

Israel's outgoing PM thanks Modi for commending him for being India's 'true friend'



JERUSALEM(KCN): Israel's outgoing premier Naftali Bennett on Friday thanked his "dear friend" Prime Minister Narendra Modi for commending him for being "a true friend to India".

Israel's Parliament voted Thursday to dissolve itself and send the country to the polls in November for the fifth time in less than four years.

Yair Lapid, Israel's foreign minister and architect of the outgoing coalition government, took over the prime ministership from Bennett to become the country's caretaker prime minister just after midnight on Friday.

"Thank you His Excellency @naftalibennett for being a true friend of India.

I cherish our fruitful interactions and wish you success in your new role," Modi said in a tweet.

Want uplift of people through infra development: Murmu

SHIMLA(KCN): NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu on Friday said she wants the uplift of people through infrastructure development at

the grassroots level. Addressing the function, Murmu said her aim is to ensure the uplift of people by working towards infrastructure development at the grassroots

level. On this occasion, the chief minister said the victory of Murmu in the polls is certain.

the countrymen to work unitedly to make India a prosperous nation. Union minister Anurag Thakur expressed his gratitude to the presidential

development of all sections of society are highly commendable, he said.



the grassroots level. Murmu was addressing a function attended by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Union minister Anurag Thakur and state MLAs in Solan's Baddi. The election for the president's post will be held on July 18. While the BJP-led ruling NDA at the Centre has fielded Murmu and the opposition parties have made former Union minister Yashwant Sinha as their candi-

level. She also paid tributes to war heroes, including Major Somnath Sharma, the country's first Param Vir Chakra recipient, and said the history and tradition of the state has been glorious. Himachal is the main area of spirituality and tourism and is known as Dev Bhoomi across the country, she added. She said the state is showing the way to the country on various parameters of development and urged

The selection of Murmu for the post of the president is a reflection of positive and holistic thinking of the BJP, he said. He said the BJP has always been committed for the unity and welfare of all sections of society. The CM said Murmu has set an excellent example for all sections of society through her life. Murmu's efforts in the direction of development of tribal areas, education of girls and balanced devel-

opment of all sections of society are highly commendable, he said. Union minister Anurag Thakur expressed his gratitude to the presidential

Murmu has better chances to win prez polls after Maha development: Mamata



KOLKATA(KCN): West Bengal Chief Min-

ister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said opposition parties might have considered backing NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu, a tribal leader of the saffron party from Odisha, had the BJP held a discussion with them before fielding her.

Maintaining that Murmu had better chances to win the July 18 presidential election, with NDA's numbers having got boosted after the change of guard in

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Trinity begin Gundicha Jatra

Puri(KCN): With the commencement of pulling of Chariots, Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra started their nine-day journey to Shree



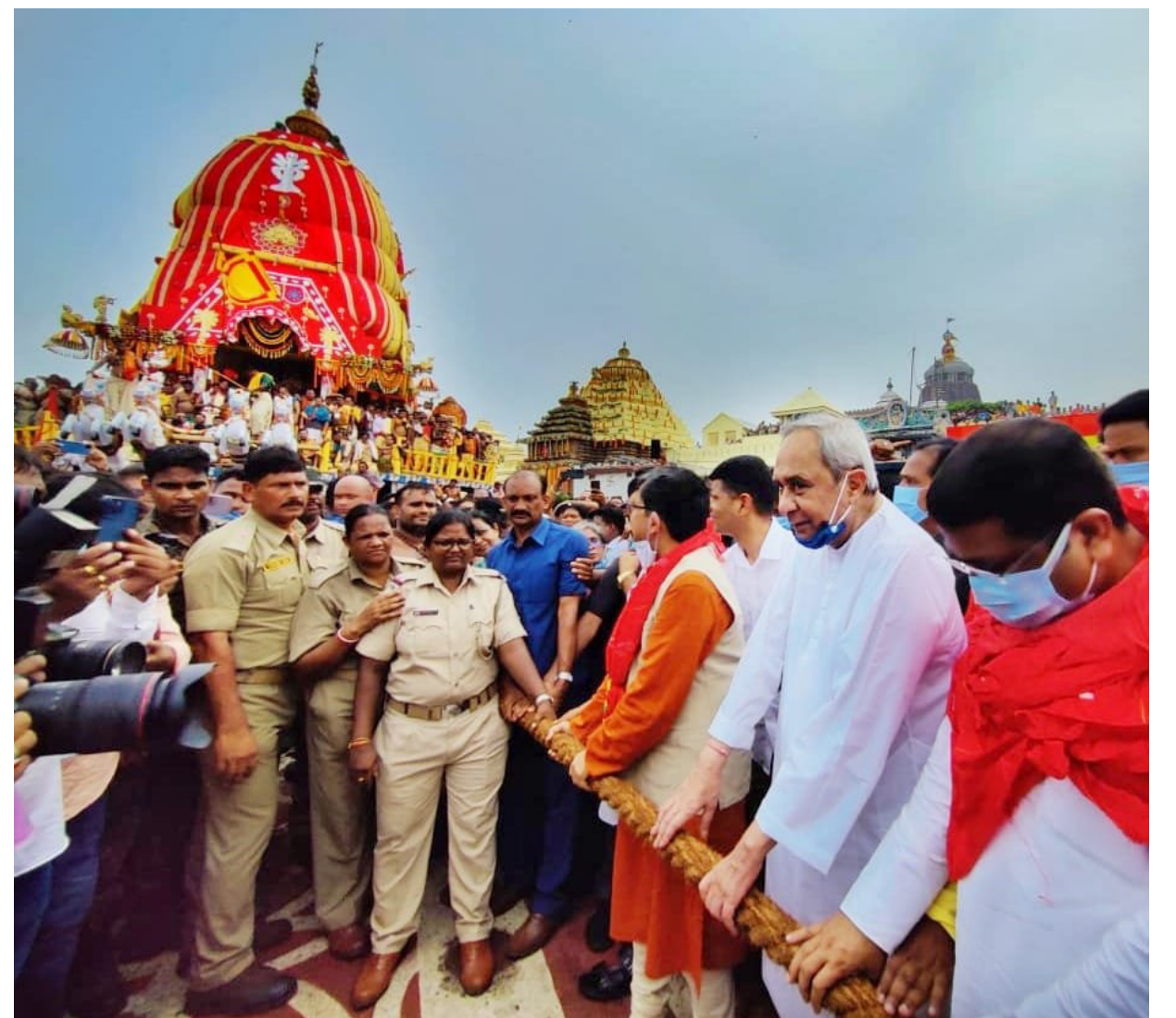
Gundicha temple much before the scheduled time.

All rituals, starting from Pahandi Bije of the three deities, to Chhera Panhara of the annual

servitors was started around 12.45 pm. Taladhawaja of Lord Balabhadra was pulled first followed by Darpadalana of Devi Subhadra and Nandighosa of Lord Jagannath.



It seems that all the three Chariots will reach Saradhali by this evening. The Pahandi ritual at Mausai Maa Temple will be held tomorrow morning.



Ratha Jatra completed much before the scheduled time and in a very high spiritual atmosphere. With the pulling of chariots, Jugger-naut started rolling in the Bada Danda.

Lakhs of devotees thronging the Grand Avenue as they were allowed to participate in the biggest festival of Odisha, after a gap of two years due to Covid curbs.

Adorned with tahias (giant floral crowns), chants of hari bol & Jay Jagannath, the three deities along with Lord Sudarsan were brought out of the sanctum sanctorum in the Dhadi Pahandi procession to their chariots parked before Srimandir.

Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati accompanied by his disciples and servitors offered prayers to the deities on their respective chariots. Following this ritual, Gajapati Maharaja of Puri, Dibyasingh Deb arrived in his royal palanquin and carried out the Chhera Panhara ritual, the ceremonial sweeping of the chariots with a golden broom, amid chanting of hymns by the priests.

Pulling of the three gigantic chariots by the

After a gap of two years, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited Puri to witness the Rath Jatra. Governor Ganeshi Lal, the CM, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Orissa High Court Chief Justice S. Muralidhar pulled the chariot in the morning.

