**VOLUME 10, ISSUE 132 | www.orissapost.com** 

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 | 2020

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#### **SHAWN ASHMORE JOINS THE BOYS-SEASON 2**

Actor Shawn Ashmore is all set to join the satire superhero series, The Boys. The X-Men fame actor will be seen in the role of Lamplighter in the upcoming second season of the web show.

#### **ANTONIO BANDERAS TESTS COVID +VE ON HIS B'DAY**

Actor Antonio Banderas has tested positive for Covid-19. The Original Sin actor shared the health update on Twitter, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.



with them would be the best thing for me," she said.



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#### ARIES

You will be resolute and unswerving in your work today. By afternoon, you'll see results. Love will lighten your workload in the evening, when you meet your beloved. If single, you may come across someone very interesting, muses Ganesha.

#### **TAURUS**

You might wake up yawning and keep yawning throughout today as lethargy gets the better of you. You may end up spending your day with loved ones, relaxing, while your wallet stresses out. New projects will wait in the shadow of your procrastination, predicts Ganesha

You will be able to divide your attention between personal and professional become pretty exciting during the after noon. By evening, you will get plenty of opportunities to shower your affection on your loved ones, says Ganesha.

#### **CANCER**

Today, you will put your long-standing plan of buying a new house into action, or refurbishing the current house. You will have enough liquidity to be able to meet these expenses, and still be able to spare a substantial amount of money for invest ment in a business.

Rise and shine! There is a very bright chance that today will be one of those super energetic and enthusiastic days. Ganesha predicts you will have a great time socialising with neighbours, friends and relatives Also, you may end up spending a small fortune in trying to please your sweet-heart. Since it is such a good day for social occasions, indulge in it. Also, delay the start of any new project or work today, advises Ganesha.

#### VIRGO

Ganesha foresees a strong probability that you will keep your feet ground in the face of adversity. The afternoon sun may bring some good returns or much awaited results for you. Love and affection will bring tranquillity in your family life. There is a distinct possibility of new relationships develop ing later in the day, says Ganesha.

Ganesha forecasts mostly superficial and unease and nervousness today. Matters relating to government rules and regulations will be on the table today at your workplace. But evening promises a lighter fare; your fine taste in arts shall receive applause from all quarters.

#### **SCORPIO** There are chances that

you may easily get irritat ed and infuriated today, predicts Ganesha. Keep a lid on your anger or it may lead to irreconcilable differences. Avoid confrontations and unnecessary complications at work as well. You will spend a lot of time in finding out solutions to pending problems.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

You may turn to your family for love and happiness today, predicts Ganesha. But your soul searching will come at a high material cost. In the evening, you may encounter a thrilling love prospect with who you might indulge in some adventurous activity. It might be the beginning of a platonic love affair, says Ganesha.

#### CAPRICORN

Work pressure may take a toll on you today, but you will overcome all impediments and excel in whatever work you undertake, says Ganesha. Support and motivation await you at home as family members will be exceedingly tolerant of your actions

#### AQUARIUS

It's absolutely alright to attend a social do where vou don't know anvone Just be your charming self and everything will fall in place. Minor problems may nag. Know how to play a musical instrument? It's perfect for relaxation, says Ganesha.

PISCES You are likely to be sweating today at work, and it is neither the weather nor an ill-fitting suit that is the cause, says Ganesha. You will try your best to get your views across, and the postafternoon lunch siesta is probably the best time to hammer your point home because that is when your boss will have all the energy to argue against.



Bhumi Pednekar believes in repeating her clothes. She adds that she also believes in sharing wardrobe with her "I believe in repeating clothes. I

repeat clothes all

the time. I

think

you are told to wear different and new outfits, but honestly I don't care," said Bhumi, who is also an environment activist. "There are so many businesses I have come across where people are renting clothes! I love the idea! It's

people might see me wearing the

same clothes because as an actress

genius!" she added. Bhumi also shares clothes with her sister Samiksha Pednekar. "Between me and my sister, our wardrobe is pretty much one. We share clothes. We keep repeating clothes and we have no problem with that. In the last two years, I have consciously started seeing how cli-

mate-conscious the brand is before I wear it," she said.

#### Jacqueline misses her family MUMBAI: Actress Jacqueline Fernandez is spendmy loved ones through the day. I'm terribly missing my family back home so spending quality time

ing her birthday Tuesday here all alone, and she sure is missing her family.



## Rahat Indori passes away after testing Covid +ve

MUMBAI: Noted Urdu poet and lyricist, Dr Rahat Indori, passed away in Indore Tuesday afternoon after testing positive for Covid-19 Monday night. He

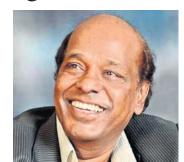
Early Tuesday morning, Indori, who was hospitalised, had tweeted: "After displaying initial symptoms of Covid, I underwent a corona test yesterday and have tested positive. I am admitted to Aurobindo hospital. Pray for me so that I can defeat this disease at the earliest. One more request, please don't call me or my family at home. You will keep getting my updates on Facebook and Twitter."

Indori was a painter, Urdu Professor and poet. He taught Urdu literature at Indore University before entering the film industry as a lyri-

Among the many memorable verses he created for Hindi films are Neend churayi meri and Dekho dekho jaanam (Ishq), Chori chori jab nazrein mili (Kareeb), M bole toh (Munna Bhai MBBS) and the title song of Sir. His popular books include Do

Kadam Aur Sahi, Maujood, Chand Pagal Hai, Mere Baad, and Naraz. Several cine celebrities took to

social media to express shock and grief at Indori's demise.



## How B-Town celebrated Krishna Janmashtami amid lockdown

NEW DELHI: On the occasion of Janmashtami celebrities took to social media to extend greetings to their fans, giving a glimpse on how they are celebrating Lord Krishna's birthday. When in lockdown a festival is a welcome distraction, bringing with cheer and hope

Stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Kangana Ranaut, Siddhart Malhotra and Shilpa Shetty among others posted on their Twitter and Instagram handles.

Kangana Ranaut posted a picture of Lord Krishna, calling Lord Krishna the only "fashionista incarnation of God". She captioned it: "Krishna is the only fashionista incarnation of God... he loved decorating himself with peacock feathers, flowers and yellow silk, he played (the) flute and danced like a



A screen grab of Amitabh's message on Twitter

way to madness.

Actor Amitabh Bachchan also shared a picture of Lord Krishna on

celestial being, what to say about 

Twitter and extended greetings to

Shilpa Shetty shared a video from her last year's Janmashtami celebration at ISKSON temple. She wrote: "Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare Last year this day, performing the Krishna Abhishek at @iskcontemple... Janmashtami ki aap sabhi ko dheron shubhkaamnayei.

'May Lord Krishna take away all our worries, give us the strength to face each day with courage, and bless each one of us with happiness, love, & peace on the holy oc-

casion of Krishna Janmashtami. Sharing a childhood picture of himself dressed as little Krishna with a flute and headgear, actor Sidharth Malhotra wrote: "Have fun family memories of Delhi related to this festival, however this year let's all celebrate responsibly. Wishing for love, peace & harmony,

#HappyJanmashtami to all. P.S-

Clearly my favourite Janmashtami

Neetu Kapoor shared a sweet memory of Jitendra and her dressed

up like Radha and Krishna, performing on the song Radhe Kahe Tune Murli Churai from the film

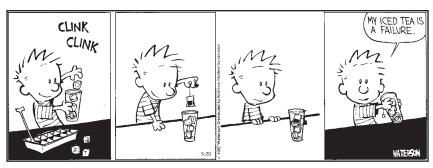


Kangana Ranaut and Shilpa Shetty Kundra celebrating the festival

#### **PEANUTS**



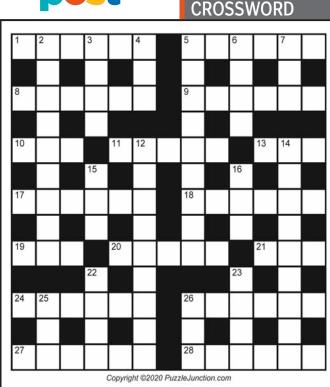
#### CALVIN AND HOBBES



#### BREVITY



## FUN



#### Across

1 Calamitous

5 Birds of Jove

8 Sacred beetle of

ancient Egypt

9 Expressions 10 Egg cells

11 Cay

13 Spending limit

18 Accord 19 Roulette bet

17 Showy

**Down** 

20 Choler

26 Andean

27 Splits

28 Stir up

21 Herd of seals

24 Large lizard

animals

2 Convalesced

3 Wise guy 4 Corn holder

22 Info 23 Barber's supply

25 Needlefish 26 Hilo garland

5 Earthquake

7 Shade tree

12 Some pianos

15 Battering device

14 High flier

16 Retainer

6 Pluck

beginning

SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

	5		2	О	Е				0	7	-	1		3
		8			О			7		6	3			9
2		9		В		С				5				
			0		6		В					5		
						3		С	6		Α	7		
		2		8	1		Α					23 - 23 28 - 53		
Ε			7	6		5			8			С		D
				Ε	2	8		D					1	
5	8		О		9	1				С		3		0
	9		Г			Г	1					В		
			Е		8	0	С	2	5	9				
В			1			7		Α				3 8		
							4	В	7		2		С	
		6						5	3			9	4	

D 0

#### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

NO STARRY AFFAIR

Actor Bhumi Pednekar prefers to repeat her clothes even as she is expected to wear new outfits in public LEISURE



#### MILK ABSOLUTELY FREE

Residents of a village of Maha do not sell milk and give it away to anyone who is in need TWO STATES P5



#### **HK PEOPLE DEFEND FREE PRESS**

People bought up copies of the Apple Daily paper to support free press in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory

INTERNATIONAL P8

**BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 | 2020** 

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Well, my day passes in a jiffy. I just call some helpline number and they put me on hold

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### 4G services in J&K on trial basis soon

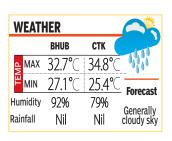
New Delhi: A special committee looking into the issue of restoring internet in Jammu and Kashmir has decided to provide 4G services on trial basis in limited areas of the Union Territory after August 15, the Centre informed the Supreme Court Tuesday. A bench headed by Justice N V Ramana was informed by Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, that the committee has decided to hold trials for high speed internet access in one district each in Jammu and Kashmir division. The committee has decided that access to 4G internet in J-K be given in a calibrated manner.

#### Pranab critical

New Delhi: Former President Pranab Mukherjee continues to remain critical and is on ventilator support, the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital said Tuesday, a day after he underwent a brain surgery. The 84-year-old was admitted to the military hospital around noon Monday, and had also tested positive for COVID-19 prior to the surgery.
"Former President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee was admitted to Army Hospital 1207 hours August 10, 2020 in a

critical condition.

#### **MARKET WATCH** SENSEX **38407.01** 224.93 11322.50 224.93 DOLLAR **74.79** EURO ₹2456 SILVER



# Russia registers world's first Covid-19 vaccine

Moscow, August 11: In what could alter the course of the Covid-19 pandemic that is still creating mayhem across the world, Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday said the country has registered the world's first Covid-19 vaccine that "forms stable cell and antibody immunity".

According to a report in the Tass news agency, Putin said the vaccine was registered Tuesday morning. "As far as I know this morning for the first time in the world a vaccine against the novel coronavirus infection was registered," Putin was quoted as saying as he opened a meeting with the state officials.

Putin informed that one of his daughters tested the Russian Covid-19 vaccine on herself and she is feeling well. The Russian President has two daughters -- Maria who was born in 1985 and Katerina who was born in 1986.

"I know this very well, because one of my daughters got vaccinated, so in this sense, she took part in testing," Putin said.

"After the second shot, she had a slight fever again, and then everything was fine. She is feeling well and has a high [antibody] count," the President informed. Putin pointed out that "some people did not have any symptoms at all" after getting a vaccine shot. The overall number of global coronavirus cases has surpassed the 20 million-mark, while the worldwide death toll has increased to over 734,000, according to data released by the Johns Hopkins University.

Russia's coronavirus cases rose by 4,945 to 897,599 in the past 24 hours. The new daily cases dropped below the 5,000mark for the first time since April 23.

Russia said Monday that it was going ahead with its plan to register



the world's first Covid-19 vaccine this week before it starts mass vaccination in October, despite safety concerns raised from several quarters, including the World Health Organization (WHO). Russia is the fourth worsthit nation by the pandemic after the US. Brazil and India.

The vaccine has been jointly developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute and the Russian Defence Ministry. On August 3, a "final medical examination" of participants in clinical trials of the vaccine took place at the Burdenko Main Military Clinical Hospital, the Russian Defence Ministry had said in a statement.

The results clearly showed that all volunteers had a clear immune response resulting from vaccination, the ministry said, adding that there were no side effects or abnormalities in the work of the volunteers. Of the six Covid-19 vaccine candidates that have reached the Phase 3 level according to the WHO, three are from China and the other three include the ones developed by the

he World Health Organization (WHO) said any WHO stamp of approval on a Covid-19 vaccine candidate would require a rigorous safety data review, after Russia announced Tuesday it had approved a vaccine, President Vladimir Putin said Russia had become the first country to approve a vaccine offering "sustainable immunity" against the new coronavirus. "We are in close contact with the Russian health authorities and discussions are ongoing with respect to possible WHO pre-qualification of the vaccine," the United Nations health agency's snokesman Tarik Jasarevic told reporters in Geneva at an online press briefing

WHO SEEKS REVIEW

University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, Moderna, and one jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech. Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko had earlier said that clinical trials of the vaccine were over. Russia is facing international scepticism due to its fast approach in developing the vaccine.

#### Lunch break by 108 driver 'kills' baby

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, August 11: A twoyear-old ailing boy breathed his last inside a 108 ambulance as the driver of the vehicle and an accompanying pharmacist allegedly spent too much time at a roadside dhaba for their lunch. The incident occurred Monday under Betinoti police limits in Mayurbhanj.

Parents of the deceased alleged that even though they requested the driver and the pharmacist not to spend too much time on lunch as the baby's condition was critical, the duo did not pay heed and went ahead for lunch.

Sources said, the baby of Niranjan Behera and Geeta Behera of Ambajoda village in the district was suffering from diarrhoea-like conditions for which his parents admitted him to PRM Medical College and Hospital Sunday. As his condition deteriorated, doctors referred him to SCB Medical College and Hospital. The baby was being taken to the hospital in a 108 ambulance.

However, the driver and the pharmacist stopped the ambulance at a roadside dhaba near KC Pur village and went out for lunch and did not return before over an hour. Even as the child's mother Gita Behera pleaded with them to resume the journey as the condition of the baby was fast deteriorating, they ignored her.

After they returned to the ambulance, the pharmacist observed that the child was unresponsive. When they took the baby to the nearest KC Pur Community Health Centre, the doctors declared him brought dead. Gita, in a complaint lodged with KC Pur police outpost, blamed the driver and the pharmacist for the death of her son. Betnoti IIC Ashok Kumar Nayak said a case has been registered and investigation into the matter is on.



## 8.4L pensioners face bleak future in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: The decision of the state government to stop paying pensions and other financial aid to the most vulnerable sections of society without Aadhar linking during COVID-19 has created a controversy in the state.

The State Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) has written to District Social Security Officers to not allow payment of pensions under the social security schemes without Aadhar.

The elderly, widow, sick, people living with HIV, differently-abled and transgender community receive pensions from the state government under the Madhu Babu Pension Scheme while many are covered under the Centre's National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).

"I am directed to say that regular pension under both NSAP and MBPY is to be disbursed in August along with an ex-gratia @1000 per beneficiary only to the

Aadhar verified pensioners through cash payment,' the letter from the SSEPD department told DSSOs.

According to data from the ministry of social justice, Odisha has a total of 49,70,568 beneficiaries under NSAP and MBPS. Out of this 41,30,515 have Aadhar numbers. Of this 38,69,980 have their Aadhar numbers verified. If pensioners without Aadhar are not given pensions, close to 8.40 lakh beneficiaries would be deprived of pensions.

The state government, however, claimed that no eligible pensioners would be deprived of pensions. "There is no question of depriving any genuine pensioner or deleting their names from the scheme. Each block has an Aadhar camp. As soon as we see any non Aadhar beneficiaries, we will direct them for Aadhar registration. Even the acknowledgment number of their applications will work. Genuine pensioners will not have any problem with the this,' Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma, SSEPD

department secretary said.

## 75-yr-old pushed on trolley to bank to receive pension



Padan Nayak is being pushed on a trolley to a bank to receive his pension

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tihidi, August 11: A 75-year-old man was brought on a trolley to UCO Bank's Tihidi branch in Bhadrak district for his pension Monday. Local people have flayed the bank officials for forcing the elderly person to come to the branch to withdraw his pension.

Padan Charan Nayak (75), a retired teacher, is a resident of Sindol village. Till last month, he had been coming to the branch to collect his pension. However, due to age related issues, he found it impossible to visit the branch. Last month, he had requested the bank to make an arrangement for his pension to be delivered at his door step.

Aas the usual pension date passed without any response from the bank he decided to visit the branch to draw his pension.

However, he was not able to go to the branch due to his advanced years. It was then that a trolley was arranged for him. The trolley was pushed along the road up to the branch.

When contacted, branch manager Sanjukta Sahu said the branch was struggling with staff shortage. "From next month, his pension will be delivered at his door step,"

# Agri infra fund, another eyewash

BISWA BHUSAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Two days ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a financing facility for agriculture under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for creation of postharvest management of farm infrastructure.

Rs 1 lakh crore has been allocated under the AIF. However, experts observe that the latest scheme may turn out to be another eye-wash like earlier claims of the Centre like recovering black money and two crore jobs for youths each year.

As per AIF guidelines, banks and financial institutions will provide funds for agri projects with an interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum. The rebate will be provided for loans up to ₹2 crore. Beyond ceiling, banks will decide the interest rates. This meant, no big or mega infrastructure projects can

be taken up under the scheme. Under the AIF, the Centre will facilitate investment of ₹1 lakh crore during next 10 years (from 2020-21 to 2029-30). Out of this, ₹2,500 crore has been earmarked for Odisha.

