



## CANDID CONFESSION

Actor Shruti Hassan says she has undergone therapy when she was young and still feels inadequate on many days

LEISURE P2



## CATASTROPHIC FLOODS

44 people have died and dozens have gone missing due to flash floods in Germany

INTERNATIONAL P10



## UNEXPECTED EVENT

The Bahrain Victorious team, competing at Tour de France, were raided by French police on the eve of Stage 18

SPORTS P12

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## 9 fishermen killed as trawler capsizes in WB

**NAMKHANA (WEST BENGAL):** Bodies of nine fishermen from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district were found Thursday morning inside the trawler that capsized in the Bay of Bengal, officials said. One person is still missing and a search is on to find him, they said. The trawler, capsized due to sudden high waves near Rakteshwari island Wednesday when it was returning to the shore. Two fishermen, Sankar Majhi and Saikat Das were on the deck when the trawler sank. They jumped into the sea and were rescued later by another fishing boat.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



There is no VIP in the car. It is just that its fuel tank is full!

## JEE (Main) deferred

**NEW DELHI:** The fourth edition of engineering entrance exam JEE (Main) has been postponed to August 26-September 2 to give aspirants a four-week gap between two sessions of the crucial exam, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Thursday. The fourth edition of JEE (Main) was earlier scheduled to be held from July 27 to August 2. A total of 7.32 lakh candidates have already registered for the fourth edition of the entrance exam. The minister said that the students have been demanding the postponement of the exams and so the National Testing Agency has heeded to their demands. "Accordingly, the JEE (Main), 2021, session four will now be held August 26, 27 and 31, and September 1 and 2, Pradhan informed.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	53158.85 ↑ 254.80
NIFTY	15924.20 ↑ 70.20
DOLLAR	74.90 ↓ ₹0.02
EURO	88.25 ↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹48,233 ↓ ₹66
SILVER	₹69,506 ↑ ₹94

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.3°C	33.6°C
TEMP MIN	26.1°C	25.4°C
Humidity	72%	68%
Rainfall	0.2mm	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely



**FIGHTING NATURE'S FURY:** An aircraft sprays retardant to extinguish the huge forest fire which broke out Wednesday at Feather River Canyon in California. PTI PHOTO

# Sedition law colonial: SC

APEX COURT QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONAL VALIDITY OF SECTION 124A OF IPC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, July 15:** The Supreme Court said Thursday that it is 'concerned over enormous misuse' of the colonial era penal law on sedition. The apex court agreed to examine the constitutional validity of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and observed that the sedition law is a serious threat to the functioning of institutions.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana asked the Union government whether the sedition law is still necessary after 75 years of independence. It observed that the British-era law was used to 'silence' leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and to suppress the freedom movement.

Agreeing to examine the pleas filed by Editors Guild of India and former Indian Army Major-General (Retd) S G Vombatkere, challenging the constitutionality of section 124A (sedition) in the IPC, the bench headed by CJI Ramana said its main concern was the 'misuse of law' and issued the notice to the Centre.

"Mr Attorney (General). We want to ask some questions. This is the colonial era law and the same was

## 100 Haryana farmers charged with treason

**CHANDIGARH:** A few hours after the Supreme Court questioned the utility of the sedition law, more than 100 farmers in Haryana have been charged with sedition. Police have booked them for allegedly attacking and damaging the official vehicle of Haryana Deputy Speaker Ranbir Gangwa during a protest against the controversial new farm laws. The incident took place July 11 in Haryana's Sirsa district. The FIR was filed on the same day. Apart from sedition, the FIR also charges farmers with 'attempt to murder'. Two leaders - Harcharan Singh and Prahlad Singh - were among those named in the FIR.

used by the British to suppress freedom movement. It was used by British to silence Mahatma Gandhi and others. Is it still necessary to keep this in statute even after 75 years of independence?" asked the bench also comprising of justices AS Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy.

The bench while observing that the provision on sedition has been put to 'enormous misuse', also referred to alarming misuse of section 66A of the Information Technology

Act even after the top court set it aside long back. "It can be compared to a carpenter, asked to cut a wood, cutting the entire forest," the bench observed.

The bench also said: "We do not know why the government is not taking a decision. Your government has been getting rid of stale laws."

The CJI, on being told that another bench headed by Justice UU Lalit has been hearing a similar plea which has been fixed for further consideration July 27, said he would take call on posting of the matters and notify the date of hearing. Attorney General KK Venugopal, who was asked to assist the bench in dealing with the case, defended the provision and said it be allowed to remain in the statute book and the court may lay down guidelines to curb the misuse.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the Editors Guild of India, said that a separate plea has been filed by the journalists' body challenging the validity of section 124A (sedition) of the IPC and that plea can also be tagged along with the present one. He said that besides challenging the validity, the Guild has also sought framing of guidelines to curb misuse.

## HIKE IN FUEL PRICES CONTINUES UNABATED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 15:** Petrol price was hiked Thursday by 35 paise per litre and diesel by 15 paise, pushing rates to a new high across India. Petrol at the national capital now costs ₹101.54 a litre and diesel ₹89.87 per litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. The increase comes after rates stayed the same for the last three days.

The latest increase neutralised the 16 paise price cut in diesel July 12. Prior to that, petrol and diesel prices were

## CITY FUEL PRICES

PETROL	₹102.42 (+0.36)
DIESEL	₹98.01 (+0.17)

last cut April 15. Prices have been increasing on a regular basis since May 4. Petrol prices have been hiked on 40 occasions while diesel rates have gone up 37 times and have been reduced on one occasion.

The relentless price increase has pushed petrol rates above the ₹100-a-litre mark in 15 states including Odisha. Diesel rates have also gone past the ₹100/litre-mark in Odisha. People are also feeling the pinch as the prices of essential commodities are also on an upward trend with the hike in fuel prices.

