killed over 3.7 lakh people in the country.

India's Covid cases continued to witness decline as it recorded 70,421 new Covid cases, lowest since March 31 and 3,921 deaths due to the virus in the last 24 hours.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday said more than 96,490 vaccine doses are there in the pipeline and will be received by the states and Union Territories (UT) within the next three days.

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel announced that the children studying in private schools, who have lost parents/guardians to COVID-19, would be provided free education by the government.

West Bengal Chief Secretary Hari Krishna Dwivedi has extended the partial lockdown in the state from June 15 onwards to July 1. However, there will be some relaxation from June 16 including the opening of restaurants and bars (even those which are located inside shopping complexes) between 12 noon to 8 pm with 50 per cent sitting capacity.

The Chief Secretary said, "All private transport and public transport except emergency services like health care service providers, media and essential commodities will be shut from 6 am on June 16 to July 1 till 6 pm."



Students wait to receive a dose of vaccine, organised for the students travelling abroad for higher studies, in New Delhi on Monday

70,000 cases, lowest since March 31; 3,921 deaths

C'garh govt to pay school fees of orphaned children

Pune firm develops 3D face mask

PUNE: A Pune-based startup has developed a three dimensional face mask, coated with anti-viral agents that attack the Covid-19 virus when it comes in contact with them, an official said here on Monday. Developed by Thincr Technologies India Pvt Ltd, the virucidal mask project was among the earliest projects selected for commercialisation by the Technology Development Board of the Department of Science & Technology, as part of the government's fight against the virus. The founder-director of Thincr Technologies, Shitalkumar Zambad, claimed that these cost-effective masks coated with virucides are more effective than N-95, 3-Ply or cloth masks currently available in the market.

61 arrested from Noida pool party

NOIDA: The Noida Police has arrested 61 people, including 15 women, for allegedly partying at a farmhouse here in violation of restrictions imposed to combat Covid-19. The arrests were made following a raid on the property in Sector 135, under the Expressway police station limits, police said. "A pool party was being held at the Green Beauty farmhouse in the Yamuna floodplains area in Sector 135 in violation of the COVID-19 protocols. A total of 46 men and 15 women were arrested," a police spokesperson said. "All accused were bathing in the swimming pool in violation of the pandemic protocols. They were without face masks and some of them were even spitting at various places in the open premises of the farmhouse."

Zero Covid cases in Dharavi slum

MUMBAI: The slum colony of Dharavi in Mumbai did not report a single COVID-19 case in the past 24 hours, a clean slate feat in one of the world's densest urban settlements achieved for the first time since February 2, a civic official said on Monday. Dharavi's infection tally stands unchanged at 6,861, while the active caseload is 13, comprising seven in hospitals and six in home isolation, he added. The recovery count of the area, which reported its first case on April 1 last year, and a single-day high of 99 on April 8 this year during the second wave, is 6,489. Spread over 2.5 sq km and housing a mix of shanties and micro industrial units, Dharavi is home to almost 6.5 lakh people.

TN temple land worth ₹160 cr reclaimed

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has reclaimed land worth Rs 160 crore of the Kancheepuram Ekambareswar temple from a trust that ran the Seetha Kingston House Matriculation Higher Secondary School.

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department on Sunday took possession of the 32 ground property on Poonamalle High Road at Kilpauk in Chennai. This land is a part of a 141 ground land of the Kancheepuram Ekambareswar temple.

The trust had leased 44.5 grounds of the temple of which 12.5 grounds was returned to the temple.

Ground is a measure used in Tamil Nadu, where one ground equals 2.5 cents of land.

The HR & CE Minister P.K. Sekar Babu and the Department Commissioner J. Kumaragurubaran received the papers of the temple property from the trust officials on Sunday. Babu told IANS, "We have taken steps to retrieve the remaining area from other tenants who had even sub-leased the property. There is litigation over two properties and we are expecting to retrieve the land within six months."



