



SATISFYING STINT

Actor Shweta Tiwari says she is happy the way her career has shaped up and doesn't regret anything

LEISURE P2



UK'S PANDEMIC COST

The UK govt will be exposed to financial risks from its 372 billion pound pandemic spending for decades

INTERNATIONAL P10



ROUSING START

PV Sindhu starts her Tokyo campaign with an easy straight games win over her Israeli opponent

SPORTS P12

Excise duty on petrol and diesel up by 88%, 209% in last six years

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 25: Central excise duty on petrol has almost doubled and gone up by 88 per cent in the last six years while excise duty on diesel has gone up by three times and witnessed a 209 per cent hike during the same period, as fuel prices across the country have crossed ₹100 per litre.

As on July 1, 2021, central excise duty on petrol is ₹32.90 per litre in-

clusive of cess, whereas July 1, 2015 it was ₹17.46 per litre on petrol including cess, according to official data. This shows that excise duty has almost doubled on petrol in six years between July 2015 and July 2021 and witnessed 88 per cent increase.

Excise duty on diesel has gone up by a humungous 209 per cent during the same period, as it is ₹31.80 per litre including cess as July 1, 2021 while it was ₹10.26 per litre including cess as

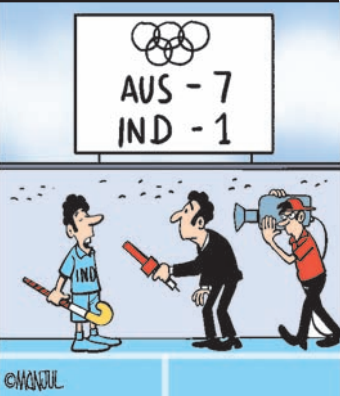
July 1, 2015. Petrol prices in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have crossed more than ₹100 per litre while diesel prices in the four metros are in the vicinity of ₹90 to ₹98 per litre.

In several cities across the country, especially in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, petrol prices have crossed the ₹100 per litre mark.

Meanwhile, fuel prices were paused for the eighth consecutive day Sunday.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We played pretty well. It was an international conspiracy to malign our country's image...

Lok Seva Bhawan staff missing since one month

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 25: The Commissionerate Police has failed to trace an employee of the Department of Culture at the Lok Seva Bhawan who has been missing since last month. The wife of the missing employee, Santosh Kumar Dalabehera, has been running from pillar to post for the whereabouts of her husband. Dalabehera is a desk officer at the Culture department in the Lok Seva Bahwan.

Talking to the media, Dalabehera's wife, Manjulata Naik, claimed that she last spoke to her husband June 26 and has no contact with him since June 29.

According to Naik, she came to know about Dalabehera's disappearance when the department officials informed her about the long absence of her husband without informing the higher authorities. Later, Naik, a resident of G. Udayagiri in Kandhamal, reached his official quarter at Bhoi Nagar in Unit-IX area.

June 30, Naik lodged a missing report at the Sahid Nagar police station after failing to find Dalabehera at his official accommodation. However, police are yet to trace Dalabehera.

Finding no other way, Naik Sunday sought the help of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and other senior officials through the media. She alleged that Dalabehera had accused senior officials of humiliating him at office.

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.7°C	33.5°C
TEMP MIN	27.3°C	26.4°C
Humidity	92%	79%
Rainfall	5.9mm	NIL
Forecast		
Light rain very likely		



NATURE'S FURY: A bridge collapsed after a landslide at Batseri of Sangla valley in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh, Sunday. Nine people were killed and three others injured after heavy boulders fell on a tempo traveller carrying 11 people

PTI PHOTO

Mamata lines up Oppn meet in Delhi

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 25: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to attend a meeting in New Delhi's Banga Bhawan during her July 26-30 visit for which senior Opposition leaders will be invited, senior TMC leaders said Sunday. The meeting has been tentatively scheduled July 28 at 3 pm.

Before that, on the same day, Mamata is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi around noon. The proposed meeting, unlike the other such meetings in the past, will not be held at the residence of any party leader. Mamata had in her July 21 meeting urged NCP leader Sharad Pawar and Congress leader P Chidambaram for a meeting with Opposition leaders. According to sources, TMC has now taken the onus of organising the meeting given the short window of the CM's Delhi travel itinerary.

Sources said Trinamool national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and poll strategist Prashant Kishor, who reached Delhi immediately after the July 21 meeting, are playing a key-role to revive the Opposition "front". A party leader said the presence of senior leaders of all Opposition



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parties at Delhi's Constitution Club for the July 21 virtual rally laid the ground-work for the meeting. In her July 21 address, Mamata also declared that she will invite all senior political leaders, including Pawar and Congress

president Sonia Gandhi, for a winter rally at the Brigade Parade Grounds if Covid remained under control.

In the July 21 meeting, apart from Pawar and Chidambaram, Supriya Sule (NCP), Digvijay Singh (Congress), SP's Ram Gopal Yadav and Jaya Bachchan, DMK's Tiruchi Siva, TRS's K Keshava Rao, AAP's Sanjay Singh, RJD's Manoj Jha, Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi and SAD's Balwinder Singh Bhunder had attended. It is likely all these parties will also attend the Banga Bhawan meeting. These meetings, sources said, are a culmination of several political parleys after the Bengal polls. Kishor had met several leaders, including Pawar and Rahul Gandhi. In the interim, Abhishek after being made the party national general secretary, had broadly outlined that TMC will now take the fight to Delhi. On June 22, former Union Minister and now TMC vice-president Yashwant Sinha was part of an informal meeting of leaders and former MPs at Pawar's residence in Delhi. In her July 21 speech, Mamata urged senior Opposition leaders "not to waste a single day" and to set aside "self-interests for national interest" to "work together, make a front" for "people will never forgive us if we don't".

Section 144 in Kendrapara after Hyder's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, July 25: In order to prevent any untoward incident and to maintain the law and order situation here in this town, the district administration imposed Saturday night prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC following the death of gangster Sheikh Hyder in a police encounter.

According to a senior police official, the prohibitory order was imposed in the entire town and Barimula, Kapaleswar, Gulnagar and Jamdhar panchayats of the district. The restrictions will remain in force for the next seven days (till 11.00am of July 30, 2021). Poultry, vegetables and grocery shops have been permitted to remain open from 7.00am to 11.00am during this period, the official added.

Meanwhile, Hyder's wife has accused the police of killing her husband. "Police took my husband out of the jail and killed him mid-way claiming that he attempted to escape. The Choudwar jailer and some others are involved in the killing," the woman alleged.

Notably, Hyder died while undergoing treatment at the Balasore district headquarters hospital (DHH) after sustaining bullet injuries in the police encounter. He had allegedly snatched a gun from a cop and tried to flee while he was being shifted to Baripada jail from Cuttack.

Schools reopen for Classes X, XII today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 25: Schools in the state will reopen for Classes X and XII students Monday after a prolonged period due to Covid-19 restrictions.

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Sunday said that all the schools are sanitising the classrooms and premises and, as per government instructions, nodal officers are visiting the schools to supervise the arrangements.

"We had announced the reopening of schools and all the required arrangements have been completed. We hope the turnout of students will be good in schools," said Dash.

As many students are unable to reap the benefits of online teaching due to poor internet connectivity, the state government had decided to reopen the schools for Classes X and XII students from July 26.

School and Mass Education department Secretary Satyabrata Sahu said online teaching is reaching only 40 per cent of the students, while the remaining are being left behind. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the school students in the state have lost 150 days of classroom teaching during the last academic year.

Meanwhile, both the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) and Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) have reduced their respective syllabi. Hence, the

government has decided to reopen both private and government-run schools for the Classes X and XII students from July 26, Sahu said.

However, it is not mandatory for all students to attend the classes in person. "We have given them an option to come to school only with the consent of their parents," said Sahu. Meanwhile, the schools will continue with online teaching for all classes, including Classes X and XII, he said. As per the guidelines separate sections will be made if the number of students in a particular school is more, he added.

Similarly, the Odisha government had also directed the institutes to reopen the hostels for students of Classes X and XII for the academic session 2021-22. Hostels had remained closed since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

In a letter to all heads of schools, Pratap Kumar Mishra, additional secretary S&ME department said that government has asked hostels to reopen from July 25, 2021 as classes will resume from the next day. This is applicable for all schools coming under the control of S&ME and other departments and also for private institutions.

All institutes have to follow the SOPs implemented by the government. Heads of all educational institutions must ensure that students maintain social distancing while in school and common areas of the hostels have to be cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis.

Dengue cases rise 20 times in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 25: With no let-up in dengue cases in the capital city, health experts and denizens blamed the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation's (BMC) poor sanitation and drain management for failing to control the outbreak of the disease amidst Covid-19 pandemic.

Dengue cases in the city climbed to over 350 with 20 new cases being reported Sunday. With only 17 cases being reported till July 5, the total cases has seen a 20 times increase within a span of just three weeks.

"Dengue in the city is a recurring problem. Every year the cases see a surge during monsoons but the BMC seems to do nothing to check it. Spread of dengue is mainly owing to the Aedes mosquitoes that breed in the raw sewage and stagnant water. This could be prevented if adequate sanitation and drains are not clogged," said Samarth Mohanty, an epidemiologist here. Sources at the BMC revealed that most of the dengue cases have been reported from the slums in the city. Seventy-five cases

were reported from Niladri Vihar and this was followed by Sailashree Vihar (37). Many cases have also been detected from Chandrasekharpur, Unit VIII, Kalpana Square and other localities in the city.

"Garbage collection is not regular in our locality and the waste keeps lying in open for days. Similarly, water also gets accumulated in various places during monsoon due to improper drainage system providing ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed," alleged Laxmikant Behera, resident of Sitanath Nagar slum of Sailashree Vihar where about 10 cases were recorded initially.

It may be mentioned that the civic body spends about ₹14 crore annually for garbage collection and disposal. It has deployed three agencies in different wards of the city for waste management and cleaning drains. More than 1500 sanitation workers are engaged in the exercise.

However, a senior official of the BMC said, "Rise in dengue cases are largely due to unawareness of the people. Till now we have destroyed more than 451 larva sources and have identified 1,029 more."

'Liberate Hong Kong' at heart of landmark case

REUTERS

Hong Kong, July 25: Three Hong Kong judges will rule Tuesday whether the protest slogan "Liberate Hong Kong. Revolution of our Times" is a call for secession when they deliver a verdict on charges against a man arrested at a demonstration last year.

The landmark ruling could have long-term implications for how a national security law that China imposed on its freest city a year ago against secession, terrorism, subversion and collusion with foreign forces reshapes its common law traditions, some legal scholars say. Activists say a ruling to outlaw the slogan will tighten limits on free speech. The slogan was chanted during



Police officers escort a prison van which is carrying Tong Ying-kit, the first person charged under the new national security law, in Hong Kong, China

REUTERS FILE PHOTO

pro-democracy protests, posted online, scrawled on walls and printed on everything from pamphlets, books, stickers and T-shirts to coffee mugs.

During the 15-day trial of 24-year-old waiter Tong Ying-kit, the court heard how he rode a motorcycle, carrying a black flag bearing the slogan into several riot police in central Hong Kong on July 1 last year.

Tong was the first person charged under the national security law. Lead government prosecutor Anthony Chau argued in court that this was a terrorist act, and that Tong had sought to incite people to secession, both "grave" offences under the security law that could bring prison terms of several years to life, if convicted.

Tong has pleaded not guilty to

charges of terrorism, incitement to commit secession and dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm. Chau did not respond to requests for comment. Defence barrister Clive Grossman declined to comment.

A cornerstone of the trial has been the prosecution's argument that slogan "connotes Hong Kong independence" - a position unacceptable to China, which considers the financial hub and former British colony an "inalienable" part of its territory.

During the protests that began in 2019 and paralysed the city, millions took to the streets to oppose a perceived clampdown by China's Communist Party leaders on the city's constitutionally enshrined freedoms. The slogan was ubiquitous.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES Today, you need to access every bit of your mental agility. Quick and spontaneous decisions are the need of the hour. But a word of caution from Ganesha: take advice, as these decisions could have long-term implications, especially if they involve money.

TAURUS Much to the disappointment and annoyance of your friends and associates, you are likely to act unduly possessive and self centred about persons and objects, warns Ganesha. Be sure, your overprotective attitude is not likely to amuse anyone.

GEMINI You will be seized by a desire to go on a trip with friends and family. This trip may have been some time in the planning as well. The day will be filled with fun and frolic and entertainment. Marital life will be blissful as well, says Ganesha.

CANCER Though you work with dedication, you will be dejected as higher-ups do not fully appreciate your devotion. Don't take it to heart, says Ganesha, and suggests not to be sad. In the end, you will succeed with your firmness and boldness. By evening, you may have tense moments.

LEO Your competitors will try to malign your reputation today. They will try to spoil your image and impression in front of others. You need to be courageous and nip their efforts in the bud. You need to delegate decision-making activities to others today.

VIRGO Ganesha says a turning point in life is important if you wish to understand it in a better way. You will excel in whatever you do today. Financial matters and relationships are on top of the priority list, but perhaps not in the same order.

LIBRA Ganesha says that you will be a different person today, full of vigor and enthusiasm. You will be able to showcase your creative skills in your personal life and at the same time you will be able to go ahead in your chosen field and gain prestige too. You will have to make a decision about studying further in the field of higher education abroad.

SCORPIO Elegance personified, you are loaded with compliments today. This may encourage you to do better work and have good equations with people. However, make sure your success does not go to your head and affect your work, warns Ganesha. Watch your words while communicating.

SAGITTARIUS You nearly become a superhero in the eyes of your near and dear ones, says Ganesha. And what more? You loving your new avatar. Good news is on its way as promotion or increment is on the cards.

CAPRICORN It is always easy to lose mental balance when going gets tough, but Ganesha advises you to hold on to your patience as it will help you reach your destination. Don't enter into war of words with anyone at work as the conflicts may harm you very badly. On personal front, you will open up to your partner, and make him/her feel how important he/she is for you.

AQUARIUS Today, you will decide to clean up the pile of files on the desk at work. Also, you will do everything that it requires to lighten the burden. Ganesha advises you to plan out your career wisely and set targets for the future.

PISCES You are not too much of a money-minded person. Planning your finances for the future may not really be your cup of tea. You take every day as it comes. However, you will have an epiphany of sorts today and decide to become more serious towards life. You will finally realize the value of planning for your finances. Do not disregard this, says Ganesha.



M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN'S OLD INSPIRED BY FATHER'S DAY GIFT

Indian-origin Hollywood filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan says he was inspired by a present given by his daughters on Father's Day which helped in making his upcoming movie titled *Old*. *Old* is a science fiction mystery thriller film, inspired by the novel *Sandcastle* by Pierre Oscar Levy and Frederik Peeters.

FORTUNATE TO BE ALIVE AFTER COVID-19 BATTLE: IDRIS ELBA

British star Idris Elba says he is fortunate to be alive after his battle with Covid-19. "The COVID was mild, compared with how others have gone. I'm very fortunate to be alive, and every day I'm thankful," he told The Guardian newspaper.



Mrunal wants to get out of her comfort zone

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur says she wants to keep exploring herself and push herself out of her comfort zone.

Mrunal gained recognition with her stint in the television show *Kumkum Bhagya*. She ventured into films with the drama *Love Sonia* in 2018. The 28-year-old actress was later seen in movies such as *Super 30* and *Batla House*.

Her latest film is the sports drama *Toofaan*, which is directed by National Award-winner Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra. It also stars Farhan Akhtar and Paresh Rawal.

Looking back at her journey, Mrunal said: "I just want to be known as a versatile actress and I want to keep exploring myself and genres. I want to work with different sets of directors. I want to make sure that I get out of my comfort zone, which I have learnt from Farhan (Akhtar)."

Mrunal also added that she wants to inspire her fans through her work.



It is okay to be boxed: Sunil Grover

New Delhi: Star stand-up comic and actor Sunil Grover, who has tickled the funny bone of many with his witty one-liners and expressions on screen, is fine with being boxed as he sees it as acceptance and not getting limited.

"It is okay to be boxed. I am fine with it because eventually people will box you with what they see and like. Boxing also means acceptance that they accept you in a certain way so rather than it being said in a way that it is limiting, no I think it is acceptance," Sunil said. The 43-year-old funnyman also revealed that when he was offered Vishal Bhardwaj's comedy drama *Pataakha* in 2018 he did not have anything else.

He said: "But sometimes destiny has plans for you which are beyond your control like when we talk about *Pataakha* when that happened, when it was offered I did not have anything else. I was off television and it was a great offer. So, I said 'okay, let's do it.'"