# Lockdown till Aug 1 with more relaxations

GYMS, SPAS, PARLOURS, SALONS ALLOWED TO OPEN

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** The Odisha government Thursday announced extension of the partial lockdown till August 1. However, along with it certain more relaxations were declared.

Gyms, parlours, spas and salons will be allowed to open from Friday. Also intra-state bus services will resume all across Odisha. However, inter-state bus services will remain sus-

pending. Lockdown was first implemented in Odisha May 5 due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Briefing mediapersons, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said the test positivity rate (TPR), which was five per cent earlier this month, has now come down to below three per cent. The daily rate of infections have come down to around 2,000 from the 3,000-plus reported earlier in the month. Mahapatra however, said that the in-

- Schools, malls, cinema halls, parks to remain closed
- Restaurants to remain shut but allowed to serve takeaways
- No bus service in Puri till July 25 due to Rath Yatra
- Weekend shutdown to continue in all B category districts

fection rate in some districts, especially in Cuttack and Khurda continues to remain high. He informed that

these two districts contribute more than 40% of the daily cases. So it is necessary that partial lockdown continues.

The prevailing categorisation of districts (A & B) will continue, Mahapatra said. However, even then some extra relaxations have been provided to Category B districts. Shops in the 'B' segment district which earlier remained open from 6.00am to 1.00pm will now do so till 5.00pm. Bus, auto-rickshaw and cab services will also be operational in all A & B category districts across the state from Friday.

# Mixed response to Left-called bandh



Police personnel try to drag away a CPI (M) activist protesting against the rise in fuel prices in the city. OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** The six-hour bandh called by the Left parties and supported by the Congress evoked mixed response from the people. The bandh was called to protest against the rise in fuel prices and essential commodities.

Activists of CPI, CPI(M), CPI(M-L) and the Forward Bloc blocked roads and railway tracks in different parts of the state. The protest disrupted train services at the Bhubaneswar railway station as bandh supporters demonstrated on the tracks. The activists also blocked

vehicular movement on the national highway (NH-16) and on the main roads of the state capital. Even though most shops had their shutters down, some were brave enough to keep their doors open for the public. The Left parties claimed that the 6.00am to 12.00 noon bandh was successful. "The bandh was a complete success. We received good response from the people of Odisha. They are against the continuous hike in fuel prices. The Union government should take notice of this and offer immediate price cuts," CPI (M) leader Suresh Panigrahi said.

# Covid-19 strikes India's lethal weapon

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 15:** Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has tested positive for Covid-19 in the ongoing tour of England and will not travel with the team to Durham as the players reassemble for next month's Test series against the hosts. Along with Pant, throwdown specialist Dayanand Garani has also tested positive for Covid-19.

Two others have also been placed in isolation for coming in contact with Garani. One of them is a member of the support staff while the other is Wriddhiman Saha. All the four

are currently in London while the rest reached Durham Thursday evening after reassembling from a 20-day break. The players were given the break after the World Test Championship final which ended June 23.

During the break, the cricketers went about their own ways. Pant posted pictures of him and his friends watching Euro 2020 games. Head coach Ravi Shastri and skipper Virat Kohli were seen watching Wimbledon matches sitting in packed galleries. This despite BCCI secretary Jay Shah's email asking players to stay away from the two events as crowds had been allowed in those events.



Pant and Saha will miss the practice match scheduled to start July 20 against a combined county side. "He (Pant) is in quarantine at an acquaintance's place and won't be travelling with the team to Durham, the source said with-

out divulging when the 23-year-old will join the squad. However, he is likely to undergo a Covid-19 test in the next couple of days.

"Yes, one player has tested positive but he has been in isolation for the last eight days. He was not staying in any hotel with the team, so no other player has been affected," BCCI vice-president Rajiv Shukla said. "No other player has tested positive," he added.

The Indian team are due to take on England in a five-match Test series starting August 4. The India-England showdown marks the beginning of the second cycle of the World Test Championships.

Players ignored BCCI secretary's email asking them to stay away from Euro 2020, Wimbledon

## Tokyo cases rise as Games come closer

**TOKYO:** New coronavirus cases surged Thursday to 1,308 here, a six-month high, as fears rise of a possible dramatic increase during the Olympics that start in eight days. The Japanese capital is under a fourth state of emergency, which began Monday. Thursday's tally is the highest since 1,485 were recorded January 21. Governor Yuriko Koike noted that people need to stay 'alert' and prevent the spread of the virus. New daily cases have been steadily climbing since mid-June.







# leisure



## MARKLE TO PRODUCE ANIMATED ADVENTURE SERIES FOR NETFLIX

Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex and wife of Prince Harry, is to produce an animated adventure series for Netflix about a 12-year-old girl who is inspired by historical female figures. The couple signed a deal with Netflix after quitting their royal duties in Britain.

## MICHAEL B. JORDAN TALKS ON PROJECT IN INDIA

Hollywood star Michael B. Jordan has expressed his interest for working in a Hindi cinema. "India is some place I never had the opportunity to go to. But I would love to work on a project over there. I think that would be pretty cool," the actor said.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
Today is an ordinary day, it is business as usual, but there will be some progress. You can while away your time doing petty chores. And, Ganesha says, while day-dreaming think about that coveted home, as that's how the first plans materialise.

**TAURUS**  
Religious sentiments will be ruling your thoughts today, says Ganesha. This is a great day for making a trip to a temple or a popular religious destination. You should take your parents and other family members along on this auspicious journey. Your parents are sure to pray shower their love and blessings upon you and pray for your well being.

