



## CANDID CONFESSION

Screenwriter Kanika Dhillon has revealed what draws her towards complex and grey characters

LEISURE P2



## HYBRID MILITANTS

The presence of "hybrid" militants who are not listed as ultras but can carry out a terror strike is a new challenge for security forces in J&K

TWO STATES P8



## UNIQUE FEAT

India's Mithali Raj becomes world's highest run-getter across all formats of cricket

SPORTS P12

## 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.

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.

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.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	35.9°C	35.8°C
	MIN	26.0°C	26.0°C
	Humidity	100%	79%
	Rainfall	10.8mm	NIL
	Forecast	Light rain very likely	



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 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 Covid-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

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 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 health 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.

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## 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 by 12th 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 and western parts of peninsular India during the next 4-5 days, it added.

India Meteorological Department said the country 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.

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

"Prevailing meteorological 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.

## 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 rescued from the burning wreckage, officials said.

Some soldiers were seen jumping off the aircraft before it crashed and exploded around noon in the periphery of the Jolo airport in Sulu province, military officials said. Two of six villagers who were hit on the ground have died.

Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said rescue and recovery efforts were ongoing. The aircraft had 96 people on board, including three pilots and five crew and the rest were army personnel, the military said, adding 17 soldiers remained unaccounted for by nightfall. The pilots survived but were seriously injured, officials said.

The Lockheed C-130 Hercules was one of two ex-US Air Force aircraft handed over to the Philippines as part of military assistance

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," 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 offered "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-week-long herbal treatment following which they are ready for the annual Rath Yatra, which falls July 12 this year.

# leisure



## SHANNON LEE SLAMS QUENTIN 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

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#### ARIES

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 Ganesh. 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 Ganesh. 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 Ganesh. 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.

#### LEO

Your children's health may be a cause of concern today, says Ganesh. The best way to put your and your family's fears to rest would be by paying a quick 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, Ganesh says you will perform wonderfully in anything you might choose to undertake today. Even your ambition of setting up an offshore business enterprise will take root today.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says that today will be a lucky day for you. You may receive some financial 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

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 Ganesh.

#### SAGITTARIUS

The rewards of hard labour will be sweet, so start off by unwinding with some fun today. Ganesh 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 Ganesh says the day has a host of recreational 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.

#### AQUARIUS

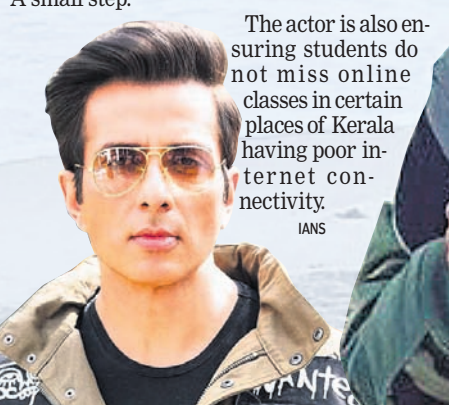
Optimism rules today, and you are assured of your success. You are not usually affected by others' opinions, and that is how it should be. But you must keep in mind the inconvenience your decisions may cause people.

#### PISCES

The focus today will be on self-improvement. You may find yourself attending seminars or workshops. Self-employed people 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 Ganesh.

## 'Biggest charity today is to give jobs'

**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."



## Ananya shares her KNPH moment

**Mumbai:** Actress Ananya Panday took to Instagram to put up a series of pictures from a beach. However, more than the photographs, the witty caption entertained 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. In a white dress with an 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)." On the work front, Ananya has a film with Vijay Deverakonda titled *Liger* and Shakun Batra's directorial next alongside Deepika Padukone and Siddhant Chaturvedi.



## Grey characters fascinate Kanika

**Mumbai:** Screenwriter Kanika Dhillon, whose new film *Hasen 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 actress Taapsee Pannu in *Hasen 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."

