

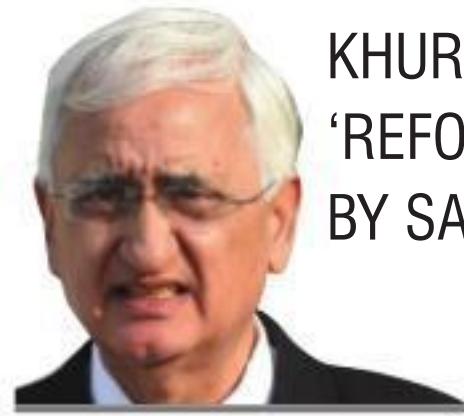


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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

The Statesman

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



KHURSHID'S DIG AT G-23:
'REFORM IS ACHIEVED
BY SACRIFICING'

P5



JORDAN'S PALACE
DRAMA MOVES
TO COURTROOM

P9



'GOVT OPEN TO
MORE MEASURES TO
BOOST ECONOMY'

P8



INDIAN WOMEN'S
TEAM HAILED FOR
BRISTOL DRAW

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky with possibility of thundery development. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 37 and 27 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 90% Min: 56%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 34.2°C (-4) Min: 25.2°C (-3)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

05:25 hrs 19:22 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

15:40 hrs 02:57 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Villagers cross a flooded Kunye river, following heavy monsoon rain at Laghata in Birbhum district of Bengal on Sunday. IANS

Public parks to open in Delhi from today: The Delhi government has allowed reopening of bars, public parks and gardens from Monday under a phased easing of restrictions imposed due to the second Covid wave. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in an order on Sunday stated that bars will be allowed to reopen with 50 per cent seating capacity, from 12 pm to 10 pm, from next week. The lockdown was imposed in Delhi amid a surge in second wave of Covid-19 on 19 April. (P2)

Record 12.56 lakh people vaccinated in AP: Andhra Pradesh achieved a unique feat on Sunday, vaccinating over 12.56 lakh people under the Mega Covid vaccination drive that the health authorities hope could be a record in any one province in the world. The state also crossed the one crore mark in the administration of the first dose of coronavirus vaccine. So far, 1.10 crore people in the state got the first dose and 27.29 lakh the second dose since the vaccination programme began.

Lakshadweep admin moots shifting HC jurisdiction to Karnataka

The proposal was said to have been initiated by the islands' administration after several litigations were moved before Kerala High Court against the decisions taken by the new administrator

KOCHI/NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

The Lakshadweep administration, which has been facing widespread protests from the islands' people over some of its policies, has mooted a proposal to shift its legal jurisdiction from the Kerala High Court to the Karnataka High Court, officials said.

The proposal was initiated by the administration after several litigations were moved before the Kerala High Court against the decisions taken by the islands' new administrator Praful Khoda Patel.

These decisions included revising standard operating procedures for Covid norms, introduction of the "goonda act" and demolishing huts of fishermen for widening of roads.

Patel, who is the administrator of Daman and Diu, was given the additional charge of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep in the first week of December last year, when the former administrator Dineshwar Sharma died after a brief illness.

This year, as many as 23 applications have been filed against the island administrator and against the alleged high-handedness of the police and the local government.

However the admin has made a proposal for shifting its legal jurisdiction from Kerala to Karnataka.

India records less than 60K cases after 81 days

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

India on Sunday reported less than 60,000 daily coronavirus cases for the first time after 81 days, while the country's active caseload has also declined to 7,29,243, which a month ago was hovering at around 17 lakh cases.

A total of 58,419 fresh infections were reported in the previous 24 hours, according to Union health ministry, taking India's total number of confirmed Covid cases to 2,98,81,965.

The death toll climbed to 3,86,713 with 1,576 fresh fatalities, the lowest in 63 days. The test positivity rate has further gone down to as low

as 3.22%. Regarding vaccination, a total of 27,66,93,572 vaccine doses have been administered till date.

More than 3.06 crore vaccine doses are also available with the States/UTs to be administered while another 24,53,080 doses are in the pipeline and will be received by States /UTs within the next 3 days.

Delhi adds 124 cases, 7 deaths: The national capital today reported 124 fresh Covid cases ~ the lowest since February 16 ~ and 7 coronavirus-linked deaths while the positivity rate dipped to 0.17 per cent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

(SEE P2)



WHO advisory to prevent another surge

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Sunday called upon countries in its south-east Asia region to scale up public health infrastructure, rigorously implement social measures and make efforts to accelerate vaccination to prevent another Covid-19 surge.

This week, Maldives and Myanmar confirmed the transmission of coronavirus variants of concern. Earlier, variants of concern have been confirmed in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

The variants of concern along with the opening of economies contributed to the recent surge globally. (PTI)

'Action if Covid deaths aren't certified as such'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Covid-19, irrespective of co-morbidities, are to be classified as deaths due to the infection.

The MHA affidavit said: "The only exception could be where there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be attributed to Covid (e.g. accidental trauma, poisoning, acute myocardial infarction, etc) where Covid is an incidental finding."

It submitted, that for recording of Covid-19 deaths, there is a statutory mechanism in place either by way of an Act of Parliament or guidelines having the force of law. "Any breach of the guidelines would be a criminal offence," it said.

Sources said although the PAC authorised her to take the final call, Ms Mufti was likely to skip the meeting because of the "insulting manner" in which the BJP had toppled the PDP-BJP coalition government headed by her on 19 June 2018. Another reason she might take the tough stand would be to thereby try and retrieve her position in the valley.

However, the National Conference (NC), after separate deliberations announced in the evening that the party chief Dr Farooq Abdullah will participate in the meeting.

Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday morning convened a meeting of the political affairs committee (PAC) of the party to deliberate on the issue of the invitation for the meeting.

Fourteen J&K leaders, including former chief ministers, deputy chief ministers and presidents of the mainstream political parties have been invited for the meeting.

NC leader Ali Mohammad Sagar told mediapersons after a meeting of top party leaders that the party will attend the meeting with the Prime Minister.

Another senior leader of NC, Mohammad Akbar Lone, said that the party will take up in the PM's meeting the issue of restoration of the Article 370 that was abrogated on 5 August 2019. He said that the NC will attend the meeting as

Mufti may skip PM's all party meet on J-K

Farooq to take part in 24 June meet meant to address impasse in the UT



Restore J-K's statehood,
says Cong ahead of meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Ahead of a meeting called by Prime Minister Modi on Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress on Sunday said the Centre should accept the demand for restoration of statehood to J-K in the interest of the Constitution and democracy.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala drew attention to the 6 August, 2019 resolution of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) where the party clearly demanded the restoration of full statehood for the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We believe that undoing it is a direct attack on

a PAGD forum.

Fourteen J&K leaders, including former chief ministers, deputy chief ministers and presidents of the mainstream political parties have been invited for the meeting.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Ghulam Mir has engaged the party leadership on the issue and there was a likelihood of the party attending the PM's meeting.

Another senior leader of NC, Mohammad Akbar Lone, said that the party will take up in the PM's meeting the issue of restoration of the Article 370 that was abrogated on 5 August 2019. He said that the NC will attend the meeting as

has also been invited for the meet in his capacity as a former chief minister.

The BJP and Altaf Bukhari-led J&K Apni Party have confirmed their participation, while four other parties, PDP, Congress, Peoples Conference and CPI(M), will hold deliberations with their respective leadership on the issue.

A senior leader of J&K Apni Party Ghulam Hassan Mir while welcoming the step tweeted: "A Good initiative by Government of India to reach out the Politicians of J&K. People of J&K are yearning for empowerment. Election to the assembly and Statehood are the main concerns. People want their own Government. Earlier the better" (sic).

However, leaders who have been invited for the meeting were so far not aware of the agenda of the meeting.

Mr Modi held a high-level meeting on Sunday with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah reportedly to set the roadmap for the meeting. Holding Assembly elections might be on the top of the agenda but for that purpose the NC will have to withdraw its boycott of the J&K Delimitation Commission.

A senior official of the Delimitation Commission will hold a virtual meet in the next few days with all deputy commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to discuss various inputs on geographical features of constituencies and the suggestions made by them.

Post poll clash: WB govt seeks HC order review

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 20 JUNE

► A Calcutta HC bench headed by acting CJ had directed the chairperson of the NHRC to set up a panel for examining all cases of alleged human rights violations during post-poll violence.

► The Bengal government, in its application, prayed for grant of an opportunity to deal with a report by the member secretary of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) on the matter before the next date of hearing, and make submissions on the steps taken by it on such complaints of clashes and violence.

action, "may be by visiting the affected areas".

The report should mention the steps taken to restore the confidence of the people that they can peacefully live in their homes and carry on with their business to earn their living, it was directed.

The persons prima facie responsible for the crime and the officers who maintained "calculated silence" on the issue be pointed out, it was directed. The court had earlier pointed out that the gov-

ernment has not taken any "concrete steps" to prevent post-poll violence.

The state government, in its application, prayed for grant of an opportunity to deal with a report by the member secretary of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) on the matter before the next date of hearing, and make submissions on the steps taken by it on such complaints of clashes and violence.

The government also prayed that the findings in the

order of 18 June "against the state of West Bengal and/or its officers may be expunged".

The five-judge had passed the order two days ago after taking into account the PILs before it on post-poll violence. The PILs have alleged that political attacks have led to displacement of people from their houses, physical assault, destruction of property and ransacking of offices.

The bench observed that in a case where the life and property of the residents of the state are allegedly in danger on account of post-poll violence, the state cannot be allowed to proceed in the manner it likes.

Contending that the complaints required immediate action, the bench said, "From the facts as are available on record and are sought to be projected by the petitioners, such an action is missing."

The government also prayed that the findings in the

RISE AND SHINE



Enthusiasts practise yoga as sand artist Manas Sahoo creates a sand sculpture ahead of International Yoga Day, in Puri on Sunday.

AGENCIES

Man assumed dead in 2010 train derailment found alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, 20 JUNE

A man, whose family had claimed that he died in the 2010 Jnaneswari Express derailment in West Bengal and got a job and compensation, was allegedly found to be alive, a railway official said.

The sister of the man who got the job and their father were called for questioning on Sunday in connection with the matter, a CBI official said.

At least 148 people were killed in the incident that happened in May 2010. Several bogies of the Howrah-Mumbai Jnaneswari Express derailed at Sardia in Jhargram, while a goods train coming from the opposite side rammed into it.

It was alleged to have been

caused by sabotage as the region was grappling to deal with Maoist violence at that time. Claiming that his son died in the incident, a man from Kolkata allegedly identified a body through DNA sampling, the South Eastern Railway official said.

As per the railway's announcement following the incident, a member of the family was given a job in the railway apart from monetary compensation, he said.

The sister of the man has been working in the signalling department of the Sealdah division of the Eastern Railway. On receiving a complaint that the man is alive, the Vigilance Department of the railways conducted a probe and referred the matter to the CBI.

India rejects criticism of new IT rules by UN rapporteurs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

India has dismissed criticism of its new IT rules relating to social media by three UN special rapporteurs on rights issues, saying the country's democratic credentials are well recognised and the right to freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed under its Constitution.

"The concerns alleging potential implications for freedom of expression that the new IT Rules will entail are highly misplaced

following concerns about increasing instances of abuse of social media and digital platforms

following concerns about increasing instances of abuse of social media and digital platforms, it said.

The Upper House of Parliament had repeatedly asked the government to strengthen the legal framework and make the social media platforms accountable under the Indian laws and the rules were framed after extensive deliberations, it noted.



Considering North Bengal people's demands and sentiments,
our party leadership will take a proper decision judiciously

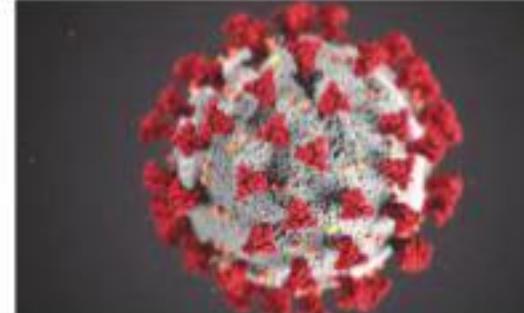
RAJU BISTA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (BJP), DARJEELING

ON THE DEMAND FOR STATEHOOD OR UNION TERRITORY STATUS FOR THE NORTH BENGAL REGION

Capital adds 124 Corona cases, 7 deaths; positivity rate 0.17pc

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE



The national capital today reported 124 fresh Covid cases—the lowest since February 16—and 7 coronavirus-linked deaths while the positivity rate dipped to 0.17 per cent, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

This is the second consecutive day that the number of Covid deaths reported in the city remained in a single-digit figure.

The fresh fatalities pushed Delhi's Covid toll to 24,914, the health bulletin stated.

Delhi yesterday recorded 7 deaths due to the viral infection, the lowest since April 1, and 135 fresh cases while its positivity rate was 0.18 per cent. On April 1, the city had recorded 9 deaths and 2,790 cases.

The city had recorded 212 Covid cases and 25 deaths and a positivity rate of 0.27 per cent last Wednesday. The day before, 158 cases with a positivity rate of 0.20 per cent and 10 deaths were reported.

Last Friday, the cases had stood at 165 with a positivity rate of 0.22 per cent, while the death count was 14. On June 14, the city had registered 131 cases and 16 deaths, according to official figures. The infection rate which had reached 36 per cent late April, has come down to below 20 per cent now. Despite a fall in daily cases in the last few weeks, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has however cautioned the people that the possibility of the third

Covid wave was "quite real", even as he asserted that his government was preparing on a "war-footing" to combat it.

Delhi was severely hit by a brutal second wave of the pandemic that swept the country claiming a massive number of lives daily, with the shortage of oxygen, hospital beds, and essential medicines making the unprecedented crisis worse.

Since April both daily cases and single-day death count in Delhi had been on the upward spiral, with over 28,000 cases and 277 deaths recorded on April 20. It rose to 306 fatalities on April 22. On May 3, the city registered a record 448 deaths.

Today's fresh cases were detected out of a total of 72,670 tests, including 52,790 RT-PCR ones, the health bulletin said. The number of cumulative cases so far stood at 14,32,292 while over 14 lakh patients have recovered from the disease. The number of active cases decreased to 2,091 from yesterday's 2,372.

The number of people under home isolation dipped to 600 from yesterday's 668 while the tally of containment zones dropped to 4,752 from 5,261 a day before, the bulletin added.

Delhi unlocks further: Parks, bars to reopen from today

Prohibited activities and services in the city will continue to include schools, colleges, cinemas, gyms, spas, and all kinds of political, social, cultural, religious gatherings

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

The Delhi government has allowed reopening of bars, public parks and gardens from tomorrow under the continuing phased easing of lockdown restrictions imposed in the national capital in the wake of the devastating second Covid wave.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in an order today stated that bars will be allowed to reopen with 50 per cent seating capacity, from 12 pm to 10 pm, from Monday.

The Delhi government also extended the opening timing for restaurants by two hours—from 8 am (instead of 10 am) to 10 pm.

The owners of restaurants and bars will be responsible for strict adherence to Covid safety measures and all official guidelines and norms, the DDMA order said.

Public parks, gardens and golf clubs will be reopened and outdoor yoga activities will also be allowed from Monday, the DDMA stated.

The prohibited activities and



SUBRATA DUTTA

services in Delhi will continue to include schools, colleges and educational institutions, cinemas, gyms, spas, and all kinds of political, social, cultural, religious gatherings among others.

The lockdown was imposed in the city amid a surge in second wave of Covid on 19 April. Many restrictions have been lifted in a phased manner with improvement in its Covid situation, starting with allowing manufacturing and construction activities on 31 May.

In its order, the DDMA said it has been observed that the number of coronavirus patients and

positivity rate have declined considerably and the overall situation has improved, but due caution and care has to be maintained for consolidating the whole process of the Covid management.

The prohibited and restricted activities, according to the DDMA order, will continue with effect from 5 am on Monday till 5 am on 28 June or further orders, whichever is earlier.

The district magistrates, district DCAs, deputy commissioners of municipal corporations and other officials as well as RWAs, owners or directors of golf clubs and yoga instructors will be

responsible for ensuring Covid-appropriate behaviour and other guidelines at the markets, malls, restaurants, bars, public parks and gardens in their areas, the order said.

"All district magistrates, district DCAs and other authorities concerned will take strict action against the defaulting persons, as per the applicable laws and rules, including closure of such establishments, business premises, weekly markets, public parks and gardens," it said.

The owners of the restaurants and bars will be responsible for strict adherence to the prescribed SOPs, all instructions as well as guidelines of the central government and the Delhi government, and compliance of Covid-appropriate behaviour, it stated.

"In case, any violation is found, strict penal/criminal action will be taken against the owner of the restaurant or bar," the DDMA warned. Agencies like the MCD, the DDA, the NDMC that own parks and gardens as well as RWAs, owners or directors of golf clubs and yoga instructors will be

responsible for ensuring strict compliance of Covid-appropriate behaviour, stated the DDMA order.

The order further cautioned that a very close watch and supervision will be maintained on the overall functioning of markets, market complexes, malls, restaurants and bars by the district magistrates, DCAs and other authorities concerned.

"If in case it is found that the Covid-appropriate behaviour is not being followed or the positivity rate or the number of COVID-19 positive persons start increasing in Delhi, then markets, market complexes, malls, restaurants and bars will be closed forthwith without any loss of time," it warned.

Other allowed activities like marriages at court or at home with maximum attendance of 20 persons, funerals with gathering of up to 20 persons, functioning of government and private offices with 50 percent staff, operation of Delhi Metro trains and public transport buses with 50 percent capacity for seating, will continue, the DDMA order added.

Unit manufacturing fake drugs meant for Covid, black fungus patients busted, 2 doctors among 10 held

PTI

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police has busted a unit manufacturing fake drugs meant for treatment of Covid and black fungus patients and arrested 10 people, including two doctors, officials on Sunday.

The medicines were being blackmarketed through WhatsApp, they said.

The police said, "The big crackdown on black-marketing offake 'injections' used as life-saving drugs in COVID-19 and black fungus led to arrest of 10 people including two doctors."

According to the police, one of the accused, Mayank Taluja (25), worked as a Covid volunteer for two-three months and came in contact with a salesman named Waseem Khan who worked at Al Khidmat Medicos.

Soon, Taluja started advertising his mobile number on various WhatsApp groups that injectable drugs for the treatment of black fungus disease

were available with him, they said. On June 17, the Drug Control department noticed the police that Taluja was involved in black marketing of drugs meant for the treatment of black fungus patients.

The police then arrested Waseem Khan from the Jamia Metro station area where he had come to deliver Liposomal Amphotericin-B drug meant for black fungus patient.

Based on his disclosure, Al Khidmat Medicos was raided and 10 more vials of Liposomal Amphotericin-B were recovered and sent for tests, police said. The owner of Al Khidmat Medicos, Shoaib Khan and his two salesmen Mohd Faizal Yaseen and Afzal were also apprehended, police said.

Polic said Taluja was also apprehended when he came to Medicos, said Monika Bhardwaj, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime).

During interrogation, the owner of Al Khidmat Medicos, Shoaib Khan, revealed that Shivam Bhatia, the manager of

Mediiz Health Care in Saket, is the source of these vials of Liposomal Amphotericin-B, she said. Bhatia, who was also apprehended in the case on June 18, informed police that he had in turn procured the medicines from a person named Sonu from Nizamuddin.

Thereafter, he supplied them to the customers at exorbitant price through his sources, the officer said.

When the police arrested Md Aftab alias Sonu (32), from Nizamuddin west, he revealed that these drugs were manufactured at the residence of his elder brother Dr Altamas Hussain, police said.

The police reached the residence of Hussain and recovered 3,283 vials of drugs (including 858 vials of Amphotericin-B injections, 206 vials in Remdesivir injections and other injections). The senior police officers said that from the recovered articles, sample of five drugs were drawn by the Inspector of the Drug Department and sent for examinations.

A laptop with images of printing material of these drugs, two high-quality printing machines and raw material used for printing labels were also seized from the premises, the officer said.

"The police analysed WhatsApp chats from the mobile phones of accused men and the names of two people -- Dr Aamir, the owner of Mediiz Health Connect, and its director Faizan -- also surfaced, Bharadwaj said. It came to light that Bhatia was their employee. They both were aware that the injections were fake and yet were involved in their unauthorised sale-purchase, she said.