**GEMINI**  
You will be faced with household problems and worries about your children today. You will need to help your children with schoolwork in the morning. In the evening you will likely head out to dinner with family and friends and relax, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
Ganesha says that you will feel tiredness and weakness but in the office or business you will be relaxed, with less tension. Ganesha suggests that you should be careful to fulfil new responsibilities entrusted to you. You will spend on travel.

**LEO**  
You will attempt to reschedule your daily routine to be able to make the most of your day. While it is easy to make plans, implementing them and sticking to them depends on your own discipline and determination. You will become more aware about health issues and pay closer attention to your diet.

**VIRGO**  
Today is a day for introspection and you will find yourself in a pensive mood. Ganesha advises you to search for the inner peace that you want. Stay calm to discover the hidden treasures within you. In the evening you will be glad to help someone who is in need of it.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says you will be able to spend ample time with your loved ones and may even taken them out for lunch or dinner which will bring you more closer to them. You will even try to please them by showering them with gifts and presents today.

**SCORPIO**  
There's always a first time, and today is the day when you would seal a profitable deal for your new business venture. However, close the deal only if it is beneficial for a long term. Be cautious and watch your steps carefully to avoid any unfortunate situation.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A fresh and renewed you, today all your focus is on your kith and kins. This includes sneaking some time off for your beloved as well! Romantic conversations and intimacy will add some spark to the day. After family, friends too come to take their share. An exciting evening in store for you!

**CAPRICORN**  
Mark this date on the calendar as today is going to be one of the most important days of life, the reason being you are going to meet somebody who is will stay with you through out your life. Though it may some time bore you, but your relationships will keep you busy today.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will try everything to please your colleagues and bosses, but they will still have something negative to say about your performance. In order to be in the good books of everyone you end up hurting your own interests, feels Ganesha. The second half of the day promises to be relaxing, thanks to your sweetheart who will make special efforts to lighten your burden of work.

**PISCES**  
You will have difficulty in interpreting the behaviour of your life partner today. It is better to bring transparency in your relationship rather than to doubt it. Speak freely about your problems and communicate with your spouse. Business relationships will also face rough weather.

## 'You are as good as your last release'

New Delhi: Actress Raima Sen says she has realised over her years in Hindi film industry that one is as good as one's last release. The actress adds that the film industry is all about the survival of the fittest. "You are as good as your last release in this industry. So, you will always be noticed for your last work but I guess that is fine and that is the way it is. You just have to deal with it positively because there are a lot of ups and downs," Raima said.

She says it is only natural that success and failure should co-exist in an industry where survival stakes are always high. "There will always be failure where there is success, and the industry is about survival of the fittest. So, obviously the show that does well will get you recognised and the show that does not do well will not get you recognised," Raima added.

The actress' last outing, the web series *The Last Hour*, was well received and she feels such judgements happen in every sphere.



## Mithun's cameo in son's debut movie



Mumbai: Actor Mithun Chakraborty will feature in a dance number composed by Himesh Reshammiya in Rajkumar Santoshi's upcoming directorial *Bad Boy*, which introduces the eighties superstar's son Namashi

Chakraborty in Hindi film industry. Director Santoshi shared: "Mithun Da is a legend. Having him in the song will only add that pinch of extra tadka."

The movie is produced by Sajid Qureshi and also features the producer's daughter Amrin Qureshi. Mithun will be seen performing in the song titled *Janab-e-Ali*. Namashi is emotional about sharing screen space with dad Mithun. "Today I worked with my idol not only on screen, but also off-screen. The greatest actor of all time with an experience of 360 films and three national film awards blessed me and my debut film. What else can a newcomer with dreams ever ask for?," Namashi said.

Amrin added: "I am so glad to be working with the legend. Mithun uncle is an epitome of dance and has been my favourite. It is indeed a moment to cherish."



## SHRUTI'S tips on mental health

Chemnai: Actress Shruti Haasan has often spoken about the need to look after mental health, especially in the time of the pandemic. Stressing on the need for professional guidance in such cases, the actress says she has been in therapy when she was younger and yet, being a part of an industry that can frequently be high on the stress factor, she still feels inadequate on many days.

Shruti feels it is important to be aware if someone needs help over mental health and not brush the issue under the carpet with an 'I am fine' attitude.

"Mental health is really simple and complex at the same time. The cracks start happening and usually I see people have what I call 'mild breakdowns'. Usually, people don't even realise what they are going through," she says.

"I believe people world over are a lot more aware and, especially in India, people are a lot more speaking about it. I genuinely believe that mental health awareness has come to the forefront. I was always doing therapy long distance because my therapist was based out of London. So, I always knew that it is possible once you have made that initial connection," adds the *Luck* actress.

## CUO's webinar on Satyajit Ray

RAY'S CINEMA SHAPED THE ENTIRE APPROACH OF INDIAN FILMMAKING, SAYS BHUPENDRA KOINTHALA, THE DIRECTOR OF FTII-PUNE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The Department of Journalism & Mass Communication, Central University of Odisha (CUO) organised a webinar titled *Indian Cinema-Ray & After* Thursday.