Out of ₹10,000 crore targeted to



only ₹25 crore will be available for Odisha. Questions are being raised as to how many farmers will benefit from this meager amount.

The Centre will provide credit guarantee to eligible farmers while the banks will examine the projects and approve the DPR. Like the existing system, the applicants will have to approach banks for clearance of projects.

So far, only 11 public sector banks have entered into agreement with the ministry of agriculture to implement the scheme. Not a single private bank or cooperative bank has agreed to support the scheme.

**NO BIG OR MEGA INFRA** PROJECTS CAN BE TAKEN UP

**UNDER THE SCHEME** 

OUT OF ₹1 LAKH CR, ₹2,500 CR HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR **ODISHA** 

NOT A SINGLE PRIVATE BANK OR **COOP BANK HAS AGREED TO BACK SCHEME** 

In Odisha, the performance of banks in providing loans for development of agriculture infrastructure is very poor. In 2019-20, the State Level Bankers Committee

to provide loans to the tune of ₹1716.22 crore for agri infrastructure development. However, banks gave just ₹517.97 crore - that worked out to a target achievement of just 30 per cent. Given the performances of banks in the state, doubts are being raised whether they will implement the scheme.

Surendra Pasupalak, an agro economist, said the only new thing in the scheme is the 3 per cent interest subvention and credit guarantee by the government. "I did not find anything more in the scheme. The target of ₹10,000 crore for a year for whole of India is very little and Odisha's share in that is also disappointing," he said.

"To plan and execute an infrastructure development project like cold storage, one needs technical support. Who will guide the farmers? Pasupalak asked. It seems middlemen and bankers will benefit from the scheme, he opinioned. Commenting on the scheme, Agriculture Secretary Sourabh Garg said, "The scheme was just launched. We are examining it and will see how Odisha will get more benefits from the scheme.'

## Daughters have equal rights in joint Hindu family property: SC THE VERDICT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE AMENDMENT TO THE HINDU SUCCESSION ACT, 1956 GRANTING EQUAL

RIGHTS TO DAUGHTERS TO INHERIT ANCESTRAL PROPERTY WOULD HAVE RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 11: Holding that daughters cannot be deprived of their right of equality, the Supreme Court Tuesday ruled that they will have equal coparcenary rights in joint Hindu family property even if the father died before the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act 2005

A three-judge bench of Justices Arun Mishra, S Nazeer and M R Shah said the provisions contained in substituted Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 confer the status of coparcener on the daughter born before or after amendment in

the same manner as a son with the same rights and liabilities. Coparcener is a term used for a

person who assumes a legal right in parental property by birth only. The bench said, "the rights can be claimed by the daughter born earlier with effect from September 9, 2005 with savings as provided in Section 6(1) as to the disposition or alienation, partition or testamentary disposition which had taken place before December 20, 2004. Since the right in coparcenary is by birth, it is not necessary that father coparcener should be

living as on September 9, 2005. The verdict makes it clear the

amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral prop-

erty would have retrospective ef-The apex court said the appeals

on the issue were pending before different High Courts and subordinate courts and the matters have already been delayed due to legal imbroglio caused by conflicting de-

"The daughters cannot be deprived of their right of equality conferred upon them by Section 6. Hence, we request that the pending matters be decided, as far as possible, within six months," the bench said. The apex court's verdict came on the issue whether the amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect.

## **BIJEPUR PROJECT MAY GET CABINET NOD TODAY**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: An important meeting of the state cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will be held at 5.30 pm Wednesday. The meeting will be held through the video conferencing mode.

18 proposals of various departments including health & family welfare, energy, industries, water resources, finance, law, labour & ESI and panchayati raj will be placed

before the panel for approval. A proposal for sanction of government guarantees of ₹1500 crore in favour of GRIDCO for the term loan availed from banks during the financial year 2019-20 will be placed while the cabinet is also likely to approve amendments to the Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) which will replace VAT and entertainment tax incorporating GST. The definition of downstream industry will also be changed, the source said. The cabinet will also consider amendment to the Orissa Municipal Act, 1950 and the Orissa Municipal Corporation Act, 2003.

The financial bid for execution of Gangadhar Meher lift irrigation project at Bijepur may get the cabinet nod. The government is likely to take an important decision related to Odisha Civil Service examinations and court fees. Four to five drinkingwater supply projects are also likely to be approved at the meeting.

### **NO INVESTITURE CEREMONY THIS YEAR**

# **Covid test for officials ahead of I-Day fete**

Bhubaneswar, August 11: The state government has said that officials and contingents that would participate in the state-level Independence Day celebrations will be tested for the novel coronavirus.

Three contingents of Odisha State Armed Police (OSAP), Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and SS Battalion along with police band will participate in the I-Day celebration at Exhibition Ground here. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will grace the occasion as the chief guest. The officers deployed near the flag post would also be tested for the virus prior to the event, official sources said.

All officials and contingents participating in the function have been asked to wear masks and strictly maintain physical distance during



#### **NEW GUIDELINES**

All officials and contingents participating in the function have been asked to wear masks and strictly maintain physical distance during the event

The celebration will be held with presence of very few officials including the Chief Secretary, DGP, home secretary and deputy director general of NCC

At district and lower levels, only one or two police contingents will participate in the ceremony for offering compliments to the chief guest during the celebration

#### NO PARADE AND MARCH PAST WILL BE CONDUCTED THIS YEAR

The celebration will be held with presence of very few officials including the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, home secretary and deputy director general of NCC. No public will be allowed to the

POST NEWS NETWORK & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 11: State's

COVID-19 tally rose to 48,796 with

the detection of 1.341 fresh cases, an

official of Health and Family Welfare

(H&FW) department said Tuesday.

taking the toll in state to 296, said

the official, adding that three peo-

ple each died in Ganiam and Khurda

districts while Sundargarh,

Rayagada, Puri and Balasore re-

Besides, two COVID-19 patients

from Bhubaneswar and

Nabarangpur also died but these fa-

talities were due to 'other reasons'.

as cited by the Health department.

The number of such deaths in the

state has now reached 53, the offi-

district has the highest 140 casualties

followed by Khurda (41), Sundargarh

(19), Gajapati (16), Rayagada (12),

were reported from 29 districts.

Of them, 818 were detected from

different quarantine centres

while 523 persons tested posi-

tive during contact tracing ex-

ercise. "Further contact tracing

On Tuesday, the new cases

Cuttack (11) and Balasore (6).

As for COVID death toll, Ganjam

ported one fatality each.

cial said.

Ten more patients lost their lives,

venue. Barricading will be done by the Works department to ensure that the public is prevented to enter the venue at the time of the celebration, the source said.

There won't be any investiture cer-

**OUT OF 30 DISTRICTS INFECTED WITH** 

THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, GANJAM

HAS THE MAXIMUM 13,315 CASES

FOLLOWED BY KHURDA (6.881)

Out of 30 districts infected with

the novel coronavirus. Ganiam

has the maximum 13,315 cases fol-

lowed by Khurda (6,881). At least

three districts have registered

more than 2,000 COVID cases, nine

districts have 1.000 to 2.000 cases.

nine districts have positive cases

more than 500 while seven dis-

tricts have less than 500 cases but

Three western Odisha districts

Sundargarh (91).

more than 100 cases.

demic. The medals will be given at investiture ceremony to be held January 26 next year.

Meanwhile, the Home department has issued detailed guidelines for celebration of the day at district and lower levels. The celebration would be without the participation of general public as a safety measure.

Only one or two police contingents will participate in the ceremony for offering compliments to the chief guest during the celebration. No parade and march past will be held.

Limited number of guests including 15 to 20 Covid warriors will be invited to the celebration. The Collectors and superintendents of police (SPs) were asked to strictly follow social distancing norms, wearing of masks among others at the functions.

## SC allows OMDC to resume mining ops

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 11: The Supreme Court, Tuesday, allowed M/s Orissa Minerals Development Company (OMDC) Limited to resume mining operations in Odisha after getting necessary clearance.

A three-judge bench of the apex court headed by Justice SA Bobde and comprising AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian also held that the officers of the state of Odisha shall conduct a joint verification of the undisposed stock and allow sale of the same by the OMDC following due procedure. The bench also condoned the delay in payment of the compensation for illegal mining along with the interest by the OMDC.

"Since the interest is stated to have been paid for the period of delay, we find it expedient to condone the delay. Further, since the compensation amount along with interest has been paid as directed by this court and the receipt of the same is acknowledged by the state of Odisha, we also consider it appropriate to grant further relief

**ILLEGAL MINING** 

he SC bench held that the officers of Odisha govt shall conduct a joint verification of the undisposed stock and allow sale of the same by the OMDC

MDC had filed several petitions Uin SC seeking permission to resume regular mining operations in view of payment of the entire

The bench also condoned the delay in payment of the compensation for illegal mining along with the interest by the OMDC

sought in the applications," the bench said.

Significantly, several applications were filed in the SC by OMDC seeking permission to resume regular mining operations in view of payment of the entire amount demanded. The applications pertain to the mining lease in favour of the company in respect of Roida-Bhadrasahi Iron Ore and Bhadrasahi Iron and Manganese respectively.

The appellant had also sought a direction to Odisha government to conduct joint verification of the undisposed stock and allow sale of the same so as to enable the applicant company to realise the amount. The applicant had also filed interlocutory application in the court seeking to condone the delay in payment in pursuance with the order passed by the court in 2017. The SC in its order dated August 2, 2017 had directed that the company to pay the compensation on or before December 2017.

Odisha, in its reply to the applications, has stated that the compensation amount as ordered by the apex court under Section 21(5) of the MMDR Act, 1957 has been fully paid by the applicant company along with interest in respect of all the mining leases held by the OMDC

#### Woman on morning walk robbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Two bike-borne miscreants snatched away a gold chain from a 36-yearold woman in Nayapalli area here Tuesday, police said.

The incident took place around 6.30am when the woman was doing morning walk near her residence.

Two men, one of them wearing a helmet, allegedly snatched her gold chain before speeding away on a black Pulsar motorcycle, police said. Although some locals chased the miscreants, they managed to flee the scene, the police added. However, the woman did not sustain any injuries during the incident.

CCTV footage obtained from the area is being scanned and the cops have zeroed in on some suspects. Earlier, two other bike-borne miscreants had snatched away a gold necklace from a woman in broad daylight in Unit-II Market area here June 3. It was learnt that the woman was on her way to the market when the miscreants came from behind and snatched the gold chain she was wearing.

Moreover, a lady DSP of Vigilance was also robbed near her residence in Unit-III area here. The looters' gang was busted at least 15 days of the incident.

#### 4 held with 42K litre illegal kerosene

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: The Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch Tuesday arrested four persons from Cuttack on charges of their involvement in pilferage and black-marketing of Kerosene oil meant for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS)

The agency also recovered 42,000litre kerosene along with nine oil tankers, a four-wheeler, Rs 29, 700 in cash and chemicals used for conversion of blue kerosene into white. According to STF sources, Ranjan Kumar Behera, Nirakar Beura, Manoranjan Behera and Bidyadhar Samal of Cuttack have been taken into custody. "The accused have been sent to judicial custody after their bail plea was nixed," said a STF note, adding that it is the biggest kerosene seizure so far.

### **CLASSIFIED**

#### **AFFIDAVIT**

I, Saisangeeta Majhi, W/o. Sandip Kumar Mohanty, At:- Padhuanpada, P.O./P.S./Dist:- Balasore -756001 have changed my surname after marriage to Saisangeeta Mohanty for all future purposes vide affidavit Dt. 08/08/2020 sworn before Notary N. Mohanty, Bhubaneswar.

emony during Independence Day

## **NO RESPITE**

10 more succumb to nCoV; toll nears 300

WITH 1.341 FRESH CASES. **ODISHA'S COVID-19 TALLY** MOUNTS TO 48,796; RECOVERIES STAND AT 34.806

**GANJAM DISTRICT HAS THE HIGHEST 140 CASUALTIES** FOLLOWED BY KHURDA (41). SUNDARGARH (19), GAJAPATI (16), RAYAGADA (12), CUTTACK (11) AND BALASORE (6)

and other follow-up actions are underway," the official said, adding that the highest 227 new (188) and Nuapada (194). cases were detected in Odisha's Meanwhile, 1,785 persons recoronavirus hotspot— Ganjam, followed by Khurda (218) and

have the lowest virus cases so far. They are Deogarh (101), Sonepur

covered from the viral infection.

#### Khandapada MLA tests positive

BJD MLA from Khandapada and editor of Odia daily Sambad Soumya Ranjan Patnaik tested positive for COVID-19 Tuesday. The legislator and former Raiva Sabha MP informed about the results through his social media handle. On Twitter, he said that he has tested positive for the viral disease. He also asked the persons who came in his contact in the last few days to consult doctors and take care of themselves. The MLA said that although he had contracted the disease, he was stable and doing good.

**COVID-19 TRACKER** 

2,03,20,959

23,22,755

## 7 BMC workers test positive for virus

Out of 3,075 sanitation workers under the BMC, 7 have tested positive for the killer virus so far

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: At a time when frontline Covid warriors such as sanitation workers are being tested positive for the virus, Bhubaneswar Corporation (BMC) has decided to step up testing for rapid identification and control of infection.

of the 3,075 'Safaikarmacharis' (sanitation workers) deployed in garbage collection and sanitisation activities under the BMC, seven have tested positive so far. While the civic body directly manages cleaning activities in 10 wards across the city, the remaining 57 wards are divided among three private sanitation agencies, Jagruti, PMR and Ramky.

While six staffers of Ramky were tested Covid-19 positive, one from Jagruti has contracted the virus. However, no sanitation worker either from BMC-managed wards or PMR has tested positive so far. Moreover, while 2,152 have undergone tests, others will join the testing camps in their respective zones in coming days," said BMC Commissioner, Prem Chandra Chaudhary. As per BMC sources, while 615 sanitation workers are engaged under PMR, 715 are deployed with Ramky and 1,150 under Jagruti. While PMR manages sanitation in 14 wards, Ramky manages it in 15 and Jagruti in 28 wards.

"The sanitation or supervising staff, who have tested positive for the virus, were asked to undergo 14day mandatory quarantine, but their salaries were credited as part of a goodwill gesture as they are also doing a Herculean task of keeping our environment clean during the pandemic," Chaudhary added. He added that in a bid to sensi-

tise the sanitation about Covid-19. the BMC, in association with Unicef and CORE, a social service organisation, has organised wardwise capacity building camps.

**CHILIKA WILDLIFE** 

## BJP yet to pick office-bearers for Puri dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, August 11: The Puri district unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is yet to get its new office-bearers even though the saffron party had appointed a new district president around seven months ago

The BJP had appointed Ashrit Patnaik as the new district president by replacing Pravanjana Mahapatra December 20, 2019. It was then stated that a youth leader like Patnaik would add more fire power to BJP in Puri district.

However, Patnaik is yet to have his team comprising vice-presidents, general secretaries, secretaries and a treasurer for the party's district unit. Moreover, the party has **Intense lobbying has** started for various posts in the district unit and BJP frontal organisations

failed to appoint heads to its frontal organisations including Mahila Morcha, Yuva Morcha, Adivasi Morcha and Krushak Morcha, sources said.

Many leaders and activists of the party have been lobbying hard to get various posts in the district unit and BJP frontal organisations.

Delay in the appointment of office-bearers for Puri BJP unit has affected party's organisation in the district. "Many BJP leaders are lobbying for the posts in party's district unit. However, they are in dark as to when the district unit of BJP will get its office-bearers. Delay in the formation of the new district unit of BJP has dampened the spirit of the grassroots level

workers," said a political observer. Patnaik, meanwhile, claimed that he has held discussions with the party's state unit leadership to select office-bearers for Puri unit. The district unit will be formed soon. We will follow party's guidelines while selecting the office-bear-

ers," he said. It is worth mentioning here that both the candidates fielded by the saffron party had won the 2019 Assembly elections from Puri and Brahmagiri constituencies.

## **RAPID ANTIGEN TEST AT 9 CENTRES IN CAPITAL CITY**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**RECOVERED** 

1,32,43,333

16,33,356

34,806

7,40,417

46,062

of the northward trend of novel coronavirus cases in the Capital city, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has started conducting rapid antigen tests from Tuesday onwards.

The BMC, in association with the Health and Family Welfare department, has started rapid antigen test of local citizens at nine local urban health centres, Tuesday. Out of these health centres, six are Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) and three are Urban Community Health Centres

The camps that will begin testing at 8am will continue till 2pm. The tests conducted by the civic body will be free of cost. The centres set for testing in different parts of the city are at Niladri Vihar, Unit-III, Pokhariput, Unit-VIII, Unit-IX, Sahid Nagar, Patia, Dumduma and Unit-IV.

Moreover, seven new UPHCs will be added for the testing from Wednesday. The seven new centres will be at IRC Village, Ghatikia, Kalpana Square, Brahmeshwar Kapilaprasad, Chandrasekharpur and Municipality Hospital in

## POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, August 11: Chilika

Alok Ranjan Hota, was Tuesday sent to judicial custody after Vigilance sleuths arrested him in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case.

Bhubaneswar Division Vigilance sleuths unearthed properties over Rs 77 lakh disproportionate to his

known sources of income. The anti-corruption officials conducted simultaneous raids at various locations including Hota's triple-storied building at Chandrasekharpur and a singlestoried building at Dumduma here Monday. The cops also conducted searches at the houses of his relatives in Dumduma and Poumapur in Khurda and his native place at Chasikhanda in Jagatsinghpur.

Hota possesses assets worth Rs 1, 00, 32,551 which includes one triple-storied building, one single-storied building, one four wheeler, two two-wheelers, deposits in different banks and post offices, investment in insurance policies, gold and silver ornaments, cash over 1 lakh and some household articles.

However, Hota allegedly failed to give details regarding the sources of income invested in assets worth Rs 77, 47,551.

The officials arrested Hota by registering a case (22/20) under sections 13(2) and 13(1) (b) of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. He was later sent to judicial custody till August 24 by Special Vigilance Judge here Tuesday.