The world-famous Rath Jatra was viewed by millions around the world through their television sets. Tight security arrangements have been put in place for smooth conduct of the festival, thanks to overdrive of DGP Sunil Bansal and his Team. PM Narendra Modi took to Twitter and wrote, "Greetings on the special day of Rath Yatra. We pray to Lord Jagannath for his constant blessings. May we all be blessed with good health and happiness." More than 180 platoons of police personnel, including 1,000 officers of various ranks are deployed in and around Puri to ensure safe conduct of the festival. The police made special arrangements for smooth flow of traffic. The railways engaged scores of armed policemen while CCTV cameras have been installed at various places across the town.

Aashirvaad Atta initiates a digital 'darshan' experience for the pilgrims at Puri Rath Yatra

Aashirvaad Atta's initiative seeks to create an engaging and an accessible experience for the pilgrims

Kolkata (KCN): Pattachitra art quintessential to the state and the idol. To provide

the Pattachitra artform painted by regional artists. Resonating with the rich legacy of Odisha, the brand has adorned the walls of Puri with multiple wall paintings of Pattachitra artforms.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ganesh Sundararaman, SBU Chief Executive - Staples, Snacks and Meals, ITC Ltd., said, "The Puri Rath Yatra is the most sought after celebratory occasion which witnesses lakhs of pilgrims and tourists from across the world. With such a massive gathering, it becomes overwhelming for the crowd to be able to get a close glimpse of the chariot or the idol. Based on this insight, we decided to devise a unique intervention to provide easier access to the devotees making it easier for them to witness the Rath Yatra. The Aashirvaad 4-step Machan/ installation has been conceptualized to enrich and enliven the spirit and celebration of Rath Yatra with an all-encompassing, first of its kind technologically savvy experience for a hassle free darshan."

Pilgrims can find the installation near Gundicha Temple on Grand Road which will be active for visiting from 1st July 2022 onwards, every-day starting at 2 pm.



Atta, India's leading packaged atta brand, is back to celebrate the Puri Rath Yatra. Every year, lakhs of pilgrims gather to participate in the Rath Yatra to get a glimpse of the lord. To ensure that worshippers have a memorable experience, the brand has set up a beautifully decorated Machaan, an installation adorned with the

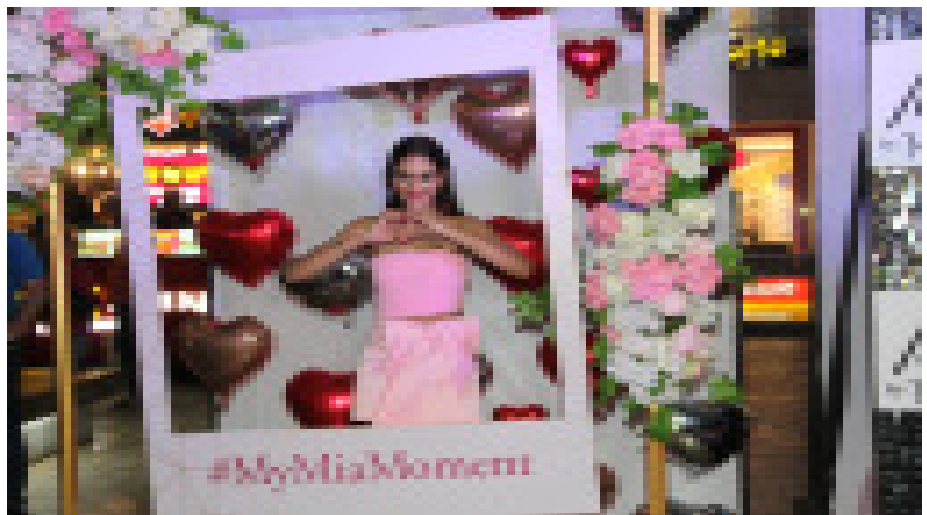
providing pilgrims a close view and personal access to the oldest chariot procession. During the 10 day-long festival, devotees from across the country visit Puri to be a part of the 2 km procession starting from Lord Jagannath's Temple to Gundicha Temple. As lakhs of devotees assemble together, it gets difficult to get a

Satyabrata-Sanskriti Win Hearts

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Music has become the passion for Father-Daughter Duo as Satyabrata Sahu and Sanskriti Sahu have started singing bhajans and have generated huge interest among the listeners and winning hearts across the state. Thanks to their way of singing bhajans, it is not only enchanting but also generating divine feeling among the listeners. On the auspicious occasion of world-famous Rath Jatra, four Jagannath Bhajans of Veteran Bureaucrat and Jagannath devotee Satyabrata Sahu and his daughter Sanskriti released on Friday. Satyabrata has sung ten Bhajans while his daughter Sanskriti sang her maiden Bhajan titled 'Sanja Sakale Tuma Chhabi Khoje' very beautifully. The 4.33 minutes long Bhajan has been uploaded on Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoeEomj0fZs&t=1s>).

Mia by Tanishq expands its retail footprint in Kolkata with the launch of two exclusive retail outlets

Kolkata(KCN): 'Mia by Tanishq, one of India's most fashionable jewellery brands, has launched two exclusive standalone stores in Kolkata. The stores were inaugurated by Ms. Nusrat Jahan, Tollywood Actress and Ms. Shyamala Ramanan, Business Head, Mia by



Tanishq, Titan company Limited. To celebrate the launch of the new store, Mia by Tanishq has also announced an inaugural offer of up to 20% off* on select Mia products. The offer is valid from 1st to 3rd July 2022. The first store spread over 500 sq ft is located at GA, Ground Floor, Reshmi Tower 159/1, Jessore Road, Kolkata and the second store spread over 270 sq ft is located at Mia by Tanishq, Unit 0004, Block-A, Ground floor, City Centre 2, New Town Rajarhat, Kolkata. These stores offer a wide range of trendy, popular and modern designs uniquely crafted

in gold, diamond and coloured stones across an assortment of studs, finger rings, bracelets, pendants and neckwear. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Shyamala Ramanan, Business Head - Mia by Tanishq, said, "We are excited

about increasing Mia by Tanishq's retail footprint in Kolkata. Mia is an exclusively designed fine jewellery brand that seeks to emotionally connect with the young modern woman of today. We cater to women who wear jewellery as a means to express themselves. And we all know that the women in Calcutta are amongst the most progressive ones. Today, women across

Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra Celebrated in Gujarat

Ahmedabad(KCN): Annual Rath Yatra Festival was held at the Servitors. Since the Weather God was pleasant, around

Goddess Subhadra Temple at 4 p.m. After being conducted exclusively by ladies. the Deities were taken back from

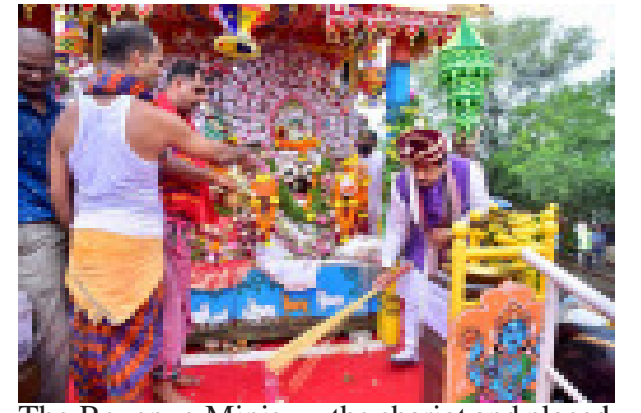


the Jagannath Temple at Adalaj in between Ahmedabad and Gandhi Nagar in Gujarat. Hosted by the Temple Management body Shree



15,000 devotees gathered to witness the Festival. Around 10 A.M. in the morning the Four Deities were taken in Pahandi to the colourfully decorated 22 feet high Chariot with the recitals of hymns, shouting of Slogans like Haribol, Jai Jagannath and Playing of musical instruments like Ghanta, Kartala, Mardala, Jhanja and Mrudanga.