Shweta doesn't regret anything in her career

Television star Shweta Tiwari has been a part of the acting business for over two decades now. The actress is happy the way her career has shaped up and does not regret anything.

Shweta started working in 1999 but it was her portrayal of Prerna Sharma Bajaj in the popular TV show *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*, which ran from 2001-2008 that made her a household name.

She was later seen in television series including *Parvarrish*, *Begusarai* and *Mere Dad Ki Dulhan*.

"I am very happy with the growth, even the mistakes I have made in my career. I have learned

something out of them. I don't regret anything in my career," Shweta said.

The 40-year-old actress said that she has always tried to do something different.

"I never made myself monotonous. I never did the same kind of roles again and again. Till the time I am working I am going to try different work. For me, money was not the criteria. The work was the criteria," added the actress.



B-Town veteran ladies who stole shows lately



Surekha Sikri



Pushpa Joshi



Farrukh Jaffar



Sarita Joshi

Three-time National Award-winning veteran actress Surekha Sikri passed away recently. Her demise left a void in the world of cinema which can never be filled.

As the film industry and audiences mourn Sikri's demise, we can take a look into the veteran ladies who have left an impact with their performances in mainstream Hindi movies in the last few years.

Pushpa Joshi

Even though the 2018 release *Raid* is known for being an Ajay Devgn film, showing the actor in the avatar of a fearless no-nonsense income tax officer, an actress stole the show in a supporting role, that too in the film which marked her Hindi film debut at the age of 85! Pushpa Joshi won hearts with her innocent smile and effortless performance in her role of Amma Ji, the senior most member of

the family. Unfortunately, she passed away the following year on November 26, 2019.

Farrukh Jaffar

Shoojit Sircar's 2020 digital film *Gulabo Sitabo* was from the very beginning being promoted as an Amitabh Bachchan and Ayushmann Khurrana film with both their faces showing on the poster. While both the actors won acclaim for their per-

formances, it was veteran actress Farrukh Jaffar, who emerged as the showstopper! Both in terms of the story and her performance with a touch of humour, Jaffar in her role of Fatima Begum, left an impact on the audience, who were also in for a pleasant surprise.

Sarita Joshi

Experience only makes an actor finer in his/her craft and one beautiful example of this is veteran actress Sarita Joshi, who left everyone spellbound with her performance in Hardik Mehta's horror-comedy film *Roohi*. Joshi in her role of a ghost disguised as a mysterious old woman, who appears from nowhere and finally runs away with the bride (Janhvi Kapoor), left viewers surprised and speechless. The veteran actress outshone everyone else with her natural and effortless acting.

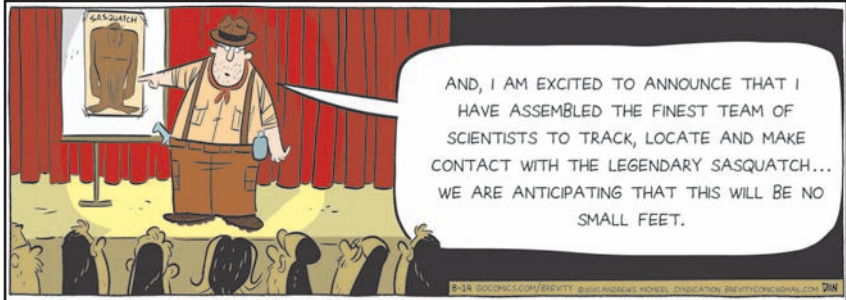
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

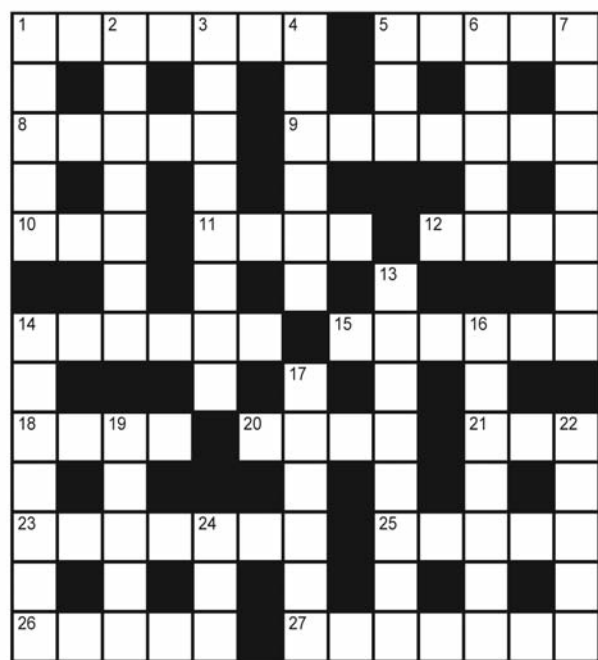


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Disease-causing bacterium
- 5 Sleeveless garments
- 8 Links hazards
- 9 Beryl variety
- 10 Twosome
- 11 Olympic sled
- 12 Barbershop call
- 14 Pastor
- 15 Stabbed

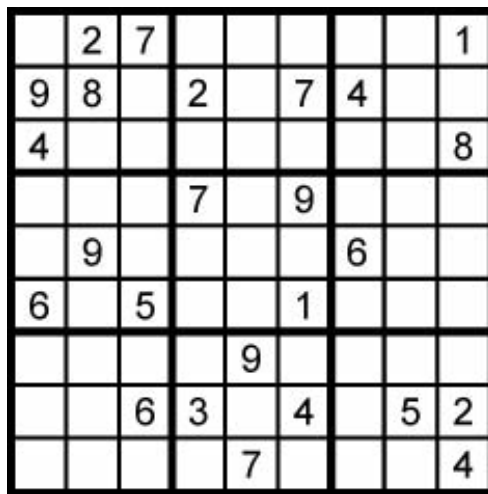
Down

- 18 Green-eyed monster
- 20 Medical breakthrough
- 21 Mongrel
- 23 Pasta dish
- 25 Toothsome
- 26 Rock bottom
- 27 Football stat
- 1 Hushed
- 2 Cacophony

- 3 Antiquated
- 4 Vitality
- 5 Pool tool
- 6 Jabber
- 7 Knocked out
- 13 Aardvark
- 14 Grade insignia
- 16 Reddish purple
- 17 Chastity
- 19 Brilliant
- 22 Verse
- 24 Paddle

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



SUDOKU



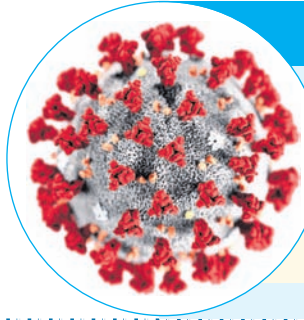
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## FISHING TIME

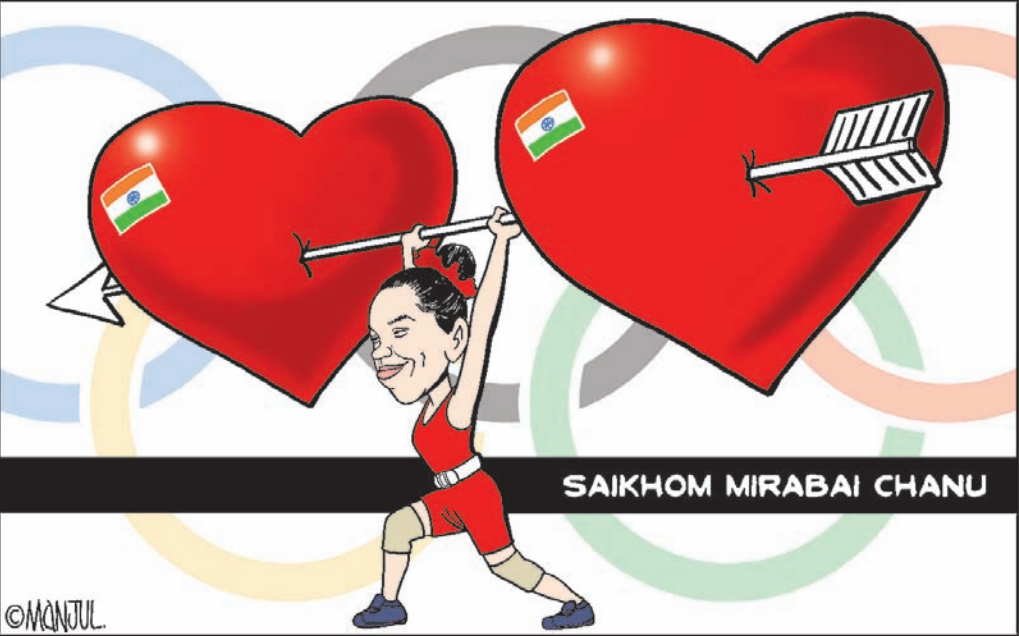
Fishermen trying their luck in Mahanadi river near Sikharpur railway bridge in Cuttack, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	19,46,08,560	17,66,28,307	41,71,923
India	3,13,71,901	3,05,43,138	4,20,551
Odisha	9,67,548	9,45,177	5,512

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Angul murder case: NHRC moved seeking compensation to victim's kin

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 25:** A rights activist Sunday approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking Rs 30 lakh compensation to the kin of a 21-year-old college girl who was found dead at Mahidharpur in Angul July 24.

In his petition, rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak informed the commission that the victim had gone to take a bath to a nearby river Saturday morning, but did not return.

"A few locals spotted the girl lying lifeless and naked near a nallah on the outskirts of the village

in the afternoon and informed her family. The college girl was found with her hands and legs tied," said the petitioner.

Police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. Banarpal police registered a case (242/21).

Alleging that the college student was raped before being killed, villagers blocked the Old Cuttack-Sambalpur Road and demanded arrest of the accused and justice to the victim.

The road blockade was, however, removed following an assurance from the police.

Meanwhile, police arrested two persons in connection with the in-

cident. Nayak urged the commission to direct the Chief Secretary to pay the compensation immediately to the next of kin of the deceased and send the proof of compensation details to the apex rights body.

The rights activist also requested the commission to direct the Angul superintendent of police to take stringent action against the culprits and submit an Action Taken Report and other relevant documents within four weeks.

Nayak also demanded a magisterial probe into the alleged rape and murder of the college student.

## No heavy rainfall in state today: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 25:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Sunday, in its evening bulletin, issued no warning of heavy rains for Monday.

The department, however, issued warning of thunderstorm and lightning while it claimed that light to moderate rain could be seen in different parts of the state Monday.

While issuing the thunderstorm warning for Monday, the department said, "Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Boudh."

It also added, "Light to moderate rain or thundershower are very likely to occur Monday at some places over the districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Boudh and at one or two places over the rest districts of Odisha."

The department has issued warning of heavy rains for Tuesday while heavy to very heavy rains are likely to lash different parts of the state Wednesday and Thursday.

Monday, the state capital might see light rain while cloudy sky may be seen during the day. The maximum temperature could go upto 35 degree C.

There had been scanty rainfall in the state Sunday. The highest rainfall of 11.2mm (highest in state Sunday) was reported from Baripada while it was followed by 6.7 mm in Bolangir. The maximum temperature Sunday was reported in Balasore which saw 34.4 degree C temperature while the minimum temperature of 19 degree was reported in Phulbani.

# Baramunda bus terminal work likely to be over by June 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 25:** If things go well, the ongoing interstate bus terminal (ISBT) project work at Baramunda here will be completed by June 2022, an official said Sunday.

This was revealed during the visit of a team of senior officials, led by 5T Secretary VK Pandian, to a host of ongoing project sites in the City here Sunday morning.

The team reviewed the progress of the ISBT at Baramunda, new road connecting CRPF Square to Institute of Mathematics and Applications at Andharua, affordable housing project in Chandrasekharpur area and an incubation tower near Infocity area, according to the Information and Public Relations department.

Being developed by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) over 15.5 acre land, the ISBT project at Baramunda will have a terminal space of 1.31 lakh square feet and commercial space of 1.70 lakh square feet. It will have 35 bus bays.

According to sources, the proposed terminal will have state-of-the-art facilities like uninterrupted power supply, fire detection alarms, fire fighting mechanism, information display board, passenger announcement system, CCTVs, water treatment plant, air conditioning, sewage treatment plant, effluent treatment plant for bus wash, elevators and escalators.

According to a senior official, the multi crore rupee project will be completed by June 2022. The 5T Secretary emphasised on maintaining the quality of the work.

The officials also reviewed the



5T Secretary VK Pandian, along with other senior officials, reviews the progress of ongoing projects in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

## INFRA BOOST

The 13.6 km Left Parallel Road project, being executed by Works dept with an expenditure ₹92 crore, will help easing traffic rush on Jaydev Vihar-Patia Road

The affordable housing project in Chandrasekharpur area is expected to provide housing to 2,600 people

The incubation tower being built by Idco with an expenditure of ₹221 crore will facilitate startups in the City

Being developed by BDA over 15.5 acre land, the ISBT project will have a terminal space of 1.31 lakh sqft and commercial space of 1.70 lakh sqft

progress of construction of a new road connecting CRPF Square to Institute of Mathematics and Applications at Andharua.

The 13.6 kilometre road project being executed by the Works department with an estimated expenditure Rs 92 crore will help easing traffic rush on Jaydev Vihar-Patia Road, said a source.

The team also took stock of the ongoing affordable housing project in Chandrasekharpur area that is expected to provide housing to 2,600 people. Sources said the project will have facilities like primary school, health centre and play area.

The 5T Secretary suggested for an early allotment of the houses.

While reviewing the progress of the incubation tower project in Infocity area, the 5T Secretary emphasised on maintaining the quality of the works.

Being built by Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Idco) with an expenditure of Rs 221 crore, the incubation tower will facilitate startups in the City.

Works Secretary Krishan Kumar, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh, Special Secretary to CM Vineel Krishna, Idco ED Bhupendra Singh Poonia and senior project officials were present during the review of the projects.



# INDIAN ARMY

## STRONG AND CAPABLE

Kargil Vijay Diwas is a day of inspiration for every Indian when the grateful nation proudly remembers the saga of courage and determination of our brave soldiers.



### BATTLE OF TIGER HILL

Tiger Hill was one of the highest peaks in the Dras - Kargil Sector. Eviction of Pakistani troops from this feature was one of the most important objectives for the Indian Army during the Kargil operation and the peak was captured on 04 July 1999.

### OPERATION VIJAY

The Indo-Pakistan Kargil Conflict known as Operation Vijay, was fought between May and July 1999 in Kargil district, along the Line of Control extending from Zoji La in the West to Turtok (Siachen Glacier) in the East. The cause of conflict was the infiltration of Pakistan's Northern Light Infantry into positions on the Indian side of the Line of Control overlooking and threatening National Highway. Pakistani intruders threatened territorial integrity and also 2.5 lakh Indians across Zoji La. This was unacceptable to the Nation.

Operation Vijay was one of the toughest and longest campaigns of modern times. Indian Army soldiers fought legendary battles in Dras, Kaksar, Batalik and Turtuk Sectors at heights above 12000 feet.

The Kargil War is remembered for the determination and daring young leadership and raw courage of our jawans.

### BATTLE OF TOLING

Indian Army launched its attack on Toling in the last week of May 1999. Point 4590 was captured on 06 June 1999. Toling was captured by gallant troops by 12 June 1999.

### OPERATIONS IN BATALIK

The first success of Operation Vijay was achieved in this Sector in the area of Rockfall on 09 June 1999. The subsequent attacks were launched on Point 4875, Garhi, Point 5000 and Jubar Complex. The Batalik Sector was cleared of the enemy by 07 July 1999.

### OPERATIONS IN KAKSAR

This was the area where the first Indian patrol while moving to re-occupy the winter vacated posts, got ambushed. When a search party was attacked, the seriousness of situation emerged. This Sector saw bitter fighting and Indian Army launched multiple attacks to dislodge the Pakistanis.

### BATTLE OF POINT 4875

Point 4875 located in Mushkoh Valley dominated National Highway from Dras to Matayan. The troops of Indian Army fought valiantly to recapture this strategically important peak.

### BATTLE OF KHALUBAR

Khalubar Ridge due to its location, dominates all approaches towards the Line of Control. Our Artillery destroyed enemy sangars, disrupted communication & supply lines. Some of the most heroic deeds of valour were witnessed in this sector.