## Inclusivity one of the core values of IIM-Sambalpur: Dir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, August 11: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur, Tuesday, welcomed the MBA batch 2020-22 and PhD batch 2020-22 through an inauguration programme in virtual mode. The session was graced by guests including chief guest Guru Prasad Mohapatra, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The MBA program was introduced by Atri Sengupta, Chairman, PGP and the PhD program of the institute was introduced by Balamurugan Annamalai, Chairman, PhD Program. The 6th MBA batch with its full strength of



168 students is a vibrant combination of gender and academic di-

Speaking on the occasion, Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, said, "Inclusivity is one of the core values of IIM Sambalpur and I am glad to say that we have the most diverse class profile this year, in terms of gender with 40 per cent female candidates, socio-economic class and diverse academic background with rich industry experience, representing more than 17 states/UTs of the country. We have increased our seats from a 100 to 165 this year.

Among the students who have taken admission this year, 72 per cent are from engineering background 72% of students who have taken admission this year are from engineering background while the remaining from other subjects

while the remaining 28 per cent are from other subjects and 60 per cent come with prior work experience. "I am confident that we will be able to produce responsible leaders with an entrepreneurial blend of mind from these students," said Jaiswal.

Owing to the current circumstances, IIM Sambalpur will be conducting online classes with the help of several digital tools and processes

to facilitate effective learning for its students.

Learning Management Software like Moodle will be utilised and students and faculty members will interact regularly through videoconferencing. Furthermore, the IIM has smart classrooms equipped with SMART boards, where students can log in and access notes, presentations, curriculum schedules and even test their own knowledge through built-in quizzes.

Moreover, all examinations at IIM Sambalpur will be conducted online – either by using online proctoring systems for descriptive exams or using LMS for quiz and multiplechoice exams. Team projects will also be conducted virtually as per the trend in industry.

### OR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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#### NO INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

## **Students of Dongria tribe** struggle to study online

Bhawanipatna, August 11: Students of the Dongria Kondh community, a primitive tribe, in the state are unable to attend online classes due to lack of internet connectivity on the Niyamgiri hills, a report said.

The students of the tribe whose abode is the Niyamgiri hill have to go downhill daily to attend their online classes as internet network is not available on top of the hill. Moreover, online classes are a misnomer for many students whose parents are unable to buy a smartphone due to their poverty. The educational institutions have remained closed due to coronavirusinduced lockdown.

The Niyamgiri hill spread over Rayagada and Kalahandi districts is addressed as Niyamraja by the members of Dongria and Jharnia Kondh tribes. The hill is everything for them as they sustain themselves from the resources of the Niyamgiri forests, practicing horticulture and shifting cultivation.

However, the Niyamgiri hill is yet to be connected with mobile network service of private operators due to fear of Maoists while the BSNL service is not available in the area due to poor network

This has forced the teenagers to leave their homes and go downhill and attend their online classes at faraway Chatikana where network connectivity is available.

Moreover, they have to walk on foot daily as passenger vehicles are not available due to the lockdown.

Man hacks elder

brother, 4-yr-old

nephew to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

late Monday night.

be ascertained.

Sambalpur, August 11: In a shock-

ing incident, a man hacked his elder

brother and four-year-old nephew

to death over a trivial family dispute

at Taladihi village under Govindpur

police limits in Sambalpur district

The accused also did not spare

According to sources, the two

brothers entered into a verbal

duel over some family issues

Monday night. The situation

turned uglier when the younger

brother lost his cool. He picked

up a sharp-edged weapon and at-

tacked his elder brother leaving

It was when his sister-in-law

carrying her four-year-old son

tried to intervene; he also attacked

the duo, causing his nephew's

Govindpur police recovered the

bodies from a septic tank. The de-

ceased's wife was found lying un-

conscious. She was admitted to

Sambalpur district headquarters

hospital. The bodies were seized

for post-mortem. Later, the ac-

cused was detained. Police inves-

tigation is underway.

him dead on the spot

death on the spot

his sister-in-law who was hospitalised with grievous injuries. The identities of the deceased injured and the accused are yet to

#### e-LEARNING MESS



The students of the Dongria tribe whose abode is the Niyamgiri hill have to go downhill daily to attend their online classes as internet network is not available on top of the hill

The Niyamgiri hill spread over Many students living in remote Rayagada and Kalahandi districts, is Kurli, Khambesi, Khajuri, network service of private operators BSNL service is not available in the

Gartali, Mundabali villages have not possible for them to go area due to poor network downhill for the classes

This has come at a time when hundreds of students of the tribe are preparing for higher education and job interviews.

Many students living in remote Kurli, Khambesi, Khajuri, Dangalodi, Hundijali, Kadragumma, Gartali, Mundabali villages have failed to attend online class as it is not possible for them to go downhill for the classes.

Niyamgiri hill is home to 15 revenue villages and eight hamlets in-

yet to be connected with mobile Dangalodi, Hundijali, Kadragumma, due to fear of Maoists while the failed to attend online class as it is

habited by Dongrias. Over 100 students of the Dongria Kondh tribe are studying in various educational institutions in the district and also in Bhubaneswar. Radhma Wadaka, a plus two student in Rayagada Women's College, said she is studying at home as it is not possible for her to daily travel to Chatikana to attend online classes. She is clueless about what has been taught in the online classes due to poor net-

## Domuhani river eats into its banks; locals panicky

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kuamara, August 11: The Domuhani river in Mayurbhanj district has been eating into nearby villages due to heavy erosion thereby posing a serious threat to life and property.

Nalhua and Gangahar are the tributaries of Domuhani that flows through Gopabandhunagar block in Mayurbhanj. Both the tributaries meet at Khadikapada to form a larger river, hence called Domuhani by locals.

"Some farmlands near the river have already lost their existence and farmlands in low-lying areas have become completely sand cast. During incessant rains, villagers usually shift to safer places leaving their ancestral houses," some villagers of Kasibani lamented.

Illegal brick kilns which have mushroomed on Domuhani riverbanks over past several years are the root cause of landslides and the river eating into human settlements as well, Bholapada vil-



There are two villages just  $500\,\mathrm{me}$ tres to the west of Domuhani. On the south side there is Kasibani village in Kuamara panchayat and on the north side there is Bholapada village in Pasuda panchayat.

The district administration has allegedly neglected this issue for several years.

Following a landslide of 200 metre on Domuhani riverbank, three houses of Kasibani and five of Bholapada villages had washed away during the devastating flood situation after cyclone Phailin made landfall.

Illegal brick kiln owners cause excessive soil erosion in the area by digging the river embankments. Locals have been demanding for stone packing of the embankments along with construction of dykes alongside. The two villages have 46 tribal families most of whom live in kutcha houses.

Junior engineer of the water resources department Bijaya Kumar Singh said, "Tendering process for stone packing works has already been initiated. Vehicles are unable to reach the site due to heavy rain and bad condition of roads.

#### **RAIL SAFETY**



Amid shutdown, railway staff busy removing weeds from railway track in Sambalpur

## Pandemic leaves tussar weavers in lurch ,

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, August 11: The tussar handloom sector has experienced a slump as orders from retailers and demands for tussar items have drastically come down in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

This slump has left over 400 tussar weavers in Jaleswar in the lurch. With their products remaining unsold, they have been living a miserable life, a report said.

With lockdown still in force, they fell let down as there are no signs of immediate recovery.

Reports said over 400 families whose traditional occupation is tussar thread yarning and making handlooms have lost their Before the pandemic, they used

to churn out a variety of handloom items from silk such as dhotis, sarees, joda, scarves, dupatta, shirting, wrappers and stoles.

About 450 families which are into tussar handloom sector are affiliated to the Makadia Tussar Cooperative Society and Jhadeswar Tussar Cooperative Society. They have over 300 handloom machines

Directly or indirectly, over 4000 people are dependent on this sector in the areas. These artisans are provided with cocoons through the two societies and five authorised agents. Their silk items are purchased by Boyanika, SERIFED, Utkalaika and



Sambalpuri Bastralays which earn

in crores in return. Moreover, local traders buy tussar items and sell them in Kolkata, Bishnupur, Raghunathpur,

Hyderabad, Surat, Varanasi, Chennai, Mumbai, New Delhi and Lucknow. Sadly, things have turned worse after the lockdown. Produced items worth crores of rupees were left un-

flow have stopped. All - weavers, societies and traders and agents are affected by the stagnancy in business.

sold while fresh orders and cash

"Under these circumstances, the government should come out with a financial package for weavers, authorised agents and cooperative so-

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

cieties to help all stakeholders tide over the crisis," said Tapas Chand, secretary of a cooperative society. It was said that small artisans and

producer groups do not have the financial cushioning to hold through such a crisis nor would they get credit supplies from raw material suppliers.

Being part of an informal economy, artisans are also not able to access credit from banks and financial institutions at this time.

Sushant Kumar Paldi, a weaver, said, "Silk weaving is our traditional occupation. Me and my brother have two handlooms. All family members yarn silk threads. We used to earn ₹15,000 to ₹16,000

#### **STUCK IN STAGNANCY**

bout 450 families which are into tussar handloom sector are affiliated to the Makadia Tussar Cooperative Society and Jhadeswai Tussar Cooperative Society, They have over 300 handloom machines. Directly or indirectly, over 4000 people are dependent on this sector in the areas

The slump has left over 400 tussar weavers in Jaleswar in the lurch. With their products remaining unsold, they have been living a miserable life

Before the pandemic, they used to churn out a variety of handloom items from silk such as dhotis. sarees, joda, scarves, dupatta, shirting, wrappers and stoles. Their silk items were being purchased by Boyanika, SEFIFED, Utkalika and Sambalpuri Bastralava which earn in crores in return

every month, but after the lockdown our products are left unsold. For the last four months, items worth ₹40,000 to ₹50,000 are in stock. Majority of the artisans who earn on a daily basis find it extremely difficult to feed their families and take care of any med-

#### Virus plays havoc in Rourkela jail; 45 more test positive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 11: Even as Covid-19 cases are fast increasing in the Steel City, the spread of the infection in the Rourkela Special Jail has been a cause of concern for the administration and the jail

According to a report, 45 more inmates and other staff of the jail have reportedly tested positive for the virus, taking the tally to around 70 in the jail.

Health workers had collected swab samples from 64 persons in the jail. The authorities have sanitised the jail premises. Contact tracing will be carried out.

Collector Nikhil Pawan Kalyan said steps will be taken to conduct Covid tests of all people.

The administration has set a

#### Sambalpur cop succumbs to virus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Coronavirus claimed the life of a frontline Covid warrior in Sambalpur district. The deceased was identified as Petrus Tigga who was working as a constable at Rengali Police Station in the district.

The constable contracted the virus a few days back while on COVID-19 duty and succumbed to the disease Monday

While on COVID-19 duty, the constable contracted the virus a few days back. He succumbed to the disease Monday while undergoing treatment at a COVID hospital.

The Sambalpur district administration paid homage to the constable in presence of government officials Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Sambalpur administration Tuesday partially modified the weekend shutdown order in the district. As per the order, the administration cancelled the weekend shutdown August 15, 22 and 23. However, it announced a shutdown in the district August 16 and 17.

So far, 1,195 persons in district have tested positive for Covid-19. The number of active cases in the district stands at 687.

## Battle against virus: Ganjam -'Covid Bandhus' provide succour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 11: Around 700 people who recovered from Covid-19 in Ganjam district have come forward to assist the administration in persuading symptomatic people to go for testing and also helping them with counselling to drive out the anxieties related to coronavirus, officials said Tuesday.

Ganjam, considered the coronavirus hotspot in the state as it has reported over 13,000 cases, launched a programme named 'Covid Bandhu' to rope in those who have recovered,

Around 700 people have registered their names and many of them are already on the field, motivating people to go for testing, said project director of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Sidharth Shankar Swain.

Swain, the nodal officer on Covid-19 management in the district, said the 'Covid Bandhus (friends)' are on a mission to build confidence among the people to fight against the deadly virus.

They have fanned out across the district to work among the people,

Amulya Upadhaya of Bhetanai village in Aska block said some shopkeepers, suspected as silent spreaders of the virus, were reluctant to go for testing.



Ganjam's Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange said more people were coming forward for swab tests now due to the work being done by the 'Covid Bandhus'. They reach out to the people, explain their experiences as a patient

Ganjam, considered the coronavirus hotspot in the state as it has reported over 13,000 cases. launched a programme named 'Covid Bandhu' to rope in those who have recovered, they said Project director of District

Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Sidharth Shankar Swain the nodal officer on Covid-19 management in the district, said the 'Covid Bandhus (friends)' are on a mission to build confidence among the people to fight against the deadly virus. They have fanned out across the district to work among the people

"But I explained to them about my experience, following which they went for testing," he said.

"We have conducted at least three meetings in the village followed by the swab tests of the shopkeepers after I came out from the home isolation," he said.

The 'Covid Bandhus' have been campaigning and creating awareness among the people by narrating their experiences, said K Durga Prasad Rao, the sarpanch of Badakhandi in Hinjili block.

"After completing home isolation two days ago, I motivated the people to come forward for swab sample tests in our village and nearby villages," said N Dambaru

Reddy of Kotharsing in Rangeilunda block

Santoshini Mohanty of Kanchuru village of Hinjili block said, "We reached out to the people, especially to the women over phone and social media, asking them to go for early testing without any fear."

Ganjam's Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange said more people were coming forward for swab tests now due to the work being done by the 'Covid Bandhus'.

"They reach out to the people, explain their experiences as a patient. They also conduct counselling to the suspected people and remove fear from their minds," the Collector said

OF RELIABILITY OF TRACTION POWER SYSTEM BY PROPER EARTHING ARRANGEMENTS IN TRACTION SUB-STATIONS (TSSs),
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POSTS (SPs) & SUB-SECTIONING
PARALLELING POSTS (SSPs) IN
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Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/
PR-205/L/20-21 Khurda Road

## 3 held for sorcery-linked murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, August 11: Police arrested three persons in connection with the murder of an elderly person over alleged practice of sorcery at Jamitar village under Bamebari police limits of Keonjhar district

The accused were identified as Shyam Munda of Jamirta, Siken Munda and Ramesh Munda of Naupani. Police also seized a spade and an axe used in the killing. The Siken suspected that it was Mansingh who hexed his father. He along with two others carried out the murder of Mansingh

deceased was identified as Manisngh Munda (55).

According to police, the father of Siken Munda died after remain-

ing sick for about 12 days. Siken suspected that it was Mansingh who hexed his father. He along with two others planned to eliminate Mansingh. The three took him to a nearby forest late Thursday night and hacked him to death and buried the body in a pit.

Following a complaint by Mansingh's son, police started an investigation.

Joda IIC Raisan Murmu and Bamebari IIC Amitabh Das rushed to the forest and recovered the body.



Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God

SRI AUROBINDO



## RHETORIC IN COURT

he Supreme Court Tuesday not only reasserted the Amendment to the Hindu Succession Act of 2005 in which daughters gained equal inheritance rights as sons but also gave a retrospective ruling to that Act. Earlier, the law was implementable from 2005 onwards. The SC decision has removed the cut-off date and made it perpetual to the past. In brief, this implies that a girl born in a Hindoo family before 2005 will also have equal claims to the undivided family property irrespective of whether her father is alive or not. By using the word coparcener, the court has made it clear that a person can claim a legal right to ancestral property by birth.

A quote that has emerged from the apex court order is significant in terms of its wordage, "Once a daughter, always a daughter... a son is a son till he is married." While the judgement is socially very responsible and befitting to the times, yet the usage of phrases like the above by the judges sounds a bit dramatic. However, such a statement by Justice Arun Mishra is understandable. The Judge has suddenly shot into the limelight lately for certain landmark activities. The revolt by the four Justices in 2018 against CJI Dipak Mishra was primarily aimed at showing their displeasure at the manner in which a junior Justice Arun Mishra was being given most of the important cases while the seniors were neglected. Justice Arun Mishra is also known in connection with the judgement slapping steep penalties against telecom service providers like Airtel and Vodafone which, critics at that time said, created an uneven playing field favouring Ambani's Jio. At present, Justice Mishra is the one who has brought in the contempt case against activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan and is also heading the three judge bench hearing the contempt matter. With many prominent media personalities and social activists gradually starting to point fingers at the manner the SC and the judges have started behaving, this judgement on the Hindu Succession Act has offered a golden opportunity to Justice Arun Mishra to showcase his pro-women and progressive credentials which were coming under the

This quote of Justice Mishra could be analysed thoroughly. A daughter, when married, becomes a daughter-in-law. If the son listens to his wife and respects her judgement, it may be construed that someone's daughter has successfully endeared herself to be considered trustworthy in another family. So, trusting a daughter also means society has to learn to trust the daughter-in-law. It may not be proper to say that a son is a son till he is married. Passing such comments may catch the headlines but could very easily create a stronger animosity against the daughter-in-law, who is already perceived as an outsider in many Indian families. Most often, they are blamed for misguiding the soft-in-the-head son. It would be wiser on the part of people occupying high positions to refrain from jargons and rhetoric as they have the potential to complicate social matters.

#### WISDOM CORNER

A truth that's told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent.

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.

**GEORGE BERNARD SHAW** 

The fragrance of flowers spreads only in the direction of the wind. But the goodness of a person spreads in all directions.

#### WORDS**WORTH**

#### Tax

axes are as old as civilization, but our word tax is less old than you might think: it first appeared only in the 14th Century. In its first meaning, it was nearer the Latin original taxare, which meant to assess or appraise. So, taxation was at first about the process of deciding how much you were due to pay rather than the sum of money itself. That sense survives in the taxation officer of the courts who assesses whether the fees charged by barristers are fair and accurate. Before the word tax was available, the English used the closely related word task, which is recorded in the 12th Century with the same meaning. What seems to have happened is that the Latin taxare turned into taxer in Old French, whose letters then shifted about through a process called metathesis to become the English word task, in much the same way that the Old English brid became bird, and patron turned into pattern. By the 14thCentury, we had both task and tax in the language, and a useful division had appeared in which the first related to some imposition involving work or labour, the second a payment in money. Both retain these meanings, though task has weakened somewhat to refer to anything which has to be done, not necessarily something involving physical effort. But tax still has its original sense, though it has spawned the common figurative meaning of an intangible imposition — something that is strenuous, wearing, exacting or challenging. One of the curiosities of the English revenue system is that people been reluctant actually to call a tax a tax. Most of the measures to raise funds for the treasury were named duties. Duty started out with a sense of some mark of respect that was due to a superior, but quickly took on the additional meaning of a mark of respect which was paid in hard cash, of something which you owed to someone else. This reflects its Latin original debere, a compound meaning "to keep in one's possession something that belongs to somebody else" (it's also the direct ancestor of our debt).

