

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY, JULY 5 | 2021

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Earlier, I used to donate to Armed Forces to prove my patriotism. Now, I buy petrol!

FUEL PRICES HIKED AGAIN

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 4: Fuel prices continued an upward march Sunday and the petrol was priced at ₹99.51 per litre in the national capital.

In Delhi, the price of the fuel increased by 35 paise. Oil marketing companies raised fuel prices Sunday after keeping them unchanged for a day. The price of diesel in Delhi also increased to ₹89.36 from the Saturday price of ₹89.18 per litre.

CITY FUEL PRICES PETROL ₹100.36 (+0.35) DIESEL ₹97.45 (+0.20)

In the other key cities too petrol prices continued to climb to new highs. In Mumbai, it was priced at ₹105.58 per litre, while in Chennai also it has surpassed the ₹100-mark and is currently at ₹100.44 a litre.

Is currently at ₹100.44 a lifte. Price of petrol in Kolkata is also inching closer to the three-figure mark and Sunday it was sold for ₹99.45 a litre. In tandem with petrol prices, diesel prices also were raised Sunday. Price of diesel in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata was ₹96.91, ₹93.91 and ₹92.27 per litre, respectively.



FOR A BUMPER HARVEST: A farmer participates in a bull race at a paddy field in Batra village of South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, Sunday. Farmers believe that participating in the race before ploughing brings rain and with it a better harvest

Covid 3rd wave may peak between Oct-Nov

THE POSSIBLE THIRD WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC MAY SEE HALF THE CASES RECORDED DURING SECOND SURGE, SAYS GOVT PANEL SCIENTIST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: A possible third wave of coronavirus infection can hit its peak between October-November if Covid-appropriate behaviour is not followed. However, it may see half the daily cases recorded during the second surge, said a scientist of a government panel tasked with modelling of Covid-19 cases.

Covid infection can also spread faster during the third wave if any new is intermediate wherein we assume that vaccination is 20 per cent less effective in addition to optimistic scenario assumptions."

"The final one is pessimistic with assumptions different from the intermediate one: a new 25 per cent more infectious mutant spreads in August (it is not Delta plus, which is not more infectious than Delta variant)," Agarwal said in a series of tweets.

According to a graph shared by Agarwal, the second wave is likely to plateau by mid-August and a possible third wave could reach its peak between October and November. In the pessimistic scenario, the third wave could see daily Covid-19 cases rise up between 1,50,000 and 2,00,000 in the country, the scientist noted. The figure is less than half of what was recorded when the deadly second wave had hit its peak in the first half of May, flooding hospitals with patients and claiming thousands of lives daily. On May 7, India had recorded 4,14,188 Covid-19 cases, the highest during the second wave. If a new mutant emerges, the third wave could spread rapidly, but it will be half of what the second wave was. Delta variant is infecting people who contracted a different variant earlier. So this has been taken into consideration, Agarwal said. He said as vaccination progresses, the possibility of a third or fourth wave will be less.

Second wave of pandemic under control, says Naba Das

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: Stating that the second wave of Covid-19 was slowly coming under control, state Health Minister Naba Kishore Das Sunday appealed to the people to comply with Covid appropriate behaviour.

The minister claimed that the initiatives taken by the state government to counter the pandemic have been successful in checking the spread of coronavirus and talked about the initiatives taken to boost health infrastructure to deal with a possible third wave.

"The second wave of Covid-19 is slowly coming under control. From our side, we have bolstered the health system with the appointment of more doctors and nurses. We have also been 12 PAGES | ₹5.00



Monsoon expected to revive from July 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: After a break, the Southwest Monsoon is again set to enter an active phase, M Rajeevan, Secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences said Sunday, noting that forecast models show signs of increasing rain activity from July 8.

He said that models indicate the formation of a weather system in the Bay of Bengal.

"Monsoon Update: @moesgoi models show signs of revival - increasing rains in South, west coast & East Central India from 8 July."

"Models also make an early indication of formation of a weather system over BoB by12th and subsequent active monsoon phase," Rajeevan, who has been researching the Southwest Monsoon for more than three decades, tweeted.

After a good spell of rains in the first two and half weeks of June, the Southwest Monsoon has not advanced further since June 19.

Delhi, Haryana, parts of west Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, west Rajasthan are yet to see the arrival of the monsoon. In its forecast for the July, try as a whole will witness good rainfall this month. However, parts of north India, some parts of south peninsula, central, east and northeast India could witness rainfall in the category of normal to below normal. It added that the conditions are not favourable for the monsoon's progress till July 7 due to the lack of a weather system.

India Meteorological

Department said the coun-

The northern limit of southwest monsoon (NLM) is currently passing through Aligarh, Meerut, Ambala and Amritsar, the IMD said.

"Prevailing meteorologi-

cal conditions, large-scale atmospheric features and the forecast wind pattern by dynamical models suggest that no favourable conditions are likely to develop for further advance of southwest monsoon into remaining parts of Rajasthan, west Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi and Punjab during next 4-5 days," the IMD said. Hence, subdued rainfall activity is very likely to continue to prevail over the northwest, central and western parts of peninsular India during the next 4-5 days, it added.

Officials in oil companies attribute the consistent increase in fuel prices to development in the global oil markets where both product and crude price have been firming up for the past couple of months on demand rise amidst the slowing of pandemic. However, a closer look at the fuel retail prices in India gives a picture that it is the high level of taxes that is keeping fuel rates higher even in times when global oil prices are firm.

WEAT	THER		
	BHUB	СТК	
d MA)	< 35.9℃	35.8°	C
H MIN	26.0°⊂	26.0°	Forecast
Humidi	ty 100%	79%	Light rain
Rainfall	10.8mm	NIL	very likely

virulent variant of SARS-CoV-2 emerges, said Manindra Agarwal who is working with the Sutra Model – the mathematical projection of the Covid-19 trajectory.

The panel was formed by the Department of Science and Technology last year to forecast the surge of coronavirus cases using mathematical models. Besides Agarwal, who is a scientist with IIT-Kanpur, the panel also has M Vidyasagar, another scientist with IIT-Hyderabad, and Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar, Deputy Chief (Medical) of Integrated Defence Staff, as members.

The panel had earlier received flak for not predicting the ferocity of the second wave of Covi-19 in the country. About the predictions for the third wave, Agarwal said the loss of immunity, effects of vaccination and the possibility of a more virulent variant have been factored in this



The predictions for the third wave were made on factors like loss of immunity, effects of vaccination and the possibility of a more virulent variant, which was not done while modelling the second wave

Scientists have created three Scenarios. One is optimistic, where life goes back to normal by August and there is no new mutant. Another is intermediate wherein it is assumed that vaccination is 20 per cent less effective

time, which was not done while modelling the second wave. He said a detailed report will be

published soon. "We have created three scenarios.

One is optimistic, where we assume that life goes back to normal by August and there is no new mutant. Another working on installing oxygen facilities in health institutions and ensuring adequate drug supplies. The government has also increased the number of beds in the state," he said.

The minister added, "I urge the people to adhere to the Covid guidelines and together we can reduce the impact of the second wave of Covid-19 soon. We are vaccinating more and more people on a war footing to provide protection to the local community."

Talking about the state's preparedness for the third wave, Das said, "We have boosted the heath infrastructure to counter any threat of the third wave of Covid-19. On June 17, we prepared a standard operating protocol (SOP) to ensure that all our systems are in place to combat the possible Covid-19 third wave if." The minister also talked about training healthcare professionals on the new threats from the pandemic.

45 dead in Philippine military plane crash



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila, July 4: A

Philippine air force C-130

aircraft carrying combat

troops crashed in a southern

province while landing

Sunday, killing at least 45

army soldiers on board and two civilians on the ground,

while at least 49 were res-

cued from the burning

Some soldiers were seen

jumping off the aircraft be-

fore it crashed and exploded

around noon in the periph-

ery of the Jolo airport in

Sulu province, military of-

ficials said. Two of six vil-

lagers who were hit on the

Lorenzana said rescue and

recovery efforts were ongo-

ing. The aircraft had 96 peo-

ple on board, including three

pilots and five crew and the

rest were army personnel,

the military said, adding 17

soldiers remained unac-

counted for by nightfall. The

pilots survived but were se-

riously injured, officials said.

Hercules was one of two ex-

US Air Force aircraft handed

over to the Philippines as

part of military assistance

The Lockheed C-130

Defence Secretary Delfin

ground have died.

wreckage, officials said.

this year. It crashed while landing shortly before noon Sunday in Bangkal village in the mountainous town of Patikul, military chief of staff Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said.

Military officials said at least 45 people on board were brought to a hospital in Sulu or flown to nearby Zamboanga city and troops were trying to search for the rest. "Per eyewitnesses, a number of soldiers were seen jumping out of the aircraft before it hit the ground, sparing them from the explosion caused by the crash,"

craft before it hit the ground, sparing them from the explosion caused by the crash," a military statement said. Initial pictures released by the military showed the tail section of the cargo plane relatively intact. The

other parts of the plane were burned or scattered in pieces in a clearing surrounded by coconut trees. Soldiers and other rescuers with stretchers were seen dashing to and from the smoke-shrouded crash site.

The plane was transporting troops, many of them new soldiers who had just undergone basic training, from the southern Cagayan de-Oro city for deployment in Sulu, officials said.

State invokes Lord's 'Anasar' ritual to promote Covid curbs

Home quarantine may be the new normal during the pandemic but the practice has been in vogue in Srimandir since time immemorial

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, July 4: To convince people to stay indoors and follow quarantine norms for containing the transmissibility of Covid-19, the state government has tried to invoke the Odia religious tradition by highlighting how Lord Jagannath quarantines himself in "Anasar Ghar" (isolation room) before the annual Rath Yatra. Home quarantine may be the new normal during the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe but the practice has been in vogue in Lord Jagannath's

Temple here since time immemorial. "The example of Lord Jagannath's quarantine is well accepted by the people and keeps them inside the house. The state government has also coined a slogan saying 'Ghare Rukantu Sustha Ruhantu' (stay home. Stay healthy)," state chief Covid-19 spokesperson Subrato Bagchi said.

He encouraged people to go for isolation after testing positive for



Covid-19, saying "Anasar" (quarantine) was an intrinsic part of the Odia culture and tradition.

Quarantine means restricting the movement of the afflicted so that the infection does not spread to others.

According to mythology, Lord Jagannath, and his siblings, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra developed a fever after they were given a bath with sacred water contained in 108 pitchers on Snan Purnima day. Thereafter, the three deities of the 12th-century shrine were taken to 'Anasar Ghar' where they underwent treatment and recovered after 14 days. This practice is observed for 14 days before the annual Rath Yatra every year.

"The state government emphasises that if one tests positive for Covid-19, the person must remain in quarantine for at least 14 days. Even the master of the universe (Lord Jagannath's name *jagat* means universe & *nath* means master) quarantines himself when he falls sick," Bagchi said.

Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher in

Shree Jagannath culture, said the sibling deities also take ayurvedic medicines to recover from the illness. Therefore, the people who suffer from any disease should be administered medicine for speedy recovery instead of leaving it at the mercy of God.

"There is no such record since when the practice of Lord's quarantine, called Anasar' ritual, is being practiced in the temple. But it has been going on for ages, giving a message to the human race to take the illness seriously," Mitra said.

Incidentally, the Lord's 'Chaka Bije Niti', a ritual marking an improvement in the condition of the sibling deities, is being held in the Temple Sunday on the occasion of *Dasami Tithi*.

In this ritual, the deities are placed on three wheels along with Lord Sudarshan and Madhab, said Sarat Mohanty, a servitor-cum researcher in the Jagannath culture and tradition. As per the rituals, the deities are of

fered "Chakata" and "Pana Bhoga"

(ORS like prasad to overcome dehydration). Mohanty says that during the Lords stay in *Anasar* (quarantine), some rituals are performed by some selected servitors in the closed room.

Special oil called *phuluri tel* is applied to the deities and for the complete recovery of the deities, "Raj Baidyas" (royal doctors) prepare a special herbal medicine.

This medicine will be offered to the Trinity on "Ekadasi Tithi" Monday. After this ritual, the deities are believed to be completely cured, Mohanty said.

Pratihari Sevaka, a special servitor in the temple, Surya Narayan Gochhikar, said that the ailing deities are offered only fruits and water, mixed with cheese and "Dasamula" (herbal) medicines while Daitapati Sevayats perform secret rituals to cure them and the deities completely recover from illness after a two-weeklong herbal treatment following which they are ready for the annual Rath Yatra, which falls July 12 this year.













SHANNON LEE SLAMS **OUENTIN TARANTINO**

Bruce Lee's daughter Shannon Lee has slammed filmmaker Quentin Tarantino after he dismissed the criticism of his depiction of the martial arts legend in his movie Once Upon a Time in Hollywood. "I'm tired of white men in Hollywood mistaking his confidence, and skill for hubris," she said.

BECKHAM'S UNIQUE ANNIV WISH FOR WIFE VICTORIA

Ace footballer David Beckham wished wife Victoria on their marriage anniversary Sunday. Uploading a picture of all family members, wearing colour coordinated outfits, he said: "Happy anniv, love u and thank u for giving me our amazing kids so we can all wear the same."



FORTUNE FORECAST



Positive thinking can change the world, and you could do with some today. No matter how tough the going gets, take it in your stride, says Ganesha. If you think you can do it, you will. You have the magic touch today to initiate a new business strategy.

TAURUS

You may find yourself compromising against your will today, predicts Ganesha. Stand strong despite things going awry instead of feeling disillusioned due to

poor results. Ongoing negotiations might come to a logical end and a few important decisions are likely to be delayed due to lack of proper information.

GEMINI

You have been ignoring a few problems that have been plaguing your family members for quite some time now. It's time you looked into the matter, says Ganesha. Irrespective of how difficult the challenges are, today you will emerge victorious. And amid dealing with mammoth challenges, there will be passionate, quite often sexual, interludes.

CANCER

Today, your ability to think clearly in the most adverse conditions will be your key weapon as you get cornered by unrelenting assaults of work and deadlines. The clarity will reflect in your work as you deal with inhuman work pressure. Your mind will save the day for you as well as your peers.



Your children's health may be a cause of concern today, says Ganesha. The best way to put your and your family's fears to rest would be by paying a guick visit to the doctor. As always, kids remain a surprise package of delights: the happiness of your children shall double your joy as a parent.

VIRGO

Foreign contacts will in all likelihood be a source of monetary profits. Ganesha says you will perform wonderfully in anything you might choose to under take today. Even your ambition of setting up an offshore business enterprise will take root today.

LIBRA Ganesha says that today will be a lucky day for you. You



Mumbai: Actor and social worker Sonu Sood took to Twitter Sunday to suggest that the biggest charity one can do in the present time is to give jobs to others

"In today's time the biggest charity that you can do is give employment," Sonu Sood tweeted Sunday. The actor's tweet comes at a time when the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has left a lot of people jobless since over a year now, who are struggling to make ends meet.

Meanwhile, Sonu Sood has recently started an initiative to provide free CA education through his Sood Charity Foundation. Through this, the actor aims to help talented students get free coaching, internship opportunities and finally employment.

Announcing the same, Sonu recently tweeted: "For India's economy to grow, we need bright CAs. A small step.

The actor is also ensuring students do not miss online classes in certain places of Kerala having poor internet connectivity.

shares her KNPH moment

Mumbai: with

Actress Ananya Panday took to Instagram to put up a series of pictures from a beach. However, more than the photographs, the witty caption entertainer her followers The actress said that she

was having a Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai (KNPH) moment, a reference to Hrithik Roshan starrer in which the protagonists get abandoned on an island

oversized bomber jacket, Ananya posed in the

pictures posted Sunday and captioned them as: "Having my Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai moment with myself (it clearly didn't end well).

an

On the work front, Ananya has a film with Vijay Deverakonda titled Liger and Shakun Batra's directorial next alongside Deepika Padukone and Siddhant

champion says: "Every year, around 8 million tons of plastic ends up in our oceans and we are responsible for 80 per cent of the debris and sediments that devastate marine life.'

help you do your bit to keep the oceans clean and healthy

Stop using single use plastic

Straws, coffee cups, takeaway containers and plastic bottles that we throw away after using once, end up in oceans. As do micro beads in cosmetics which when washed into the oceans, are ingested by marine organisms. We can just start thinking about what happens to things after we have used and discarded them. To start with, carry your own water bottle, a metal straw, cutlery and a coffee cup everywhere you go. Switch to biodegradable toothbrushes and sanitary products and refuse plastic shopping bags and carry

FUN

Grey characters fascinate Kanika

Mumbai: Screenwriter Kanika Dhillon, whose new film Haseen Dillruba is out, has opened up about what draws her towards complex and grey characters. She says she does not understand straight-laced people in real or in reel life.

'We are all grey and complex in real life, and eccentric and funny, sometimes ridiculous. This is what spices up our lives. I wanted to capture that on screen in my characters because straight-laced people in real life or in reel life, I don't understand them. There is nothing to unravel or understand to begin with. They are beautiful and complete, and when something is beautiful and complete there is nothing more that is left to do. You can just gaze at it from a distance," she said.

Talking about the character of Rani, played by ac tress Taapsee Pannu in Haseen Dillruba, Kanika said: "Rani was a woman trying to negotiate an arranged marriage set-up and face the hiccups that a regular girl can come across, but her resolution for those at times are erratic and deviate from the good girl frame we are used to celebrating. She is open about her sexuality, which offends many people even today."

Dia's mantras to keep oceans healthy

SAYING NO TO CORAL JEWELLERY IS A GOOD WAY TO SHOW SOME LOVE TO THE OCEANS. SAYS THE ACTRESS.

H nvironment activist and

actor Dia Mirza has reiterated her concern over marine ecosystems, habitats and resources being vitiated and destroyed by pollutants, plastic waste, overfishing and unsustainable business practices. The UNEP Goodwill Ambassador and climate

Dia shares a few tips that will



vour own.

Volunteer for beach clean-ups If you live in a city like Mumbai where beaches are such an intrinsic part of life, you can volunteer for beach clean-up drives. If you are a tourist, you can just make sure you don't litter, clean up after yourself and pick up trash if you come across any. Donating to organisations that are fighting to keep the oceans healthy, can be another good way to help.

Make sustainable choices in life

Harsh detergents that we use for washing clothes can harm marine life by entering oceans through our sewer systems. We can all prevent that by finding organic alternatives. While consuming products and del-

icacies, we can just be a little mindful and ensure that we are not enjoying the exploitation of endangered species. Also saying no to coral jewellery is a good way to show some love to the oceans.