The special attraction of the event was the Pahandi Journey of Temple and then Brought back to the premises of the



The Revenue Minister of Gujarat Rajendra S. Trivedi, Chairman of JCARC Dr. Sudeep Kumar Nanda and Municipal Commissioner of Surat Banchhanidhi Pani did the Traditional Sweeping of Chariot called Cherrapahanra. The chariot was pulled at a Six Kilometer



and properly managed by the trustees and committee members of the Temple which include Chairman Dr. Sudeep Kumar Nanda, Member Secretary Badri Mahapatra, Members Hare Krushna Dash, Maheshwar Sahu, Dr. Nibedita Sahu, Leela Das, Rabi Panda, Ashok Samal, Satya Mishra, Narayan Swain, Ajay Das, Mahendra Das, Rohit Nayak, Nigmananda Das, Basant Panda and Ganesh Nayak.



Temple and then Brought back to the premises of the



shopping experience." About Mia by Tanishq :

Born with the heritage and the legacy of Tanishq, Mia is a brand of bold, modern and chic jewellery. For the young and for the young

to accessorize for every moment and every occasion effortlessly. Crafted in 14 kt gold, the Mia line of jewellery has over 1600 designs starting at Rs.2999/- . Mia is a network of 60 standalone stores and present in leading Tanishq stores.

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Rowel Star- The new shining Star of the Rajasthan Music Industry

Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): The Rajasthan music industry is going leaps and bounds, celebrating the new singing star Afjor Khan aka Rowel Star. This new generation of Rajasthan singers is making headlines for his outstanding singing style and making the world shake legs with his unique Rajasthan songs.

Afjor Khan, popularly known as Rowel Star on Social Media, has created a sensation in the Rajasthan music world with his mesmerizing voice and affective tone. "I am an ardent fan of Guru Randhawa and take his inspiration for my songs. I want to create some unique mix of folk songs with blending hip-hop and wanted to give something new to the music world, says Rowel Star." He recently gave his voice to two new songs, "Tera Shoot" & "Nahiyo Jeena", making the Rajasthan cultures a step ahead in this ever-evolving music world. The shoot of these songs has recently been completed in Dubai and will be out very soon to rock the floors!

About his upcoming projects, Rowel Star will be seen sharing the floors with re-

nowned Rajasthan Singer Sumsa Supari.



They together have shot the song recently in Dubai in various amazing locations. The song will be out soon and published on the YouTube channel Sumsa Supari Films.

Rowel Star's songs, Maro Sajaniyo, Bannasa ke Mijaj, and Jai Jasol Maa album are the most popular and trending, creating a sensation on his YouTube channel and blessing him with millions of views and subscribers.

Born and raised in a small village in the Panawara district of Barmer, Rajasthan, Afjor has been fascinated by the music culture since he was five. He was sent to his maternal house at Sindhari for schooling. During his school days, he sang songs and attracted many ears listening to his soulful voice. His teacher once gave him a chance to sing a song on Republic Day, which grabbed praise from the entire school.

It was the year 2007 when Afjor Khan won the hearts of millions for singing the famous Rajasthan song of those days, "Maharana Pratap", which rolled out tears from listeners' eyes. His soulful voice created a huge impact on people's minds. Afjor won the gift price of Rs.1500/- for his singing.

After the impressive response to his performance, there was no looking back for Afjor Khan, and his journey of becoming Rowel Star has kick-started!

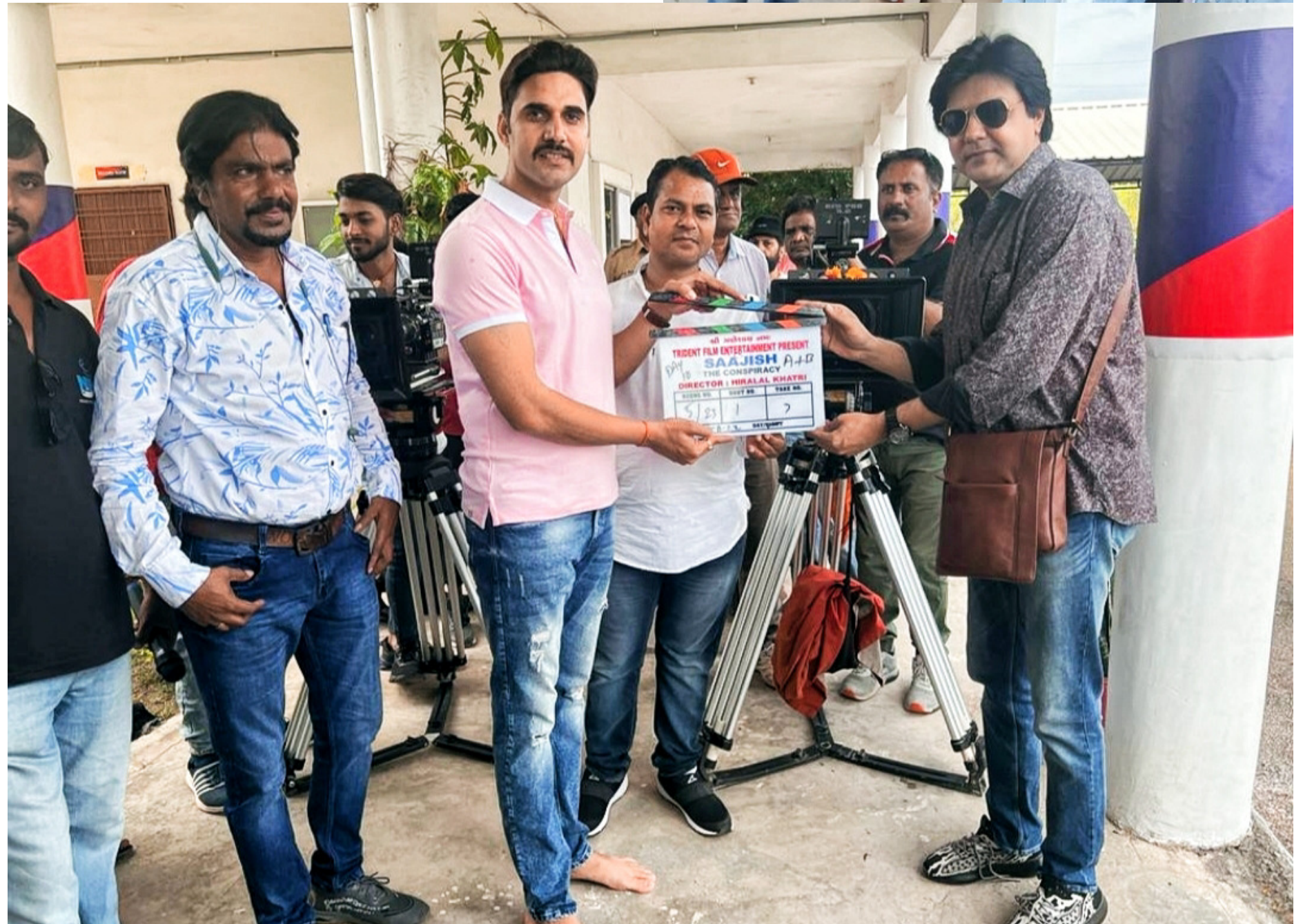
Neeraj Bharadwaj is shooting for web series 'Saazish' in Bhopal



Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Film and TV veteran and famous actor Neeraj Bharadwaj is

About which Neeraj Bharadwaj says, "I am playing the role of city's famous lawyer Abhay Pratap

hatched and then what happens is still a secret. My role in this is different, I hope people will like it,



shooting for the web series 'Saazish' in Kalua Khurd, Bhopal, which will soon be airing on Disney Hotstar. It is produced by Col. S S Pattnaik and the director is Hiralal Khatri.

Singh, who gets the brother of villain Shahbaz Khan punished. After that Shahbaz Khan commits a lot of oppression on my family and me. I am not able to do anything. After that conspiracy is

and just like before, I will definitely be able to make a place in the heart of the audience with my performance." By the way, Neeraj Bharadwaj will soon have a webseries named

Madgaon ...A Murder Case. Its shooting has been completed.