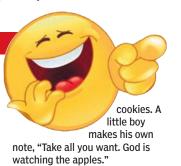
#### Tawdry

Something tawdry is showy but cheap and of poor quality. To find the source of this word we must travel to Ely, a city whose cathedral dominates the flat fen landscape of East Anglia. Long before the cathedral was built, a small religious house had been established there in the seventh century by Ethelreda, the daughter of King Anna of East Anglia. She died in 679. Sixty years later the Venerable Bede wrote that her death had been caused by a growth in her throat, which she had said was a punishment for wearing necklaces in her youth. She eventually became the patron saint of Ely, under the Norman French name of St Audrey, and her feast day, 17 October, was celebrated by a fair. One of the favourite items sold was a band of fine silk lace or ribbon worn about the neck in memory of the city's patron saint. This became known as St Audrey's lace, but by the end of the sixteenth century it had been corrupted to tawdry lace. Eventually the first word was taken to be a description; by the nature of goods sold at fairs they often looked good until the buyer got them home, so the word became attached to such cheap and showy items, and not just at Ely.



#### **God is watching**

Story goes that in a Catholic school cafeteria, a nun places a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching." Further down the line is a pile of



FOCUS PANDEMIC RESPONSE

# **MACHISMO & MALPRACTICE**



Jayati Ghosh

THE TIMING AND **INTENSITY OF** THE US, **BRAZILIAN, AND INDIAN RESPONSES MAY** HAVE VARIED, **BUT THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN THE SAME: MILLIONS OF** COVID-19 **INFECTIONS** 

he United States, Brazil, and India have surged ahead of the rest of the world in terms of the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, with no peak in sight. They (and fourth-place Russia) have one thing in common: macho leaders with authoritarian personalities.

There are notable differences in how these countries have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and US President Donald Trump have consistently downplayed the severity of the threat, and refused to take strong action.

More recently, Trump adjusted his stance somewhat, undoubtedly motivated by his falling approval rating. For example, he has begun wearing a mask in public, after months of refusing to do so - and ridiculing those who did. But he continues to undermine health experts with false and misleading claims. Bolsonaro, for his part, remains cavalier, even after having contracted (and recovered from) COVID-19.

By contrast, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed one of the world's strictest - and most sudden – lockdowns, when only a few cases had been reported in the country. This probably partly explains why the rate of infections per million inhabitants is much lower than it is in the US or Brazil, though independent research suggests that official figures in both India and Brazil are far lower than the actual total.

But Modi's lockdown wasn't accompanied by meaningful social protection or income support. As a result, a large-scale humanitarian tragedy ensued, with millions being plunged into poverty and hunger. Meanwhile, the virus continued to spread, meaning that, when the lockdown was lifted, poor workers faced even greater risks.

The timing and intensity of the US, Brazilian, and Indian responses may have varied, but the results have been the same: millions of COVID-19 infections. The US comes in first, at over five million: Brazil second, with just over three million; and India third, with more than two million.

Their leaders' personalities have a lot to do with it. Trump, Bolsonaro, and Modi are all known for their arrogance, bluster, and rejection of criticism. They have all shown a



All three leaders have used the pandemic as an excuse to repress dissent. There has been outcry over Trump's use of federal forces, often in plain clothes, to crush largely peaceful protests. But in India, much worse is happening: people who have participated in peaceful protests are being arrested. Indian prisons – where COVID-19 is spreading fast - are now home to many human-rights activists, lawyers, teachers, and students

demagogic ability to inspire faith in a divisive persona that both repels many and attracts the quasireligious devotion of many others. They have all diligently served the interests of their friends and constituents above all. And they have all displayed serial contempt for the truth, using distraction, diversion, and outright lies to advance their preferred narratives and maintain their popularity.

These qualities are at the root of the policy mistakes that have driven up the pandemic-related death toll in all three countries. For starters, the distribution of responsibility between federal and state or provincial governments has been unbalanced, arbitrary, and uncoordinated, while central governments - often disregarding science or expert advice – have imposed irrational, frequently changing rules and policies.

State and provincial governments, for their part, have been doing all the heavy lifting, not only in containing the virus, but also in supporting public health more broadly and addressing the pandemic's economic fallout. Federal governments have done nothing to ensure coordination among these lower-level entities.

Beyond a lack of effective guidance from above, states and provinces have struggled with insufficient resources. The fiscal imbalance is most marked in India. where the central government has denied state governments even the funds that it legally owes them, but it is also evident in Brazil and the US.

More broadly, none of the three countries has increased overall public-health spending. And while governments have offered financial support to ailing companies, the spoils have gone mainly to large corporations, with small businesses forced to make do with scraps. Meanwhile, the poor have received precious little help, especially in India.

The essential workers risking their lives to keep societies functioning-delivering health services, for example, or ensuring food supplies - have also received scant protections or support. Many lack adequate and timely wages, sufficient protective equipment, and even health insurance during the pandemic

Yet, instead of addressing these lethal failures of leadership, Trump, Bolsonaro, and Modi are creating diversions. Trump would rather rail against China - even withdrawing from the World Health Organisation over its supposed dissemination of Chinese 'misinformation' - than implement an effective response. In Modi's India, years of Hindu-nationalist incitement by his government have made Muslims natural scape-

In all three countries, the aggravation of social divisions - and the encouragement of aggression by dominant groups – long precedes the pandemic. Bolsonaro has a storied history of racist, misogynistic, and anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, and has chipped away at the rights of minority groups. Trump's similarly divisive track record is exemplified by his amplification of white supremacists and condemnation of ongoing protests against racial injustice and police brutality.

This brings us to another commonality: all three leaders have used the pandemic as an excuse to repress dissent. There has been outcry over Trump's use of federal forces, often in plain clothes, to crush largely peaceful protests. But in India, much worse is happening: people who have participated in peaceful protests are being arrested. Indian prisons - where COVID-19 is spreading fast – are now home to many human-rights activists, lawyers, teachers, and

Brute force cannot stop a virus. Nor can deception, manipulation, bullying, or coercion. As other countries (many with woman leaders) have shown, the only way to defeat COVID-19 is through community involvement, cooperation, and social solidarity. It is no accident that the world's biggest COVID-19 losers have taken a different path.

The writer is Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates, and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

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IN JEST THIS

## Appreciate Indian names - even on others



Melvin Durai

I SHOULDN'T JUMP **TO CONCLUSIONS ABOUT NAMES. JUST BECAUSE A** NAME SOUNDS **INDIAN DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE POSSESSOR OF** THE NAME HAS **ANY CONNECTION TO INDIA** 

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

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and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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TO THE EDITOR

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(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

headline on the New York Times' website recently caught my interest: "Trump Puts Pentagon in Political Crossfire With Tata Appointment." I immediately clicked on the

link, wondering what relationship this 'Tata' had with the famous Tata family of India. Had President Trump appointed Ratan Tata's great-grandson to a top position in the U.S. Defense Department? Was Trump perhaps trying to win favour with the Tatas, first appointing one of them to a prominent position, then getting Tata Motors to supply the U.S. Army with Tata Tanks?

But I was disappointed to learn that the Tata that Trump had appointed as a deputy undersecretary had no connection whatsoever to India's Tata family He was Anthony Tata, a retired Army officer whose grandfather immigrated to America from Italy. Tata is apparently also an Italian name, not just a Parsi name as I had thought.

The lesson, of course, is that I shouldn't jump to conclusions about names. Just because a name sounds Indian does not mean that the possessor of the name has any connection to India. I should have already known this, because a few months ago, while reading about a high-profile criminal case, I came across the name of an American attorney named Patrick Patel.

Surely his ancestors were from Gujarat, I thought, but I was wrong. This Patel, like Anthony Tata, traces his roots to Italy. His grandfather was a boxer whose name was Patsy Pignatello, but who fought under the name of 'Patsy Patel.' When he died just seven hours before his grandson was born, the grandson inherited his fighting name and the opportunity to lure thousands of Indian clients.

Patel practices law in New Jersey, a state that has so many Indians that film star Shah Rukh Khan could run for governor. This means, of course, that Patel has a large pool of potential clients. Driver: "I hurt my neck in a car

accident. Which attorney should I

Friend: "What about Patrick

Patel?" Driver: "Is he Indian?" Friend: "Of course, he's Indian. Have you heard of a Patel who isn't Indian?'

Driver: "But what about the name Patrick?"

Friend: "Oh, I'm sure he Americanised it. His real name is probably Pratik Patel.

It's common practice for many Indians in America to 'Americanise' their first names. This often happens among politicians. Bobby Jindal, the former governor of Louisiana, adopted his childhood nickname. It was easier to convince Americans to vote for 'Bobby' than 'Piyush.'

Rohit Khanna, a congressman from California, is known to everyone as Ro Khanna. To be a hit with voters, he apparently needed to drop the 'hit.'

Then there's Dr. Manish Sethi, who recently ran for the Republican nomination for the US Senate from Tennessee, promoting himself to voters as 'Dr. Manny,' Unfortunately, Sethi, a trauma surgeon, lost the election. Perhaps next time, he'll promote himself as 'Dr. Seth.

Thankfully, not all Indian-American politicians feel the need to hide or minimise their Indian identity. Pramila Jayapal, a congresswoman from Washington, may have lost a few votes by deciding to forgo the name 'Pam Jay.' Raja Krishnamoorthi, a congressman from Illinois, has resisted the temptation to promote himself as 'Roger Krish.' And Manan Trivedi. a politician in Pennsylvania, has not yet won a state election, perhaps because he hasn't gone with the name 'Man Triv.'

My parents, like many Christians, decided to give me an English name. But my wife Malathi and I opted to give our three children names that reflect their Indian heritage: Lekha, Divya and Rahul.

I do not mind the name 'Melvin,' but it doesn't really convey anything about me. Perhaps I should consider 'Indianising' my name. Instead of Melvin, I could be Melvinder. No, Melvinder is too short. I think I'll go with 'Melvinderajagopalan.' Patrick Patel would be proud of me.

#### Open shrines, please

Covid-19 has shook mankind. All shrines have been closed since the onset of corona five months ago. Religion is a private affair and is about one's faith and spirituality. Our peace of mind has been adversely affected by the grim experience of the pandemic. Man would lead a rudderless existence if there is no spirituality and faith to guide him in his daily life. Moral bankruptcy is the offshoot of an unprincipled and aimless existence. Spiritual poverty is attributed to moral impropriety and unethical behaviour. It is necessary that shrines are opened again for worship, rather than keeping them closed in the name of a pandemic. The state government is urged to be proactive and act as a facilitator for holding prayers in shrines of all religions. Let spiritu-

Sir, The extraordinary situation arising out of

ality triumph over the morbidity of corona. **Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR** 

#### Nepal's claims

Sir, The Union government has ignored the controversy raised by Nepal over the birthplace of Gautam Buddha and admitted that the founder of Buddhism was born in Nepal's Lumbini. It shows that India is not attempting to manipulate history like Nepal did, as in the case of Ayodhya and birthplace of Lord Ram. The need of the hour is that Nepal conducts itself as a good neighbour and promotes peace and harmony in the region. Why vitiate the atmosphere on petty matters?

Amit Singh Kushwaha,

#### Congress' future

Sir, , It has been a year since Sonia Gandhi took over as interim president of Congress August 10, but the party is still uncertain about its future. A new president should have been elected before Sonia completed one year as interim party chief. Rahul Gandhi is unlikely to change his mind and will not return as party president. The three Gandhis in public are one voice but they have different styles of functioning. The three power centres in the party have frustrated and disheartened the party leaders and supporters. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will not take over the throne as it will be a vindication of Rahul's failure to further the family legacy. It is true that Rahul has sincerely strived to democratise the party but with no avail. Though Rahul has kept away from decision-making in the party, he continues to be the most influential leader. Given that there is a slim chance that a non-Gandhi leader will fill the position of party president, there is every likelihood that a Gandhi will continue to lead the party. **VENU GS**, KOLLAM

# As Covid-19 cases surge, so does loot by Agra's pvt hosps

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, August 11: When Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma was told at an official meeting that the private hospitals in Agra were charging more than ₹15,000 daily for Covid-19 patients, he was taken aback.

Sharma told district officials to adopt appropriate measures to bring down the tariff at par with Lucknow where the daily charges were ₹6 800

In the last 10 days there have been numerous complaints against the private nursing homes for overcharging distressed Corona patients and their kin. The bills worked out to more than ₹1 lakh for a week's stay at the facility. A level-3 nursing home charges around ₹17,000 a day with ventilator and ICU support while the level-1 charge on an average around ₹11.000 a day.

These rates are 10X to 12X the tariff fixed by the state government. The nursing home owners say the patients want 'A' class facilities and are willing to pay for it. A section of the society feels no cost is too high for a life saved, a private hospital manager said

The general perception about government hospitals is negative. 'You go with one problem and return with two," a patient who recovered at a private hospital said.

However, the doctors at the district hospital and the SN Medical College Covid hospital vehemently deny the charge. "We are giving high quality services and the recovery rate reflects this. SN Medical College is fully equipped with latest gadgetry and facilities to take up



any challenge. Don't forget a number of critical cases are referred to us here by the private nursing homes," a senior government doctor claimed. The IMA meanwhile, has offered a ₹600 daily package for those in home quarantine. The expenses on medicines and equipment are separate but consultations by the specialists and frequent monitoring is included in the fees, Dr Sanjay Chaturvedi, secretary IMA told IANS.

patients and their kin

District authorities in Mathura

clarified that outsiders would not be allowed to enter the Sri Krishna shrines in Braj Mandal. Rituals connected with the Sri Krishna Janamashtmi will be streamed live for the benefit of the devotees.

**FACILITY** 

"Like Raksha Bandhan, Janamashtmi festival will also be on a low key, the fervour is clearly missing," a 'Panda' of the Vishram Ghat said.

"Vrindavan lanes are deserted, even the simians are distressed, the morale is low, may be Sri Krishna will dispel the clouds of gloom, hoped Jagan Nath Poddar, convener of Braj-Vrindavan Alliance.

So far the trend continues to remain alarming. For the local administration, the new worry is the spread of Dengue and Malaria. The health department of the municipal corporation has stepped up sanitisation and cleaning work. People have been told to ensure there was no stored water around. an official of the District Malaria

## No meaningful action taken for cleaning Ganga tributary: NGT

Ghaziabad /New Delhi, August 11: Hindon, a tributary of Ganga, is one of the polluted river stretches and no meaningful action has been being taken to clean it, the National Green Tribunal said Tuesday while directing the UP chief secretary to ensure coordination for rejuvenation of the water body.

The green panel said instead of shifting of blame from one department to another, steps should be taken for the restoration of water quality of Hindon.

The river is practically dead and needs to be restored in the interest of the environment and public health. Meaningful progress must be achieved by the concerned departments including the Urban Development, Irrigation, Jal Nigam, and the Environment," a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said.

The tribunal said all drains joining Kali, Krishna and Hindon should have in-situ remediation and plan for connectivity with the identified sewage treatment plant. In-

situ remediation is the process by which contaminated soil or water is treated without removing the pollution or other hazardous waste from its sub-surface.

The bench said "the Chief Secretary may ensure that there is coordination among all the concerned Departments in accordance with the action plan prepared by a committee headed by former high court judge, Justice S U Khan."

The tribunal said that environment compensation from violators has to be recovered if deadlines are not adhered to. It directed the UP chief secretary to file a consolidated reply before February 2, 2021. The committee told the NGT that chief Secretary assured in his

written report that till pipe water supply is provided, water will be provided by tankers.

However, it has not been done till date, the committee added. "These are issues which could easily have been monitored in the monthly monitoring meeting of the chief secretary as envisaged in the monitoring framework submitted by the State to the NGT. Chief Secretary should hold the monthly monitoring meeting regularly so that such issues get sorted

out regularly," the committee said. The committee also told the tribunal there has been no physical progress in installation of any of three sewage treatment plants proposed in the last one year.

## Cop pays fine for not wearing mask

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich, august 11: A police officer issuing challans to people for not wearing masks here, even as he himself did not have one on, got a taste of his own medicine when the superintendent of police pulled him up for it.

The incident took place Monday when Baundi police station SHO Subhash Chandra Singh was handing out challans to villagers, cvclists and pedestrians and also advising them to wear masks. Some

#### LAW IS EQUAL FOR **EVERYONE**

villagers claimed they were fined even though they had their faces covered with 'angocha' towels.

Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police Vipin Mishra got to know that the SHO was issuing challans for not wearing masks, while a photograph showed him without one himself.

The SHO was, subsequently, fined ₹500, officials said. "Wearing

a face mask protects a person, his family members and the public (from the disease). If our officials do not adhere to these basic points, then what message we are going to give to the society," Mishra said Tuesday.

"Through this challan, we have tried to send a message to all police officials and personnel in the district that they are not above the public. If we commit any fault, then we should also come within the ambit of the same

# land' on UP-Nepal border

Nepali farmers reportedly have started cultivating sugarcane at the "no man's land" in Gauriphanta area of the district

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh), August 11: Sugarcane farming is emerging as a major problem between UP and Nepal.

Nepali farmers reportedly have started cultivating sugarcane at the "no man's land" in Gauriphanta area of the district.

Manoj Sonkar, Deputy Director of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, said, "Nepal nationals have started farming in 'no man's land' on the edge of the forests of Dudhwa. We have informed the SSB and the District Magistrate. Indian officials have spoken to their Nepali counterparts about the latest encroachment being done by their nationals.

Lakhimpur Kheri shares border with two Nepal districts --Kailali and Kanchanpur. The crops have come up around pillar number 752/6 maintained by India -- the odd-numbered pillars are looked

after by Nepal and the even numbered ones by India. A stretch 9.1 metre wide on both sides of the border pillars is demarcated as "no man's land", where no state has any jurisdiction. In June, some of

these pillars had "gone missing".