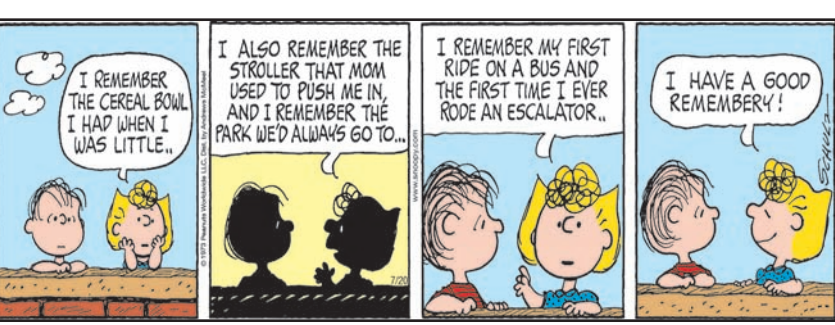
## Dia's mantras to keep oceans healthy

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

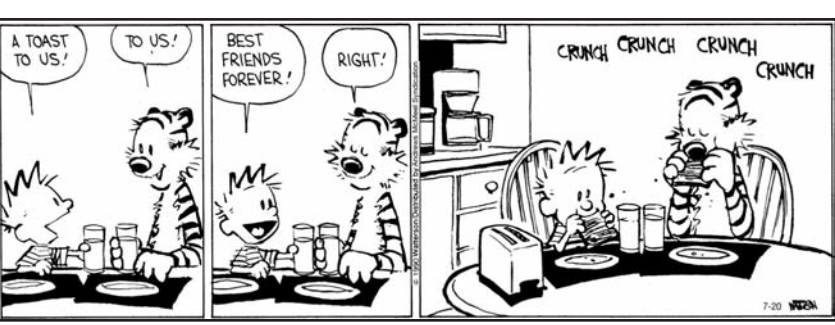


Environment activist and actor Dia Mirza has reiterated her concern over marine ecosystems, habitats and resources being vitiated and destroyed by pollutants, plastic waste, overfishing and unsustainable business practices. The UNEP Goodwill Ambassador and climate champion says: "Every year, around 8 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." Dia shares a few tips that will 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 your 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-

### PEANUTS



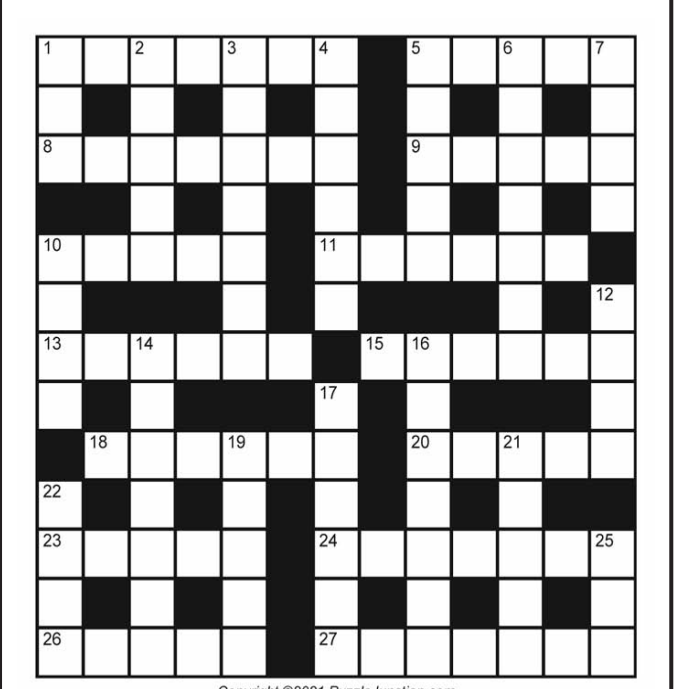
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Cacophonous
  - 5 Root veggies
  - 8 Three-pronged spear
  - 9 Bit of Gothic architecture
  - 10 Noncommittal response
  - 11 Also-rans
  - 13 Champagne and orange juice cocktail
  - 15 Be against
  - 18 News office
  - 20 Modify
  - 23 Sovereign
  - 24 Glaciers
  - 26 Fencing move
  - 27 Salt shaker?
  - 5 Fake
  - 6 Trade stoppage
  - 7 Clairvoyant
  - 10 Staff note
  - 12 Grizzly
  - 14 Overly emotional
  - 16 Tableland
  - 17 Olde worlde
  - 19 Spine-chilling
  - 21 Coronet
  - 22 Like some vaccines
  - 25 Hit the slopes
- Down**
- 1 Decay
  - 2 Band together
  - 3 Bottle uncappers
  - 4 Agree out of court