### GALLANTRY AWARDS

 <p>Captain Vikram Batra PVC (Posthumous) 13 JAK RIF</p>	 <p>Rifleman Sanjay Kumar PVC 13 JAK RIF</p>	 <p>Param Vir Chakra (PVC) - 4</p>	 <p>Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) - 10</p>
 <p>Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav PVC 18 GRENADIERS</p>	 <p>Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey PVC (Posthumous) 1/11 GR</p>	 <p>Vir Chakra (VrC) - 49</p>	 <p>Sena Medal (SM) - 135</p>

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# State logs 1,833 fresh nCoV cases



Till date, the state has administered 1,52,75,739 Covid-19 vaccines, taking into account 1,51,313 doses Saturday

The state government had announced Saturday that foreign-bound Indian nationals, who had taken the first dose of Covishield or AstraZeneca vaccine in a foreign country, could now receive the second dose of Covishield in Odisha

Any Indian citizen who had taken the first dose of Covishield vaccine in a foreign country could take the second dose in Odisha after prescribed time period and would also get a certificate for the same

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 25:** Odisha Sunday registered 1,833 fresh Covid-19 cases, raising the tally to 9,67,548, while the death count mounted to 5,512 with 67 more fatalities said, a health department official said.

The coastal state now has 18,914 active cases and 9,43,069 patients have recovered from the disease, including 1,865 since Saturday, he said.

While 1,062 infections were de-

tected from quarantine centres, the remaining 771 were local contact cases. Khurda district, comprising state capital Bhubaneswar, reported the highest of 490 new cases, followed by Cuttack (243), Puri (139) and Balasore (120).

For the first time during the second wave of the pandemic, no single-day infections were reported from Boudh and Nuapada districts, the official said. Of the fresh fatalities, Khurda accounted for 24

For the first time during the second wave of the pandemic, no single-day infections were reported from Boudh and Nuapada districts

deaths, followed by Angul and Keonjhar (10 each), Sundargarh (6), Puri (5), Ganjam and Mayurbhanj (2 each). A total of 53 other Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities, he said.

Odisha has thus far conducted over 1.55 crore sample tests, including 71,089 in the past 24 hours. The daily test positivity rate stands at 2.58 per cent. The case-fatality is at 0.56 per cent, one of the lowest in the country, the official said.

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The Commissionerate Police holds an awareness programme at Vani Vihar Square in Bhubaneswar, Sunday, urging bikers to use only ISI-marked helmets

# Hold local body polls: BJP to SEC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 25:** The state leadership of BJP Sunday demanded the State Election Commission (SEC) to conduct the elections in the local bodies as per the mandate of the Indian Constitution. The party accused the poll body of working as an arm of the state government.

Party leader Pitambar Acharya and state BJP president Samir Mohanty conducted a press conference on the issue. Acharya said, "The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments empowered the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and paved way for decentralised governance. The State Election Commission (SEC) was entrusted with the task of conducting elections in these local bodies."



BJP leaders addressing the media in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

He said, "The SEC is obliged to conduct elections in ULBs and PRIs before the completion of their five-year tenure. There are five municipal corporations and 109 municipalities or notified area councils in the state. The tenure of the local bodies ended in September

2018. But the elections of these local bodies have not been held despite the long gap."

The BJP leader also said that the local representatives as well as local residents were deprived of their fundamental rights due to the delay.

**THE BJP LEADER SAID THAT THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL AS LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS DUE TO THE DELAY**

He also cited a few judgments of the Supreme Court orders on such issues. "The SEC has been saying that they have been writing letters to the state but the state is not ready for the elections. The SEC has forgotten its constitutional duty and is working as an arm of the state government," he said.

# Tribal museum virtual tour showcases Paraja tribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 25:** The ST & SC Development Department Sunday showcased the traditional methods of food preservation and pest control by the Paraja tribe during a virtual tour of the Odisha State Tribal Museum here.

SCSTRTI Director AB Ota said members of Paraja community, an agrarian tribe, usually employ several food preservation and pest control techniques that are both technically sound and scientific in nature. Using these techniques, they cultivate and conserve cereals, pulses, vegetables, mushrooms and fish, Ota added.

Members of Paraja tribe have



been following the indigenous methods of food preservation over centuries. They always favour open pollination and use of organic pesticides in agriculture.

The virtual tour showcased how these techniques have helped the Paraja tribe in ensuring food security and maintaining food diversity. The tour also explored how

the agricultural practices of the tribe helped preserving endemic biodiversity in crops long before modern agricultural science recognised its importance.

These methods are now being studied by agricultural researchers for reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, sources said.

# NHAI nod for two footbridges in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 25 :** The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has approved construction of two footbridges in the state Capital. While one will come up near Hotel Crown in Nayapalli, the other one will be built at Palasuni.

This was revealed by Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi. The NHAI has planned to invest around Rs 1.25 crore for the footbridges. The MP had earlier written to the NHAI on the issue and demanded footbridges in the areas.

# Khurda Road DRM inspects Cuttack station

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 25:** Khurda Road Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Shashi Kant Singh Sunday inspected Cuttack railway station and took stock of the various passenger amenities and facilities that are to be taken up as part of the station redevelopment plan.

Singh said that many developmental works have been initiated for Cuttack station with in the last five years. Some of the major works taken up at the station include a new foot overbridge and additional escalators. This apart, steps have been taken to improve the circulating area and the station premises, said the DRM.

"The Cuttack station has all the required facilities for differently-



Khurda Road DRM Shashi Kant Singh, along with senior railway officials, inspects passenger amenities at Cuttack railway station

abled passengers including lifts, escalators, designated ticket counters, wheel chairs and battery-operated vehicles. The redevelopment work at the station will be carried by the Rail Land

Development Authority RLDA," added the DRM.

The DRM also sought suggestions and advices from public for further improvement in passenger amenities at the station.

Singh also inspected the goods shed at the station and took stock of the facilities provided to merchants and labourers. He held discussions with local merchants regarding further improvement of the goods shed and rake handling facilities.

Earlier, East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager (GM) Vidya Bhushan had inspected passenger amenities and redevelopment work at Bhubaneswar railway station.

The ECoR GM also enquired about the facilities required to be taken up as part of the station redevelopment plan, sources said. The Bhubaneswar railway station would be developed into a world class station with facilities like an airport, the GM had said.

# Silver City to have 34 smart parks



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, July 25:** The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has initiated process for setting up of as many as 34 smart parks in the Silver City here.

The civic authorities have decided to set up 15 smart parks in CDA area of the city while construction work of four such parks has already been started. A target has been set to finish the construction work for four parks by the end of this year, said CMC Deputy Commissioner Ajay Mohanty.

"We are now preparing blueprints for the construction of remaining 11 parks in CDA area. This apart, steps have been taken to identify suitable places for 19 smart parks in other localities of the city," Mohanty added.

All the smart parks would have lighting, drinking water, toilet, open gym and other modern facilities. Besides, there would be facilities for Yoga and proper seating arrangements for the visitors. Moreover, the parks would have playing equipment for children, Mohanty said.

"The Silver City does not have adequate playgrounds for children.

The civic authorities have decided to set up 15 smart parks in CDA area of Cuttack while construction work of four such parks has already been started

Steps have been taken to identify suitable places for 19 smart parks in other localities of the city

All the new parks would have lighting, drinking water, toilet, open gym and other modern facilities

Moreover, the locals are facing inconveniences to get suitable places for morning and evening walks. Taking into consideration all these issues, the CMC has decided to set up smart parks across the city," Mohanty added.

CMC sources, meanwhile, claimed that the new parks will have proper arrangements to manage crowds while providing refreshment to the visitors.

"The concept of neighbourhood parks is being promoted in urban areas. The civic authorities have planned to set up small parks in all localities of the city so that the residents can access these parks easily for refreshment," said a source in the CMC.



Shops at Buxi Bazar in Cuttack remain closed due to the weekend shutdown, Sunday

OP PHOTO

# CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I Peenaken Sahoo, S/o Naba Kishore Sahoo have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Peenaken D Sahoo vide Affidavit No.728, Dated 21.07.2021.

I Sumitrra Sahoo, W/o Peenaken D Sahoo have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Sumitrra Sahoo vide affidavit No.740, Dated 23.07.2021.

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# Forest dept for sal forest regeneration in Keonjhar district



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, July 25:** Mineral-rich Keonjhar district was once rich with sal forests, but over the years, many sal forests have vanished while several others are depleting due to a number of factors like timber smuggling, rampant mining and lack of maintenance.

However, the Forest department has initiated a move to revive and create sal forests in various parts of the district.

According to reports, the Forest department has drawn up a blueprint to grow sal forests by setting up nurseries.

It will raise sal saplings through nurseries and then saplings will be transplanted elsewhere. Sal trees are valuable and they grow in natural settings. It is said that sal seeds that germinate within 24 hours after touching the soil can only be grown into trees.

Sal seeds germinate naturally and grow faster. It was thought that artificial germination of sal seeds will not be very effective earlier. So, sal trees had not been included in the plantation programmes.

Now, the Keonjhar forest division has planned to take up artificial germination and sapling care.

The department has managed to grow 10,000 sal saplings on six hectares of forest land near

Padmapur on an experimental basis. If the artificially grown sal saplings manage to survive through transplantation, it will give a new dimension to sal forest regeneration in the days to come, said DFO Sayam Mallick.

The DFO also said that the success of sal forest regeneration depends on how long the sal saplings are nursed in nurseries (at least for one and a half year), provision of water and their protection.

If the saplings survive till December, sal forests can be created, he added.

The Odisha Mining Corporation is going to carry out compensatory afforestation at Jhadebelada next year. The department has signed an agreement with the OMC to meet 50 percent of the compensatory afforestation with sal saplings. The department has decided to make provision of protection and water at the site.

It has raised 80,000 sal saplings at nurseries running in Padmapur, Belda and other areas. The saplings will be taken care of for one and a half year before transplantation.

Some experts observed that the department should lay focus on creating sal forests on an area of 100 hectares rather than that of 1000 hectares. They have appreciated the effort of the Forest department in generating sal forests and hopeful of its success.

# Drug peddling racket busted; five arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rajgangpur, July 25:** Rajgangpur police busted a drug peddling racket with the arrest of five narcotic traders Saturday.

According to reports, total 15.7 grams of brown sugar and ₹51,000 in cash was seized from their possession, Sundargarh district police headquarters informed.

The drug peddlers were held while ferrying the contraband out of the district, the police said.

Three motorcycles and four mobile phones which were being used by the five have been seized and a case under Section-21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was registered in this connection. Notably, contraband smuggling has gone up in the state with people taking up the trade for easy money.

# Machinery doing MGNREGS work, job card holders sit idle

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khajuripada/Balsakumpa, July 25:** During the troubled times of Covid-19, difficulties of rural people and migrants have compounded with repeated shutdowns and lockdown. In view of this situation, both the Central and the state governments have laid much importance to effective implementation of the MGNREGS projects in rural areas to ensure scope of manual labour for people.

But at many places of Khajuripada block in Kandhamal district, machines are allegedly being used in MGNREGS projects while job card holders are sitting idle.

Sadly, the concern of the government has allegedly been thrown to the winds during execution of projects in Pirikudi panchayat. It was alleged that the officials responsible for this are doing little to ensure proper execution of the projects.

Villagers alleged that a pond has been dug out with a machine on



Fire personnel dousing a burning dumper which accidentally caught fire while plying on Tamulia overbridge in Balasore town, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## HYDER ENCOUNTER

# 2 empty bullet shells seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, July 25:** Police and the scientific team Sunday seized two empty bullet shells from the place where dreaded gangster Sheikh Hyder was injured in police encounter Saturday.

As a part of the investigation into the encounter, Balasore SDPO Sriharsh Mishra, additional DCP Pramod Rath along with police and scientific teams visited the encounter spot near Simulia in Balasore district Sunday and recovered two empty bullet shells.

Meanwhile, the area where the encounter took place has been declared as a 'restricted zone', it was learnt.

According to a source, the postmortem is being carried out at Balasore district headquarters hospital (DHH) where the gangster's family members including his wife, son, daughter-in-law and daughter have reached.

Notably the gangster was being shifted in a police vehicle from Choudwar Jail in Cuttack to Baripada Jail amid tight security. At about 3:20pm, when the vehicle was nearing Simulia, the gangster asked the cops to stop the vehicle so that he could relieve himself.



The area where the encounter took place has been declared as a 'restricted zone'

hicle so that he could relieve himself.

After the vehicle pulled up, in a bid to escape, the gangster tried to snatch the service gun from a cop. In order to prevent his escape, a sub-inspector opened fire at him. Hyder sustained bullet injuries in his abdomen and hand. He was rushed to Balasore district headquarters hospital where he succumbed to the injuries.

# Problems galore in Swabhiman Anchal

POST NEWS NETWORK

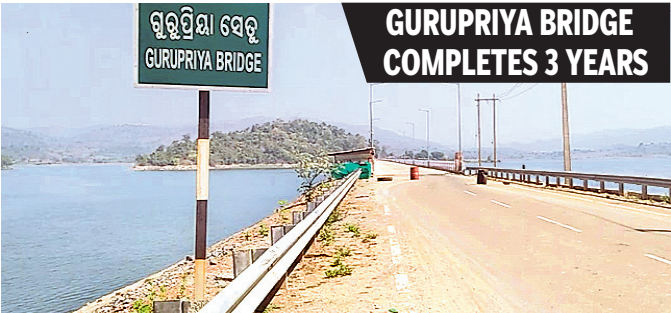
**Malkangiri/Chitrakonda, July 25:** Even as the establishment of the Gurupriya bridge in Chitrakonda reservoir completes three years Monday, there remain numerous villages where basic facilities still elude people, a report said.

The establishment of the bridge ushered in a new era of hope, progress and prosperity for the inhabitants of 151 villages living in the cut-off areas of Chitrakonda reservoir.

Since then three years have passed but residents in many villages continue to lead a life of utter neglect and impoverishment. Many a problems of the people in the cut-off areas have been resolved in between these three years but still a lot more needs to be done to fully integrate the people with the mainland of the state.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the bridge July 26, 2018, which proved to be a game changer for the people of cut-off areas by bringing in a change in the lives and livelihood of people. The Chief Minister while unveiling the bridge named the cut-off areas of the reservoir as Swabhiman Anchal and announced a ₹100 crore package for the area.

The funds sanctioned were spent on construction of roads, electricity



fication works, healthcare facilities and fish farming as a part of livelihood projects for the residents.

Reports said that the Chitrakonda soil embankment project in Malkangiri district was constructed for establishment of Chitrakonda hydro-electricity plant and to provide irrigation facilities to the farmlands in the area. Over 151 villages were severed from the mainland due to construction of the hydro-electricity project.

The then state government had rehabilitated and relocated a handful of the displaced people while the rest 80 per cent displaced had cleared the jungles in undivided Koraput district and settled there. The 151 villages severed from the mainland of the state comprise nine panchayats.

Left with no other option, the people in these cut-off villages continued to travel in the reservoir

and eked out their living by taking up shifting cultivation by clearing jungles.

The opening of the Gurupriya bridge opened up new avenues for the residents. The fishermen living in the area were encouraged with incentives to start fish cultivation. They were also provided with fishing boats and nets to earn a better living. The administration is also giving small loans to residents for ginger and turmeric cultivation.

Self-help groups were formed in various villages and the people were encouraged to take up goatery, livestock, poultry and vegetable farming. They were also provided with quality fertilisers and agricultural equipment to carry out their work. Many areas were electrified and power supply was made available to people in the households.

Pucca roads were constructed

and power supply was made available to Janbai, Badapada, Paparmetta, Jodamba, Dhuliput, Ralegeda, Gajalmamudi, Jantapai, Paplur, Kurumanur and Nakamamudi villages from Chitrakonda. The residents in the area witnessed electric lights after long years.

However, despite all the development there still remain lot many villages where basic facilities elude the residents. They continue to risk their lives by travelling in dingy boats in the reservoir to reach their village and to reach the mainland at Chitrakonda.

The district administration has provided a boat ambulance to ferry pregnant women and children across the reservoir to the hospital which is on the mainland. Schools have been established but lack of teachers has hit the classroom studies.

However, kin continue to carry the patients on cots or slings to board the ambulance on the reservoir as many villages in these nine panchayats do not have a good road. The infrastructure development has brought about a change in the mindset of the villagers. They are no more supporting the Maoists nowadays. Five BSF camps and three police stations have been established in the area to provide security to the residents.

# WODC for promotion of local entrepreneurship in Kalahandi district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, July 25:** Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) chairman Asit Tripathy Sunday reviewed the progress of different development projects in Kalahandi during his tour to the district.