Munna Singh, SSB commandant of the 39th Battalion, which oversees the 63-km area along with the UP-Nepal border in the district, had then written to District Magistrate Shailendra Singh about the "encroachment". After holding meetings with the Nepal officials, the problem had been resolved. But soon after, Nepal officials were seen accompanying locals who were cremating dead bodies on the Indian side of the border on two occasions. "Noticing the development, the SSB officials have stepped up their vigil," Sonkar said.



## Cane farming in 'no man's nCoV hits sales of national flag ahead of Independence Day



AGENCIES

Aurangabad (Maha), August 11: August 15 is near, but the sales of the tricolour at a *khadi* store here are yet to pick up amid the coronavirus pandemic

The Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan or Khadi Bhandar in Aurangabad sells national flags apart from various other products.

"Every year the sales of flags go

up to ₹7-9 lakh rupees in August,' said store manager Ramji Sawant. "But this year the sales have not yet reached even ₹1 lakh yet," he said. The manufacturing faced a hurdle when the supply chain was hit by lockdown, he said.

The khadi cloth from which the flags are made is sourced from the Marathwada Khadi Gramodyog Samiti, the parent organisation of the khadi store, at Udgir in Latur

Production of national flags in most Khadi units used to begin from March but due to the lockdown, production has been stalled for almost four months

With schools, colleges and a majority of other private establishments still closed . there was an uncertainty over the functions which has had a direct impact on the sale of tricolours by the Khadi Gram Udyog

district. Coloring is done in Ahmadabad, Gujarat, while stitching is done in Nanded, he said. This year the manufacturing came to a halt due to lockdown. Transportation too was an issue, Sawant said. "So we brought 700 flags in the beginning of this month against 1,500 last year. But so far we

have sold only 40 pieces. "Last year we had sold around 1,200-1,300 flags in the run-up to Independence Day," he added. Overall sales of the outlet too have fallen to ₹20,000 per day as compared to ₹50,000 before lockdown, he said. "Customers are not buying clothes. They are buying only Ayurveda products (which also the shop sells) such as soap, shampoo, face wash and items of daily need.

# **Efforts on to prevent** second wave of pandemic: Thackeray



The Chief Minister said Maharashtra did not hide a single Covid-19 case and death due to the disease and shared information with transparency

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 11: The Maharashtra government is striving to see there is no second wave of COVID-19 in the state, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said Tuesday during a meeting held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Thackeray also said hospitals will be set up in all districts of the state to control the epidemic, according to an official statement. The Chief Minister said Maharashtra did not hide a single COVID-19 case and death due to the disease and shared information with transparency.

The Chief Minister said it has been observed that after recovering from COVID-19, patients contracted some other diseases, and called for setting up a mechanism to treat such individuals.

He also expressed the need to conduct research into how and why different types of virus originate. Thackeray also reiterated the demand for not holding the final year examinations for students of non-professional courses

#### Mumbai: After highs in the past couple of days, Maharashtra

Covid cases cool down

Covid-19 cases cooled down though the state death toll crossed the 18,000 mark, health officials said here. The state notched 293 Covid deaths Monday - down from the highest 390 fatalities Sunday, and recorded 9.181 new cases. dropping below the peak of 12,822 (August 8). The state death toll shot up from 17,757 a day earlier to 18,050, while the total number of cases went up from 515,332 to 524,513 now - both highest in the country.

to ensure their lives are not risked in view of the current situation.

He made a strong pitch for declaring students as passed by giving them aggregate marks, and called for taking a decision on it at the national-level. A decision needs to be taken in the case of final year medical education students also, he added. Thackeray also said there are 3.5 lakh beds equipped with ventilators and other facilities in the state. With no COVID-19 vaccine available so far, use of masks and observing social distancing are the only ways to tackle the disease, he added.

During the meeting, Modi said 80 per cent of the COVID-19 cases in the country are from these 10 states. Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman and Harsh Vardhan took part in the meeting.

# This village in Maha does not sell milk

WHILE FARMERS AND LEADERS IN THE STATE AGITATED FOR A HIKE IN MILK PRICES EARLIER THIS MONTH, RESIDENTS OF YELEGAON GAWALI, WHERE MOST OF THE HOUSEHOLDS OWN CATTLE, HAVE NEVER SOLD MILK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad, August 11: Claiming to be descendants of Lord Krishna, residents of a village in Hingoli district of Maharashtra do not sell milk and give away the produce for free to anyone who is in need.

While farmers and leaders in the state agitated for a hike in milk prices earlier this month, residents of Yelegaon Gawali, where most of the households own cattle, have never sold milk.

'The name of the village Yelegaon Gawali itself means a village of milkmen. We consider ourselves descendants of Lord Krishna and hence, we don't sell milk," said Rajabhau Mandade (60), one of the residents of the village.

"Although 90 per cent of the houses in the village have cattle, none of the residents sell milk and the tradition has been followed for generations," he said.

In case of excess production, different milk products are made, but none of it sold and they are distributed for free to people in need, the villager said.

"The festival of Janmashtami is celebrated on a large scale in the village, which has a Krishna temple. However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, all functions have been cancelled," he said in a statement.

Sarpanch of Yelegaon Shaikh Kausar (44) said the tradition of not selling milk has been followed by all villagers irrespective of their religion.

"None of the villagers, whether Hindus, Muslims or those belonging to any other religion, sell milk from their cattle," Kausar said. At least 90 per cent of the 550 households own cows, buffaloes and some even have goats,



# national



I am ready to help Pakistan and India within his mandate to resolve their differences on Kashmir issue if requested by both the parties

VOLKAN BOZKIR UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT-ELECT

#### **EU TO GIVE €1.65MN TO SUPPORT FLOOD VICTIMS IN SOUTH ASIA**

The European Union Tuesday said it is providing 1.65 million euro in humanitarian aid in response to severe flooding that has affected South Asia - most notably Bangladesh, India and Nepal





It is time for the people to decide if upholding democratic values is more important or a party which wants to forcibly enforce its decisions on

people in general, or a particular AKHILESH YADAV SAMAJWADI PARTY

PRESIDENT

I wanted our self-respect to remain intact. I have given 20 years to the party now. We have always

attempted to ensure the participation of people who worked hard to form the

RAJESH PILOT FORMER RAJASTHAN DY CM



cities, and the NYAY scheme for the poor people across

RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **BJP leader shot** dead in Baghpat

Baghpat (UP): Former BJP district chief Sanjay Khokhar was shot dead at his farm in Baghpat when he went out for a morning walk Tuesday. The incident took place in Chaprauli area of the Uttar Pradesh district. According to reports, three unidentified men opened fire at Khokhar when he was out on a morning walk. A video doing the rounds on social media showed Khokhar lying in a pool of blood in a narrow alley between the fields with big crowd of villagers and police personnel taking stock of the situation.

#### Spurious sanitiser caused 16 deaths

Amaravati: Spurious sanitiser blended with methanol caused the death of at least 16 people who consumed it in lieu of liquor in Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh late last month, and ten people involved in its illicit distribution have been arrested, police said Tuesday. The victims, who were habitual tipplers, consumed hand sanitiser as an alternative to liquor, as regular shops were closed due to COVID-19-imposed lockdown in Kurichedu in Prakasam district on different dates last month and died.

#### **Yoga sessions** in TN jails

Coimbatore: Inmates of central prisons across Tamil Nadu are attending yoga classes online to remain healthy and beat the coronavirus during the COVID-19 lockdown period. Considering the request from Tamil Nadu Prisons Department, Isha Yoga Centre is conducting the virtual sessions for inmates at almost all central prisons in the state from July 28. The prisons department had made the request to teach voga to improve physical and mental health of the inmates, a release said Tuesday.

#### **Pilot Deepak** Sathe cremated

Mumbai: Wing Commander Deepak Sathe (Retd), pilot-incommand of the Air India Express plane that crashed in Kerala last week, was cremated here Tuesday with state honours. Hundreds of mourners lined up the road as the funeral procession started from his residence in Chandivli and concluded at Vikhroli's Tagorenagar crematorium, where the last rites were performed. Earlier in the day, Maharashtra Government decided to accord a state funeral to the pilot.

# **SFJ offers \$125K for Khalistan flag at Red Fort**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 11: The security agencies are on high alert as the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) is learnt to have announced a \$125,000 reward for anyone who hoists a Khalistan flag at the Red Fort on Independence Day August 15.

Delhi Police, the nodal agency for law and order in the national capital, was busy coordinating with different security establishments ahead of Independence Day when it was alerted to the SFJ offer.

Over 45,000 security personnel will guard every nook and corner of the city on Independence Day, besides over 2,000 snipers deputed at specific locations on high-rise buildings in the 5-km periphery around the Red Fort.

Security agencies have meanwhile assured that it is "just an attempt by the SFJ to create panic". Senior Delhi Police officers connected with making the security arrangements said any suspected person will be taken into custody and that it is "impossible" to breach the security cordon on Independence Day.

The alert was issued after SFJ's Attorney and General Counsel Gurpatwant Singh Pannun put out a message on the social net- SFJ OFFERS -

#### **I-DAY ALERT**

The pro-Khalistan group last month had declared that it planned to hold voter registration camps for its secessionist agenda 'Referendum 2020' August 15

Over 45,000 security personnel will guard every nook and corner of the city on Independence Day

Besides over 2,000 snipers deputed at specific locations on high-rise buildings in the 5-km periphery around the Red Fort

working sites, announcing "a reward of \$125,000 for anyone who will raise Khalistan flag at the Red Fort during India's 74th I-Day celebrations"

Declaring that August 15 is not Independence Day for the Sikhs, the SFJ leader reminded the community that "1947 was just a swapping of rulers for them as the Indian Constitution labels the Sikhs as Hindus; genocide of Sikhs was committed with impunity (1984) and natural resources of Punjab are being unjustly appropriated."

The pro-Khalistan group last month had declared that it planned to hold voter registration camps for its secessionist agenda

'Referendum 2020' August 15 in front of Indian Embassies in the US, the UK. Canada. Italy, Germany, France, Australia, and New Zealand during the Independence Day celebrations.

Indian security agencies have

already asked these Embassies to be on alert. Besides, the SFJ, banned by the Ministry of Home Affairs in July

2019 for advocating 'Referendum 2020', has chosen Punjab, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir since July 4 to launch its online voter registration for 'Referendum 2020' through different portals but reportedly could not gather support.

The group has used Canadian cyberspace twice for launching its

voter registration for the referendum in Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir on the instructions of Pannun, who is among the nine pro-Khalistan activists designated terrorists by the Indian government last month.

US-based Pannun has been playing a major role in the 'Referendum 2020' campaign. His US-based radical Khalistan outfit has urged the Sikhs in India and abroad to support its agenda of 'Referendum 2020', which is being promoted by the group to divide India on communal lines.

The SFJ is supported by Pakistanbased handlers to provide money and logistic support to radical Sikh elements in Punjab to carry out subversive activities. The group is headed by Avtar Singh Pannun and Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who have started advocating Khalistan as well as the online secessionist campaign for the referendum.

However, the SFJ's agenda has been rejected by the Sikhs across India in spite of the Inter-Services Intelligence-sponsored propaganda on 'Referendum 2020'. The Pakistani intelligence agency has been backing the malicious SFJ campaign, with a large number of Pakistani Twitter handles tweeting in favour of the exercise.

## Panel on corona vaccine admin to meet today

The committee on vaccine administration will engage with all the stakeholders including state governments and vaccine manufacturers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: An expert committee under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul will meet Wednesday to consider the logistics and ethical aspects of procuring and administering the COVID-19 vaccine, the Union Health Ministry said Tuesday.

The committee on vaccine administration will engage with all the stakeholders including state governments and vaccine manufacturers, the ministry said in a tweet.

The committee would chalk out strategies on the aspects of prioritisation of the vaccine administration once it is developed, rollout and cold chain logistics and training of the people who would be administering it.

"The Expert Committee on Vaccine Administration under the chairmanship of Dr VK Paul, NITI Aayog will meet August 12 to consider logistics & ethical aspects of procurement & administration of COVID-19 vaccine," the ministry

tweeted. The phase-1 human clinical trials of the two COVID-19 vaccine candidates, developed indigenously by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research and Zydus Cadila Ltd, have been completed and the trials have moved to phase 2, ICMR Director General Balram Bhargaya said last Tuesday

The Serum Institute of India, Pune has also been permitted for conducting Phase 2 and 3 human clinical trials of the Oxford Universitydeveloped COVID-19 vaccine candidate in the country. India's COVID-19 caseload has climbed to 22.68.675 while the death-toll mounted to 45,257, according to the Health Ministry data updated at 8 am Tuesday.

## Centre to allow 4G on trial basis in 2 J&K dists

The relaxation will not be in any area adjoining the International Border or the Line of Control, the Centre told the top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11:4G Internet services will be allowed on a trial basis in one district each in Jammu and one in the Kashmir valley after August 15, the Centre told the Supreme Court Tuesday, adding that a special committee has made this decision.

The relaxation will not be in any area adjoining the International

Border or the Line of Control, the Centre told top court. The areas which will get the 4G Internet will be those which have a low intensity of ter-

rorist activities, the Centre said. The government will review the

situation after two months, it said. High speed Internet service in Jammu and Kashmir has been suspended since over a year when the centre scarpped Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and it into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Attorney General KK Venugopal representing the centre made the statements on restoring 4G on a trial basis The Attorney General said the Internet restrictions are not posing any hindrance to coronavirus care, education or business in the union territory and that given the current security scenario, the situation is not yet conducive to restore high-speed internet access to mobile phones.

On Friday, the Supreme Court had asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to explore the possibility of restoring 4G services in certain areas. A three-judge bench of Justices NV Ramana, R Subhash Reddy and BR Gavai heard the case today through video conferencing.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration

sought time to take instructions on the restoration of high-speed Internet service, saving a new Lieutenant Governor has been appointed in the union territory.

Manoj Sinha has been appointed the new Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir after GC Murmu resigned from the post.

The GC Murmu-led J&K administration has faced controversy over its opposition to restore 4G Internet services in Jammu and Kashmir. It has cited increased terror activity as the reason behind its move in the Supreme Court in response to petitions seeking restoration of high-speed Internet.

An NGO called Foundation for Media Professionals had approached the Supreme Court for contempt action against the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the centre for not implementing the top court's orders in restoring

### **BILLOWS OF SMOKE**



Smoke billows from a fire that broke out inside two ATMs at Charbagh Railway Station in Lucknow, Tuesday PTIPHOTO

## DGCA to check airports hit by heavy rain

New Delhi, August 11: India's air safety regulator plans to conduct special audits of airports across the country affected by heavy rain, the watchdog's chief told Reuters, days after an air crash killed 18 people and raised questions about safety.

An Air India Express plane with 190 people on board overshot the rain-soaked runway at an airport near the southern city of Kozhikode on Friday. The Boeing 737 landed in tailwind, skid off the runway and broke in half.

"We will conduct additional checks at major, busy airports across India that are affected by

the monsoon rains," Arun Kumar, head of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in an interview.

"We will review everything the condition of the runway, its incline, the lighting as well as drainage."

Kumar said the special audit was over and above the DGCA's routine checks and could cover a dozen airports including those in Chennai, Kochi, Trivandrum as well as Mumbai, all of which get heavy annual rains.

Air India Express is the low cost arm of state carrier Air India. The flight was repatriating Indians stranded in Dubai due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. The black boxes have been recovered and

their data is being examined. India's Aircraft Accident

Investigation Bureau is leading the probe into the crash. Boeing and the US National Transportation Safety Board are also taking part in the effort, Kumar said.

"Once the findings are finalised, and if something is amiss we will take action to rectify it," he said.

Table-top runways are built by excavating the peaks of hills and have steep drops at one or both ends, increasing the danger if pilots under- or over-shoot their approach. At Calicut airport, where the plane crashed Friday, the pilot landed a third of the way along the runway, Kumar said Sunday, leaving less room to bring the plane to a halt.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bulandshahr (UP), August 11: A 20-year-old student from Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar, who was studying in a US college.

SCHOLAR STUDYING

IN US DIES IN UP

**ROAD ACCIDENT** 

died in a road crash here, with her family claiming the accident happened as some motorcycleborne men were allegedly following her two-wheeler and harassing her, officials said Tuesday.

The incident took place in Aurangabad area here Monday morning when Sudiksha Bhati was riding pillion on a motorcycle with her younger brother, a minor, they said. The two were en route to their maternal uncle's home in Khanpur area here from their house at Deri Scanar village in Gautam Buddh Nagar's Dadri tehsil, the officials said.



The eldest among six siblings, she had an envious academic record.

'She got admitted in our school in 2011 in Class 6. In 2018, she scored 98 per cent marks in Class 12 examination and topped the district," said Bishwajit Banerjee, the principal of Sikandrabad

Vidyagyan School, Bulandshahr. She then went onto win a Rs 3.8-crore scholarship from Babson College, Massachusetts (US), and was pursuing a graduation course

in entrepreneurship, he said. Her father runs a tea shop. Her family members said she had come to India due to the coronavirus pandemic and was scheduled to go to the US August 20.

# 5 states face extreme shortage of abortion pills

#### THE NON-STOCKING OF DRUGS SEEMS TO BE LINKED WITH OVER-REGULATION BY DRUG CONTROL AUTHORITIES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 11: There is an extreme shortage of medical abortion drugs across the country. with acute crisis due to lack of stocks in Delhi, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, a study revealed.

The study conducted by the Foundation for Reproductive Health Services on 1,500 chemists showed that merely one per cent of the chemists in Punjab, two per cent in Tamil Nadu and Haryana, 6.5 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and 34 per cent in Delhi have stocked the abor-

The state which fared best is

Assam at 69.6 per cent. As per the study, the non-stocking of drugs seems to be linked with over-regulation by drug con-

trol authorities. About 79 per cent of chemists do not stock the drugs to avoid legal issues and excessive documentation requirements.

Even in Assam, which has the highest stocking percentage, 58 per cent chemists report over-regulation of drugs. State-wise legal barriers continue to be a major reason for non-stocking of the abortion drugs, with 63 per cent chemists in Haryana, 40 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 74 per cent in Punjab and 79 per cent in Tamil Nadu report-

FRHS Chief Executive Officer VS Chandrashekar said, "The main reason for not stocking drugs is over-regulation by local drug authorities. Even while it is a Schedule K drug and is even given to ASHA workers to distribute in communities, many retailers are not stock-



and legal barriers.