On Sunday, both Dr Aamir and Faizan were arrested, police said. "A team was then sent to Deoria in Uttar Pradesh to track Dr Altamas Hussain. He was arrested and brought to Delhi," the DCP said. Dr Hussain was also arrested by crime branch of Ghaziabad in April this year for black marketing Remdesivir. He was in jail from April 29 to May 8, police said.

A video surfaced on the social media on Saturday purportedly showing the monkey roaming around and then climbing onto the handrail bar before tramping to the neighbouring coach.

The monkey was spotted around 4:45 PM as the train moved from Yamuna Bank station to IP station on Blue Line yesterday, and moved away on its own by the time it was brought to the notice of DMRC officials by passengers.

"No harm was caused to anyone and the monkey wasn't spotted thereafter in the metro premises," a senior DMRC official said on Sunday.

The clip has been widely shared on social media platforms, and has gone viral now.

In the video, shared by a user on Twitter, this unexpected visitor can be seen roaming around in the carriage and eventually settling on a seat next to a commuter.

The monkey sits quietly for some time and even rests his limb on the thigh of the commuter, and later begins to curiously look outside as the train gathers speed, passing through vegetation of the

85,907 vaccine doses administered in Delhi on Saturday: Atishi

PTI

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

A total of 85,907 vaccine doses were administered in the national capital on Saturday of which 52,060 were given to beneficiaries in the 18 to 44 age group, Delhi MLA Atishi said.

So far, 65,14,825 vaccines have been administered on Saturday and a total of 15,76,775 people have been fully vaccinated, the AAP leader said in the daily vaccination bulletin.

On Saturday, 60,443 people were given their first dose of vaccine while 25,464 received the second and final dose.

Since May 1, when the Delhi government started vaccination of the 18-44 age group, a total of 1,38,568 people in the segment have been fully vaccinated.

For the 18-44 category, the city has 2,68,000 vaccines available, including 2,38,000 Covishield and 30,000 Covaxin shots.

The Covaxin stock for this category is expected to last five days and Covishield may last 57 days.

The Covaxin stock is expected to last one more day while the Covishield will suffice for another 13 days.

Meanwhile, 9,82,744 people in the 45 plus age group have been given both shots since the beginning of the vaccination drive on April 1.

Atishi added that 8,27,000 vaccines doses were available for those above 45 years and above, including 72,000 Covaxin and 7,55,000 Covishield shots.

The Covaxin stock for this category is expected to last five days and Covishield may last 57 days.

Gambhir launches Covid vaccination drive for slum dwellers

PTI

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE



BJP MP Gautam Gambhir on Sunday launched a drive for administering Covid vaccines to slum dwellers in East Delhi constituency.

The drive began at Shashi Garden slum cluster in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar constituency.

Gambhir said free vaccination camps will also be held in other slum clusters in East Delhi.

"It is the responsibility of every citizen to fulfil the dream of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi of complete vaccination," he said.

"There is still vaccine hesitancy among the poor because of all the misleading statements and false propaganda by opposition leaders. We need to put an end to that and vaccinate everyone for a healthy society," the BJP MP said. Under the vaccination drive, camps will be held at various slum clusters every Sunday with a target to administer Covid vaccines to 500 people, according to a statement from Gambhir's office.

Since most of the people living in slum clusters do not have smartphones, camps will also be held to register them on the CoWIN portal, it said.

Monkey takes 'ride' in Delhi Metro train, video goes viral

PTI

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

A video of a monkey cavorting and roaming around in coaches of a Delhi Metro train before settling on a seat, is going viral on the social media, drawing mirth from the netizens.

The incident took place on Saturday evening when the simian entered the compartment on a train on the Blue Line of the network and abraded around in the coach and did playful antics, much to the surprise of the commuters.

A video surfaced on the social media on Saturday purportedly showing the monkey roaming around and then climbing onto the handrail bar before tramping to the neighbouring coach.

Another user said: "WHY IS THIS MONKEY RIDING THE METRO THE CUTEST THING he's just found a pal and is fascinated by the outside world AW (sic)".

But, few netizens jocularly asked the monkey to "put a mask on".

While one user made a reference to a Hollywood film and captioned his post "Ek Bander, metro ke andar," another one wrote, "A monkey found enjoying the free metro ride... But following the all metro etiquette!"

Delhi Metro services are operating since June 7 after the lockdown, but with strict Covid safety norms, and just 50 per cent of seating capacity, with standing not allowed for commuters.

In response to a tagged video post on Twitter by a user, the DMRC had on Saturday had said, "Hi, thank you for reaching out. Kindly mention the coach number and current station for further assistance."

The DMRC official said in the past too, there have been a couple of similar incidents.

Kejri: Yoga can help people in post-Covid recovery

PTI

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Practising yoga and meditation can not only improve immunity but also help in post-Covid recovery, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Sunday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Centre for Meditation and Yoga Sciences here on the eve of International Day of Yoga, Kejriwal said in these difficult times, people are feeling the need for yoga more than ever.

"In these difficult times, people are feeling the need for yoga more than ever. Yoga can not only help improve immunity in the body but it also helps in recovery post-covid."

"Those who have survived a strong case of COVID-19, need to rebuild their physical and mental health. Yoga and meditation can do that," the chief minister said.

The Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences Research University (



As any true blooded 'Delhiwallah' worth his salt will tell you, the most oppressive months of the capital in terms of weather are May and June with day temperatures hovering between 42 and 45 degrees Celsius. Nights are uncomfortable too at 30 degrees which forced the denizens to sleep in the open in olden days. Added to the sweltering heat are the hot surface winds or 'loo', as they are called in local parlance, sweeping through the day making life miserable, especially for those not having the luxury of staying indoors amid cool comforts provided by electronic devices of present times. Luckily, the weather gods have been kind this year with one of the mildest months of May in recent memory with intermittent thunderstorms and rain keeping the temperatures down. June has

also been relatively pleasant thus far with the monsoon promising to hit the capital well ahead of its normal schedule. But while nature has been merciful, the Covid pandemic has devastated life like never before. The month of May has been a veritable nightmare with countless families grieving the loss of their near and dear ones as the 'March of Death' played out its ghastly role with relentless fury. Those who managed to survive the Covid onslaught are lucky to tell the tale of their woes. The much talked about mismanagement of the pandemic by the powers that be will be soon forgotten but the tears of the grieving families, and those of the young ones rendered orphans, will be shed in silence — a grim reminder of helplessness of humans against the fury of nature, albeit man-made.

CHEER GIRLS!

Kids are known to say the darndest things and get away with it! But then they can be so candid that adults are often left at a loss for words. An acquain-

tance recalled how he was recently watching with interest US President Joe Biden's address to the joint session of Congress. As President Biden acknowledged Vice-President Kamala Harris and Speaker Nancy Pelosi —

two top women leaders — seated on the dais behind the presidential podium, our friend realised that this was the first time in history. He also noted that the two women greeted almost every announcement with a stand-

Delhi. The Master Plan could encourage industrial clusters to produce medical oxygen and all equipment required by hospitals. Delhi cannot afford to ignore this area, going by the harrowing experience it went through during the last two months. Along with this, Delhi badly needs more colleges to produce doctors, nurses and other health workers. A large number of health staff perished in the pandemic and continue to face grave threat of sickness because of overwork in the care of the patients. The rate at which

Delhi's doctor strength is growing, it could be sufficient only for conventional diseases. Delhi's development in the past five decades has seen an overwhelming growth of unauthorised colonies. If thousands of such colonies could come up on encroached public land, and get regularised later, the authorities should not shy away from giving plots for some medical and nursing colleges. The pandemic exposed a shortage of crematoria and burial spaces too. This needs to be rectified if dignity in death is con-

sidered important. Some lessons could be taken from the manner the pandemic spread easily. The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India in a periodic advisory, 14 months after the outbreak of the epidemic, said good ventilation in public buildings was as important as "Mask, Distance and Sanitation" to fight the pandemic. The Master Plan could lay down rules that this must be provided in all public or private construction. "Ventilation is a community defence that protects all of us at home or

at work. Introducing outdoor air in offices, homes and larger public spaces is advised," the advisory said. Stressing the role of local bodies in ensuring this, the advisory said that "this can be achieved only with the support and cooperation of individuals, communities, local bodies and authorities."

The Master Plan, 2041 promises nightlife in Delhi, but more than nightlife, Delhiites are now seeking ways to protect their lives, and they would accept any changes which guarantee that.

TAILPIECE

II We thought 2020 was the worst year in our lives but the first half of 2021 has proved us wrong," remarked a senior citizen following the

deadly second wave of Coronavirus.

Contributed by: Deepak Razdan, Bhaskar Roy, Asha Ramachandran and Ashok Tuteja

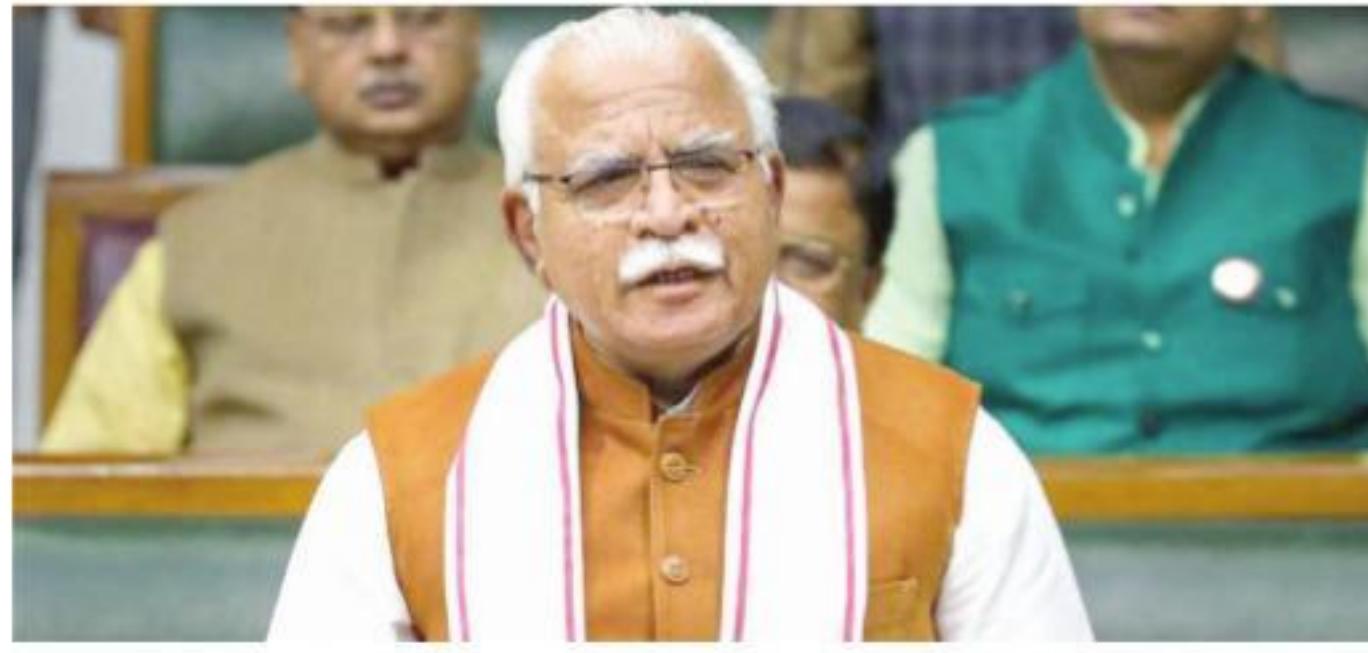
India

Haryana extends lockdown till 28 June with more relaxations

Khattar govt eases curbs on weddings, funerals; lets corporate offices run with full attendance

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, 20 JUNE

The Manohar Lal Khattar-led Haryana government on Sunday extended the COVID-19 lockdown in the state by another week till June 28, but eased restrictions imposed on weddings and funerals, and allowed corporate offices to operate with full attendance. According to an order issued by Chief Secretary Viju Vardhan, up to 50 guests can now attend weddings and funerals or cremations, up from 21 earlier, subject to strict observance of COVID-19-appropriate behaviour and social distancing. Corporate offices can now open with full attendance but there has to be strict observance of social distancing, COVID-appropriate behav-



iour and regular sanitisation, it said. Weddings can now take place in courts but processions are not allowed, the order said.

It, however, said swimming pools and spas in the state would continue to remain closed. Club houses, restaurants and bars of golf cours-

es are allowed to open with 50 per cent seating capacity from 10 am to 10 pm, it added. "Now after duly considering the fact that although Covid positivity rate and the number of new Covid positive cases have declined, so as to continue the preventive

All shops can continue to operate from 9 am to 8 pm, and restaurants and bars, including those in hotels and malls, are allowed to open from 10 am to 10 pm with 50 per cent seating capacity. The timings for shopping malls will continue to be from 10 am to 8 pm, the order stated.

The state government has termed the lockdown "Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana (Epidemic Alert-Safe Haryana)".

The number of daily COVID-19 cases, which had crossed the 15,000-mark last month, has now come down to under 300, while the count of fatalities has also registered a sharp fall. The Khattar government-imposed Covid lockdown in Haryana has been extended for the seventh time now.

HP govt seeks to make yoga part of life amid pandemic

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 20 JUNE

As the Covid pandemic enhances the significance of yoga, the Himachal Pradesh government is striving to make it a part of everyone's life as not only healthy people are benefiting from it but the ancient system is also helping patients in speedy recovery.

An HP government official said the public health crisis due to the pandemic had emphasized the importance of building immunity and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

"Many studies have proven the effectiveness of yoga in enhancing the immune system. Yoga is a combination of physical exercise, breathing practices and concentration improvement by strengthening the body and mind which in turn improves immunity."

Many yoga asanas as Shavasana and Sashasana reduce stress and increase our immune system's ability to fight antigens.

Breathing practices such as Pranayam maintains our respiratory systems and increases the efficiency of our lungs. Trikonasana improves blood circulation and ensures the optimal functioning of all organs.

Hence, practicing yoga is not only helpful in building immunity but also essential for the overall well being of the human body," he added.

The official said the 'Ayush Ghar Dwar' programme of the



state government, which was said to be the first such effort of its kind in the whole country, had helped several Covid patients in recovering from the disease.

"The programme is being run by the Ayush department in coordination with Art of Living Sanstha, Yog Bharati Sanstha, Vivekananda Yoga Center etc in which Covid patients in home isolation and general public are taught yoga and pranayama daily through WhatsApp and Zoom sessions."

These sessions are being organized to overcome mental stress and recover soon to lead a better life," he stated. He further stated that through this programme, about 53,000 people were made to practise yoga and 'Pranayama' by forming 1,327 WhatsApp groups and medical benefits of yoga were also explained.

In addition, to make yoga an integral part of everyone's life, 21 June, the day of Summer Solstice, was declared as

809 vax centres set up in HP for 18-44 age group

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 20 JUNE

The Himachal Pradesh government has set up 809 Covid vaccination centres across the state for 18 to 44 years age group persons under which 1 lakh persons will get Covid jabs on 21 June. Informing about this, a state health department offi-

cial said a massive vaccine drive against Covid-19 would commence on 21 June in the state under which free Covid jabs will be given to youths in the state. As per the guidelines issued by the Union government, the vaccines will be available free of cost to all 18 plus people at government Covid vaccination centres.

"Around 809 vaccination

centers have been established in the state and out of these 734 centres were set up in the rural areas and 85 centres in the urban areas. Approximately one lakh 18 plus eligible beneficiaries are targeted to be vaccinated on 21st June," he added. He stated that facility of the onsite registration will be provided in the tribal, hard and rural areas.

While government vaccination centres established in the urban areas falling under MCs, NACs and Nagar Panchayats will vaccinate the 18-44 years population with the option of pre-scheduled appointment online only. All eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas should come to vaccination centers only after pre-scheduling their appoint-

ment to avoid any inconvenience, he added.

He further stated that Covid vaccination will be available free of cost at all the government Covid vaccination centres.

However, the private hospitals may charge up to a maximum of Rs 150 per dose as service charge over the price fixed by the vaccine manufacturers, he added.

In addition, to make yoga an integral part of everyone's life, 21 June, the day of Summer Solstice, was declared as

Hopes for liveable Delhi



During the last 15 months, Delhiites have done little more than fighting Covid-19. A pandemic of this magnitude had never struck the capital and it exposed the inadequacy of the city's medical infrastructure thoroughly. As the pandemic took a small break during the past few weeks, and the city tried to reassess the situation, the DDA announced a draft Master Plan for Delhi, 2041. Always welcomed by the city, the DDA's Master Plan presented a vision of the city's development in the next two decades. Apart from its offer of affordable housing for the common man, and a promise to save the city's heritage and green spaces, the document's most relevant feature at the current juncture was its invitation for suggestions and objections. For what they have gone through during the pandemic so far, the Delhiites would not be surely found wanting in giving suggestions. The pandemic exposed a big lacuna in the city's public health facilities. Not surprisingly, therefore, there could be plenty of suggestions that the Master Plan provide spaces for new hospitals. As the pandemic started, nearly all hospitals in the capital shut down their out-patient departments (OPDs), where old patients meet their doctors for vital care. This was done mainly to stop the virus from spreading. Before the pandemic struck, the OPDs of some major hospitals were receiving more crowds than seen at any major trade fair. The new Master Plan could rectify the inadequacy of the city's hospital capacity by earmarking plots for new hospitals. Otherwise, the existing mess would continue, or even get worse. Delhi is currently witnessing a lot of focus on medical oxygen. This was the result of the extreme

shortage of oxygen supplies in hospitals which led to many tragic deaths. Delhi is not an industrial state. It does not produce medical oxygen. People went through unimaginable pain to get oxygen for their loved ones during the pandemic's second wave. The city which managed with just 150 tonnes of medical oxygen per day before Covid-19, needed 700 tonnes of oxygen supply every day during the peak pandemic days. Precious time was lost before neighbouring states and citizen-groups rose in action to help

Delhi. The Master Plan could encourage industrial clusters to produce medical oxygen and all equipment required by hospitals. Delhi cannot afford to ignore this area, going by the harrowing experience it went through during the last two months. Along with this, Delhi badly needs more colleges to produce doctors, nurses and other health workers. A large number of health staff perished in the pandemic and continue to face grave threat of sickness because of overwork in the care of the patients. The rate at which

Delhi's doctor strength is growing, it could be sufficient only for conventional diseases. Delhi's development in the past five decades has seen an overwhelming growth of unauthorised colonies. If thousands of such colonies could come up on encroached public land, and get regularised later, the authorities should not shy away from giving plots for some medical and nursing colleges. The pandemic exposed a shortage of crematoria and burial spaces too. This needs to be rectified if dignity in death is considered important. Some lessons could be taken from the manner the pandemic spread easily. The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India in a periodic advisory, 14 months after the outbreak of the epidemic, said good ventilation in public buildings was as important as "Mask, Distance and Sanitation" to fight the pandemic. The Master Plan could lay down rules that this must be provided in all public or private construction. "Ventilation is a community defence that protects all of us at home or

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The Master Plan, 2041 promises nightlife in Delhi, but more than nightlife, Delhiites are now seeking ways to protect their lives, and they would accept any changes which guarantee that.



Of the 135 crore population, 80 crore need free ration under 'Garib Kalyan'.
Another painful example of Modi government's 'Vikas' (development).

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

HITTING OUT AT THE GOVERNMENT OVER RISE IN POVERTY

india

THUMBNAILS



People visit Charminar after Telangana government lifts the lockdown completely, in Hyderabad, on Sunday.

AGENCIES

Wi-fi network: Indian Railways integrated all Kashmir Valley Railway Stations with wi-fi networks that would provide a public wi-fi network to users in the Valley visiting these Railway Stations.

SNS

Shalaja bags European award: Former Kerala health minister K K Shalaja has been awarded the Central European University Open Society Prize for her commitment to public health services.

PTI

Upper Bhadra project: Karnataka home minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday rejected Congress' probe demand into BJP MLC A H Vishwanath's allegations of irregularities in the Rs 20,000 crore Upper Bhadra project.

PTI

'Chirag's negative politics can be lesson for others'

Paras says LJP leader's decision to fight it alone in polls angered party workers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, 20 JUNE



LJP leader Chirag Paswan addresses national executive meeting in New Delhi, on Sunday.