According to a source, the WODC chief directed officials concerned to chalk out an action plan with a purpose to stoke the process of development in Kalahandi district.

Tripathy emphasised the promotion of local entrepreneurship as well as private sector investment in cash crops, sericulture, fishery, animal husbandry, food processing and other agro-based industries.

Kalahandi district has done commendable work for effective Covid-19 management. With proactive monitoring of the state government, works on expressway, irrigation and healthcare has progressed very significantly, Tripathy said in the review meeting.

"I advised district-level officials to promote local entrepreneurship, along with implementation of government schemes. It was nice interacting with some successful entrepreneurs of the district, and knowinghow they have prospered with the development schemes," Tripathy added.

# In a first, red herons sighted in Mahakalpara

WHILE WHITE AND GREY HERONS ARE COMMON, RED HERONS ARE BEING SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE LOCALITY

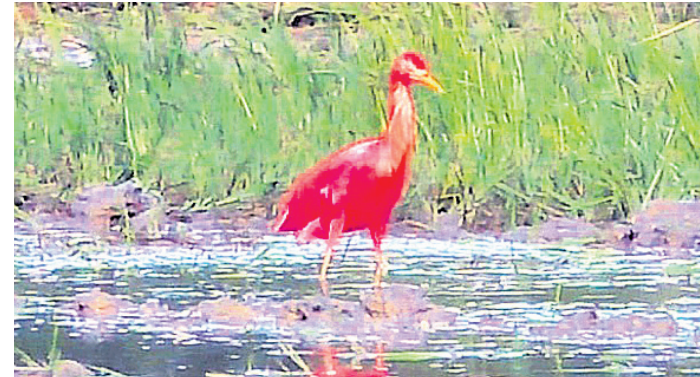
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mahakalpara, July 25:** Bird watchers, environmentalists and villagers are feasting their eyes these days on the unprecedented and uniquely beautiful sight of red herons flying in the sky of the coastal area of Mahakalpara block in Kendrapara district.

According to the locals, winged guests from Siberia come flying to Gahirmatha marine sanctuary every year. While white and grey herons are common, red herons are being seen for the first time in the locality. Their flocking

and flying along with other birds is offering beautiful scenes worth capturing through camera lenses, they added.

Informing about these red-winged guests, bird lover Subas Swain said these red herons are indigenous to Siberia. "With Gahirmatha marine sanctuary being close to Bhitarkanika National Park, they might have come here along with other migratory birds, searching for food. Whatever may be the reason; their presence in our locality



means a lot for us," Swain said. "If our climate suits them and their population increases, then it will only add a new chapter. As of now, since they have visited our

place for the first time, they should not be disturbed. The Forest department should protect them from poachers and other disturbing activities," he added.

These birds are seen feeding on insects, fingerlings, grasshoppers etc from farmlands. Local residents said they first spotted the herons in a farmland near Jambu Gobari river.

Pointing out that these red herons have nestled in the saline and mangrove jungles, environmentalist Samarendra Mahali said, sighting of red herons augurs well for the environment. To provide them with an undisturbed environment throughout their stay is the need of the hour.

When contacted, Rajnagar DFO Jagyandatta Pati said he for the first time came to know about the presence of red herons in the locality. The department will take all possible steps to protect them.

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**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
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Whereas the authorized officer of **SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD** Erstwhile SUNDARAM BNP PARIBAS HOME FINANCE LTD., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) dated 20-11-2020** calling upon the **Borrower Mr. Jamil S K, Co-Borrower, Mrs. Raya Bibi** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 8,31,053/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Fifty Three Only)** being the amount due and payable under the **Loan Account number 66200138** + interest @36% p.a from 01-09-2020 + Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal expenses + Incidental charges within 60 days from the date of publication of the notice on **20-11-2020**.

The Borrower, Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, CoBorrower and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this **23-07-2021**.

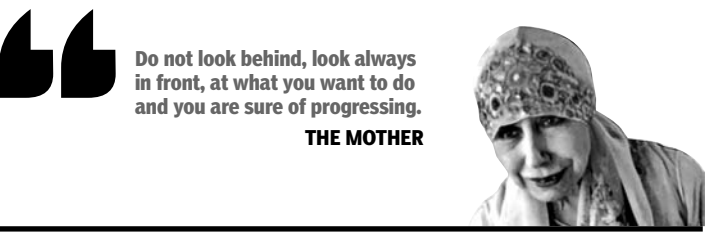
The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrower, Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,** for an amount **Rs. 9,04,219/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Four Thousand Two Hundred Nineteen Only)** as of **23-07-2021** and interest thereon @ 24% p. a. + Statutory Expenditure + Legal expenses + Incidental charges.

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY**  
All that piece and parcel of the property admeasuring Ac.0.04 dec i.e. Ac.0.040 dec out of Ac.0.16 dec i.e. Ac.0.160dec under Khata No.128, Plot No.544, Kisan: Gharbari (Homestead). Situated at Mouza/Village Bhsbanipur, under Tahasil: Pipili, P. S. Pipili, P. S. No-86, District Puri in the State of Odisha **bounded as under: Bounded on the:** NorthBy: Rev.Plot No.543, South By: Rev.Plot No.544 (Part), East By: Rev Plot No-570, West By: Sub.Plot No-3 &Road.

**Date: 23-07-2021** **for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., AUTHORISED OFFICER**





Do not look behind, look always in front, at what you want to do and you are sure of progressing.  
THE MOTHER

30 Years

This year 24 July marked the completion of 30 years of economic liberalization in India. The resources of the Government of India (GoI) in 1991 had been under terrible financial strain. Unable to manage a system that was crumbling from within due to a long time protected and enclosed financial structure, the then Union Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, with the blessings of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, had declared ‘Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization’ as a state policy for India. This policy was commonly known, at that time, as LPG and the rich in India, delirious with happiness for this development, found this to be the mantra they were advocating for long. Media, owned and controlled by the same rich citizens of this country, went whole hog in support of Manmohanomics and the poor were made to believe that this decision of changing the earlier policy and opening up the economy would be the panacea for all the ills of poverty. Gullible as we Indians are, most if not all did indeed trust the loud shouts of welcome that LPG received. The ensuing period brought in flashy foreign cars, private airlines and gated communities for the rich but the poor seemed to further shrink back into the shadows of poverty. Yet people hoped that those whom we have voted to power with trust and love will eventually take care of our interests.

In the meanwhile, thirty long years have crawled by. The world has greatly transformed itself in this period. Neighboring Asian nations have succeeded in becoming large economic hubs. Do not look at China. India must stop comparing itself with China for various reasons that many of us are aware of. Instead, it should look at nations such as Vietnam, South Korea, Thailand and many others across the globe. These countries have very limited natural resources compared to India. It is only positive policies of governments and enterprising nature of the people of those countries that catapulted them into global economic players in a parallel period. The growth also seems to have been inclusive and development has not remained ensconced in small groups. Growth has touched the lives of the poor in those countries and the proof is clearly visible during this current pandemic induced distress period.

Since 1991, successive political parties that formed governments in India remained true to the LPG policy. No one dared change the outlook that was formed in the early 90s in the last century. However, every Indian would have observed that the disparity between the haves and have-nots has become very acute. In today’s situation, that gap is drastically widening, which could possibly create social fissures in the future. In its drive towards Privatization, today’s government has adopted a policy where starting from Delhi’s Red Fort to most of the land belonging to the Indian Railways and the Defence establishment are being hived off to private ownership. This myopic vision could prove extremely dangerous for the nation in the future. Every family values its ancestral heirlooms. Indian society is replete with instances of mothers passing on to their daughters old jewellery that were passed down from generations. This was simply not an idea of hoarding but instead a safety net for the following generation. Today, we hear about bullet trains and modern faster transportation systems that will be required to strengthen and enlarge our economy. To achieve this, the establishment will require vast amounts of land in the future. If, to fill the coffers today, the government decides to sell these railway lands, then the future generations would face tremendous limitations to plan growth. Similarly, when land belonging to defence is being sold off to get money today, then, in a warlike situation in the future, the nation could be stressed to set up military camps, field hospitals, equipment storage space and millions of other requirements that crop up during war. It is imbecile to think that a future war with China would always be limited along the present Himalayan border. Hostilities may not be limited near Pangong Lake or Arunachal. One may see naval battles off the coast of Orissa or Kerala in this lifetime. Nothing should be considered impossible or far-fetched in today’s situation. Just like nobody could have foreseen today’s man-made pandemic as being possible in July 2019. Extrapolate this situation to the 2016 Demonetization that broke the economic back of India for good. Many in this country, even today, are unwilling to accept or are unable to comprehend the damage done by that single act for a purely petty political end. No black money was eradicated since all the rupee bills ever issued returned back to the Reserve Bank. The government or the RBI, till date, have not come clean with the results of Demonetization. Counterfeit currency remains rampant and eradication of terror could not happen. But the terrible act decapitated Indian economy.

To sum up, LPG has not been a positive long term policy that could uplift the poor of India. Unless every citizen is made economically and socially stronger, the nation can never be strong. One may remember the saying “The chain is as strong as the weakest link.”

WISDOM CORNER

- Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love. LAO TZU
- Drop the idea of becoming someone, because you are already a masterpiece. You cannot be improved. You have only to come to it, to know it, to realize it. OSHO
- Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars. KAHLIL GIBRAN

WORDSWORTH

One fell swoop

The phrase is one of those fixed expressions that we hardly think about most of the time. It means all at once, suddenly. It’s been around in the language for at least 400 years. Shakespeare is first recorded as using it, in Macbeth: when Macduff hears that his family has been murdered, he says in disbelief: All my pretty ones? Did you say all? O hell-kite! All? What, all my pretty chickens and their dam At one fell swoop? The image that Shakespeare’s audience would have brought to mind at once was a falcon plummeting out of the sky to snatch its prey (like the kite for example, which was a bird of prey long before it became an aerial machine). You might guess that fell has something to do with fall, but it hasn’t. It actually means some thing of terrible evil or deadly ferocity. We now never see it outside this fixed phrase (or perhaps only occasionally in poetic use) but once it was a common word in its own right. One of its relatives is still about: felon, which comes from the same Old French source, fel, evil. Originally a felon was a cruel or wicked person; only later did the word evolve to mean a person who commits a serious crime. Since fell swoop doesn’t mean anything to most English speakers these days, it’s frequently changed to foul swoop. There are actually four fell words in English; apart from this one, there is the verb meaning to cut down (intimately linked with fall), the one meaning an animal skin (as in the obsolete trade of fellmonger), and the one meaning a hill (as in the fells of Cumbria). They all come from different source words.

Oneirodynia

It is a rare word and needs a larger dictionary than the average to be sure of finding it. It comes, like other words starting in oneiro-, from the Greek oneiros, ‘a dream’. So we have oneiromancy, foretelling the future by interpreting dreams, and oneirism for a dream-like hallucination in a waking state. In oneirodynia it’s paired with a suffix that comes from the Greek odyne, ‘pain’. It refers to troubled sleep, nightmares, perhaps sleepwalking.



SN Misra  
ECONOMIC LIBERALISATION HAS NOT MADE MUCH OF A DENT ON RURAL DISTRESS

India in April-June, 1991 shipped 67 tonne of gold to garner \$600million from the United Bank of Switzerland and the Bank of England to tide over its precarious foreign exchange balance. PV Narasimha Rao as PM realised that market economics rather than socialism is India’s way forward. India changed its policy track from License Permit Quota Raj to Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation. Dr. Manmohan Singh was familiar with the Washington Consensus coined by Prof. Williamson which advocated for free market in interest rate determination, exchange rate, free trade, fiscal discipline, moderate tax rate, encouragement of FDI and privatisation of PSUs. India accepted all these, except rapid privatisation of PSUs. Economic liberalisation in India was a natural corollary to the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, and disintegration of the USSR in 1991 which capsised communism as an ideology. Francis Fukuyama in his iconic book ‘End of History’ prophesised that 1991 is the end point of history, with liberal democracy and free market taking firm roots.

The 30 years gone by have witnessed significant structural changes in the Indian economy. The share of agriculture and allied services which was around 28.5 per cent of GDP in 1990 came down to 15.4 per cent by 2020. Share of industries has gone up marginally from 27.3 per cent to 31.2 per cent. However, the major sectoral shift has been in the area of service sector where it has gone up from 43.9 per cent to 53.4 per cent. Inflow of FDI and FII has gone up from 2 per cent to 7 per cent. The most significant change has been the dominant role of private sector where its share of GDP has gone up from 1.5 per cent to 11 per cent. The average growth of 3.5 per cent per annum has nearly doubled during the period from 2000 to 2020. FE reserves of around \$618 billion now can take care of 14 months of imports, as against two weeks in 1991! India is now a more private sector dominated, glob-



India’s tryst with economic liberalisation is an apt reminder to our rampant development deficits and the need to realise the constitutional mandate of socio-economic justice for all

ally better connected economy. The high growth has also brought out around 300 million from the poverty trap.

The paradigm shift in growth has unfortunately co-terminated with a snail like movement in the human development parameters. India has slipped very badly on three development parameters of Millennium Development Goals (1995-2015). As against MDG target to reduce hunger to 26 per cent by 2015 India’s hunger percentage is around 40.1 per cent. About 65 per cent of adolescent girls are severely anaemic (Rapid Survey of Children, 2014). In Ease of Doing Business, India’s rank improved from 136 to 106, while in the Global Hunger Index it has moved up from 83 to 97th position.

The hoopla around high growth from 2004 to 2009 was also marked by very poor growth in job creation. As against a growth of 8.7 per cent during 2004-2009, the growth in employment was a measly 0.1 per cent. This mismatch is understandable as the manufacturing sector’s share which contributes significantly to job creation, remains stagnant at 16 per cent. The National Manufacturing Zone Policy, 2011 which envisaged an increase in the share of man-

ufacturing from 16 per cent to 25 per cent and create an addition of 10 million jobs per year has remained an unfinished agenda. In contrast, China whose economic liberalisation started in 1980 has become a global manufacturing hub with manufacturing contributing 30 per cent of the GDP.

Economic liberalisation has not made much of a dent on rural distress. As per the SECC Report, 2011, the percentage of people who are landless and casual labourers is as high as 38.3 per cent. Illiteracy is rampant at 36 per cent with quality of educational outcome in rural government schools abysmally poor. The New Education Policy, 2020 has brought out how early childhood education and care (3-6 years) remains pathetic. The SECC Report brings out how around 75 per cent of rural household has income below ₹5,000. The NABARD Report brings out how people working in agriculture and non-agricultural activities in rural areas have an average indebtedness of around ₹80,000 per capita. The access to formal credits for agriculturalists is very poor as only 4 per cent have Kisan Cards. The rhetoric of doubling farmers’ income sits on shifting sands.

In a perceptive article, Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee and Thomas Piketty in March 2019 have observed “Ram Mandir, Caste Reservation and Cows Slaughter” are more salient than important dimensions like better schooling, health facility, land and income re-distribution. The Indian Constitution in its Preamble combines the quest for individual freedom and liberty with the need to promote socio-economic justice for all. It envisages distribution of material resources, early childhood care, improving level of nutrition and minimising income inequality. Our tryst with free market economics has turned the constitutional mandate of socio-economic justice upside down. To be fair to the present government, economic liberalisation has brought in a sea change in embracing digital technology though the JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile number) trinity; GST reforms, abolition of top down planning through Planning Commission, bank insolvency code are testimony to the continuity in economic ideology despite a major change in political power.

The SDG has flagged zero hunger, zero poverty, quality education and health care as its four cardinal goals. India seems to be far away from these targets and the free market approach will not help. It’s time for the government to invest substantially more in quality public education, health care and bridge the digital divide which has widened during the Covid-19 pandemic. Prof. Jeffrey Sachs believes that this will require a collaborative development approach where government, business enterprises and NGOs are active partners. Robert Frost wrote: “We have miles to go before we sleep.” India’s tryst with economic liberalisation is an apt reminder to our rampant development deficits and the need to realise the constitutional mandate of socio-economic justice for all.

The writer is a leading voice in Development Economics.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Case for a trans-inclusive police force



Pinak Mishra

IT IS HEARTENING TO NOTE THAT ODISHA POLICE HAS TAKEN A BIG STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ALLOWING TRANSGENDER PERSONS TO BE RECRUITED AS OFFICERS

“Nothing else in the world...not all the armies...is so powerful as an idea whose time has come,” wrote Victor Hugo. The Sub Inspector of Police recruitment in Odisha this year is indeed a special one. For the first time, 26 transgender persons will be taking the exam with the hopes of joining the prestigious Odisha Police. It is also the first time a public advertisement has been issued seeking applications from transgender persons for government jobs in the state.