The HR&CE said in a statement that the Calavala Cunnan Chetty Charities trust had taken 44.5 grounds of the land of the Ekambareswar Temple on Poonamalle High Road, Kilpauk for a 99-year lease and was running the Seetha Kingston school there.

Wall collapses during Minister's inspection

GWALIOR: Madhya Pradesh Energy Minister Pradhuman Singh Tomar was inspecting a chamber in Gwalior being built under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme when the wall on which the Minister stepped on collapsed. Following this, he immediately ordered an inquiry into the construction work.

According to official information, a chamber was being built under the AMRUT scheme on Sunday near the Gwalior mental health centre. When Tomar was passing through this area on Sunday, he stopped his car. As soon

as he put pressure on the wall of the chamber with his feet to check the quality of construction the wall fell down. The minister expressed strong displeasure over the incident and reprimanded the construction company along with its officials.

Allegations have been levelled several times about the quality of the ongoing construction work under the AMRUT scheme. Gwalior Municipal Corporation Commissioner Shivam Verma has pulled up the officials of the construction firm. A fine of Rs 1 lakh has also been imposed on the firm.

Year after Galwan clash: Army develops infra, deploys 60K troops

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH
NEW DELHI

AYEAR after the Galwan valley clash in eastern Ladakh, China is still sitting at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) while India has geared up for a long grind. Indian and Chinese military delegates have had 11 rounds of talks to resolve the border disputes at the friction points. The only thing that has happened is that both the countries have agreed to resolve the dispute peacefully.

The Indian Army has focused on being better prepared to face Chinese belligerence in Ladakh over the last year, as a final resolution seems far off.

India has enhanced military infrastructure, increased troop deployment to 50,000 to 60,000 troops, and constructed better roads to improve connectivity for quick

force mobilisation. The force continues to be on high alert with its enhanced troop deployment of over 50,000 men on the ground in Ladakh for the last one year, including during the harsh winter when the temperature dips to minus 40-degree Celsius.

Last month, Indian Army chief General M.M. Naravane had said that the troops are on high alert along the LAC, keeping a watch on the activities of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Naravane said that India wants the status quo ante of April 2020 to be restored. He also stated that India has made it clear to China that de-escalation will only be considered once disengagement is completed to the mutual satisfaction of both sides.

He said that Indian troops are on high alert and deployments have not thinned after the disengagement in Pangong River. The Army chief maintained that China



has deployed around 50,000 to 60,000 troops in eastern Ladakh in immediate depth so India has also made mirror deployment in depth.

Even after 11 rounds of military talks at the Corps Commander level to find a resolution, there is still no breakthrough despite the disengagement in Pangong.

Indian and Chinese forces have met to resolve the border disputes at the other friction areas like Hot Springs, Gogra and the 900 sq km Depsang plains.

Naravane also said that Indian is currently concentrating on resolving the outstanding problems at other friction points like Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang.

He had pointed out that India's stand during the disengagement agreement in the Pangong Lake area remained the same that the status quo ante of April 2020 must be restored. The army chief also stated that trust levels between the two countries are low, but pointed

out that the trust deficit should not hinder the negotiation process. In the Galwan valley, where a bloody clash between the forces of the two nations left 20 Indian four Chinese soldiers dead on June 15 last year, including Commanding Officer Col Santosh Babu, the troops had concentrated at just 1.5 km apart.

Following the clash, the Patrol Point 14 became a 'no patrol zone' and both sides pulled back by 1.5 km each and the area turned into a buffer zone.

India had objected to China's observation post near Patrol Point 14 that had led to the clash.

The clash had sparked a war-like situation. By the end of August last year, there was a further build up across the border and the Pangong Lake had turned into a battle zone, as India occupied the key mountain tops at the Kailash Range overlooking the southern bank of the lake.

TODAY's QUOTE

World needs to decouple trade, green goals

“ I think a little longer rope needs to be given even to earlier agreements or earlier commitments. So, that these countries (developing and less developed) have space to bring their economies back on track. I do believe that we have to decouple trade policy and our green goals.