Sourav Gupta, Assistant Professor, DJMC & convener of the webinar explained Satyajit Ray's importance in world cinema by quoting greats like Kurosawa and that the purpose of the webinar was to discuss the impact of Oscar award winning film director Satyajit Ray's film making on Indian Cinema on the occasion of



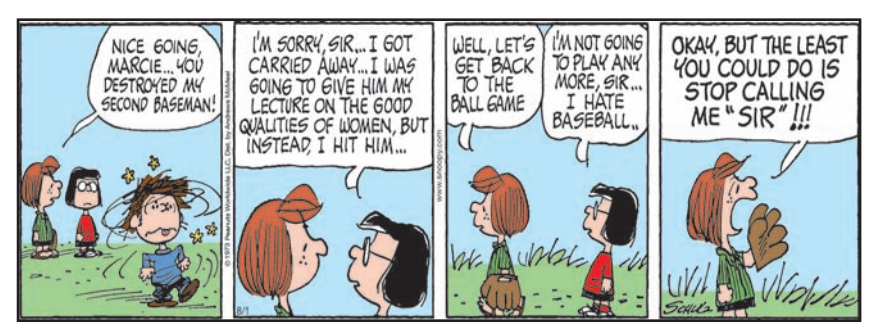
his birth centenary. Attending the event, Bhupendra Kointhala, Director, Film & Television Institute of India, Pune, spoke about how Ray's cinema shaped the entire approach of Indian film making. Prof Akshay Rout, Visiting Professor, DJMC chaired the

inaugural session and compared creative genius of Ray with the works of William Shakespeare.

Ashoke Viswanathan, a National Award winning film maker and the dean of Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata underlined that Ray's films were not only about telling stories rather it went beyond the original text.

Gadadhar Puty, eminent film maker from Odisha and an FTII alumnus described the impact of Ray's filmmaking style on regional cinema.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

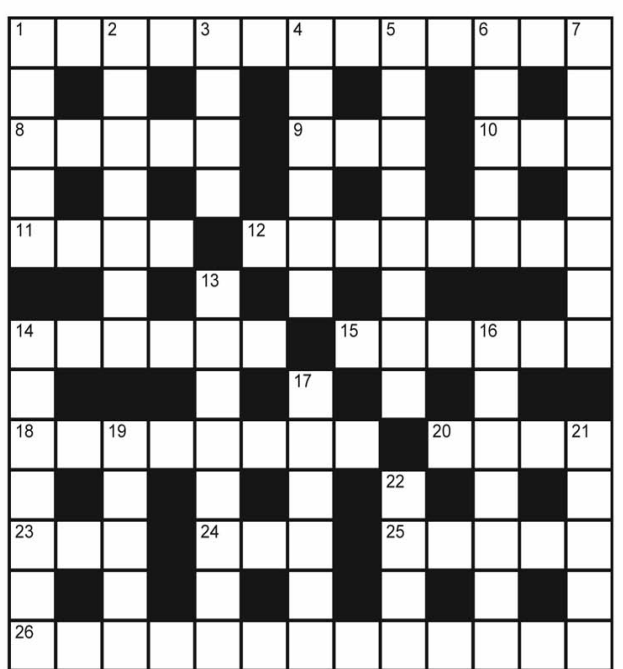


### BREVITY



### FUN post

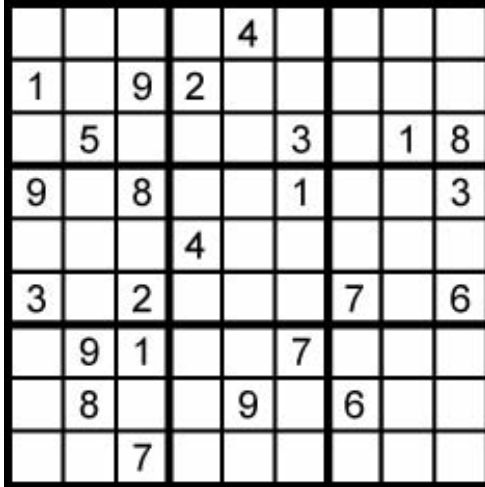
### CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Ready to jump on a good deal
  - 8 Melee (3-2)
  - 9 Cloak-and-dagger org.
  - 10 Coal container
  - 11 Hourglass contents
  - 12 Macabre
  - 14 Free of charge
  - 15 Breakfast place, maybe
  - 18 Living room piece
  - 20 Straddling
  - 23 Needing a lift
  - 24 Cygnet's father
  - 25 Stream
  - 26 Means of advancement (8,5)
  - Down**
  - 1 Haven in the desert
  - 2 Fluted funnel-shaped flower
  - 3 Mouth part
  - 4 Stomach woes
  - 5 Queen of Castile
  - 6 Off-limits
  - 7 Yield
  - 13 Bedtime drink
  - 14 Champagne flutes
  - 16 Like a busy beaver (2,3,2)
  - 17 Lesser ape
  - 19 Gnatlike insect
  - 21 Black tea
  - 22 "Hamlet" has five

### 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.



### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

LEAF CHESSSET  
IRARAOITTU  
PARAPET MEANS  
SOPROD K  
TAWDRY ALLIN  
I ENNEUI  
CAM CHASMON  
KALIGIT  
ORGANINMATE  
GTTDWN  
HAITPIEBALD  
ENVODIE  
EPIDEMICSTUD

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





GREEN RAY CHIT FUND SCAM

# CBI arrests CMD's brothers



CBI officials arresting the accused at their house in Jaleswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jaleswar, July 15:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) intensified its investigation into a multi-crore chit fund scam in the state. After a hiatus of seven years, a six-member CBI team from Bhubaneswar led by DSP Ashok Kumar conducted a raid in Jaleswar of Balasore district Wednesday and arrested two accused from their house in connection with the fraud committed by Green Ray International Ltd (GRIL). The duo was identified as Mir Jamir and Kalo. They are brothers of Mir Sahiruddin alias Gora, the CMD of GRIL. They were arrested for their alleged involvement in the chit fund

case. Some properties of Sahiruddin were also seized during the raid, CBI official said.

The company CMD, Sahiruddin, had been arrested in 2017 by the central probe team in connection with the scam.

It may be noted here that the company was set up in Jaleswar in 1998 and later spread its network in parts of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Pondicherry, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The company used to run 105 branches across the country while 57 branches were in Odisha alone. It had allegedly collected over ₹2000 crore and duped gullible investors to the tune of around ₹1,000 crore.