The main cast of the web series 'Saazish' are Mugdha Godse, Shahbaz Khan, Raza Murad, Mustakh Khan and

Dev Manaria with Neeraj Bharadwaj. Its screenplay and dialogues are by Vinod Vats, Vikas Vashisht and Ajay. Its cameramen are Manish Vyas and Amar Vyas, music is by Manish Bhanushali. It is

produced by Col.S S Pattnaik, co-producer Dev Manaria and executive producer is Anu Madrasi. It will be coming soon on Disney Hotstar. Its shooting is going on in Bhopal followed by Vadodara.

Rivers in Joda-Barbil and Koida region envisage threats

Conflicts around Odisha's rivers are drawing overwhelming political and media attention.



Increasing perception of the vulnerabilities surrounding water are giving rise to water conflicts of various scales and intensities, from local to regional. The people of Odisha have been opposing mining, iron mines in Joda, Barbil and Koida region as they fear that

catchment area.

Most of the mining companies claim no or minimal impact on water resources. However, in the long term, impact on water resources will be visible in terms of water scarcity and water pollution. The impact of mining on water resource is inevitable – it cannot be fully controlled. However, sound mine planning can perhaps reduce the stress. The

Prasant Mohanty

Joda. This too draw attention towards illegal nexus between some government machinery, political party and corporate, says Ashok Thakar, the activist of "Nadi Bacaho". Suna is the life line of the region and Government is allowing such activities of



mitigation measures should be implementable and time bound. Also, the potential water catchment area of major rivers should be demarcated and preserved as inviolate space where no or minimal activity should be allowed. But the recent incident at Joda surprised many intellectuals. Though there is act on preservation of perineal river and act of one company which lays slurry pipe line obstructing Suna river at



Corporate will fetch water problem in the area. Water security during non-monsoon period is low due to gross reduction in the annual flow rate of major rivers like Baitarani, Karo and Suna of Keonjhar district of Odisha. Streams originating from hill tops are the only source of water for tribal communities who live here. The negative impacts on the streams will have disastrous consequences for these communities. It has been documented that the drying of streams at in Keonjhar has adversely affected the livelihood of indigenous tribes who have no other option but mass exodus leading to loss of livelihoods, apart from loosing an ethos of traditional knowledge and culture. The water in these streams is visibly unfit for consumption and turns red during the rains with suspended

particles flowing down from the mining pits and overburdened dump yards. The flow rate of the streams have also reduced drastically after commencement of mining operations here. According to the sixth State of India's Environment Report titled Rich Lands, Poor People, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, mining activities in Odisha have had a drastic effect on the flora and fauna of the mining region and have not helped in generating employment and nor contributed to the development of the local area, on the contrary, poverty had increased in these regions. The report adds that Odisha has the dubious distinction of clearing 17 per cent of forest land, the maximum in the country for mining and



displacing five lakh tribal people. The report also states that all the mineral-rich districts of the state featured in the list of 150 most backward districts of the country, adding 62 per cent of the people in Keonjhar.



it will result in the ultimate drying up the mountain streams. A number of reports, studies made by civil society, scientific bodies, and fact finding committee has raised alarm regarding the future water problems that can arise because of anthropogenic interference in the water

Nasal Vaccines Are Commercially High Risk, Perhaps High Reward

Two facts stand in stark contrast. First, existing COVID-19 vaccines provide robust protection against severe disease and death. Second, they do not completely prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2. As a result, while these vaccines have saved countless lives, it's unlikely that they will, on their own, stop viral transmission and prevent the emergence of new

viral variants. Part of the reason for this discrepancy could be the way that current COVID-19 vaccines—like most other vaccines—are delivered. Intramuscular injections generate systemic immunity but little or no immune response in the nose, where respiratory viruses such as SARS-CoV-2 typically enter the body. Yet this so-called mucosal immunity, according to experts who spoke with The Scientist, is one of the best ways to completely inhibit infection and thereby abolish community spread.

"In an ideal situation, you would of course entirely block the transmission of the virus in vaccinated people, and I think the consensus right now is that intramuscular vaccines are going to have a really, really hard time reaching that milestone," says virologist Neeltje van Doremalen, an associate scientist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) who collaborated on pre-clinical studies of a nasal version of a vaccine made by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford that is currently in clinical trials. "And I'm not saying that we think that intranasal vaccines are going to easily do that, but I do think that that is going to be an improvement."

Intranasal vaccines, which can elicit both mucosal and systemic immune responses, are delivered through the nasal cavity, most commonly by an aerosolized spray, although nasally administered drops, powders, and gels have also been considered. A small handful of intranasal flu vaccines are commercially available, such as FluMist, which came on the US market in 2003. Other flu vaccines and immunizations targeting other viruses have been in development since before the COVID-19 pandemic, but none have moved to late-stage trials. Compared with intramuscular injections, "we don't actually have that much experience in humans with intranasal vaccines," says Florian Krammer, a virologist and vaccinologist at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai who is named as an inventor on patent applications related to a COVID-19 vaccine now being tested with intramuscular and intranasal delivery in the US and in Mexico, and who consults for Pfizer and other pharmaceutical companies.

Nasal vaccines are easier to administer, and so do not require trained personnel, making them more accessible for low- and middle-income countries. In the face of COVID-19, interest in the approach has soared. More than a dozen nasal sprays or drops are now being tested against COVID-19 in humans, either as primary immunizations or as boosters. (See table below.) "There is definitely an uptick in interest," says Yale School of Medicine immunologist Akiko Iwasaki, who is developing her own patented intranasal COVID-19 booster and who recently co-founded a company called Xanadu Bio to pursue the approach. "At this point in the pandemic what we need is an infection-blocking vaccine and not

vaccines that only protect you against severe disease."

Being a relatively understudied approach to vaccination, nasal vaccines present practical and financial hurdles. For example, approaches for measuring mucosal immunity lag behind those aimed at systemic immunity, making it more complicated to demonstrate the efficacy of nasal vaccines compared with more traditional injected versions. But the advantages overshadow these drawbacks for many developers. In addition to potentially being better at blocking transmission of respiratory viruses, an idea supported by a growing body of animal studies, nasal vaccines are easier to administer, particularly to children and needle-phobic individuals, and so do not require trained personnel, making them more accessible for low- and middle-income countries. "It's much more complicated than just developing a regular injected vaccine," says Krammer, who consults for several companies involved in vaccine development. "But the benefits if you get it to work are probably huge."

The rocky history of nasal vaccines Nasal vaccination has had a long but mixed history. In Russia, a nasal spray against influenza has been in use since 1987, and in 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) licensed that technology from the owner company, Australian vaccine developer BioDerm. The vaccine has since been manufactured by companies in India, China, and Thailand. Another early nasal vaccine, approved in Switzerland in 1997, was pulled from the market four years later after data revealed an elevated risk of temporary facial paralysis, or Bell's palsy, in vaccine recipients compared to controls.

The US got its first nasal vaccine in 2003, when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved FluMist, a live attenuated influenza vaccine developed by Maryland-based MedImmune. (The company has since been acquired by UK-headquartered AstraZeneca, which now markets the vaccine and declined to be interviewed for this story.) But in 2016, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended against FluMist's use after studies showed that it was less effective than intramuscular flu vaccines. The CDC again cautioned Americans to go the intramuscular vaccination route for the 2017–18 flu season. A reformulated version of FluMist was endorsed by the FDA in mid-2018 and has been available in the US for the past few years. There are also a small number of other intranasally delivered vaccine candidates in development, not just for flu but also for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and pertussis.

At this point in the pandemic what we need is an infection-blocking vaccine and not vaccines that only protect you against severe disease.

—Akiko Iwasaki, Yale School of Medicine While many vaccine developers chose to pursue the more established route of intramuscular injection after COVID-19 surfaced in late 2019, several companies have set their sights on formulating a nasal vaccine against SARS-CoV-2. In some cases, no reformulation was required; the intramuscular vaccine could simply be aerosolized into a spray. This applies to adenovirus-vectored vaccines, which feature replication-deficient cold viruses that naturally infect the nasal passageway, where they can deliver their cargo of SARS-CoV-2 antigens or antigen-encoding sequences.