— Piyush Goyal, Union Minister



RETAIL LOAN

Asset classes repayments see sharp decline

There has been a sharp decline in collection efficiencies in retail asset pools across asset classes in May due to the second wave of the pandemic, with microlenders witnessing a dip of up to 20%. It expects the situation to improve from June, once the unlock measures result in reopening of the economy

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	74.01	South	
Euro	89.65	African Rand	6.12
UAE Dirham	20.54	Hong Kong Dollar	10.86
Thai Baht	2.59	Japanese Yen	0.77
British Pound	104.31	New Zealand Dollar	52.92
Australian Dollar	57.11	Saudi Riyal	21.48
Canadian Dollar	60.89	Swedish Krona	10.13
Swiss Franc	82.31	Singapore Dollar	56.34

DELHI TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Libas plans expansion

NSE-listed Libas Consumer Products Ltd has announced plans for major expansion. At present, the company has franchisees/stores in Mumbai, Delhi and Dubai under the brand 'Riyaz Ganggi Libas' in fashion segment, and the company is in process of expanding the same to various tier-II and tier-III cities in India in various phases in the next three years. The company will open 100 stores in each phase. Recently, the company had also announced foray into FMCG segment. It is also into rock salt manufacturing and sales. The company has a pan India reach with processing units and warehouses at Bhauruch, Bhiwandi, Mundra, Coimbatore and Hyderabad. "The company also has tied up with top 15000 organic farmers to produce and package flourishing organic products for export and local market," said Reshma Ganggi, company's MD.

Vedantu's new initiative

In a unique initiative in the EdTech space, Vedantu introduced Vedantu Improvement Promise (VIP) scheme, which assures predictable learning improvement for all students studying in Classes 6 to 12 and 12th-Passed students. Be it improvement in their previous year's exam results or JEE-Main/NEET-UG rank, the new programme is for everyone. "As a student obsessed brand, Vedantu is taking all measures to guarantee complete ownership and accountability for every learner's success. With student focus at our core, we want to ensure that no child is left behind with unrealized potential. We have the expertise to provide assured learning outcomes for every student because we strongly believe that learning things right is only half the job done; progress is the real way forward," said Anand Prakash, co-founder & Head of Academics, Vedantu.

ICICI Pru offers bonus

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance declared its highest-ever annual bonus of Rs 867 crore for the policyholders for FY21. The bonus declared is the highest ever by the company till date and is also 10 per cent higher than the bonus announced in the last fiscal. Bonus is the share of profits generated by the company's participating policyholder's funds, which are added to their guaranteed maturity benefits, thus enhancing the corpus. All participating policies in force as of March 31, 2021, are eligible to receive this bonus and will be added to the policyholders' benefits. A total of 9.8 lakh participating policyholders will benefit from this, taking them closer to their long-term financial goals.

SoftTech unveils startup initiative

SoftTech Engineers Limited, which provides software solutions for architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) sector, has announced the launch of its hybrid corporate venture programme, AmpliNXT, to integrate the benefits of an incubator, an accelerator, and a corporate venture. Based on its over 25 years of experience in the AEC domain, the company has come up with this exclusive technology-driven programme. The first-of-its-kind programme for the AEC sector in India, AmpliNXT offers tailored support industries experts, entrepreneurs, and domain experts. Vijay Gupta, CEO, SoftTech Engineers, said, "We're very excited in supporting technology start-ups to grow in architecture, construction and engineering sectors".

Oil prices fuel WPI to record high of 12.94%

NEW DELHI

RISING prices of edible oils and protein rich items pushed the retail inflation to a six-month high of 6.3 per cent in May, breaching the comfort level of the Reserve Bank and thus rendering reduction in interest rates a difficult proposition in the near term. Wholesale price-based inflation (WPI) too accelerated to a record 12.94 per cent in May on account of rising prices of crude oil, manufactured goods and the low base of last year due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The government has asked the Reserve Bank to keep the retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. CPI inflation has breached the upper band of the inflation target about 10 times since the first meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which decides the key interest rate, in October 2016. While the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation rose from 4.23 per cent in April to a six-month high of 6.3 per cent, food inflation soared from 1.96 per cent to 5.01 per cent in May.