In the third week of June, Chirag Paswan lost his political status within his own party, thanks to his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras who was instrumental in the coup over becoming president of the party founded by late Ram Vilas Paswan.

The overall series of events could be a learning experience for other political parties and individual leaders who indulge in negative politics.

The negativity in Chirag Paswan's politics first appeared during the 2020 Bihar Assembly election when he decided to contest on his own, and tried to inflict the maximum damage to the Janata Dal (United) (JD-U). He had then openly supported the BJP and declared himself as Humanan PM Narendra Modi.

Chirag was forced to leave the NDA due to his single-point agenda of hurting the JD-U, though both BJP and JD-U are part of NDA. Chirag's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) put up candidates on 143 seats and most of them against JD-U.

The LJP's gameplan reduced the JD-U to 43 seats in 2020 Assembly election while its seats in 2015 polls were 69. Such an approach hurt Chirag Paswan more, with his party managing to win just one seat in 2020 polls. Later, the lone LJP MLA Raj Kumar Singh, who won from Mathianni constituency, shook hands with JD-U boss Nitish Kumar.

"During Bihar Assembly election 2020, we were wanting to contest the poll under the NDA, just like the parliamentary election. Chirag objected to it and decided to go alone and could win just one seat. The party has been wiped out politically. The party workers and leaders are angry over his decision," Pashupati Kumar Paras left him.

Umesh Kushwaha, JD-U state president said: "Chirag set his own house on fire, hence, a coup by his own uncle. There has not been criticised CM Nitish Kumar. He did not indulge in negative politics."

Kanhaiya Kumar, former JNU student union president and communist leader, said,

"He has been doing negative politics since the death of his father. As a result, four MPs and his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras left him.

Paras said while pointing towards the negative politics of Chirag Paswan.

Amid political unrest in LJP, Chirag Paswan openly alleged that JD-U leaders were behind

the scene, working against him and breaking the party.

RJD also levelled similar allegations against JD-U. Shyam Rajak, national general secretary of RJD said: "Nitish Kumar is the architect behind split between Chirag Paswan and Pashupati Kumar Paras."

Responding to it, JD-U national president RCP Singh said Chirag Paswan is only reaping what he has sown.

"Chirag Paswan has done many blunders in the recent past. People of Bihar and his own party workers and leaders were unhappy with whatever he did during the Bihar Assembly polls. Now, the result is the split in the party," Singh said.

He has been doing negative politics since the death of his father. As a result, four MPs and his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras left him.

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Amid political unrest in LJP, Chirag Paswan openly alleged that JD-U leaders were behind

Paras hits back at Chirag's yatra date

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Paswan on Sunday announced "aashirvaad yatra" from 5 July, the birth anniversary of his father and party founder Ram Vilas Paswan, from Hajipur in Bihar, as he seeks popular legitimacy in a battle with the rival faction headed by Uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras.

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Amid political unrest in LJP, Chirag Paswan openly alleged that JD-U leaders were behind

Jharkhand labourers working in defence projects 'exploited': Soren

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI, 20 JUNE

Are soldiers facing enemy bullets the only ones who should get the martyr status and not our brave migrant workers?

Not a word for them ever... Hundreds of migrant workers are made to live in pathetic conditions, devoid of proper amenities and wages. They are reluctant to take up similar jobs on their return to the state.

HEMANT SOREN
CHIEF MINISTER, JHARKHAND

by involving middlemen and touts to hire workers.

Soren said that there are umpteen instances where he received migrant workers' bodies on the state's expenses with proper compensation on the kith and kin still pending. "I'm aghast at these. I'll take up the matter with defence minister Rajnath Singh," the chief minister said.

"Are soldiers facing enemy bullets the only ones who should get the martyr status and not our brave migrant workers? Not a word for them ever. They get exploited by the BRO in high altitude, uncongenial climatic and extremely harsh conditions. This is a gross injustice," he said.

"Hundreds of migrant workers are taken through middlemen and are made to live in pathetic conditions in the hilly and difficult terrains, devoid of proper amenities and wages or proper compensation. This is the reason why the workers are reluctant to take up similar jobs once they come back to the state alive. They never want to go back," Soren said.

However, the ministries of defence and home have submitted before the Central Information Commission in December 2017 that there is no term as "martyr" or "shealed" in the Army or the police and instead, a soldier or a policeman killed in action is called a "battle casualty" or "operations casualty" respectively.

Ayodhya land issue is responsibility of SC, PM to find truth: Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Trust, to find out the truth and investigate this.

"Shouldn't the Supreme Court take cognisance of the matter? The Supreme Court should discharge its duty... hold an audit of the entire transactions under its monitoring and punish the culprits," he told reporters when asked if the party would move the court.

"It is not only a question of morality, but it is also a question of constitutionality," he said and added the ball is now in the PM's court on what action he takes. The people will never forgive anyone who loots donations in Lord Ram's name.

BJP leaders had hit out at the Congress, claiming those who were opposed to the Ram temple constructions were now trying to derail it by making false and misleading allegations.

Posing five questions to PM Modi and UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Surjewala asked: "What is the reason that Modi-Adityanath ji are silent on taking action against the sinners who openly looted funds for the construction of Ram temple."

SEEKING BLESSINGS



Namami Gange activists offer prayers at Ganga Ghat on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra festival in Varanasi, on Sunday.

AGENCIES

Sudhakaran continues tirade against Vijayan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 20 JUNE

Continuing tirade against chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, KPCC president Sudhakaran on Sunday said his attack against Vijayan was personal and he would continue the attack till the CM gets ready for a political debate.

"During his visit to Lucknow, Santhosh will review the various works of the organisation, including seva hee sangathan, vaccination and other ongoing programmes," a senior UP BJP leader said and added party's working committee (Karya Samiti) is likely to meet by 30 June.

Another party leader said a few days before Deepavali (Nov), the party will come into "full poll mode" for the 2022 UP Assembly polls. PTI

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"Continuing tirade against chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, KPCC president Sudhakaran on Sunday said his attack against Vijayan was personal and he would continue the attack till the CM gets ready for a political debate.

"The political life of VS Achuthanandan, MA Baby and Shailaja are examples of his political dictatorship in the party. They can't say anything against him. There was one communist leader in north Kerala who had the spine to speak against him. Even now, when he hears that leader's name, he gets

perplexed," Congress Kerala chief wrote in the post, and mentions the name of rebel CPI-M leader who was killed allegedly by CPI-M workers.

"Many people in north Kerala turned victims of Vijayan's selfish interests and it continues in different hues and shapes.

"The state will slip into a sort of Ayodhya when a person like him gets power and this is what the state has been witnessing for the past five years. This has to be stopped. He has to be politically exposed or attacked personally. I'll not stop prosecuting Pinarayi Vijayan until the day he gets ready for political discourse, setting aside the rotten personal worship inside the party," Sudhakaran said.

Let's reconcile with BJP and PM as Central agencies are harassing: Sena MLA to Uddhav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 20 JUNE



save leaders like him from problems being created by

"Central agencies".

In his 10 June letter addressed to Thackeray, Sarnaik alleged the Congress and NCP, which are constituents in the Sena-led Maharashtra (MVA) government, were weakening the saffron party by creating divisions in its ranks and also pointed out that civic polls are due in many cities, including Mumbai, in coming months.

Sarnaik, Thane city MLA, also stated that even though the alliance with the BJP has broken, personal and harmonious relations between leaders of the 'yuti' (Shiv Sena-BJP) remain. It is better to reconcile before it is too late," the MLA said in the letter. As the letter caused a flutter, the Congress reacted cautiously, saying it was an internal matter

of the Sena while NCP state unit president Jayant Patil said he did not know any Sena workers crossing over to the Congress or NCP in Maharashtra.

Notably, the Sena had allied with the NCP and Congress to form the MVA government in November 2019 after the Uddhav Thackeray-led party fell out with the BJP after the Assembly polls over the post

of the CM. In November last year, the ED had raided premises linked to Sarnaik in Maharashtra in connection with a money laundering case being probed against a security service provider company and others.

The Shiv Sena had then called the raids a "political vendetta" and said the Maharashtra government or its leaders will not surrender to

pressure from anyone.

Sarnaik also alleged that Congress and NCP were creating divisions in the Shiv Sena ranks.

"I believe fighting a war like Arjun, instead of sacrificing oneself like Abhimanyu or Karna (of the epic Mahabharat). This is the reason that I have been fighting my legal battle for the last seven months alone without getting any

help from our leaders or our government," he wrote. Sarnaik also alleged that Congress and NCP were creating divisions in the Shiv Sena ranks.

"It is better to join hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi again as Shiv Sena feels that it would save the Sena leaders like me, Anil Parab and Ravindra Waikar from problems caused by the Central agencies," he said.

PERILS OF MONSOON



A vendor with his cart wades through a waterlogged area during heavy monsoon rains in Rajkot on Sunday.

AGENCIES

Progress of monsoon over Delhi likely to be slow: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

The progress of the southwest monsoon over parts of Rajasthan, western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi is likely to be slow as "large-scale features are not favourable" for its advance, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

Wind pattern by numerical models does not indicate any favourable condition for sustained rainfall over the region during the forecast period, it said.

The IMD on Thursday said that the impact of mid-latitude westerly on the monsoon is likely to continue till 23 June and hence its advance into Rajasthan, remaining parts of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi is not likely during the period.

It had said the monsoon flow pattern is likely to organise and strengthen gradually between 26 June and 30 June, and the further advance to most parts of northwest India.

The weather department had earlier predicted that the wind system may reach Delhi by 15 June. Normally, the monsoon reaches Delhi by 27 June and covers the entire country by 8 July.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS J&K JAMMU/SRINAGAR
Phone/Fax No.: 0194-2443033 (Sgr), 0191-2450026 (Jmu)
Website : www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail : phqjk@jkpolice.gov.in

Notification

e-Quotations regarding "Expression of Interest" are sought from Registration Chartered Accountants (CA's) for audit of different Accounts of J&K Police Welfare Funds including accounts falling under the Registered Societies titled: "J&K Police Welfare Society" & "J&K Police Wives Welfare Association" as well as J&K Police Public Schools, J&K Police Petrol Pumps & J&K Police Families Welfare Centres for the Financial year 2020-2021.

The Mail address for receipt of e-Quotation(s) is phqjk@jkpolice.gov.in / aigpw@jkpolice.gov.in which must reach this Hqrs within 15 days from the date of issuance of this notification. The detailed Terms & Conditions for conducting external Audit(s) are available at J&K Police Web Site www.jkpolice.gov



Punjab wants change. The only hope is the Aam Aadmi Party.

AAP NATIONAL CONVENOR AND DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL
DECLARING HIS VISIT TO PUNJABThe Statesman
NEW DELHI, MONDAY 21 JUNE 2021

05

'Reform is not achieved by questioning something one has taken advantage of'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Taking a dig at some of the G-23 leaders who have renewed their call for reforms in the Congress, senior leader Salman Khurshid on Sunday asked whether those calling for organisational polls have got to where they are in the party in the same manner, and asserted that reform is achieved by sacrificing, not by suddenly questioning something that one has "taken advantage of" over the years.

Days after G-23 leader M Veerappa Moily stressed the need for a "major surgery" on the party to make it electorally more competitive, Khurshid said these "wonderful phrases" are not the answer as party leaders need to sit down and come up with solutions to the challenges that have arisen in the last 10 years.

In an interview, Khurshid also said that it was for Rahul Gandhi to decide whether he wants to contest the party's presidential polls or not, but asserted that with or without being party president he remains "our leader". Asked about Kapil Sibal's call for widespread reforms across all levels of the organisation and Moily calling for a "major surgery" on the party, the former Union minister took a dig saying, "I am quite happy for the major surgery but what do you want to remove-my liver, kidney, just somebody tell me what surgery you want to do."

Khurshid, who is among the leaders considered close to the Gandhi family, said "surgery" should be done on the party but it must be made clear what one will lose and what one will achieve by it. "These wonderful phrases are not the answer; we need to get to the bottom (of the problem), we need to get to the inside, before surgery, we need to do X-rays, ultrasounds," the 68-year-old said using medical analogies.

The senior Congress leader said he doesn't understand when people say "let us do surgery, reform, bring about a fundamental change" and wishes that they would clearly explain what they mean by it. "If they mean that there should be a reshuffle and they should be given the top positions, then that is not reform or surgery. That is just saying 'I want the job'. So, I think there should be a conversation," he said. Khurshid asserted that the leaders calling for reform should have had a dis-

Weekend Covid curfew lifted from eight districts in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU, 20 JUNE

The Jammu and Kashmir State Executive Committee (SEC) on Sunday announced the lifting of weekend curfew from eight of the 20 districts, with further easing of restrictions owing to significant improvement in the situation.

However, the night curfew would continue to remain in force in Shopian, Ganderbal and Bandipora in Kashmir and Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi, and Udhampur in Jammu province, an official ordersaid. All outdoor shops and trades are permitted to open on all days, only from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m., 50 per cent of the shops in the indoor shopping complexes and Malls can open. In the rest of the 12 districts, including Srinagar, the order said daily night curfew from 8 p.m. till 7 a.m.

Andhra vaccines over one million people on Sunday

HYDERABAD, 20 JUNE

Andhra Pradesh has administered at least one dose of vaccine to one crore people and undertaking a massive drive today the state vaccinated over a million people on a single day including a large number of women, setting a new milestone. Till 7 p.m. the state has administered 13,00,361 doses of vaccine, according to figures released by the government. In fact by late afternoon the state has managed to surpass the million doses while at 5 p.m. the number of doses administered stood at 11 lakh. Districts like Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari and Krishna district registered over one lakh vaccinations each.




Yoga For Wellness

International Yoga Day

State-Level Programme in Haryana

Date - 21st June, 2021 Time - 6:30 am Onwards

Following the Corona safety guidelines, under the joint aegis of AYUSH Department and Haryana Yoga Commission

- Programmes will be organized at 1100 places in all the districts of Haryana.
- 50 programmes will be organized in each district and maximum 50 yoga sadhak will be able to attend each programme.

**Practice yoga everyday
Live your life in healthy way
Yoga is the best key
To make the State disease free**

- Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

All the people of the State, join the mentioned link to watch the live broadcast of this programme

[YouTube](https://youtu.be/AjvpVt3movU) <https://youtu.be/AjvpVt3movU>




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

VACCINE FOR ALL FREE FOR ALL

Thank You PM Modi!



World's Largest Free Vaccination Campaign

Corona Will Lose, India Will Win

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

Get Vaccinated, Stay Safe

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



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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Birth of a party

Telangana, which came into being on 2 June 2014 as the 29th State of the Indian Union by bifurcating Andhra Pradesh, will have a new political party on 8 July, birth anniversary of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, a popular former Chief Minister of the composite State of AP and father of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of AP. YS Sharmila, daughter of the late Rajasekhara Reddy and hitherto a religious propagandist, has been driven to take the political plunge and launch her YSR Telangana Party. The Telugu Desam Party, which dominated the political firmament of composite AP since the 1980s, has ceded place to the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, ruling party of Telangana since inception, and has been eclipsed in the state in just seven years.

Chandrababu Naidu, former Chief Minister, tried to promote himself as a national leader with no success and lost his hold on both Telangana and AP. The people of Telangana are grateful to the Congress for conceding their long-standing demand of separation, but the party has failed to take advantage and strengthen its Telangana unit. On the contrary, many Congress leaders have defected to the TRS. Waning of the Congress and the Telugu Desam influence has left a political vacuum in Telangana which Sharmila's new party hopes to fill. Chief Minister Chandrashekhar Rao of the TRS has stamped out all opposition in Telangana and is preparing to pass on the baton to his son KT Rama Rao by way of dynastic succession.

Though the Rajasekhara Reddy family hails from Pulivendula in Kadapa district, now part of AP, Sharmila was born and brought up in Hyderabad and has every right to be called a Telanganite. While her father was the Chief Minister, he stoutly opposed bifurcation of AP. Known for his welfare measures, he did more for the Telangana region, which was economically weaker, than the Andhra and the Rayalseema regions. Sharmila had her initiation into politics in June 2012 when she campaigned for YSR Congress Party candidates in 18 by-elections to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and one Lok Sabha seat as her brother Jagan Mohan Reddy was in jail. She attracted huge crowds during her campaign tours. In the 2019 Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, she undertook a bus yatra campaigning for the YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh which saw the overthrow of the TDP government. Not wanting his sister to face the rough and tumble of politics, Jagan Mohan tried to dissuade Sharmila from entering the fray, but she is determined to go ahead with the launch of the YSR Telangana Party on 8 July. Her Lotus Pond residence in Hyderabad is already a beehive of political activities. With state repression let loose by the TRS government's order of March 30 banning 16 organisations under the Telangana Public Security Act and declaring them as "unlawful associations," the work is cut out for Sharmila to play an effective role of opposition to the TRS oligarchy.

Dire Uncertainty

Quite the most quirky feature of the presidential election in Peru is that no winner has yet been declared for voting that took place on June 6. Pedro Castillo has claimed victory but Keiko Fujimori has not conceded. Voters were asked to choose between two radically different candidates in the second round of the presidential election. The left-wing Castillo had confronted his right-wing rival, Fujimori, in the most polarised poll in Peru's recent history. It took more than a week for the vote count to be completed but neither candidate has yet been declared a winner. With all of the votes tallied, Castillo had 50.125 per cent of the votes and Fujimori had 49.875 per cent. The data gives Castillo a lead of 0.25 percentage points over Fujimori, or 44,058 votes.

The count was carried out by the National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE), the official entity in charge of organising elections in Peru. The ONPE declared its count completed on 15 June. And yet no winner or loser has been named, reaffirming the mounting uncertainty. For all the grandstanding in Lima by Castillo's supporters, the result remains fogbound. The National Elections Jury (JNE) has said that it will not declare a winner until it has reviewed all the voting records that have been contested and ruled on requests to have votes annulled. Its president, Jorge Luis Salas Arena, said the JNE was proceeding "impartially and transparently" and urged Peruvians to wait calmly. The general mood is that the election was nothing but impartial.

The JNE hearings, in which appeals by the two parties are being reviewed and ruled on, are being broadcast live on TV and Facebook to ensure transparency. Both parties had asked for a number of voting records to be reviewed claiming irregularities, but the majority of appeals have come from Fujimori's Popular Force party. She has alleged that there has been large-scale election fraud, and last week asked election authorities to annul about 200,000 votes.

However, she provided little detailed evidence of systematic fraud, which would be required for the votes to be scrapped. She is also contesting a number of voting records ~ the sheets on which the ballot tally is recorded at the polling stations ~ questioning in particular those from some rural areas which had her receiving "no votes". With the two candidates representing very different visions for Peru, the winner could define the path the country takes for the next five years. Castillo is a political newcomer, a left-wing primary school teacher from rural Peru who was little known before the first round of the election. Critics of Ms Fujimori fear that if she were to govern, it would result in a return to power for Peru's "old guard". The country's uncertainty is dire.

Gandhi and democracy

While centralisation can't be sustained and defended without adequate force, Gandhi regarded decentralisation as an essential corollary to non-violence. He insisted that such decentralisation would be possible only in a predominately non-industrial society with the self-sufficient village as the primary unit

There is no system of government more popular and prevalent, and yet more controversial than democracy. It is a form of government based upon the fundamental assumption of equality of all individuals and of their equal rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Literally, in the memorable phrase of Abraham Lincoln, democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people. According to Mahatma Gandhi: "In its totality, democracy implies that any democratic structure entrusted with the task of development and administration is expected to be not only democratically constituted according to the principle of election but should also reflect people's free will and function according to the element of democracy both in their constitution and in their day-to-day functioning."