Reduce carbon footprint

Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide trap heat in the atmosphere and warm our planet. Carbon dioxide is also known to make our oceans more acidic and cause damage to corals globally. We can help change that by reducing our carbon footprint and energy consumption. Turning off the lights when they are not needed is just one way to start making a difference. AGENCIES

gain. There will be some good news about your children's progress. This is the right time to invest in business. For financial investors and share brokers this period is beneficial, so make the most of it.

.

SCORPIO

may receive some

You may expect the day to be as dull and mundane as those boring repeat telecasts of sitcoms. But remember, it's not always going to be grey! The dance of planets will usher in new change for a better tomorrow. Keep hoping and who knows you may stumble upon something very interesting, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

The rewards of hard labour will be sweet, so start off by unwinding with some fun today. Ganesha sees quality time being spent with friends and family. All in all, a fun day.

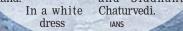
CAPRICORN

Numerous projects and building work pressure can keep you busy, but get done with whatever you have on hand, for Ganesha says the day has a host of recre ational activities lined up for you. This will also be the right time to reach out to more people, and devour whatever knowledge or information they have to offer.

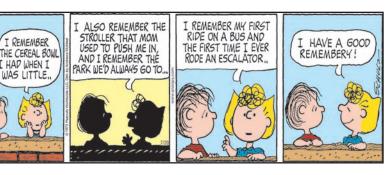
Optimism rules today, and you are assured of your success. You are not usually affected by others' opinions, and that is how it should be. But you must keep in mind the inconvenience your decisions may cause people

PISCES

The focus today will be on self-improvement. You may find yourself attending sem inars or workshops. Self-employed peo ple are likely to find lucrative deals landing in their laps in the afternoon. Quality time with your family in the evening will give you a sense of balance and of belonging, says Ganesha.





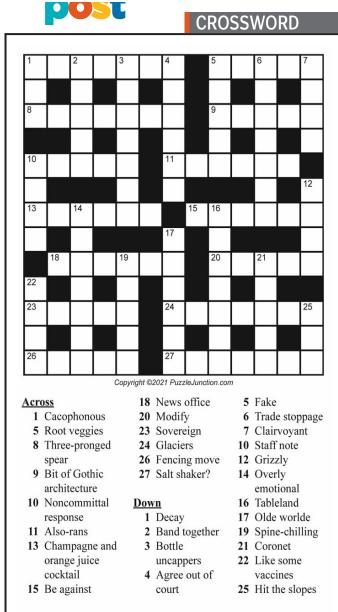


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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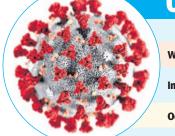


downtown



SOWING TIME

A farmer broadcasting paddy seeds at his farmland on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	18,43,46,489	16,87,00,782	39,89,346
dia	3,05,45,433	2,96,58,078	4,02,005
lisha	9,21,896	8,90,778	4,196

No shortage of black fungus drugs: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The state health department Sunday reiterated that there is no shortage of black fungus drugs in government hospitals.

This comes days after a woman was duped of Rs 48,000 to procure the scare drug from a private agent. Director of Medical Education and Training, CBK Mohanty Sunday allayed the fear of shortage of the drug.

"We have adequate drugs for black fungus in the state. We have made arrangements for taking the scare drug by applying from the Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd (OSMCL) or from the District Headquarter Hospitals. If hospitals made requisition for the drug to the concerned au-



thorities it would get the drug without any hassle," he said. The state government, after

struggling for more than a month to get the scare medicine, is now getting the drug from Union government in different trenches in lim-

AMPHOTERICIN B, THE MAIN DRUG USED IN THE TREATMENT OF BLACK FUNGUS, IS HARDLY AVAILABLE IN ANY PRIVATE MEDICAL STORE ACROSS THE COUNTRY DUE TO ITS LIMITED PRODUCTION

The drug was According to earlier used in the doctors, one treatment of patient alone Kalazaar and but needs around slowly went out 50 injections of Amphotericin of the market due to its reported B for the side effects disease ited amount. It has also been suc-

cessful in getting the same from some manufacturers directly but in limited stocks

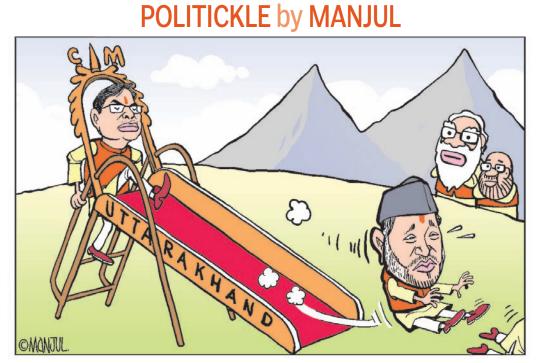
Amphotericin B, the main drug used in the treatment of black fungus, is hardly available in

any private medical store across the country due to its limited production. The drug was earlier used in the treatment of Kalazaar and but slowly went out of the market due to its reported side effects.

However, it was found to be life saving in case of mucormycosis (black fungus) but due to less production, its procurement was centrally controlled and the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizer became the only source to get the drug to states

According to doctors, one patient alone needs around 50 injections of Amphotericin B for the disease.

The state government, besides the procurement of Amphotericin B, has also been successful in getting an alternative drug Posaconazole.



ATR sought from City DCP on thrashing of minor by cop

CCTV footage.

the tea stall of the victim at Kesura

June 29. The officials asked the

boy why he had opened his stall after

1pm in violation of Covid norms.

the minor boy who was found re-

questing Biswal to spare him. The

cops did not pay any heed to the hap-

less boy's request and allegedly

took away milk packets and other

items from his stall

Later, the cop started thrashing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) Sunday sought Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Deputy Commission of Police regarding the assault on a minor boy by a cop at Kesura under Sahid Nagar police station June 29. Informing the media, Sandhyabati Pradhan, the Chairperson OSCPCR said that the DCP has been asked to submit the ATR in the case within seven days.

DCP Umashankar Dash had earlier placed the erring home guard Ajay Kumar Biswal under suspension Thursday after viral video showed Biswal kicking and bru-

CRIME AGAINST NHRC seeks reports from CS, DGP **WOMEN**

POST NEWS NETWORK

tally thrashing a minor boy at a tea stall. Dash also informed the press Bhubaneswar, July 4: The that stringent action would be National Human rights taken against other cops of the Commission (NHRC) has directed PCR van after the examination of the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police (DGP) in Odisha Notably, Biswal, along with three to provide compensation to a rape other cops attached to a PCR van survivor of Malkangiri district. of Badagada police station reached The rights body has also directed

the two officials to submit separate reports on the steps taken by the state government to check, control and prevent crimes against the women within six weeks.

The NHRC pronounced the order while hearing a petition filed by human rights activist and lawyer Radhakant Tripathy. In his petition, Tripathy had

urged the NHRC to direct the state

government to provide compensation to the 35-year-old woman of Malkangiri district.

The women reportedly fell unconscious while returning from a market August 9, 2017. Accused Adma Madkami took the unconscious woman to a nearby place and raped her in the broad daylight. He also shot the whole incident and shared it on various social media sites, said the petition.

"Pursuant to the direction of the NHRC, Malkangiri Superintendent of Police stated that two cases have been registered against the accused for rape and for recording and making the video viral in social media. However, the two cases are pending in the court," Tripathy said.



THE NHRC PRONOUNCED THE ORDER WHILE HEARING A PETITION FILED BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND LAWYER RADHAKANT TRIPATHY

The investigation section of the NHRC also recommended the commission to direct the Collector of Malkangiri to pay compensation to

the victim under the Odisha Victim Compensation scheme, 2017. The collector, in his report, informed the commission that the ceived any recommendations from the trial court or requests from the victim or her family for the compensation. However, the commission later closed the case as the petitioner failed to submit his reply on the collector's report. Subsequently, Tripathy placed an-

other submission before the NHRO and informed that he had failed to submit his reply due to some personal issues and outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

Upon his request, the commission reopened the case and asked the Chief Secretary and DGP to look into the matter and grant compensation to the victim as per the Odisha Victim Compensation Scheme.

State inoculates over lcr people ENJOYING A BA with 1st dose of Covid-19 vaccine PNN & AGENCIES Bhubaneswar, July 4: Odisha Sunday achieved a milestone by inoculating over one crore people, out of the state's 4.5 crore population, with the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) PK Mohapatra said.

According to information availle in the CoWIN portal, as many



those in the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area. The state has decided to vaccinate beneficiaries with Covaxin

in Ganjam from Monday. The state government has re-

said in its official Twitter post. Khurda, of which the state

peatedly urged the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to divert 20 per cent of the vaccines earmarked for the private hospitals. But, no response has been re-

ceived from the Ministry so far. of-

district administration had not re THE APEX RIGHTS BODY HAS DIRECTED THE OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO A RAPE SURVIVOR OF MALKANGIRI



Elephants in a playful mood in a pond at Chandaka sanctuary near Bhubaneswar, Sunday

as 1,00,06,081 people have been administered the first dose of the vaccine, while 22,10,303 received both doses. A total of 1,22,16,384 doses have been administered, which includes 1,07,32,924 doses of Covishield and 14,83,090 doses of Covaxin.

Along with the rest of the country, the inoculation drive against Covid-19 began in the coastal state January 16 this year.

"As we steadily move towards universal vaccination coverage for our eligible population, we thank the people of Odisha and our dedicated healthcare workers for making this possible," the H&FW department

RATH YATRA AMID PANDEMIC

Admin to make all arrangements for servitors

Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, has registered the highest number of vaccinations with 12.15.321 first doses and 5,66,807 second doses, to date. As many as 14,814 people were administered vaccines at 163 centres in three districts Sunday. While 80 sessions were held in Kendrapada district, 67 sessions were in Puri and 16 in Rayagada. Although the state government

planned to administer 3 lakh to 3.5 lakh doses every day since June 21, it failed to achieve the target due to an acute shortage of the Covishield vaccines, which is given to people across Odisha, except ficial sources said. Meanwhile, Odisha's state Capital is all set to become the first city in the country to achieve a hundred per cent Covid-19 vaccination with the BMC planning to administer the second dose to the eligible people by July 31. BMC commissioner SK Singh said those who had received the first dose after booking slots on-

line will be administered the second dose by July 31. Against the 10.97 lakh population of Bhubaneswar, 9.67 lakh have al-

ready taken the first dose and 5.15 lakh beneficiaries have been administered the second dose as of July 3.

5 more beaches to be developed for Blue Flag tag, says Naveen

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 4: In an effort to boost Odisha's tourism potential along its coastline, the state government has decided to develop and beautify five more beaches to secure the Blue Flag certification, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Sunday.

Puri's golden beach has already received the coveted certification. Odisha is developing five more beaches to secure the Blue Flag certification as part of its efforts to give its tourism prospects a boost. Plans to meet international standards are being rolled out for Pati Sonapur and Haripur in Ganjam district and Niladri, Muhan and Jahania in Puri district, Patnaik said in a statement.

The departments of forest & environment, and tourism will jointly redevelop the five beaches. The initiative, if successful, will make the pilgrim city one of the most sought-after coastal destinations in eastern India, a government source said.

Work on Niladri beach is nearing completion, while activities on four other shores would soon begin, he said, adding that a pro-



vision of Rs 1.5 crore has been made for each of the five projects. Among the amenities being pro-

vided at the beaches are toilets, seating arrangements, a solar lighting system and watch towers. However, no permanent buildings will be constructed on the shores.

A first for Odisha, the Blue Flag tag, awarded by Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), was received by Puri's Golden beach October 11 last year. The beach spread over 500 meters between Bankimuhan and Mayfair Hotel in Puri.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 4: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and the Puri district administration would arrange drinking water, rest sheds, primary healthcare and other facilities for the shrine servitors during this year's Rath Yatra. As per the decision taken at a

Chhatisha Niyog, only servitors of the 12th century shrine would pull the chariots during Rath Yatra which is scheduled to be organised July 12. Like last year, the annual mega festival would be organised without the presence of devotees due to the Covid-

As per the decision, the district administration would conduct RT-PCR tests on all servitors, officers and police personnel who are supposed to participate in the mega festival. Servitors, officials and security personnel with negative test reports would be allowed to take part in Rath Yatra, Srimandir sources said.

recent meeting of Srimandir

19 pandemic.

'The SJTA would arrange



PIC: MAUSAM NANDA

A servitor paints wooden horses ahead of the Rath Yatra in Puri, Sunday

Gamchha (cotton towels), masks and hand sanitiser for the servitors. Two makeshift rest sheds for servitors would be erected near Srimandir and Gundicha temple. Each of the rest sheds can accommodate around 500 servitors. This apart, around 20 small rest sheds would be erected alongside the Grand Road," said an official of the shrine.

Besides, the administration would take steps to arrange primary healthcare and drinking water facility for the servitors. At least 15 large vehicles and 10 small ones would be deployed to ferry the servitors to their residences after the three chariots were pulled to the Gundicha temple, said the official. As per the decision taken at the Chhatisha Niyog meeting, servitors

DGP reviews security for car fest

irector General of Police (DGP) Abhay Sunday visited the Holy City and reviewed the security arrangements for this year's Rath Yatra.

The DGP accompanied by Additional DGP (Law and Order) Radhakrushna Sharma. Intelligence department director Lalit Das, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Central range, Narasingha Bhol and DIG (intelligence) Anup Kumar Sahoo took stock of the security arrangements in the temple

surroundings. Puri Superintendent of Police Kanwar Vishal Singh briefed the DGP on a blueprint designed for tightening security during the mega festival.

The DGP directed the police personnel to maintain high alert ahead

of the festival. He also sought the

would not be allowed to carry mobile phones with them during the festival. Moreover, only a few servitors would be allowed to sit on the



cooperation of Puri residents for organising the car festival without the presence of devotees.

"Last year, the festival was organised without the devotees. The residents of Puri city extended their full cooperation to the administration. This year also, we are expecting similar coop $eration\,from\,the\,locals.\,Devotees$ can view the festival live on TV," said the DGP.

chariots. "Media persons are reauested to bring their RT-PCR negative reports for covering the festival," said the official.







OrissaPOST Monday | July 5 | 2021 | Bhubaneswar

downtown

Below 3K nCoV cases for 2nd day in a row



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 4: Odisha reported 2,870 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, raising the tally to 9,21,896, while the death toll climbed to 4,196 with 42 more fatalities in the period, a Health department official said Sunday.

For the second consecutive day, the coastal state reported less than 3,000 Covid cases in a day. Odisha Saturday reported 2,917 fresh infections. The state had earlier registered below 3,000 fresh cases of Covid-19 June 21, 24 and 28. Since April 16, Odisha has been witnessing a surge in Covid cases over the 3,000-mark and touched a record high of 12,852 May 22, according to data shared by the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department.

The state now has 30,227 active cases and 8,87,420 people have so far

Odisha welcomes

OSA support

POST NEWS NETWORK

in development

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The Odisha

Society of the Americas organ-

ised the three day 52nd Convention

at Orissa Culture Centre, Houston

Texas which concluded Sunday. In

the convention, different webinars

were organised where the mem-

bers of Odia community in USA

and experts from the state dis-

cussed various issues of the state

and how they can help their native

state in different ways.

BJP's Bishnu Sethi admitted to AIIMS

JP Leader and Deputy Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly, Bishnu Sethi was admitted Sunday to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar after he tested positive for Covid-19.

recovered from the disease, including 3,158 since Saturday, said the official.

Only three districts— Khurda (5,144), Cuttack (4,387) and Balasore (3,000)—have active cases above 2,500 and have been categorised as 'Red Zone'. Deogarh in the western part registered the lowest at 41. Of the fresh infections detected in all the 30 districts, 1,652 are from quarantine centres and the remaining are local contact cases, he said.

Cuttack reported the highest of 440 new cases, followed by Khurda (384), Balasore (240), Jajpur (191), Mayurbhanj (164), Kendrapara (157), Bhadrak (128), Jagatsinghpur (112) and Nayagarh (105). As many as 27 districts in the state reported less than 200 cases during the period.

Districts registering cases above 100 are in the coastal region, while the pandemic situation has improved in the western and southern parts of Odisha, the official said.

Sources said nine districts have recorded the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) between 5 to 7.5 per cent, while 21 other districts with TPR less than 5 per cent have been declared as 'Green Zone'. Taking to Twitter, the Health and Family Welfare department said, "Regret to inform the demise of forty-two Covid positive patients while under treatment in hospital."

under treatment in hospital." The single-day deaths include eight from Khurda district, five in Bargarh and four in Sundargarh. Three each died in Sambalpur, Angul, Ganjam and Jharsuguda. The state has thus far conducted s over 1.39 crore sample tests for

rm Covid-19, taking into account 71,122 Saturday. The positivity rate stands de- at 6.56 per cent.



The Water Resources department has constructed a barrage on Prachi river at Kakatpur in Puri with an expenditure of ₹20 crore. The project will help in flood control and irrigation activities

More than 15K DLs cancelled by City cops in 5 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The commissionerate police has canceled driving licenses (DL) of more than 15,000 drivers in the city during the last five years. Answering to an RTI query, the commissionerate police also revealed that most of the DLs were canceled during the lockdown period.

The DLs of more than 11,000 persons were canceled for various reasons during 2020 and till June 2021. According to the RTI reply, the traffic cops suspended as many as 3,891 DLs in 2020 while more than 8000 DLs have been suspended till June this year. The cops had suspended 2,237 DLs in 2017 and 1,124 DLs in 2018.

Meanwhile, the data shows that enforcement activities by the traffic cops in twin city slowed down in 2019 as only 138 DLs were suspended that year.

Similarly, the Regional Transport Office (RTO) officials have suspended 1,193 DLs in 2018 while as many as 218 DLs were suspended during 2019 by RTO. The officials annulled the DLs of 1,355 persons in 2020 in the city.

Sources claimed that the RTO officials have cancelled as many as 3,280 licenses till June in the current vear.

The data revealed that enforcement activities by the officials witnessed a sharp rise since last year after the amended Motor Vehicle act was strictly enforced by the government in the state from March, 2020.

The officials are empowered to suspend the DLs of any person who is found guilty of drunken driving, over speeding, red light jumping, using mobile phones while driving, overloading passengers or carrying passengers in goods vehicles.

Experts opined that the number of suspension would rise significantly with the easing of Covidinduced lockdowns and shutdowns across the state.

The state government has recently allowed the graduate constables to penalize traffic violators in March this year. The twin city police have decided to employ 76 graduate constables in the traffic enforcement activities.