The previous high in retail inflation was 6.93 per cent in November 2020. In May 2020, the

Mfg goods and low base of last year also add to wholesale price-based inflation; Retail inflation at 6-mth high of 6.3% in May



Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was (-) 3.37 per cent and in April 2021, it hit double digits at 10.49 per cent. This is the fifth straight month of uptick seen in WPI inflation.

As per the data on CPI, factored in by the RBI while arriving at its monetary policy, the steepest price rise was witnessed in the 'oils and fat' segment, which on an annual basis showed an increase of 30.84 per cent.

The May CPI data released by the National Statistical Office

(NSO) further revealed that the rate of price rise in 'meat and fish', 'egg', 'fruits', and 'pulses and products' stood at 9.03 per cent, 15.16 per cent, 11.98 per cent, and 9.39 per cent, respectively. The rate of price rise in the 'fuel and light' category quickened to 11.58 per cent.

As per the WPI data, released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry, the wholesale inflation in fuel and power basket spiked to 37.61 per cent during May, against 20.94 per cent in April,

Azad Engg garners \$20m funds for expansion

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD - based Azad Engineering Pvt Ltd has successfully closed its first round of funding of \$20 million from DMI Management.

Azad Engineering will utilise the funds in setting up its second manufacturing facility in Hyderabad at an investment of \$80 million over the next 36 months.

The company's new lean facility will be spread over 50 acres allotted by Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC). Upon successful operationalisation of the facility, the manufacturing capacity will be expanded to deliver to the needs of Aerospace and Energy partners.

The expansion plan gives a boost to execute the large order book of \$250 million for the next 5 years. Azad stands as a qualified Tier 1 partner to the world leading OEMs such as GE, Mit-



subishi, Siemens, Toshiba, MAN, Doosan Skoda, GE Aviation, Boeing, Honeywell, Eaton, Rafael, BHEL, HAL, Baker Hughes among others.

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secy, Industries, Government of Telangana said, "Azad has ensured Indian presence in global precision engineering map. Azad broke all the barriers and today stands as the most preferred and favourite supplier of global OEM. Government of Telangana is proud to support this company and create a precision engineering cluster that will create jobs for 1500+ highly skilled people in Hyderabad to leverage and grow the existing aerospace industry cluster."

"Non techies to rule IT products space by 2024"

NEW DELHI

A new category of buyers outside of the traditional IT enterprises are occupying a larger share of the overall IT market and by 2024, about 80 per cent of technology products and services will be built by those who are not technology professionals, a Gartner report said on Monday.

Currently, the total business-led IT spend averages up to 36 per cent of the total formal IT budget. Gartner anticipates that in 2023, \$30 billion in revenue will be generated by products and services that did not exist pre-pandemic. "Digital business is treated as a team sport by CEOs and no longer the sole domain of the IT department," said Rajesh Kandaswamy, distinguished research vice president at Gartner.

"Growth in digital data, low-code development tools and artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted development are among the many factors that enable the democratization of technology development beyond IT professionals," he said in a statement.

Amara Raja plans new initiatives

To accelerate growth in core sectors and diversify into New Energy to capitalise on emerging opportunities

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

THE Board of Amara Raja Batteries Ltd. (ARBL) has launched several strategic initiatives to take advantage of fast emerging new opportunities to accelerate growth and enhance stakeholder value. Driven by the transformative changes in its key markets and in keeping with its motto of 'Gotta be a Better Way', ARBL has announced 'Energy and Mobility' as the strategic focus for the Company going forward.

It has announced expansion of the lead acid batteries business and the establishment of a New Energy SBU encompassing lithium cell and battery pack, EV chargers, energy storage systems, advanced home energy solutions and related products and services. Speaking on the evolving 'Energy & Mobility' strategy, Vice Chairman, Jayadev Galla said: "After a careful review of the global business opportunities, the ARBL board has decided to future-proof



our business by repositioning ARBL as an energy and mobility player. The board believes that ARBL has to invest in a portfolio of businesses to maintain its technological and business leadership."