It is commonplace knowledge that the transgender community has always lived a difficult life bereft of any social identity and respect. Living on the margins, transgenders have long suffered extreme discrimination at the hands of all sections of the society, including the police, merely due to their sexual orientation.

For years, they have been subjected to sexual abuse and violence, despite the protection they have been guaranteed by the law, like everyone else. What’s concerning is that such incidents have continued to happen, often in the presence of police personnel, and sometimes even at their hands. Their almost non-representation in the police force have made them voice-

less with their demands often being scorned at and their rights for a dignified existence trampled.

Transgender people have always had a strained and an asymmetric relation with the police. They deride the police and look them with mistrust and contempt. On the other hand, the perception as well as treatment of the police towards transgenders has been roughshod and insensitive.

Police’s insensitive response towards transgender persons can be attributed to the complete lack of knowledge and appreciation about the complexities of identity issues related to them. Another plausible reason for the harsh and discriminatory treatment by the police is negligible representation of transgender persons in the police force. It was only in 2017 when India’s first transgender police officer was appointed in Tamil Nadu.

However, it is now presumed that the enactment of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, which prohibits discrimination against them in employment and other services, will usher in a new dawn for transgender persons in securing their rights.

Law enforcement or policing is executed through societal consent and that makes it imperative that

our personnel are representative of the communities that we serve. More diversity and inclusion will only help increase the legitimacy of the police force.

Besides, successful policing isn’t just accomplished by brute force, it requires emotional intelligence and sensitivity too. In keeping transgenders out, we may have been overlooking talented applicants from an entire community. It is, therefore, heartening to note that Odisha Police has taken a big step in the right direction allowing transgender persons to be recruited as officers.

Making transgender people a part of the force will help sensitise other personnel towards the problems faced by the community. It will also make the successful among them ambassadors of their community and a role model for others to emulate. Not only that, it will also heighten the police personnel’s cultural competence and help them act more professionally while addressing the issues of transgender people.

While the recruitment of transgender persons into the police force is a milestone in addressing the entrenched discrimination against them, there are several challenges that lie ahead including securing a non-discriminatory and safe work-

place, ensuring equal working conditions and facilities at the workplace, expecting unbiased behaviour of their colleagues towards them, and most importantly negotiating with them in their new professional role.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the organisation to ensure that transgender persons overcome these challenges. More than a stated policy it must be a solemn resolve for everyone to create a safe working place and an accommodative working condition. Any exhibition of inherent bias by fellow colleagues towards them will be detrimental to their success and growth.

The journey of true assimilation of transgender persons will only be possible by an accommodative organisation and a sensitive workforce. We have, since long, relegated an entire community to obscurity depriving them of basic rights and opportunities. Now the time has come to right those wrongs. Trans-inclusivity in the higher ranks of police is not just the right thing to do; it’s an idea whose time has come.

The writer is a 2011-batch IPS officer and presently posted as Superintendent of Police, Berhampur.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
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Micro plastic pollution

Sir, In spite of the launch of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP), the Ganga continues to be highly polluted. More impetus is required to free the river from pollution which the government targets to achieve by 2030. Rejuvenation of the Ganga project is now faced with a new challenge. A new study by Toxics Link has found that the Ganga is polluted with multiple kinds of plastic. Plastic products and waste materials in the river break down and are reduced to micro particles. The river transports these into the ocean. This brings into sharp focus the poor state of both solid and liquid waste management. As the river flows through many densely populated cities, untreated sewage, industrial waste and religious offerings wrapped in non-degradable plastic add large amounts of pollutants to the river. Micro plastics that get into our body cause serious health hazards. Plastic waste causes marine pollution with profound consequences for marine life and their habitats. It has been reported that about 660 species are badly affected by marine waste and 11 per cent of them are related to micro plastic. Micro plastics drained into the ocean cause serious imbalance in the marine ecosystem. Micro plastic pollution in the Ganga has huge ramifications. The water from the river is used for different purposes. The river provides drinking water to cities situated along its banks. Hence, micro plastic pollution of the river has severe impact on the environment and human health. Implementation of plastic waste management must be strengthened. Single-use plastic must be banned. There must be more data and research on micro plastics and their impact on rivers. The threat of plastic on aquatic life must be addressed more realistically. Various stakeholders must join hands and work towards improving plastic waste management and reducing micro plastic pollution. Venus GS, KOLLAM

India in Games

Sir, India and China both are populous countries, but the performance of both these Asian neighbours in the Olympics differs vastly. In the last five Olympics (2000 to 2016), India has won a total of 13 medals (including one gold) against China’s 382 medals (including 172 gold medals). The government should appoint a high-level committee to improve India’s performance in international games and its recommendations should be implemented before the next Olympics in 2024. Gopal Mittal, BHUBANESWAR



ACF SOUMYA DEATH CASE

Police visit LTC in Bolangir

FIVE-MEMBER INVESTIGATION TEAM FOCUSES ON PARTY HOSTED BY BIDYABHARATI AT CAMPUS AFTER HER MARRIAGE



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, July 25:** A five-member team of Paralakhemundi police Sunday began its investigation here into the mysterious death of assistant conservator of forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra. Sources said the team probed into

allegations over a bachelors' party hosted by the late ACF's wife Bidyabharati at the Livestock Inspectors' Training Centre (LTC) here April 13. Bidyabharati had been pursuing higher studies at the institute

The team met LTC office-bearers and the inmates at the hostel. It

tried to find out what prompted Bidyabharati to visit the hostel after her marriage and throw a party.

The five-member team led by Paralakhemundi IIC Bibekanada Swain was at the campus for a little over five hours. They had a look around the library, mess and hostel campus. The team interrogated head of the institute Hemanta Kumar Pradhan, clerk Mukesh Kumar Rath and staffer Purandar Negi about the bachelors' party. They also seized some documents.

The team also collected the telephone numbers of Bidyabharati's roommates who used to stay with her in the same room at the hostel. The room was also sealed.

Notably, Gajapati SP Tapan Kumar Patnaik had said Friday that DFO Sangram Keshari Behera who is also an accused in the case, has no connection with the death of Soumya Ranjan. He made the statement after Behera was interrogated by Paralakhemundi police personnel for a lengthy period.

Pest problems plague Kutra maize farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kutra, July 25:** The Covid-19 pandemic has drastically affected the life of the farmers in all parts of Odisha many of whom are facing acute financial crunch. To compound their problems, Sundargarh district maize farmers have now got to deal with poor rainfall and pest problems.

The maize farmers are worried as the pest attack is increasing by the day. Even though a team of experts visited the area to take stock of the situation, a solution is nowhere to be seen.

A report said farming activities have been affected in many parts of the district, including Kutra block due to erratic rainfall and non-availability of farmhands amid Corona-induced restrictions. Shortage of fertilizers also has affected farming.

Braving all odds, farmers have managed to raise maize, paddy and other crops in acres of land. However, the production of maize has been affected due to the attack by 'Fall Armyworm'. It has become a major source of worry for the maize farmers in Kutra.

Two years ago, the pest which

probably has migrated from Africa, had played havoc on crops in Kutra block. The worm can move 400 km overnight and can damage 120 varieties of crops. Maize farmers of Chunipada have now lost their sleep over attack by the same 'Fall Armyworm' after two years.

In July 2019, this pest had been spotted for first time in Odisha at Sannapada. The insect had gobbled up maize grown over vast acres of land.

Following complaints, agriculture scientists have visited the village a couple of days ago. The pests have damaged maize production of Motiram Singh and Sundar Singh. Local farmers are apprehensive that their produces will also be eaten up by the insects. District agriculture officer Druba Charan Mohanty, scientist Soumendra Baral, agriculture officer Sanjay Soreng took stock of situation in Kutra and collected information about the worm.

The maize farmers lamented about the way they have suffered losses. "If pest attack is not checked immediately all the effort and money invested in maize cultivation will go in vain," they lamented.

Poor rainfall hits cultivation in Jajpur, farmers fear crop loss



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, July 25:** Farmers in this district are staring at huge crop losses due to the lack of rain in the agricultural season, a report said. It said that the district has received 18 per cent less rainfall this season than what is required for agricultural activities.

In spite of the setback, farmers were hopeful that there will be sufficient rainfall in August. They had hoped it will compensate their earlier water loss.

However, much to their despair, rainfall has not been sufficient in July also. Till July 23, the amount of rainfall received is 67 per cent less than the district usually gets during the month. So the farmers are in distress as they stare at a bleak future.

According to reports, Jajpur district should have received 350.9mm rainfall in the month of July. The district got only 116.78mm rainfall till Friday, informed officials.

Farmers in Sukinda, Danagadi, Korei, Dharmasala and Rasulpur blocks are the worst off as there are



Members of an SHG carrying out registration of farmers ahead of paddy procurement for the kharif season at Kuanrunda in Sundargarh

OP PHOTO

MGNREGS MESS

A year on, beneficiaries still not paid wages



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, July 25:** Scores of job card holders have worked in MGNREGS projects about a year ago, but they are yet to get their wages in Dimbo panchayat under Keonjhar sadar block. The pending wages of poor tribals has put a question mark on the execution of the rural job scheme during the troubled times of pandemic, a report said.

The government has laid thrust on proper implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGREGS) as a panacea to ensure scope of earning for the rural workforce in their localities at the time of the pandemic. But, delay in clearing wages of the card holders has allegedly become a cause of concern for labourers. In the process, work regarding various projects is being affected, the report said.

A road project under the MGNREGS has been done from Gahalachatuabandh Sahi to the local club house in Dimbo panchayat at a cost of ₹7 lakh. Locals alleged that the construction of road has been sub-standard. Following a heavy shower, the road has turned into a nightmare for locals.

Besides, another project (upgra-

dation work of Nalia bund) was executed in the same village at a cost of ₹5 lakh. Though work has been completed and the bill paid, the labourers have not got their wages. There are allegations that the fund may have been misappropriated.

Pubun Munda, Mina Munda, Moti Munda, Sambhari Maharana, Raj Munda and Jatri Munda among others were engaged in the MGNREGS projects. They alleged that their pending wages are yet to be cleared. It is alleged that in many cases, wages of gullible tribals are misappropriated using job cards of others.

Social activists have demanded an investigation into such irregularities. The beneficiaries have urged the Collector to look into the matter. Some daily wagers lamented that they are going through hardships and finding it difficult to manage their families.

"We do hard labour under the scheme with a hope to earn for our families. Our wages have not been cleared till date during this troubled times. What is the use of doing work under this scheme," they lamented.

It should be stated here that under the MGNREGS, the payment of wages has to be done within 15 days of completion of work.

Opening of regional office of education directorate demanded

**Patana:** The state government has reportedly taken a decision to establish regional offices of the Directorate of education at some places in the state, a report said. The opening of the regional offices is aimed at strengthening the smooth management of the education system. This has spread happiness as residents and the intelligentsia in Keonjhar district had been demanding establishment of a regional office in this tribal-dominated district. They argued that the establishment of such an office will help in resolving long-standing problems like smooth management of higher education and establishment of new higher secondary schools and colleges. The office will also help in resolving problems of teaching and non-teaching staff. It will also help in starting new subjects in colleges and increase in regular and honours seats. The regional office will be established in some districts after receiving the nod from the state government. The residents argued that Keonjhar district was functioning earlier under the Bhubaneswar office of the directorate but was later merged with regional office in Balasore.

STUDENT RAPED, MURDERED  
2 arrested in Angul

**Angul:** Police arrested two persons in connection with the alleged rape and murder of a college student in Mahidharpur area of Angul district Sunday. The accused admitted that they had tried to rape the 21-year old student while she was bathing in a creek Saturday. As she raised an alarm, the two killed her. They dragged the body under a date palm tree where the two had sex with the corpse. Police officials took the accused to the spot Sunday and recreated the crime scene. Demanding quick and stringent punishment against the miscreants, the deceased's family members and villagers had earlier staged a roadblock on Angul-Athagarh state highway Saturday. Top police officials including the SP and Additional SP of the district assured the villagers that the culprits will be punished. The deceased was a Plus-III final year student at Angul College. She had gone to the creek near their village to take a bath at around 8.00am. When she did not return home even after substantial period of time, her family members started searching for her. They found her half-naked body near the creek hidden under leaves and twigs.



A plantation drive is in progress on the outskirts of Sambalpur town, Sunday

OP PHOTO

PM all praise for Isaak's creativity

TRIBAL YOUTH OF SAMBALPUR NOW AN INTERNET SENSATION, EARNING LAKHS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, July 25:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded Odia tribal youth Isaak Munda for his creativity even amid the Covid-induced hardship. Modi praised the youth during his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme Sunday. Munda has popularised tribal cuisine by uploading recipes and cooking procedures on his YouTube channel.

"The use of technology by one of our friends will amaze everyone. Shriman Isaak Munda ji hails from a village in Sambalpur district of Odisha. He once worked as a daily wage but now he has become an internet sensation. He is now earning a substantial amount through his YouTube channel," the prime minister said.

"In his videos, he prominently displays local dishes, traditional



Isaak Munda along with his family

OP PHOTO

ways of cooking, his lifestyle and how his family is managing during the hard times due to Covid-19. His journey as a YouTuber began in March 2020 when he posted a video

related to *Pakhal* – a popular dish of Odisha. Since then, he has posted hundreds of videos," Modi added.

Modi pointed out that Isaak's videos have become very popular

as urban people are getting to know about the lifestyle of the tribals, their food habits and many other unknown facets. In a way Isaak is also inspiring others, Modi pointed out.

Isaak – a migrant labourer from remote Babupali village in Sambalpur district – lost his job because of lockdown imposed to prevent the spread of Covid-19. He returned to his village and borrowed ₹3,000 to buy a smartphone. Among his initial videos were a few that showed him eating boiled rice and curry.

Since then, Isaak has become a rage on the social media. His last video related to healthcare had a huge number of hits helping him to earn in lakhs. His channel, 'Isaak Munda Eating' has over 7.77 lakh subscribers. The daily wage has turned into a rich man simply by using his creativity.



# ‘No follow-up results’ after meet with PM: Abdullah

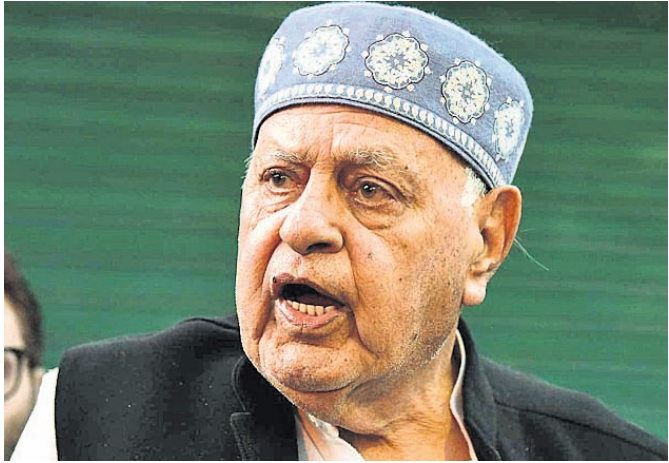
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, July 25:** A month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach to mainstream leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said Sunday that there has been 'no follow-up results' on the ground.

Abdullah said this in reference to the prime minister's remarks at the June 24 meeting in New Delhi that he wanted to win the hearts of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and remove 'Dilli ki doori' (the distance from Delhi) and 'dil ki doori' (distance between hearts).

"That was a welcome statement but there is no effort on the ground to win the hearts of the people. People continue to be locked up and dissent is not tolerated. We want to see the change on the ground, a visible effort to win back the people who went through the trauma of their state being dismembered, its special status removed in one sudden blow," the three-time former chief minister told PTI here.

"...We are yet to see any follow-



People continue to be locked up and dissent is not tolerated. We want to see the change on the ground, a visible effort to win back the people who went through the trauma of their state being dismembered, its special status removed in one sudden blow

FAROOQ ABDULLAH, NC PRESIDENT

up results even after a month," he said.

"Trust is something that has been missing from both sides (Delhi and Srinagar). Successive prime ministers -- Jawaharlal Nehru, Narasimha Rao, Atal Bihari Vajpayee -- made promises but the

trust deficit has persisted," he added.

The 83-year-old veteran politician said that he and his party had attended the Delhi meeting because it was an invitation from the prime minister although he had no expectations from it. Yet, he

had hoped for steps to win the hearts and minds of people but nothing had happened.