Jef Akst

COVID-19. In mid-2021, Altimmune abandoned AdCOVID, an adenovirus-vectored intranasal COVID-19 vaccine that was one of the first to enter clinical trials. The Gaithersburg, Maryland, company declined to speak with The Scientist for this story but noted in a press release last year that the vaccine had generated lower than expected antibody responses in the blood and in the nose, according to preliminary Phase 1 results. Still, companies with nasal vaccines in the pipeline are forging ahead with clinical programs.

Some companies in the space already have injectable COVID-19 vaccines, such as India-based Bharat Biotech, which in early 2021 earned regulatory approval in that country and elsewhere for its intramuscular vaccine Covaxin. Bharat announced last September that regulators had greenlighted a Phase 2 trial for a nasal vaccine based on a different platform, and in January, the company announced that its nasal vaccine would be moving into a Phase 3 trial both as a two-dose initial vaccine series and as a booster. Separately, a Phase 2/3 trial will test a mixed regimen of the nasal vaccine with Covaxin. Another player in the intranasal COVID-19 vaccine space is AstraZeneca, which is continuing its collaboration with researchers at the University of Oxford to test a nasally delivered version of their Vaxzevria vaccine (also known as ChAdOx1-S or Covishield), which has been authorized as an intramuscular injection in several countries. In Russia, a nasal version of the Sputnik V vaccine, which President Vladimir Putin claimed last year to have received as part of a booster dose, was approved by the country's health ministry in April, according to a tweet highlighted in an email to The Scientist by a spokesperson for the vaccine's principal funder, the state-owned Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF). Meanwhile, several other nasally delivered COVID-19 vaccine candidates follow close behind in early-stage trials.

Facing the COVID-19 challenge, nose-on One company that immediately looked toward a nasal vaccine as the pandemic swept the globe was New York-based Codagenix. While most COVID-19 vaccines use certain SARS-CoV-2 antigens or the genetic material that codes for them, ferried by a different virus or some other delivery vehicle, Codagenix is working with a live attenuated virus, an approach previously employed in FluMist, which today contains four strains of attenuated influenza viruses. Oral rotavirus and polio vaccines also employ live attenuated viruses to exert their protective effects. A commonly cited advantage of this approach is the potential for broader protection against microbial variants: if the immune system is exposed to a virus's entire suite of antigens, it's less likely to be thwarted if one or several of those antigens mutate.

See "How Some Vaccines Protect Against More than Their Targets"

Codagenix uses what's known as codon deoptimization to deliberately introduce into viral genomes hundreds or even thousands of mutations that were computationally determined to achieve some goal—in this case, to slow viral protein translation. "We can convert the virus from foe . . . into live attenuated vaccine," Codagenix cofounder and

CEO Rob Coleman describes. The approach can be used regardless of vaccine delivery mode, but Codagenix was already in the process of developing nasally delivered vaccines for other respiratory viruses when the pandemic hit, so the firm quickly pivoted to develop Covidiv, an intranasal vaccine consisting of an attenuated version of SARS-CoV-2. In a Phase 1 trial, that vaccine (then called COVI-VAC) induced systemic and mucosal antibodies and cellular immune responses in previously unvaccinated individuals, while later in vitro assays pointed to likely protection against a range of viral variants including Omicron, which hadn't yet emerged at the time the initial participants were dosed in 2021. A Phase 1 booster trial is now also underway, and the vaccine will be tested as part of the WHO's global efficacy trial for COVID-19 vaccines.

More than a dozen nasal sprays or drops are now being tested against COVID-19 in humans, either as a primary immunization or as a booster. Meissa Vaccines in the San Francisco Bay Area has a similar story. Like Codagenix, the company was already using codon deoptimization to create intranasally delivered live attenuated vaccines, specifically for RSV, and pivoted to COVID-19 at the start of the pandemic. Rather than attenuate SARS-CoV-2, however, Meissa researchers decided to stick with their existing nasally delivered RSV construct but engineer it to display the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. Interim results announced in October from the company's Phase 1 trial showed that the vaccines induce nasal antibodies in people with and without prior exposure to the virus or a different vaccine. Meanwhile, researchers at vaccine maker CyanVac put the genetic code for the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein in the genome of the attenuated canine parainfluenza virus it was using as a vector for a nasal RSV vaccine in development, and a year later moved the COVID-19 vaccine into a Phase 1 trial.

All three companies are also continuing or resuming development of nasal vaccines for non-COVID diseases, with those for RSV being the furthest along in each case. In December 2020, Codagenix completed dosing in a Phase 1 trial for its RSV candidate; CyanVac announced in March of this year that it was moving forward with a Phase 1 trial for its RSV vaccine; and with its own RSV candidate having done well in Phase 1 trials with adults and toddlers, Meissa is beginning to dose infants. In addition to communicating their excitement about these programs, researchers at each firm spoke about the promise of their platforms for vaccinating against other respiratory viruses as well.

"We have our eyes on all kinds of viruses now," says Meissa founder and chief executive officer Marty Moore. "If we can establish immunity in the upper respiratory tract against a wide range of respiratory viruses . . . we could not just get back to where we were health-wise, but we could actually improve human health globally against a wide range of viruses. And that's really exciting."

TRIALING COVID-19 NASAL VACCINES Around the world, more than a dozen intranasally delivered COVID-19 vaccines have entered clinical trials, and they run the gamut from adenovirus-vectored genes for viral antigens to recombinant protein-based formulations to live attenuated SARS-CoV-2. A selection is presented below.

The writer is managing editor of The Scientist, where she started as an intern in 2009 after receiving a master's degree from Indiana University in April 2009 studying the mating behavior of seahorses.

Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra Celebrated in Bengaluru

Bengaluru(KCN): all four Deities were



The Annual Rath Yatra Festival was celebrated in Bengaluru with much fanfare and Festive fervour. Commencing from the wee hours of the day, the religious rituals like Mangala Arati, Abakash, Mailam, worshipping Sun, praying Gatekeepers and Sahanamela were performed at the main Jagannath Temple of the city situated at Agara. Since the Rath Yatra has been celebrated offline after two years of Corona interruptions, unusual enthusiasm and enchantments were marked among the devotees during the occasion. The Dhadi Pahandi of

started 12.15 p.m. in afternoon. Lord Sudarshan, Lord Balabhadra, Goddess Subhadra and Lord Jagannath were taken in a procession from the Anasara room to the 28 feet high immaculately decorated colourful chariot stationed in front of the Temple. Trustee of the temple Sitikantha Sadhangi did the traditional job of Cherrapahanra. At about 2.30 P.M. in the afternoon the pulling of the chariot started with the playing of Ghanta, Kartala, Mrudanga, Jhanja and chanting of Jai Jagannath slogans by the strong crowd of around 25,000 viewers.

The distinguished Guests graced the Rath Yatra Festival this year include Members of Temple



Chief Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj Management Committee like Nihar



S. Bommai, M.P. of Central Bengaluru P.C.Mohan, State Minister Arvind Limbavali and M.L.A. M. Satish Reddy. The entire arrangements of the

Samantara, Dr. Pratap Pani, Kamakhya Panda, Justice J. P. U d g a t a , H a r a P r a s a d Mohapatra, Manoj Patra and P u n y a s h l o k a Khuntia

Amid Shiv Sena legacy war, Uddhav Thackeray 'removes' Eknath Shinde as 'Sena leader'

Amid the Shiv Sena legacy war between Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and former CM Uddhav Thackeray, the latter on Friday removed the former from the post of Shiv Sena leader in the party organisation. In a letter issued by the party, Uddhav Thackeray said Shinde has been indulging in "anti-party activities" and has voluntarily given up his membership. "In exercise of the powers vested in me as the Shivsena Paksha Pramukha, I remove you from the post of Shivsena Leader in the party organisation," the letter signed by Uddhav Thackeray said. Eknath Shinde, who led a revolt against Thackeray, had recently decided to name his

faction "Shiv Sena Balasaheb". Earlier, senior Sena leader Sanjay Raut said a new government in Maharashtra under Shinde has been formed by the BJP with a group of MLAs that split the party, and asserted that the Sena is where the Thackerays are.