### FACT FILE

The company ran 105 branches across the country out of which 57 branches were in Odisha. It had allegedly collected over ₹2000 crore from people

Sahiruddin had invested the money in various businesses like garments, pharmacy and even in foreign countries. The company has bought 50 acres of land at different places

Some properties of the company's CMD were seized during the raid. Sahiruddin had been arrested from Kolkata in 2017 by the central probe team in connection with the scam

Sahiruddin had invested the money in various businesses like garments, pharmacy, education sectors and even in foreign countries. The company has bought 50 acres of land at different places. The company had collected around ₹500 crore from people in Odisha.

The Odisha Crime Branch had earlier probed the chit fund case and frozen dozens of bank accounts of the prime accused, apart from seizing huge quantities of gold and silver coins from his possession.

The CBI officials took the two to a police station first and then to the Bhubaneswar office. After the CBI action, other scamsters involved in it are scared of.

## WALL PAINTING



A teacher applying brushstrokes to a painting drawn on the wall of Karatali UP School in Bipulingi panchayat of Chhatrapur block. The painting aims at motivating students to do their bit for the school.

OP PHOTO

## Tehsildar makes filling station man do sit-ups



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Ganjam, July 15:** An employee of a filling station in Ganjam district was forced to do sit-ups by a senior administrative official for not wearing a mask, a report said. The Ganjam tehsildar was drawn into a controversy after a video of the incident went viral in social media. The incident occurred when Ganjam tehsildar Arun Kumar Nayak in an official vehicle was passing by a filling station near the National Highway in Humapurussottampur area July 14. He found that neither the employees nor the two-wheeler riders, who were at the petrol pump, were wearing masks. He stopped

and immediately directed the filling station employee to do sit-ups as a punishment instead of imposing a fine on him.

The filling station staff followed the tehsildar's directive and did sit-ups in public. The CCTV cameras installed at the filling station and onlookers captured the incident.

The incident has raised eyebrows after a video of the incident went viral. Locals alleged that even though the tehsildar has been delegated power to take action against Covid guideline violators, he cannot force someone to do sit-ups in public.

When contacted, tehsildar Nayak termed the viral video fake and rejected the charge.

## Long-awaited ILS at VSS Airport starts functioning

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, July 15:** With Instrument Landing System (ILS) becoming operational at the Veer Surendra Sai Airport from midnight July 14, the problems aircraft faced while landing during inclement weather have ended.

ILS is an electronic guidance system designed to provide short range guidance to pilots for landing aircrafts during bad weather.

The Veer Surendra Sai Airport had been devoid of this facility. Because of this, fliers would face problems as the scheduled flights were either cancelled or delayed. Local people had long demanded the ILS facility at the airport.

"Keeping this in mind, the airport authorities installed the facility at ₹26 crore. The same was made functional from Wednesday midnight," informed director, Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Kishore Senapati. Pilots will no longer face the problems they faced during landing, he added.

Prior to installation of ILS facility, planes were landing under Doppler Very High-Frequency Omni Range (DVOR) and Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) procedure. Under DVOR procedure, small aircrafts and big planes required at least 1,500 metre and 2,100 metre visibility respectively. As of now, planes will be able to make landing even if the visibility is 800 metre, it was learnt.



Notably, the airport has been developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in collaboration with the state government at an estimated

cost of ₹210 crore, with the state government chipping in with ₹75 crore.

An MoU between the AAI and the state government was inked July 30, 2014. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave the airport a 4C category licence in August 2018. The VSS Airport is the second commercial airport in Odisha after Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the airport September 22, 2018. It is spread over 1,027.5 acres with a 2,390-metre long runway.

## Odia techie stranded in S Africa, kin seek help

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, July 15:** Sabyasachi Nanda (28), an engineer from Beltikiri village in Dhenkanal district, is reportedly stranded in South Africa. His family members have sought the help of both the state and the central governments to bring him back to the country.

According to reports, Sabyasachi had gone for a 3-month long project at a private farmhouse in South Africa in 2020. However, as Covid-19 struck the world, he was stranded in the country. His passport and visa had

also expired during that period. Sabyasachi had informed the Indian embassy there about it and they had assured to arrange his return once the situation turns to normal.

February 19, some masked youths had entered the farmhouse where Sabyasachi was working. The miscreants murdered the owner's son. Following the incident, police had seized Sabyasachi's passport and mobile phone as he is an eyewitness in the case.

Tragedy further struck his family July 7 when Sabyasachi's mother died of a heart attack waiting for her son's return. Sabyasachi's father Ranjan Kumar Nanda has sought the intervention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to bring back his son.

## AMRUT YOJANA COMES CROPPER

# BHADRAK BOATING POND BURIED UNDER WEEDS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, July 15:** Lakhs of rupees were spent on installation of a boating facility at AMRUT Park in Rahania (Charampa area) of Bhadrak.

However, the facility has nearly lost its existence amid weeds and wild creepers thanks to lack of maintenance and care. Residents of Bhadrak municipality decried the sorry state of the park and demanded its renovation.

In 2019, the park was built under the AMRUT Yojana at Rahania. The municipality authorities invested about ₹70 lakh for excavation of the boating pond near the park. The park was inaugurated by then MLA Jugal Kishore Patnaik and municipality chairperson Manas Mohanty July 18, 2019.

A boating club was also set up for this. Since the Covid swept across the state last year, the facility was left unused due to entry restrictions. The premises of the boating club were abandoned. It was alleged that the municipality has no dearth of funds, but it has failed to maintain the facility.

In 2019, the park was built under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation scheme at Rahania. The municipality authorities spent about ₹70 lakh for excavation of the boating pond near the park

It was learnt that the municipality had received over ₹1 crore while ₹7 lakh was allocated for renovation of the boating pond. An SHG had been awarded the renovation work. However, the renovation was allegedly botched up. The pond is now full of weeds. Three boats are lying unused in the park.