He added that medical abortion drugs are the most preferred method with 81 per cent of abortions being administered through them and hence their lack of availability hinders women, who do not wish to opt for surgical abortion methods.

"In the midst of the pandemic when movement of people is restricted and clinical methods of family planning are not adequately available, there is a dire need to ensure unrestricted access to drugs," said Chandrashekar, who is also the member of Pratigya Campaign Advisory Group. While the purpose of the study

was to verify the availability of drugs, the findings also reveal that **Emergency Contraceptive Pills** (ECP) are not being stocked by chemists in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Only 3 per cent of the chemists surveyed in the state reported stocking ECPs and 90 per cent not stocking shared that the pills are banned in the state. Emergency Contraceptive Pills are non-prescription drugs and are also stocked

and distributed by ASHAs under the

National Family Planning Program. Not allowing chemists to stock ECP denies women of Tamil Nadu a safe and easy to use contraceptive choice.

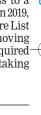
The primary reason for non-availability of MA drugs seems to be the incorrect understanding that medical abortion combinacks can be used for gender biased sex selection among regulatory officials. A Medical abortion combipacks is indicated for use only up to nine weeks while an ultrasound can detect the sex of the fetus at 13-14 weeks gestation.

Chemists, however, do not seem to share this misconception, only about 10 per cent chemists across the states where the study was conducted, reported that MA drugs can be used for sex-selective termination of pregnancy. In Tamil Nadu however, 36 per cent have this

misunderstanding.

'The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should clarify that MA drugs which are approved for use up to nine weeks in India cannot be used for sex selective termination of pregnancy. This will allow women to seek medical support and access drugs with a prescription," said Dr Rashmi Ardey, Clinical Services Director, FRHS India

Scrutiny and over-regulation, leading to non-availability of MA drugs is a major cause of concern and is likely to result in millions of women being denied access to a safe abortion method. WHO in 2019, included MA drugs in its Core List of Essential Medicines, removing an earlier advisory which requiredmedical supervision while taking the drugs.







# national



yardstick for being an Indian? Is this **India or Hindia?** MK STALIN | DMK CHIEF

#### **PREZ LAUDS NAIDU FOR COMPLETING THREE YEARS AS VP**

President Ram Nath Kovind Tuesday complimented Venkaiah Naidu on completing three years of the vice presidency, saying his public conduct is always guided by an innate impulse to reach out to the last person in the queue





After my tenure as the ends, I would like to politics and serve



TATHAGATA ROY | MEGHALAYA GOVERNOR





Development has come to a standstill (in Telangana). There are no funds for works. This government is



JP NADDA BJP PRESIDENT

### SHORT **TAKES**

#### MP to release 244 prisoners on I-Day

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to release 244 prisoners from various jails in the state on the Independence Day, Home Minister Narottam Mishra said Tuesday. The government releases prisoners every year by taking into account their good conduct and on other parameters August 15, an official said, "244 prisoners will be released from various jails," Mishra told reporters.

#### **Leopard kills girl** in Dahod district

Dahod: A 7-year-old girl has been mauled to death by a leopard near Sangasar village in Gujarat's Dahod district, a forest official said Tuesday. This is the third such incident in the region in less than a month, he said. The big cat dragged the victim away from outside her house in Dhanpur taluka Monday evening, said Vasiya Dungri forest range officer Mahesh Parmar. The half-eaten body of the girl was found deep inside the forest on Tuesday morning, he said.

#### Sakshi Maharaj gets death threat

Unnao: BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj has given a written complaint to the police claiming that he has received calls from a Pakistani number threatening to kill him in a bomb blast. In the complaint to inspector incharge of Sadar Kotwali. Dinesh Chandra Mishra, the MP from Unnao said that he got two phone calls from some terrorist organisation of Pakistan threatening to blow him up along with his residence.

#### 3 men arrested with 60 kg poppy

Jammu: Three men were arrested with 60 kg poppy and 30 rolls of cannabis in Udhampur and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The poppy was seized from a Punjab-bound truck on a highway in Jakhani area of Udhampur. Truck driver Gurvinder Singh and his help Charanjeet Singh were arrested, they said.

#### **Child labourers** rescued

Hyderabad: Three persons were arrested here for allegedly trafficking 11 children from Uttar Pradesh and engaging them in work, police said Tuesday. Acting on credible information that some children were detained and exploited for work in two POP units at Hayathnagar on the city outskirts, police teams Monday conducted raids and rescued 11 child labourers.

# **Army to probe J&K encounter after** families allege three men missing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 11: The Army is inquiring into an encounter by its troops in a South Kashmir village following complaints by families who have reported some men missing. Three terrorists were killed in the encounter, the Army says.

Families in Jammu region's Rajouri have filed written complaints saying three men involved in labour work were missing from the same area.

On July 18, the Army said three terrorists were killed in the higher reaches of Shopian in South Kashmir. However, no further details were shared.

On Monday, Srinagar-based Defence spokesperson Colonel Raiesh Kalia issued a brief statement saying the Army has noted social media inputs linked to the operations at Shopian July 18.

'The three terrorists killed during the operation have not been identified and the bodies were buried based on established protocols. The army is investigating the matter," Colonel Rajesh Kalia said.

This has sparked a controversy with political parties demanding an impartial probe into the alleged encounter to ensure speedy justice.

The controversy started after some families filed a complaint with a police station in Rajouri stating that their three members are missing since July 17 from Ashimpora area of Shopian where they were working as labourers in apple and walnut orchards.

The families, who filed the police complaint jointly, gave pictures of their family members - Mohammed Ibrar (21), Ibrar Ahmad (18) and Imtiaz Ahmad (26) - which were subsequently shared with the Kashmir police for investigation.

The relatives, belonging to Dhar

#### **SEEKING JUSTICE**

\_amilies in Jammu region's Raiouri have filed written complaints saying three men involved in labour work were missing from the same



On July 18, the Army said three terrorists were killed in the higher reaches of Shopian in South Kashmir, However, no further details were shared

his has sparked a controversy with political parties demanding an impartial probe into the alleged encounter to ensure speedy justice

Sakri village in Kotranka of Rajouri area in Poonch, filed the missing report with the local police after they failed to contact the three men and news of an encounter came July 18 from Ashimpora in Shopian, a police official said.

The official said some of their relatives have reached Shopian in the search of the three youths and were told that the missing men resembled those who were killed by the Army in a "gunfight" in a village in the district July 18.

The National Conference demanded a transparent probe into the incident and advised the administration to ensure that no-extrajudicial killings took place in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party sought to remind the authorities of the Machil fake encounter which resulted in an unrest across the Kashmir valley and asked for a "thorough probe and to ensure that the guilty are not spared". Three unemployed youths were killed by the Army in 2010 in North Kashmir and dubbed as militants. A probe later indicted army men for staging the fake encounter and a chargesheet was filed in court.

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari sought an impartial and time bound probe to unearth the mystery behind the disappearance of the three poor labourers of Rajouri district.

In a statement, Bukhari urged the new Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to order a high-level probe into the disappearance of the three labourers whose whereabouts were unknown since July 17.

"The Lt. Governor led government in JK is expected to order and pursue a serious, impartial and transparent investigation that leaves no stone unturned in finding out what happened to these three poor labourers who have lost contact with their families since July 17. The truth behind their disappearance must be unearthed as quickly as possible," he remarked.

## BJP-led govt wins trust vote in Manipur



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, August 11: The BJP-led Manipur government on Monday won the trust vote 28-16 in the Assembly following a hectic daylong debate after Chief Minister N Biren Singh had moved a confidence motion.

Eight Congress MLAs skipped the proceedings of the House, defying the party whip. The Congress MLAs who were present demanded a division but Speaker Y Khemchand Singh rejected their plea after which angry Congress lawmakers threw chairs in the well of the House.

'We have won the trust vote by voice vote. Whatever the Speaker is doing is as per the rules. The Opposition MLAs were in less numbers." Chief Minister Singh told the media after the crucial trust vote. BJP national general secretary

Ram Madhav congratulated Singh soon after the trust motion got the endorsement of the House. The advisor to the Chief Minister, Rajat Sethi, said in a tweet: "Devious

plans of the Congress to destabilise the government have failed. Congrats CM.' The crucial one-day session of the Manipur Assembly was called Monday to decide on the confi-

dence motion moved by the Chief

Minister. The spokesperson of the

Opposition Congress in Manipur,

Ningombam Bupenda Meitei, said

that instead of accepting the no-

confidence motion moved by the Congress, the Manipur Assembly has accepted the motion of confidence moved by the BJP government.

Meitei said: "Opposition leader (former Chief Minister) O Ibobi Singh has categorically stated that the Speaker didn't allow for division of vote despite all the Congress MLAs demanding the same instead of voice vote in the House. The Speaker's action was totally undemocratic.'

The ruling coalition and the main opposition Congress had issued separate whips to their members to attend the Assembly Monday and vote following their respective party lines. A noisy scene was witnessed in the House after the BJP-led alliance won the confidence motion.

The Manipur government had plunged into a serious political crisis June 17 after the four-member National People's Party (NPP), the sole Trinamool Congress MLA, and an Independent MLA withdrew their support while three BJP MLAs quit the party and joined the Congress.

The nine-day-long political crisis ended with the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president JP Nadda, Meghalaya Chief Minister and NPP national president Conrad K Sangma and Assam Minister and North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) convenor Himanta

## SUSHANT SINGH DEATH

#### Bihar govt has no jurisdiction in the case: Maha to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Bihar Police lacks jurisdiction in Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide case, the Maharashtra government told the Supreme Court Tuesday, while the late actor's father claimed that Mumbai Police was not probing the matter "in the right direction".



The Bihar government told the top court that the FIR lodged in Patna in the case is legal and valid and alleged that there is non-cooperation from Maharashtra. It said that even Rajput's postmortem report was not given to Patna Police by Mumbai Police, and refuted the allegation of political pressure in the case.

Reserving verdict on actress Rhea Chakraborty's plea, seeking transfer to Mumbai of the FIR lodged in Patna against her for allegedly abetting the suicide, the top court asked the parties concerned to file their written submissions, not more than two pages each, by August 13 in the case.

During the nearly 3-hour hearing, a bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy was told by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhyi, appearing for Maharashtra, that there was complete lack of jurisdiction of Bihar in the case.

Singhvi further said that he has never seen such sensationalisation being attached to a transfer petition and no complaint has been made out by Rajput's father who has filed the FIR against Rhea in Patna.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Rajput's father Krishna Kishore Singh, said that his matter is only about proper investigation of the case and according to him Mumbai Police was not investigating in the right

He said the mark on Rajput's neck does not appear to be of hang-

#### 108 pilots failed breath analyser test in last 2 years

Mumbai, August 11: In the year 2019, the number of pilots in India who have failed the Breath Analyser (BA) test stood at 54. The figure was the same in 2018 as well. A breath analyser test checks the alcohol content in the blood. The medical officers conduct the test for the flight crew at the airport prior to the flight and after it.

Following are the details that have come to light through an RTI

The RTI said that actions were taken in accordance with regulation. RTI activist Rajesh Modi said that he was shocked seeing the RTI reply about the number of pilots found failing the breath analyser test before and after their flight.

"I was shaken. In our country as per motor vehicle act 1949, drink and drive is a criminal offence because genesis behind it is that a person driving a vehicle under influence of alcohol is a potential threat and can cause accident causing harm to the lives of others. Now, an aircraft is the most complicated/ high speed/ high cost machine which pilots fly. So, it is scary for the passengers to learn about alcohol consumption among pilots. Failing BA test and that too in few of the cases repeatedly is horrific."

The RTI activist added, "Worth to note that out of 205 FATA holders, approximately 40-50 pilots are found to be failing BA every year. This is shocking as well. FATA (Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorization) is issued to foreign pilots working for Indian airlines.

## Man escapes COVID-19 facility, found dead on road

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 11: Hours after he escaped from a COVID-19 centre in Amalner in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district August 10. a 32-vear-old man was found dead on

road, police said Tuesday. The patient,

a resident of Wawade village in the north Maharashtra district, located over 400 kms from here, was  $admitted \, in \, the \,$ facility in

Amalner tehsil Monday morning, an official said.

He said doctors and hospital staff realised that the man had gone missing Monday as there was a heavy rush at the facility on Sunday when he had tested positive for coronavirus

His body was found in front of the Amalner municipal council building on Monday evening, the official said.

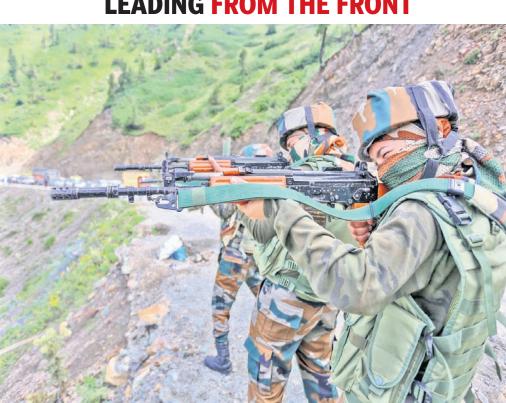
"About 40 patients were being treated at the hospital while its actual capacity is of 20 beds

said adding that the hospital head filed a police complaint about the missing patient.

A local BJP leader alleged that

it was not an isolated incident in Amalner.

A COVID-19 patient had run away from Amalner rural healthcare centre and later killed in a road accident, the leader claimed and demanded deployment of more number of police personnel at the facility.



Indian Army's women soldiers patrol at Sadhna Pass in Kupwara district, Monday. For the first time, women soldiers have been deployed along the LOC in order to keep a check on weapons and drug smuggling in the area

OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS GOT INFECTED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 11: Only 33 per cent parents support reopening of schools from September 1, according to a survey by LocalCircles.

Risk and unknowns of COVID-19, and hard to implement social distancing norms in schools pose risk to seniors in the family are among the top reasons why parents don't want schools starting from September 1.

Many schools started online sessions for the children to ensure that learning does not stop. As per latest media reports, the Central government is now considering opening schools from September 1 as part of its final unlocking measures starting with Classes 10-12 and

ports, many parents raised the issue

of schools restarting September 1

less than a month. Classes 6-9 with a 15-day gap. As a reaction to the media reparents in different parts of India.

and subsequently, LocalCircles decided to conduct a survey to get the collective parent pulse on how they feel about reopening of schools in

The survey received over 25,000 responses from parents and grand-

The infection is spreading so fast

in the country that it took only 20

days for the number of infected to increase from 1 million to 2 million and as per the WHO guidelines, children fall in the high-risk

Children if infected can be carriers of the virus and spread it to other members of the family with grandparents being the most vulnerable as many families in India have a joint family structure.

Parents were asked if they approve of the reported government plan of restarting schools from September 1 for Classes 10-12 and for Classes 6-10 after 15 days. In response, 58 per cent said 'no' while only 33 per cent answered 'yes'.

With majority of the parents opposing the reopening of schools from September 1, parents were also asked for the reason as to why they are opposed to schools in India starting from September 1, 2020.

In response, 13 per cent said they cannot afford to take chances with children given the risk and unknowns related to COVID-19, while 1 per cent said there is a serious risk with seniors in the family in case a child in the family gets infected. A 9 per cent said social distancing will not be possible in schools, 5 per cent said the coronavirus spread will increase even faster if schools

were reopened, and 2 per cent said they believe online education is a good substitute given the situation.

A 47 per cent said all of the above were valid reasons for them as 23 per cent said they are not opposed to opening of schools from September 1.

As schools in America begin reopening, dozens of students and school staff have started testing positive for COVID-19, while hundreds have been ordered home quarantine. In early May, Israel became the first country to restart schools and within a few days hundreds of students and teachers got infected.

Like the earlier Unlock guidelines, the states may be given the authority to decide if they want to reopen schools in different districts, depending on the prevailing case load. Whatever decision is taken, majority parents are against restarting of schools.

# Majority of parents oppose reopening schools

IN EARLY MAY, ISRAEL BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RESTART SCHOOLS AND WITHIN A FEW DAYS HUNDREDS

# international



We are shocked by the loss of human lives and the widespread destruction caused in Beirut. We pray for strength to families to overcome their great loss T S TIRUMURTI | INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN

#### **FB TO BAN NEWS OUTLETS BACKED BY POLITICAL GROUPS**

As the US presidential election inches closer, Facebook is set to crack down on local news outlets backed or supported by political groups that push their agenda on the platform, Axios reported Tuesday





Clearly what we are doing are trying to manage the COVID-19 pandemic – is to have local measures

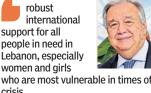
in place and local test and trace to introduce restrictions where that's

As soon as our political partners make a list according to the criteria, the send it to the



DAWA KHAN MENAPAL AFGHAN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE'S DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

I call for robust international support for all people in need in Lebanon, especially women and girls



ANTONIO GUTERRES UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Niger extends emergency

Niamey: Niger's government has extended a state of emergency to the entire region that surrounds the capital Niamey and suspended access to a giraffe reserve where six French aid workers and two Nigeriens were shot dead. Attackers on motorbikes ambushed the group Sunday while they were driving through the reserve, a popular destination for expatriates southeast of Niamey in the Tillabery region.

#### **Israel closes Gaza crossing**

Tel Aviv: Israel Tuesday closed the main cargo crossing with the Gaza Strip, after militants in the besieged Palestinian enclave launched incendiary balloons into Israeli territory. "The Kerem Shalom Crossing will be closed, with the exception of the entry of essential humanitarian equipment and fuel," Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories said.

#### **Wickremesinghe** summoned

Colombo: Sri Lanka's former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who suffered a crushing defeat in the parliamentary polls, has been summoned by a presidential probe pane August 18 to record his statement on the deadly Faster Sunday attacks. officials said Tuesday. Nine suicide bombers belonging to local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels on the Easter Sunday last year, killing 258 people, including 11 Indians.