ARBL will further invest in advanced process technologies to maintain its technological edge as well as recycling to enhance critical raw material security and expand its commitment to environmental responsibility. The New Energy business will build on technological innovations such as lithium and other new age chemistries that are enabling accelerated transformation in renewable energy, electric mobility, microgrids, etc. The technology in this space is emerging rapidly and often in a disruptive way.

Natco partner's cancer drug gets FDA nod

HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD-NATCO Pharma on Monday said its marketing partner Breckenridge Pharmaceutical Inc has received approval from the US health regulator for anti-cancer drug Carfilzomib Vials.

"Breckenridge Pharmaceutical Inc. (BPI), has received approval for its abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) for Carfilzomib Vials ANDA (generic for Kyprolis), from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)," Natco Pharma said in a regulatory filing. Natco has tied up with Breckenridge Pharmaceutical Inc to market the product in the US.

"The parties have received final approval for 10 mg and 60 mg strengths of the product and tentative approval for the 30 mg strength of the product," it added. Natco Pharma said based on the ANDA filing date, the company believes that it is eligible for 180 days of sole generic marketing exclusivity for the 10 mg strength and shared 180 days of generic marketing exclusivity for the 60 mg strength of the product at the time of launch.

Misperceptions about 5G effect on health

Viruses of any kind don't transmit via radio waves; Covid-19 spreads through person-to-person contact and not through 5G radiation; there is no link between 5G and spread of Covid-19



equipment were damaged fearing linkage of 5G radiation to Covid-19. DoT vide their press release dated 10.05.21 has clarified that there is no link between 5G and spread of Covid-19 and there is no scientific basis to prove the linkage between these two. It also informed that testing of 5G had not started anywhere in India.

Recently Delhi High court has dismissed the lawsuit, filed by one consumer advocacy group member, Mumbai, challenging the 5G network roll out fearing health hazards because of 5G radiations.

It can be noted that 5G technology was first deployed in South Korea (in Dec 2018) and part of US (not in China). US had not seen major

Covid-19 out breaks until months after cases spread in China. Covid-19 has spread to areas without 5G towers like Iran and Japan. These facts prove that the fear that 5G radiation causes Covid19 spread is misplaced. Viruses of any kind don't transmit via radio waves. Covid-19 spreads through person to person contact and not through 5G radiation.

Electromagnetic spectrum is divided in to two distinct categories as ionizing and non-ionizing. Ionizing radiation includes UV (Ultraviolet) rays, X rays, gamma rays which are harmful beyond a certain limit. Non-ionizing radiation has lower frequency and is safe. It lacks sufficient energy to take out an electron to form an ion. It will not be able to break apart the chemical bonds of DNA to cause cellular damage.

The frequency bands used in 5G technology are (1) 600-2300 MHz (2)2300-5000 MHz (3) 26GHz-

28GHz which are in non-ionizing band of electromagnetic spectrum. Mobile towers, including 5G ones, emit non-ionizing radio frequencies of very low power and can't cause any kind of damage to living cells including human cells. The power is so small that there will be no heating effect.

DoT has prescribed norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (i.e. base station emissions) which are 10 times more stringent than the safe limits prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and recommended by World Health Organization (WHO). The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have to give self-certificates regarding emission levels of base stations to DoT and field units of DoT conduct physical audit of 10 per cent of total sites randomly.

Any citizen having any apprehen-

sion about any mobile tower emitting radio waves beyond the safe limit prescribed by DoT can request for measurements/testing on Tarang Sanchar Portal of DoT. It is crucial to note that radio waves are far less energetic than even the visible light we experience every day.

To conclude

- There is no linkage between Covid-19 and 5G radiation
- All mobile towers (including 5G ones) emit non-ionic radiation which is safe
- The limits for the emission levels of mobile towers in India are ten times more stringent than the safe limits recommended by WHO.
- There is no reputable evidence that mobile networks have caused health problems. All evidences available support that 5G technology is safe. This technology is already being used in sixty countries.