Locals have demanded that the civic body authorities pay attention to the park's maintenance. Executive officer of the municipality, Devi Prasad Rout, said the renovation of the pond could not be done due to the Covid situation. It will be renovated soon, he added.

## Couple found hanging in home

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, July 15:** A couple was found hanging inside their house at Sundarpur village under Binjharpur block of Jajpur district Thursday.

The deceased have been identified as Deepak Kumar Nath and Anita Nath. It is suspected that they committed suicide over a family dispute. According to

reports, Deepak used to work in a private company outside Odisha but had been staying in the house after the lockdown.

Locals said that the lockdown had induced financial problem for couple, who used to squabble often.

Binjharpur police have seized the bodies and initiated a probe to ascertain the reasons behind the incident.

**REGIONAL OFFICE: 108 - B, Unit-VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003**

**CORRIGENDUM OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

With reference to our Public Notice published in "Orissa Post" on Dt. 15.07.2021, in the loan account of Borrower: Mr. Rudra Narayan Roy the Mortgagee Name: Mr. Sangram Sahoo, S/o: Late Lokanath Sahoo has not been published wrongly in the Newspaper. So, it is requested to the General Public that this Account may be read with this above mentioned mortgagee name. All other facts remain unchanged.

Date: 15.07.2021 Sd/- Asst. General Manager

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KONARK**

email: nackonark@gmail.com; Phone No.: 06758-236826

**INVITATION FOR BID**

**E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

Bid Reference No. :- KNK\_NAC\_2(2)\_2021-22  
Bid Identification No. :- 2021\_ORULB\_69764

No.- 1475 Dated- 14.07.21

No. C-584:- The Executive Officer, Konark N.A.C on behalf of KONARK N.A.C invites bids on percentage basis on online mode for CONSTRUCTION OF SMART PARK AT KONARK NAC UNDER "UNNATI" from eligible contractors having experience of equivalent grade/class registered with State on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, GST Registration No., Time of completion, Class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract. Bids shall be received on online from Dt. 16.07.2021, 10.00 AM up to Dt.27.07.2021 - 5.00 PM and shall be opened online on Dt.29.07.2021 at 11.00 AM. Further details and necessary documents can be seen from the procurement Portal i.e. [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) and [www.nackonark.in](http://www.nackonark.in)

Sd./- Executive Officer, KONARK N.A.C.

OIPR-13174/11/0001/2122

**GOVT OF ODISHA**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

**MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BALANGIR**

**AT/PO:- BALANGIR, DIST:- BALANGIR**

MOBILE NO:- 9437435924, E-Mail:-mid\_balangir@yahoo.co.in  
No. 1631 Date:- 09.07.2021

**e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**IDENTIFICATION No.: Online/01/BGR MID/2021-22**

No. A-307:- Bid documents consisting of works, estimated cost, cost of bid documents, time of completion, Class of contractor, terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

- Name of the work:- Civil construction works.
- No. of works:- 14 (Fourteen) Nos.
- Estimated Cost:- Varies Approximately from Rs. 12.91 lakhs to Rs. 26.77 lakhs
- Period of completion:- 04 (Four) calendar months.
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal: From 19.07.2021 (10.00 AM) to 31.07.2021 (5.00 PM)
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal:- 31.07.2021 (5.00 PM)
- Date of opening of Bid:- On dated 02.08.2021 at 10.00 AM onwards in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Balangir.
- Date of receipt of Bid Cost:- 19.07.2021 (10.00 AM) to 31.07.2021 (5.00 PM)
- Date of Lottery (if cases arise) for the works on dated 24.08.2021 at 11.00 AM onwards in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Balangir.
- Mode of Payment of Bid Cost & Bid Security:- Online
- Name of the Officer inviting Tender:- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Balangir.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Balangir

OIPR-32118/11/0001/2122

## STATUE UNVEILING



Former Sambalpur MLA Raseswari Panigrahi unveiling the statue of Maharshi Parshuram at Baidyanath Square in Sambalpur, Thursday

OP PHOTO





CROP INSURANCE



Koraput Collector Abdaal M Akhtar flagging off a vehicle meant to create awareness on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, at Jeypore Thursday OP PHOTO

# Passing vehicles spell doom for wildlife of Shalabhanga

BUILDING OF UNDERPASSES THROUGH WHICH ANIMALS CAN SAFELY PASS ACROSS THE ROAD CAN CHECK DEATHS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, July 15: Shalabhanga forest area under the Mahanadi Wildlife Division (Dasapalla block) in Nayagarh district is rich in wildlife. However, what poses dangers to their lives are speeding vehicles on the Bolangir-Khurda NH-57 while there is no provision of underpasses in the area, a report said.

Wildlife experts and environmentalists have pointed out that the wild animals face peril from speeding vehicles on the NH-57 as they do not have safe passage in the area in the absence of underpasses.

In the past, there are several instances of wild animals having come under the wheels of passing vehicles. In these areas, drivers have been cautioned for slow driving, but they do not abide by the warnings. It is alleged that reckless driving on this route has been the major problem for wildlife at night.

Recently, the issue came to the fore after a leopard was found dead in a road accident in Shalabhanga. Following the incident, the forest department put up a board with a warning against reckless driving.

“Just putting up a warning sign in the area will not guarantee safety of the wild animals, which are losing their lives. Drivers hardly care about speed of their vehicles,” wildlife experts say.