Abdullah insisted that restoration of 'full, undiluted' statehood to Jammu and Kashmir should precede the elections to its Assembly. All major parties have demanded that and the Centre should prove its bona fide by agreeing to that.

Asked if his party would take part in the elections if the statehood was not granted before that, the NC president said, "We will decide at that time when the bugle is blown. We will then sit down and decide what we should do."

In reply to a question about the fate of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), a conglomerate of six mainstream political parties including the NC and its arch rival PDP, Abdullah said the alliance stands and "we are together...We all are there. We haven't left."

He said the alliance was cobbled up together in a hurry when the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was abrogated August 5, 2019. "We all are like-minded people who joined together to work for restoration, knowing fully well

that under this government it will not be restored."

"But we will continue to fight democratically and legally. People after us will also stand and try and work for the restoration of this," he said.

Abdullah also pointed out that earlier this month the Delimitation Commission came to Jammu and Kashmir and no members of Parliament, who are its associate members, were invited to sit and watch the proceedings.

Abdullah, who currently represents Srinagar in Parliament, urged the Opposition national political parties to 'forget' their plans and standings and get together to put the pillar of democracy far more strongly because the 'time is running out'.

"The tragedy with India is that the Opposition is divided and unless they unite for restoration of democracy and forget their own party plans and party standings, we will never be able to get our democratic structure back. And I think efforts are being made, I see they are trying to get together and I hope it does happen soon because time is running out," he said.

# ‘Pak trying to maintain supply lines to terror groups using drones’



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, July 25:** The improvised explosive device (IED) dropped using a drone along the Indo-Pak border July 23 was meant for triggering at a crowded market in Jammu region, and it shows that Pakistan is maintaining its supply lines to various terror groups despite the February ceasefire agreement, Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh said Sunday.

Singh, a 1987-batch IPS officer, said terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) have been running short of arms and ammunition after the police and other security agencies managed to choke it by arresting many of their modules of Over Ground Workers (OGWs).

"We see that some of the state actors in Pakistan have adopted the use of drones for dropping arms, ammunition and even cash to cater to the demands of terror groups since September last year," he told PTI here.

The police managed to shoot down a hexa-copter that had come from Pakistan in Kanachak area of Jammu region along the International Border on July 23.

It carried an IED, weighing five kg, that was almost ready to be used and the intelligence suggested that the Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group wanted to trigger it in a crowded place in Jammu for inflicting maximum casualties, he said.

The police chief said that despite the ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control and the International Border since February this year, some "state

actors" have been helping Pakistan-based terror groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir, by trying to maintain their supply chain of arms, ammunition and cash.

The police chief said there was a difference of single digit in the flight controller serial numbers of the drone shot down July 23 and another brought down a year ago in Kathua's Hiranagar sector in Jammu region.

Some parts of the assembled unmanned aerial vehicle brought down last week were from China and Taiwan.

He said since drones have added a new dimension to the security threats from terror groups, more efforts are required to ensure this new and emerging threat is neutralised effectively.

The police chief had earlier said that the signatures of explosive material used in the June 27 bombing of an Indian Air Force station clearly indicated involvement of the ordnance factory of Pakistan in fabricating it.

"Drones have come recently, say in September last year. First, it came as a big surprise, but we were able to gear up our resources to counter that threat. I am happy to report that in cases of use of drones carrying weapons and narcotics and other explosives... Our security grid, intelligence grid of police and security agencies were very effective in taking counter-measures," the Director General of Police (DGP) said.

With the shooting down of another drone, the security agencies have been able to intercept around 33 sorties out of roughly 41 sorties which were made so far, the police chief said.

# Tamil Nadu to promote thermal power projects



AGENCIES

**Chennai, July 25:** The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedo), involved in the generation and distribution of power, will be speeding up the thermal power projects in the state.

This is following the directive of Chief Minister MK Stalin in a meeting with Power Minister Senthil Balaji, Tangedo Managing Director, Rajesh Lokhani, Chairman Dharmendra Pratap Yadav and other officials.

Stalin has also told officials in an energy review meet to study the viability of long term coal import

agreements instead of the annual agreements to reduce the import cost. The Chief Minister asked the officials to study in detail the transportation of coal.

Tangedo officials told IANS that the department is trying to have a tie-up with power plants near coal mines to generate electricity for the state.

Tangedo is also planning to achieve the target of 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy as directed by the Chief Minister in the review meeting.

The energy department has also taken several measures for cost-cutting and to reduce the losses in energy. According to a report by the department it has saved energy to the tune of Rs 1,593 crores by cost-cutting measures. The Chief Minister congratulated the department for the measures taken to reduce the costs and wastage of power. The Chief Minister's Office in a statement Thursday directed the Tangedo officials and the energy department to focus more on thermal power.

# GUARD OF HONOUR



President Ram Nath Kovind receives a guard of honour on his arrival in Srinagar, Sunday.

PTI PHOTO

# CATHOLIC PRIEST ARRESTED IN TN FOR HATE SPEECH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 25:** A Roman Catholic priest George Ponnaiah who made disgusting speech in Kanniyakumari district about Bharat Mata, Hinduism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and the DMK government led by Chief Minister MK Stalin was arrested in Madurai Saturday.

He had said at a meeting attended by Christians and Muslims, that the DMK government led by Stalin coming to power is nothing but alms of Christians and Muslims.

In the video of his controversial speech, he was seen and heard making disgusting and disparaging remarks about Modi and Shah.

The police have booked him for spreading enmity between religious groups.



Ponnaiah had addressed a meeting in Kanniyakumari district recently protesting against the ban on conducting prayers in houses and not allowing construction of churches on private 'patta' lands.

A number of police complaints were lodged against Ponnaiah for his hate speech.

The Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP held protests in various districts demanding arrest of Ponnaiah under the Goondas Act and under National Security Act for promoting hatred among religious groups.

# VENDETTA POLITICS IS BACK WITH A BANG IN TAMIL NADU



WHEN MK STALIN ASSUMED OFFICE AS CHIEF MINISTER MAY 7, HE HAD STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PRACTISE THE POLITICS OF INCLUSIVENESS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 25:** When the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC)

sleuths raided 21 premises, including the residence of AIADMK leader and former Tamil Nadu Transport Minister MR Vijayabhaskar July 22, it sent out a clear message -- the politics of vendetta which is a common phenomenon in Dravidian politics of the state is back with a bang.

AIADMK leaders and former Chief Ministers O Panneriselvam and K Palaniswami, stated that the

raids on Vijayabhaskar were acts of vendetta and the party would challenge them in a court of law.

Both the leaders said that the AIADMK would not be cowed down by the raids.

When MK Stalin assumed office as Chief Minister May 7, it marked the DMK's return to power in the state after 10 years. Stalin stated that his government would practise the politics of inclusiveness. In a 13-member committee constituted by him to fight Covid-19, the Chief Minister had included

C Vijayabhaskar of the AIADMK, the former Health Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Political analysts and observers saw this as a good sign in Dravidian politics -- that Stalin was for a change in outlook and this could reflect in governance as well. The vigilance raids carried out at the home of Vijayabhaskar Thursday has shattered the tall claims of the DMK that it was practising the politics of inclusiveness.

March 25, 1989, the then opposition leader of Tamil Nadu Assembly and AIADMK leader J Jayalalithaa was assaulted in the House after the Chief Minister M Karunanidhi himself began calling her names. A fuming Jayalalithaa came out of the assembly and vowed that she would return to the House as Chief Minister.

Twelve years later, it was the turn of Jayalalithaa to get her revenge. In the wee hours of June 30, 2001, the Tamil Nadu police barged into Karunanidhi's home, he was no longer Chief Minister, and arrested him. The visuals on

various television channels showed the then 78-year-old leader being pushed, shoved, and beaten before being taken to the police station. Union Minister Murali Manjunath who tried to resist the arrest was also arrested. Another Union minister, TR Baalu, and hundreds of DMK cadres, including Stalin, were arrested. This was politics of vengeance at its height and Jayalalithaa practised it to the full.

S Sivasankaran, a political commentator, said: "Those who were following Tamil Nadu politics closely were glad that Stalin had started off on a good note of inclusive politics and his including, C Vijayabhaskar, minister in AIADMK government as a member of the 13-member committee to combat Covid was viewed by many as a good beginning."

"However, the DVAC raid on MR Vijayabhaskar clearly nullifies the good things that the Chief Minister had done after coming to power. It is now clear that the politics of combativeness would be on view in the days to come."

# FB posts advocating ISIS ideology, says NIA

NIA conducts searches in Thanjavur, Madurai, Theni and Tirunelveli districts at the residences of arrested accused Abdullah and his associates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, July 25:** The NIA has conducted searches at six locations in four districts of Tamil Nadu in a case related to Facebook posts by an extremist advocating the ideology of the Islamic State terror group and fundamentalist organisation Hizb-Ut-Tahrir, an official said Sunday.

The searches were carried out in Thanjavur, Madurai, Theni and Tirunelveli districts at the residences of arrested accused Abdullah and his associates, the official of the NIA said.

In April, a complaint was received at Theppakulam police station that Abdullah had posted incendiary messages on Facebook,

instigating people on religious grounds to wage war against India and establish Khilafat, thus threatening the unity, security and sovereignty of India, the official said.

The extremist advocated the ideology of the ISIS terror group and Hizb-Ut-Tahrir, the official of the premier investigation agency said.

An FIR was lodged by the Tamil Nadu Police in Madurai and the case was later taken over by the NIA. During searches, 22 digital devices, including mobile phones, hard disks, memory cards, pen drives, laptops and many booklets containing incriminating materials have been recovered, the NIA official said, adding that further investigation in the case continues.





## of the day quote

Meghalaya's Cherrapunji, once credited as the wettest place on Earth, would be adopted by Assam Rifles for an ambitious plantation drive to restore the lost greenery in the world-famous spot

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The situation of unemployment in Haryana is such that this month 8.39 lakh youths applied for the recruitment of only 5,500 constable posts

BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

Even in UP, lakhs of families, especially in Purvanchal region, face the horrific devastation of floods every year. The government here should be aware and take all precautionary measures so that lives and livestock are not lost and properties are not damaged

MAYAWATI | BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY (BSP) CHIEF

## SHORT TAKES

### 8 killed in MP road mishaps

**Bhopal/Singrauli:** Eight people were killed and two others injured in two road accidents at Bhopal and Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh Sunday, police said. In the state capital, a truck collided with a car carrying five people at around 2 am near the 'Chinar Fortune City' on Bhopal-Hoshangabad road, Misrod police station in-charge Niranjana Sharma told PTI. The car was heading towards Misrod when a truck collided with it.

### C'garh Class XII results announced

**Raipur:** The Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) Sunday declared results of the Class XII examination, which was conducted on an 'exam from home' pattern due to the second wave of COVID-19. The overall pass percentage is 97.43 per cent, with girls outshining boys by achieving 98.06 per cent against the latter's pass percentage of 96.69, a government official said. State School Education Minister Premsai Singh Tekam, who announced the results of CGBSE Higher Secondary School Certificate Examination here through video conferencing, said 2,89,023 students had registered for the exams and 2,86,850 appeared for it.

### Maoists burn six vehicles

**Ranchi:** Maoist guerrillas set afire six vehicles of a private road construction company in Jharkhand's Garwah district Sunday, police said. According to police, 10 to 12 armed Maoists raided the company's camp office in Ghoghari village of Garwah early on Sunday, beat up the sleeping staff, poured diesel on vehicles involved in road construction work and set them on fire.

### DU sets new record

**New Delhi:** In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, educational institutions across the country have remained closed. However, Delhi University (DU) worked round the clock and burnt midnight oil to prepare results of the examinations for undergraduate courses held in June this year. The varsity has set a new record under which the results of all undergraduate courses have been prepared within just one month of the conduct of the examination. This is the first time since its inception that the university has taken less than 30 days to prepare the results of undergraduate courses.

# MONSOON 'FURY' BATTERS INDIA

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, east Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya today, as per the IMD report

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 25:** Heavy rainfall continued to wreak havoc in several parts of the country, including Maharashtra where 113 people have so far died in rain-related incidents, while nine people were killed in fresh landslides in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district Sunday.

Several parts of Kerala in south India also witnessed heavy rainfall with the MeT issuing a yellow alert for several districts, including Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Kottayam, Alappuzha and Ernakulam.

The India Meteorological Department issued orange and yellow alerts predicting heavy rainfall, thunderstorm and lightning in Madhya Pradesh. Delhiites experienced a sultry Sunday with the maximum temperature settling at 37.3 degrees Celsius, three notches above the season's average. The minimum temperature was recorded at 27.6 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert for the city Monday and forecast generally cloudy sky with moderate rain/thundershowers towards the evening. An orange alert has been issued for Tuesday with the forecast of rain accompanied with gusty winds. Parts of

Uttar Pradesh received light rain Sunday. Agra was the hottest place in the state with the maximum temperature settling at 37 degrees Celsius. According to the MeT office, heavy rain is very likely at isolated places in the state Monday, while thundershowers are likely at most places in the state July 27 and July 28. Heavy boulders fell on a tempo traveller carrying 11 people, killing nine and injuring two, according to the police.

In a similar incident, one person was injured in another landslide in Kinnaur district, they added. The police said they have started rescue operations and further details are awaited. In rain-battered Maharashtra, the number of deaths due to flooding, landslides and other rain-related incidents reached 113 with one more casualty reported in the last 24 hours, while 100 people were missing after the monsoon fury, the state government said. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) said 89 bodies have been retrieved and 34 people are missing following landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in the coastal regions of Maharashtra. According to the official data, NDRF rescuers have retrieved a total of 89 bodies with the highest number of 47 from the worst-hit Taliye village under Mahad tehsil of Raigad.



NDRF personnel carry out a rescue operation in a flood-affected area in Kohlapur

# THERE HAS BEEN NO DATA BREACH, SAYS CLUBHOUSE

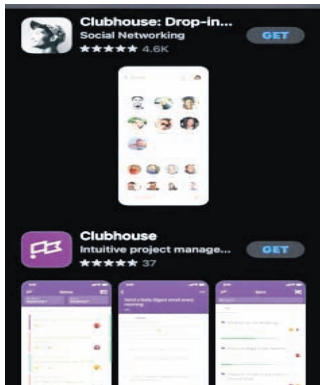
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 25:** As the news of data breach surfaced online revealing that millions of phone numbers of Clubhouse users are 'up for sale' on Dark Web, the chat app maker on Sunday informed that there has been no data breach.

The company also said that it continues to invest in industry-leading security practices as privacy and security are of the utmost importance to Clubhouse.

"There are a series of bots generating billions of random phone numbers," the company's spokesperson told IANS.

"In the event that one of these random numbers happens to exist on our platform due to mathematical coincidence, Clubhouse's API returns no user identifiable information," it added.



On Saturday, leading cyber-security expert Jiten Jain wrote on Twitter that a database of phone numbers of Clubhouse users is up for sale on the Darknet. "It also contains numbers of people in user's phonebooks that were synced. So chances are high that you are

too much of a stake in UP and Punjab it is fighting with its back to the wall. "PK" is not interested in beginning his innings in Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur either. Prashant Kishor has proposed to give a strategic planning for the Gujarat battle where the Congress is out of power for more than two decades. And their recent meeting with Prashant Kishor, it is learnt that Sonia Gandhi showed interest in his Gujarat plans. In Gujarat, it is a direct fight between the Congress and the BJP and the situation on the ground is against the BJP due to Covid mishandling. The Congress's support base is strong, organisational structure is visible and it was able to confine the BJP to double digit in 2017.

### 14 seats vacant in Rajya Sabha

Political parties are baffled as to why the Election Commission has chosen to hold Rajya Sabha by-poll for only one seat from West Bengal when a record 14 vacancies exist. The EC announced the bye-

People of the country are suffering from high inflation, many have lost jobs during the Pandemic, and instead of spending money and resources for people, the central government misused the resources for snooping and spying on leaders, journalists and judiciary. This is highly condemnable

AJAY MAKEN | AICC GENERAL SECRETARY

## PROBLEM OF ONLINE CLASSES

Nearly 55 % students in Classes IV to XII have reported health issues, mainly due to prolonged online learning during the pandemic. The health issues mainly include stress, severe eyesight problems and insomnia



## GROWING SUPPORT



Farmers move towards Ghazipur border to support fellow farmers protesting against three farm reform laws in Ghaziabad

PTI PHOTO

# YEDI HOLDS SUSPENSE

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, July 25:** Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said Sunday that a decision on whether he will continue in office or not will be known by tomorrow, but asserted that he would continue to work for the BJP for the next 10-15 years.

