

Govt aims to provide affordable healthcare to all: PM

Agency
New Delhi, Jun 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said access to medicines is a big concern for the poor and his government's constant endeavour is to ensure affordable healthcare for every Indian. He was interacting through video conference with beneficiaries of the 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi

Pariyojna (PMBJP)' and affordable cardiac stents and knee implants.

"Access to medicines is a big concern for the poor... Our constant endeavour is to ensure affordable healthcare to every Indian," he said. Modi said several people are benefitting from PMBJP, an initiative of the government to provide medicines at affordable prices. He noted that the government

has reduced stent prices substantially, benefitting the poor and the middle class the most.

The prime minister also said that his government aims to eradicate tuberculosis from India by 2025, five years ahead of a globally-set deadline. Ahead of the International Yoga Day on June 21, the prime minister also appealed to people to practice yoga and make it a part of their life.

UP CM suspends district magistrates of Fatehpur, Gonda

Agency
Lucknow, Jun 7

Taking note of alleged irregularities in wheat purchase and distribution of food grains, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today suspended the district magistrates of Fatehpur and Gonda.

"DM Fatehpur Prashant Kumar and DM Gonda JB Singh have been suspended by the chief minister after he took serious note of irregularities," an official

spokesman said here. "In Fatehpur, irregularities were found in wheat purchase. Fixing responsibility at senior level, the chief minister has ordered suspension of the DM. On May 31, during an inspection by the food department, no wheat purchase was found from May 13 till date and there was no reason mentioned for it," he said.

Lodging of FIRs was ordered by the Food Commissioner yesterday against a number of officials of the department in Fatehpur for not

distributing token to farmers for wheat purchase and affecting the process.

In Gonda, irregularities were found in distribution of food grains and the DM's supervision and control was found to be lax, due to which he was suspended, the spokesman said.

Besides the DM, district supply officer Rajiv Kumar and district food marketing officer Ajay Vikram Singh have also been suspended and orders have been issued to register FIR in the entire matter, the spokesman added.

New flower species named after former Arunachal CM

Agency
Itanagar, Jun 7

An Arunachalee scientist has dedicated a new species of flower that he discovered last year to former chief minister Dorjee Khandu, an official statement said. Krishna Chowlu, a scientist with Botanical Survey of India (BSI), discovered the wild flower, which is white at the base and violet on the top, at a forest in Zemithang area of Tawang in September

2017. Calling on Chief Minister Pema Khandu at his office yesterday, Chowlu said the flower of Balsaminaceae family - Impatiens dorjeekhanduii - was named after the former CM and his father to honour his contributions for the development of the state, the statement said. Any person who studies Balsaminaceae family will study Impatiens dorjeekhanduii, Chowlu

asserted. Apart from Chowlu, scientists Rajib Gogoi, SS Dash and Souravijoti Borah of BSI had contributed in publishing a paper on the new species in a BSI journal. Khandu lauded Chowlu and her team of scientists for the discovery, the statement said, adding that Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and Parliamentary Secretary for Planning Zingnu Namchoom were also present at the CM's office on the occasion.

Portal for job seekers and employers launched in Kerala

Agency
Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 7

A new portal, providing single window facility for job seekers and employers, was inaugurated.

The facility has been conceived and developed by Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE), the umbrella agency for skill development initiatives in the state, leveraging the possibilities of Information Technology. Social media platform LinkedIn has been integrated into this initiative by KASE, a press release said.

Speaking at the launch yesterday, Kerala Labour minister, T P Ramakrishnan said the government will conduct a study to assess setting up skill centres in the state, and will also expand the industrial internship programme.

KASE, in association with the Labour Commissionerate, will create a Labour Bank that will be linked to the jobs portal.

The new portal, he said, "is an opportunity for job seekers to find vacancies from primary level to

management level."

"With the launch of the portal, job seekers and job providers will be on the same platform. Vacancies of private firms will also be posted here." Additional Chief Secretary, Labour and Skills, Tom Jose delivered the special address on the occasion.

Dr Sriram Venkitaraman, Managing Director, KASE and Director Employment and Training, who presided, made a presentation highlighting the salient

features of the portal at the function.

In the phase I, employer and employee will register and job fairs, data analysis and job search and application using various parameters will be available.

In the second phase, a skill registry, digi locker facility and job blogs have been planned, he said. LinkedIn India Country Head Shraj Singh elaborated on the association of the networking site LinkedIn with this portal.

Militant attack on Army patrol near LoC, two soldiers injured

Agency
Srinagar, Jun 7

Two soldiers were today injured in a militant attack on an Army patrol near the Line of Control in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

"Terrorists opened fire on a link patrol ahead of the fence at the Line of Control in Keran sector," a Defence Spokesman said here. He said two soldiers were

injured in the firing, which was retaliated to by Army personnel.

The operation was in progress when last reports came in, he added. The attack comes on a day when Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh arrived here on a two-day visit to the state to review the security situation.

He is scheduled to visit border district of Kupwara tomorrow morning.

IIT Bombay Climbs 17 Places, among top 200 Universities in the World

Agency
New Delhi, June 7,

Seven IITs, the country's premier engineering institutes are on the list of the top 500 universities of the world. The QS World University Rankings report released on Wednesday night has brought good news for the Indian academia. At 162, IIT Bombay has moved up 17 places since last year's rankings.

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is at second after

IIT Bombay, at ranking 170. IIT Delhi which led the list of Indian universities has been displaced by IIT Bombay and IISc, Bangalore in the 2019 QS rankings.

While IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi are in the top 200 of the elite club of universities in the world, the other IITs at Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee and Guwahati have found a place in the top 500. In a statement, Ben Sowter, research director at QS said, "Research produced by the faculty at the 19 Indian

universities ranked in both the 2018 and 2019 rankings has yielded, cumulatively, 803,000 citations. This is 85,000 more than in 2018's edition of the rankings, which is creditworthy. The rise is also responsible for India's overall citations-per-faculty ratio rising from 46.90 in 2018 to 50.74 in 2019."

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, Harvard University, California Institute of Technology, and University of Oxford are the top five on the list.

"MIT is the nucleus of an unrivalled innovation ecosystem. Companies created by its alumni enjoyed combined revenues of \$2 trillion, making them the equivalent of the world's 11th largest economy. However, their continued dominance at the top should not obscure a changing landscape elsewhere, with other US and UK institutions making way for the best of Russia, China and India - among others," Mr Sowter has said as quoted by the QS website.

As Amit Shah meets Uddhav Thackeray

Agency
Mumbai, June 7

BJP boss Amit Shah started work on his mission to reach out to NDA allies, starting from Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena in Mumbai on Wednesday evening to mollify its oldest and most difficult ally that calls his party its "biggest political enemy". The Shiv Sena, which sees the BJP's efforts to consolidate its foothold in Mumbai and beyond as a threat, has promised a divorce ahead of next year's Lok Sabha elections.

AR organizes football match



IT News
Imphal, June 7,

Pangaltabi post of Kakching battalion of 28 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) played a friendly football match with Pangaltabi Youth Club Football Team on June 5. Sports is a great way to strengthen friendship and football being a favorite

among locals also brings out the real character of individual and as a team player. This friendly football match was indeed the best way to enhance the bonding between security force and local population.

The match was organized between Pangaltabi post of Kakching Battalion Assam Rifles and Pangaltabi Youth

Club Football Team. Both the teams played with great zeal and enthusiasm and showed a good display of sportsmanship. The match was a thrilling encounter with the teams ending on equal score and providing great entertainment for the crowd. The gesture was appreciated by the locals and Civil administration of Pangaltabi.

J-K sex scandal: Court awards 10 year jail to former BSF DIG, DSP

Agency
Chandigarh, June 7

A special CBI court on Wednesday awarded 10 years imprisonment to five persons, including a former DIG of the Border Security Force (BSF), a former DSP and three others in a twelve-year-old sex scandal in Jammu & Kashmir which involved a minor.

A fine of 1 lakh each was also imposed on BSF ex-DIG KC Padhi, former deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Mohammad Ashraf Mir while

the three other convicts — J&K residents Shabbir Ahmed Laway, Shabbir Ahmed Langhoo and Masud Ahmed — were fined 50,000 each. The amount will be used to provide relief to the victim for the loss of her reputation, dignity and an opportunity for education, ruled the court.

The sex scandal came to light in 2006 after the police recovered some video CDs of minor Kashmiri girls being sexually exploited by the police officials, ministers and other influential people. Calling

poverty a form of structural violence, Judge Gaganjit Kaur observed, "Most girls of poor families become prey to satisfy the lust of a man for a petty amount to ruin their lives... it is the system which is responsible to bring poor minor girls in such a muddy profession of flesh trade..."

The court dismissed the argument that the convicts did not know the survivor's age. "Even in case of victim of rape who is major..., it cannot be a determinative question because even if a victim is

proved to have lost her virginity it does not give a license to any person to rape her."

The court, while convicting five people on May 30, had acquitted two persons named in the scandal, former additional advocate general Anil Sethi and Mehrajuddin Malik.

The kingpin of the scandal, Sabeena, and her husband died during trial. The then chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad had handed over the case to the CBI.

Sharad Yadav not to get salary, allowances and perks as of now, rules SC

Agency
New Delhi, June 7

In a major setback to former Janata Dal United president Sharad Yadav, the Supreme Court on Thursday ordered a stay on salary, allowances and other perks currently available to the veteran Bihar politician. According to ANI, the top court partially modified a previous Delhi High Court order in this regard and said that Sharad Yadav won't get salary, allowances and other facilities like air and rail tickets.

The top court also granted him relief from vacating his official bungalow in New Delhi till July 12 till the matter pertaining to his disqualification from Rajya

Sabha is resolved.

The top court also directed the Delhi High Court to hear and expedite Sharad Yadav's plea challenging his disqualification from Rajya Sabha. The order was passed by the vacation bench of Adarsh Kumar Goel and Ashok Bhushan.

The country's highest court passed its order in response to a plea filed by Janata Dal (United) challenging the Delhi High Court order by which it had allowed Yadav to retain his official residence in New Delhi.

On May 18, the top court had agreed to hear the appeal by JD(U)'s Rajya Sabha MP Ramchandra Prasad Singh

and issued a notice to Yadav. Singh, the party's leader in the Upper House, had challenged the order of the high court passed on December 15 by which it had refused to grant interim stay on Yadav's disqualification as a Rajya Sabha MP and allowed him to draw his salary, allowances, perks and retain the bungalow till the pendency of his plea.

The interim order of the high court had come on Yadav's plea challenging his disqualification on several grounds, including that he was not given any chance to present his case by the Rajya Sabha chairman before passing an order against him and his colleague and then MP Ali Anwar on December 4.

Singh had sought their disqualification before the high court on the grounds that they had attended a rally of opposition parties in Patna in violation of the party's directives.

Yadav had joined hands with the opposition after JD(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar dumped the Grand Alliance with the RJD and the Congress in Bihar and tied up with the BJP in July last year. Yadav was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2016 and his term is scheduled to end in July 2022.

Anwar's term as a Rajya Sabha MP expired in April. Both were disqualified under the anti-defection law.