Taking a dig at Deputy Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, Raut said had the BJP stuck to its word in 2019, it could have had the CM's post for two-and-a-half years and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) experiment involving his party, the NCP and the Congress would not have taken place.

UN urges Taliban to follow other Muslim states on women's rights

GENEVA: The UN rights chief urged the Taliban Friday to look to other Muslim countries for inspiration on improving the rights of women and

only model for a successful Islamic state. But Bachelet insisted they could follow Islamic law and still respect women's rights. "I strongly encourage

banned from working and from travelling alone, and ordered to wear face coverings in public. When the Taliban seized power nearly a

the rights situation in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, meanwhile voiced alarm that the Taliban had clearly showed their "intentions are not only to



ending their "systematic oppression" in Afghanistan.

Speaking before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Michelle Bachelet condemned the "desperate situation" facing Afghan women and girls.

Since the Taliban returned to power last August, she said, "women and girls are experiencing the most significant and rapid roll-back in enjoyment of their rights across the board in decades."

"Their future will be even darker, unless something changes, quickly." Addressing an urgent council debate on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, she called for a "more concerted effort" from the international community to push the Taliban to respect their rights.

Stop 'interfering' In Kabul Friday, the Taliban's reclusive supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada called on the world to stop "interfering", saying sharia law was the

de facto authorities to engage with predominantly Muslim countries with experience in promoting women and girls' rights, as guaranteed in international law, in that religious context."

A recent visit to the country by an Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) delegation has been "a significant step". Speaking on behalf of the 57-member OIC, Pakistan's ambassador in Geneva Khalil Hashmi told the council that the organisation shared concerns about women and girls' rights in Afghanistan, voicing particular disappointment at the closing of secondary schools for girls.

"The OIC has consistently affirmed the fundamental rights of all Afghans, including the right to education. They must be fully upheld," he said. Bachelet, who herself visited Afghanistan in March, said that more than one million girls have been shut out of secondary school and women widely

year ago, they promised to pursue a softer version of the harsh rule that characterised their first period in power from 1996 to 2001. They said they would honour their human rights obligations, including on women's rights, as far as these were consistent with Islamic law.

'Erased' "Yet, despite these assurances, we are witnessing the progressive exclusion of women and girls from the public sphere and their institutionalised, systematic oppression," Bachelet said. She demanded that the Taliban set a firm date for reopening secondary schools for girls and remove the requirement that women wear face coverings and only travel when accompanied by a so-called maharam, or male guardian.

"All acts of gender-based violence must be independently investigated and those responsible held to account," she added. The top UN expert on

impose absolute gender segregation". "They are aimed at making women invisible by excluding them almost entirely from society," he told the council.

Fawzia Koofi, an exiled former member of the Afghan parliament, described to the council how painful it was "to advocate for our basic rights, the right to be visible, the right to not be erased". She especially appealed to Muslim countries "not to let the Taliban misrepresent our beautiful religion... What they do is in contradiction to Islam."

And she called on countries everywhere to "stand with (the) women of Afghanistan". "Move from beautiful statements and resolutions to practice." Following Friday's urgent debate, the rights council will vote next week on a draft resolution condemning all violations against women and girls in Afghanistan.

Kanpur police sets up 6-member team to probe into activities of Dawat-e-Islami

LUCKNOW: Kanpur police, on Friday, constituted a six-member team to look into the presence and activities of Dawat-e-Islami, the Pakistan-based organization with which the links of one of the two Udaipur assailants have emerged. According to Joint Commissioner of Kanpur Police, Anand Prakash Tewari, the team would investigate the activities of the outfit which was reportedly came into being in Kanpur in 1989 after the visit of a delegation of Ulemas

from Pakistan. A per an estimate, the out-



Dawat-e-Islami had

come on police radar during the anti-CAA

cused — Ghaus Mohammad — was

Probe sought into operations of Dawat-e-

six-member special team has been constituted for looking into the deeds of Dawat-e-Islami. The team is being headed by a senior IPS rank official. The details of the people and institutions associated with the organization are being collected. Action will be taken as per the evidence gathered during investigations."

The investigation team has been formed after the statement of Rajasthan Director General of Police ML Lather, in which he said that Dawat-e-Islami was also active

in Kanpur, said police sources.

According to police sources, Rajasthan Police had got the clues about some members of the organization having set up its sleeping modules in Kanpur. However, those members had no criminal history and no mention in police records but they were the radicalized elements mobilized by the outfit for Jihad.

"The six member team has started gathering all the information about the membership, activities and the office of the orga-

nization at Deputy Padav crossing near Gurbat-Ullah Park. The police sources added that the probe team had also collected vital inputs about four madrassas associated with the organization. The sources claimed that of the four madrassas being run by the organization, one was in Kanpur and other three in Unnao.

"Of those present in Unnao, two madrassas are operational while one is under construction. The team has done an extensive investigation of all the places on Thursday and Friday," said a senior police official of Kanpur.

stir in 2019 and currently, it is under the scanner after one of the two murder ac-

believed to be associated with it. ALSO READ | Udaipur murder:

Islamic branches in India The joint police commissioner said: "A

Pope Francis appoints first cardinal from Amazon rainforest

RIO DE JANEIRO: When the Archbishop of the Brazilian city of Manaus Leonardo Steiner kneels before Pope Francis on August 27, the Brazilian clergyman will make history as the first cardinal to come from the Amazon region. "The communities feel that the distance between Rome and the Amazon is now smaller," Steiner told The Associated Press in a written interview. "Perhaps this is the reason for the Amazonian people's joy with Pope Francis' move." Steiner attributed his selection to

four priorities of the pope: the desire to do more missionary work in the Amazon and to be attentive to the poor; to care for the Amazon "as our common home" and to be a Church that "knows how to contribute to the autonomy of Indigenous people." Sprawling across nine countries, the Amazon region is larger than the European Union. It is home to 34 million people, of whom more than three million are Indigenous, belonging to around 400 ethnic groups, according to the Catholic Church. There is a religious lens through which to see the

acute environmental struggles playing out in the region as well: The Catholic Church's socio-environmental agenda is a contentious issue with numerous Brazilian Pentecostal churches. These have a powerful caucus in Brazil's parliament and have embraced the pro-agrobusiness beef caucus in Congress. Both Pentecostals and cattle industry advocates belong to far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's political base. Cardinals are the most senior clergy below the pope. Often called "red hats" because of the color of their skullcaps, they

serve as papal advisors. More important, together they select each pope, the leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics. For observers of the church, it will come as no surprise that Francis has finally named an Amazonian cardinal, given the importance the region has had for his papacy and the attention he has shown it. POPE FRANCIS' ENVIRONMENTAL AWAKENING Francis was first moved by the plight of the vast Amazon basin in 2007, during the Episcopal Council of Latin American Bishops Conference, according to

the Brazilian priest and historian José Oscar Beozzo. Francis was at that time the archbishop of Buenos Aires, and helped write the official account of the conference. The final text advocates for the preservation of both the Amazon and Antarctica. Francis then dedicated an entire synod, or meeting,

of bishops from the region in 2019. In his environmental awakening, crystallized in his 2015 encyclical "Praised Be," he advocates for the preservation of the region's biodiversity and portrays Indigenous peoples as forest guardians. In 2018, he also visited Madre de Dios, a region in the Peruvian Ama-

zon devastated by illegal mining and logging. The pope made Steiner archbishop of Manaus just after the Amazon synod ended, tapping a Franciscan who clearly shares the same ethos and ideology as the pope's namesake, St. Francis. The pope may have noticed Steiner because he had a prominent posi-

tion in the Brazilian bishops' conference and was acting as its secretary-general from 2011-2019. He also has serious Roman credentials, having served as the secretary-general of the Franciscans' Pontifical Antonianum University in Rome, one of the major pontifical universities.

Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra Celebrated in New Delhi

New Delhi(KCN): 44th Rath Yatra Festival celebrated at the main Jagannath Temple of



the National capital region at Hauz Khas Village in New Delhi amidst much fanfare and spiritual fervour. Commencing from the wee hours of the day all the religious rituals have been performed in utmost solemnity and devotion. Since the Rath Yatra is being celebrated offline after two years of corona interruptions unusual enthusiasm and enchantments were witnessed among the devotees during the occasion. Because the weather was pleasant and cloudy around 50,000 devotees gathered to witness the Festival. The Manag-



ing body of the Temple Shree Neelachala Seva Sangha ensured that the wearing of mask is a must among the crowd. Around 11.30 a.m. in the morning the Four Deities were taken in Pahandi procession to the 25 feet high colourfully decorated chariot stationed at the Grand Road in front of the temple. With the recitals of hymns, roaring of slogans like Haribol and Jai Jagannath, sounding of Huluhuli, blowing of conch and playing of musical instruments such as Ghanta, Kartala, Mardala, Jhanja and Mrudanga by the devotees, Secretary of Neelachala Seva Sangha and Renowned Philanthropist Rabindra Nath Pradhan conducted the traditional service of

sweeping on the chariots called 'Chherapahanra'.



Around 2.45 p.m. in afternoon the chariot pulling was started. The Royal Chariot having the Four Deities on board was pulled in Shri Aurobindo Marg till 2.5 K.M. to Ansari Nagar and then taken back to temple premises in the evening. The devotees gathered both sides of the Road to have a holy Darshan of the Lord of the Universe. Then the Deities remained on the chariot for public viewing till night. At about 10.00 p.m. in the night all the four deities were taken to the makeshift aunt house at the basement of the temple. The distinguished Guests attended the Festival include Vice – Chairman of NDMC Satish



Upadhyay and M.L.A. Somnath Bharati. Laxmi Narayan Bebarta and Dr. Sarojini Pani did the Live narration of the Mega Event. The entire arrangements were smoothly executed and well managed by the members of Managing Committee which include Secretary Rabindra Nath Pradhan, Abhaya Pradhan, Ashok Pradhan (A), Khirod Patra, Gajendra Samanta, Abhiram Sutar, Ashok Pradhan (B), Jitendra Mohapatra, Ajay Pradhan, Pankaj Mohanty, Nishidha Kumar Das, Rankanidhi Sahoo, Ram Chandra Das, Bijay Sahoo, Bighneshwar Rout, Dillip Kumar Swain, Kishore Samal, Amulya Ojha, Sukanta Sahu and Manager of Temple Rashmiranjan Behera.

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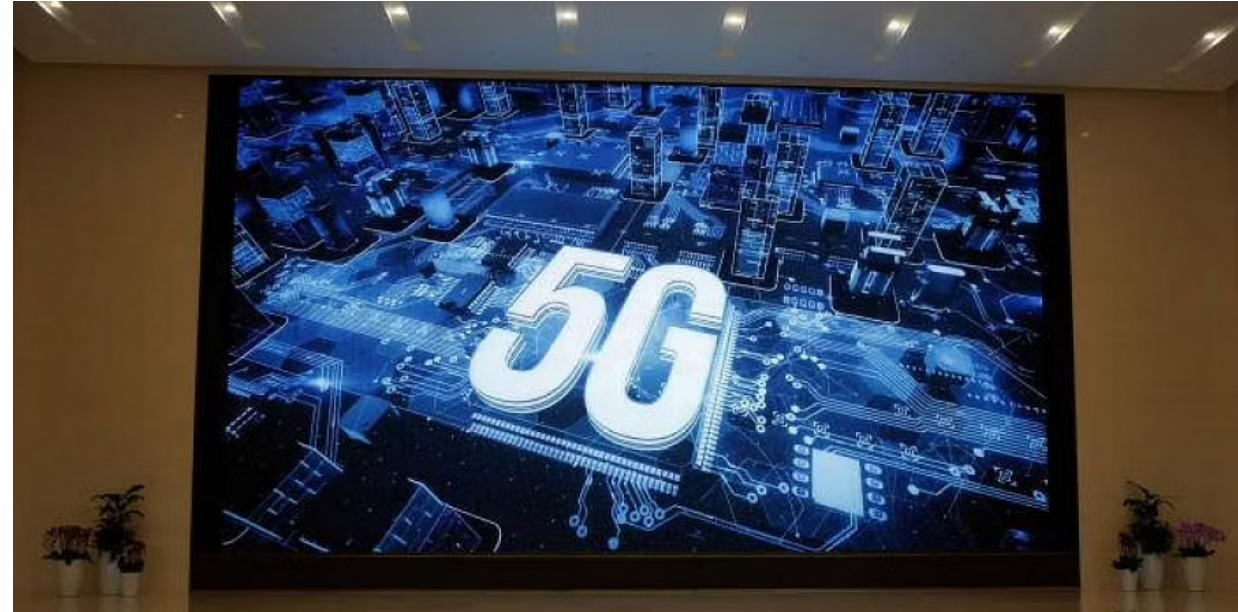
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Govt to fund BSNL-ITI pilot project for developing technology for 4G, 5G, E-band services

NEW DELHI: The government will fund a pilot project of state-owned firms BSNL and ITI along with startups for developing indigenous technology for 4G, 5G and E-band spectrum services, an official statement said on Friday.



Government's telecom research organisation C-DoT will also be involved in the project which has played a key role in developing first made-in-India 4G and 5G telecom network technology in collaboration with TCS-Tejas Networks.

"Department of Telecommunications (USOF), ministry of communications, has signed an agreement with Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to fund the pilot projects of E-band, LTE indigenous technologies including integration of 4G/5G prototypes with C-DoT core," an official statement said.

The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), under its programme for induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector in rural and remote areas, is funding four pilot projects each of around Rs 10 crore enabling the development and hardening of these technologies. The indigenous companies Astrome Technologies, Lekha Wireless Solutions, Resonous Technologies and Signaltron would be executing these projects in partnership with C-DoT and DoT public sector units BSNL and ITI, the statement said.

India gets USD 1.75 billion World Bank loan for health, private investment

NEW DELHI: The World Bank has approved loans totalling USD 1.75 billion (about Rs 13,834.54 crore) to fund India's PM Ayushman Bharat scheme and private investment to boost the economic

Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021, the World Bank said in a release on Friday. The funds will be used to improve public healthcare infrastructure across the

It has estimated India's life expectancy at 69.8 in 2020, up from 58 in 1990 -- higher than the average for the country's income level. The under-five mortality rate (36 per 1,000 live births), in-

"The COVID-19 outbreak has re-emphasized the urgency for significant reforms to improve the health sector performance in India," said Hideki Mori, World Bank's Acting Country Di-



growth. Of the total loan, USD 1 billion will go towards the health sector, while the rest USD 750 million will be in the form of development policy loan (DPL) to fill the financing gaps through private sector investment in the economy.

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved two complementary loans of USD 500 million each to support and enhance India's health sector. Through this combined financing of USD 1 billion, the World Bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure

country. In addition to the national-level interventions, one of the loans will prioritize seven states namely Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh, the multi-lateral funding agency said. Separately, its board approved the DPL to the union government to support reforms critical to addressing financing gaps by leveraging private sector investment in infrastructure, small businesses, and the green finance markets.

The World Bank said India's performance in the health sector has improved over time.

infant mortality rate (30 per 1,000 live births), and maternal mortality ratio (103 per 1,00,000 live births) are all close to the average for India's income level, reflecting significant achievements in access to skilled birth attendance, immunizations, and other priority services, the World Bank said. It said despite these advances in the health sector, COVID-19 has underscored the need for revitalizing, reforming, and developing capacity for core public health functions, as well as for improving the quality and comprehensiveness of the health service delivery.

rector for India. Mori said India's decision to invest early and significantly to strengthen its health system even as it emerges from the pandemic, is a pioneering choice and "we are pleased to support this important agenda." Under health, two loans-- Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Programme (PHSPP) and Enhanced Health Service Delivery Programme (EHSDP) -- are designed to be complementary and transformational in impact. It will support the Indian government's reform agenda to accelerate universal coverage, improve quality,

WhatsApp bans over 19 lakh Indian accounts in May

NEW DELHI: Meta-owned WhatsApp banned over 19 lakh

compliance reports every month, mentioning the details of

son added. An Indian account is identified via the +91

said. As many as 528 grievance reports were received, and 24 accounts were "actioned" during May 2022.