The 78-year-old Lingayat strongman said this evening that he was yet to receive the "message" from the party's central leadership on whether he should continue in his post or quit. He expressed confidence that the communication may come by tonight or be known Monday morning.

Yediyurappa said he had offered to resign two months ago and reiterated that he would continue in the post if the high command so desired and quit if they asked him to resign and go about doing party work.



"I will work for the party day and night for the next 10-15 years. Let there be no doubt about it", he said. He said he will speak on the achievements of his government at a function, as planned earlier, Monday.

"After that, other things you will come to know".

On what he would do if the "message" does not come from the high

### Nadda rules out leadership crisis

**Panaji:** Amid speculation about a change of guard in Karnataka, BJP president J P Nadda Sunday ruled out any leadership crisis in the southern state and said Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has done good work. He termed as baseless the Pegasus snooping allegations, and hit out at the opposition parties over it, saying that there was no issue left with them.

command, Yediyurappa said "I will take a decision then".

Earlier, speaking to reporters at the district headquarters town of Belagavi, he said he would abide by the decision of the high command, that he was "content and satisfied" and would not cross the disciplinary line.

## Nation first always: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 25:** Stressing on 'Nation First, Always First' mantra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that as the country enters its 75th year of Independence, every citizen should lead a "Bharat Jodo Andolan" in the same manner as Mahatma Gandhi had led the "Bharat Chhoro Andolan".

In his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, he noted that on the coming August 15, India will enter its 75th year of Independence and highlighted that Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated throughout the country to mark that year.

The need of the nation is to unite and work towards national progress, Modi said. "Just like Babu (Mahatma Gandhi) led the 'Bharat Chhoro Andolan' (Quit India movement), every Indian must lead the 'Bharat Jodo Andolan' (Unite India Movement)". It is our responsibility that we do our work in such a manner that it helps in uniting our country which is full of diversi-



ties," the prime minister said. "We have to move forward with Nation First, Always First," he asserted.

Many programmes in connection with Amrit Mahotsav are being run, the prime minister said, adding that the Ministry of Culture has started an initiative to have maximum number of Indians sing the national anthem together. For this, a website, <http://rashtragan.in>, too has been created.

The Prime Minister urged the people to keep encouraging and supporting Indian athletes participating in the Tokyo Olympics.

## Ramappa temple in Telangana conferred UNESCO Heritage tag



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 25:** The Ramappa temple at Palampet in Telangana's Warangal has been conferred the tag of UNESCO World Heritage site, the Culture Ministry said Sunday.

"It gives me immense pleasure to share that @UNESCO has conferred the World Heritage tag to Ramappa Temple at Palampet, Warangal, Telangana. On behalf of the nation, particularly from people of Telangana, I express my gratitude to Hon PM @narendramodiji for his guidance and support," Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said in a tweet.

The temple, a 13th century engineering marvel named after its architect, Ramappa, was proposed by the government as its only nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage site tag for the year 2019.

"Excellent! Congratulations to everyone, specially the people of Telangana. The iconic Ramappa Temple showcases the outstanding craftsmanship of great Kakatiya dynasty. I would urge you all to visit this majestic temple complex and get a first-hand experience of its grandness," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

Reddy also said that owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of the UNESCO could not be conducted in 2020, and the nominations for 2020 and those for 2021 were discussed in a series of online meetings.

The discussion on the Ramappa Temple took place Sunday. Reddy stated that there are 21 members in the WHC with China currently as the Chair which selected the Telangana temple for the tag.



### Kishor to take on Modi-Shah in Guj

Prashant Kishor (PK) is reported to have given a plan of action to the Congress Party, authoritative sources say. "PK" wants to spring a surprise on Modi-Shah on their home turf in Gujarat, they say. The poll strategist, who began his innings from Gujarat in 2012 and later in the Lok Sabha polls in 2014 of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, wants to return to Gujarat in 2022. Assembly polls are due in Gujarat in November 2022 and "PK" wants Congress to gear up for a big fight there. The Congress doesn't have

too much of a stake in UP and Punjab it is fighting with its back to the wall. "PK" is not interested in beginning his innings in Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur either. Prashant Kishor has proposed to give a strategic planning for the Gujarat battle where the Congress is out of power for more than two decades. And their recent meeting with Prashant Kishor, it is learnt that Sonia Gandhi showed interest in his Gujarat plans. In Gujarat, it is a direct fight between the Congress and the BJP and the situation on the ground is against the BJP due to Covid mishandling. The Congress's support base is strong, organisational structure is visible and it was able to confine the BJP to double digit in 2017.

### 14 seats vacant in Rajya Sabha

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poll for Dinesh Trivedi's seat only who quit to join the BJP before the state assembly polls. He is now waiting in the wings to be rehabilitated by his new party. But no bye-poll is for the seat vacated by Manas Bhunia (TMC) who also quit around the same time after being elected as an MLA. Why the bye-poll for one seat is held and held back for another is beyond logic. This apart, bye-poll is also due for the seat of Rajeev Satav of Congress (Maharashtra) who died more than two months ago. The bye-polls are also due in Assam after Biswajit Daimary was elected to the Assembly. The abnormal delay is worrying Kerala as a seat got vacated in January 2021 after Jose K Mani, Kerala Congress (M) quit. The bye-poll for three Rajya Sabha seats has been held back without any explanation by the EC in Tamil Nadu also. Of course, elections to four seats in Jammu & Kashmir cannot be held as there is no Assembly and Sharad Yadav seat in Bihar due to a court order. The Rajya Sabha secretariat has already declared these seats

vacant and it is for the EC and concerned authorities to hold bye-polls. Therefore, the delay for seven seats is a cause of concern as states remain unrepresented.

### The dozen fall guys of Modi

No one is shedding tears for the Prime Minister's dozen ministers shown the door. Of them, Thawarchand Gehlot was facing personal tragedies in family and opted out while Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank (Education) was already on the chopping block for a variety of reasons. Santosh Gangwar paid the price for writing a letter to the UP Chief Minister about the huge shortage of oxygen and medical facilities in UP. Sadanand Gowda failed to make any mark and garnered Vokkaliga votes. Prakash Javadekar, holding four portfolios & darling of the Modi establishment, is still recovering from the shock ouster. It is said that many of the ministers were not even shown the courtesy to be informed in advance that they are being dropped. The

high-flying Ravi Shankar Prasad was grounded like no one before. It was he who fought the Ram Janmabhoomi case on behalf of 'Ram Lalla' in the Supreme Court, trounced Shatrughan Sinha in Patna and belongs to the family of Jan Sangh founders. BJP Chief J P Nadda will also find it difficult to utilise his services as party general secretary as he is senior to him. Many say these droppings are a generational shift of the BJP and young faces are being given an opportunity for the next two decades.

### Mystery behind Vardhan's sacking

The most shocking case is of Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan who held this portfolio in Modi:1 in May 2014 and removed unceremoniously within seven months after crossing paths with a powerful person belonging to Gujarat. However, he regained Modi's favour due to sheer honesty and integrity and prodding by the RSS and brought back into the

Health ministry in 2019. Having learnt bitter lessons, Harsh Vardhan chose to be a mere subservient in his second stint. When Covid was breaking out in early 2020, Modi declared it as pandemic and took over its entire management invoking National Disaster Management Act (NDMA). He considered himself a global expert in disaster management having experienced one disaster after the other in Gujarat as Chief Minister for 13 long years. There was a relief too as people felt Modi is the best person to handle such a crisis. Dr Vardhan may be presiding over India's responses to Covid-19 crisis through the mega ministerial committee of top bureaucrats and institutions. But he had virtually no role in either forming the National Task Force on neither Covid policy-making decisions. Be it the harsh lockdown after a four-hour notice in March 2020, changing vaccination policies by the day or allowing elections to the State Assemblies or poor preparations for the second wave, Vardhan was a listening post.



# international

## of the day quote

To begin with, a country of the size of India with its independent foreign policy has been a welcome entrant into the Council. It has provided the much-needed balance vis-a-vis the P-5 (the five permanent members of the Council) and their inter-se fissures

**T S TIRUMURTI** | INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN

They are consolidating their forces around the key population centers. In terms of whether or not it will stop the Taliban, I think the first thing to do is to make sure that they can slow the momentum

**LLOYD AUSTIN** | DEFENSE SECRETARY, US

We are capable of detecting any underwater, above-water, airborne enemy and, if required, carry out an unpreventable strike against it

**VLADIMIR PUTIN** | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Protest against Prez Bolsonaro

**Rio de Janeiro:** Tens of thousands of Brazilians took to the streets Saturday to demand the impeachment of President Jair Bolsonaro, who is facing increasing pressure as the pandemic exacts a devastating toll. It was the fourth weekend of protests called by leftist political parties, labor unions and social groups against Bolsonaro, who is being investigated for allegedly turning a blind eye to a scheme to embezzle government funds in the purchase of vaccines.

### Indonesia extends curbs by a week

**Jakarta:** Indonesia extended its Covid-19 restrictions by a week to Aug 2 to try to curb infections, President Joko Widodo announced Sunday, after the government said it would add more intensive care units amid a rise in deaths. Indonesia has become Asia's Covid-19 epicentre with hospitals deluged, particularly on the densely populated island of Java and on Bali, where oxygen supplies are running thin. "I'd like to thank all Indonesians for their understanding and support for the curbs that have been effective for 23 days," said the President.

### Af forces kill 81 ultras in Balkh

**Kabul:** A total of 81 militants were confirmed dead as the Afghan forces, backed by helicopters and fighter planes, launched airstrikes in the northern Balkh province, an army statement released here Sunday said. The sorties were launched Saturday in parts of the restive Kaldar and Chamtal districts, leaving 81 insurgents dead and injuring 43 others, reports Xinhua news agency. A large number of arms and ammunition were also destroyed during the air raids, the statement added.

### Rumbling meteor lights up Norway

**Oslo:** An 'unusually large meteor' briefly lit up southern Norway Sunday, creating a spectacular sound and light display as it rumbled across the sky, and a bit of it may have hit Earth, possibly not far from the capital, Oslo, experts said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. Reports of sightings started arriving around 1 am. The Norwegian Meteor network was analysing video footage and other data Sunday to try to pinpoint the meteor's origin and destination.

# No respite from nature in Belgium, China

## In-fa makes landfall; toll rises to 63

*The direct economic losses have gone up to 65.5 billion yuan (USD 10 billion)*

AGENCIES

**Shanghai, July 25:** Typhoon In-Fa made landfall in China's east Zhejiang province Sunday, packing winds of up to 38 meters per second at its centre, while the death toll from the rain-triggered unprecedented floods in Henan province has risen to 63, officials said.

The typhoon, the sixth of this year, hit land in Zhoushan city's Putuo district at approximately 12:30 PM, the local flood control headquarters said.

Weather authorities have forecast the typhoon will make a second landfall in coastal areas between Zhejiang's Jiaxing city and Jiangsu province's Qidong city Sunday.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the July 21 unprecedented floods in Henan province climbed to 63 with five people still unaccounted for.

The torrential rains have affected about three million people in Henan province and a total of 376,000 local residents have been re-



located to safe places, according to the provincial emergency management department said.

As Zhengzhou city of 12 million people limped back to normalcy, rescuers are assisting thou-

sands of people caught in the floodwaters.

Over 8,000 military personnel worked in 10 different danger zones around the city, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.



To celebrate this day, I invite celebration in every community with visits to grandparents and elderly, those who are most alone, to bring them my message, inspired by Jesus: I am with you every day

**POPE FRANCIS** | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, VATICAN CITY

## HIKERS PARADISE

For a year, the peak of Japan's iconic Mount Fuji has been off-limits because of Coronavirus, but now hikers are flocking back to catch the spectacular sunrise above the clouds. The active volcano's symmetrical slopes were closed to the public last summer due to the pandemic



## US headed towards wrong direction on Coronavirus: Fauci

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Wilmington, July 25:** The United States is in an "unnecessary predicament" of soaring Covid-19 cases fueled by unvaccinated Americans and the virulent delta variant, the nation's top infectious diseases expert said Sunday.

"We're going in the wrong direction," said Dr Anthony Fauci, describing himself as "very frustrated."

He said recommending that the vaccinated wear masks is "under active consideration" by the government's leading public health officials. Also, booster shots may be suggested for people with suppressed immune systems who have been vaccinated, Fauci said.

Fauci, who also serves President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, told CNN's "State of the Union" that he has taken part in conversations about altering the mask guidelines.

"This is an issue predominantly among the unvaccinated, which is the reason why we're out there, practically pleading with the unvaccinated people to go out and get vaccinated," Fauci said.

## PoK legislative polls marred by violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, July 25:** Voters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir cast their ballots Sunday to elect the region's legislative assembly, in an election marred by allegations of irregularities and violence that killed at least two workers of Prime Minister Imran Khan's party.

The gates of polling stations were closed to new voters at 5pm. However, those inside the polling stations were allowed to cast their ballot. The polling started at 8am and continued till 5pm. The assembly has a total of 53 members but only 45 are directly elected, while five seats are reserved for women and three are meant for the technocrats.

A tough triangular competition involving Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is expected.

At a polling station in Charhoi area of Kotli district, at least two PTI workers were killed in clashes with PPP activists, Dawn reported.

According to a poll survey of Gallup Pakistan, 44 per cent of people support Prime Minister Imran Khan's party while its nearest rival PML-N has the support of 12 per cent voters.

## DIXIE FIRE

# California blaze torches homes

*More than 85 large wildfires were burning around the country, most of them in Western states, and they had burned over 1.4 million acre*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Indian Falls, July 25:** Flames racing through rugged terrain in Northern California destroyed multiple homes Saturday as the state's largest wildfire intensified and numerous other blazes battered the US West.

The Dixie fire, which started July 14, had already leveled over a dozen houses and other structures when it tore through the tiny community of Indian Falls after dark.

The fire was burning in a remote area with limited access, hampering firefighters' efforts as it charged eastward, fire officials

said. It has prompted evacuation orders in several small communities and along the west shore of Lake Almanor, a popular area get-away.

Meanwhile, the nation's largest wildfire, southern Oregon's Bootleg fire, was nearly halfway surrounded Saturday as more than 2,200 crew members worked to corral it in the heat and wind, fire officials said. The growth of the sprawling blaze had slowed, but thousands of homes remained threatened on its eastern side, authorities said.

In California, Gov Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency for four northern counties because of wildfires that he said were causing "conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property." The proclamation opened the way for more state support.

Such conditions are often from a combination of unusual random, short-term and natural weather patterns heightened by long-term, human-caused climate change. Global warming has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years.



## 'UK Covid cost to last for decades'

*The opposition Labour Party said the findings were further evidence of failings by the government and said the inquiry into the pandemic needed to start immediately*

REUTERS

**London, July 25:** The British government will be exposed to financial risks from its 372 billion pound pandemic spending for decades, according to lawmakers' reports Sunday that also said more than 2 billion pounds had been spent on unusable protective equipment.

In two reports on the response by Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government to the Covid-19 pandemic, parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said lessons needed to be learned before a promised public inquiry due to



be held in 2022. "With eye-watering sums of money spent on Covid measures so far the government needs to be clear, now, how this

## Health Min apologises over 'cower' remark

Britain's Health Secretary Sajid Javid Sunday apologised after he tweeted that the country need not "cower" in the face of Coronavirus, having himself recovered from a bout of the disease. "I was expressing gratitude that the vaccines help us fight back as a society, but it was a poor choice of word and I sincerely apologise," he said. His initial tweet urged "please, if you haven't yet, get your jab, as we learn to live with, rather than cower from, this virus," sparking criticism that he was being disrespectful to those who died from the disease in Britain. "129,000 people who died didn't cower, they fought for their lives," wrote Labour MP Yvette Cooper.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Baghdad, July 25:** Iraq's Prime Minister, Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, says his country no longer requires American combat troops to fight the Islamic State group, but a formal time frame for their redeployment will depend on the outcome of talks with US officials this week.

"There is no need for any foreign combat forces on Iraqi soil," said al-Kadhimi, falling short of announcing a deadline for a US troop departure. Iraq's security



forces and army are capable of defending the country without US-led coalition troops, he said.

But al-Kadhimi said any withdrawal schedule would be

will be managed going forward, and over what period of time," Meg Hillier, the PAC chair, said. "The ongoing risk to the taxpayer will run for 20 years on things like arts and culture recovery loans, let alone the other new risks that departments across government must quickly learn to manage."

"There are robust processes in place to ensure that government spending always provides value for money for the taxpayer," a Department of Health spokesperson said.