### 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.

								9	3
			7		1	4			
				8				2	
									4
4	6	5		1					
		7		6	9				
	2				3				
	7	8	9		4	6			5
		9					8		

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

A	O	B	C	D	D
H	U	R	D	L	E
S	O	L	O	H	I
E	V	A	S	I	V
A	X	I	O	M	B
A	R	E	E	H	U
A	T	I	P	I	C
S	O	N	A	T	A
N	N	T	F	R	E

**SUDOKU**

6	7	5	4	1	2	3	9	8
2	1	3	9	5	8	7	4	6
8	4	9	6	3	7	1	5	2
1	8	6	5	2	3	9	7	4
3	2	4	7	8	9	6	1	5
9	5	7	1	4	6	2	8	3
5	3	1	2	7	4	8	6	9
7	6	2	8	9	5	4	3	1
4	9	8	3	6	1	5	2	7

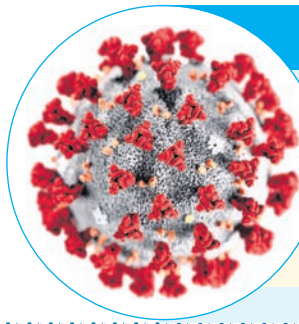
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## SOWING TIME

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



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	18,43,46,489	16,87,00,782	39,89,346
India	3,05,45,433	2,96,58,078	4,02,005
Odisha	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-



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

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

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.

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-

ited amount. It has also been successful 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

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# ATR sought from City DCP on thrashing of minor by cop

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 4:** The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPCR) Sunday sought Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Deputy Commissioner 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 OSPCPCR 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-

tally thrashing a minor boy at a tea stall. Dash also informed the press that stringent action would be taken against other cops of the PCR van after the examination of CCTV footage.

Notably, Biswal, along with three other cops attached to a PCR van of Badagada police station reached 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.

Later, the cop started thrashing the minor boy who was found requesting Biswal to spare him. The cops did not pay any heed to the hapless boy's request and allegedly took away milk packets and other items from his stall.

## CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 4:** The National Human rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police (DGP) in Odisha to provide compensation to a rape survivor of Malkangiri district.

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

# NHRC seeks reports from CS, DGP

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 Madkani 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 APEX RIGHTS BODY HAS DIRECTED THE OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO A RAPE SURVIVOR OF MALKANGIRI

district administration had not received 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 another submission before the NHRC 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.

## ENJOYING A BATH



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

PIC: MAUSAM NANDA

# State inoculates over 1cr people 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 available in the CoWIN portal, as many 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



said in its official Twitter post.

Khurda, of which the state 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

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 repeatedly 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 received from the Ministry so far, official 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 online will be administered the second dose by July 31.

Against the 10.97 lakh population of Bhubaneswar, 9.67 lakh have already 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

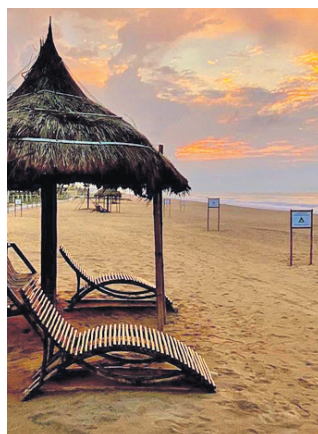
AGENCIES

**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 provided 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.

## RATH YATRA AMID PANDEMIC

# Admin to make all arrangements for servitors

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 recent meeting of Srimandir 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-19 pandemic.

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.

"The SJTA would arrange



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

Director 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



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 cooperation from the locals. Devotees can view the festival live on TV," said the DGP.