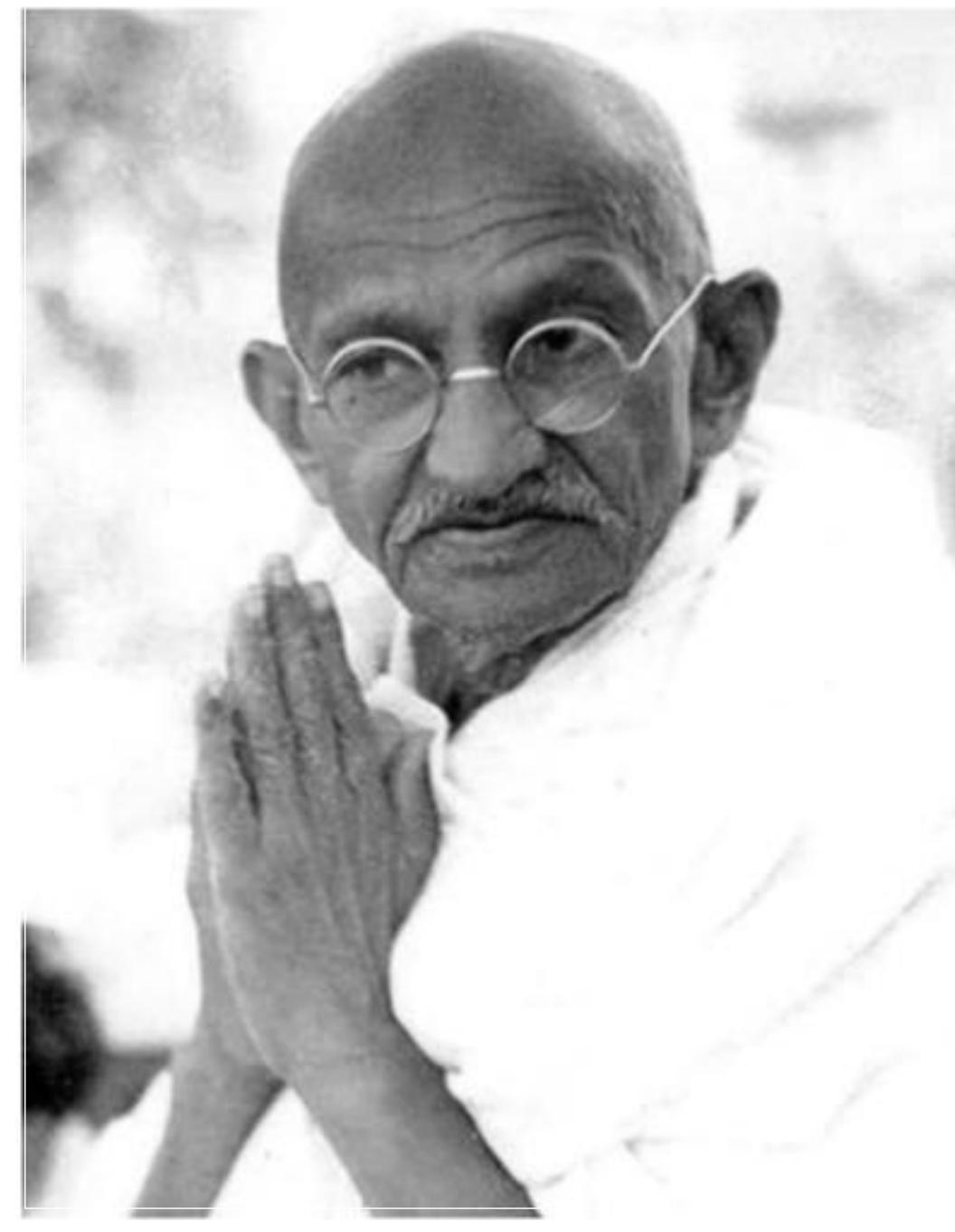
Hence, the idea behind democracy is that it involves a large number of people in the decision-making process. Its political authority is based on the will of the individuals who by a process of co-operation make decisions that are binding on the whole community. The essential feature of any democratic decision is that it is taken through discussion and persuasion.

In Gandhi's words, "There is no human institution but has its dangers. The greater the institution the greater the chances of abuse. Democracy is a great institution and therefore it is liable to be greatly abused. The remedy, therefore, is not avoidance of democracy but reduction of possibility of abuse to a minimum." The very spirit of democracy is easily wrecked here by mob rule, where 51 per cent of the people may take away the rights of the other 49 per cent. Again, the so-called majority view may really be that of only a chosen few who are able to secure the compliance of the majority. Democracy guided by majority rule hardly tolerates any opposition. The intimate link between free speech and democracy is denied. Such an attitude of the majority gives birth to anger and violence and severe criticism.

British statesman and novelist Benjamin Disraeli once said, "No government can be long secure without a formidable opposition." It is so because the opposition provides us with choices, good or bad, and as a result it gives us the power to weigh the success or failures of governments. The constant tug-of-war between the majority and the opposition keeps the government on its toes. As to policy decisions, Gandhi said, that when we "patiently try to convert our opponents then, and only then, consensus might be eventually achieved". In place of a violent display of opinion, Gandhi espoused "sweet persuasion".

According to Gandhi: "Anger proves our intolerance", adding that the "capacity to bear one another's criticisms a very important quality of public life." Corroborating Gandhi, Bertrand Russell said: "If an opinion contrary to your own makes you angry, that is a sign that you are subconsciously aware of having no good reason for thinking as you do. The most compelling reason to be violent is because we cannot win an argument by using reason."

The definition of democracy



as 'government by discussion' implies that individual values can and do change in the process of decision-making. Democracy is intimately connected with public discussion and interactive reasoning. Traditions of public discussion exist across the world, not just in the West. As to India Prof. Amartya Sen said: "In the history of public reasoning in India, considerable credit must be given to the early Indian Buddhists, who had great commitment to discussion as a means of social progress."

In his autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom, Nelson Mandela noted that as a young boy he learned about the importance of democracy from the practice of the local African meetings that were held in the regent's house in Mqhekezweni:

"Everyone who wanted to speak did so. It was democracy in its purest form. There may have been a hierarchy of importance among the speakers, but everyone was heard, chief and subject, warrior and medicine man, shopkeeper and farmer, landowner and laborer... The foundation of self-government was that all men were free to voice their opinions and equal in their value as citizens."

The notion of democracy has evolved over time considerably and, generally, the two current types of democracy are direct and representative. In a direct democracy, the people directly deliberate and decide on legislature. In a representative democracy, people elect representatives to deliberate and decide on legislation, such as in Parliamentary or Presidential Democracy. India is a parliamentary democratic republic. For Gandhi, an institution like the State or the system like the present form of democracy cannot be a final ideal. These institutions are based on political power.

On political power, Gandhi wrote: "To me political power is

not an end but one of the means of enabling people to better their condition in every department of life. Political power means capacity to regulate national life through national representatives. If national life becomes so perfect as to become self-regulated, no representation becomes necessary. There is then a state of enlightened anarchy. In such a State everyone is his own master. He rules himself in such a manner that he is never hindrance to his neighbour. In the ideal state, therefore, there is no political power because there is no State. But the ideal is never fully realized in life. Hence the classical statement of Thoreau that that government is best which governs the least."

Gandhi also pays special attention to the British Parliament which he regarded as the mother of Parliaments. In Hind Swaraj he observed: "The Mother of Parliament is like a sterile woman and a prostitute." So, for democracy both the State and the Parliament are undesirable.

Gandhi's anarchist views had been developing during his South African period. He was deeply influenced by a study of Tolstoy's The Kingdom of God is Within You in 1893. In 1904 Ruskin's Unto This Last made a profound impression on him. In Hind Swaraj (1909) he maintains that true freedom would be possible only when modern civilization is destroyed, and a new society is created. Even after his return to India in 1915, Gandhi consistently expressed his dislike for all forms of government on several occasions.

Following classical anarchist arguments Gandhi wrote against the State in 1934: "The State represents violence in a concentrated and organized form. The individual has a soul, but as the State is a soulless machine, the State can never be weaned from violence to which it

owes its very existence... I look upon an increase of the power of the State with the greatest fear, because although while apparently doing good by minimising exploitation, it does the greatest harm to mankind by destroying exploitation, which lies at the root of all progress... what I disapprove of is an organisation based on force, which a State is. Voluntary organisation there must be." But Gandhi was not indifferent, like some anarchists, to the machinery of the State so along as it was a necessity. His practical nature led him towards a full democratic control of the State; under no circumstances was he prepared to put up with totalitarianism, i.e. suppression of opposition by means of violence, even if it was in the immediate interest of the masses.

Gandhi is universally known as the most renowned theorist and practitioner of truth, love, tolerance, freedom and peace. He was concerned with the down-trodden and he had intended to alter the evil, social and economic systems of the people. The anarchists and early socialists had regarded decentralisation as axiomatic. While centralisation can't be sustained and defended without adequate force, Gandhi regarded decentralisation as an essential corollary to non-violence. Gandhi insisted that such decentralisation would be possible only in a predominately non-industrial society with the self-sufficient village as the primary unit of social organisation. This idea was implicit in the writings of Tolstoy and the later Kropotkin.

The individual will be architect of his government. He and his village can defy the might of a world. In this structure of innumerable villages, there will be ever-widening, never ascending circles. By the Gandhian conception of democratic decentralisation, the higher units of the government get their strength and power from the lower units. As a result, a Sarvodaya society has to be the basic unit of democratic decentralisation. Sarvodaya is a term meaning 'Universal Uplift' or 'Progress for all'. The term was first coined by Gandhi and later Gandhians like Vinoba Bhave embraced the term as a name for the social movement in post-Independence India which strove to ensure that self-determination and equality reached all strata of India society. In such societies everyone will enjoy equal opportunity to produce and earn sufficiently through honest work for decent and dignified living.

Those who earn more will use the bulk of their greater earnings for the good of society. In such a society, all wealth, including land, will be assumed as common property to be utilized for the welfare of all. Every adult enjoys opportunity to participate in the decision-making process, and a decision is reached through 'sweat persuasion'. There is no party system and society will be free from the evil of the tyranny of the majority.

The Gandhian conception of democratic decentralisation is very important and relevant to the present. Comparatively the concept of democracy is the best for governance. To make us alert Gandhi said: "Democracy is an impossible thing until the power is shared by all, but let not democracy degenerate into mobocracy."

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Decent work for domestic staff

Ten years on from the adoption of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s Domestic Workers Convention, much more needs to be done to recognise the rights and improve working conditions for domestic workers. When I took up my role as the regional director of ILO in Bangkok, domestic workers were at the forefront of my mind. Not only is the Asia Pacific region home to half of the world's domestic workers, but this group of workers exists at the nexus of so many areas of my own personal interest ~ the rights of women workers, health and housing, international cooperation and migration governance. For so many of us, it is impossible to think about the issue of domestic work without emotion. Many of those reading this will have had close relationships with domestic workers: in childhood, as vital household support later in life, or for those with special care needs. Others will have been able to support their families or made additional income through wages from domestic work.

Domestic workers do so much for us. They keep us safe, in comfort, well fed as well as enable work outside of our homes. When we consider domestic work in our own experience, it is often in such a positive light. The emotional bonds that are forged by sharing a home, and the feeling that domestic workers are "part of the family" are aspects of this job that make it "work like no other". However, in 2011, the adoption of ILO's Domestic Workers Convention finally recognised domestic work as also "work like any other". Known as Convention 189, it was the first international instrument to establish that, despite all the very specific and personal experiences of domestic

The Phnom Penh Post
work, domestic workers deserve protection, just like all other workers. The Convention gave fresh momentum to domestic workers and their allies who had been fighting for years to ensure that domestic workers were entitled to basic labour rights such as access to minimum wages, safe working conditions and protection from discrimination. This international recognition remains especially critical, because we know that 10 years on, many domestic workers still remain underpaid, overworked, harassed and exploited.

This year, the ILO has looked at just how far we have come over the last decade in achieving the goals of the Domestic Workers Convention. Despite some progress ~ notably the Philippines has ratified the Convention and several other countries in the region have improved legal protection for domestic workers ~ we still have a long road to travel until we realise decent work for domestic workers in the Asia Pacific. There are myriad reasons why we must use this anniversary to reinvigorate our commitment to improving conditions in domestic work. In the global push towards women's empowerment, domestic work plays a crucial role. The vast majority of domestic workers are women and the sector offers employment opportunities to those who may have few qualifications and to migrant women who may be unable to gain access to the labour markets at home and risk so much to take up these opportunities. More broadly, it is not hard to see how the varying intersections of gender and social norms have influenced the status of domestic work and domestic workers in society. Work in the home has traditionally been unpaid, and not considered an economically valuable job. Because the home has not generally been considered a 'workplace,' many countries still do not include domestic work as formal employment meaning domestic work is not yet recognised as work within labour legislation.

WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

SIR, This refers to your editorial 'Tough calls' on June 15. The four women who are incarcerated in Khorasan province of Afghanistan had left Kerala with their husbands to join the terrorist outfits like IS. They left India ignoring our national law. Are they not enemies of our country? Did they rationally think about their anti-national stance when accompanying their husbands? After their husbands were killed by Afghan security forces, these women surrendered to save their lives and are now in jail there. The government has taken an appropriate decision not to bring back these anti-national elements to India. Those who advocate grant of mercy are misguided or prejudiced against the larger national interest.

Yours, etc., Nimai Charan Swain,
Bhubaneswar, 17 June.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Boards unfair to students

SIR, I am shocked by the measures the CBSE and ICSE boards are adopting regarding evaluation of the performance of students in the upcoming class XII exams which stand cancelled in view of the Covid 19 pandemic. CBSE has evolved a 30:30:40 formula where 30 per cent of marks will be awarded on the basis of performance in the three best scoring subjects in the class X board examination, 30 per cent on the basis of performance in the class XI annual exam and 40 per cent on the basis of the pre-board examination in class XII. ICSE board on the other hand will evaluate previous six years' performance and then declare results.

Though it is very difficult to conduct offline exams now because of the pandemic, such evaluation, particularly by the CBSE, will cause tremendous

harm and gross injustice to the students. I know many students who fared poorly in Class X but have been performing extremely well in plus 2. Further as our country has been subjected to continuous lockdowns since March 2020, most schools have not conducted any annual examination for class XI students or pre-board exams for class XII students. So, how will they evaluate the performance of such students? Additionally, some school teachers are partial in their evaluation of students and give

poor marks to some and excellent marks to others. These will naturally have an effect on the overall result of students. Similarly, internal assessments by schools are also often biased. The careers of these students will get doomed.

My suggestion to all the board officials is to conduct examinations either online or offline, even if it gets delayed by a few months. This may be done by setting up more examination centres to ensure social distancing and by strictly enforcing Covid protocols, particularly in villages. In cities, exams in online mode may be attempted by setting up exclusive



centres. The Board exam is a challenge for every student, to justify his /her merit and fight against injustice meted out to them by schools. When elections can be conducted throughout the country, why not the board exams which play the most important role in shaping the careers of students? These board officials get huge salaries and perks and the boards extracts huge sums of money from those students who appeal for review/re-evaluation of their answer scripts. Why is adequate money not spent to create proper infrastructure so that exams can be conducted? In fact vaccination of these students also needs to be done on a priority basis. Lastly, I would like to appeal to the political class to forget their differences and come together at least for the sake of these students.

Yours, etc., Purushottam Chatterjee, Kolkata, 18 June.

VINATI SUKHEV

India is home to the third highest number of billionaires in the world. In fact, according to Forbes, it overtook Germany to get to this position in 2020 – the year Covid struck and paralysed the world.

It is 2021 now and India is in the grip of a second wave of the pandemic which is unprecedented in scale and visceral in impact.

So, I ask where are you?

I am puzzled by your silence and disappointed by your absence during the second wave of the pandemic, especially as there are 140 of you with a combined net worth of US \$596 billion.

Turn even a fraction of that into oxygen concentrators or ventilators or drugs or beds, or even firewood to cremate those who could not be saved – surely that is reason to give?

I am especially puzzled that in a year when almost every household in India has been led into a downward spiral of misery, fear and economic hardship, India's three richest men have managed to add \$100 billion to their wealth.

Turn even a fraction of that added wealth into gratitude or thanksgiving – surely that is another reason to give?

I am disappointed that at a time when India has turned to the world for medical and financial aid, India's rich have not stepped up to help their countrymen.

Turn self-respect and the drive to be *atmanirbhav* (self-sufficient) into motivation to raise money internally – surely that is another reason to give?

Indian celebrities seem to have got the memo though. Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma have donated personally and also used their huge fan following to crowdfund Rs 11 crore and counting. Akshay Kumar, Priyanka Chopra, Sachin Tendulkar, Lata Mangeshkar, Shahrukh Khan and Sonu Sood are among many who have made donations and appealed for help in a very public way. They have not been afraid to put themselves out there and appeal to their fans for a cause that needed their help.

Turn this inspiration from their celebrity friends into philanthropy at a time of national crisis - surely that should be an important incentive to give?

I am overwhelmed by the generosity and hard work of ordinary Indians: citizens groups, resident welfare associations, students, volunteer groups who have worked hard and selflessly through this difficult time. Whether it is Oxygen langars in gurdwaras or plasma appeals on WhatsApp, artists donating their works in aid of coronavirus relief or ordinary employees of Indian corpor-

Indian philanthropy is frugal at best

rations and banks sacrificing salaries, the ordinary Indian has been truly extraordinary.

Turn this into shame on the part of those who can do so much more – surely that is the most compelling reason to give?

I am not for a minute suggesting that the super-rich have not given – my point is that they have not given proportionate to their wealth and the giving has by and large come through their corporates (which are obliged to give as part of the CSR rules anyway). While the philanthropic giving in India tends to fall short of international and particularly American standards, I am still disappointed because I expected the super-rich to act differently this time, given the unprecedented scale of the disaster and its ramifications on the economy as a whole.

Disasters have always led to an outpouring of generosity. According to a report by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy in Indiana, within six months of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, U.S. donors gave \$4.2 billion, which is the highest total ever. They gave \$2.6 billion after the 9/11 tragedy, \$1.8 billion after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and \$1.5 billion following Haiti's 2010 earthquake, the three other largest waves of donations since 2001. A lot of this giving was fronted by American celebrities. Celebrities and philanthropists in the US give because of the motivation they hope to provide to people to follow suit.

In India we have had tragedy on a colossal scale, we have had celebrities acknowledge and act on it by rousing people to give, we had ordinary Indians giving and helping as never before but the super-rich behaved predictably. Doing just enough but no more.

The two notable exceptions to the above are Azim Premji who has committed Rs 1125 crore towards Covid relief and the Tata Trusts and Foundations who have donated Rs 1500 crore.

However, I don't want to make this into a name and shame exercise. That is almost always unproductive. Instead of dwelling on the who (did not give), I would rather examine the why (they didn't) ... surely if so many super rich people behave in a certain and predictable way through a crisis, there are systemic issues at work.

As someone involved with fundraising for an Indian NGO for

many years, all the literature and my personal experience points to this deficit in Indian giving (proportionate to wealth and capacity to give) worldwide. There are both structural and motivational reasons behind this deficit which are well worth exploring.

Motivational barriers stem from a lack of trust in the Indian system and misgivings about corruption and inefficiency. This applies to Indian philanthropy in general - at all levels, with small and large donors. It is true of Indian donors in India and NRIs wanting to donate to India. Indian giving tends to be through known and informal networks and friends who assure that "the money will be properly used."

And while I understand and sympathise with the relatively small donor who cannot make sure his donation is going to the right place; the super-rich can monitor and evaluate the impact of their giving. It should not hold them back from professionalising their foundations and giving generously, particularly at a critical time like the second wave of coronavirus. Most grant funds have a monitoring and evaluation budget built into them and there are many professional M & E agencies available in India to do the evaluation and ensure the funds are being properly utilised.

Another motivational barrier is lineage issues. A lot of wealthy Indian business families believe that they are just holding the family wealth and growing it for the next generation and therefore have no personal right to give it away. This seems supported by the fact that it is the self-made billionaires in India like Premji who are the most generous philanthropists.

Since this is a cultural barrier, embedded in Indian society and the psyche of business communities like Marwaris and Gujaratis, it will take longer to break down. But I am optimistic, I have seen these very communities lead the way on getting daughters involved with the family business, taking huge risks by venturing into new lines of business and new territories abroad. Their children, for whom the wealth is lovingly preserved and grown are increasingly exposed to western norms through education at elite institutions. I am sure it will not be long before the young scions of these eminent families lead the way in philanthropy too.

Especially at crisis times like this - when it motivates others to do the same.



research with very large donations. Why not draw these people into the public discourse and have debates and talks on what constitutes safe and high impact giving? The sharing of success stories will definitely build trust and inspire other philanthropic journeys.

Policy makers can ensure that tax incentives on donations are rewarding and due diligence on charities is effective; charities themselves can be more transparent in their use of funds. In other words, the foundation of a strong civil society is necessary if we are to grow the next crop of super-rich philanthropists in India.