“There is a need for night patrolling in the area. What is more important is building of underpasses through which animals can pass across the road safely,” they observed. The NH poses threat to the lives of the wild animals wandering freely in the reserve forest area. In view of the dangers to wildlife,



THREAT TO WILDLIFE

IN THE PAST, THERE ARE SEVERAL INSTANCES OF WILD ANIMALS HAVING COME UNDER THE WHEELS OF PASSING VEHICLES. IN THESE AREAS, DRIVERS HAVE BEEN CAUTIONED FOR SLOW DRIVING, BUT THEY DO NOT ABIDE BY THESE WARNINGS

IN VIEW OF THE DANGERS TO WILDLIFE, THE NHAI AND THE FOREST DEPARTMENT SHOULD COME OUT WITH A PLAN TO CONSTRUCT UNDERPASSES AT SOME PLACES SO AS TO PROVIDE SAFE PASSAGE TO THE WILD ANIMALS

PARTS OF NH-57 PASSING THROUGH SHALABHANGA FOREST ARE AN ELEPHANT CORRIDOR. THE DEPARTMENT HAS PUT UP A WARNING SIGN BOARD TOO. ELEPHANTS ARE AT THE RISK OF LOSING THEIR LIVES

the NHAI and the forest department should come out with a plan to construct underpasses at some places so as to provide safe passages to the wild animals.

A driver said as the area is dense with forest, there is a fear of loot and robbery. So they have to drive with speed in the particular area where police patrolling is required, he noted.

Parts of NH-57 passing through Shalabhanga forest are an elephant corridor. The department has put up a warning sign board too. Elephants are at the risk of losing their lives. The wildlife authorities need to ensure safety of the elephants too, locals said.

## 5 INCLUDING SCRIBE ARRESTED FOR LOOT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, July 15: Police Thursday arrested five members of a dacoity gang including a scribe and the mastermind on charge of looting ₹8,71,000 from the soil conservation office in Mathili block in this district, the previous night.

The accused were identified as Prasant Kumar Sagaria, a native of Patraput village and the correspondent of a television channel, Ratan Majhi and Anand Kashyap of Mendukuli village, Krushna Katia of Madkamiguda village and Ramachandra Nag, a collection agent of rainwater field development office and the mastermind of the gang.

A case was registered in this connection and the accused produced in court. This was stated here by SDPO Abhilash G at a presser, Thursday.

The SDPO said Nag who was working as a collection agent four months back had collected over ₹8,71,000 from villagers of Mendukuli, Doraguda, Ramaguda and Bamnaguda towards sale of saplings, fertilizers, seeds and agricultural implements. He left for Mathili to deposit the money in the soil conservation office when the deputy director Pramod Kumar Behera called him on phone.

He deposited the money and urged Behera to give him a diary to write the name of the beneficiaries. Behera was looking for a diary when four miscreants entered the office and decamped with the money by brandishing knives. Behera lodged a complaint at Mathili police station following which police launched a manhunt and arrested the miscreants. During interrogation, the accused revealed Nag, the collection agent was the mastermind.

## Cong sees scam in Saubhagya scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabanrangpur, July 15: The Congress party has alleged large-scale irregularities in rural electrification programme under the Saubhagya Yojana in the district. Addressing a press meet here, president of the party's district unit, Muna Tripathy alleged many rich people have got electricity connections to their houses while scores of poor people have been left out.

The party workers said Saubhagya scheme is meant for providing electricity to the poor people on subsidized rates.

In Nabanrangpur municipality area, 2,657 people have got benefits from the scheme, but many rich people have managed to get the benefits. The field official of the elec-



tricity distribution company was accused of showing favoritism to wealthy people in electricity supply to their houses.

In some cases, a beneficiary has more than one connection in his/her name. There are also

several connections for government quarters.

Congress leader Muna Tripathy pointed out that Brundabati Majhi, a beneficiary of Tapakariaguda, has 12 electricity connections in her name while Jagannath Jani has got 10 connections under different consumer IDs and meters.

Many consumers are not issued bills as the field staff do not collect dues from these consumers by taking cuts from them, it was alleged.

The Congress workers have demanded a Vigilance probe into alleged irregularities in Saubhagya scheme. The party has already got data about the irregularities under RTI and provided it to the executive engineer of the distribution company.

## Bridge eludes villages courtesy babus' fault

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, July 15: Due to a faulty survey and carelessness on the part of the executive engineer, engineer and SDO of the rural development department here in Kalahandi district, the fate of Mashanibandh-Bhamarmal bridge over Deheren Jor, a rivulet, is hanging in balance.

To go to Kesinga town, around 10,000 villagers of Balsi and Paralsinga gram panchayats under Kesinga block face a lot of problems. During rainy season, when the rivulet is in spate, people take a detour through Rengali, Kachhar Padar villages to reach the town. School-going students have to stop going to their institutions.

In order to end the problem of the villagers, a bridge across the rivulet was announced and subsequently



₹2,23,01,385 was sanctioned in 2018-19 fiscal. Through a tender, a contractor firm was engaged to construct the bridge. Laying up an approach road from Mashanibandh village, the bridge was constructed with three pillars. But what has dogged the project is that two out of the three pillars are constructed on private land that are yet to be acquired. So far, 75 per cent of the sanctioned money has been spent but the bridge has been lying half-con-

structed for three years now. Local residents wanted to know how the engineers let the contractor proceed with the work without acquiring land for the project.

“Before the construction of the bridge, the executive engineer, engineer and SDO should have had a discussion with the farmers of Mashanibandh and Bhamarmal villages and then acquired land as per the project design. But they did not do that,” the villagers al-

leged. Cashing in on the situation, the land owners are now asking for an exorbitant price for their land, it was learnt.

Meanwhile, the executive engineer has been transferred and his post is lying vacant, affecting all the development projects in the locality.

The land owners said they are ready to part with their lands but the officials seem to be dragging their feet. “I am ready to sell my land. I have also visited the concerned officers several times. But I received no assurance from them,” observed Tuku Ram Sahu, the land owner, who is a farmer.