Puri airport may be ready by 2022-23: Transport Minister Virtua Santa

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: State Minister of Commerce and Transport, Padmanabha Behera Sunday said that the proposed Puri International Airport could be

ready by 2022-23. "We have started the process of hidentification of land for the setting up of airport in Puri. Only after the process we can move ahead. The process is going on in good pace and hif all goes well we may expect an airport in the city by the end of 2022-23," he said.

He mentioned that the state gov-

ernment had already held conversations with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other concerned departments. "We are ready to extend all possible support from our side for the same," he added.

Earlier a 6-member team of AAI had conducted a survey in Puri relating to site identification for feasibility of an airport in the temple city. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had written to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi back in January 2021, urging the Union government to consider setting up of an airport in the temple city citing its impor-

tance from tourism point of view. During the budget session of Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri had told the House that a discussion on the issue was held January 12 with the Odisha government, AAI and Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Sources claimed that the state government has also sanctioned around Rs 14.48 lakh to carry out the pre-feasibility study report for the establishment of an international airport in Puri.

The Union minister, in his response on the matter before the Lok Sabha in March this year, had said that the declaration of an airport as an international airport depended upon traffic po-

tential and demand from airlines for operation of international flights besides provision of Ground Lighting Facilities, Instrument Landing System, adequate runway length, Immigration, Health and Animal and Plant Quarantine Services.

According to norms, for establishments of airports, site clearance approvals and in principle approvals are needed from the ministry of civil aviation at two different stages while the onus on implementation of the project including its funding are borne by the airport developer concerned.

Virtual tour of Santal House

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The ST & SC Development Department has decided to take up virtual tour of Odisha State Tribal Museum every Sunday. The visitors Sunday explored the Outdoor display of Santal House at Tribal Museum by opening the Facebook and Twitter pages @stscdey.@scstrti.

SCSTRTI director, AB Ota said Santals, the third largest tribe in India, mainly reside in Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Keonjhar.

The convention was inaugurated virtually by Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik, Governor Ganeshi Lal and Entrepreneur Subroto bagchi. Patnaik said that Odisha leads in sending medical facility across the country during second wave of pandemic. He also pointed out that Odisha is attracting the big investment and setting up the industry powered by 5T model. He thanked OSA for collaborating and

CIVIC WOES



Focus on sustainable use of mangrove forests: OES

POST NEWS NETWORK

supporting the state in various fields including health and education sector and said to welcome greater partnership from them in coming days.

A webinar on the theme 'Taking a quantum leap in higher education for universities in Odisha and how the OSA community can help' was organised where vice chancellors from several universities of the state participated.

Kuku Das, president of OSA, said, "Our goal for higher education in Odisha is five-fold that includes creating an international pool of faculty/researchers and facilitating placement of faculties and research scholars at various universities, fostering international students/visitors/research scholars exchange program, strengthen and helping build an alumni network at various universities in Odisha, recommending to Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) formation of an external advisory for long-term goal setting of the universities, fostering industry/ universities/government collaboration bv setting up innovation/incubation centers and assisting in funding programs.

Another webinar on Odisha public library initiative of OSA was also organised where the members of OSA Public Library initiative appealed to CM Pattnaik for a fasttrack implementation of 'Odisha Public Library Act' towards a 'Wellintegrated modern public library system' across the state.

In this photo collage (clockwise), a man is seen falling off his scooter while negotiating a waterlogged Bomikhal-Rasulgarh road in Bhubaneswar soon after heavy rain lashed the City, Sunday

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The Odisha Environmental Society (OES) Sunday organised a webinar on 'Protection of Coastal Regions through Mangrove Plantation' to observe the Van Mahotsav Week. In the webinar: environmental ex-

perts put forth that since the inception of human civilization; almost half of the trees of the world have been felled to serve the needs of the exploding human population. Presently, forests of the world are declining at a rate of 10 million hectares per year, mostly due to agricultural activities, mining, industrialisation, cattle ranching, urbanization and other developmental activities.

Sundara Narayan Patro, president of OES, said that forests are home to 80% of the terrestrial biodiversity of the earth and human beings depend on them for various goods and services. Unfortunately, deforestation and forest degradation are continuing at an alarming rate, and tree cover is declining at an accelerated pace. These result in the imbalance in natural ecosystems that affects their subtle functioning and brings about the loss of biodiversity. Thus, the need of the hour is to undertake massive plantation programmes to restore the lost green cover, more importantly when the United Nations has declared the current decade as the 'Decade of Ecosystem Restoration'

In Odisha's context, priority has to be given to increased plan-

VAN MAHOTSAV



tation, more importantly in coastal areas to recreate mangrove forests, aiming towards reducing the impacts of natural disasters like cyclones.

Former PCCF (OFSDP), Odisha and Vice President, Wetlands International South Asia, Dr. Ajit Kumar Patnaik spoke on theme 'Ecosystem-based adaptations for coastal resilience and the role of mangroves'. He stressed the importance of planting saplings and the role of mangroves in reducing the impacts of frequent cyclones in our state induced by climate change, protecting livelihoods of people and providing various goods and services.

Arun Kumar Bansal, former Additional DG of Forests, described how the local communities had benefited from the mangrove forest plantation project, which was implemented under his supervision along the coast of Odisha. OES Secretary Jaya Krushna

In Odisha's context, priority has to be given to increased plantation, more importantly in coastal areas to recreate mangrove forests, aiming towards reducing the impacts of natural disasters like cyclones

Panigrahi said, "Though planting saplings in high numbers at the right places is very important, post-planting care and maintenance are more important that will indicate the rate of success."

He also appreciated the vision of former Minister of Food and Agriculture, India, Dr. K.M. Munshi in declaring the first week of July each year as the Van Mahotsav Week way back in 1950.

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OrissaPOST MONDAY JULY 5 2021 BHUBANESWAF

state

Inconsistency in SPCB probe on BRPL plant raises eyebrows

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 4: A probe by state pol lution control board (SPCB) into the alleged water pollution by the Brahmani Rivers Pellet Ltd (BRPL) at Kalinganagar in this district dur ing the closure of the plant has raised serious eyebrows, a report said.

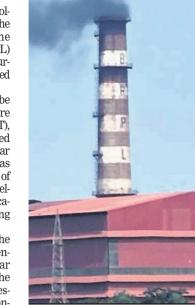
The SPCB conducted the probe and submitted the report before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) July 1. However, an affidavit filed by SPCB law officer Santosh Kumar Kuanr along with the report has raised eyebrows. In the B-1 para of the report it has been stated the pellet plant is of 4 metric tonne capacity and was lying closed during the shutdown.

The submission has caught the SPCB in the wrong foot as an environmental outfit, Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshva Samiti, the complainant in the case has questioned how the SPCB could conduct a probe when the plant is lying closed

Reports said that as per rules, the plant authorities would have to inform the SPCB if they wanted to shutdown or close operations in the plant for maintenance purpose. They will also have to seek permission from the SPCB when they want to run the plant. Accordingly, the BRPL authorities had informed the SPCB to close operations in the plant for maintenance, June 20.

However, residents informed the regional officer of the SPCB when they noticed black fumes emanat ing from the chimneys of the plant, Friday. The SPCB regional officer tried to downplay the incident stating that black fumes emanate from the chimneys when the plant restarts operations after maintenance. Residents refused to buy the statement of the regional officer which they termed as an act of favouritism of SPCB towards BRPL.

Sources said. Kalinganagar Paribesh Surakshya Samiti accusing BRPL of discharging waste



water of the plant into Ganda nullah, a natural creek and polluting the water body had filed a petition (149/2017/EZ) in the National Green Tribunal seeking its urgent intervention in the matter.

The NGT hearing the matter June 15 directed the SPCB to conduct a probe and submit its report before the next date of hearing. July 5. Accordingly, a team of SPCB officials comprising environmental engineer Hiranya Kumar Nayak and its regional officer Pramod Kumar Behera visited the plant premises which was closed for maintenance and conducted a probe June 24. Residents have questioned why the probe was conducted during the closure of the plant and not when it was in operation. This has raised question marks on the

transparency of the probe. The probe report submitted before the NGT states that the BRPL plant has established two waste water treatment plants (WWTP) of 250 kilolitre (KL) and 150 kilolitre capacity each. These waste water treatment plants help in THE SUBMISSION HAS CAUGHT THE SPCB IN THE WRONG FOOT AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL OUTFIT, KALINGANAGAR PARIBESH SURAKSHYA SAMITI, THE COMPLAINANT IN THE CASE HAS QUESTIONED HOW THE SPCB COULD CONDUCT A PROBE WHEN THE PLANT IS LYING CLOSED

RESIDENTS HAVE QUESTIONED WHY THE PROBE WAS CONDUCTED DURING THE CLOSURE OF THE PLANT AND NOT WHEN IT IS IN **OPERATION. THIS HAS RAISED** OUESTION MARKS ON THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE PROBE

RESIDENTS REFUSED TO BUY THE STATEMENT OF THE REGIONAL OFFICER THAT BLACK FUMES EMANATE FROM THE CHIMNEYS WHEN THE PLANT **RESTARTS OPERATIONS AFTER** MAINTENANCE, WHICH THEY TERMED AS AN ACT OF FAVOURITISM OF SPCB TOWARDS BRPL

treatment of 260 cubic km of waste water per hour in the plant. During probe, no waste water or treated water was found being discharged outside.

When contacted, the regional officer Behera said during probe, "It is not important whether the plant is in operation or in shutdown condition but whether it has taken necessary steps for treatment of the waste water produced

in the plant Earlier, it has been noticed that industrial plants discharge the waste water outside when it is in excess for their treatment plants. Recently, it was alleged that the chromite mines at Ostapal in the district discharged over 1500 lakh cubic metre of waste water outside from November till January last.

The waste water discharged outside was not treated in its treatment plant. Moreover, industrial plants in their bid to reduce the maintenance costs of the effluent treatment plant and waste water treatment plant often discharge their waste water outside



Woman attempts self-immolation

after Facebook lover ditches her

vorced her husband and fled with Jasim to Chennai and married him.

disappears is called 'Gupta Ganga'. We

mainly survive on cultivation. Paddy

and vegetable cultivation is being

carried out on the Baitarani river

bed since time immemorial," ob-

served Laxman Juanga, a resident

Since the flow of the river is slow,

In Keonjhar district, it flows through

Joda, Champua, Saharpada, Patana,

Ghasipura, Anandapur and Hatadihi

blocks. In rainy reason, the river

swells, brings in floods and wreaks

havoc in Ghasipura, Anandapur and

Hatadihi blocks. While the river is

bane for some, it is a boon for others.

the Juangas grow paddy and vegeta-

bles on its river bed about one kilo-

metre away from its origin.

of Gonasika area.

She is now pregnant. Jasim not

only ditched her but also has taken over ₹2 lakh from her account under various pretexts. They were returning home when Jasim feigned his mother's illness and fled from Bhubaneswar with her handbag that had her ornaments and mobile

She tried to meet her in-laws but they refused her entry in their house. Finding no other way, she lodged a complaint at the Simulia police station. June 6, but no action has been taken so far. She said that she has lodged a complaint in Simulia police station as her husband is native of that area.

Javant Kumar Behera said action will be taken after conducting a probe into the charges.

Physically challenged beaten to death

Kendrapara: A physically challenged person died at a hospital in Odisha's Kendrapara district Sunday after he was allegedly beaten by a group of miscreants over a land dispute, police said. Ekadashi Swain, 38, was attacked by at least three persons when he was returning home from a nearby market at Khasadi village in the Sadar police station area, they said. The man was taken to the DHH where he succumbed to his injuries, a

Car parked in portico; owner fined for driving without seat belt

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, July 4: A car owner of Guamal Kubera village under Tihidi block in Bhadrak district had the surprise of his lifetime when he received a message on his mobile phone informing a fine of ₹3,000 has been imposed on him for driving without seat belt.



He was taken aback because his car has been parked in the portico for three months now.

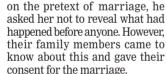
The worried car owner is Pradeep Kumar Kar, who is a lecturer at Sahid Nagar College. He owns a car with the registration number OD 22P 5219. Kar said he has not taken his vehicle out even once during last three months. Yet, he received a message June 25 informing that the traffic police have slapped a fine of ₹3.000 on him for driving without seat belt and other reasons.

Holding the police and the RTO responsible for putting him under mental pressure, Kar, in a tweet tagging the district Collector, the SP and the RTO, has requested for an investigation.

Forester arrested for raping woman

POST NEWS NETWORF

Malkangiri, July 4: A forester was Sunday arrested allegedly for raping a woman of a village under Orkel police limits in Malkangiri district. The accused has been identified as Muralidhar Anugulia, a forester of Malkangiri. According to a source, Murali had an acquaintance with the woman. The woman had visited the forester's residence April 5. Taking the advantage of none being there except Murali and the woman, the former had raped the latter. Later,



Meanwhile, the victim came to know that Murali had already married. When she confronted him.

FOR JUANGA FARMERS The same river, that has been creating floods and

causing massive destruction in Keonjhar and Bhadrak districts, is a boon for the



woman identified as Reso Biwi, 22, a native of Agarpada in Bhadrak district has demanded to trace her missing husband and reunite with her.

POST NEWS NETWORK

The woman claimed that she was earlier married but fell in love with Jasim Sahaji of Kupura under Simulia police limits after coming in contact with him on social networking site, Facebook. She di-

BAITARANI: A BOON

phone in it.

PERILOUS JOURNEY

Vehicles move on a British era bridge in Rayagada connecting Odisha with Andhra Pradesh despite a ban on movement due to its precarious condition

When contacted, Simulia IIC

he abused her threatening of dire consequences.

With no option left, the victim knocked on the door of Malkangiri SDJM court for justice. Later, police carried out an investigation. The police produced Murali in a court.

Engineer held for rape, blackmail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara. July 4: A 29-yearold engineer was arrested in Kendrapara district Sunday for allegedly raping and blackmailing a woman, police said.

The assistant engineer of the District Rural Development Agency had befriended a 25-year-old married woman and allegedly drugged, raped and taken obscene photographs of her two months back. an officer said. He later used the pho-

tographs to blackmail the woman, Aul police station Inspector Salila Pradhan said. Based on the woman's police complaint, he was arrested and both were medically examined at a hospital, Pradhan said.

He has been booked under Section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code, Section 67 of the Information and Technology Act and Section 6 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act. The accused has been remanded to judicial custody, the officer added.

Juanga tribesmen as they grow paddy, vegetables on its bed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 4: Paddy is cultivated on the Baitrani river bed in Keonjhar district. It may sound strange for how the same river, that has been creating floods and causing massive destruction in Keonjhar and Bhadrak districts, is a boon for the members of the Juanga tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) living in Gonasika area under Bansapal block.

If you travel along Jantari road from Gonasika, you will come across a bridge on the Baitarani river from where you can feast your eyes looking at lush and verdant paddy fields on both the sides of the river with paddy plants undulating in breeze. In fact, Gonasika is the place from where the Baitarani river originates.

As per the legends, the place gets its name as 'Gonasika' for the fact that the river would flow from one of the two nostrils of a cow head. Gonasika is the portmanteau of 'Go' and 'Nasika'. While 'Go' means cow, 'Nasika' means nose. Even today, the river, which is as thin as a thread, is flowing from the nostril of a cow head, but the cow head is a cemented one. From Gonasika, the river meanders down the Gonasika hill, burbling all the way. The river disappears at a place and runs underground for about half a kilometre and is not visible from outside. For the Juangas, the river is as pure as the river Ganga. "We worship the river as 'Ganga Maa' and this is why the place where the river

senior officer said. The incident was fallout of a land dispute among the physically challenged man and the assailants.



DRINKING WATER PROJECT **GANGANAGAR BRANCH** बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा DEMAND NOTICE Plot No.: 857/1998, New Airport Road, Unit-6, Ganganagar, Bank of Baroda (For Immovable Property) Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha, PIN-751020 firmer to dat Demand Notice u/s.13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is issued by Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor against the following Borrower of the Branch SI. NPA Date / 13(2) Date Total Dues as on 10.06.2021 Rate of Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor Limit (₹) No Notice Return Reason Inclusive of Interest upto 31.03.2021) Interest Borrower: Anita Pani (Proprietor), W/o: Ranjan Kumar Samal, At: Bajrapur P.O.: Bajrapur, P.S.: Bajkanika, Dist.: Kendrapara / Guarantor: Ranjan Kuma 31.03.2021 / ₹70,00,000/ ₹ 79,12,522.85 21.06.2021 & 8.55% Plus unrealised interest Samal, Block No.: D-201, Gatikrushna Lagoon, Brahmeswarpatna, P.O. Insufficient reversed on 31.03.2021 ₹4,09,000/-Badagada Brit Colony, P.S.: Badagada, Bhubaneswar-751018, Dist.: Khurda Address Description of Mortgaged properties: 1) Khata No.: 129/11, Plot No.: 249, Area: Ac.0.068.87dec. marked as sub Plot No.: 3, Status: Stitiban, Kissam: Gharabari Dist.: Khordha, standing in the name of Mrs. Anita Pani, Bounded by North: Road, South: Rev. Plot No.: 2502, East: Sub Plot-2, West: Sub Plot-7 & 6 (P), 2) Mouza: Palasapur Sasan, PS: Dhauli, PS No.: 49, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Khata No.: 254/318, Plot No.: 201/1981, Sub Plot No.: 16, Area: Ac.0.046.25 dec., Kissam Gharabari, Status: Stitiban, standing in the name of Mrs. Anita Pani, Bounded by North: Sub Plot No.: 15, South: Plot No.: 17 & 18, East: Plot No.: 200, West: Project 20 wide Road as per Regd. Sale Deed No.: 11081711650, Dated: 01.12.2017 You have committed default in repayment of loan mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our Branch as mentioned above. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notice sent to you by କର କମଳରେ registered post but it has been returned with the reason mentioned above. Again you have committed default in payment. You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise Right of Enforcement of Security Interest as against the secured asset given in the schedule of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. We hereby give you a notice that in terms of sub-section 13 of the said Act, you are barred from transferring the secured asset mentioned above by way of sale, lease or otherwise other than in the ordinary course of business without prior written consent of the Bank. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction / inviting quotations / tender / private 1.09.9090 treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action. MLA Narasingha Mishra inaugurating a drinking water project at Adendunguri village under Sadar Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 03.07.2021 Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda block of Bolangir district, Sunday OP PHOTO



suckle death

Death fosters life that life may

FOCUS CLIMATE CRISIS

THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPUBLIC

resident Joe Biden's administration is working hard to reclaim America's role as a global leader in sustainable development. But success will depend on whether it can lay the political foundation for a new relationship between society and the environment.