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

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

# 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

## BJP's Bishnu Sethi admitted to AIIMS

**B**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.

ected 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."

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 over 1.39 crore sample tests for Covid-19, taking into account 71,122 Saturday. The positivity rate stands at 6.56 per cent.

## NEW BARRAGE



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 year.

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 Covid-induced 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.

## Odisha welcomes OSA support in development

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 4:** The Odisha Society of the Americas organised the three day 52nd Convention at Orissa Culture Centre, Houston, Texas which concluded Sunday. In the convention, different webinars were organised where the members of Odia community in USA and experts from the state discussed various issues of the state and how they can help their native state in different ways.

The convention was inaugurated virtually by Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik, Governor Ganeshi Lal and Entrepreneur Subroto bagchi.

Pattnaik 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 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 by 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 fast-track implementation of 'Odisha Public Library Act' towards a 'Well-integrated modern public library system' across the state.

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

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 identification 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 if 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 Pattnaik 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-



Distance 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 @stscdev, @scstrti.

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

## CIVIC WOES



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

PHOTOS: BIKASH NAYAK

# Focus on sustainable use of mangrove forests: OES

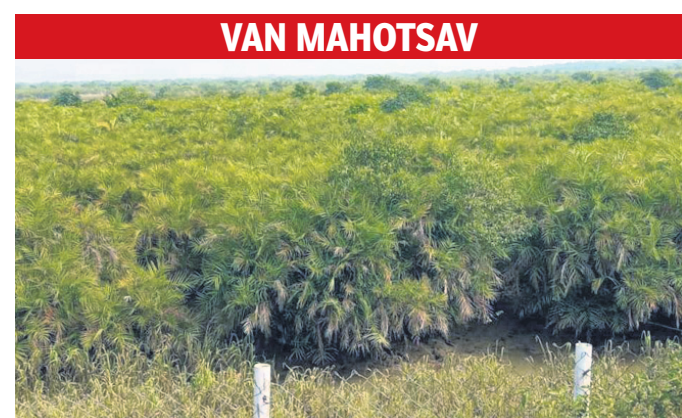
POST NEWS NETWORK

**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 experts 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 Pattnaik 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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# Inconsistency in SPCB probe on BRPL plant raises eyebrows

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, July 4:** A probe by state pollution control board (SPCB) into the alleged water pollution by the Brahmani Rivers Pellet Ltd (BRPL) at Kalinganagar in this district during 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 Suraksha 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 emanating 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 Suraksha Samiti accusing BRPL of discharging waste



■ THE SUBMISSION HAS CAUGHT THE SPCB IN THE WRONG FOOT AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL OUTFIT, KALINGANAGAR PARIBESH SURAKSHA 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 QUESTION 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

water of the plant into Ganda nallah, 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

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.



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

# Woman attempts self-immolation after Facebook lover ditches her

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Simulia, July 4:** A woman attempted self-immolation on Simulia police station premises in Balasore district, after her husband ditched her and fled, Sunday.

However, due to prompt intervention by police she was stopped from committing suicide. 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.

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-



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 phone in it.

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.

When contacted, Simulia IIC Jayant Kumar Behera said action will be taken after conducting a probe into the charges.

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, July 4:** A car owner of Guamal Kuber 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 NETWORK

**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,

on the pretext of marriage, he asked her not to reveal what had happened before anyone. However, their family members came to know about this and gave their consent for the marriage.

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

# BAITARANI: A BOON 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 Juanga tribesmen as they grow paddy, vegetables on its bed*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, July 4:** Paddy is cultivated on the Baitarani 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

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," observed Laxman Juanga, a resident of Gonasika area.

Since the flow of the river is slow, the Juangas grow paddy and vegetables on its river bed about one kilometre away from its origin.

In Keonjhar district, it flows through Joda, Champua, Saharpada, Patana, Ghasipura, Anandapur and Hatadihi blocks. In rainy season, 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.