And while I may have started on a disappointed note, I am hopeful for the future – philanthropy will come of age in India. There is a whole new generation of start-ups that have achieved billion-dollar valuations. Their founders are young, they are self-made and identify with post-liberalisation, westward looking India. They represent the new India: proud, confident and self-reliant. They listen to their heart, they are unafraid and I have no doubt they will give chappar phaad ke!

The writer lives in London and is Executive Director of Pratham UK, a fundraising and awareness raising organisation for Pratham's work in the education space in India. The views expressed are her own.



women who joined the fray and lent a welcome colour to the events. I confess to a certain partiality for a willowy debater from a medical institution, who later sadly left debating for the world of potions and prescriptions.

Most of the strikes, though adversarial, were in good humor and the skull lay in dressing down an opponent by wrecking his logic or undermining his facts. The method to do that varied a lot. Bishnu Mukherjee, a doctor, did it by adopting a style of quiet reasonableness and laboring a select point or two with gentle persuasion. In contrast, Narasimha Viswanathan was a suave actor and used histrionic flair to hammer home his points. Sudhan-su Dasgupta, a rotund bureaucrat, easily put everybody else in shade by sheer exuberant logic-chopping and wordplay. Listeners had so much fun that they forgot what his opponents said and always voted for him.

Compared to these stalwarts, I was young and earnest, and believed firmly in preparing thoroughly, arguing cogently and speaking passionately. I was astounded by how receptive was my audience when I came up with telling fact or a striking example. It reinforced my sunny belief that in general people are neither foolish nor closed to a new point of view.

The debates opened also a new vista, for Presidency College had no dearth of charming but sharp

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100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The threatened strike in the British engineering trade, affecting more than a million and a half of men, should it take place, will form a most unwelcome sequel to the stoppage in the British coal-fields which appears to be nearing its conclusion. The engineers form one of the most highly skilled and intelligent classes of British workers, and this fact inspires hope that, although a deadlock may be threatened in the negotiations with the employers, the folly of a strike will be avoided. All these wage disputes were inevitable, and were foreseen long ago. When the abnormal conditions of the period of the war forced up wages to excessive nominal levels, it was plain that the readjustment of wages, production, and prices, after the war, would be a difficult process. The time has now come when this process must be faced. Prices must be cheapened if products are to be sold; and the compensation for reduced wages must be found in the restocking of the markets, the abundance of commodities, and the consequent increased purchasing power of money. The engineers are as capable as anybody else of appreciating such elementary considerations as these and of realising that the choice lies between putting their industry on a paying basis. Instances have been reported in which works have realised the position and co-operated voluntarily with their employers in reducing costs of production.

NEWS ITEMS

BANGALORE MOSQUE DISPUTE

Bangalore, June 20
Despite the efforts of influential Mahomedans to bring about a settlement the persecution of loyal Mahomedans by the Khilafat extremists continues. At today's adjourned hearing of the mosque case the court was again crowded by the rival factions, and the Turkish colours were prominently displayed. Counsel for the Kazi of the Jumma Masjid, who had denied to a number of loyal Muslims the right to use the mosque, produced a number of newspaper extracts on the Khilafat Committee's meeting, containing resolutions which he contended justified the action of the Kazi. Petitioners' counsel, however, held that the extracts did not constitute sufficient evidence to justify the very arbitrary action of the Kazi. The case was adjourned.

LAJPAT RAI TURNED FROM KAPURTHALA

Lahore, June 20
While motoring from the Kartarpur-Jullundur district, to Kapurthala State yesterday, Lala Lajpat Rai was stopped at the boundary line by the Magistrate of Kapurthala, who was accompanied by the Superintendent of State Police and a large number of constables. The Magistrate told Lajpat Rai that he could not enter the State limits. On being asked to show a written order, the Magistrate said that it was not usual in the State to make written orders, Lajpat Rai, therefore, turned back towards Jullundur, where he was taken in procession through the main bazars of the city. It is understood that the Kapurthala people had made preparations to give him a rousing welcome and were disappointed at the prohibition.

SHORTAGE OF FISH AND POTATOES

Owing to the strikes on the Howrah-Amta Railway and the Basirhat Railway, there has been a shortage in the supply of potatoes and fish in the New Market, with the result that the price of potatoes has gone up from ten pice to fourteen pice a seer, and fish from about a rupee and eight annas a seer to four rupees a seer. The Municipal authorities have had their attention drawn to the shortage and steps are being taken to cope with the situation. Yesterday a Municipal motor lorry was despatched to Champadanga, a station on the Howrah-Amta Railway, for a big supply of potatoes, but owing to the bad condition of the roads had to turn back.

PRESENT FOR PLACING CONTRACTS

At the Allahabad High Court today before Mr. Justice Wallach, Charles Weston was placed on trial on a charge of cheating Baker Ali, an Allahabad merchant. It was alleged that the accused arrived at the Grand Hotel, and represented himself to be a purchasing agent of the Indian Munitions Board, placing two large contracts with the merchant for mosquito nets and flannel. The accused then, it is said, induced the merchant to give him a loan of Rs 200 and left. Mr. Lalitmohan Bannerjee, Government Advocate, appeared for the Crown, and Mr. Sorabji for the prisoner contended that the money was given as a present for the placing of the contracts and there was no cheating in it. The jury found that the money was given as a present, and that the accused was not guilty. The accused was acquitted.

IT CAME TO MIND | MANISH NANDY

Exchanging Fire



Illustration: Debabrata Chakrabarty

It was symbolic of my time in college that debates – formal, civil, pointed exchanges of opinions – were common and popular. That was in the fifties when people still believed in talking and settling differences. It changed in the next two decades when you could not say a contrary word without being accused of petit-bourgeois bias or knifed in a dark corner. Or, as in recent days,

the main auditorium in the Presidency College had the depressing name, Physics Lecture Theatre, but what transpired there was anything but depressing. The atmosphere was electric, the exchanges witty and the attacks cerebral and well-honed. No surprise the debates

were well attended. That is an understatement: the hall was packed to the gills.

Students and professors came for a good reason. The debates were a great show. The themes were provocative, such as "Marxism is the opium of the people" and "Columbus went too far," sure to draw ferocious exchanges on communism and the American way of life. Star power was not in short supply. Strangely, top-flight lawyers, eminent politicians, high court judges, party theoreticians, eloquent professors came to join the fray. Even skilled Oxford debaters turned up, courtesy of the British Council.

The beauty was that the stars mingled as equals with the hoi polloi, the ordinary students of the college. I was one of them. I had come from a perfectly ordinary middle-class family; my parents were decent, undistinguished people who did not own a house or a car. I knew I was rubbing shoulders with students whose parents were reputed lawyers, known scholars, government bigwigs, marquee politicians. It did not matter. If I could think on my feet and shoot from the hip, and make a point with vim and wit, I was as good as anyone. I could point a finger at a minister or judge and contradict him with civility doubtless but also with vigor and sarcasm. I felt like a crown prince.

I knew that I would get as good as I gave and draw barbs as searing as bullets. People would laugh at my

expense, as they did at others' expense. That too was a part of the learning experience: I learned how to take critiques, some fair and some less so. They taught me to adapt, to duck, to wriggle, to get over the occasional sting – and, of course, hit back.

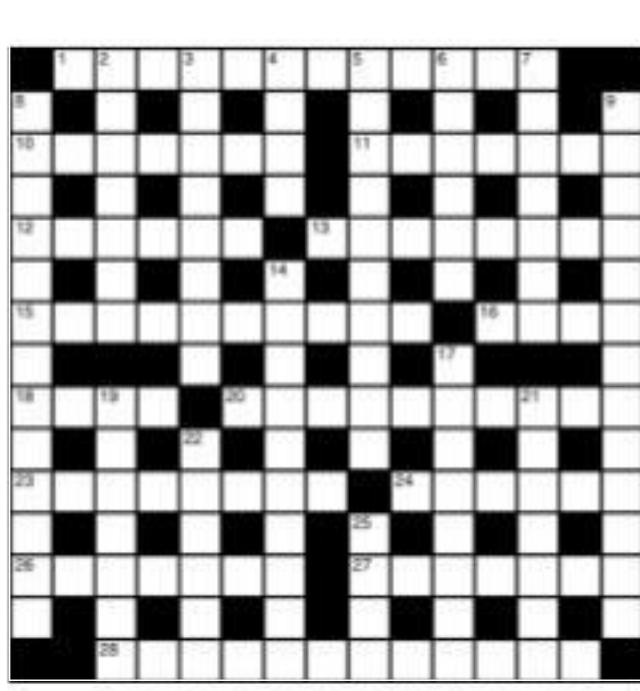
Most of the strikes, though adversarial, were in good humor and the skull lay in dressing down an opponent by wrecking his logic or undermining his facts. The method to do that varied a lot. Bishnu Mukherjee, a doctor, did it by adopting a style of quiet reasonableness and laboring a select point or two with gentle persuasion. In contrast, Narasimha Viswanathan was a suave actor and used histrionic flair to hammer home his points. Sudhan-su Dasgupta, a rotund bureaucrat, easily put everybody else in shade by sheer exuberant logic-chopping and wordplay.

Listeners had so much fun that they forgot what his opponents said and always voted for him. Compared to these stalwarts, I was young and earnest, and believed firmly in preparing thoroughly, arguing cogently and speaking passionately. I was astounded by how receptive was my audience when I came up with telling fact or a striking example. It reinforced my sunny belief that in general people are neither foolish nor closed to a new point of view.

The debates opened also a new vista, for Presidency College had no dearth of charming but sharp

CROSSWORD

NO 28949



ACROSS

- 1 Trade in continent (5-7)
- 10 In seconds, posh wine is protected (7)
- 11 Farmer, say, succeeded spreading manure (7)
- 12 Join revolution before the French (6)
- 13 Some articles say I stalked writer (8)
- 15 Offal soup's first, then we film sitcom (10)
- 16 Film villain has nothing on corona (4)
- 18 Pert, following kiss (4)
- 20 Narrow escape when bird bites husband and dog runs free (5,3,2)
- 23 Appreciate fashionable pleat (8)
- 24 Work from Poet Laureate: four letters, having eight rhymes (6)
- 26 Most of his meat not on this uncovered grill (7)
- 27 Cruel chums stripped man naked in pub (7)
- 28 The gutless star karate chopped raw meat (5,7)

DOWN

- 2 Cubs cycling through Oregon drug complex (7)
- 3 Time Telstar broadcast what Hollywood produces? (8)
- 4 Third eye oddly substantial (4)
- 5 First to replace middle of song in poet, Owen's sort of rhyme gets help (10)
- 6 In part, Dubya wrong about country (6)
- 7 Singer and model paired over a beer (3,4)
- 8 I see cop baffled before robber returns carrying scrap of gold and silver (6,2,5)
- 9 Not much in clothes shop – changed into thong (4,2,7)
- 14 Rod's witchcraft? (10)
- 17 Suffers hard in test for promotion (8)
- 19 Incomplete arrest following one northern copper's nightmare (7)
- 21 Best in The Beatles, once? (7)
- 22 Right key starts to unlock everything – salvation! (6)
- 25 Pass is in Virginia (4)

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



We should prioritise what activities should be allowed, rather than opening up everything. Avoid the avoidable activities.

TV NARENDRA
CII PRESIDENT

THUMBNAILS

Leather, its products' export jumps: The country's export of leather, its products and footwear has jumped to \$641.72 million in April-May 2021 from \$146.79 million in the corresponding period last year, the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) said on Sunday. The CLE, the apex trade promotion organisation of the leather & leather products industry, also said that there is an expectation that this growth trend would continue in the coming months. PTI

Authum & Reliance Home Finance: Authum Investment and Infrastructure Ltd has emerged as the highest bidder for Reliance Home Finance (RHF), a group company of the debt-ridden Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Group, with Rs 2,900 crore offer. Sources said lenders led by Bank of Baroda would receive Rs 2,587 crore or 90 per cent upfront and remaining Rs 300 crore within a year. PTI

Yamaha looks to capitalise: Japanese two-wheeler major Yamaha is seeking to leverage on the 'drastic shift' in consumer behaviour, with preference for personal mobility over public transportation brought about by Covid-19, and press ahead with its plans to expand retail footprint in India despite the pandemic-induced disruptions. PTI

Labour ministry: The Ministry of Labour is considering extending the timeline of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana till March next year from the existing 30 June, in a bid to boost fresh hiring in the country amid the pandemic, said sources. PTI

FIDC seeks liquidity support: Finance Industry Development Council has written to the government requesting of a refinance window for non-banking financial companies, especially smaller players, for on-lending to the MSME sector. PTI

EPFO net new enrolments rise 13.73 pc to 12.76 lakh in April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Net new enrolments with retirement fund body EPFO increased by 13.73 per cent to 12.76 lakh in April from 11.22 lakh in March this year, according to payroll data released on Sunday.

The data released by the labour ministry provides a perspective on formal sector employment amid the coronavirus pandemic. During 2020-21, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) added 77.08 lakh new members against 78.58 lakh in the year-ago period.

According to the provisional payroll data, EPFO added around 12.76 lakh net subscribers during April 2021, an increase of 13.73 per cent over the previous month despite the second wave of pandemic, a labour ministry statement said. The data

Govt open to more measures to boost economy: CEA

According to RBI, the second wave has cost the nation about ₹2 lakh crore in terms of output lost

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

The government is open to coming out with more measures to boost the economy which has been hit by the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, says Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) KV Subramanian.

He, however, added that the demand for a fresh stimulus package has to be considered against the backdrop of a host of initiatives taken by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget for 2021-22 presented in February.

The Chief Economic Advisor was responding to a suggestion made by some industry bodies that the government needed to come out with a Rs 3 lakh crore stimulus package to boost the economy which was badly hit by the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic in April-May.

According to an assessment by the Reserve Bank, the second wave has cost the nation about Rs 2 lakh crore



in terms of output lost.

"Like last year, we do remain very open to coming up with more measures as well...but I think it is really important to take into account the big differences between last year and this year when we talk about stimulus," he said.

Elaborating his point, the CEA said that unlike the previous budget which was framed before the pandemic, the 2021 budget was presented amid the pandemic and had already incorporated sig-

nificant fiscal expansion. The focus is particularly on infrastructure spending which leads to construction activity and subsequently creation of jobs in the informal sector and demand generation, he said. It was witnessed during the January-March quarter of the last financial year, he added.

The significant capital spending by the government led to a 15 per cent increase in the construction sector in the fourth quarter and the gross

fixed capital formation to GDP surged to 34 per cent, the highest in the last six years.

Emphasising that the final objective is to ensure that the economic recovery gathers pace, he said, the government will do whatever is necessary to ensure that.

With regard to food security for the poor, he said, the government has already extended the free food programme for 80 crore population till November. The extension of PM Garib

Kalyan Yojana would cost about Rs 70,000 crore, he said, adding free vaccination for all is another important economic measure.

"Vaccine as you would appreciate is by far the most important from the perspective to get back into the path of economic recovery," he said.

On the effect of the second wave on growth, Subramanian said, there will be some impact but it is not likely to be very large.

The Economic Survey 2020-21 released in January this year had projected GDP growth of 11 per cent during the current financial year ending March 2022.

India's economy contracted by less than expected 7.3 per cent in the fiscal year ended in March 2021 after growth rate picked up in the fourth quarter, just before the world's worst outbreak of coronavirus infections hit the country.

The GDP print was better than expected contraction of 8 per cent for 2020-21 as projected by the Economic Survey.

four years, has not accepted the award and has filed a 'setting aside' petition in a court in the Netherlands - the seat of the arbitration.

With Cairn seeking to recover the award from state-owned entities such as Air India, the government has said it will contest any enforcement.

Air India has time till mid-July to file a plea contesting Cairn lawsuit, three sources aware of the matter said.

The airline, which is in the process of being privatised, is likely to argue that it is a separate entity and not the alter ego of the Indian government and cannot be forced to pay for any liability of the government, they said. Air India spokesperson declined to comment on the story.

Cairn has identified \$70 billion of Indian assets overseas for potential seizure to collect award, which now totals to \$1.72 billion after including interest and penalty. The assets identified range from Air India's planes to vessels belonging to the Shipping Corporation of India, and properties owned by state banks to oil and gas cargoes of PSUs, the sources said.

Air India has time till mid-July to challenge Cairn lawsuit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Air India has time till mid-July to challenge the lawsuit filed by Britain's Cairn Energy PLC demanding that a US federal court force the airline to pay a \$1.26 billion arbitration award it had won against the Indian government in December last year, sources said.

Air India is controlled by the Indian government so much that they are "alter egos", Cairn had said in the lawsuit filed with the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. The court should hold the airline company liable for the arbitration award, the company had said.

A three-member international arbitration tribunal that consisted of one judge appointed by India had unanimously in December overturned levy of taxes on Cairn retrospectively and ordered refund of shares sold, dividend confiscated and tax refunds withheld to recover such demand.

The government of India, despite participating in the arbitration proceeding over

Petrol crosses ₹97 in Delhi, diesel nears ₹88 after another price hike

across the country to new historic highs.

In Delhi, petrol hit an all-time high of Rs 97.22 a litre, while diesel is now priced at Rs 87.97 per litre.

Fuel prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT and freight charges.

And because of this, petrol retails at over Rs 100 per litre mark in eight states and union territories -- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Among the metros, petrol is already above Rs 100 in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

In Mumbai, petrol now costs Rs 103.36 a litre and diesel comes for Rs 95.44.

Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan near the India-

BoM tops PSU bank chart in MSME loan growth in FY21

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has become top performer among public sector lenders in terms of retail and MSME loan growth during 2020-21.

The Pune-based lender recorded a 35 per cent growth in MSME loans at Rs 23,133 crore in 2020-21, according to the BoM data.

It was followed by the Chennai-based Indian Bank which posted a 15.22 per cent growth in loan disbursal to MSMEs with aggregate loans at Rs 70,180 crore at the end of March 2021.

When it came to loans to retail, BoM with nearly 25.61 per cent growth was ahead of even the country's largest lender SBI, which recorded 16.47 per cent rise. PTI

Petrol crosses ₹97 in Delhi, diesel nears ₹88 after another price hike



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Petrol price in the national capital crossed Rs 97 a litre and diesel neared Rs 88 after fuel prices were raised yet again.

Petrol price was hiked by 29 paise per litre and diesel by 28 paise, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The hike 27th in seven weeks pushed fuel prices

Saudi Aramco repon on Reliance board?

PRESS TRUST OF IN INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Saudi Aramco chairman and Governor of the Kingdom's wealth fund Public Investment Fund, Yasir Al-Rumayyan, may be inducted on the board of Reliance Industries Ltd, a precursor to a \$15 billion deal, reports said.

The company and its board of directors have considered the Sebi letter, and continue to believe that the company has acted in compliance with all relevant applicable laws, including the applicable pricing regulations prescribed by Sebi, and the AOA of the company, and that such preferential allotment is in the best interests of the company, its shareholders and all relevant stakeholders," PNB Housing Finance said in the filing. The company is evaluating further steps in this regard, it added.

42 countries and 468 cities) given that it has been one of the top 3 companies by market capitalisation in India, has a large free float and a large public shareholding (more than 3 million non-institutional shareholders)," brokerage HSBC Global Research said in a report.

And expectations are already built up for the AGM.

"Over the last year, new investors have joined RIL's digital and retail business at subsidiary level and RIL has formed new partnerships with global players like Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Qualcomm etc. Investors now expect RIL to give direction to these businesses and announce groundbreaking products," it said, adding reports suggest that it will likely announce a new smartphone partnered with Google and its pricing.

Sebi bars PNB Housing shareholders from voting on ₹4,000 cr-Carlyle deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE



Finance, which is a subsidiary of Punjab National Bank.

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

"The current resolution bearing item no. 1 (issue of securities of the company and matters related thereto) of EGM notice dated May, 31, 2021 is ultra-vires of AOA and shall not be acted upon

until the company undertakes the valuation of shares as prescribed under 19(2) of AOA, for purpose of preferential allotment, from an independent registered valuer as per the provisions of applicable laws," PNB Housing Finance said in a late night filing referring to Sebi letter to ensure compliance.

The company, promoted by PNB, said it had received

Automakers initiate production ramp-up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE



pandemic restrictions and compliance to safety protocols as also shortfall in supplies from vendor partners located in auto clusters across various states.