Activists and policymakers alike are demanding more investment in technologies to reduce the environmental footprint of economic activities, limit extraction of finite resources, and curb pollution. There is a long list of 'solutions' on offer - from new energy sources and carbon capture and se questration to the oldest technology of all: trees. But the biggest challenge is not the technology; it is political institutions.

Despite its flaws, America is still the most successful example of self-government in recorded history. But as a model republic, it faces the challenge of accommodating and reconciling the wide diversity of its citizens' imagined futures. Finding common ground between the poles of progressive techno-utopianism and reactionary rural romanticism will not be easy. The key is to produce a synthesis that can sustain a civic contract strong enough to survive both another industrial revolution and environmental changes on a scale beyond anything human civilizations have experienced since becoming sedentary 10.000 years ago.

In this quest for a new settlement, our relationship with water offers a useful guide. Ever since the shift from hunter-gatherer societies to agricultural settlements when people effectively chose to stand still in a world of moving water - human institutions have evolved in a dialectical relationship with the environment. While nature brought floods, storms, and droughts, we devised ways to weather those conditions, extracting surpluses from parched landscapes and harnessing rivers for transportation and power.

The modern republican proj ect emerged from this older dialectic between human civilization and nature. It has been mediated by medieval jurists, reinterpreted by early-modern humanists, and disrupted by generations of radicals – from the eighteenth-century revolutionaries to the twentieth-century anti-

Since the dawn of agricultural societies, humans have been developing institutions and technologies to master the natural world and harness its power. The big question for the age of climate change is whether this defining political and institutional challenge can continue to be met democratically

imperialists - demanding enfranchisement.

As Thomas Paine observed, a central concern of the newly independent American republic was always going to be its unique territory and physical landscape. Bestriding an entire continent, the United States has had to learn to manage a wide array of geographic conditions, all while striking a balance between individual liberty and collective agency.

In 1784, for example, George Washington incorporated the Potomac Company to pursue inland navigation beyond the Appalachians, thereby preventing those territories from becoming too dependent on the port of Spanish-controlled New Orleans. But this response to a geographical problem created a political one. Shipping on the Potomac routed commerce across state lines, and thus required freedom of navigation. But the deeply libertarian Articles of Confederation contained no provision to arbitrate commercial disputes.

To settle the matter; Washington convened a meeting at his estate on the banks of the Potomac, where those in attendance produced the eponymous Mount Vernon Compact. Then, James Madison organised a similar conference of all the states in Annapolis, where delegates concluded that a constitutional convention should be held in Philadelphia. A problem of

of governance and, ultimately, of

came a fully federal matter, especially as the young country began to wrestle with its physical features to sustain its economic development. In the early nineteenth century, countless canal companies emerged along the Eastern Seaboard. Most did not have the capital to maintain the hundreds of locks needed to overcome steep gradients. But because they connected the country, they were too important to lose, and thus came to be financed with state bonds. By the 1830s, these canal and

of 1837 hit, many of these companies went bankrupt, dragging state treasuries with them (a precursor to the 'doom loops' witnessed in more recent financial crises).

Following these earlier experiments, the US federal government's role in regulating, financing, and developing large water infrastructure grew substantially, especially during the twentieth century. In the Progressive Era. and then under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, a new modernist republic evolved, featuring a greatly expanded role for the state. Rivers became blueprints for electrification

In the event, America's model looked so successful that it convinced most of the rest of the world also to build thousands of dams, reservoirs, and canals, ultimately replumbing the global landscape. As a result, most of us in wealthy industrialised countries have been able to forget that the planet is subject to extraordinary climate variability.

After all, our daily experience is almost entirely artificial, the product of republican institutions that underwrote a vast stock of water infrastructure designed to control nature and bend it to our needs. Contemporary, urbanised technological life would be impossible if people still had to worry about flooding or finding the next bucket of water (concerns that still burden billions of people).

The twentieth-century conquest of nature is the legacy of a republican project that adapted to the conditions of industrial modernity. What corresponding political project will the age of climate change bring? At a time of resurgent authoritarianism around the world, it is crucial to show why a democratic republic is still the best vehicle to balance individual agency and collective action in confronting existential challenges.

Much will depend on whether the US is capable of another 'constitutional moment,' defined by the Yale law professor Bruce Ackerman as a historical event that elicits elevated and sustained popular attention to the role of the state in a country's economic and social life. Biden's efforts to transform America in pursuit of a net-zero economy may well be come a constitutional moment. But the task calls for more than supporting new technologies and drawing up clever plans. Biden must shepherd through a new civic contract that reflects a representative synthesis of the commonwealth's diverse aspirations and values.

The stakes could not be higher. America's great challenge - and its opportunity - is to usher in the first environmental republic.

The writer, an honorary research associate at the Smith School of Enterprise and Environment, University of Oxford, is the author of Water: A Biography. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Now Taliban

SRI AUROBINDO

he departure of American troops July 2 from the Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, the linchpin of the US-led war against terrorists operating from the country for nearly two decades, marks a new chapter in Afghanistan's history. Since the US took control of the field following the 9/11 twin tower attacks, the two-mile long runway became the jumping off point for military operations throughout Afghanistan. It turned into a small city complete with shops, gyms and classrooms for the thousands of service members and contractors who worked at the base and its facilities. The US has reasons and domestic compulsions for its total military pullout coinciding with the 9/11 anniversary this year as maintaining over 150,000 troops for years has been a drain on its exchequer estimated to be over \$2.26 trillion. But, the hurry shown by the Biden administration in letting the Taliban have a field day in Afghanistan after its withdrawal causes grave concern over peace and stability in the region. The US may be questioned about its sincerity in rooting out international terrorism. On the other hand, those who doubt may, in turn, be questioned whether Afghanistan is the sole breeding ground for terror networks.

For nearly 18 months, American diplomats negotiated a largely secret deal with the Taliban, completely bypassing the Afghan government. The immediate price that had to be paid for brokering the deal was freeing thousands of prisoners from Afghan jails and according legitimacy to the Taliban who are determined to re-establish their Islamic Emirate through military conquest. Peace overtures with the Taliban had been made earlier by former Afghan President Hamid Karzai soon after the Taliban regime was overthrown in late 2001. What prompted the initiatives was the assumption that the Taliban had learnt their lessons from the failures of their so-called emirate in the 1990s and their near total international isolation. Pakistan also played a role in helping the process of negotiations with the Taliban by advancing the argument that the latter lacked experience in politics, governance, and diplomacy in the 1990s and that by now they have realised their past mistakes.

The intentions of the USA, other than safeguarding its own interests, are far from clear. In the February 2020 Doha deal between Washington and the Taliban, no efforts were made to find a peaceful resolution to the war in Afghanistan or even ending the war on terrorism. Using the Doha deal and the US pressure on the Afghan government, the Taliban were able to secure the release of 5,000 of their fighters, arrested or captured by the Afghan forces while planning attacks or fighting along frontlines. They are now demanding the release of more imprisoned fighters.

According to the Long War Journal (a project of the US-based Foundation for the Defence of Democracies), the Taliban are in control of 76 of Afghanistan's 325 districts, i.e. 19 per cent, while the government forces are in commanding position in 127 or 32 per cent of the districts. The trouble is authority over the remaining 49 per cent is contested. Experts say there is no doubt the Taliban will win any battle they have to fight to wrest control from the Afghan government. Perhaps, this is the reason why President Ashraf Ghani has held out the olive branch to the Taliban offering even to step down to facilitate elections to form a government in which the Taliban can participate. But, the problem is the Taliban do not believe in any democratic model from the 'West,' which they regard as un-Islamic.

In such a scenario, Pakistan emerges as the biggest beneficiary among Afghanistan's neighbours. It is an open secret how Taliban fighters and their leaders have been getting shelter from Pakistan and the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) are known to be working in close collaboration with the Taliban in Afghanistan. A change of guard in Afghanistan would probably work to Pakistan's advantage. The LeT, JeM and Tehrik-e Taliban will, without doubt, get support from the Taliban to carry on crossborder terrorist activities in India. The recent drone attacks on the Jammu Air Force Station and several forays into Jammu and Kashmir, violating India's air space in the past few days do not augur well for India's fight against terrorism in the country's north-western frontier.

India has a lot to learn from the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Maintaining a contingent of only 150,000 personnel could make the US feel drained in 20 years. Compare that to the number of military personnel deployed by India in Jammu and Kashmir. The period of enhanced Indian military presence in this region of the country dates back to the mid-1980s. The abrogation of Article 370 brought in a huge number of military and paramilitary forces to Kashmir. The drain on the Indian exchequer can well be imagined. It would be mind-boggling for Indian citizens if the government of India would release actual figures of what has been spent in J&K since the beginning of the separatist movement and especially after Article 370



Giulio Boccaletti

IT IS CRUCIAL TO SHOW WHY A DEMOCRATIC **REPUBLIC IS STILL THE BEST VEHICLE TO BALANCE INDIVIDUAL** AGENCY AND **COLLECTIVE ACTION IN**

> CONFRONTING **EXISTENTIAL CHALLENGES**

constitutional settlement. Over time, and through judicial review, inland navigation be-

river works accounted for over half of states' debt. And when the panic

and economic development more broadly. offering a counterpoint to the centrally managed industrialnavigation had turned into one isation of the Soviet Union

was removed.

WISDOM CORNER

- Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.
- We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what vou think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live: they travel far. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
- The world is a dangerous place to live: not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything ALBERT EINSTEIN about it.

WORDS**WORTH**

Nympholepsy

his is a wild frenzy caused by desire for an unattainable ideal. Edward Bulwer-Lytton described its sense in Godolphin in 1833: "The most common disease to genius is nympholepsy – the saddening for a spirit that the world knows not." It can also refer to the passion or desire aroused in men by young girls, which is, unsurprisingly, in Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov. As a result, it's often equated with paedophilia or what's sometimes called the Lolita complex, though it's strictly an unappeasable longing, not one that can be acted upon. Nympholepsy began life in English in the late eighteenth century, with the idea behind it of a person in a frenzy from beholding those mythological spirits of nature which the ancients imagined as beautiful maidens living in rivers or woods. It's from the Greek numpholeptos, caught by nymphs.

Oaf

n oaf is a stupid, boorish, or clumsy man. There's an intimate A noat is a stupid, bootish, or clumpy main there of a studied and connection between oafs and elves. In ancient legend, elves weren't the noble creatures portrayed in Tolkien's stories but powerful and dangerous supernatural beings who were more likely to harm humans than to help them. Their name says so: it comes from an ancient Germanic term for a nightmare, a close relative of the first element of the modern German Albdruck with the same sense. Among other nasty habits, elves were thought to bring humans bad dreams and to steal their children, leaving changelings in their place. It's from that belief that oaf first appeared in English, in the seventeenth century. Originally an oaf was an elf's child, one that had been left in a poor exchange for a stolen human one. In popular superstition, such children were assumed to be ugly or stupid. The first forms to appear were ouphe and auf, the former turning up several times in Shakespeare's plays, though he used it to mean an elf or goblin. Auf appears in 1621 in the Anatomy of Melancholy by Robert Burton: "A very monster, an aufe imperfect". By the end of the seventeenth century it had settled to the modern spelling and oaf had moved to mean "idiot child" or "halfwit", then later took on the senses of a large, clumsy man or boy or a rude and boorish man.



BOTH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRIES ARE SERIOUSLY LOOKING INTO THE USE OF INSECTS AS FEEDSTUFF BASED ON ORGANIC

WASTE RECYCLING

ood waste is organic in na-✓ ture. Most of it ends up in landfills causing environmental and health concerns. Dumping of food waste in landfills is not only neglecting a potential resource but also amounts to inefficiently using energy, nutrients, and manpower invested during food production. Thus far, only a small amount (5-10 per cent) of food waste is recycled. In this context, recycling food waste is important.

It is well known that proteins are extensively used in combination with other feeds for animal and fish farming. By and large, proteins needed for this purpose are obtained through trawling. It is reported that the global fishing fleet is two to three times more than the oceans can actually support in a sustainable manner. Excess trawling activities result in resource depletion, low biological growth rates, and low biomass levels in water bodies. Eventually, it can also imbalance the entire aquatic ecosystem.

The twin problems caused by food waste and excess trawling can be circumvented by converting

food waste into protein and other protein-rich feeds for animal consumption. Traditionally, livestock animals act as bio-processors that turn inedible food (for human consumption) into protein-rich edibles such as meat, eggs, and milk. In this regard, conversion of food waste into animal feed is a viable option that has the potential to address waste management, sustainability, food security, and the application of circular economy via resource recovery.

Use of insects to produce proteinrich feeds from food waste is emerging as an advanced area of research. Both the scientific community and industries are seriously looking into the use of insects as feedstuff based on organic waste recycling. So far, researchers are focussing on five major species of insects. They are: the common housefly (Musca domestica), the black soldier fly (Hermetia illucens), the mealworm (Tenebrio molitor), locusts (Locusta migratoria, Schistocerca gregaria) and silkworms (Bombyx mori).

The black soldier fly is native

to the USA. It is now found worldwide across all climate zones. Its larvae are omnivorous. Black soldier fly larvae are widely researched for their capability to consume food waste. In terms of food waste recycling the black soldier fly is found to be promising since per day a larva can consume food upto twice its normal weight. A fully grown larva is known to produce biomass with a substantial amount of protein (40-45 per cent), fat (35 per cent), and amino acids. Such a composition makes it attractive as a feed for livestock.

Application of the black soldier fly for organic waste management has been a topic of research since the 1970s. Recently, several industrial-scale technologies are developed, and start-ups are now relying on successful technologies. InsectiPro, a Kenvan insect farm. is feeding around 30 tonne of discarded food waste collected from Nairobi to black soldier fly larvae. Subsequently, the obtained larvae are dried and sold as animal feed. During this process, waste generated by these larvae is supplied to

various farms for use as fertiliser. In line with this, the UK Research and Innovation has invested in a London-based company called Entocycle. The company breeds black soldier flies by feeding them food waste. The insects are subsequently harvested and processed into animal feed using an automated system.

The technology described here addresses three UN recommended Sustainable Development Goals --SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities): cities can incorporate this method into their waste management system to realise the full potential of untapped food waste; SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production): instead of paying for removal and disposal of food waste, organisations can access a new revenue stream by selling animal feed and fertiliser; and SDG 14 (Life below water): insect proteins obtained from food waste can replace a significant portion of the proteins currently sourced from trawling oceans.

The writer is a scientist and an alumnus of IIT Madras.



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 101 requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Widening digital divide

Sir, The Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) report for 2019-20 released recently makes for disturbing reading. According to the report, about 78 per cent of the more than 15 lakh schools in the country don't have internet facilities and more than 61 per cent don't have computers. As for government schools, the situation is even worse -- only 12 per cent have access to the internet. Only about 30 per cent of government schools have working computers. The data released by the Centre shows that the digital divide in India's education sector has been widened considerably by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Annual Status of Education Report released in October shows that only one-third of students could pursue online education and only 32.5 per cent were attending live online classes. The report puts a spotlight on the pitiable condition of our education sector. Even if the schools have internet and computer facilities, lack of access continues to be a problem as children do not have devices to access online classes. The report shows that only Kerala and Rajasthan have 100 per cent availability of digital devices. It is worrisome that over one crore children in Bihar and over 30 lakh children in Karnataka and Jharkhand do not possess digital devices. There is no denying the fact that India has progressed substantially in school education. Over the years, enrolment in schools has increased. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has increased at all levels. This progress is indeed encouraging. However, the pathetic situation brought about by the pandemic is a cause for concern. It necessitates a radical change in the school education system. Children are deprived of their right to education guaranteed under the Right to Education Act. The situation calls for effective measures from the government. Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Run machine

Sir, Indian captain Mithali Raj deserves laurels on becoming the highest run-getter in women's cricket across all formats. The run machine scored a glorious, unconquered 75 against the Poms in the third ODI at Worcester Saturday to surpass former England skipper Charlotte Edwards and help her side win by four wickets. Mithali now has 10,337 runs under her belt against Edwards' 10,273. She has been on a roll in the ODI series with scores of 72, 59 and 75 not out. Carry on Mithali, we are proud of you!

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE









state

CULTIVATORS BLAME AUTHORITIES FOR ABSENCE OF WATER SUPPLY



FARMERS HAD IMMENSELY BENEFITED WHEN

OF THE CANALS HAS SPELT DOOM FOR THEM

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AN AMOUNT OF OVER ₹3 CRORE AND

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RENOVATION OF CANALS

MAJORITY OF FARMERS IN KEONJHAR DISTRICT HAVE ALREADY STARTED AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES. THEY HAVE STARTED SOWING PADD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jhumpura, July 4: The sudden abandoning of resurrection work of the Jagadala Minor Irrigation Project in Malda panchayat of Jhumpura block in Koenjhar district have left farmers in a fix. Most of the farmers in these two blocks depend on water from the Jagadala dam for their cultivations.

The majority of farmers in Keonjhar district have already started agricultural activities. They have started sowing paddy. However, farmers of Jhumpura and Sadar blocks alleged Sunday that they are suffering because of the absence of proper irrigation facilities. The farmers said that small canals had been built for watering farmlands in Godua Topa,

Lightning kills farmer in Bolangir district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Saintala, July 4: In a tragic incident, a 50-year-old farmer was killed after being struck by lightning at Piprut village under this block in Bolangir district, Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Dhanu Rana, 45, a resident of the same village.



over ruppees three crore and 30 lakh were also released for the same purpose. So far more than rupees seven crore has been sanctioned for the irrigation project, but it has not come to the benefit of the farmers.

There are two plaques mentioning the date of commencement of work and the expected date of completion. One of the plaques is at the site of the Jagadala dam and the other from where the main canal originates. Both plaques mention 05/01/2018 as the date of commencement of both the works and 04/12/2018 as the completion date. However, till date the works for which funds were allotted have not been completed.

"We have no idea why the work was left mid-way," the farmers fumed. "Some portions of the main YEARS BACK. HOWEVER, LACK OF MAINTENANCE canal have been repaired, as per the first tender. However, the desilting of the reservoir and the repairing of the smaller canals has not been done," farmers like

Sunaram Majhi, Japan Majhi and Adesh Munda said. They added Rengalbeda, Dhanurjaypur, that the Minor Irrigation department's role has been confined to con-Kuradihi, Silisuan, Kalisui and Kandarapasi villages of Jhumpura ducting meetings only. and Sadar blocks. When the irri-

When contacted, assistant engineer, of the Minor Irrigation department in Keonjhar district, D Pradhan said the remainder of the work will start soon and will be finished as quickly as possible.