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

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF NURSING SUPERINTENDENT

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE NO. ECoR/Pers/Med/12/Paramedical/COVID-19/02, Date : 01.07.2021

In view of the exigencies related with the ensuing 3rd wave of COVID-19 pandemic, as an adequate preparedness, a Walk-in-interview will be conducted for engagement of paramedical staff for the post of **Nursing Superintendent** on contract basis, for Central Hospital, East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar.

**VENUE, DATE & TIME OF WALK-IN-INTERVIEW:** Walk-in-Interview will be conducted on 13.07.2021. Venue: Udayagiri Meeting Hall, 2nd Floor, South Block, Rail Sadan, East Coast Railway/Head Quarters/Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar. Reporting Time: 0930 hrs., Interview from 1100 hrs. onwards.

**N.B:** For Application Format, Total no. of Vacancies, Educational Qualification/Eligibility, Age, Remuneration, Period of engagement, & other detailed terms and conditions, please refer to website: <https://www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in> -About Us-HQ Departments-Personnel-Notification.

PR-189/M/21-22 Principal Chief Personnel Officer, Bhubaneswar



MLA Narasingha Mishra inaugurating a drinking water project at Adendunguri village under Sadar block of Bolangir district, Sunday

**Bank of Baroda**  
GANGANAGAR BRANCH  
Plot No.: 857/1998, New Airport Road, Unit-6, Ganganagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha, PIN-751020

**DEMAND NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

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.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	NPA Date / 13(2) Date / Notice Return Reason	Limit (₹)	Rate of Interest	Total Dues as on 10.06.2021 (Inclusive of interest upto 31.03.2021)
1.	Borrower: Anita Pani (Proprietor), W/o: Ranjan Kumar Samal, At: Bajrapur, P.O.: Bajrapur, P.S.: Rajkanika, Dist.: Kendrapara / Guarantor: Ranjan Kumar Samal, Block No.: D-201, Gatikrushna Lagoon, Brahmewarpatna, P.O.: Badagada Brit Colony, P.S.: Badagada, Bhubaneswar-751018, Dist.: Khurda	31.03.2021 / 21.06.2021 / Insufficient Address	₹70,00,000/- & ₹4,09,000/-	8.55%	₹ 79,12,522.85 Plus unrealised interest reversed on 31.03.2021

**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 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 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.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 03.07.2021

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



# Farmers suffer owing to lack of irrigation facilities

CULTIVATORS BLAME AUTHORITIES FOR ABSENCE OF WATER SUPPLY



over rupees 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 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 that the Minor Irrigation department's role has been confined to conducting meetings only.

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 department, Manas Ranjan Das informed that silt removal couldn't start as water had flown into the reservoir. "We will soon start the process of silt removal," Das said. He however, avoided questions pertaining to a specific time-frame by which the problems of the farmers will be solved and the pending works will be completed.

Rengalbeda, Dhanurjyapur, Kuradihi, Silisuan, Kalisui and Kandarapasi villages of Jhumpura and Sadar blocks. When the irrigation project started a few years back, the farmers had immensely benefited. However, lack of maintenance of the canals has spelt doom for them.

The farmers informed the concerned authorities regarding their problems. Accordingly a sum of over rupees three crore was released from the district mineral fund (DMF) for desilting work of the Jagadala dam and the repair of the main canal.

Later, a tender was floated by the Irrigation department for the repair of the canals criss-crossing through the farmlands of the above mentioned blocks. An amount of

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

FARMERS HAD IMMENSELY BENEFITED WHEN THE IRRIGATION PROJECT STARTED A FEW YEARS BACK. HOWEVER, LACK OF MAINTENANCE OF THE CANALS HAS SPILT DOOM FOR THEM

AN AMOUNT OF OVER ₹3 CRORE AND 30 LAKH WERE ALSO RELEASED FOR RENOVATION OF CANALS

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 Keonjhar 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,



## STUDENTS' STIR

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



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

to second wave of Covid-19. The new findings will certainly add an interesting chapter to the history of Odisha, the revenue official said.

Notably, during excavation, the team discovered the base of circular hut, red-coloured pottery, black and red bordered copperware belonging to the Chalcolithic Age. During this age, most objects were made out of copper.