(The author is retired Advisor, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) Government of India)

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

India eye full points vs Afghanistan

Chhetri one goal off entering all-time top-10 scorers' list

DOHA

GOAL-machine Sunil Chhetri will look to add to his tally and enter the all-time top 10 scorers' list as a buoyant India meet Afghanistan in the joint 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers here on Tuesday.

While the Indian team needs just a draw from their final game against Afghanistan to secure a place in the third round of AFC Asian Cup qualifiers after Oman defeated Afghanistan 2-1 on Friday, a hat-trick for Chhetri will see him equal the iconic Pele in terms of numbers of goals scored in the international arena.

Chhetri is also just one goal off entering the all-time top-10 list of goal-scorers, something he can easily achieve against Afghanistan, if not a hat-trick.

A Chhetri-inspired India ended their winless run in international football when the captain struck a brace against Bangladesh in their previous outing. The talk since then mostly centered around the Indian talisman surpassing the legendary Lionel Messi as international

“ They are a good team. There has been a lot of change in the squad with so many youngsters coming in. We have noticed that the current coach also has implemented a philosophy of playing differently. India has had some good results in the recent past

—Haroon Amiri
Afghanistan defender

football's second highest scorer among active players. A veteran in top-flight at 36, Chhetri played down the comparisons with the Argentine global superstar, but he will certainly look to put his best foot forward come the next match and add to his tally of 74 goals.

If the Blue Tigers can avoid defeat in the upcoming match, they will finish third in their group, an improve-

ment over the fifth-place result during the last campaign.

India are already out of contention to progress further in the World Cup qualifying campaign, and is now looking to secure a berth in 2023 Asian Cup, scheduled to be held in China. India will enter the game as clear favourites despite Afghanistan's ability to fight it out. Igor Stimac's men will be high on confidence after thoroughly dominating Bangladesh, against whom they enjoyed nearly 75% possession while completing more than 600 passes.

If they are to repeat that kind of impressive stats, India will need the duo of Chhetri and Manvir Singh to fire upfront, with Brandon Fernandes marshalling the midfield and keeping the supply chain flowing.

With Stimac reposing immense faith in him, Brandon has established himself as one of the country's top players playmakers. He has provided three assists out of the five goals India has scored in the qualifying campaign so far and he would be more than eager to continue in the same vein.

Form and past record both favour India and anything less than a victory for the Blue Tigers will be seen as an upset. As far as

Afghanistan are concerned, they will take heart from their spirited performance in their previous outing against India, who were held to a stalemate at

home by their lower-ranked opponents in 2019. But the recent defeat against Oman means Afghanistan are not among the top fourth-placed teams in the World Cup qualifiers and a failure to win against India would send them to the playoffs just to get into the third round of Asian Cup qualifiers. (PTI)

SQUADS

India

Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Arvind Singh, Dheeraj Singh
Defenders: Pritam Kotal, Rahul Bheke, Narender Gehlot, Chinglensana Singh, Sandesh Jhingran, Adil Khan, Akash Mishra, Subhashish Bose
Midfielders: Udanta Singh, Brandon Fernandes, Liston Colaco, Rowlin Borges, Gian Martins, Anirudh Thapa, Pronoy Halder, Suresh Singh, Lalengmawia Ralte, Abdul Sahal, Yasir Mohammad, Lal-lanzuala Chhangte, Bipin Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan
Forwards: Ishan Pandita, Sunil Chhetri, Manvir Singh

Afghanistan

Goalkeepers: Ovays Azizi, Faisal Hamidi, Hamidullah Wakily
Defenders: Masih Saighani, David Najem, Zohib Islam Amiri, Najim Haidary, Hussain Alizada, Sharif Muhammad, Hassan Amin
Midfielders: Adam Najem, Noor Husin, Zubayr Amiri, Farshad Noor (Capt), Faysal Shayesteh, Maziar Kouhyar, Fardin Hakimi, Milad Intezar, Abassin Alikhil, Zelfy Nazary, Samir Samandari
Forwards: Jabbar Sharza, Norlla Amiri, Omran Haydari, Amreidin Sharifi, Omid Popalzay, Hossein Zamani, Fareed Sadat



Sunil Chhetri in action during the Asian Cup qualifiers against Bangladesh recently

Djokovic gifts racquet to young boy after French Open win

PARIS

AFTER winning the French Open title here on Sunday, world No.1 Novak Djokovic chose a young, vociferous fan to gift him his racquet with which he had defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece.