Executive engineer of the same cerned authorities regarding their problems. Accordingly a sum of department, Manas Ranjan Das over rupees three crore was reinformed that silt removal couldleased from the district mineral n't start as water had flown into the reservoir. "We will soon start fund (DMF) for desilting work of the Jagadala dam and the repair of the process of silt removal," Das said. He however, avoided ques-Later, a tender was floated by tions pertaining to a specific the Irrigation department for the time-frame by which the probrepair of the canals criss-crossing lems of the farmers will be solved through the farmlands of the above and the pending works will be

completed.

team, led by Odia archaeologist Sunil Patnaik, had carried out the first phase of work between March and May 2021.

In order to authenticate the time

period, the objects that have been dug out will be sent to a UGC-managed laboratory in New Delhi for testing. The excavation work has been halted for the time being due

7.8 quintals of cannabis seized, 6 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Muniguda, July 4: In a major crackdown Sunday morning, Muniguda police seized approximately 7.8 quintal of cannabis from a truck while it was being smuggled out of the state, police informed. During the raid, personnel from Muniguda police station arrested six persons in this connection at Dhepaguda village in Rayagada district

According to an official, police got information from a reliable source about the truck carrying the large



The cannabis, packed in a number of large sacks, was en route to Visakhapatnam. From Visakhapatnam, the truck would have proceeded towards Ajmer in Rajasthan, one of those arrested

stated during interrogation. Muniguda police have registered a case and launched a probe to ascertain the kingpin and others involved in the sale and transportation of cannabis. Rayagada sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) informed that during interrogation those arrested have confessed that a number of their

Woman beheaded over sorcery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Thakurmunda, July 4: Police recovered Sunday an elderly woman's torso from a field at Balibhol village of Patabila panchayat under Karanjia block in Mayurbhanj district. The woman was murdered over the suspicion that she was practicing witchcraft, sources said. The deceased has been identified as Jamuna (63), wife of late Chaitanya Hansda, a resident of the village mentioned. Police have detained two persons in this connection.

According to the police, Jamuna along with her son Laxman and daughter-in-law had gone Saturday to Balibhol weekly market to pur-

chase some items. However, after completion of the chores, Laxman found his mother lying in a field in an inebriated condition. She had allegedly consumed 'handia'. Both Laxman and his wife tried to get the elderly woman back on her feet, but failed. So they left her on the field and went home. Laxman returned to the same spot Sunday morning only to find his mother's headless body in a pool of blood. He immediately informed Karanjia police station. Later Karanjia police station IIC Ranjan Sethi, SDPO Sudarshan Gangai along with a



Students under the aegis of All India Students' Federation staging a demonstration demanding classroom teaching in schools instead of YouTube at Hidigaon under Sadar block in Balasore district, Sunday

REMUNA TEHSILDAR TAKES STOCK OF EXCAVATION WORK

EXISTENCE OF 3,000-YEAR-OLD CIVILISATION FOUND IN BALASORE VILLAGES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, July 4: After the discovery of remains of an ancient civilisation in Durgadevi and Ranasahi villages of Balasore district, Remuna tehsildar Manoj Kumar Senapati visited the sites Saturday to take stock of the excavation work.

According to Senapati, this is the first time that such historical materials have been unearthed in Balasore district. He said that the remains found in Durgadevi and Ranasahi villages depict the glorious historical past of the north Odisha district.

The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) had approved the excavation project in FY 2020-21. A

were made out of copper. People associated with the excavation work said the findings indicated the lifestyle of people

said

living in the area more than 3,000 year ago. Black varnished pottery objects have also been found in the two villages. All indicate the exis-

to second wave of Covid-19. The

new findings will certainly add

an interesting chapter to the history of Odisha, the revenue official

Notably, during excavation, the

team discovered the base of cir-

cular hut, red-coloured pottery,

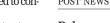
black and red bordered copper-

ware belonging to the Chalcolithic

Age. During this age, most objects

tence of human civilisation, they informed.





According to sources, Dhanu was working in his farmland in the morning at around 10.00am, when lightning struck him on the farmland during a thunderstorm. Others working on nearby farmlands rescued him and rushed him to the Saintala community health centre where doctors pronounced him dead.

On being informed, the local police reached the hospital and sent the body for post-mortem. Villagers have demanded financial assistance for the bereaved family as Rana was a poor farmer. The tehsildar has assured the grieving members of Rana's family that they will get financial assistance once they file the necessary documents with a proper application.

quantity of cannabis. They swung into action and intercepted the

truck at the above mentioned locality. Along with the truck, a tractor and

an auto-rickshaw were also seized by the police, officials informed.

associates are operating in other states also.

the spot. Police have lodged a case and launched an investigation.

Illegal firearms unit busted at Nabarangpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, July 4: In a major crackdown Saturday afternoon police busted an illegal firearm manufacturing unit in Raighar area of Nabarangpur district. Police have arrested a man in this connection.

Police were tipped off about the illegal arms manufacturing unit by a reliable source. They raided the house of Sangram Lohar from Mandiabeda village in the district. Police personnel recovered two



firearms, six pipes and an identical number of triggers, four safety catches, two hammers, two mobile phones and several other machines

and equipment used for manufacturing arms, stated an official. Later in the day, Lohar was forwarded to a local court and he was remanded to police custody.

Raighar police has registered a case (No-127, dated 03.07.2021 under Section 25 (1)(a) of the Arms Act, 1959 and launched a probe which is underway, Umerkote SDPO Dinesh Nayak informed. He also said that interrogation of Lohar will provide information regarding the buyers of the illegal arms.

PROPER NUTRITION UNDER ICDS PROGRAMME

Ragi laddus become huge hit among Keonjhar kids

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 4: The first anniversary of inclusion of 'Ragi laddus' for pre-school children under ICDS programme was observed in this district, a report said.

The project implemented under 'Special Programme for promotion Pf Millets in Tribal-cum-Mining Areas of Keonjhar', under district mineral foundation (DMF) was launched July 2, 2020 on a pilot basis in the Keonjhar Sadar ICDS project. It was scaled up in the all 14 ICDS project of Keonjhar from September 1, 2020.

The project is being implemented in partnership with Departments of A&FE, WCD&MS, ST &SC. M&BCW, FS&CW, and technical support of NCDS, WASSAN & CSIR-CFTRI.

Ragi laddus are provided as morning snacks to pre-school children (between three to six years) enrolled under ICDS in Keonjhar district along with their existing menu from July 2, last year.

As Covid-19 protocols are currently in place, pre-cooked Ragi laddu mix is now delivered at home for the kids. Women belonging to various self-help groups are preparing the laddus for the children.

The core objective of the initiative is to improve the nutritional status of pre-school children and revive the age-old tradition of millet consumption, once prevalent among the tribal communities of Keonjhar district. Ragi contains



Ragi laddus are provided as morning snacks to pre-school children enrolled under ICDS in **Keonjhar district along** with their existing menu from July 2, last year

over 30 times more calcium and four times more iron than polished rice. It also has more fibre, minerals, and antioxidants.

The initiative has turned out to be an additional source of income to women self-help groups, an assured price to farmers for ragi. So, local production of ragi and other millets has received a huge boost. To reduce drudgery and ensure

proper quality and hygiene standards, a centralised Ragi processing unit consisting of a gradercum aspirator and a destoner has been set up at the SHG level funded by the DMF.

In the first phase, pre-school children enrolled across 335 Anganwadi Centres in Sadar block was covered under the initiative from July 2, last year.

Subsequently, 86,925 pre-school children across 3,257 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the district were covered from September 1, last year. The total budget of the program is ₹1.5 crore per annum and is entirely funded by DMF Keonjhar.

The initiative aims to increase the production, consumption, processing, and marketing of millets in the district. With this historic step, Keonjhar became the first district in the state to include millets under ICDS.

This is also a unique model in the country with decentralised production, procurement, processing. supply and consumption of millets. NITI Aayog featured thisunique initiative in their Health and Nutrition Practice Insights.

SAPLING KIOSK



Saplings were distributed to people at a kiosk in Baliguda of Kandhamal district in a bid to raise awareness on raising green cover



OP PHOTO







Sarma firm on population policy despite facing flak Hybrid militants:

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati/Agartala, July 4: Despite criticism, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma continues to insist on a population policy with a two-child norm and adoption of decent family planning norms by the immigrant Muslims to eradicate poverty in the northeastern state.

The main opposition Congress slamming the Chief Minister for his remarks on controlling the pop ulation of Assam said that Sarma's statement in the context of population 'explosion' in the state is "misinformed and misleading".

The Population Foundation of India (PFI), an NGO, said that India and its states must learn from China's failed experience with enforcing coercive population policies, which have created a population crisis in China today. In a series of statements and

speeches after taking over as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam May 10, Sarma has been saying that his government would take specific policy measures to decelerate the growth of the minority Muslim population with the aim to eradi cate poverty and illiteracy.

"Assam has been able to main-



tain its annual population growth at 1.6 per cent, but it is found in the 2001 and 2011 Census that the Muslim population is growing at a rate of 29 per cent (decadal).

In contrast, Hindu population has come down from 22 per cent to 16 per cent and further reduced to 10 per cent during the latest censuses," the Chief Minister said. He said that the high popu-

lation growth caused poverty and illiteracy among the Muslim

"If the Muslim community checks the population growth and if they properly avail the scope of government polices like free edu-

community.

cation for girls till the university level, financial inclusion for minority women, reservation in panchayats and government jobs, and establishment of colleges and universities for women in minority areas, the minority community would also be developed.'

over 150 leading indigenous Muslim personalities from diverse fields

CM MEETS 150 MUSLIM INTELLECTUALS

and said they had all have agreed that population growth in some parts of the state is a threat to development. Addressing a press conference after the meeting here, Sarma said a total of eight sub groups will be formed with members from the indigenous Muslim community to suggest various developmental measures. "Today I met over 150 intellectuals, writers, doctors, artistes, historians and professors among others. We discussed various issues confronting the Assamese minority people," he added. All present in the meeting

Sarma said that he is in constant touch with various leaders of Muslim society. "If the government takes some steps, they would always be interpreted on political lines even though this is not a political issue," he pointed out.

Muslims comprise 34.22 per cent of the 3.12 crore population of Assam, of which 4 per cent are indigenous Assamese Muslims and

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister agreed that "population explosion" Himanta Biswa Sarma Sunday met in some parts of Assam pose a threat to the development of the state, he added. "If Assam wants to become one of the top five states in India, then we have to manage our population explosion. This was agreed by all," Sarma said. He also added the government will be forming eight sub groups with members from the indigenous Muslim community and these will submit reports on development of the comroadmap," Sarma said.

the remaining are mostly Bengalispeaking Muslims.

Muslim votes are a determine ing factor in at least 30 to 35 seats out of the total 126 assembly seats.

Of Assam's 34 districts, 12 per cent or more Muslim population resides in 19 districts and in six districts (out of 19 districts) the Muslim population constitutes 50 per cent or more

New challenge for security forces

The "hybrid" militant is a boy next door who has been radicalised and kept on standby mode by the handlers for carrying out a terror incident



We are tracking full-time terrorists but there is difficulty in tracking the part-time or hybrid terrorists as they go back to their normal work after carrying out an incident. But, we are keeping full surveillance and we will get them soon VIJAY KUMAR I IGP. KASHMI

watching movement patterns and

finding a weak part of the routine.

The spotter could be an OGW (over

ground worker) or even a hybrid ter-

rorist who is not on the police list,

but has a pistol and intent to kill

just like a mercenary shooter

paid to kill a target. It is an ecosys-

tem where only numbers matter -

hence the victim may have no par-

ticular trait to get killed - just a con-

venient soft target. For the killer

who it (the target) is, does not mat-

Police had in the first week of

September last year declared

Srinagar city as "terrorist-free"

However, there have been attacks

on civilians and policemen after that

as well and the officials believe

the attacks are the handiwork of the

spike over the last few weeks. June

23, militants shot dead a 25-year-old

shopkeeper, Umar Ahmed, outside

his shop at Habbakadal locality in

Dar of the CID wing of Jammu

and Kashmir Police in Kanipora

Nowgam on the outskirts of Srinagar. The CCTV footage of the

attack clearly showed that two men

came from behind and fired at him

with a pistol. June 17, militants

Before that, June 22, militants killed inspector Parvez Ahmed

the interior areas of the city.

Such attacks have witnessed a

ter," they added.

"hybrid" militants.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 4: Security forces in Kashmir are facing a new challenge on the militancy front -- the presence of "hybrid" militants who are not listed as ultras but persons radicalised enough to carry out a terror strike and then slip back into the routine life.

Over the past few weeks the attacks on "soft targets" in the Valley, including in Srinagar city, have witnessed a spike and most of the incidents have been carried out by the pistol-borne youth who are not listed as militants with the security agencies, officials said.

The new trend has sent security agencies into a tizzy as these "hybrid" militants, or "part-time" militants are very difficult to track and pose a challenge to the security forces. The officials in the security establishment said the "hybrid" militant is a boy next door who has been radicalised and kept on standby mode by the handlers for carrying out a terror incident.

"He carries out a task that is given to him and then waits for the next assignment from his masters. In between, he goes back to his normal work," they said. The officials said the new trend

is happening in the Valley on the directions of Pakistan and its spy agency, the ISI.

struck in Saidpora area of Eidgah 'The desperate nexus is

J&K parties all set to hold talks with delimitation panel

Both the mainstream parties, as well as smaller constituents of the PAGD, have significantly compromised their obduracy and begun preparations for representations before Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai's panel

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 4: Fearing isolation from the democratic process ahead of the next Assembly elections, Kashmir's traditional rulers, Farooq Abdullah's National Conference (NC) as well as Mehbooba Mufti's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), will be for the first time meeting with the Delimitation Commission during its first visit to Jammu and Kashmir, beginning Tuesday, July 6. Both the mainstream political majors, as also other smaller constituents of the Farooq-led Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), have significantly compromised their obduracy and begun preparations for representations before Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai's panel, both in Kashmir and Jammu, next week. For months, the NC and the PDP had declined to associate with the Delimitation Commission until restoration of J&K's Statehood and the special Constitutional status

withdrawn in August 2019.

The PDP had maintained that having no representation in the Parliament, it had technically no locus standi in meeting with the Delimitation Commission. Constituted in March 2020, the Commission's life expired in March 2021. Thereupon, it got the extension of one year, till March 2022.

On recommendation of the Lok Sabha Speaker, all five of the Union Territory's Lok Sabha members -BJP's Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore and NC's Farooq Abdullah, Mohammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi -- had been nominated as the Commission's associate members. J&K has no member in the Rajya Sabha

Even as the BJP's two MPs held some deliberations with the Commission, the NC stood away with the argument that this process was consequent upon the J&K Reorganisation Act of August 2019 which was "not acceptable" to the party and which it had challenged in the Supreme Court of India. Former Chief Minister and the NC's Vice President Omar Abdullah maintained until last week that holding the delimitation in only J&K and not in other States and UTs was 'wrong'. The Centre has repeatedly asserted that delimitation of the Assembly and the Parliamentary constituencies in J&K was a legal and constitutional obligation under the J&K Reorganisation Act in the Union Territory. The Act provides for addition of seven new Assembly segments to the Assembly of 83 members.



Drones banned in Srinagar

SEARCH OF ROOF

munity within the next three months. "After compilation of the reports, a roadmap will be created to uplift people from the minority community. We will work in the next five years according to that

Srinagar, July 4: A week after a drone attack at an Air Force base in Jammu, authorities in Srinagar Sunday banned the sale, possession and use of such unmanned aerial vehicles in the city.

AGENCIES

Earlier, authorities in border districts of Rajouri and Kathua in the Jammu region had put curbs on the use of drones and other UAVs in the wake of the terror attack last Sunday

Two explosives-laden drones had crashed into the Indian Air Force station at Jammu airport and there were other suspicious sightings of UAVs, triggering a security alert In an order, deputy commis-

sioner of Srinagar Mohammad

Aijaz directed those having drone cameras or other similar kinds of unmanned aerial vehicles to deposit them in local police stations.

The order, however, exempted government departments using drones for mapping, surveys and surveillance in agricultural, environmental conservation and disaster mitigation sectors but directed them to inform the local police station before using them. The administration cautioned

"There have been about 12 deaths

in police encounters or firing when

criminals had tried to flee custody

in the last couple of months,'

Special Director General of Police

that any violation of the guidelines will attract punitive action, and directed police to implement the restrictions in letter and spirit.

The order to ban the use of drones came after the recommendations of the city's police chief.

"The decentralised airspace ac cess has to be regulated in view of recent episodes of misuse of drones posing threat to security infrastructure as reported by media/other reliable sources," the order said.

To "secure the aerial space" near the vital installations and highly populated areas, it is "imperative" to discontinue the use of drones in all social and cultural gatherings to eliminate any risk of injury to the life and damage of property, the order said.

fying methods. Their desperation is showing. Now, it is the preference for pistol-based targeting of soft targets. Targets which are unarmed and unlikely to retaliate like businessmen (including from the minority community), activists, political leaders without protection and off-duty policemen," they said.

The officials said the aim is to spread fear and stop businesses and social activity that "targets terrorists and their ecosystem".

"They target and silence voices that are speaking against separatism and against the perpetrators and instigators of violence, that is the aim," the officials said.

The security agencies believe this type of targeting is not random, but properly planned.

"It is never random. It involves

in the old city here and killed a policeman from close range. The policeman was off-duty. Outside Srinagar, militants shot dead a special police officer, his wife and daughter in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir June 27.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said there are some sleeper cells, hybrid militants, in the city, but asserted the police will neutralise the module soon. "We will soon neutralise the module active in Srinagar. There are some sleeper cells that we call part time or hybrid terrorists. We are tracking full-time terrorists but there is difficulty in tracking the part-time or hybrid terrorists as they go back to their normal work after carrying out an incident. But, we are keeping full surveillance and we will get them soon," he said.

No more in alliance with AJP: Akhil Gogoi

AGENCIES

Sivasagar (Assam), July 4: Raijor Dal president Akhil Gogoi Sunday said his party has broken the al liance with regional front Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP), led by former AASU general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi.