People associated with the excavation work said the findings indicated the lifestyle of people 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 existence of human civilisation, they informed.

## 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.



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.

# 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 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.

## 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 of 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

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 this unique 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

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 population 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 eradicate 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 population growth caused poverty and illiteracy among the Muslim

community.

"If the Muslim community checks the population growth and if they properly avail the scope of government policies like free education 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."

## CM MEETS 150 MUSLIM INTELLECTUALS

**Guwahati:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Sunday met over 150 leading indigenous Muslim personalities from diverse fields 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, artists, historians and professors among others. We discussed various issues confronting the Assamese minority people," he added. All present in the meeting

agreed that "population explosion" 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 community 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 roadmap," Sarma said.

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

the remaining are mostly Bengali-speaking Muslims.

Muslim votes are a determining 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.

# Hybrid militants: 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 | IGP, KASHMIR

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.

"The desperate nexus is modifying 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

watching movement patterns and finding a weak part of the routine. The spotter could be an OGW (over ground worker) or even a hybrid terrorist 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 ecosystem where only numbers matter – hence the victim may have no particular trait to get killed – just a convenient soft target. For the killer, who it (the target) is, does not matter," they added.

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 "hybrid" militants.

Such attacks have witnessed a 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 the interior areas of the city.

Before that, June 22, militants killed inspector Parvez Ahmed 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 struck in Saidpora area of Eidgah 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.

# 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.

## IN SEARCH OF ROOF



Nomadic Gujjar families ride on horse-carts in search of a temporary settlement on the outskirts of Jammu, Sunday.

# Drones banned in Srinagar

AGENCIES

**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.

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 commissioner 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 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 access 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.

# No more in alliance with AJP: Akhil Gogoi

AGENCIES

**Sivasagar (Assam), July 4:** Rajiv Dal president Akhil Gogoi Sunday said his party has broken the alliance 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 constituencies, 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 following his arrest in December 2019 for his alleged role in the violent anti-CAA movement in Assam, as the National Investigation 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 first-time legislator said, "We contested the assembly election alone. As of now, we are not in any alliance with the AJP."

# 'Trigger happy': Assam sees surge in police encounters

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.

The rise in the number of such incidents since the new government came to power May 10 has led the opposition 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.

"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 (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), who were killed in separate encounters with the police in Karbi Anglong district.

Four other suspected 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 in-



stituted in any case where the criminal was injured.

"Enquiry is ordered in cases where the fleeing criminal is injured only if there is any reason (to suspect that there was some extraneous issue involved). No enquiry has been ordered in any of such incidents in the last two months," he said. The incidents, where the accused have lost their lives, have been reported to the relevant authorities, including the National Human Rights Commission, as is the procedure, the Special DGP said. Among those injured in such

police 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 was doing this to cover up their laxity and appease the new regime.



## of the day quote

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

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

There would not be any third wave of Covid in the state if the people adhere to the protocols properly and follow the timely directives from the officials

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 Rajesh (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."

### 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 seeking his appearance July 5 in the case. The ED has, so far, issued three notices to Deshmukh, who has been asked to record his statement at the central agency's office in south Mumbai Monday.

### 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

**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.



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

## QUOTA 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



# Heatwave claims over 17K lives in 50 yrs: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 4:** Heatwaves 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

with the highest frequency of occurrence during the month of May. The CHZ covers states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The study assumes significance in the backdrop of recent heat waves in different parts of northern 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 temperature of more than 49 degrees Celsius. In India, the north Indian plains and the hills also experienced heat-

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.

# FARMERS TO PROTEST OUTSIDE PARL DURING MONSOON SESSION

PARLIAMENT'S MONSOON SESSION IS SET TO BEGIN JULY 19



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 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 government 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

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 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.

## DRONE INTRUSIONS

# High alert in TN, Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, July 4:** The Central intelligence agencies are on high alert in Tamil Nadu and Kerala after the twin drone attack at Air force technical airport in Jammu June 27, damaging the airport and inflicting minor injuries to a couple 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 Hambantota 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

Kerala. While the security agencies 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 Afghanistan following the systematic withdrawal of US forces

from that country, the intelligence agencies are not leaving any chances and have recommended the southern 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 terrorists 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 districts like Coimbatore, Trichy, Kanyakumari, and other southern districts of Tamil Nadu has also been closely monitored by the central agencies.