The country's largest automobile company, however, added that the challenges

pertaining to global semiconductor shortages continue to hamper the production ramp-up.

"We foresee the semiconductor issue continuing to adversely impact our production in the next quarter also," Chandra noted.

Mahindra and Mahindra CEO (Automotive Division) Veeraj Nakra said the automaker is carefully reviewing the demand and supply situation and re-calibrating its operations accordingly while protecting the interest of its customers, dealers and suppliers. "The endeavour is to ensure optimal level of inventory at plants and dealerships in order to be prepared for a rebound in demand once the situation returns to normalcy," he added.

As per SIAM data, overall vehicle production in May declined by 57 per cent to 8,06,755 units as compared with 18,75,698 units in April this year. Similarly, passenger vehicle production witnessed a drop of 58 per cent to 1,28,225 units from 3,05,952 units in April.

"We are ramping up production cautiously. Meanwhile, we continue to vaccinate all employees and families on priority. Over 36,000 employees have already received the first shot," the auto major stated.

Godrej Prop tops in sales bookings for FY21 among listed entities; overtakes Macrotech

Godrej Prop tops in sales bookings for FY21 among listed entities; overtakes Macrotech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Godrej Properties has become the country's largest listed real estate developer in terms of sales bookings to record Rs 6,725 crore during the last fiscal as against Rs 5,915 crore in the 2019-20 financial year.

Macrotech Developers, on the other hand, reported a 9 per cent decline in its sales bookings at Rs 5,968 crore in FY21 as against Rs 6,570 crore in the previous financial year.

Mumbai-based Macrotech launched its Rs 2,500 crore IPO in April to get listed on the stock exchanges.

Most of the real estate developers, which are listed on the stock exchanges, report their sales bookings num-

bers on quarterly and annual basis. Unlisted companies generally do not disclose their numbers.

Among other large listed realty firms, Bengaluru-based Prestige Estates Projects sales bookings rose 20 per cent year-on-year to a record of Rs 5,460.8 crore in the last fiscal year.

Sobha's sales bookings grew by 9 per cent to Rs 3,137.2 crore in FY21 from Rs 2,880.6 crore in the previous year.

In its analyst presentation, Oberoi Realty said 1.7 million square feet of saleable area were sold in FY21 with a gross sale value exceeding Rs 3,425 crore.



Hong Kong has never been absent from the country's reform and opening, providing capital, technology and talents.

HONG KONG'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE CARRIE LAM
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, MONDAY 21 JUNE 2021

09

Diplomats report progress made at Iran nuclear talks

It was the first official meeting since Iran's hard-line judiciary chief won a landslide victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIENNA, 20 JUNE

Top diplomats said Sunday further progress had been made at talks between Iran and global powers to try to negotiate and restore a landmark 2015 agreement to contain Iranian nuclear development that was later abandoned by the Trump administration.

They said that it was now up to the governments involved in the negotiations to make political decisions.

It was the first official meeting since Iran's hard-line judiciary chief won a landslide victory in the country's presidential election last week.

Some diplomats expressed concern that Iran's election of Ebrahim Raisi as president could complicate a possible return to the agreement.

Enrique Mora, the European Union official who chaired

World powers must 'wake up' on Iran nuke deal: Israeli PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, 20 JUNE

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday opened his first Cabinet meeting since swearing in his new coalition government last week with a condemnation of the new Iranian president.

He said Iran's presidential election was a sign for world powers to wake up

before returning to a nuclear agreement with Tehran.

Iran's judiciary chief, Ebrahim Raisi, was elected Saturday with 62% of the vote amid a historically low voter turnout. He is sanctioned by the US in part over his involvement in the mass execution of thousands of political prisoners in 1988, at the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Raisi has not commented specifically on the event.

the final meeting of the sixth round of talks between Russia, China, Germany, France, Britain and Iran, told reporters that "we are closer to a deal, but we are not still there."

"We have made progress on a number of technical

issues," Mora added. "We have now more clarity on technical documents - all of them quite complex - and that clarity allows us to have also a great idea of what the political problems are."

Top Russian representa-

tive Mikhail Ulyanov said the members of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, "took stock of the significant progress made at the Vienna talks, including at the sixth round, and decided to make a break to allow participants to consult with their capitals in preparation for what is supposed to be the final round of negotiations."

The nations involved in the negotiations have been trying to resolve the major outstanding issues on how to return the US into the agreement, which US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of unilaterally in 2018.

Trump also restored and augmented sanctions to try to force Iran into renegotiating the pact with more concessions. Ulyanov said he expected the diplomats to return for the final round of talks in Vienna in 10 days or by mid-July.

Iran's deputy foreign min-

ister for political affairs had already said Sunday before the meeting that, "we are now in a situation that we think almost all the agreement documents are ready, according to semi-official Iranian news agency Mehr."

"Of the main issues that remain disputed, some have been resolved and some remain, but it has taken on a very precise form and it is quite clear what the dimensions of these disputes are," Seyed Abbas Araghchi said.

The US does not have a representative at the table in Vienna. However, the administration of President Joe Biden has signalled willingness to rejoin the deal under terms that would broadly see the United States scale back sanctions and Iran return to its 2015 nuclear commitments. A US delegation in Vienna is taking part in indirect talks with Iran, with diplomats from other world powers acting as go-betweens.

Former Afghan president says US failed in war-torn country

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL, 20 JUNE

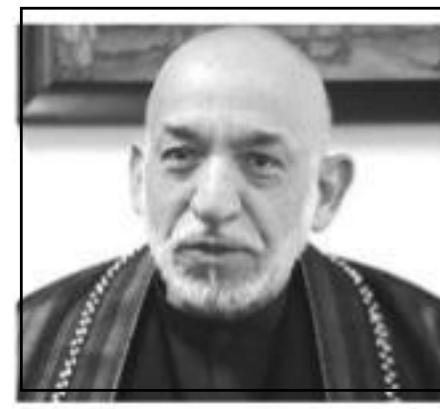
Afghanistan's former president said Sunday the US came to his country to fight extremism and bring stability to his war-tortured nation and is leaving nearly 20 years later having failed at both.

In an interview with The Associated Press just weeks before the last US and NATO troops leave Afghanistan, ending their forever war, Hamid Karzai said extremism is at its highest point and the departing troops are leaving behind a disaster.

The international community came here 20 years ago with this clear objective of fighting extremism and bringing stability...but extremism is at the highest point today. So they have failed, he said.

Their legacy is a war-ravaged nation in total disgrace and disaster."

We recognise as Afghans all our failures, but what about the bigger forces and powers who came here for exactly that purpose? Where are they leaving us now?" he asked and



answered: "In total disgrace and disaster."

Still, Karzai, who had a conflicted relationship with the US during his 13-year rule, wanted the troops to leave, saying Afghans were united behind an overwhelming desire for peace and needed now to take responsibility for their future.

We will be better off without their military presence, he said. I think we should defend our own country and look after our own lives... Their presence (has given us) what we have now... We don't want to continue with this misery and indignity that we are facing. It is better for Afghanistan that they leave.

Karzai's rule followed the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001

by a US-led coalition that launched its invasion to hunt down and destroy the al-Qaeda network and its leader, Osama bin Laden, blamed for the 9/11 attacks on America.

During Karzai's rule, women re-emerged, girls again attended school, a vibrant, young civil society emerged, new high-rises went up in the capital Kabul and roads and infrastructure were built. But his rule was also characterised by allegations of widespread corruption, a flourishing drug trade and in the final years relentless quarrels with Washington that continue even until today.

The (US/NATO military) campaign was not against extremism or terrorism, the campaign was more against Afghan villages and hopes; putting Afghan people in prisons, creating prisons in our own country...and bombing all villages. That was very wrong.

In April, when President Joe Biden announced the final withdrawal of the remaining 2,500-3,500 troops.

Pope on Myanmar: Houses of worship serve as neutral refuge

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY, 20 JUNE

Pope Francis on Sunday decried the suffering of refugees in Myanmar and pleaded that houses of worship be respected as neutral places to take shelter.

He told the public gathered in St. Peter's Square for his customary Sunday noon remarks that he was joining his voice to that of the Asian nation's bishops in also calling for humanitarian corridors.

Francis lamented that thousands of displaced peo-



pole in Myanmar are dying of hunger. Violence, including ravaging of villages, has become endemic since the army seized power in February, ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

A nonviolent civil disobey-

ance movement is challenging military rule, but the junta's attempt to repress it with deadly force has fueled resistance.

Francis noted that Myanmar's Catholic bishops last week launched an appeal, calling to the attention of the entire world, the heart-wrenching experience of thousands of persons in that country who are displaced and are dying of hunger. He added he was joining the churchmen's call for humanitarian corridors to allow safe passage for those fleeing.

US sends Taiwan 2.5 million vaccine doses, tripling pledge

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAIPEI, 20 JUNE

The US sent 2.5 million doses of the Moderna Covid vaccine to Taiwan on Sunday, tripling an earlier pledge in a donation with both public health and geopolitical meaning.

The shipment arrived on a China Airlines cargo plane that left Memphis the previous day. Taiwan's health minister, Chen Shih-chung, and Brent Christensen, the top US official in Taiwan, were among those who welcomed the plane on the tarmac at the air-

port outside of the capital, Taipei.

The donation reflects our commitment to Taiwan as a trusted friend, and a member of the international family of democracies, the American Institute in Taiwan, the de facto US Embassy said.

Taiwan has been caught off guard by a surge in new cases since May and is now scrambling to get vaccines. It has ordered 5.05 million doses directly from Moderna but so far received only 390,000, including a second shipment that arrived Friday.

Netanyahu to leave PM's place by 10 July

JERUSALEM, 20 JUNE

Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu and his family will leave the country's official prime minister's residence no later than 10 July, Netanyahu and Israel's new prime minister said.

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett succeeded in cobbling together a government in the aftermath of Israel's fourth consecutive election in two years. Netanyahu was unseated as prime minister.

China administered over 1 billion Covid doses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, 20 JUNE

China on Sunday said it has administered over one billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines in the country.

China has accelerated its pace of free Covid-19 vaccinations for the whole nation since late March and administered a billion doses by Saturday, the National Health Commission (NHC) said. The NHC, however, did not say how many people had been vaccinated. So far, a total of 21 Covid-19 vaccines have

entered clinical trials in China since last year and the government has granted conditional approval for four vaccines for emergency use.

The WHO has granted emergency approval for two Chinese vaccines, Sinopharm and Sinovac. China has also supplied and exported the two vaccines to several countries.

China's nationwide vaccination campaign is open to people aged over 18. The country has approved the emergency use of domestic inactivated vaccines on people aged 3 to 17.

Libyan guards accused of sexually assaulting minors

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, 20 JUNE

When Libyan security forces rescued her earlier this year, the young Somali woman thought it would be the end of her suffering.

For more than two years, she had been imprisoned and sexually abused by human traffickers notorious for extorting, torturing and assaulting migrants like her trying to reach Europe.

Instead, the 17-year-old said, the sexual assaults against her have continued, only now by guards at the government-run center in the Libyan capital Tripoli where they are kept. She and four other Soma-

Jordan's unprecedented palace drama moves to the courtroom

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMMAN, 20 JUNE

Jordan's version of a trial of the century gets underway this week when a relative of King Abdullah II and a former chief of the royal court are ushered into the defendants' cage at the state security court to face charges of sedition and incitement.

They are accused of conspiring with a senior royal - Prince Hamzah, a half-brother of the king - to foment unrest against the monarch while soliciting foreign help.

The palace drama erupted into the open in early April, when Hamzah was placed under house arrest. It has since broken taboos in Jordan

and sent jitters through foreign capitals, with Western powers rallying behind Abdullah, an indispensable ally in an unstable region.

The case exposed rivalries in Jordan's traditionally discreet Hashemite dynasty and spawned unprecedented public criticism of the

monarch. The defendants are the most senior establishment figures to appear before the security court, which typically goes after drug offenders or suspected militants.

As far as I know, there has not been a case this big in the history of Jordan, said defence lawyer Ala Khasawneh. He

said the trial could start Monday.

The 41-year-old Hamzah is the central figure, though he is not facing charges. In clashing narratives, he is either a champion of ordinary Jordanians suffering from economic mismanagement and corruption, or a disgruntled royal who never forgave Abdullah for taking away his title of crown prince in 2004 in favour of the king's oldest son.

The indictment, leaked to state-linked media, alleges Hamzah was determined to achieve his personal ambition of becoming king.

It says the prince and the defendants Sharif Hassan bin Zaid, a royal, and Bassem Awadallah, a former royal

adviser conspired to stir discontent.

Security agencies began monitoring them in mid-March, at a time of public uproar over an oxygen outage at a hospital in the town of Salt that killed eight coronavirus patients.

Hamzah met with bereaved families just after the king visited Salt.

The indictment alleged that the prince took advantage of the families' pain to spread a populist message.

Hamzah's popularity stems from ties he has nurtured with Jordan's tribes, the bedrock of Hashemite rule. Atef Majali, a tribal leader in the town of Karak, said he and other sheikhs have met with

the prince more than a dozen times over the years, but denied the king was criticized at these events.

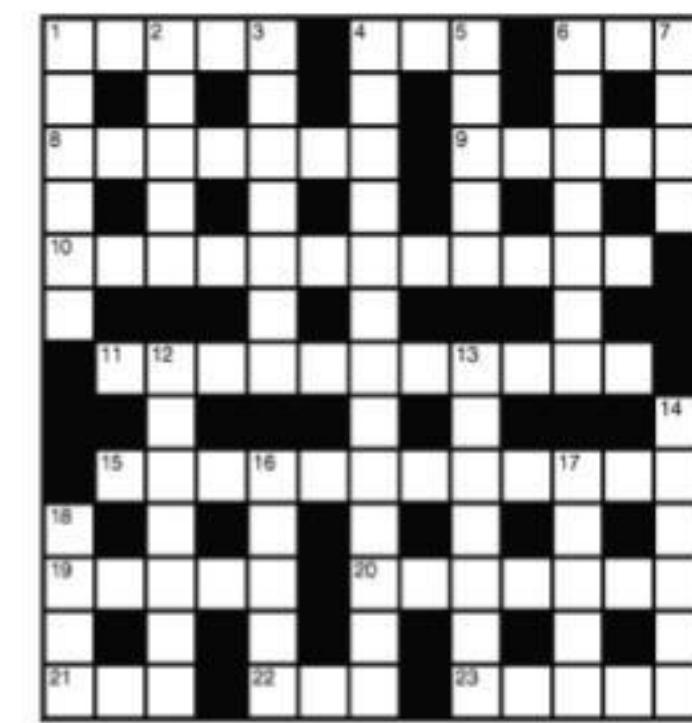
The indictment alleged that Hamzah and the two defendants were working on social media messages the prince was to post, with the aim of inciting some groups in society against the ruling system and state agencies.

Hamzah has denied sedition claims, saying he is being punished for calling out corruption and mismanagement.

On 4 April, the day he was placed under house arrest, more than a dozen tribal and public figures were arrested, including his chief aide. Only Awadallah and bin Zaid remain in detention.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Number in a quartet (4)
- 3 Seized (6)
- 5 Coupon (7)
- 8 Rolling upland (5)
- 10 Railway worker (6,6)
- 12 Sweet, of sound (6)
- 14 Wood-destroying fungus (3-3)
- 16 Branch of dentistry (12)
- 19 Arm support (5)
- 20 Spread through (7)
- 21 Erase (6)
- 22 Among (4)

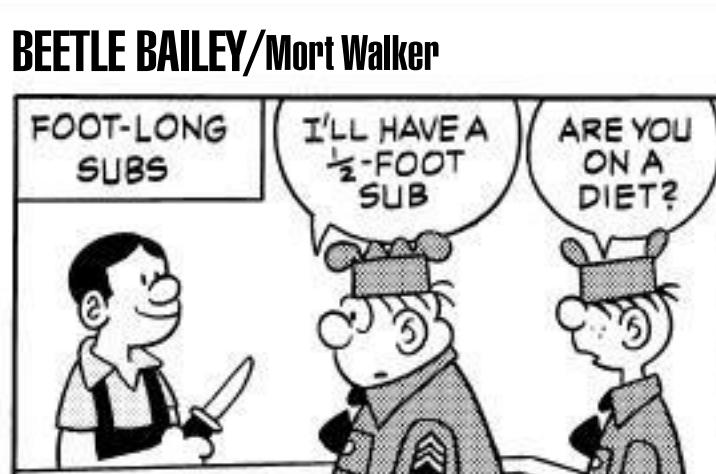
- 1 Number in a quintet (4)
- 2 Driving manoeuvre (1-4)
- 3 Eve part (6)
- 4 Insurance company agents (12)
- 5 Nevertheless (7)
- 6 Day bed (6,6)
- 7 Layers (6)
- 11 Repugnant (6)
- 13 Camp toilet (7)
- 15 Overthrow (6)
- 17 Abyss (5)
- 18 Honey drink (4)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

- DOWN
- 10 Megastar, 12 Steeple, 13 Bassoon, 14 Reverential, 15 Ethos, 16 Tribe, 17 Mole.

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



STOP THIEF!
I'LL HAVE A ½-FOOT SUB!



SOME GUY JUST STOLE MY RAIN DANCE RATTLE!
I HAVE TO SNEAK THIS INTO THE OFFICE PAST LT. FUZZ

REEDS! YOU NEED AN EXTENSION CORD?

WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU - A BABY - NEED AN EXTENSION CORD?

IT'S A SURPRISE.

Y'KNOW, "ELECTRICITY" AND "SURPRISE" DO NOT MIX AT ANY AGE.

BA.

SCRABBLE BRAND



The new ordinance will become effective on Monday.

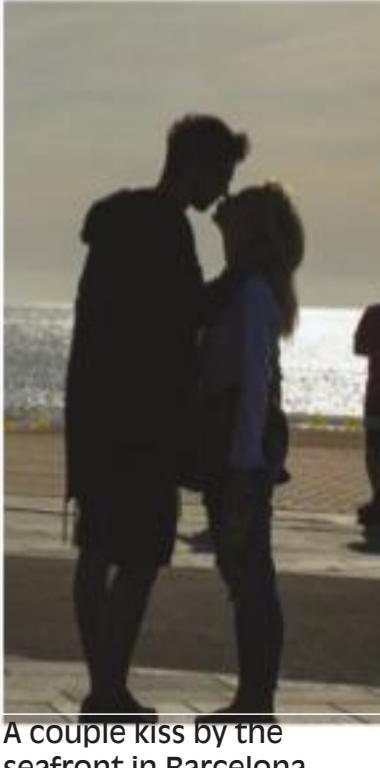
ITALIAN HEALTH MINISTER ROBERTO SPERANZA

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	31	26 R
HONG KONG	33	29 R
TOKYO	28	20 CL
LONDON	14	11 R
DUBAI	41	30 S
SAN FRANCISCO	19	14 S
NEW YORK	30	22 H
MOSCOW	32	20 H

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

THUMBNAILS



A couple kiss by the seafront in Barcelona, Spain on Sunday. AP

Five killed in Belgium school collapse: A school undergoing construction work collapsed in the Belgian city of Antwerp, killing five workers and injuring nine others, according to local authorities. An investigation is underway into the cause of the accident. AP

11 hospitalised after church bus, vehicle crash: Authorities say a church bus collided Saturday with another vehicle on a northeastern Arkansas highway, sending at least 11 people to the hospital. Clay County Sheriff Terry Miller said he believes there were 11 people aboard the Tennessee church bus, and that they were all taken to hospitals. AP

Global Covid-19 caseload tops 178 million: The global Covid caseload has topped 178 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.85 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University. IANS

UK opens Covid vaccines to all adults, over 7L jabs booked

As many as 721,469 appointments were made through the national booking service on Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, 20 JUNE



More than 7,00,000 Covid-19 jabs were booked in Britain as people rushed to get vaccinated after the National Health Service (NHS) opened up its vaccination programme to all adults aged 18 and over, the NHS said on Sunday.

As many as 721,469 appointments were made through the national booking service on Friday the day of the announcement at an average of more than eight every second. To cope with demand, the NHS said it is using stadiums and football grounds as giant vaccination centres.