After Djokovic defeated Tsitsipas in a five-set humdinger 6-7(6), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, the world No.1 handed his racquet to a young boy in the stands, who was ecstatic after receiving the 'trophy'.

Djokovic said during the post-match press conference that there was a reason for choosing the boy. "He was in my ear the entire match basically, especially when I was two-sets-to-love down. He was encouraging me. He was actually giving me tactics, as well. He was

like, 'Hold your serve, get an easy first ball, then dictate, go to his backhand.' He was coaching me, literally," said Djokovic.

"I found that very cute, very nice. So, I felt like to give the racquet to the best person was him after the match (sic).

That was kind of my gratitude for him [for] sticking with me and supporting me."

Djokovic became only the sixth player in the Open Era to come back from two sets down to win a Grand Slam final.

Former world No.1 John McEnroe of the US, who was one of the commentators for the match, said: "He's pumped up! Maybe get him to sign it while we're at it. Inspire him to get on the court and practise. Sleep with that racquet!" (IANS)

World basketball head steps aside amid sexual abuse inquiry

MIES (SWITZERLAND)

THE president of basketball's world governing body has stepped aside during its investigation into alleged systemic sexual abuse of women players at his home federation.

Hamane Niang "strongly denies the allegations" that he ignored abuse by coaches and officials in Mali when he led the national federation there from 1999 to 2007, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) said in a statement on Monday. The New York Times published allegations implicating around 12 coaches and officials in sexual abuse that involved around 100 women players. Niang was not accused of abusing women. Three men — coach Amadou Bamba, coach Oumar Sissoko and official Hario Maiga — have been suspended from all FIBA activities during an investigation ordered by the Switzerland-based governing body.

Niang "offered his full collaboration" to the investigation, said FIBA, which has told officials in Mali also to cooperate. "FIBA has zero tolerance for all forms of harassment and abuse and extends its heartfelt compassion for victims of such conduct," it said.

The investigation will be done by FIBA's integrity officer Richard McLaren, the Canadian law professor who detailed the Russian state-backed doping scandal. (AP)

Mushfiqur, Kathryn voted ICC players of the month

DUBAI: Former Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim and Scottish all-rounder Kathryn Bryce were on Monday adjudged the ICC Players of the Month for May in the men's and women's categories respectively. The winners were announced by the ICC in a press release.

Diminutive wicket-keeper batsman Mushfiqur played one Test and three ODIs against Sri Lanka in the month of May, where he helped Bangladesh win their first ODI series against Sri Lanka by scoring 125 in the 2nd game.

Commenting on Mushfiqur's performance in May, former India batsman VVS Laxman, representing the ICC Voting Academy, said: "Even after 15 years at the highest level, Mushfiqur has not lost his appetite for run-making. "What made his feat even more notable was that it was Bangladesh's first-ever ODI series triumph against the 1996 World Cup champions.

"To shore up the middle order and don the wicket-keeping gloves speaks volumes of his fitness and skills." Bryce, on the other hand, is the first player from Scotland, male or female, to make it to the top 10 of the batting or bowling lists in the MRF Tyres ICC Player Rankings released recently.

Bryce played four T20Is against Ireland where she scored 96 runs and took five wickets with an economy rate of 4.76 in the month of May. (PTI)



Zerodha's Kamath apologies for cheating Anand in chess

CHENNAI

THE co-founder of stock broking company Zerodha Broking Ltd, Nikhil Kamath, on Monday tweeted a reluctant apology for cheating and winning against former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand in a Covid-19 fundraising match.