## FUN TIME



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

## Kuru Kolumn

### 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 54-member 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 Punjab also as Hardeep Singh Puri and Som Prakash represent the state in the council. A couple of fresh faces from BJP like Bhupendra Yadav 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

The 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 ally 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 Jayalalitha 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 Mallikarjuniah (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 BJP 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

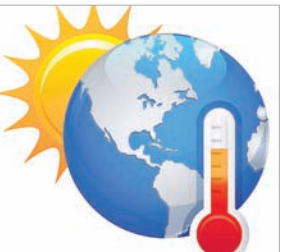
Contrary to media reports, all did not go down well between Yogi Adityanath and party high command when he visited Delhi sometime ago. The high command is extremely worried over reports emanating from UP and several surveys by credible agencies that the BJP may face a stiff challenge. The Assembly polls 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.

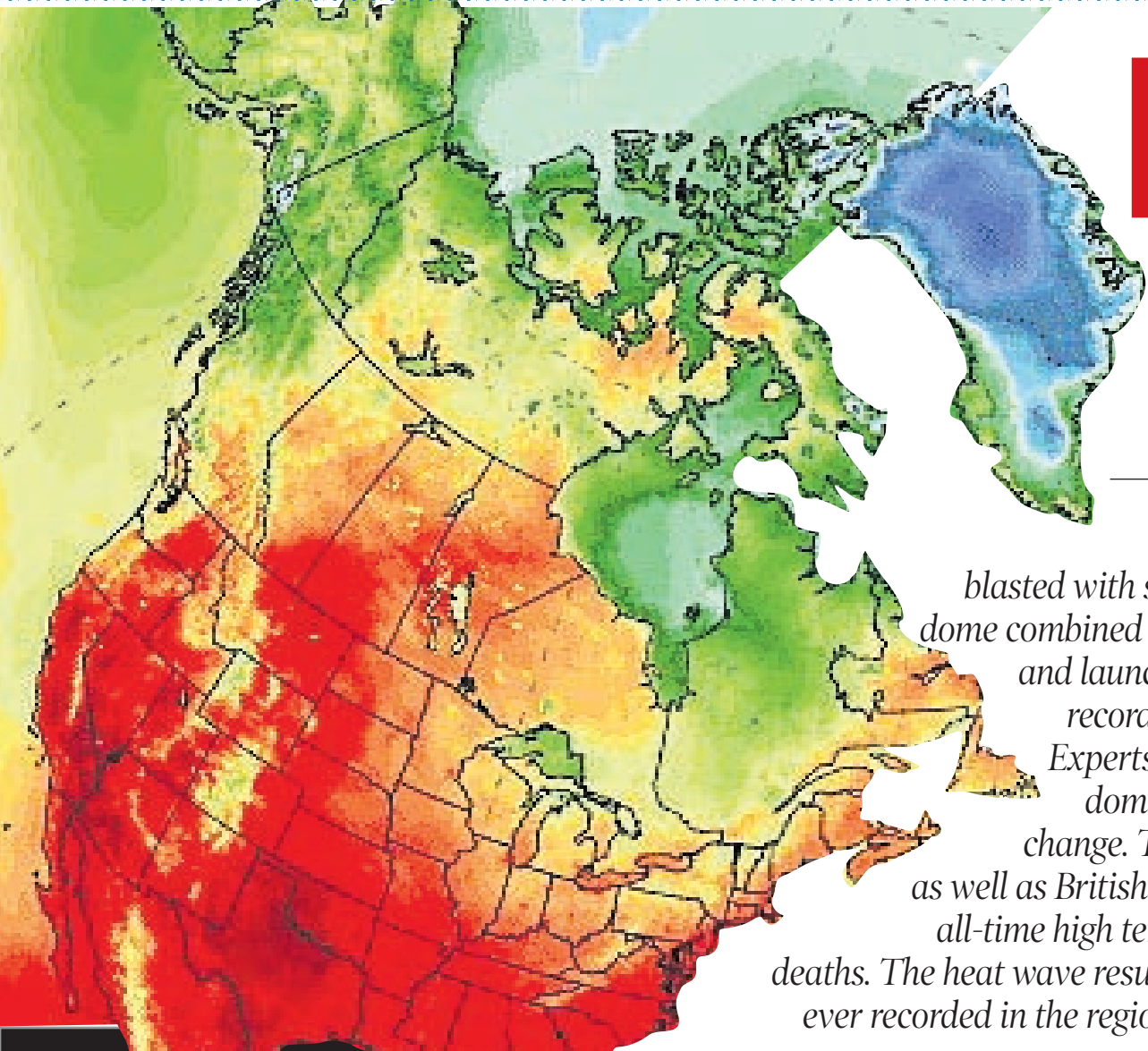
### Rahul's peace plan with G-23 leaders