"It's incredible to see the enthusiasm young people are showing for vaccination across the country, and it is a testament to the fantastic work of the team in keeping as many people safe from Covid-19 as possible," said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

From walk-in services at sports grounds, including

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and Stamford Bridge as well as Ashton Gate and St. Helen's Rugby Ground, to pop up clinics at universities such as in York and Canterbury, NHS said it is "pulling out the stops" to offer convenient vaccine appointments.

"Please encourage your friends and loved ones to do the same, as we're now in the race to the finish line. The more of us who are vaccinated, the safer we all are, and the sooner freedom can return, he said.

The bookings surge came at the end of another "bumper week", which had already seen almost 1.8 million appointments made in just three days after the NHS vaccination programme opened

their twenties have now had their first jab, said NHS chief executive Sir Simon Stevens.

"We're encouraging your friends and loved ones to do the same, as we're now in the race to the finish line. The more of us who are vaccinated, the safer we all are, and the sooner freedom can return, he said.

The bookings surge came at the end of another "bumper week", which had already seen almost 1.8 million appointments made in just three days after the NHS vaccination programme opened

up to people in their early 20s.

Some 6,92,299 appointments were made on Tuesday, when 23 and 24 year olds became eligible for a jab, with another 635,478 booked on Wednesday when the NHS vaccination programme was extended to those aged 21 and 22.

There were another 456,366 appointments made on Thursday, meaning more than 2.5 million appointments were booked in just four days since booking opened to under 25s on Tuesday, the NHS said.

So far, the NHS has given 35.5 million first doses 80 per cent of all adults and 26 million people have received both doses, meaning they are fully vaccinated. The NHS is contacting people aged 40 and over to bring forward their second dose in line with updated Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice.

Latest figures show the NHS in England has delivered over 60 million vaccinations just six months after grandmother Margaret Keenan

received the very first vaccine in Coventry in December 2020.

Meanwhile, the UK reported 10,321 new coronavirus cases and 14 more deaths, according to official daily figures on Saturday. Cases have now been above 10,000 for three consecutive days, linked to the highly transmissible Delta variant first identified in India.

While some scientists believe the UK is in the grips of a third wave of the pandemic, there are others who feel it may be too soon to categorise it as such.

"I don't think particularly. We expected that there would be an increase as we gradually opened up but I wouldn't call this a third wave," Brendan Wren, professor of vaccinology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said.

"The numbers aren't as great and given that such a huge proportion of the population are protected, then it's unlikely to go up and I'd also say that I think the population are more educated."

er, Marian Rauenzahn, lives in a nursing home in Topton, Pennsylvania.

Rauenzahn had Covid-19 and then lost part of a leg to gangrene, but Gracely said what she struggled with the most was enforced solitude, going from six-day-a-week visits to none at all.

Rauenzahn's daughters eventually won the right to see her once a week, and the nursing home now says it plans to relax the rules on visits for all residents in late June. But it has not been enough, as far as Gracely is concerned.

I believe it's progressed her dementia, Gracely said. She's very lonely. She wants out of there too.

Pennsylvania's long-term care ombudsman has received hundreds of complaints about visiting rules this year. Kim Shetler, a data specialist in the ombudsman's office, said some nursing homes' Covid-19 restrictions go beyond what state and federal guidelines require.

Administrators have been doing what they feel is necessary to keep people safe, she said, but families are understandably upset.

We've done our darndest to advocate for folks to get those visitation rights, she said. It's their home. They should have that right to come and go and have the visitors that they choose.

A recent survey by National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, an advocacy group, found time limits on visits remain commonplace, ranging from 15 minutes to two hours.

Some facilities limit visiting hours to weekdays, making it difficult for people who work during the day, or restrict visits to once or twice a week.

Former UK Speaker Bercow denounces Johnson, joins Labour



ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, 20 JUNE

Commons business and interpreting Parliament's rules of procedure.

He enraged the Conservative governments of Prime Minister Theresa May and her successor, Boris Johnson, by giving legislators chances to stymie proposed legislation about the UK's exit from the European Union.

He became a hero to opponents of Brexit and a villain to its supporters, and was recognized around the world for his loud ties and even louder calls of Order! Bercow also was accused during his career of bullying members of his staff, claims he denied. He stepped down in 2019.

Bercow was a Conservative lawmaker for 12 years until being elected in 2009 to the neutral role of Speaker, responsible for running House of

Juneteenth, recalling end of slavery, is marked across US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 20 JUNE

Parades, picnics and lessons in history were offered Saturday to commemorate Juneteenth in the US, a day that carried even more significance after Congress and President Joe Biden created a federal holiday to observe the end of slavery.

A new holiday was really awesome. It's starting to recognise the African American experience, said Detroit artist Hubert Massey, 63.

But we still have a long way to go. In Detroit, which is about 80 per cent Black, students from University Prep Art & Design School dodged rain to repaint Massey's block-long message, Power to the People, which was created last year on downtown Wood-

ward Avenue.

The o' in Power was a red fist in memory of George Floyd and other victims of excessive force by police, Massey said.

"We did the original," said Olivia Jones, 15, leaning on a long painter's roller. It's important that we return and share that same energy. Juneteenth commemorates 19 June, 1865, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, two months after the Confederacy had surrendered. It was about 2 1/2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in Southern states.

Biden on Thursday signed a bill creating Juneteenth National Independence Day. Since June 19 fell on a Saturday, the government observed

the holiday Friday. At least nine states have designated it in law as an official paid state holiday, all but one acting after Floyd, a Black man, was killed last year in Minneapolis.

In Galveston, the birthplace of the holiday, celebrations included the dedication of a 5,000-square-foot mural titled Absolute Equality. Opal Lee, 94, who was at Bid

en's side when he signed the bill, returned to Fort Worth, Texas, to lead a 2.5-mile walk symbolizing the 2 1/2 years it took for slaves in Texas to find out they had been freed.

Officials in Bristol, Rhode Island, unveiled a marker that describes the seaport's role in the slave trade. The marker was placed at the Linden Place Museum, who was a slave trader.

France elects regional leaders, preps for presidential vote



ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS, 20 JUNE

government's handling of the pandemic.

Many polling stations stood largely empty as voting kicked off in schools and community centers from Marseille on the Mediterranean coast to Le Touquet on the English Channel.

Turnout was lower than usual at midday, at just 12 per cent nationwide. Those who did show up to vote must stay masked and socially distanced and carry their own pens to sign voting registries.

The elections for leadership councils of France's 13 regions, from Brittany to Burgundy to the French Riviera, are primarily about local issues like transportation, schools and infrastructure.

The prime minister scrapped an unpopular curfew starting Sunday just in time for the election.

As Brazil tops 5,000,000 deaths, protests against president

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 JUNE



Anti-government protesters took to the streets in more than a score of cities across Brazil on Saturday as the nation's confirmed death toll from Covid-19 soared past half a million - a tragedy many critics blame on President Jair Bolsonaro's attempt to minimise the disease.

Thousands gathered in downtown Rio de Janeiro waving flags with slogans such as Get out Bolsonaro. Government of hunger and unemployment. Brazil is experiencing a great setback. The country was an exemplary country for vaccination in the world. We have widely recognised institutions, but today we are in a sad situation, said Isabela Gouljor, a 20-year-old

Get out Bolsonaro, genocidal, yelled Rio demonstrators, some of them wearing t-shirts or masks with the image of former leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva - who leads Bolsonaro in some polls.

In Sao Paulo, protesters dropped red balloons as a tribute to the victims of the virus. Bolsonaro's supporters have taken more often to the streets over the past month, in large part because many agree with his dismissal of restrictions meant to stifle the coronavirus and anger that lockdown measures have hurt businesses.

Critics say such messages, as well as Bolsonaro's promotion of disproven treatments such as hydroxychloroquine, have contributed to the soaring death toll and a sluggish vaccine campaign that has fully inoculated less than 12 per cent of the population. The country of some 213 million people is registering nearly 100,000 new infections and 2,000 deaths a day.

CUTE FRIENDSHIP



A cat and a dog sit inside a baby stroller in Seville, Spain on Sunday. AP

Australia accused of 'excessive and unnecessary' secrecy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, 20 JUNE



when a voice said guilty after Kwas asked how he pleaded.

The Australian government has refused to comment on allegations that Kledan, an Australian Secret Intelligence Service operation that bugged government offices in the East Timorese capital in 2004, during negotiations on the sharing of oil and gas revenue from the seabed that separates the two countries.

The government cancelled K's passport before he was to testify at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague in 2014 in support of the East

Timorese, who argued the treaty was invalid because Australia failed to negotiate in good faith by engaging in espionage.

There was no evidence heard in open court of a bugger operation, which media reported was conducted under the guise of a foreign aid programme.

K was given a three-month suspended sentence.

If he'd been sent to prison, there were court orders designed to conceal his former espionage career by restricting what he could tell friends and associates to explain his predicament.

He had faced up to two years in prison.

Wilkie, the lawmaker, argues Australia has drifted into becoming a pre-police state through its embrace of secrecy.

It's now unremarkable when a government cloaks something in a national security need for secrecy, Wilkie said. We don't bat an eyelid anymore. We should be outraged.

As with K, it is illegal to reveal J's identity.

J pleaded guilty in a closed courtroom in the same Canberra court complex in 2018 to charges related to mis-handling classified information and potentially revealing the identities of Australian agents.

He spent 15 months in prison.

Wilkie, the lawmaker, argues Australia has drifted into becoming a pre-police state through its embrace of secrecy.

It's now unremarkable when a government cloaks something in a national security need for secrecy, Wilkie said. We don't bat an eyelid anymore. We should be outraged.

Armenia votes in election triggered by war defeat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YEREVAN, 20 JUNE



Armenians are voting on Sunday in a national election after months of tensions over last year's defeat in fighting against Azerbaijan over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The snap parliamentary election was called by Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in a bid to resolve public anger over the peace deal he signed in November that triggered months of protests demanding his resignation. He stepped down from the premiership as required by law to allow the election to take place but remains the country's leader.

Wilkie, the lawmaker, argues Australia has drifted into becoming a pre-police state through its embrace of secrecy.

The Moscow-brokered agreement ended six weeks of fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces, but saw Azerbaijan reclaim con-

1994, leaving the region and substantial surrounding territory in Armenian hands.

Hostilities flared in late September 2020, and the Azerbaijani military pushed deep into Nagorno-Karabakh and nearby areas in six weeks of fighting involving heavy artillery and drones that killed more than 6,000 people.

Pashinyan, who came to power after leading large street protests in 2018 that ousted his predecessor, has defended the deal as a painful but necessary move that prevented Azerbaijan from overrunning the entire Nagorno-Karabakh region.

In Sunday's election, more than 2,000 polling stations will open across Armenia, with nearly 2.6 million people eligible to vote. The ballot includes 21 political parties and four electoral blocs but two are seen as the main contenders.

North-East Ruffling unforeseen feathers

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Issac-Muivah) is going all out to silence four Right to Information activists in Manipur

VAMBEM LAIBA

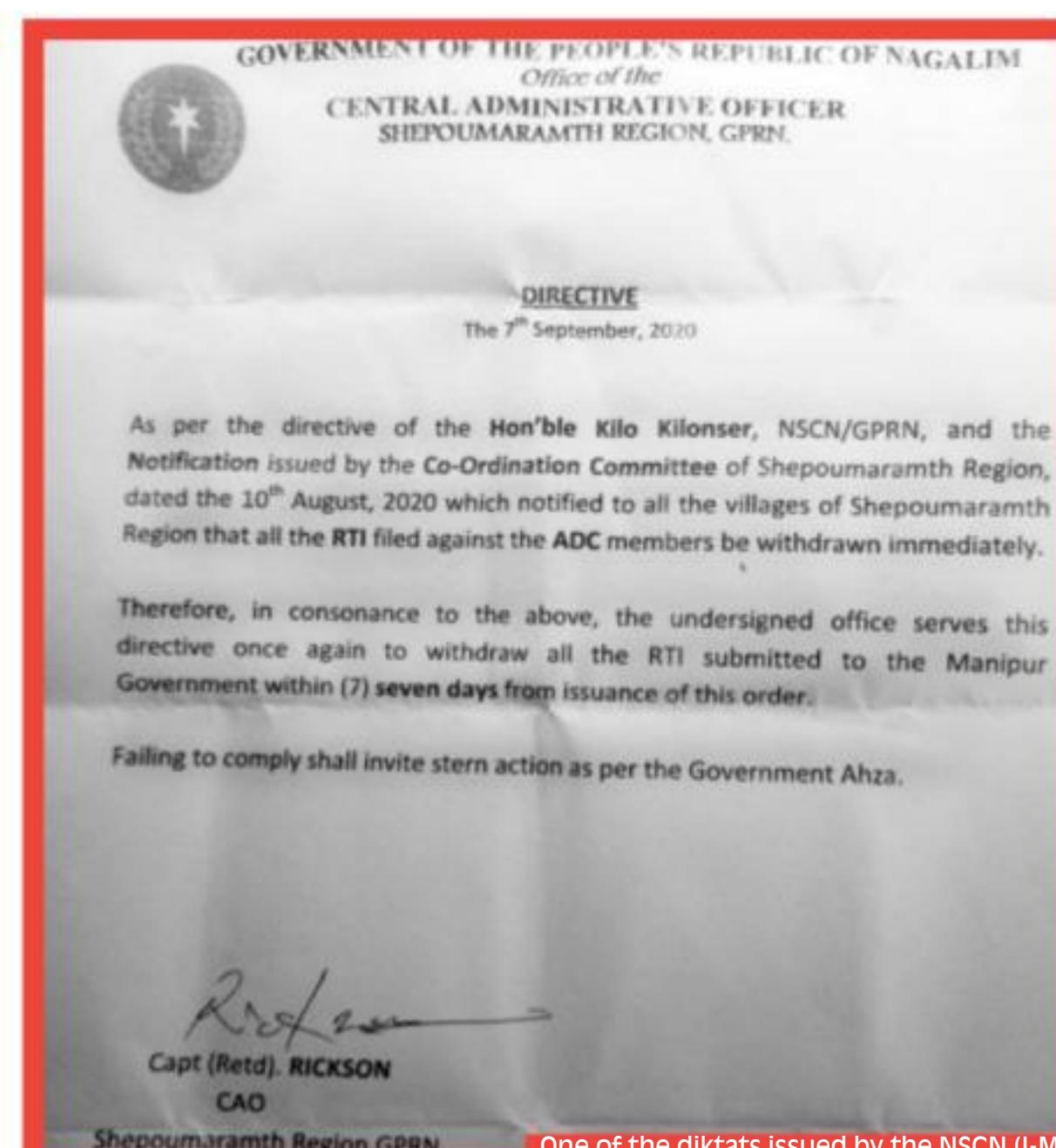
Manipur's Senapati district is the unofficial headquarters of the Naga insurgency and its frontal organisations, namely the United Naga Council, Manipur. All talks among various Naga groups, the Governments of India and Manipur are always held there. But in Senapati now, political ambitions apart, the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Issac-Muivah) appears to have made the muzzling of four Right to Information activists its agenda. They had sought replies on the usage of developmental funds for the district running into crores of rupees.

It all began on 5 November 2019 when one Kh Inoch of Phaibung village submitted an application to the state public information officer, the chief executive officer of the Autonomous District Council of Senapati. His query asked for certain information under the RTI Act regarding details of developmental works and funds meant for tribal areas in the 17-Phaibung constituency of the ADC. When he failed to get a response from the SPIO, he filed a second petition before the Manipur Information Commission (case number 18 of 2020).

After a series of hearings, the MIC issued a show cause notice to the SPIO. Instead of responding, the latter moved the Manipur High Court challenging the Right to Information Act, 2005 and questioning the authority of the MIC to issue such a notice. Undeterred by the move in the High Court, the MIC levied a fine of Rs 25,000 on the SPIO, and also asked him to provide the requisite information.

On 28 September 2019, P Johnson of Taphou Phyamai village had also filed an application under the RTI Act to the SPIO of Senapati ADC seeking information relating to funds sanctioned and execution of different works in the 16-Phurba constituency from 2015 to 2019. There was no response to that either.

Then Johnson moved the MIC, which again issued a show cause notice to the SPIO, but who approached the Manipur High Court again seeking shelter instead of reply-



ing to the notice. The MIC imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on the SPIO, with a further directive to provide the requisite information by 21 July 2020.

On the other hand, on 24 October 2019, S P Benjamin approached the deputy commissioner of Senapati district. He wanted to know the various developmental works implemented under awards of the 13th and 14th Finance Commission in the 16-Phurba area of the ADC from 2015 till the filing of the application. The DC, an Indian Administrative Service officer like the CEO of the ADC, did not bother to respond and instead went to the Manipur High Court for shelter. The MIC also served him a Rs 25,000-fine plus a further directive to furnish the requisite information.

Similarly, P R Amose of Khaibung Khonou filed an application before the

SPIO of the ADC but also met a similar fate and the matter went to the High Court. Now, all four cases are pending before the Manipur High Court.

As things kept getting stalled in court, the four activists, namely Inoch, Johnson, Benjamin and Amose, approached the Manipur Lokayukta seeking its intervention to unearth the truth behind the developmental funds. That was on 14 December 2020.

Understandably jolted, the SPIO and DC did the obvious in the meantime. Paying scant respect to the Constitutional body they had approached for shelter from penalty, namely the Manipur High Court, they knocked on the door of the ultimate beneficiary of the missing development funds -- the NSCN (I-M). The group not only runs a parallel administration in the area but is also immune from actions of the



Wahengbam Joykumar

Indian Army as a *de facto* ceasefire exists between the two sides in Manipur.

The NSCN (I-M) then dropped its bombshell on the activists. On 16 March this year, it issued an order signed by one self-styled Captain (retired) Rickson, "central administrative officer" of the Shepoumaramth region (the area covering Senapati district) of the "Government of the People's Republic of Nagaland". The order read, "As per the directive of the Kilo Kilonser (minister) GPRN, no individual/group will be allowed to file RTI to the Indian Government in any matter. Whereas any issue/dispute within the jurisdiction of Nagalim shall be resolved through Naga Customary Law (Court). It is therefore to withdraw all the RTI submitted to the Manipur Government on or before 18 March 2020 and submit it to the Region Office. Failing to comply shall invite stern action as per the Government Ahza (sic)".

It is common knowledge that much of the funds for development in the Naga-inhabited hill areas are siphoned off *en bloc* to the coffers of the NSCN (I-M). They have even murdered officials who stood up against their diktats. In this case, it might have turned out to be extremely embarrassing for the NSCN (I-M) if details were to be exposed. Such information might officially be used against them by the ceasefire monitoring cell and find reflection in the ongoing talks. The NSCN (I-M) then started cracking

down on the four activists.

First, Inoch was abducted, tortured and confined under "house arrest" in his village. The three others, Johnson, Benjamin and Amose, fled from their respective villages and are now hiding somewhere in Imphal. They were told to withdraw their RTI applications or else meet death. Oinam Sunil, the chief information commissioner of Manipur, then wrote to the director general of police Manipur asking him to provide measures to ensure the safety and security of the lives of the four RTI activists. But it was wishful thinking since police have no jurisdiction over NSCN (I-M) cadres as they are covered by the ceasefire agreement with the Government of India.

Acting on behalf of the four activists, well-known human rights defender and RTI activist of Manipur, Wahengbam Joykumar shot off a letter to the National Investigation Agency. He contended that there was no way the NSCN (I-M) would have come to know of the four activists and their queries unless they had been briefed by the CEO/SPIO of the ADC Senapati district. The NIA has responded favourably till now and interacted with Joykumar to assure him that a case will be filed after getting clearance from their head office in New Delhi. The request was for a probe into possible "terror funding" by authorities of the ADC and the office of the DC Senapati district by siphoning

off cash without doing any work on the ground for various developmental projects. This happened on 9 May 2021.

Joykumar has also written to the Inspector General of Police of Assam Rifles (South), covering the Manipur sector, briefing him about the predicament being faced by the RTI activists at the hands of the NSCN (I-M). There has been no response from the Assam Rifles yet.

Meanwhile, a meeting was also supposed to have taken place at Camp Hebron, the NSCN (I-M)'s headquarters in Nagaland, in which top functionaries, four elected representatives and the CEO of the ADC were present. Apparently, it was decided there to put pressure on Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh through a Naga minister in his Cabinet and make the NIA take it easy on the case. It warrants mention here that the NSCN (I-M)'s "town commander" of Imphal has already given orders to shoot the three activists at sight.