#### **Covid returns**

Wellington: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda ArdernTuesday said authorities have found four cases of the coronavirus in one Auckland household from an unknown source, the first reported cases of local transmission in the country in 102 days. Ardern said Auckland, the nation's largest city, will be moved to Alert Level 3 from midday Wednesday through midnight Friday, meaning that people will be asked to stay at home, while bars and many other businesses

# Scientists pooh-pooh Russia's vaccine claim

London, August 11: An announcement by Russia Tuesday that it will approve a COVID-19 vaccine after less than two months of human testing prompted alarm among global health experts, who said that with no full trial data, the vaccine is hard to trust.

Intent on being first in the global race to develop a vaccine against the pandemic disease, Russia has vet to conduct large-scale trials of the shot that would produce data to show whether it works - something immunologists and infectious disease experts say could be a "reckless" step.

"Russia is essentially conducting a large population level experiment," said Ayfer Ali, a specialist in drug research at Britain's Warwick Business School.

She said such a super-fast approval could mean that potential adverse effects of a vaccine may not be picked up. These, while likely to be rare, could be serious, she warned.

"I know that it works quite effectively, forms strong immunity, and I repeat, it has passed all the needed checks," Putin said on state television. Francois Balloux, an expert at University College London's Genetics Institute, said it was "a reckless and foolish decision".

"Mass vaccination with an improperly tested vaccine is unethical," he said. "Any problem with the Russian vaccination campaign would be disastrous both through its negative effects on health, but also because it would further set back the acceptance



Putin said the vaccine, developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute, was safe and that it had been administered to one of his daughters

Experts said the lack of published data on Russia's vaccine - including how it is made and details on safety, immune response and whether can prevent COVID-19 infection - leaves scientists, health authorities and the public in the dark

of vaccines in the population."

#### **SCIENTIFIC PAPERS**

His comments were echoed by Danny Altmann, a professor of Immunology at Imperial College London, who said the "collateral damage" from deploying any vaccine that is not yet known to be safe and effective "would exacerbate our current problems insurmountably"

Even as Russia declared victory, more than half a dozen drugmakers around the world are in the process of conducting large-scale. advanced human trials of their potential COVID-19 vaccines, each with tens of thousands of volunteer

#### **US SKEPTICAL**

US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar says it's more important to have a safe and effective vaccine against the coronavirus than to be the first to produce

Azar, on a visit to Taiwan, was asked by ABC Tuesday what he thought of Russia's announcement that it had become the first country to register a vaccine against the virus. He says, "The point is not to be first with a vaccine. The point is to have a vaccine that is safe and effective for the American people and the people of the world." He says it's important to have transparent data on the vaccine to prove its safety and efficacy.

#### Shooting near WH, **Trump escorted** amid briefing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 11: US President Donald Trump was abruptly evacuated by a Secret Service agent from a live press briefing in the White House after shots were fired outside the highlysecured building.

Trump returned to the briefing room minutes later, confirming a shooting near the White House and assured the reporters that things were under control. "White House seems to be very well under control. I would like to thank the Secret Service for doing their -- always quick and very effective work...there was an actual shooting and somebody has been taken to the hospital,' Trump said as he resumed the press briefing on the coronavirus pandemic Monday.

"I don't know the condition of the person. It seems that the person was shot by the Secret Service. So we will see what happens." Trump said.

The Secret Service also tweeted confirming an officer-involved shooting at 17th Street Northwest and Pennsylvania Avenue



Northwest. The Secret Service said a "male subject" and one of its officers were transported to a hospital. An investigation of the shooting "is ongoing" and "at no time during this incident was the White House complex breached or were any protectees in danger", it said.

#### **BEIRUT BLAST**

## Lebanese demand change after govt quits



sion that hit the seaport of Beirut, Lebanon. (AP photo)

Beirut, August 11: Angry Lebanese said the government's resignation Monday did not come close to addressing the tragedy of last week's Beirut explosion and demanded the removal of what they see as a corrupt ruling class to blame for the country's woes.

The blast at the Beirut port left a crater more than 100 metres across on dock nine, the French ambassador said on Twitter following a visit to the site by French forensic scientists supporting an investigation into the disaster.

A protest with the slogan "Bury the authorities first" was planned near the port, where highly explosive material stored for years detonated on Aug. 4, killing at least 171 people, injuring 6,000 and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab, announcing his cabinet's resignation, blamed endemic graft for the explosion, the biggest in Beirut's history and which compounded a deep financial crisis that has collapsed the currency, paralysed the bank-

ing system and sent prices soaring. "I said before that corruption is rooted in every juncture of the state but I have discovered that corruption is greater than the

cal elite for blocking reforms. Talks with the International Monetary Fund have stalled amid a row between the government, banks and politicians over the scale of vast financial losses

state," he said, blaming the politi-

"It does not end with the government's resignation," said the protest flyer circulating on social media. "There is still (President Michel) Aoun, (Parliament Speaker Nabih) Berri and the entire system." For many Lebanese, the explosion was the last straw in a protracted crisis over the collapse of the economy, corruption, waste and dysfunctional government. **SECTARIAN SYSTEM** 

The Beirut port mirrors the sectarian power system in which the same politicians have dominated the country since the 1975-90 civil war. Each faction has its quota of directors at the port, the nation's main trade artery.

## Prince Harry felt thrown under the bus: New book

London, August 11: Britain's Prince Harry felt he was "thrown under the bus" to protect the royal family ahead of his exit as frontline royalty with wife Meghan Markle, claims a new unofficial biography of the couple released here Tuesday.

'Finding Freedom: Harry and Meghan and the Making of a Modern Royal

Family' by royal reporters Omid Scobie and Carolvn Durand comes packed with a series of revelations based on interviews with around 100 people, including

friends and aides, who are said to be close to Harry and Meghan -- the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

The couple themselves had earlier issued a statement to clarify that they were not interviewed for the book and had no involvement.

The book claims Prince Harry was upset by the very public aspect of a falling out with his older brother and second in line to the British throne, Prince William, after he asked him not to rush things with Meghan -

who was his girlfriend at the time. "Harry was upset that it was playing out so publicly and that so much of the information being reported was wrong," the authors quote a source as saving

"There had been moments where he felt people working with his brother had put things out there to make William look good, even if it meant throwing Harry under the bus. It was a con-

fusing time, and his head was all over the place didn't know who or what to believe, and he and William weren't talking enough either, which

made everything a lot worse, the book claims.

Some of the other subjects covered in the book focus on Harry's "complicated" relationship with his father, Prince Charles, and his concern for the heir to the British throne when he tested positive for coronavirus earlier this year.

The book also details aspects of actress-turned-royal Meghan Markle's training in everything from curtsying to surviving kidnapping attempts to prepare her for life in the royal family.



Lightning strikes are seen above the skyline of Shanghai's financial district of Pudong, China

#### Death toll rises to 2 from Baltimore gas explosion

Baltimore: Two people are now confirmed dead following a natural gas explosion that destroyed three row houses in Baltimore and sent seven people to the hospital, authorities said Tuesday. Baltimore Fire Department spokeswoman Blair Adams said at a 9 a.m. news conference that a man was pulled from the debris shortly before 1 a.m. A woman had been pronounced dead at the scene shortly after Monday morning's explosion. Seven others were hospitalized, five in critical condition, Adams said. The conditions of the other two were still being determined, she said. More than 200 people in the neighborhood were affected by the blast, and about 30 have utilized temporary shelter since the explosion, she said. The natural gas explosion Monday morning leveled three row houses and ripped open a fourth, trapping people in the debris and scattering shards of glass and other rubble over the northwest Baltimore neighborhood of Reisterstown Station.

## HK residents buy newspaper to support free press

AGENCIES

Hong Kong, August 11: Long lines of people bought up copies of the Apple Daily paper at Hong Kong newsstands Tuesday to support a free press in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The public support came one day after police arrested the publisher of the pro-democracy paper and raided its premises in the most significant enforcement yet of Hong Kong's new national security law.

The government is suppressing freedom of the press," said Michael Hung, who bought two copies for 10 Hong Kong dollars (\$1.25) apiece. The newsstand operator said he

had sold 200 of his allotment of about 300 papers by late morning. On at typical day, he sells about 100 copies. At least 200 police descended on the headquarters of Next Digital, which publishes the Apple Daily, and carted away boxes of what they said was evidence a few hours later.

Earlier, owner Jimmy Lai, his two sons and others from the company were detained under the national security law. An aide to Lai said they were suspected of collusion with a foreign power, which the law criminalizes. Police did not re-

The arrests, along with that of democracy activist Agnes Chow Monday night, have stoked fears



that authorities are using the new law to suppress dissent and free speech. Meanwhile, Hong Kong's Apple Daily tabloid responded with defiance Tuesday to the arrest of owner Jimmy Lai under a new national security law. "Apple Daily must fight on", the front-page headline read, amid fears the new law erodes media freedoms in the semiautonomous territory. More than 500,000 copies were printed, compared with the usual 100,000, the paper said on its website. The sweeping security law imposed on June 30 punishes anything China considers secession, subversion, terrorism or collusion with foreign forces with up to life in prison.

#### **Opposition candidate** leaves Belarus, urges end to protests

Minsk, August 11: The top opposition candidate in Belarus' presidential vote, who initially refused to concede her defeat amid a massive police crackdown on anti-government protesters, said Tuesday she has left for Lithuania and called on her supporters to end demonstrations.

Looking haggard and distressed, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, a former teacher and political novice, apologized to her supporters in a video statement and said it was her own choice to leave the country.

"It was a very hard decision to make," she said. "I know that many of you will understand me, many others will condemn me and some will even hate me. But God forbid you ever face the choice that I faced." In another video statement released later on Tuesday, she urged her supporters to respect the law and avoid clashes with police.

Her campaign aides said she made the unexpected move under duress. Tsikhanouskaya's husband has been at a Belarusian jail since his arrest in May. "It's very difficult to resist pressure when your family and all your inner circle have been taken hostages," said Maria Kolesnikova, a top figure in Tsikhanouskaya's campaign.

Tsikhanouskaya previously dismissed the official results of Sunday's election showing authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko winning a sixth term by a landslide.

Thousands of opposition supporters who also protested the results met with a tough police crackdown in Minsk and several other Belarusian cities for two straight nights.

On Monday, a protester died amid the clashes in Minsk and scores were injured as police used tear gas, flash-bang grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the demonstrators.

The ministry said Tuesday that more than 2,000 people were detained across the country for taking part in unsanctioned protests Monday evening and overnight. It added that 21 police officers were injured in clashes withprotesters, and five of them were hospitalised.



# business



More industry-friendly, productive friendly reforms will be brought to the mining sector very shortly

PRALHAD JOSHI UNION MINISTER, COAL & MINES

#### **AXIS BANK RAISES ₹10,000CR**

Private sector lender Axis Bank Tuesday said it has raised ₹10,000 crore through allotment of equity shares to qualified institutional buyers (QIB).





consecutive months of plummeted sales in a post-COVID scenario, there are

RAJAN WADHERA | PRESIDENT, SIAM

government should come out with new foreign trade policy at the earliest in view of the COVID-19

outbreak to increase India's shares in the global merechandise exports

CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE DIR GENERAL, CII

In the first quarter of FY21, we were able to perform operationally at par with pre-COVID

supply chain running and stood by

KARAN ADANI | CEO, APSEZ

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **BSE joins hands** with two groups

New Delhi: Leading stock exchange BSE Tuesday said it has joined hands with two bullion trade associations for deepening the commodity derivatives market in the country. BSE has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Akola Sarafa Association and Akola Sarafa Va Suvarnakar Yuva Sangh in this regard. These associations represent

members engaged in retail sale and trade of bullion. The pact is aimed at facilitating cooperation between BSE and physical markets represented by these two trade bodies in several areas.

#### **ICICI shares jump** 3% in early trade

New Delhi: Shares of ICICI Bank Tuesday gained 3 per cent after the company set a floor price of ₹351.36 per share for its proposed share sale to raise up to ₹15.000 crore. The stock rose by 2.90 cent to ₹3/4.15 on the BSE. It jumped 2.95 per cent to ₹374.30 on the NSE. The floor price for the qualified institutional placement (OIP) of shares is at a discount of over 3 per cent to Monday's close of ₹363.60 on the BSE.

#### JSW crude steel output falls 5 pc

New Delhi: JSW Steel Tuesday said its crude steel production during July stood at 12.46 lakh tonnes (LT), down 5 per cent on an year-on-year basis. The company had produced 13.17 LT crude steel in July 2019, it said in a statement. However, on a month-on-month basis there has been an

improvement. "On a month on month basis, the crude steel production achieved for the month of July 2020 was at 12.46 LT showing growth of 9 per cent over Jun 2020," it said.

## India inflation likely edged up in July on higher food prices

**FOOD PRICES, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR** NEARLY HALF THE INFLATION BASKET. HAVE SOARED SINCE APRIL

Bangalore, August 11: India's re tail inflation edged up slightly in July due to higher food prices, remaining firmly above the RBI's medium-term target of 4% for a 10th straight month, a Reuters poll showed.

Food prices, which account for nearly half the inflation basket, have soared since April due to supplyside disruptions caused by a nationwide lockdown imposed to contain the spread of the coronavirus which has infected more than 2 million people and killed over 44,000 in the world's second-most populous



regional lockdowns in some major agricultural producing states continued to disrupt supplies of essential perishables like fruits and

The August 6-10 Reuters poll of over 45 economists showed Indian retail inflation rose to 6.15% last month from 6.09% in June. Forecasts for the data, scheduled to be released on Aug 12 at 1200 GMT, ranged from

'We see July CPI inflation to be steady above the Reserve Bank of India's 6% policy limit. Food remained a dominant inflation driver but high utility and transport costs also contributed," said Prakash Sakpal, Asia economist at ING.

The government suspended the release of CPI inflation headline numbers for April and May due to in sufficient data during the lockdown.

The RBI kept interest rates on hold last week after reducing the reporate by a total of 115 basis points

SENSEX

**Axis Bank** 

IndusInd Bank

ITC

**HDFC Bank** 

Tata Steel

**ICICI Bank** 

6441.05 Bajaj Finserv 0.60%

224.93

POINTS

448.00

521.85

203.65

1067.60

416.45

1825.35

367.40

2134.05

195.10

AUG

3.96%

2.45%

2.39%

1.58%

0.67%

Debt revamping

to prolong banks'

rise in retail consumer prices - but said it would ensure inflation remains within target. According to the RBI's latest sur-

since February - despite a recent

vey, household inflation expectations for the three-month and one-year horizons rose to over 10% in July, suggesting Asia's third-largest economy could enter a period of stagflation - a phase with lofty inflation, high unemployment and stagnant demand.

"With inflation expected to remain elevated on supply side disruptions, we think a rate cut is more probable in December," said Rini Sen. India economist at ANZ

UK jobs market

plunging toward

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

cliff-edge moment

London, August 11: The UK has

kept a lid on unemployment so

far during the coronavirus pan-

demic but, scratch beneath the

surface, there are worrying trends

that will likely see the jobless total

Figures released Tuesday from

the Office for National Statistics

showed that the number of peo-

ple working fell in the

April-June quarter by the most

since the global financial crisis

more than a decade go, though

the unemployment rate held

steady at a historically low 3.9

soaring by the end of the year.

# Factory output shrinks 16.6%

However, on a monthly basis, the Index of Industrial Production has shown improvement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Industrial production declined by 16.6 per cent in June, mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation, as per the government data released Tuesday.

According to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data, manufacturing sector production registered a decline of 17.1 per cent, while the output of mining and power fell 19.8 per cent and  $\bar{10}$  per cent, respectively. In a press release, the Ministry

of Statistics and Programme Implementation issued a disclaimer saying that it may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the COVID-19 pandemic. However, on a monthly basis, the

Index of Industrial Production has shown improvement. The index. which was 53.6 in April, improved to 89.5 in May and 107.8 in June, the data revealed.

In view of the preventive measures and announcement of a nationwide lockdown by the government to contain the spread of

New Delhi, August 11: Reliance

places to rank 96th in the Fortune

Global 500 published Tuesday. Its

highest ranking so far was at 99 in

In 2019, Reliance became India's

top name in the Fortune Global 500

listing, drawn up on the basis of

revenues. This year, too, Reliance

maintained its pole position among

Indian companies in the list. India

has seven companies figuring in

Industries has achieved in the

2020 edition of Fortune Global 500

The 96th rank that Reliance

The slip of ranking between

RIL is classified under

2012 and 2016 was owing to rupee

depreciation and a fall in oil prices.

"Petroleum Refining" industry by

Fortune 500. In this category, the

company is ranked at number 13

who are part of the Fortune 500 list

are Indian Oil at the 151st place,

ONGC at 190, State Bank of India

The other Indian companies

the 2020 edition.

is its highest-ever

globally.

According to the Index of

Industrial Production (IIP) data items being produced by the establishments during the period of registered a decline of 17.1 per lockdown. With the lifting of restrictions in the subsequent periods, The output of mining and power fell 19.8 per cent and 10 per cent, industrial activity is now resuming.

This has had an impact on the

Reliance Industries breaks

into top 100 global companies

at 221. Bharat Petroleum at 309.

Tata Motors at 337 and Rajesh

The world's 500 largest compa-

nies generated \$33.3 trillion in

revenues and \$2.1 trillion in prof-

its in 2019. Together, this year's

Fortune Global 500 companies em-

ploy 69.9 million people world-

wide and are represented by 32

The top 10 in the list include

Walmart, Sinopec Group, State

Grid (Corp of China), China

National Petroleum, Royal Dutch

countries.

Exports at the 462nd rank.

Earlier, India's industrial prorespectively. Overall, the index, duction had contracted for the third which was 53.6 in April, improved consecutive month in May, shrinkto 89.5 in May and 107.8 in June ing 34.7 per cent, after a historic fall of 57.6 per cent in April as the Covid-19-induced lockdown almost COVID-19 pandemic, a large numfroze economic activities. However, ber of industrial sector establishthe Index of Industrial Production ments were not operating from (IIP) had begun shrinking even be-March-end, 2020 onwards. fore, falling by 18.3 per cent in

Reliance

Industries Limited

Growth is Life

Shell, Saudi Aramco, Volkswagen,

With 221 ranking, India's top

lender State Bank of India (SBI)

has improved its ranking by 15

points. The lender was at 206 po-

ranked by total revenues for their

respective fiscal years ended on or

before March 31, 2020. While

Reliance had a revenue of \$86.2

hillion IOC had revenue of \$69.2

billion, ONGC had revenue of \$57

billion and SBI had \$51 billion.