The two newly floated regional parties, which were born out of the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act sentiment, had joined hands in February this year and contested the assembly election in March-April. The AJP had drawn a blank and the RD managed one seat with Gogoi winning as an Independent MLA. "We were not in alliance during the polls. We broke the tie-up in the middle of the election. There was no united opposition platform, and so we parted ways," Gogoi told PTI in an interview.

However, neither of the two parties announced the falling apart of their alliance during the election, although speculation was rife that their association had run into rough weather, especially on the seat selection process.



Out of the total 126 constituen cies, the AJP had contested in 83 seats and the RD in 38. In 16 constituencies, both the parties fielded candidates and fought against each other, thereby dividing the anti-CAA votes. Gogoi walked free July 1 after 567 days of imprisonment new govfollowing his arrest in December ernment 2019 for his alleged role in the vicame to olent anti-CAA movement in power May 10 Assam, as the National Investigation has led the op-Agency failed to frame any charge against him and three associates.

Asked why the party did not formally declare the end of the alliance before the polls, the firsttime legislator said, "We contested the assembly election alone. As of now, we are not in any alliance with the AJP."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 4: A rising number of shoot-out encounters, which have seen at least a dozen suspected insurgents and criminals being shot dead as they 'tried to escape' from custody in less than two months, has whipped

up a political furore in Assam. When criminals try The rise in to flee police custody, it is the number laxity of policing. The of such incriminals are taken for crime cidents scene reconstruction and they try since the

to flee. This has become a routine affair now. It seems Assam Police is becoming trigger happy

DEBABRATA SAIKIA I LEADER OF OPPOSITION

position to allege that the Assam Police has turned "trigger happy" under

the Himanta Sarma-led regime. The Assam Police has, however, refuted this allegation, claiming that it was the militants and criminals who forced its personnel to resort to firing.

(Law and Order) Gyanendra Pratap Singh told PTI in an interview. Among them are six suspected **Dimasa National Liberation** Army (DNLA) militants and two alleged insurgents of United People's Revolutionary Front (UPRF),

were who killed in separate encounters with the police in Karbi Anglong

district Four other sus-

pected criminals were killed in different encounters in Dhemaji, Nalbari, Sivasagar and Karbi Anglong districts. Many of the accused had allegedly snatched the service pistols of the police officers, following which shootouts had taken place.



Some encounters had taken place when the police attempted to arrest the accused persons and some when they tried to flee on being taken for crime scene reconstruction, he said.

"The police had to resort to firing when these militants and criminals attempted to escape from custody. Only they can say why they tried to flee," the officer said.

Declining to comment on why there has been a sudden rise in the number of such encounters by the police, the senior officer said that no enquiry has been inpolice encounters are rape accused and cattle smugglers.

In all the encounters where the accused were injured, they were taken for crime scene reconstruction and attempted to run away, prompting the police to open fire on them, he said.

A former state Director General of Police, who wished not to be named, said the law allows police use of force but they should be judicious in their use of it.

'The law allows police to use force under specific circumstances. The circumstances may, however, differ from case to case," the former top cop told PTI.

He said that if anyone has any doubt about the authenticity of the encounters, then there are various redressal mechanisms like 🛁 approaching the courts and the human rights bodies.

Reacting to the increase in encounters, the Leader of the **Opposition** Debabrata Saikia claimed that the Assam Police wasdoing this to cover up their laxity and appease the new regime.





stituted in any case where the crim-

"Enquiry is ordered in cases

where the fleeing criminal is injured

only if there is any reason (to sus-

pect that there was some extrane-

ous issue involved). No enquiry

has been ordered in any of such in-

cidents in the last two months,

he said. The incidents, where the

accused have lost their lives, have

been reported to the relevant au-

thorities, including the National

Human Rights Commission, as is

the procedure, the Special DGP

said. Among those injured in such

inal was injured.



national



During the Covid pandemic, the way in which Congress party workers helped the migrant workers, arranged oxygen cylinders, concentrators, medical kits and ration kits, I want to convey my thanks

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA CONGRESS GENERAL SECY

OUOTA DEMAND: MEMBERS OF MARATHA OUTFITS HOLD PROTEST

Over 1,000 members of various Maratha outfits gathered in Maharashtra's Solapur city Sunday, despite no permission from police, to take part in a protest march over their demand for reservation in government jobs and education

with the highest frequency of oc-

currence during the month of May.

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand,

Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar

Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar,

Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha,

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

in the backdrop of recent heat

waves in different parts of north-

ern hemisphere. Earlier this week,

an intense heatwave swept through

parts of Canada and the US in

north America claiming lives of

scores of people. Vancouver

recorded a record-breaking tem-

perature of more than 49 degrees

In India, the north Indian plains

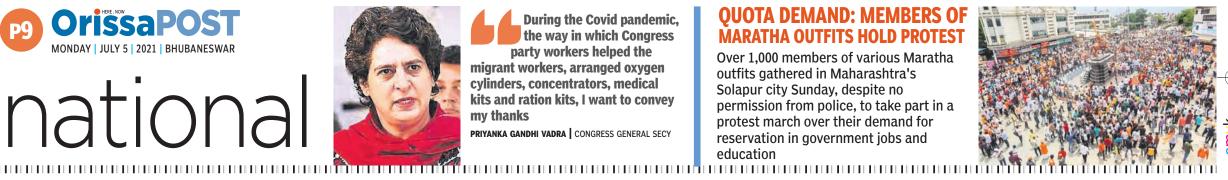
and the hills also experienced heat-

DRONE INTRUSIONS

Celsius.

The study assumes significance

The CHZ covers states of Punjab,



Heatwave claims over 17K lives in 50 yrs: Study **DHAMI SWORN IN AS**

Indian Doctors should receive Bharat Ratna this year. 'Indian Doctor' means all doctors, nurses and paramedics. It will be

a true homage to all martyred doctors. It will be an honour of those who have been serving without caring for their lives and families. The whole country will be glad if Bharat Ranta is given to doctors

uote

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

The Congress, which is running on oxygen in Uttar Pradesh, says that the B in BSP stands for BJP. This is highly objectionable as the B in BSP stands for Bahujan, which comprises of SCs, STs, OBCs and religious minorities MAYAWATI BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY CHIEF



MK STALIN TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Three Naxals surrender

Raipur: Three Naxals, one of them allegedly involved in a blast at Dantewada in 2015 wherein five policemen were killed, surrendered in two districts of Chhattisgarh's Bastar division Sunday, police said. While two cadres, Bhima Mandavi (41) and Joga Mandavi (31), surrendered in Dantewada district, another rebel, identified as Punem Raiesh (21), turned himself in before police in Bastar district, they said.

Haryana extends lockdown till July 12

Chandigarh: The Haryana government Sunday extended the lockdown clamped in the state to curb the spread of the coronavirus by another week till July 12, while allowing some examinations to be held. According to the order issued by Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan in exercise of powers under the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, "the Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana is extended for another week, that is from July 5 (5 am onwards) to July 12 (till 5 am) in the state of Haryana.'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: Heatwayes have claimed more than 17,000 lives in 50 years in India, according to a paper recently published by the country's top meteorologists.

The paper said there were 706 heatwave incidents in the country from 1971-2019. The research paper was authored by M Rajeevan, Secretary of Ministry of Earth Science, along with scientists Kamaljit Ray, S S Ray, R K Giri and A P Dimri, earlier this year. Kamaljit Ray is the lead author of the paper.

Heatwave is one of the extreme weather events (EWE). In 50 years (1971-2019) EWE killed 1.41.308 people. Of this, 17,362 people were killed due to heatwave -- a little



over 12 percent of the total deaths recorded, the study said. The maximum heatwave deaths were in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and

FARMERS TO PROTEST OUTSIDE PARL DURING

PARLIAMENT'S MONSOON SESSION IS SET



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 4: A group of around 200 farmers will protest against the Centre's three farm laws outside Parliament every day during the monsoon session, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) announced Sunday.

The umbrella body of over 40 farmer unions said at a press conference that two days before the session begins, a "chetavani patra (warning letter)" will be given to all opposition MPs to protest the laws inside the House.

"We will also ask the opposition $\operatorname{MPs}July$ 17 to raise the issue every day inside the House while we will

sit outside in protest. We will tell

them not to benefit the Centre by

walking out of a session. Don't let

the session run till the govern-

Kerala. While the security agenforce' technical airport in Jammu June 27, damaging the airport and inflicting minor injuries to a cou-

ple of soldiers. Central agencies, according to highly placed sources have tipped the police of both Tamil Nadu and Kerala to be alert and to be prepared for intrusions into the states with certain terror groups exploring the possibilities of using drones.

After the Chinese take over of Hambanthota port in Sri Lanka, the coast guard and Indian Navy intelligence has been on high alert over the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and in southern belts of cies were able to foil the drone attacks in the Jammu area, the cost of intercepting these drones is high and several states are ill-equipped with this technology. Already defense establishment has opened discussions with the Israeli defense establishments for the supply of high-end drone interceptors as Israel is the global leader in this technology. The intelligence agencies have warned the Tamil Nadu and Kerala governments and security agencies of these states as, according to sources, the agencies received tips of certain terror outfits from across the border preparing themselves for such attacks. Even as India has opened backchannel discussions or Track 2 diplomacy with the Taliban fighters of Afghanisthan following the systematic withdrawal of US forces

wave. In the plains, temperatures rose above 40 degrees Celsius in many parts earlier this week.

The paper also noted that there is an increase in mortality due to heatwaves, an extreme weather event, and lightning for vulnerable states. Heatwave over a station is declared only when the actual temperature of the station is 40 degrees Celsius for the plains and 30 degrees Celsius for hilly regions.

However, when the maximum temperature is 40 degree Celsius for coastal stations and 45 degrees Celsius for other stations, conditions are declared as heatwave. A heatwave is declared when the actual maximum temperature is greater than the normal maximum temperature which is greater than 40 degrees Celsius.

from that country, the intelligence

agencies are not leaving any chances

and have recommended the south-

ern states to be on high alert. The

sea coast of Kerala and Tamil Nadu

has been on the intelligence radar

for a few months and with the drone

attack in Jammu, the agencies have

intensified the surveillance in these

two states. It may be noted that

the intelligence agencies have

warned of certain homegrown

terror movements in both these

states and the large exodus of ter-

rorists to Syria and Afghanistan

from Kerala had led the central

agencies to be on high alert. The

presence of organisations like Al-

Umma and its activities in dis-

tricts like Coimbatore, Trichy,

Kanyakumari, and other south-

ern districts of Tamil Nadu has also

been closely monitored by the cen-

tral agencies.





AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 4: BJP leader Pushkar Singh Dhami was Sunday sworn-in as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

Governor Baby Rani Maurya administered the oath to him and 11 others ministers at a function in Raj Bhavan in Dehradun.

The new ministers are Satpal Maharaj, Harak Singh Rawat, Bansidhar Bhagat, Yashpal Arya, Bishan Singh Chupal, Subodh Uniyal, Arvind Pandey, Ganesh Joshi, Dhan Singh Rawat, Rekha Arya, and Yatishwaranand. All were also part of the previous Tirath Singh Rawat government.

As per constitutional provisions. the Uttarakhand cabinet can have maximum 12 ministers including the Chief Minister.

The swearing-in of Dhami and his ministers has also put to rest all speculations of rebellion by senior leaders Satpal Maharaj, Harak Singh Rawat and others over the election of Dhami.

Also, hours before swearing-in ceremony, Harak Singh Rawat, Arya, and Chupal had told IANS that there is no in-fighting and swearing-in of Dhami cabinet will be held as per schedule in the evening.

He replaces Tirath Singh Rawat, who late Friday evening submitted his resignation to the Governor, as he was unlikely to be elected to the state Assembly by the stipulated period.



High alert in TN, Kerala PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MONSOON SESSION Chennai, July 4: The Central intelligence agencies are on high alert in Tamil Nadu and Kerala after the twin drone attack at Air

Odisha, it added.

Core Heatwave Zone (CHZ) is

the most prone area for heatwave

(HW) and severe heatwave (SHW)

TO BEGIN JULY 19



highway and park it there. But don't create a traffic jam," Rajewal said. The farmer leader also appealed to people to "blow the horn of their vehicles" for eight minutes at 12 pm. He also asked for LPG cylinders to be brought to the

protest. "I ask all the women to bring out their gas cylinders to the roads and be a part of the protest," Rajewal said. Responding to a question regarding Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's recent statement that the government was ready to hold talks with the farmers, Rajewal said they "will not talk with conditions"

On July 1, Tomar had asserted that the three central agriculture laws

Anil Deshmukh moves Apex court

New Delhi: Former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh Sunday moved the Supreme Court seeking protection from any coercive action in a money laundering case. The Enforcement Directorate had, Saturday, issued fresh summons to the

71-year-old NCP leader

issued three notices to

Deshmukh, who has been

seeking his appearance July 5

in the case. The ED has, so far,

asked to record his statement

ment addresses the issue," farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said. He added that five people from each farmer union would be taken to join the protest. The SKM also called for a nationwide protest July 8 against rising prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders. It asked people to come out and park their vehicles along state and national highways from 10 am till 12 pm. "Whatever vehicle you have, tractor, trolley, car, scooter, just bring it to the nearest state or national

would bring revolutionary changes in the lives of farmers, and made it clear that the government was ready to hold talks with the protesting cultivators, except on the demand of the repeal of these laws. Farmers have been camping at Delhi's borders since November 2020, demanding that the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 be rolled back and a new law made to guarantee minimum support price for crops.

Enthusiastic youths play soccer at a field in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

194 crocodiles shifted from a lake

Ahmedabad: As many as 194 crocodiles have been relocated from a lake near the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat's Narmada district in the last two years for the safety of tourists who come to enjoy boat rides there, officials said Sunday. The Panchmuli lake, situated near the 182-metre tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia, a major tourist attraction, had a large number of crocodiles that posed a threat to visitors, they said.

Pb power crisis

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Chandigarh: Punjab's power crisis may further deepen as one more unit of the Talwandi Sabo power plant stopped generating electricity due to some technical issue, an official of the state-owned power utility PSPCL said Sunday.

at the central agency's office in south Mumbai Monday.

Cabinet reshuffle hangs in the balance

Final touches are being given to the impending Cabinet reshuffle. But discussions are going on. The Prime Minister has also summoned a meeting of his 54member Council of Ministers meeting June 30. There are reports that the PM may drop a couple of ministers for their poor showing and also political utility. More representation is to be given to West Bengal, UP, and even Maharashtra. There is some review relating to Puniab also as Hardeep Singh Puri and Som Prakash represent the state in the council. A couple of fresh faces from BJP like Bhupendra Yaday and outside experts may be brought in. The names of Sarbanand Sonowal (Assam), Jyotiraditya Scindia (MP), Varun Gandhi (UP), Dilip Ghose

(West Bengal), Anil Baluni (Uttarakhand) have been doing the rounds. But no one is sure when it will happen. The session is already around and some say it will be a small affair.

BJP's olive branch to allies

he government's apathy of keeping the post of the Lok Sabha deputy speaker vacant for nearly two years despite having an absolute majority in the House is surprising parliamentary leaders. While the opposition has been clamoring that the post be filled without further delay, the ruling BJP establishment is taking its sweet time. There are precedents that the post of Deputy Speaker has been kept vacant in the past. The leader of the main opposition party in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury recently asked the government to hold the election for the post which is a constitutional requirement. Normally, the post goes to the principal opposition party. But that tradition and convention was buried long ago. Now the ruling parties in the Lok Sabha have been given the post of either an allv party or a neutral party instead of an adversary. During the 2014-19

Lok Sabha, when the BJP came to power with a majority under Narendra Modi, the Deputy Speaker's post went to the AIADMK which continues to remain close to the BJP. The AIADMK then led by late Jayalalithaa was not part of the BJP led NDA but its friendly party. The opposition parties are sure to mount a pressure for the same. It is in this context that the BJP leadership is toying with the idea of offering the post to the Biju Janata Dal of Odisha, YSR Congress of Andhra Pradesh or Janata Dal (United). But the JD (U) is already holding the post of the Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha. The PM is keen to rope in YSR Congress of Andhra Pradesh as the BJP is unlikely to grow in Andhra Pradesh and it wants an ally which has 22 MPs in the Lok Sabha. BJD has 12 MPs but is not inclined to accept the post. There was a time when BJP's S Mallikarjunaiah (1991-96), Suraj Bhan (1996-97) and Kariya Munda(2009-14) occupied the Deputy Speaker's post when BJP was in the Opposition. But it is now almost clear that Janata Dal (U) and Apna Dal of UP will join the Union Council in this round. But the LJP is a divided house and the BJP may prefer to keep it out. In any case, Bihar is not a priority for the party right now.

Yogi didn't agree to trifurcate UP

Contrary to media reports, all did not go down well between Yogi Adityanath and party high command when he visited Delhi sometime ago. The high command is extremely worried over reports emanating from UP and several surveys by credible agencies that the BJP may face a stiff challenge. The Assembly polls may be polarized between the BJP and Samajwadi Party relegating BSP, RLD & Congress on the margins as was witnessed in West Bengal. It was in this context that Union Home Minister Amit Shah reported to have floated the idea of trifurcating UP. Yogi was taken aback when Shah unfolded the plan June 10. He said it should be implemented by passing a resolution by calling the Assembly session. The trifurcation plan of UP and West Bengal has been part of Sangh Parivar's vision as it feels nearly 20% of the population does not vote for BJP at all. The high command feels that this will be a win-win mantra to retain UP. But Yogi is reported to have expressed his unwillingness saying the party should have faith in his leadership for the next eight months. If he was invited by the party to

address as many as 70 rallies in West Bengal and almost 490 meetings across the country since 2017 as a star campaigner, the party should trust him that he will win UP again in 2022. Next day, when he met the PM, there was no discussion on the issue. He made a 60-minute audio-video presentation listing achievements of his government in fighting Covid and implementing PM's schemes in the state. The PM advised him to take everybody along in the party and protect the interests of various social groups. No names were discussed.