The question is, will the NIA dig up enough material to not only nail the NSCN (I-M) but also elected representatives and public servants, who divert public funds meant for development works to the coffers of the NSCN (I-M), ostensibly as "terror funding". The fate of the four activists, however, hangs in the balance as the state seems to be in no position to provide them protection or shelter.

The writer is the Imphal-based Special Representative of *The Statesman*

RECIPE FOR DISASTER

The dominant public discourse in Assam seems to mirror the 'benignly racist' domestic policy of Myanmar



PRASENJIT BISWAS

Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga rightfully affirmed that the state cannot turn a blind eye to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Myanmar. Mizoram has sheltered not only hundreds of Chin refugees, but it has, of late, given shelter to Salai Lian Luai, the Tatmadaw-ousted chief minister of Myanmar's Chin state.

Not only is it a notable reaction to a humanitarian crisis but also significant in the context of the Central government's vague definition of who should be considered a refugee. Not welcoming refugees or rather, not following the principle of non-refoulement shall constitute a violation of India's peremptory commitments to international law. Of course, such a welcome must be decided by the sole criterion of whether the people seeking shelter are victims of humanitarian crises like civil and politi-

cal disturbances (inclusive of religious, linguistic, ethnic, racial and other such forms of persecution) or not.

It barely warrants mention that domestic politics is not guided or governed by such enlightened legal and moral concerns, however much we wish it were so. In a recent incident reported in the media, a group of seven labourers, who had come to work in a private godown near Jorabat in Assam, was intercepted by some people and detained on the suspicion that they were illegal Bangladeshi migrants, when inter-district travel is still to be permitted. As they failed to produce identity documents to the vigilantes, the matter was brought to the notice of the police.

The nature of the incident is such that if poor labourers fail to produce identity documents, given the immense economic distress in the lockdown, they run the risk of being targeted as "Bangladeshis", even though there is very little chance of people illegally crossing

the international border amid tight security. No doubt that there are genuine cases of identification of illegal migrants after they enter Assam or India, but the exercise of checking identity papers by all and sundry runs the risk of vigilante stereotyping and stigmatisation of a section of people as "Bangladeshis".

The United Nations' International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in its very first article states, "the term 'racial discrimination' shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life(...). This Convention shall not apply to distinctions, exclusions, restrictions or prefer-

ences made by a State Party to this Convention between citizens and non-citizens."

When people are suspected to be foreign nationals and labelled "Bangladeshis", it is potentially racist, as it involves non-citizens, who are not supposed to be discriminated against. Indeed, the Constitution of India in its Article 15 prohibits all forms of discrimination on its citizens on the grounds of race, gender, place of birth, etc. When suspicion is raised on the origins of some people and they are dubbed "foreigners", it violates the letter and spirit of Article 15.

Further, Article 22 prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention of any person without procedures established by law, by taking care of fundamental rights. Article 19 grants "freedom of movement", while Article 32 guarantees "right to constitutional remedy", which read with Article 13 prohibits enforcement of any law inconsistent with fundamental rights guaranteed in part three of the Constitution. Going by the extant law of the land, a group of people cannot be subjected to a potentially degrading treatment that undermines their fundamental rights, which apply to both citizens and non-citizens. Vigilantism is a gross denial of Constitutional principles and precincts of the rule of law.

What is more significant here is not a direct invocation of racial discrimination, but an "implicit racism" of the kind that Kristin Anderson spoke of as a form of "benign bigotry" that makes prejudices underground and that characterised "prejudices that are automatic, covert, often unconscious, unintentional, and sometimes undetectable by the target". Labelling some people, on suspicion, as illegal immigrants or naming them "Bangladeshis" originates from subtle and implicit prejudices that now reside at the underground of Constitutional obligations of not harming anyone and protecting everyone from discrimination.

Seemingly, if the self-reported experience of such targeted segments of people labelled as "Bangladeshis" is taken into account, what comes out is the very "frame of reference" in the public discourse that terms them "illegal immigrants" and which makes any inhuman treatment meted out to them as "deserved" due to "their own inadequacies" such as not being able to provide identity papers. In effect, there is a public and media trial on these "suspects" or so-called "Bangladeshis" based on certain apparent markers. It is repetitively enacted as a play of subtle and not-so-subtle prejudices in public discourse.

A recent debate in Assam centres on "vaccine hesitancy" by targeting Bengali Muslim-dominated areas. It is an act of inaccurate pro-

iling as data has found that Muslim-majority districts cannot be pulled up for slow vaccination. Among the nine "vaccine-hesitant districts" of Assam, the Muslim-majority ones like Nagaon and Barpeta are in fact the fourth and fifth-most vaccinated.

Implicit, subtle and underground benign prejudices against a target populace, as Anderson said, gets directly correlated with real world events of discrimination and aggressive segregation. In his much discussed work *The Racial Contract*, Jamaican philosopher Charles W Mills had shown that members of a tribe implicitly agree to refer only to themselves when they ask for justice, by saying "only us", which is an implicit denial of justice to those who are not part of that "only us". The phenomenon of discrimination and segregation, however, cannot be used to nullify the notions of specific "indigenous rights" as that would also be equally a case of benign bigotry.

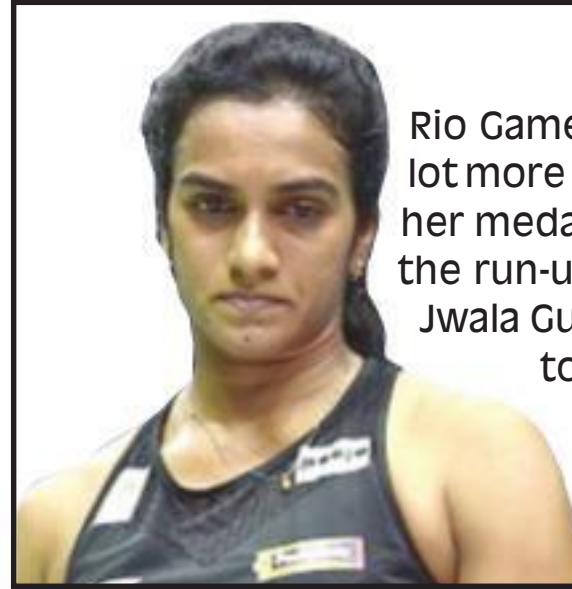
It brings us to another recent public debate about the high birth rate among Bengali Muslims in Assam, which was used to argue about an increase in the percentage of voters in eight "Muslim-dominated" constituencies like Dalgao, Naobicha, Jamunamukh, Janiya, Rupahihat, Dhing and South Salmara. Reportedly, they showed a 20 per cent approximate increase in voter numbers.

Such data was brought out in the media to counter National Family Health Survey-5 data that showed a steep fall in the Muslim birth rate in Assam. In NFHS-3, which was conducted in 2005-06, Hindus and Muslims in Assam had fertility rates of 1.95 and 3.64 respectively, while by 2019-20, NFHS-5 showed the Hindu fertility rate had fallen to 1.6 while that of Muslims had come down to 2.4. The moot point of the debate is that official data does not support the implicitly racist targeting of a community on the basis of assumed birth rates.

The increase of electors in the last five years is not due to birth rate, but because many reached the age bracket of being first-time electors. Data is twisted in absolute terms without disaggregating its composition, once again, to only target a community and justify a thesis about "illegal immigrants" in Assam.

A grave humanitarian crisis was created in Myanmar since its persecution of Rohingyas began by using the Armed Forces, which also gave rise to the persecution of ethnic minorities like Chins. As the neighbouring country has shown, if domestic policy turns "benignly racist", it is a sure-fire recipe for increased prejudices and micro-aggressions.

The writer is a philosopher and human rights activist based in Shillong

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Amrit Bose dies: Amrit Bose, a secretary of the erstwhile Indian Women's Hockey Federation (IWHF), passed away on Sunday. She was 84. Besides being IWHF secretary, Amrit carried out tenures as an international technical official and president of the Delhi Women's Hockey Association.

Swimmers miss Oly cut: Olympic hopefuls Sajan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj won a gold each in their respective events at the Belgrade Trophy swimming competition but missed the elusive 'A' qualification mark for the Tokyo Games.

Batting collapse: South Africa's bowlers backed up a solid batting performance to put the Proteas in a commanding of the second cricket test against the West Indies at the end of the second day. Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and Anrich Nortje crashed through the West Indies' top and middle order while Wiaan Mulder took three wickets for one run to wrap up the tail as South Africa bowled out the home side for 149 in exactly two sessions.

Top ten finish: Marc Marquez and Pol Espargaro continued their forward progress during an overall productive day in Germany as they secured fifth and eighth on Sunday's grid respectively in a field divided by just tenths. Having not put a fresh tyre in for Free Practice 2 on Friday, this was the first order of business for Marc Marquez who immediately jumped into the combined top ten with a low 1'21.

'PRESSURE ON SINDHU'

Rio Games silver medallist PV Sindhu (*in photo, left*) will be under a lot more pressure at the Tokyo Olympics and it will be tough to repeat her medal-winning performance given the lack of match practice in the run-up to the showpiece event, reckons former doubles player Jwala Gutta. "I hope that she gets a medal. There is definitely going to be more pressure than last time on Sindhu," Jwala said during a discussion on 'Indian badminton Prospect'.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 19 JUNE

"It will go away," sprint legend Milkha Singh had told PTI when he first got to know that he had contracted COVID-19, fully confident that his healthy lifestyle and regimented exercise routine would be enough to beat the dreaded virus.

The 91-year-old, who died at Chandigarh's PGIMER hospital on Friday night after battling the infection for a month, was in high spirits when his positive test report came on May 19.

"Yes Bachcha, I tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday (May 19). But I am fine, I have no problem, no fever, no cough. It will go away. My doctor told me I will be alright in three-four days," he had said when PTI rang him up to check whether the buzz on social media about him testing positive for the virus was correct.

A couple of days later, Milkha was hospitalised at Mohali's Fortis hospital as a precautionary measure. While there, he was joined by his former national volleyball

captain wife Nirmal Kaur, who died six days ago on Sunday because of COVID complications.

The couple shared a room before Milkha was discharged on the family's request. He was subsequently hospitalised again on June 3 after his oxygen saturation levels dipped, this time at the PGIMER where he battled it out till Friday night.

"Our cook had fever but he concealed it from us. We sent him to his home (native village). After that we thought it's better that all the family members should get COVID-19 tests done," Milkha had said during the May 20 conversation detailing what exactly led to the positive tests.

"I am surprised. How could I get this infection?" he wondered.

At that point Milkha did not feel any symptoms and said that he had even been jogging and exercising.

"I have been keeping indoors except for morning jogging and exercise. I did jogging just yesterday. Don't worry, I am in good spirits," he asserted.

One-off women's Test: Sneh, Taniya take India to fighting draw

AGENCIES

BRISTOL, 20 JUNE

Powered by a gritty unbeaten 80 (154 balls) by debutant Sneh Rana and her unfinished 104-run partnership for the ninth wicket with Taniya Bhatia (44 not out, 88 balls), India stole a draw in the one-off women's Test against England here on Saturday.

Sneh became the first Indian woman cricketer to take four wickets and score a half-century in Test cricket.

India, who had looked down and out at one point in time when they were at 199 for seven wickets while following on before tea, saw gritty batting from the lower order against an England bowling attack that seemed to be tiring. After Deepti Sharma (54 off 168), opener Shafali Verma (63 off 83), and Punam Raut (39 off 104) had provided a strong platform for India, the middle-order crumbled. India lost four wickets for 24 runs to be reduced to 199/7 from 171/3 and were in danger of losing the match before the tea

'PRESSURE ON SINDHU'

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'Shafali will be very important for us in all formats'

Shafali Verma's spectacular debut has caught the imagination of the Indian women's team Test skipper Mithali Raj, who feels the teenager would be a key member of the side in all the formats of the game in future. The 17-year-old, who had smashed a stroke-filled 96 in the first innings, made 63 in the second innings, to become the youngest woman and fourth overall to score twin half-centuries in her debut Test and was rightfully adjudged player-of-the-match.

"She will be very, very important to the Indian batting unit in all formats. She beautifully adapted to this format," Mithali said in a virtual media interaction after India, following on, salvaged a draw in the one-off Test against England.

"She didn't go like how she would go bonkers in the T20 format. She played sensibly against the new ball and it's great to have her." Asked what prompted the Indian team management

break. However, a 41-run partnership in just under 17 overs between Sneh and Shikha Pandey (18 off 50 balls) helped India stretch England and give some hope. After Shikha was dismissed, Sneh and Taniya buckled down and batted for 30.4 overs to save the Test for India.

For England, left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone was the most successful bowler with 4/118 in

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WTC final: New Zealand 36/0 replying to India's 217

AGENCIES
SOUTHAMPTON, 20 JUNE

Kyle Jamieson (*in photo, right*) continued his love affair with the Indian team, tormenting the star-studded line-up with disconcerting bounce and swing as New Zealand bowled out the opposition for 217 on day three of the World Test Championship final here.

Jamieson decimated India with marvellous figures of 22-12-31-5 as New Zealand took control of the Test match by reaching 36 for no loss at tea.

Openers Devon Conway (18 batting) and Tom Latham (17 batting) negotiated the Indian pace attack pretty well.

However, it was 6 feet 8 inch tall Jamieson, who after last year's series in New Zealand, has once again turned into a nightmare for the Indian batsmen.

Having removed Rohit Sharma on Saturday morning, Jamieson was relentless with his length and the bounce did the rest with clever traps laid for skipper Virat Kohli and the dangerous Rishabh Pant.

Kohli and his deputy Ajinkya Rahane walked into a nicely laid trap as India failed to reach 250, a good total in the prevailing conditions as per bat-



crease and got one to aim at rival skipper's boot laces.

Kohli had shaped for an away going delivery and the balance of his head was tilted outside the off-stump, leaving him in tangle and the DRS review that he took was a waste of time.

Rishabh Pant (4) didn't score a run for 19 balls and then got a boundary with a flick through mid-wicket. Two balls later, he took the bait when Jamieson angled one on the imaginary fifth off-stump. He went for an expansive drive only to be snapped in the third slip by Tom Latham.

Once the 61-run stand with Kohli had ended, Rahane (49, 119 balls) sensed that the scoreboard needed a move on

and started playing a few shots.

But perhaps, the milestone was working on his mind and despite playing a mistimed pull-shot one ball earlier, Wagner with his signature short ball prevented him from reaching a well-deserved fifty.

SCOREBOARD

India 1st Innings: (Overnight 146/3)	Fall of Wickets: 1-62, 2-63, 3-88, 4-149,
R Sharma c Southee b Jamieson 34	5-156, 6-182, 7-205, 8-213, 9-213.
S Gill c Watling b Wagner 28	Bowling: Southee 22-6-64-1, Boult 21-1-
C Pujara lbw b Boult 8	4-47-2, Kyle 22-12-31-5, Colin de
V Kohli lbw b Jamieson 44	Grandhomme 12-6-32-0, Wagner 15-5-
A Rahane c Latham b Wagner 49	40-2.
R Pant c Latham b Jamieson 4	New Zealand 1st Innings:
R Jadeja c Latham b Southee 15	Tom Latham batting 17
R Ashwin c Latham b Southee 22	Dev Conway batting 18
I Sharma c Taylor b Jamieson 4	Extras: (LB-1) 1
J Bumrah lbw b Jamieson 0	Total: (For no loss in 21 overs) 36
Shami not out 4	Bowling: Ishant Sharma 7-2-8-0, Jasprit Bumrah 5-1-10-0, Mohammed Shami 6-14-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 3-2-3-0.
Extras: (LB-3 NB-2) 5	Total: (all out in 92.1 overs) 217

Fall of Wickets: 1-62, 2-63, 3-88, 4-149,

5-156, 6-182, 7-205, 8-213, 9-213.

Bowling: Southee 22-6-64-1, Boult 21-1-

4-47-2, Kyle 22-12-31-5, Colin de

Grandhomme 12-6-32-0, Wagner 15-5-

40-2.

New Zealand 1st Innings:

Tom Latham batting 17

Dev Conway batting 18

Extras: (LB-1) 1

Total: (For no loss in 21 overs) 36

Bowling: Ishant Sharma 7-2-8-0, Jasprit Bumrah 5-1-10-0, Mohammed Shami 6-14-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 3-2-3-0.

Jamieson decimated India with marvellous figures of 22-12-31-5 as New Zealand took control of the Test match by reaching 36 for no loss at tea.

Rahane's disappointment was evident as he fell into the trap to play the pull-shot despite knowing that Wagner had kept a deep fine leg and long leg for the shot.

His pull didn't have the elevation as Wagner hurried him with the ball climbing on him sharply and Latham took a simple catch at mid-wicket.

Ravichandran Ashwin (22, 27 balls) threw his bat around and got some useful runs but was never going to last long as Tim Southee (22-6-64-1) took care of him just before lunch break.

Post-lunch break, Jamieson removed Ishant Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah off successive deliveries but Mohammed Shami prevented him from completing a hat-trick.

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Archery: Indian women's team fail to qualify for Olympics

AGENCIES
PARIS, 20 JUNE

World Cup champion Indian women's recurve team failed to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics after a tame loss to lower-ranked Colombia in the Final Qualifier here on Sunday. It was the last opportunity for the Indians to upgrade their single women's quota place to team invitation in Tokyo but they failed to make it.

Deepika Kumari will now be the sole entry in the women's section in the Tokyo Games. She will be in her third successive Olympics. India has already secured the men's team quota

for the Olympics from the World Championships in Den Bosch, the Netherlands in 2019. The fancied Indian women's team had to finish among the top-three in a field of 28 to make the cut but it lost in the opening round, putting up a disappointing performance. The trio of world number three Deepika, Ankita Bhakat and 19-year-old Komalika Bari failed to win any set to be blanked 0-6 by the Colombian counterparts. The Colombian trio of Ana Maria Rendon, Valentina Acosta Giraldo and Maira Sepulveda shot consistently and started off with a two perfect 10s, including one arrow closest to the centre (X), to take the first set 55-54.

Euro 2020: Germany stun Portugal 4-2 to keep last-16 hopes alive

AGENCIES
MUNICH, 20 JUNE

Germany bounced back in style and overpowered defending champions Portugal in a six-goal thriller in Euro 2020 Group F at the Football Arena Munich.

The Germans came out flying on home soil on Saturday and though they got rewarded for their powerful start, but Robin Gossens' goal from a tight angle was flagged offside in the fifth minute, Xinhua news agency reported.

Even though Germany were dominating, it was Portugal who broke the deadlock as Cristiano Ronaldo showed no mercy and tapped home a counterattack 10 minutes later. Despite Portugal's opener, Germany remained unimpressed and hit back with great assistance from the Portuguese, who couldn't put up a resistance in the 35th minute when Ruben Dias cleared Gossens' dangerous low cross into the wrong goal to level the scores.

Germany were menacing with every attack while Portugal's defence had its hands full as the clock ticked. The hosts eventually got rewarded for their efforts as Raphael Guerreiro accidentally diverted Joshua Kimmich's shot across the goal into the wrong target six minutes before the break.

Portugal weren't able to hold the pace and had to concede another goal after Kimmich's pinpoint cross to the far post allowed an unmarked Gossens to get his name on the scoreboards at the hour mark.

Portugal came to life again but couldn't do more damage as Renato Sanches' thunder strike to the bar remained only

a warning in the closing stages. "Overall, a great performance by my team despite our situation. The team showed great will, we created a lot of chances and I think it is a deserved 4-2 victory," said Germany head coach Low. With the result, France (4 points) remain atop the standings in Group F followed by Germany (3 points), Portugal (3 points) and Hungary (1 point).

With a win over Hungary on June 23, Germany can secure their progression, while holding

Portugal face a tough task with France.

Spain, Poland in danger of early exit

Both Spain and Poland are in danger of failing to qualify for the knockout stage of the European Championships after drawing their second Group E game 1-1.

The result on Saturday leaves Spain with two points from their first two matches and the

Poles with just one and both probably need to win their last group games to avoid an early exit. Spain coach Luis Enrique made only one change to the side that drew 0-0 with Sweden, bringing striker Gerard Moreno into the starting 11 and pairing him with the much-criticised Alvaro Morata, reports Xinhua news agency.

Meanwhile Poland played a 5-3-2 formation,