Out of the total reports received, 303 pertained to 'ban appeal' while others were in the categories of account support, product support and safety, among others. "We respond to all

grievances received except in cases where a grievance is deemed to be a duplicate of a previous ticket.

An account is 'actioned' when an account is banned or a previously banned account is restored, as a result of a complaint," the report said.

The government is in the midst of finalising new social media rules that propose to give users a grievance appeal mechanism against arbitrary content moderation, inaction, or takedown decisions of big tech companies.

The IT ministry, last month, circulated the draft rules that propose a government panel to hear user appeals against inaction on complaints made, or against content-related decisions taken by grievance officers of social media platforms.



Indian accounts in May on the basis of complaints received from users via its grievances channel and through its own mechanism to prevent and detect violations, as per the latest monthly report published by the messaging platform.

The new IT rules which came into effect last year mandate large digital platforms (with over 50 lakh users) to publish

complaints received and action taken.

"As captured in the latest monthly report, WhatsApp banned over 1.9 million accounts in the month of May," a WhatsApp spokesperson said.

The user-safety report has details of the user complaints received and the corresponding action taken by WhatsApp, as well as its own preventive actions to combat abuse on the platform, the spokesperson

phone number prefix. According to the report released on Friday, 19.10 lakh Indian accounts were banned by WhatsApp between May 1 and May 31, 2022 using the "abuse detection approach, which also includes action taken in furtherance to negative feedback received from users..." In comparison, the messaging platform had banned over 16 lakh accounts of Indian users in the month of April, and 18.05 lakh such accounts in March.

"Over the years, we have consistently invested in Artificial Intelligence and other state-of-the-art technology, data scientists and experts, and in processes, in order to keep our users safe on our platform," the spokesperson further

Murmu has better chances to win prez polls after Maha development: Mamata

Continued from page-1

Maharashtra, Banerjee stressed that "a consensus candidate is always better for the country".

"BJP's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu has better chances (to win presidential polls) because of Maharashtra development. If the BJP had asked for our suggestion before announcing the name of Murmu, we could have considered it, too, bearing greater interests in mind," Banerjee told reporters on the sidelines of a Rath Yatra programme here. Non-BJP parties, including the Congress as well as the TMC, have named former Union minister Yashwant Sinha as the joint nominee for the presidential polls.

The TMC supremo said that she "will go by what the opposition parties decide".

"We would have tried (fielding a woman). Some 16-17 political parties came together to take a decision, I will not be able to take a call alone. I want the presidential elections to be held peacefully. I have equal respect for all religions, races and creeds. I feel sad that there is a contest. But I think all Dalits, all tribals are with us. We do not create divisions among people," she added.

Hitting out at Banerjee, meanwhile, Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury alleged that the TMC chief "made the statement on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instructions."

"She made a secret pact with Modi and that got exposed once again. She chose the candidate (for presidential polls) and we supported that. Our whimsical 'didi' is now acting as a BJP agent. The BJP plunged into the elections with Droupadi Murmu after ensuring that it has the numbers. It's not a big discovery that Murmu will win," Chowdhury said, when contacted.

and increase the resilience and preparedness of the health system, the World Bank said.

PHSPP will support the government's efforts to prepare India's surveillance system to detect and report epidemics of potential international concerns; enhancing capacity to detect pathogens, including zoonotic diseases and strengthen coordination and build institutional capacity of core public health institutions.

EHSDP will support the government's efforts to strengthen service delivery through a redesigned primary health care model; improve quality of care by supporting the National Quality Assurance Standards certification across Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs); and transform the health sector governance and accountability by strengthening implementation capacity. About the DPL, the World Bank said the Indian government has taken several measures over the past decade to improve financial inclusion as well as the stability of the financial sector and the domestic capital markets. This has resulted in a more efficient and resilient sector in the face of the COVID-19 crisis and other external shocks. Despite this progress,

India vs England 5th Test: Visitors reach 53/2 as rain stops play before lunch on Day 1



BIRMINGHAM: England's most decorated pacer James Anderson produced probing spells in the rain-hit morning session to reduce India to 53 for two at lunch on day one of the re-scheduled fifth Test here on Friday.

Rain forced the lunch break 20 minutes before time with Hanuma Vihari (14 batting off 46 balls) and Virat Kohli (1 batting off 7) in the middle. Anderson had openers Shubman Gill (17 off 24) and Cheteshwar Pujara (13 off 46) caught by Zak Crawley at second slip to give England the advantage after

Ben Stokes opted to 'chase' at Edgbaston. India could have been three down had Crawley held on to a tough chance presented by Vihari off Matthew Potts. In overcast conditions, it was expected to be a tough session for India, who came into the final match of the series after playing a four-day warm-up game.

England, on the other hand, came battled hardened following a morale boosting whitewash of reigning world Test champions New Zealand. Batting in English conditions is arguably the toughest test for opening batters

and the job gets tougher with Anderson and Stuart Broad holding the new ball. Gill promised a lot during his stay in the middle. He began with a boundary with a flick through mid-wicket off Anderson before producing a glorious straight drive. Then came the pull shot off Broad and it seemed Gill was ready for the challenge.

However, one is never set while playing in England and a poor shot led to Gill's downfall. Anderson is relentless around the off-stump but this particular ball was on the wider side and Gill could have left it

alone but he poked at it to be caught at second slip.

After a five-over burst, Anderson returned to dismiss Pujara for the 12th time in his career. Pujara, who got back into the Indian team after a prolific run in county cricket, got a beauty on the off-stump that straightened and bounced off good length to take the outside edge.

Pujara had looked solid until he was undone by Anderson's brilliance.

Brief Scores: India 53/2 (Shubman Gill, 17, Cheteshwar Pujara 13 batting, Jimmy Anderson 2/15) vs England

Bengaluru FC sign youngster Amrit Gope on two year deal, Faisal Ali for three years

BENGALURU: Bengaluru FC, on Friday, announced that the club had acquired the services of youngsters Amrit

paign. Gope, who joined TRAU in 2021, previously turned out for Jamshedpur FC Reserves between 2018

ances across two seasons in the I-League. Kolkata-born Ali, meanwhile, started his senior football journey in 2018 with

the 2021 Durand Cup, and was on target three times as they finished runners up in the 2021-22 I-League.



Gope and Faisal Ali, on two and three-year deals respectively.

Gope, who most recently turned out for TRAU FC, has signed on a deal that will see him at the club until 2023-24, while former Mohammedan Sporting winger Ali's deal runs through until the end of the 2024-25 cam-

and 2019, making 12 appearances in the 2nd Division I-League. Ahead of the 2019-20 campaign, the 22-year-old was promoted to the senior team, where he was part of the Red Miners' Indian Super League squad.

Since his move to TRAU, Gope made a further 16 appear-

Southern Samity, and transferred to Bhawanipore FC only two years later.

The 23-year-old made the move to Mohammedan SC in 2020, and finished sixth in the 2020-21 I-League season. The following year, Ali was part of the Black Panthers squad that finished runners up at

The duo, whose signings come as part of the Blues' continued building of their squad around youngsters, will join a team that has handed contract extensions to Leon Augustine, Namgyal Bhutia, Lara Sharma, Parag Shrivastava and Naorem Roshan Singh in recent weeks.

Wimbledon 2022: Nick Kyrgios fined USD 10,000 for conduct in first-round



WIMBLEDON: Nick Kyrgios was fined USD 10,000 for unsportsmanlike conduct in his first-round Wimbledon victory, the largest of the penalties announced so far at the tournament. Kyrgios acknowl-

edged at his news conference after that match that he spit in the direction of a spectator he said was heckling him.

On Thursday, the All England Club announced a slate of fines it has issued

for on-site offenses. The second-most money anyone was docked was USD 5,000 for Alexander Ritschard for unsportsmanlike conduct during a first-round match in qualifying.

Seven other men

were penalized USD 3,000 each for either unsportsmanlike conduct or audible obscenity. A total of five women have been fined. The highest amount was the USD 4,000 for Daria Saville in the first round for racket or equipment abuse.



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