A truce has finally been hammered 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 back-seat driving, making all organisational appointments and parleys 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 Punjab, 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.



# 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)



### CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTION?

"A world without climate change would have still 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

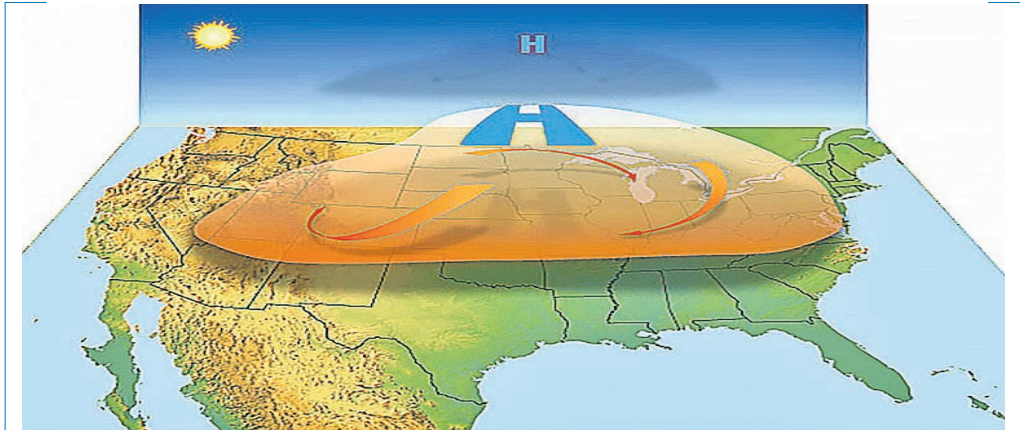
of extremes." Daniel Swain, a climate expert at UCLA added that "it is very possible that climate change increased this heatwave to an even greater degree", observing that the drought may have bolstered the heat dome because the energy of the sun's rays is no longer being used to evaporate water, so 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	British Columbia - June 29
106.7 °F	121.3 °F
Manitoba - July 3	Saskatchewan - July 1
100.6 °F	103.6 °F

## UNITED STATES

Idaho - June 29	Oregon - June 26
115 °F	107 °F
Washington - June 27	
104 °F	



## 'HEAT DOME' HISTORY

The origins of the heatwave can be traced back to torrential 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 high-pressure zone, also called a ridge,

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 years. 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.

## Over 700 dead; toll expected to go up

Each 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'

Heatwaves 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 heat-related illness since June 25, the Washington state Department of Health said Thursday. Of those visits, 21% required people to be admitted to the hospital.

## IMPACTS OF EXTREME TEMPERATURES



**Wildfires**  
 The Canadian military was on standby July 4 to help evacuate towns and fight more than 170 wildfires fuelled by a record-smashing heatwave and tinder-dry conditions as the government in Ottawa warned of a "long and challenging 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) northeast of Vancouver, "has sustained 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 were evacuated, one day after it set a jaw-dropping Canadian record high temperature.



**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.

**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.



**Buckled roads**  
 The 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.