SDO Chittaranjan Naik admitted the fault, saying the bridge is lying half constructed due to land acquisition problem. “We erred in planning which is why problems are arising,” he added.

## Defunct freezer at Bargarh DHH; people fret

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, July 15: The freezer of the mortuary at old district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Bargarh town has been lying defunct for a long time, causing a lot of embarrassment to people and police alike.

An incident July 14 laid bare this fact when police experienced problems as the freezer is out of order. Godbhaga outpost officer Bipin Bag had brought an unidentified body to the old DHH for post mortem July 14. In case of unidentified bodies, the rule mandates preserving them for 72 hours for their identification.

After autopsy, Bag asked the staff to keep the body in the mortuary. But,

the answer of the staff left the cop in a fix. He was told that the body could not be kept in the mortuary since its freezer was not functioning. With no options left, the Godbhaga police had to take the body to Burla. Informing about the case, Bag said an unidentified man was injured in a road mishap near Godbhaga Samaleswari temple Tuesday. Even though he was immediately rushed to the old DHH, the doctors there declared him received dead.

Expressing their concern, local residents urged the hospital authority to get the freezer repaired as soon as possible. When asked, chief district medical officer Dr Arun Patra said that the mortuary will soon start functioning.

## Loans from watershed projects help tribals of Malkangiri earn livelihood



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, July 15: Neighbourhood banking services through watershed projects have helped tribals earn their livelihood. They have brought in remarkable change in their financial condition during Covid pandemic in Malkangiri, a report said.

Tribals in 10 villages of Mathili block in the district no longer go to banks for loans or take loans from private money lenders as special banks established in their villages under the projects have come to their help.

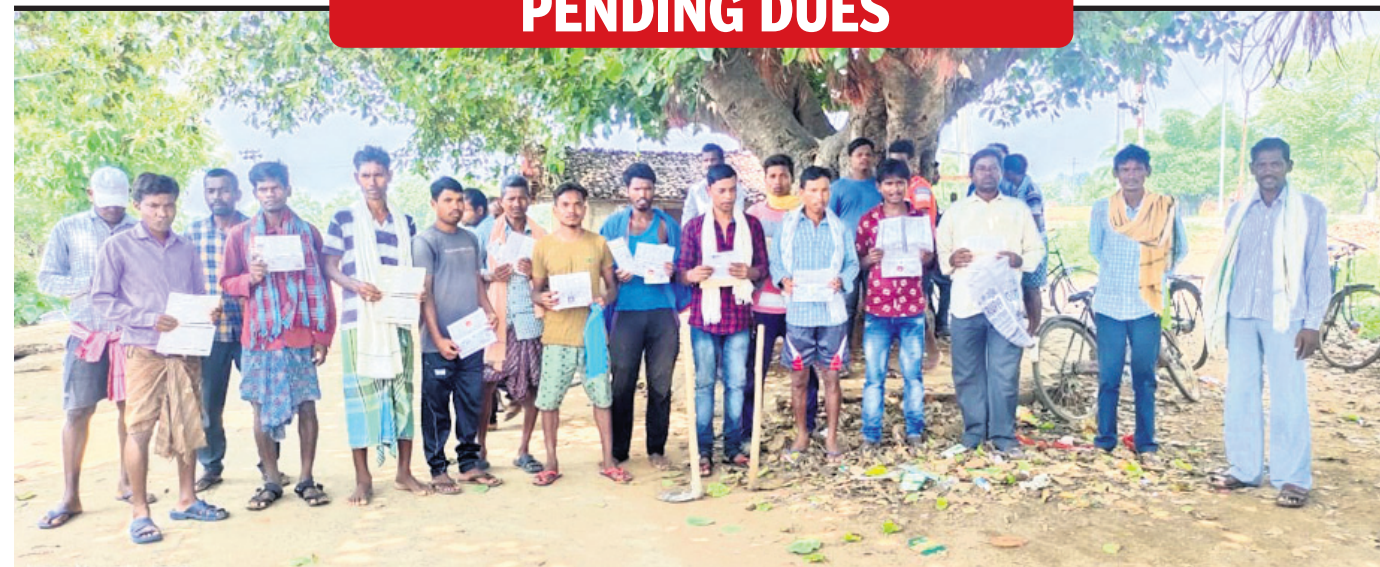
They take loans from these banks and repay the amounts within the time frame without interest. The tribals have displayed remarkable behaviour in financial prudence and have become an example for others to emulate.

pervise the functioning of the banks and sanction loans to people. After their establishment, they have given away loans ranging from ₹15,000-₹20,000 to every family in all the 10 villages.

The loans have been sanctioned to the villagers for agriculture, small businesses, poultry farming and livestock farming. The tribals have invested the loans in their respective businesses and repaid them within six months without any interest.

Last year, during the first wave of the pandemic, funds over ₹15 lakh to ₹20 lakh from the revolving fund of watershed projects were pooled in Mathili, Kutaniapalli, Dalapatiguda, Chaulamendi, Ambapada, Dhoulaguda, Chedenga, Kadapadar, Bayaguda, Sindhabeda and other villages of Mathili block to start the banks. The loans were sanctioned to tribals after making them sign a contract for repayment of the loans within a period of six months.

When contacted, Pramod Kumar Behera, assistant director of soil conservation, said over 1080 tribals taking loans had repaid the amounts within deadline. The scheme will be implemented in other villages in coming days and will be expanded to other blocks in phases. This has given us the hope that financial inclusion and livelihood enhancement can be achieved through community participation, he added.



Beneficiaries of MGNREGS demand immediate clearance of pending wages at Nuapada OP PHOTO

## PENDING DUES

OP PHOTO