Rahul's peace plan with G-23 leaders

Atruce has finally been Ahammered out in the Congress. Rahul Gandhi seems to have made peace with the Group of 23 dissidents. The party high command is keen that ranks be closed at the earliest so that a decision is taken about the impending rehabilitation of Rahul Gandhi either as the party president or as Leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party in place of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Since Rahul Gandhi is playing an active role without holding any post. There is a widespread

perception in the Congress that Rahul Gandhi is engaged in backseat driving, making all organisational appointments and parlays with congressmen as if he is the deciding authority and not Interim president Sonia Gandhi. Be it Punjab, Maharashtra Kerala, Goa, he is meeting Congressmen in large numbers these days. There is a feeling that back-seat driving and daily tweet politics is not sending the correct message. The poll in 5 states of Puniab. Uttarakhand, Manipur, UP and Goa- are very crucial for the party. In four states the battle is between the BJP and Congress up front and there are prospects that Congress does better. It is part of this arrangement that two more dissidents- Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mukul Wasnik - may be rehabilitated. Rahul Gandhi spoke to Azad and the Gandhi family is moving ahead in the spirit of 'forget and forgive'. He was sent as Congress representative at an all-party meet on J&K. Azad will be sent to Rajya Sabha from Tamil Nadu while Mukul Wasnik may be brought from Maharashtra as there is a vacancy in Rajya Sabha. The party sees a bright chance of retaining Punjab, winning Uttarakhand and even Goa and has an outside chance in Manipur.

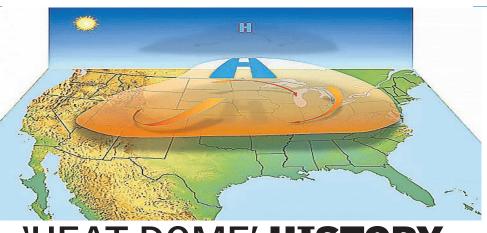


op special

HEATWAVE HORROR

Much of the Pacific Northwest has been blasted with sweltering heat this week. A high pressure dome combined with the worst drought in modern history and launched temperatures to triple digits, toppling records even before the official start of summer. Experts believe the scale and severity of the heat dome were undoubtedly multiplied by climate change. The US states of Washington and Oregon, as well as British Columbia in Canada, boiled this week in all-time high temperatures that have caused hundreds of deaths. The heat wave resulted in some of the highest mercury levels ever recorded in the region, including the highest temperature ever measured in Canada at 49.6 °C (121.3 °F)





'HEAT DOME' HI

he origins of the heatwave can be traced back to tor-L rential rains in China. There, the warm, moist air rose and was eventually sucked up by the jet stream, which transported it east over cooler waters.

When that air current encountered an upper-level highpressure zone, also called a ridge,

The Canadian military was on standby July 4 to

and tinder-dry conditions as the government in

summer" ahead. At least 174 fires were active in

the western province of British Columbia, 78 of

them sparked in the last two days, officials said.

The town of Lytton, 250 kilometers (155 miles)

structural damage and 90 percent of the village

is burned, including the centre of town," local

MP Brad Vis said. The village's 250 residents

dropping Canadian record high temperature.

were evacuated, one day after it set a jaw-

northeast of Vancouver, "has sustained

Ottawa warned of a "long and challenging

help evacuate towns and fight more than 170 wildfires fuelled by a record-smashing heatwave

it started to significantly deform June 25, forcing to accommodate the high-pressure area south of the jet stream's meander.

These conditions made way for

a massive Rex block that is more

often formed during La Niña

vears. In this situation, a high-

pressure area stays there for a

long time and does not let cyclones pass through it, which could have cooled the region.

As the Pacific Northwest, just as the Southwest, experienced severe drought conditions, the already warm air was heating more quickly than usual, which intensified the ridge so strongly that it caused a heat dome.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTION?

"A world without climate of ex-change would have still tremes." had a heatwave in the Pacific Northwest. It just would have been not quite as record-setting," said Zeke Hausfather, a climate expert at the Breakthrough Institute. Dubbing climate "like steroids for the weather," Hausfather said: "If a baseball player or Olympic athlete is taking steroids, they're still going to perform better some days and worse some days, but on average, their performance is going to go up. And so climate is doing something similar to the weather. That makes it more likely to experience these sort

tremes." Daniel Swain, a climate expert at UCLA added that "it is very possible that climate change increased this heatwave to an even greater degree", observing that the drought may have bolstered the heat dome because the energy of the sun's rays is no longer being used to evaporate water, so instead it warms the atmosphere more. Hausfather added, "We're stuck with the warming ... And so we need to be prepared for these sorts of events to be more frequent.

CANADA

Alberta - June 29 106.7 °F

Idaho - June 29

115 °F

Manitoba - July 3

100.6 °F 103.6 °F

UNITED STATES

Oregon - June 26 107 °F

British Columbia - June 29

121.3 °F

Saskatchewan - July 1

Washington - June 27 104 °F

Over 700 dead; toll **IMPACTS OF EXTREME TEMPERATURES** expected to go up > Wildfires

ach day, more deaths are being linked to the heatwave that struck the Pacific Northwest this past week, with medical staff who treated people overwhelmed by temperatures well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) saying the toll from the extreme weather will keep creeping up.

The death toll in Oregon alone has reached at least 95, the state medical examiner said Friday, with most occurring in Multnomah County, which encompasses Portland. The deaths include a Guatemalan immigrant who collapsed as he worked at a plant nursery in a rural Oregon town during the soaring heat

In Canada, British Columbia's chief coroner, Lisa Lapointe, said Friday that 719 sudden and unexpected deaths have been reported in the province during the heatwave, and that number over a seven-day period is unprecedented. LaPointe said the number of deaths is three times more than what would normally occur during the same period.

Washington state authorities have linked about 30 deaths to the heat, with more reports coming in each day this week

'Heatwaves claimed over 17,000 lives in India since 1971'

eatwaves have claimed more than 17,000 lives in 50 years in India, according to a paper recently published by the country's top meteorologists. The paper said there were 706 heatwave incidents in the country from 1971-2019. Heatwave is one of the extreme weather events (EWE). In 50 years (1971-2019) EWE killed 1,41,308 people. Of this, 17,362 people were killed due to heatwave -- a little over 12 percent of the total deaths recorded, the study said. The maximum heatwave deaths were in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha, it added. Core Heatwave Zone (CHZ) is the most prone area for heatwave (HW) and severe heatwave (SHW) with the highest frequency of occurrence during the month of May.

There were 1,792 emergency room visits for suspected heatrelated illness since June 25, the Washington state Department of Health said Thursday. Of those visits, 21% required people to be admitted to the hospital.



Thunderstorms

The heatwave in the US West that brought three consecutive days of record-high temperatures to Lake Tahoe and is forecast to continue into the holiday weekend gave way briefly Wednesday to thunderstorms and flood advisories across parts of Nevada. The service issued flood advisories in parts of Lyon and Douglas counties after up to 1.5 inches (4 centimeters) of rain fell in the Pine Nut Mountain southeast of Carson City. Parts of neighboring Nye and Esmeralda were under a severe thunderstorm warning, with reports of winds up to 60 mph (96 kph) and quarter-sized hail but no immediate damage.



Blackouts

The unprecedented Northwest US heatwave that slammed Seattle and Portland, Oregon, moved inland- prompting a electrical utility in Spokane, Washington, to resume rolling blackouts amid heavy power demand. Officials said a dozen deaths in Washington and Oregon may be tied to the intense heat that began late last week. About 9,300 Avista Utilities customers in Spokane lost power Monday and the company said more planned blackouts began Tuesday afternoon in the city of about 220,000 people.



Drownings

Several deaths have been reported linked to drowning in Washington lakes and rivers as sweltering residents flocked to beaches in search of a respite from a record heatwave. Every summer, people die in local lakes and rivers as temperatures rise. The deceptively cold waters can shock even experienced swimmers and lead to drownings, especially for those not wearing life jackets. As of last week, King County officials had counted 12 drownings for the year, according to preliminary figures.



Buckled roads

he temperature rose to a new high Sunday night that a state trooper in Washington and the Seattle office of the National Weather Service advised people to stay off the road as the heat was causing asphalt to warp, crack and buckle in a number of areas. The heatwave, which touched 46°C, is causing the expansion of metal fittings on roads and other infrastructure. Some roads appeared to have cracked and pictures also showed metal coverings in houses expanding and becoming out of shape.







business



While at the start of the year most of us anticipated a gradual return to normalcy and offices in turn, the 2nd wave of **Covid postponed a permanent** return to work. However, it has reinforced a definite shift in the way we work, which is here to stay AMIT RAMANI FOUNDER AND CEO, AWFIS

NO MERIT IN VIL'S PLEA TO DEFER PAYMENT DEADLINE

Urging the government not to agree to Vodafone Idea's plea to defer the April 2022 deadline for payment of ₹8,292cr spectrum installment, non-profit body 'Telecom Watchdog' has said that such requests are "unjustified" and "illegal"



Pandemic or not,

44% to \$49.34bn

H1 M&As soar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

uote

New norm to calculate interest on overdue FDs

The extensive localised lockdown measures implemented due to the 2nd wave, were

almost akin to the nationwide lockdown last year. Unlike the 1st wave, the surge in infections in non-metro and rural hinterlands dampened rural consumer sentiments. This reflected in a sharp sequential fall in 2W retail sales

ROHAN KANWAR GUPTA VP AND SECTOR HEAD, CORPORATE RATINGS, ICRA



understanding and appreciation of the fundamental character of Morrisons

ANDREW HIGGINSON CHAIRMAN, MORRISONS



notification saving it wanted to sell its stake in the West Ourna-2 field to Chinese companies

IHSAN ABDUL JABBAR OIL MINISTER, IRAC

SHORT TAKES

Auto demand remains skewed

New Delhi: Automobile demand in June has remained skewed in favour of passenger vehicles (PVs) and tractors, said Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL) in a report. According to the report, commercial vehicles (CVs) and two-wheelers' (2Ws) sales are yet to catch up. "June '21 saw a gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions across states, with a good recovery witnessed in PVs and tractors.'

JK Cement targets 10% growth New Delhi: JK Cement Ltd

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INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE New Delhi, July 4: The Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) has amended the norms as per which unclaimed maturity proceeds of term deposits (TDs), popularly known as Fixed Deposits (FDs) with banks will attract the rate of interest as applicable to savings accounts or the contracted rate of interest on the matured TD, whichever is lower.

As per the current rules, if a term deposit matures and proceeds are unpaid, the amount left unclaimed with the bank shall attract rate of interest as applicable to savings deposits. "On a review of these instruc-

tions, it has been decided that if a Term Deposit (TD) matures and

Ride-hailing app Didi banned in China over data protection

REUTERS

olation.

Beijing, July 4: China's cyberspace administration said Sunday that it had ordered smartphone app stores to stop selling the ridehailing firm Didi Global Inc's app after finding that Didi had illegally collected users' personal data.

The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) said on its social media feed that it had ordered Didi to make changes to comply with Chinese data protection rules. It did not specify the nature of Didi's vi-

tended, said the sources. Didi responded by saying it had The government's tough new estopped registering new users and commerce rules announced June would remove its app from app 21 aimed at strengthening protecstores. It said it would make changes tion for consumers, caused conto comply with rules and protect users' rights



Chinese regulators have tightened data collection rules for major tech firms in recent years.

CAC Friday announced an investigation into Didi to protect "national security and the public interest", two days after the firm began trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Didi, which offers services in China and more than 15 other markets, gathers vast amounts of realtime mobility data every day. It uses some of the data for autonomous driving technologies and traffic analysis Founded by Will Cheng in 2012, the company has already been subject to regulatory probes in China over safety and its operating licence



proceeds are unpaid, the amount left unclaimed with the bank shall attract rate of interest as applicable to savings account or the contracted rate of interest on the matured TD, whichever is lower," the RBI said in a circular.

New Delhi, July 4: Amazon and

India's Tata Group warned gov-

ernment officials Saturday that

plans for tougher rules for online

retailers would have a major impact

on their business models, four

sources familiar with the discus-

At a meeting organised by the

consumer affairs ministry and the

government's investment promo-

tion arm, Invest India, many ex-

ecutives expressed concerns and

confusion over the proposed rules

and asked that the July 6 deadline

for submitting comments be ex-

sions told Reuters.

REUTERS

There will be a similar norm in terms of term deposits in co-op erative banks

The central bank has sent out a circular to all scheduled commercial banks, small finance banks, local area banks, primary (urban)

'India will see a faster economic recovery'

New Delhi: The RBI should not print money to finance the fiscal deficit as it will lead to fiscal profligacy, eminent economist Pinaki Chakraborty said Sunday, expressing hope that India will see a faster economic recovery if there is no major third pandemic wave. In an interview, Chakraborty, the director of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) said that high inflation is certainly a concern and there is a need to stabilise inflation to a level which is manageable. "I think this debate started in the beginning of the pandemic and printing money for deficit financing was not considered. I don't think the RBI should ever do that, he noted and added that it will only "incentivise fiscal profligacy". "We stopped it in 1996 through memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the RBI and the government. We should not go back to it again." he said. There have been calls from various guarters recently that the central bank should print money to finance the fiscal deficit.

co-operative banks, district central co-operative banks, and state co-operative banks, in this regard. Term deposit refers to an interest-bearing deposit received by the

bank for a fixed period and shall also include deposits such as recurring, cumulative, annuity, reinvestment deposits, and cash certificates.

normal life, the deal street was busy in the first half of 2021, closing 44 per cent more deals worth USD 49.34 billion than in the same period in 2020 that was also ravaged by the first wave of the killer viral infections, shows an industry report.

Mumbai, July 4: Despite the sec-

ond wave of Covid-19 scuppering



Mergers and acquisitions (M&As) were worth USD 34.3 billion in the same period in 2020. Deal volume grew 5 per cent to 730 from 693 a vear ago, according to the latest data from Refinitiv, the LSE Group arm that is into financial markets data.

Of the total, cross-border M&As amounted to USD 21.73 billion across 210 deals, up from USD 16.02 billion across 195 deals in the same period in 2020.

Globally, quarterly M&As surpassed USD 1 trillion for fourth consecutive quarter, making it the strongest year-on-year percentage growth on record. Worldwide M&As totalled USD

2.8 trillion during the first half, up

a record 132 per cent compared to

the same period last year. This is the

strongest opening for deal making

since records began in 1980. Of this

deals bigger than USD 10 billion

have increased 94 per cent, while

deals of USD 1-5 billion have reg-

istered triple-digit percentage gains.

named as the discussions were private.

The proposed policy states eand Appario.

huge impact on its sellers. were already covered by existing law

commerce firms must ensure none of their related enterprises are listed as sellers on their websites. That could impact Amazon in particular as it holds an indirect stake in at least two of its sellers, Cloudtail

Jindal Steel lauds state's Global VR headset 'pre-emption policy' market grows 52%

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: A leading steel producer Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL) has praised the innovative and progressive policies of the Odisha government for protecting the interests of the state-

based industries. JSPL Managing Director, VR Sharma said. "There is an excellent



to the Director of Mines for securing minerals as per the existing pre-emption policy Sharma further added that policies for securing the raw material for state-based industries. like the pre-emption policy, boost confidence and encouraged all entrepreneurs to come and invest in the mineral-rich state. "Presently the steel industries in

Schneider to infuse ₹350-₹400cr

ectric

30

BIZ BUZZ

Odisha are reeling under severe iron ore crisis and this simple policy of pre-emption can be a savior. provided industries come forward and just follow the simple process laid out by the state government," he added

"JSPL has been encouraged by the pro-active and forward-looking policies of the state government under the visionary leader-

AGENCIES

San Francisco, July 4: Led by Facebook, the global shipments of virtual reality (VR) headsets grew 52.4 per cent (year over year) in the first quarter of 2021, according to a new IDC report. Standalone headsets, which fea-



While Oculus currently



e-Comm firms say new rules will hit biz

cern among the country's online retailers, notably market leaders Amazon and Walmart Inc's Flipkart.

New rules limiting flash sales, barring misleading advertisements and mandating a complaints system, among other proposals, could force the likes of Amazon and Flipkart to review their business structures, and may increase costs

for domestic rivals including Reliance Industries' JioMart, BigBasket and Snapdeal.

Amazon argued that Covid-19 had already hit small businesses and the proposed rules will have a huge impact on its sellers, arguing that some clauses were already covered by existing law, two of the sources said.

The sources asked not to be

Covid-19 had already hit small businesses and the proposed rules will have a arguing that some clauses

Amazon argued that

part of JK Organisation, targets up to 10% growth in its revenue this fiscal, helped by the government's push for infrastructure, a good monsoon and pent-up demand for the sector, said a top company official. Despite a blip in sales in the April-June 2021 quarter on account of pandemic-led disruptions, JK Cement is "optimistic" and expects its growth momentum to continue in 2021-22 also," JK Cement COO (Grey Cement Business) Rajnish Kapur said.

FPIs invest ₹13K cr in markets

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New Delhi: In reversal of a two-month selling trend, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in June turned out to be net buyers by investing a net ₹13.269 crore in Indian markets. This could be attributed to improvement in investor sentiments on the back of consistently falling coronavirus cases in the country and hopes of an early opening of the economy, said Morningstar India Associate Director (Manager Research) Himanshu Srivastava.

Amul turnover rises 2% in FY21

New Delhi: The total turnover of GCMMF, which markets dairy products under Amul brand, grew 2% to ₹39,200 crore despite the Covid-19 pandemic, its Managing Director R S Sodhi said Sunday. Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) had posted a 17% jump in revenue during the financial year 2019-20 to ₹38,550 crore. In an interview, Sodhi said the growth slowed down during the last fiscal but he expects sales to bounce back in the current FY 2021-22.

policy on pre-emption of iron ore which was issued by the Odisha Government, much ahead of time on June 26, 2014, and further amended on April 16, 2015. JSPL and other state-based plants have immensely benefitted from this policy as it is a simple process to apply

through WhatsApp. With exciting

'SabseBadi Savings' will be live till

customers to get items at low and

affordable prices. Over the last 2

shopping for the Indian customer

by focusing on affordability and

decades, Big Bazaar has enhanced

offers across food and other

important categories, the

July 11, 2021, allowing the

accessibility

Big Bazaar launches 'Sabse badi savings'

announced the country's biggest savings on monthly shopping - 'Sabse

badi savings'. Customers get a chance to save big on monthly groceries

and daily essentials by shopping from their nearest Big Bazaar store or

shopping online at shop.bigbazaar.com, the Big Bazaar App, and even

Bhubaneswar: Big Bazaar, India's leading hypermarket chain,

ship of CM Naveen Patnaik and has already announced ambitious capacity expansion of its Angul Steelworks from 6 MTPA to 25.2 MTPA with an investment outlay of over ₹1 lakh crore to make Angul the largest steel plant in the world," Sharma concluded.

Bhubaneswar: Schneider Electric,

announced plans to infuse ₹350

crore to ₹400 crore in its Indian

Technologies, a leader in power

backup, home electrical, and a top

subsidiary Luminous Power

of energy and automation

the leader in digital transformation

HTC Vive Focus, accounted for the vast majority of shipments, capturing 82.7 per cent share during the quarter, up from 50.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2020.

ture an all-encompassing design

such as the Oculus Quest 2 or the

The growing popularity of gaming, as well as fitness, has helped spread consumer awareness of VR while companies like Facebook have made the tech more accessible, the IDC said in a statement.