Fortune said companies are

sition in 2019.

BP, Amazon and Toyota Motor.

of shutdown.

With the lockdown in force for most of April and May, the government had released only index numbers for industrial production, and the numbers cited above are derived from those.

The government clarified that after reporting zero production in April, subsequent periods of conditional relaxations led to a graded pick-up in industrial activity. However, experts cautioned against celebrating just yet.

"The IIP data for May confirms our conviction that economic activity hit a trough in April, and will record an uneven recovery in the subsequent months. However, the rising infections and imposi tion of localised lockdowns in many states, are raising red flags about the pace of normalisation that we should expect in the ongoing quarter. Economic activity is likely to tread a bumpy path in the coming months, in our view," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist at ICRA. All the components of the IIP - mining, manufacturing, and electricity saw contraction, albeit at a smaller magnitude, than the pre vious month.

### 'MSMEs will take months to recoup from virus impact

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: The months to recover from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, Global Chief Economist at Dun & Bradstreet Arun Singh said

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute 29 per cent to the country's GDP. The sector is among the worst hit by the pandemic.

Addressing a webinar, Singh said the recovery time of an MSME will be tied to the sector in which it is operational.

According to him, sectors like online gaming, telecommunications and e-education operating in the digital space are witnessing a positive impact by leveraging opportunities arising from

the pandemic On the other hand, traditional sectors like food, drugs, pharmaceutical, ITes (IT enabled services), banking, retail, automotive real estate and jewellery are witnessing moderate to high to severe impact.

## asset uncertainty Mumbai, August 11: A one-time debt restructuring allowed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to

help lenders and borrowers amid the COVID-19 pandemic will prolong uncertainty about the banking sector's asset quality, Fitch Ratings said Tuesday. The RBI said last week it will allow restructuring of corporate and personal loans to ease debt strains

on companies and lenders, a move widely awaited by the banking industry. "The policy could open a window

for banks to build capital buffers while putting off full recognition of the coronavirus pandemic's impact on loan portfolios, but is reminiscent of a strategy adopted over 2010-2016 that delayed and exacerbated problems for the banks,' Fitch said. Indian banks are saddled with

more than \$120 billion in bad loans and the sector is ranked the thirdworst among 13 major world economies in asset quality

The central bank's experience with loan restructuring in the past hasn't been encouraging.

In several instances the restructuring method was used for evergreening of loans, a practice in which banks provide additional loans to stressed borrowers, often indirectly, to enable them to repay existing loans.

Fitch said it believes that the scheme may be designed to give banks more time to raise capital,



- The RBI said last week it will allow restructuring of corporate and personal loans to ease debt strains on companies and lenders
  - Indian banks are saddled with more than \$120 billion in bad loans and the sector is ranked the third-worst among 13 major world economies

which remains challenging in the current environment, to address the impact of the crisis on loan portfolios.

The central bank has set up a committee to oversee restructuring plans involving creditors with more than 15 billion rupees (\$200.94 million) of debt, but that is likely to leave out lending to retail and smalland medium-sized firms, which Fitch said is likely to account for a substantial portion of future pandemic-linked asset quality stress.

Fitch saw downward pressure on banks' standalone 'Viability Rating' as the scheme could expose banks to higher balance sheet risks.

#### **BIZ BUZZ**

#### Cooperative banks may lend under ECLGS



NEW DELHI: As the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, specially formed for MSMEs, progresses, the government is considering allowing cooperative banks to lend under it too. Addressing a webinar at the 'FICCI-SBI Atmanirbhar MSME Virtual Conclave', Micro, Small and Medium Industries

Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the government is discussing the matter with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). "Cooperative banks that are not included as a member lending institutions under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) will be included as lenders for MSMEs, under a scheme being discussed in consultation with the RBI," a FICCI statement quoted Gadkari as saying.

#### Apple CEO Tim Cook becomes a billionaire

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple CEO Tim Cook has for the first time become a billionaire as the Cupertino-based iPhone maker broke all previous records and is now the world's most valued company at over \$1.84 trillion. The net worth of Cook has crossed the \$1-billion

mark, officially making him a billionaire. Cook, however, still has a long way to go to catch up with other CEOs on the Bloomberg Billionaires' list, like Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos (\$187 billion), former Microsoft CEO Bill Gates (\$121 billion) and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg (\$102 billion).

#### **Domestic passenger** vehicles' sale eases

**NEW DELHI:** The sales contraction in the domestic passenger vehicles segment eased in July compared with earlier month, industry data showed Tuesday. A total of 182,779 passenger vehicles were sold in July 2020 in India, 3.86 per cent lower than the 190,115 units sold during the like period of 2019. In June, domestic passenger vehicle sales had halved compared with the same period last year, due to the economic turbulence caused by the coronavirus crisis. Besides, the data showed that car sales in the country plunged by 12.02 per cent to 102,773 units last month.



#### **COVID-19 IMPACT**

# Faster shift in global trade relations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Moody's Investors Service Tuesday said the coronavirus pandemic is likely to accelerate fundamental shifts in trade relationships and global supply chains

According to Moody's the trend toward a more fragmented and protectionist global economy will likely accelerate as a result of the pandemic, with restrictions on trade, investment and technology transfers.

The pandemic will likely result in some fundamental shifts in trade relationships and supply chains globally, further hardening attitudes against globalization, it said and noted that the supply chain shifts will occur in a multi-year process, particularly as China will retain a number of advantages over other economies

Some Asian markets excluding China will benefit from the supply chain shifts, particularly as companies look to diversify their sources of supply, it further noted

Asian countries ex-China will stand to benefit from diversification away from China provided that these countries have sound economic fundamentals, reliable infrastructure, sufficient human capital stock, and low geopolitical and supply security risk, Moody's said in a report.

However, localization of production or reshoring that moves productive capacity out of the region to the US or the European



Union will have negative effects for Asian producers, notably those in strategic sectors.

Moody's said as the global trade system becomes more regionally focused, each major region – Asia, Europe and the US – will likely have its own suppliers for strategically important products.

As these trends accelerate, some localization and reshoring of supply chains outside of Asia to Europe and the US will be likely, it said.

Developing countries in Asia such as Indonesia, Cambodia and India stand to benefit from their preferential access to the EU and US markets for certain goods under the 'Generalized System of Preferences' and the 'Everything but Arms' initiative to support lowand middle-income economies, Moody's added. According to Moody's, in a post-COVID world, ensuring supply security through enhanced supply chain robustness will become a key focus of governments and companies.

Supply chain robustness refers to the ability to maintain operations during a crisis, which can be achieved both by increasing inventories and increasing supplier diversification.

Bergamo (Italy), August 11: Atalanta is playing 'with anger in their eyes and pain in their hearts and that emotion could help propel the team from Bergamo beyond expectations in the Champions League. The small city of Bergamo was one of the epicenters of the coronavirus outbreak in Italy. More than 6,000 people died with COVID-

Images of a convoy of military trucks driving coffins out of the city because the crematorium could-

n't keep up were beamed around the

Since even before the restart,

Atalanta players have talked about

bringing the smiles back to the faces of their supporters and it has

been one of the top teams since

hit by the virus ... and they (the

players) experienced all that with

us," said Franz Barcella, an Atalanta

season ticket holder and the man-

aging partner at Edone — a bar

and a cultural space near the team's

"They are really moving, moving

because of what they say, because

of what they do, because of the way

they play. It really seems as if they

are playing with anger in their eyes

and pain in their hearts. You can't

"We were one of the cities worst

ASSOCIATED PRESS

19 in the province.

soccer resumed



# **RED DEVILS SURVIVE COPENHAGEN SCARE**

Cologne (Germany), August 11: Manchester United needed an extra-time penalty from Bruno Fernandes to scrape into the Europa League semifinals after beating Copenhagen 1-0.

In sweltering heat, United's young team controlled the lion's share of possession but had a hard time creating clear chances until Andreas Bjelland brought down Anthony Martial in the penalty area. Fernandes blasted the ball past the otherwise excellent goalkeeper Karl-Johan Johnsson to give United

Mason Greenwood and Fernandes hit the woodwork with shots during normal time and earlier video reviews cost United two of their best opportunities

First, VAR scratched off a United penalty for offside in the buildup. Just before the break Greenwood put the ball in the net after a lightning break down the right flank but the replay showed he'd been just offside when Marcus Rashford's pass was played.

That decision was a particular blow for United after the apparent

breakthrough goal came just as the English team had seemed to be getting frustrated and taking increasingly speculative shots against a Danish team playing its first ever European quarterfinal.

Copenhagen striker Mohamed Daramy muscled his way past the United defense to shoot in the 17th but had his shot blocked by Harry Maguire, and Jens Stage's followup was blocked, too.

United will play five-time Europa League winner Sevilla or English club Wolverhampton Sunday in the semifinals. They play their

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, August 11: The up-

coming training camp for India's male hockey players in Bangalore looks uncertain after half a dozen of them tested positive for COVID-19 but the women can resume practice after all of them tested negative for the dreaded virus.

Six Indian men's team players skipper Manpreet Singh, striker Mandeep Singh, defenders Surender Kumar, Jaskaran Singh, drag-flicker Varun Kumar and goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak - have tested positive after reaching Bengaluru for the national camp, scheduled to start August 20.

Of these, Mandeep has been hospitalised after his blood oxygen levels dropped Monday. "The men's camp is in doubt after six positive results, more reports are still awaited from the state government," a SAI source told this agency

tested negative. They are currently under 14-day quarantine period and the light intensity camp will begin once it's over," the

**POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS** 

male players are in Bangalore for the camp. The six COVID positive men - mostly from Punjab were part of a 10-member group that travelled together from New Delhi.

According to sources close to the developments, the number could rise as all the test reports of the

leg took place February 19 in Milan and has been dubbed 'Game Zero' because of the spread of the disease that followed both in northern Italy and in Spain. "Look it's difficult not to know

people who were ill in Bergamo. Having said that, to say that it was because of that match is an insult," said Barcella, who was also ill with

Atalanta playing with pain in hearts

"How many other chances did we have to get sick? There were concerts, other matches, the crowds on public transport...

"A match wasn't the cause of the spread. That there were errors made is obvious but saying that Atalanta-Valencia caused everything makes me laugh. There were a thousand causes, not least because as a country we were unprepared."

Atalanta secured a second successive season in the Champions League by again finishing third in Serie A, repeating its highest-ever finish from the previous year. It also set a new club record points tally of 78.

Winning the Champions League would also be historic, not to mention bringing some joy to a city and region that has suffered for months.

## Men's hockey camp uncertain

but be proud of a team like this."

Atalanta plays Paris Saint-

Germain Wednesday in the quar-

terfinals of the Champions League.

That match and the remainder of

the competition will take place in

There won't be any fans there but

Barcella estimates around 400-500

supporters will be in Edone's out-

door space, watching the match

on a big screen — with all the nec-

essary social distancing measures

with an 8-4 aggregate victory over

Valencia in the round of 16. The first

Atalanta reached the final eight

in place.

"But the women's camp is still on course after all the players

**WOMEN'S CAMP STILL ON DESPITE SIX MALE PLAYERS TESTING** 

Currently, 33 male and 24 fe-

men's team have not vet to come. The light intensity national camp was supposed to start in the last week of August after a month-

long break and was expected to continue till September 30. It is learnt that SAI approved the camp after a request from Hockey India, which is among the 57 de-

recognised National Sports Federations (NSFs). "Resuming national camps is not solely SAI's decision. We take feedback and inputs from every NSF before deciding anything because they are more aware than

us. We just give them support in

terms of opening up our infra-

structure," a SAI source said. "We are in deliberations with respective authorities, including Hockey India on the resumption of men's camp and a decision on this matter will be taken shortly.'

Reports have alleged that the men's team players, during their break, did not follow health safety protocols as strictly as they should

### Sabalenka in second round, Konta ousted



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lexington, August 11: World No.11 Aryna Sabalenka made a winning return at the WTA's resumption in the United States as she battled past America's Madison Brengle to enter the second round at the inaugural Top Seed Open.

The No.2 seeded player from Belarus defeated Brengle 6-1, 6-7(5-7), 6-2 after nearly two-and-a-\_\_\_ half hours of play Monday.

"(Brengle) played really well, she moved really well." Sabalenka said during an on-court post-match interview as per the WTA website. "It was tough. I just tried to stay in the game, tried to think clean, and fight to the end, like I usually did.'

"I was really waiting for tennis to get back. I was just trying to stay in the tournament, stay in the rallies, stay in the game as long as I can, and I think I did everything I could. Of course I could play better, but I think for the

first match, it's okay," she added. Sabalenka, who won her sixth career WTA singles title in Doha earlier this season, will next face the winner of an all-American encounter between rising teenager Coco Gauff and qualifier Caroline

Meanwhile, World No.15 Johanna Konta failed to enter the second round of the competition in US as she lost to unseeded Czech

Dolehide.

## Lukaku leads Inter into semis

Romelu Lukaku scored one goal and set up another as Inter Milan defeated a tenacious Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 to reach the Europa League semifinals.

Lukaku was the driving force from the start, imposing himself on the game and disrupting the Leverkusen defense to keep Inter in the hunt for its first trophy in nine years. Inter last played a European semifinal on its way to the Champions League title in 2010.

'We are growing but we have to learn to kill games off when we have the chances to do it, and we didn't tonight," Lukaku said. "Now we have time to recover physically and prepare for another great game."

When Nicolo Barella gave Inter the lead in the 15th minute it was off a rebound from a shot of Lukaku's which had been blocked. Six minutes later, Lukaku scored after a link up with Ashley Young, even though he was falling as he hit the shot while battling a defender.

Just as Inter threatened to overwhelm Leverkusen, the German team kept itself in the game. Kai Havertz played a one-two with Kevin Volland and fired the ball past goalkeeper Samir Handanovic



minutes after Lukaku scored.

A video review stopped Inter extending their lead, overturning a penalty given for handball against Leverkusen left back Daley Sinkgraven. Leverkusen pushed hard to level in the second half but that opened up chances for Inter and Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky was called on to make repeated saves.

The game could prove to be Havertz's last for Leverkusen. He has been strongly linked with a move to Chelsea and Leverkusen previously said it would hold off

on any transfers for the duration of the Europa League campaign.

For Leverkusen it was another near miss in a season filled with them. Leverkusen missed out on a Champions League spot on the last day of the Bundesliga and lost the German Cup final to Bayern Munich last month.

'It's a shame that we couldn't take that final step," right back Lars

Bender said. "We gave everything." Inter plays Shakhtar Donetsk or Basel in the semifinals on August 17. The Ukrainian and Swiss clubs

## Tour de France '21 to begin in Brittany after Denmark delay

Brittany, August 11: The 2021 Tour de France will start here after Copenhagen's staging of the 'Grand Depart' was pushed back by a year due to a potential clash with soccer's postponed European Championship, race organisers said Monday.

Brittany will also host the first four full stages of the race. "Delighted to announce with Christian Prudhomme that we will start in Brest, pass through Finistere, Cotes d'Armor, Morbihan and Ille-et-Vilaine. It will be a great



omy," said the region's president Loig Chesnais-Girard.

The start of next year's Tour was brought forward by six days to avoid clashing with the men's road race at the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics.

The new June 26 start date, however, created a clash for Denmark with the European Championship, which runs from June 11-July 11.

Denmark is due to host three group matches as well as a last 16 match, all taking place at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen in June. The Danish start to the Tour will

#### to cut the gap to a single goal four play their quarterfinal Tuesday. celebration and a boost for the econbe held from July 1-3, 2022. Marie Bouzkova 6-4, 6-4. Broad fines Broad for 'inappropriate language' NZC promises bumper int'l schedule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 11: England fast bowler Stuart Broad has been fined 15 per cent of his match earnings by referee Chris Broad, who incidentally happens to be the cricketer's father, for using 'inappropriate language' after dismissing Pakistan spinner Yasir Shah in the first Test at Manchester.

"The incident occurred in the 46th over of Pakistan's second innings Saturday, when Broad used inappropriate language after dismissing Yasir Shah," said the ICC in a statement.

According to the release, Broad was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which relates to 'using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match'.

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disci-

plinary record of Broad, for whom it was the third offence in a 24month period, taking his cumulative demerit points to three.

Broad's previous breaches were January 27 this year during the fourth Test against South Africa, and August 19, 2018, in the third Test against India at Trent Bridge.

"Broad admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Chris Broad of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees and ratified by the ICC Cricket Operations department as per the COVID-19 interim playing regulations. There was no need for a formal hearing," the release added.

On-field umpires Richard Kettleborough and Richard Illingworth, third umpire Michael Gough and fourth official Steve

O'Shaughnessy levelled the charge. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points



Wellington, August 11: West Indies, Pakistan, Australia and Bangladesh have all confirmed they will tour New Zealand during the southern hemisphere summer, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chief executive David White said Tuesday.

Under the International Cricket Council's Future Tours Programme, West Indies were scheduled to play three Tests and three T20s in New Zealand, while Pakistan will play two Tests and three T20s. The five Tests form part of the World Test Championship.

Bangladesh were due to play both ODI and T20I series and Australia will round out the season in a three-match T20 series against New Zealand next March.

"We're making tremendous progress," White told reporters Tuesday. "Just on the phone actually to the West Indies, they are confirmed. Pakistan have confirmed, Australia and Bangladesh.



So, 37 days of international cricket. We'll go through the detail of that in due course

New Zealand has managed to largely contain the spread of the coronavirus and has held a national rugby competition in front of big crowds over the last couple of months.

White also confirmed that the 'White Ferns' women's cricket team will tour Australia in September and reciprocate by hosting the Southern Stars in February, when New Zealand would have been staging the

postponed 50-over World Cup. He said NZC would be looking at

the biosecurity model being used by England to host test series against West Indies and Pakistan and were discussing details of quarantine for incoming teams with the New Zealand government.

"It's a lot of cricket," he added. 'We'll just be held up for a week or two while we work with the government agencies on the managed isolation but they've been tremendously supportive and making really good progress.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159