By cheating in a charity game, Kamath has also put at stake Zerodha Broking's reputation. "My stock account is with zerodha ... God bless my soul!" tweeted International Master Vishal Sareen.

On Sunday, the Indian chess field was shocked when five-time world champion Anand was defeated by Kamath, who made near perfect moves.

"It is ridiculous that so many are thinking that I really beat Vishy sir in a chess game, that is almost like me waking up and winning a 100mt race with Usain Bolt," Kamath tweeted.

He added: "Yesterday was one of those days that I had dreamt of when I was a really young kid learning chess, to interact with Vishwanath Anand. Got the opportunity thanks to Akshaypatra and their idea of raising funds for charity by conducting a bunch of chess games with Vishy."

Continuing further, he said: "I had help from the people analysing the game, computers and the graciousness of Anand sir himself to treat the game as a learning experience. This was for fun and charity. In hindsight, it was quite silly as I didn't realise all the confusion that can get caused due to this. Apologies."

On his part, Anand tweeted: "Yesterday was a celebrity simul for people to raise money. It was a fun experience upholding the ethics of the game. I just played the position on the board and expected the same from everyone."

Whether it is a charity or the world title match, Anand takes each game seriously. Those who have watched him at the Tal Chess Club decades ago would recall how Anand would never agree for a draw. It is always a fight to finish. Later, replying to Anand's tweet said, Kamath said: "@vishy64theking in my head, it was just a fun game we amateurs were playing against the greatest chess champ from India to raise funds for charity. But still gives no excuse for what I did. It was wrong and I sincerely apologise." (IANS)

Dutch, Austria, England start Euro 2020 with wins

AMSTERDAM: Gritty Ukraine bounced back from two goals down but Denzel Dumfries's late winner helped the Netherlands snatch a 3-2 win on home soil in Euro 2020 on Sunday. The third match-day also saw Austria overpower North Macedonia 3-1 and England down Croatia 1-0. The Dutch, also known as 'Elftal' assumed control from the starting whistle, and they should have got the opener early in the game but Memphis Depay, Dumfries and Georginio Wijnaldum lacked in accuracy, Xinhua reports. The 16,000 spectators at the Amsterdam Johan Cruyff Arena saw a powerful performance from the Dutch, yet they remained wasteful. After the interval, the hosts were eventually able to turn their chances into rewards.

WTC FINAL WINNER TO RECEIVE ₹12 CRORE, RUNNER-UP ₹6 CRORE

SOUTHAMPTON: The winning team of the World Test Championship (WTC) final between India and New Zealand will receive USD 1.6 million (Rs.12 crore approximately) along with an ICC Test Championship Mace. The losing team will receive USD 800,000 (Rs.6 crore approximately), the ICC announced on Monday. The final match will start on June 18 at Ageas Bowl, Southampton. "The prize money for the team finishing third in the ICC WTC standings is \$450,000 (Rs.3.38 crore approx). The team fourth on the table will be awarded \$350,000 (Rs.2.62 crore), the one that finishes fifth gets \$200,000 (Rs.1.5 crore approx) while the remaining four teams will get \$100,000 each (Rs.75 lakh per team)," ICC said in the statement. "The Test mace, previously given to teams topping the MRF Tyres ICC Men's Test Team Rankings will now be given to the WTC winners. In case the final ends in a draw or a tie, the finalists will split the prize money for the first and second places and share possession of the mace during the time they remain champions," it said. New Zealand are high on confidence after defeating England 1-0 in the two-Test series on Sunday. The Virat Kohli-led Indian team defeated the visiting England 3-1 in a Test series in March and qualified for the final. "The mace, designed by English luxury brand Thomas Lyte, is based around the global nature of Test cricket and the competing nations. The focal point of the mace is the cricket ball since it is at the core of the game whether being bowled, hit or fielded. Encircling the ball is the globe, referencing the global reach of Test cricket and one can see the silver-gilt cricket ball through the oceans of the map," the ICC said. (IANS)





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