"Oculus has singlehandedly driven growth in the market as the company managed to capture almost two thirds share of global VR headset shipments during the quarter," said Jitesh Ubrani, research manager for IDC's Mobile and Consumer Device Trackers.

"While the company currently dominates the consumer segment it faces competition in the commercial segment and its lack of presence in China leaves an opportunity for local brands as well as brands that can cater to businesses," he added

dominates the consumer segment, it faces competition in the commercial segment and the lack of presence in China leaves an opportunity for local brands as well as brands that can cater to businesses

JITESH UBRANI I RESEARCH MANAGER, MOBILE AND CONSUMER DEVICE TRACKERS, IDC

companies DPVR and Pico also performed well during the quarter, finishing as the second and third ranked companies and growing 108.6 per cent and 44.7 per cent (YoY), respectively.

HTC and Sony rounded out the top 5 VR headset companies. Looking ahead, IDC forecasts VR headset shipments to grow 28.9 per cent (YoY) in 2021.

The long-term outlook remains quite strong as global shipments are forecast to grow to 28.6 million in 2025 with a five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 41.4 per cent.

In addition to Oculus, Chinese

Govt may issue guidelines for 'flex-fuel' vehicles by O

player in residential solar technology in India. The investments will be

the battery and inverter production capacity. With the fresh funding, it

plans to expand the production to 5.1 million by 2025 and increase its

which will be further ramped up to 65,000 in the second phase

used to pursue aggressive growth plans of Luminous which entail doubling

capacity by 63%. It also plans to develop a new plant that will support the

phases; the first phase will see the manufacturing capacity of 30,000 TTBs,

production of Tall-Tubular Batteries (TTB). The plant will be set up in two

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 4: Auto companies may soon be asked to manufacture passenger and commercial vehicles that run on multiple fuel configuration aimed at reducing the use of polluting fossil fuels and cutting down harmful emissions

New guidelines for use of flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) using flex engines is expected to be issued by the third quarter of current year (FY22) that would specify engine configuration and other changes required in vehicles to conform to stipulated changes in fuel mix.

The government is also working on an incentive scheme to promote manufacture and use of flex

engines in vehicles. The details would be specified when policy in this regard is unveiled.

The use of flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) is being actively looked at by the government to ensure increased use of bio-fuels for running vehicles, Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor had told IANS earlier.

An FFV is a modified version of vehicles that could run both on gasoline and doped petrol with different levels of ethanol blends. These are currently being used successfully in Brazil, giving people the option to switch fuel (gasoline and ethanol) depending on price and convenience. In fact, a majority of vehicles sold in Brazil are FFVS

For India, FFVs will present a dif-



ferent advantage as they will allow vehicles to use different blends of ethanol mixed petrol available in different parts of the country.

The current regulations allow for mixing up to 10 per cent ethanol in

petrol. However, due to short supplies and transportation challenges, 10 per cent blended petrol is available only in 15 states while bio fuel in other states varies between 0 to 5 per cent.

SHAPING THE FUTURE

NEW GUIDELINES FOR USE OF FLEXIBLE FUEL VEHICLES (FFVS) USING FLEX ENGINES IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED BY THE THIRD QUARTER OF CURRENT YEAR

THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON AN INCENTIVE SCHEME TO PROMOTE MANUFACTURE AND USE OF FLEX ENGINES IN VEHICLES

THE USE OF FFVS IS BEING ACTIVELY LOOKED AT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE INCREASED USE OF BIO-FUELS FOR RUNNING VEHICLES

> FFVs will allow vehicles to use all the blends and also run on unblended fuel.

Introduction of FFVs will require adoption of vehicle standards, technologies and retrofitting

configurations that will have to be looked at by the Ministry of Heavy Industries

The country is moving quickly in the direction of E-20 or 20 per cent ethanol blended petrol fuel that could be introduced as early as 2023 with a nationwide roll out by 2025. The urgency for policy of vehicle is keeping these goals in mind

For auto companies, introduction of FFVs will pose another challenge that they are already facing with the fast adoption of electric vehicles.

If standards on FFVs are made mandatory, it would require additional investment in production lines and technology trans-fers to change the character of the vehicles.





sports

Danes missing

Eriksen badly

Baku (Azerbaijan): Christian

Eriksen's absence makes it even

harder to forget what happened

to him. Denmark coach Kasper

Saturday, his mind wandering

was playing in the European

thought about him (Eriksen)

during and after the game

against the Czech Republic,'

Hjulmand said. "I keep thinking

how amazing it would be to see

and he's a big part of our road to Wembley," Hjulmand added.

Eriksen survived a cardiac arrest

during Denmark's opening Euro

2020 match three weeks ago,

and the emotional outpouring

that followed has spurred the

when a foul on Kane allowed Luke

him play (in the next match). He's still a big part of the team

Championship quarterfinals. "I

from the match even as his team

Hjulmand found that out

Mithali milestone

Indian batswoman becomes world's highest run-getter

AGENCIES

Worcester, July 4: The Indian eves earned a consolation fourwicket win over their English counterparts in the third and final ODI played here Saturday. The win again was spearheaded by skipper Mithali Raj (75 n o), who got his third successive half century of the series. India however, lost the series 1-2. During the course of her match-

OrissaPOST MONDAY JULY 5 2021 BHUBANESWAR

winning knock, Mithali became the highest run-getter in women's cricket across all formats, overtaking former England skipper Charlotte Edwards. The talismanic Indian batswoman got to the milestone with a boundary down the ground off Nat Schiver in the 23rd over. Mithali now has become the world's most prolific batter in women's internationals, overtaking Edwards' 10,273 runs. She currently has 10,358 runs in her kitty.

Mithali said after the game that her 'hunger' for runs remains the same as it was 22 years ago. She is now trying to add 'new dimen-

sions' to her There were times batting for one last hurwhen I wanted to give up cricket, but something kept me rah at next year's ODI World Cup going. The hunger for in New Zealand. "The way

runs has never dried up MITHALI RAJ things have gone, it wasn't an

easy journey. It had its trials and challenges. I always believed that trials have a purpose, Mithali said about her journey that started June 26, 1999 in Milton Keynes against Ireland.

"There were times when I wanted to give up (cricket) for various reasons but something kept me going.

1	lere i alli 22 ye		lei nationai	and the second	1	1. 1. 1.
ſ	Format	Runs	Hs	Avg	100s	50s
	Tests-11	669	214	44.60	1	4
	ODIs-217	7,304	125	51.80	7	58
	T20S-89	2,364	97*	37.52	0	17
- U						

cricket in role that's assigned to me over the

years-taking the responsibility of the batting unit and play throughout," Mithali said. 2019. She has "Chasing gives me a better already

> picture of building an innings along with other batters in the middle. I am able to control the game. That really worked for me and also having some young girls in the team, it



helps to guide them when you are in the middle. The entire batting unit revolves around me, it is the job that is given to me by the coach and team management," the Indian skipper added.

. Mithali's feat was lauded by some formers, both in India and abroad. Former Australia women's team captain Lisa Sthalekar expressed

her amazement at Mithali's ability to consistently deliver. 'Really the star of India was Mithali Raj.

She showed us exactly why she has continued to keep breaking records. It just shows you the class that she is," Sthalekar said.

De Paul and Lautaro Martinez before firing home an injury time free-kick to cap a stunning individual performance. The scoreline Former India captain Shantha was harsh on Ecuador, who ended

3 LIONS DEVOUR UKRAIN ENGLAND SKIPPER HARRY KANE COMES TO THE TWO SUPERB STR

AGENCIES

Rome, July 4: Skipper Harry Kane scored twice as a buoyant England cruised through to the semifinals of Euro 2020 with a one-sided 4-0 win over Ukraine here Saturday. Kane put England ahead inside four minutes on a sweaty evening in the Italian capital.

Then Gareth Southgate's side put the quarterfinal tie out of sight for Ukraine with two more goals early in the second half, one from Harry Maguire before Kane netted again. Substitute Jordan Henderson got the fourth. The way England played they will be confident of going on to reach a first ever European Championship final. They can even now claim a first major international title since 1966.

Denmark lie in wait, but the way England played Saturday they will be favourites to win the semifinal which will be played Tuesday at the Wembley Stadium in London. England's statistics are impressive. They have come through five games at this tournament all without conceding a goal.

was outstanding, with Raheem Sterling and Jadon Sancho-making his first start at the Euro-too hot for Ukraine to handle.

Kane, their captain, had gone close to eight hours without finding the net for his country but his opener here was his second in just eight minutes following the late strike that secured victory over

Gionia (Brazil), July 4: Lionel

Messi scored one goal and created

two others as Argentina beat

Ecuador 3-0 here Saturday to reach

the Copa America semifinals. In

Tuesday's last four match, the 14-

time winners will play Colombia,

Messi teed up goals for Rodrigo

who beat Uruguay on penalties.

AGENCIES



MAN OF THE MOMENT: England skipper Harry Kane runs towards English fans

Germany. Regardless of the opposition, Englan'd display at the Stadio Olimpico was a step-up in class in the final third to their pre-

Sterling, who terrorised the Ukraine defence down the left, played in Kane who poked the ball past Georgiy Bushchan to give England the lead. Ukraine's giant

ARGENTINA SEAL COPA AMERICA SEMIFINAL SPOT

Ecuador 'Messimerised'

striker Roman Yaremchuk forced a save from Jordan Pickford and a Declan Rice piledriver was kept out by Bushchan, with England looking comfortable.

other header, this time from Henderson.

Smith gearing up for demanding sub-continent tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, July 4: Star Australian batsman Steve Smith is looking forward to a 'physical, mental and emotional' battle when his team tour the sub-continent for eight Tests, including four against India. The matches will be played as part of the World Test Championship. In the next cycle, they are scheduled_ to also play two Tests in Pakistan and two in Sri Lanka, besides 10 Tests at home.

"I've had a look at the Future Tours Programme (FTP) and it's pretty hectic, so there's plenty to

after scoring the opener against Ukraine Some of their play in wide areas

vious games at the Euro.

Ukraine however, left the England

fans worried by finishing strongly in the first half. They need not have worried. The 3 Lions scored again less than a minute after the restart

on goal but when he was tackled by

Galindez, Messi reacted quickest

mained Ecuador's most likely route

back into the match and the livewire

forward's near post shot hit

Martinez finally ended

Ecuador's resistance six minutes

from time from Messi's pass after

Hincapie was caught in posses-

sion by Angel Di Maria. Then

Messi put the icing on the cake by

Martinez's leg before going out.

and teed up De Paul to score. After the break, Valencia re-

Shaw to deliver a free-kick from the left for Maguire to head in. Four minutes later Sterling supplied the overlapping Shaw and he crossed for a rejuvenated Kane to head home.

team on.

The Tottenham star nearly had his hat-trick, a stinging volley producing a fine save from Bushchan. From Mason Mount's resulting corner came the fourth goal, an-

cricket but the hunger for runs has never sort of dried up. I am still very passionate to go out there, be there in the middle and win games for India. I know there is still room for improvements in terms of my batting and that is something I am working on... There are certain dimensions I would like to add to my batting ... " Mithali said at the virtual post-match press conference.

Mitahli has retired from T20

hinted that the 2022 Women's ODI World Cup, to be held in New Zealand from March 4 to April 3, will be her swansong.

With vast experience on her side, the 38-year-old right-hander said she is currently enjoying the role of a mentor while fulfilling her responsibility in the team's bat-

Batting has always been a main role for me in the team, the sort of

ting unit.

'Sachin Tendulkar' of women's cricket. India's Test and ODI captain averages a staggering 51.80 in the 50-over format.

Rangaswamy called Mithali the

"Her records speak for themselves. What she has achieved is comparable to the achievements of the great Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar. It is safe to say that she will be lonely at the top for a long time. I don't see her record being broken anytime soon."

Shantha said.

the game with 10 men after Pedro Hicapie's dismissal.

Carlos Gruezo almost gifted Argentina am early goal when his attempted back pass sent Messi clean through with only Galindez to beat, but the six-time Ballon d'Or winner saw his shot cannon back off the post. At the other end, goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez had to be alert to parry a stunning 20-yard volley by Sebastian Mendez.

Argentina had their own let off seven minutes from half time when



OVER THE MOON: Lionel Messi celebrates with Angel Di Maria after scoring against Ecuador

Pervis Estupinan crossed from the left and Enner Valencia's flicked header narrowly evaded the sliding Alan Franco at the back post.

Two minutes later Argentina were in front, as 'Messimagic' struck. First he played in Nicolas Gonzalez

converting a free-kick. **Record-breaker Ospina**

ended in 0-0 drab draw.

Goalkeeper David Ospina was the hero as Colombia beat Uruguay on penalties in Brasilia. Ospina saved two spot-kicks in the shootout on the day he earned his 112th Colombian cap, moving clear of the previous national record he shared with the iconic Carlos Valderrama. Ospina saved from Jose Gimenez and Matias Vina while Colombia scored all four of their penalties. The match had

look forward to, obviously including the Ashes and then tours to the sub-continent that, particularly in Test cricket, challenge you physically, mentally and emotionally," Smith was quoted as saying by 'cricket.Com.Au'.

"They're great tours to be involved in and really test you as a player. I'm certainly looking forward to those. I think (the WTC) is a pretty cool concept - to have more relevance in every game you play, I think it is great," Smith added.

SHORT TAKES

Max triumphs

Spielberg (Austria): Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen won Sunday the

Austrian Grand Prix from pole

position. It was Verstappen's

third straight victory and he

extended his lead over title

points after nine races. He has

five wins compared to three

fourth. Hamilton's Mercedes

for Hamilton, who finished

teammate Valtteri Bottas

finished second ahead of

McLaren's Lando Norris.

SA win series

St Geore's (West Indies):

Aiden Markram (70, 48b, 3x4,

42b, 4x4, 2x6) shared a 127-

South Africa for a 25-run win

fifth Twenty20. In the process

the visitors won the series 3-2.

over the West Indies in the

South Africa scored 168 for

four and the restricted the

hosts to 143 for nine wickets.

Evin Lewis (52) was the only

one to offer some resistance

for the West Indies. Pacers

the visitors on a slightly

uneven pitch.

partnership which set up

run second-wicket

4x6) and Quinton de Kock (60,

rival Lewis Hamilton to 32

ROGLIC, MATHIEU OPT Self-belief helped Sajan beat all odds **OUT OF TOUR DE FRANCE** AGENCIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 4: One of India's top swimmers, Sajan Prakash has said shutting down all the 'nonsense' around him and self belief and having a great support system were keys to his dream comeback. He is now aiming todo well in the finals of the upcoming Tokyo Games.

The Keralaite was laid low by a career-threatening neck injury in 2019. The Covid-19 induced lockdown only made it more challenging for Sajan to qualify for the Olympics as the pools remained closed for a lengthy period. However, the 27-year-old clocked 1.56:38 seconds in the men's 200m butterfly event in Rome to become the first ever Indian swimmer to earn a direct Olympic qualification.

"There were many comments, even before the lockdown that I was old and am not getting any improvements," Sajan said Sunday in a virtual interaction organised by SAL

"Keeping all aside, I think the im-Lungi Ngidi (3/32) and Kagiso portant thing was the support sys-Rabada (2/24) bowled well for tem believed in me. My friends backed me and I didn't lose hope in AGENCIES myself. I'm 27-year-old and a swim-



FIRST INDIAN SWIMMER TO EARN A SPOT DIRECTLY INTO THE OLYMPICS

ming event like this needs a lot of confidence in you. It's all the work we did. We tried to stay focussed on our goal and sticking towards our business and not letting any nonsense come inside. With that we could achieve it (Olympic qualification)," Sajan added.

Sajan was asked about a realistic target at the Games. He said

that he certainly will not be in the medal hunt. "I would say cut down another 0.5 seconds and it's possible in this case and that will take me to 1:55:8 seconds, something that may get me into the semifinals and maybe towards the final as well," stated Sajan.

Sajan said he's working on the turns and trying to cover more



I had to basically start from scratch after the injury healed. With the help of my coach and my dedication, I have qualified for Tokyo SAJAN PRAKASH

distance in one-stroke so as to cut down the timing. "We have 20-odd days still left for the meet. It's about working on small things. I'm working on the turns, increasing more distance on that one stroke so that I reach the wall quicker and turn,' Sajan informed.

Sajan first had signs of the neck injury during the sidelines of the World Championships in Gwangju in July 2019 but it was only at the Nepal South Asian Games in December, scans revealed a slip disc on his neck's C4, C5 and C6 bones. Since then it has been very hard work, but Sajan today stands justified for the efforts he has put in. He feels that he has in it to qualify for the semis in Tokyo. "I will enjoy every moment in the pool," he asserted.

Cluses (France), July 4: Primoz Roglic, last year's runner up, abandoned the Tour de France before stage nine after suffering multiple bruises when he crashed in stage three, the Slovenian cyclist said Sunday. "We made the decision together with the team. It doesn't make sense to continue. We're going to try to recover and focus on new goals," the Jumbo-Visma rider said in a statement.

Dutch rider Mathieu van der Poel, who wore the yellow jersey until Saturday, was also a nonstarter as he decided to focus on getting ready for the Olympics, where he will target a gold medal in mountain biking.

"Unfortunately I will not start today (Sunday). We decided with the team that the best thing for us is to quit the race and focus on the Olympics now," Van der Poel told reporters. "I am going to take some time (off) to recover from this first week. Then I will head for Tokyo and start training," he added

Roglic's title hopes faded as he finished Saturday's eighth stage more than 35 minutes behind Belgian Dylan Teuns. The two-



It doesn't make sense to continue with the injuries I have. I would rather focus now on Tokyo Olympics and start training for it

PRIMOZ ROGLIC

time Vuelta champion, who lost the Tour last year in the final time trial, had already been dropped by the overall contenders in the seventh stage Friday.

"I was going through the days but it wasn't taking me anywhere really," Roglic said. "I was in a lot of pain. It was just too much for my body and I cannot race. I'm disappointed but I have to accept it. It's the right decision," the cyclist added.

Roglic will now focus on the 🛁 Tokyo Olympics' road race and time trial. "It is definitely disappointing to leave the Tour like this.I didn't plant it this way, but I have to accept the fact that my body is revolting. You have to accept when -(your body refuses to obey your brain," he added.

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