## WORLD HERITAGE LIST

# UNESCO inscribes 5 sites from Saudi Arabia, Europe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Paris, July 25:** Five cultural sites in Saudi Arabia and Europe have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, the UNESCO announced in a statement.

According to the statement issued Saturday, the decision was made during the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's 44th session recently held online and chaired from Fuzhou, China, reports Xinhua news agency.

### Hima Cultural Area, Saudi Arabia

Hima Cultural Area in an arid, mountainous area of southwest Saudi Arabia won the status as it contains a substantial collection of rock art images depicting hunting, fauna, flora and lifestyles in a cultural continuity of 7,000 years, the statement said. Travellers and

armies camping on the site left a wealth of rock inscriptions and petroglyphs through the ages and until the late 20th century, most of which are preserved in pristine condition.



### The Great Spa Towns of Europe

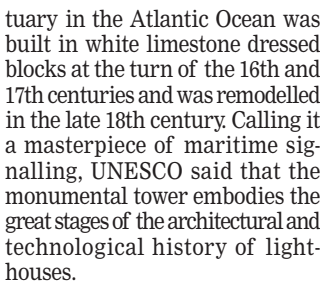
The trans-national site, The Great Spa Towns of Europe, comprises 11 towns located in seven European countries -- Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and the



UK. The spa buildings and facilities of this site are all integrated into an overall urban context that includes a carefully managed recreational and therapeutic environment in a picturesque landscape and embody the significant interchange of human values and developments in medicine, science and balneology, said the committee.

### Cordouan Lighthouse, France

This active lighthouse located near the mouth of the Gironde es-



### Darmstadt Artists' Colony, Germany



The neighbourhood in west-central Germany was established in 1897 as a centre for emerging reform movements in architecture, arts and crafts.

The buildings were created by its artist members as experimental early modernist living and working environments and were expanded during successive international exhibitions in 1901, 1904, 1908 and 1914, according to UNESCO.

### Padua's 14th century fresco cycles, Italy

In Italy's historic walled city of Padua, a selection of fresco cycles painted in the 14th century by different artists for different types of patron and within buildings of diverse functions, was inscribed because they illustrate how, over the course of a century, fresco art developed along a new creative impetus and understanding of spatial representation.





of the day quote

Besides finding that online learning tools are helping Indian students, our latest survey found a gaping need gap when it comes to the availability of reliable study material online for subjects beyond the traditional trio of Mathematics, Science, and English

RAJESH BYSANI | CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER, BRAINLY

We expect volatility to remain high due to the scheduled derivatives expiry of July month contracts. Besides, the earnings season would gain pace and some of the prominent names like Axis Bank, Kotak Bank, LT, Tata Motors, Maruti, Tech Mahindra, BHEL, IOC, and Indigo will announce their numbers during the week

AJIT MISHRA | VP RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING

We already have a dedicated team at our Japan Headquarters, working on an all-new EV platform for India and other global markets. We have been manufacturing EV models in Taiwan for the last 2 years. So, the technology and the expertise to develop and manufacture EV models is already in place

MOTOFUMI SHITARA | GROUP CHAIRMAN, YAMAHA MOTOR INDIA

SHORT TAKES

OSM to invest in electric mobility biz

**Mumbai:** Omega Seiki Mobility (OSM), a part of Anglian Omega Group of companies, is looking to invest around ₹2,232 crore - ₹4,465 crore in the next 5-7 years in electric mobility business as it aims to become a global brand, its chairman Uday Narang has said. The Faridabad-based EV firm has plans to set up a manufacturing facility and an R&D centre in collaboration with an OEM in Europe and foray into the African market besides expanding its footprint in the domestic EV space, he said.

40% growth likely, says Ageas Federal

**New Delhi:** Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company expects a 35-40% growth in premium income in the current financial year despite higher claim payouts in the first quarter, a top company official said. The company looks to keep the momentum going after better-than expected performance in Covid-19-hit 2020-21 fiscal, Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Managing Director and CEO Vignesh Shahane said.

UNIQLO to launch online store

**New Delhi:** Japanese apparel retailer UNIQLO will launch its official online store for the Indian market to strengthen its presence in the country and is looking at cornering 15% of overall sales from e-commerce, a top company official has said. Besides, the company, which is presently operating six stores in Delhi NCR, is also looking to expand its network of offline stores and exploring some other cities here as well, UNIQLO India CEO Tomohiko Sei said.

Play targets ₹100cr revenue

**New Delhi:** Play, a tech brand set up by Micromax co-founder Vikas Jain, is looking at tapping into the growing consumer electronics market in the country and aims to hit the ₹100-crore revenue milestone by 2022-23. The company plans to launch products across six-seven categories.



As India moves ahead, its mobility solutions would increasingly be experience-led, and nowhere is this felt sharper than among the youth of India. Our focus on India's youth is embodied in the first of the TVS electric portfolio

SUDARSHAN VENU | JOINT MD, TVS MOTOR COMPANY

JSPL TO LAUNCH BIDDING PROCESS

Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) has decided to launch an additional transparent competitive bidding process for the proposed stake sale of its subsidiary Jindal Power Ltd. After discussions, JSPL and its transaction advisors have successfully negotiated an improved binding offer from Worldone



'Cos struggling to manage reporting on climate risks'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 25:** Businesses are finding it hard to manage reporting on climate risks and need to take urgent steps to meet the expectations of regulators as well as investors, according to a report.

Leading consultancy EY's report covered over 1,100 organisations across 42 countries, including India, and focussed on efforts made by them to publish their climate-related risks and opportunities based on the recommendations set by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

The TCFD was established to improve and increase reporting of climate-related financial information. The scores of companies are based on the number of recommended disclosures that they

make (coverage) and the extent or detail of each disclosure (quality).

The EY Global Climate Risk Disclosure Barometer 2021 also showed that coverage and quality of climate-related disclosures remain below global averages in India. As per the report, only half of companies examined worldwide make all recommended disclosures and therefore have full coverage, and on an average, the coverage was 70%.

"Companies based in India presented 28% on quality disclosure and 49% coverage. Only 3% of global companies reviewed meet the highest levels of quality and the average quality score is 42%," EY said in a release Sunday.

Among others, the number of Indian companies responding to disclosure platforms such as carbon disclosure project is on the rise. In



the coming year, greater TCFD reporting is expected, driven by pressure from financiers, investors and customers, it added.

In November last year, 24 Indian

companies signed a pledge to work with the government toward achieving the 2015 United Nations Paris Climate Change Conference (Paris Agreement) goals.

Domino's joins hands with Revolt Motors

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, July 25:** Domino's Pizza has joined hands with RattanIndia-backed EV maker Revolt Motors to convert its current petrol bike fleet into e-bikes. As part of the partnership, Domino's will procure the entire existing inventory of Revolt's RV300 bike model and will progressively acquire its customised Revolt model to transform its fleet, the company said in a statement Sunday.

Domino's piloted Revolt bikes for its deliveries for quite some time now, and with a successful pilot, it has now partnered with Revolt for its green push, it added.

RattanIndia Enterprises Business Chairman Anjali Rattan said, "Revolt is happy to join hands with Domino's in this partnership which not only makes sense environmentally, but also offers great cost savings for the company."

These bikes will be specially customised for Jubilant Foodworks, which operates fast-food chains Domino's Pizza, to suit its business needs and at the same time enable a zero-emission delivery experience, Revolt Motors said.

HDFC Bank's Puri highest paid among bankers in FY21

ICICI BANK'S BAKHSHI FORGOES SALARY IN COVID YEAR

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, July 25:** HDFC Bank's Aditya Puri emerged as the highest grossing banker among the top three private sector lenders in his retirement year with total emoluments of ₹13.82 crore.

His successor Sashidhar Jagdishan, who took over as the chief executive and managing director of the largest private sector lender October 27, 2020 grossed a salary of ₹4.77 crore for the fiscal year, which included payments as a group head till his elevation. Puri's overall payments included ₹3.5 crore as post-retirement benefits.

Its immediate rival ICICI Bank's MD and CEO Sandeep Bakhshi "voluntarily relinquished" his fixed compensation of basic and supplementary allowances for FY21, which had seen wide-scale impact of the COVID pandemic, as per the second largest lender's annual report.

The EY Global Climate Risk Disclosure Barometer 2021 showed that coverage and quality of climate-related disclosures remain below global averages in India

"Businesses around the world are struggling to manage the reporting of climate risks and should consider taking urgent action in order to meet the requirements and expectations of regulators and investors," it noted.

Chaitanya Kalra, Partner and National Leader, Climate Change and Sustainability Services (CCaSS) at EY India, said the pandemic has

spurred the importance of climate change and the gravity of climate crisis which go beyond an organisation's own footprint, requiring more complex data management, analysis and forecasting.

Indian organisations are making progress on climate risk disclosures, and Sebi's business responsibility and sustainability reporting norms designed to be mandatory from FY23 onwards will further help investors identify firms' business sustainability risks, Kalra added.

Globally, the report said that only 41% of the organisations reviewed have disclosed that they have conducted crucial scenario analysis, which is also a TCFD recommendation, to examine the likely scale and timings of particular risks and prepare for the worst-case outcomes.



ADITYA PURI



SANDEEP BAKHSHI

Bakhshi, however, did receive allowances and perquisites amounting to ₹38.38 lakh, the document said, adding he also got ₹63.60 lakh as performance bonus from ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company as deferred variable pay for FY17 and FY18.

Amitabh Chaudhry, who has been leading the third largest private sector lender Axis Bank, got paid ₹6.52 crore, the bank's annual report said, adding that the top management was not given any salary increment in FY21.

In the case of ICICI Bank, material risk takers including executive directors, chief financial officer and company secretary voluntarily opted for a 10 per cent salary reduction from May 1 in their pay-

ments, possibly because of the impact of COVID. Its executive director in-charge of wholesale banking Vishakha Mulye grossed ₹5.64 crore, as per the annual report.

When compared with the bank's median salary, the allowances drawn by Jagdishan were the highest at 139 times the median salary of a bank employee, while Chaudhry earned 104 times the median and ICICI Bank executive directors drew 96 times the median salary.

Data available for 'crorepatis' bankers, or those earning above ₹8.5 lakh a month, revealed that HDFC Bank had 200 executives in this exclusive club, including key management personnel, serving officials and those who left the lender midway

Tata Steel introduces robotic system for wagon tippler op

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 25:** Tata Steel Kalinganagar has introduced a new Robotic system for its wagon tippler operation. The tipping operation at the raw-material handling system of the steel plant, involves critical activities like decoupling, coupling, rotation and CBC alignment of wagon through manual intervention at inhaul and outhaul side.

During every cycle, after a wagon tipping operation on tippler table, the empty wagons are to be coupled with empty wagons in the outhaul area. For successful coupling of



both Wagons, the couplers alignment is mandatory which is now being done manually by designated person under high risk potential.

So, to eliminate the man-machine interface while handling railway wagons after tipping op-

eration during each cycle, a new system of robotics operation has been introduced for Wagon Tippler.

Under the new system of operation, the Wagon couplers at out-haul, before getting coupled, will be inspected through and aligned by a Robotic system. This will eliminate the man machine interface completely during each cycle of tipping, ensuring safety while contributing to enhanced productivity.

This system is also supplemented by a uniquely designed Smart Fencing System with Automated Gate Locking Facility for restricting unauthorized entry during equipment operation.

90% willing to pay premium for buying EV: Survey

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 25:** With global electric vehicles (EVs) sales expected to boom in the next 12 months, nearly 90% of consumers in India are willing to pay a premium for buying an EV, according to a survey by consultancy firm EY.

The EY Mobility Consumer Index (MCI), a survey of more than 9,000 respondents from 13 countries, including 1,000 respondents from India, also found that 40% of the respondents were ready to pay a premium of up to 20%.

The survey concluded in the second half of July. "Among the car buyers in India, 3 in 10 respondents would prefer to buy an electric/hydrogen vehicle," the survey said.

A majority of the respondents surveyed in India consider a driving range of 100 to 200 miles from a fully charged EV, EY said.

It further said, "Nearly 90% of



consumers in India are willing to pay a premium for buying an EV and over 40% of respondents are ready to pay a premium of up to

20%." Existing and future EV owners, who intend to buy a car, have a relatively higher preference for digital channels compared to the

The reducing gap in cost of ownership between electric and other technology platforms and the increasing segment of consumers vocal about environmental impact will drive a fundamental change in consumer buying behaviour for electric vehicles

VINAY RAGHUNATH | PARTNER AND AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR LEADER, EY INDIA

existing and future ICE owners.

Commenting on the findings, EY India Partner and Automotive Sector Leader Vinay Raghunath said, "The reducing gap in cost of ownership between electric and other technology platforms and the increasing segment of consumers vocal about environmental

impact will drive a fundamental change in consumer buying behaviour for electric vehicles."

He further said, "Consumers are willing to pay extra for an added value of being environmentally responsible."

According to the survey, the top reason for buying an EV is environmental concern, with 97% also stating that the Covid-19 pandemic has heightened awareness and concerns about environmental issues.

About 67% of those looking to buy an EV feel it is their responsibility to reduce their personal environmental impact, and 69% feel buying an EV is one way to achieve this goal.

When it comes to charging, the survey found that "nearly a third of the existing EV owners expect vehicle charging to take less than an hour compared to 45 per cent of the respondents who are planning to buy an EV".



The oil marketing companies (OMCs), however, stopped short of reducing the retail price of petrol and diesel as more time is required to study the oil price movement before any downward revision. Already, crude has firmed up in last few days and this could prevent decline in prices.

With no change in prices Sunday, in the national capital petrol continues to be sold for ₹101.84 per litre, while diesel remains at the unchanged price of ₹89.87 a litre.

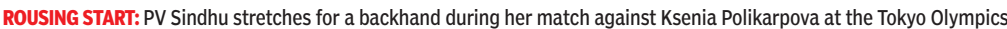
In Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, petrol was sold for ₹107.83, ₹102.49 and ₹102.08 per litre, respectively. Similarly, price of diesel in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata was at ₹89.87, ₹97.45, ₹94.39 and ₹93.02 a litre, respectively.

The over-a-week-long price pause comes after fuel prices increased on 41 days and remained unchanged on 44 days since May 1.



# Sindhu sweeps past Ksenia

Polikarpova, who was playing with a strapped knee, continued to struggle with her strokes as



Polikarpova sent the shuttle out to end of her misery.

“Even though it was an easy first

Sindhu also said she has worked on her aggression in the past five years and promised a very 'differ-

“Mentally, physically and experience-wise, a lot has changed. Coming to (Tokyo) 2020 is completely different; back then there were no expectations,” the reigning World Champion said. “I know that I have worked hard and given all my heart all these years and I think it’s time to show now. I’ve been working on my aggression and my technique and you will definitely see a different Sindhu.” she added.

# MARY KOM POWERS INTO PRE-QUARTERS

"I am so lucky, I could set up a little gym with equipment and a



If Mary Kom held back in the opening round to get a good measure of her rival, the veteran was aggression personified in the final three minutes after Garcia bagged the second round with some fierce

punching of her own. The Indian will next face third-seeded Colombian Ingrid Valencia, who was a bronze-medallist at the 2016 Rio Games. Mary Kom has beaten her twice.

"I have all the medals in my hand. It's not easy to count them, but, the difficult part is continuously winning and performing, it's not easy," Mary Kom said. "...What is left is the Olympic gold medal. That is what is driving me and pushing me to carry on," she added.

## DAY OF DESPAIR, LOSSES

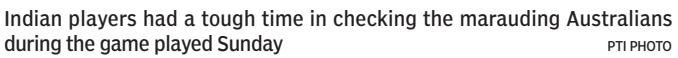
Indian rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh qualified for the semifinals of the men's lightweight double sculls repechage. The

## Australia set the first swimming

Naomi Osaka is back and still winning. The Japanese superstar who lit the Olympic cauldron defeated 62nd-ranked Zheng Saisai of China 6-1, 6-4 Sunday in her first match in nearly two months. She had withdrawn from the French Open to take a mental health break. She had revealed she was suffering from depression. She then sat out Wimbledon. Now with Barty stunned in the first round, Osaka is certainly the favourite to win gold.

Indian swimmer Maana Patel could not qualify for the semifinals of the women's 100m backstroke event as she finished second in her heat at the Tokyo Games. Competing in her first Olympics, Maana finished with a time of 1.05.20 seconds behind Zimbabwe's Donata Katai, who clocked 1:02.73. Overall the 21-year-old Indian finished 39th in the standings.

# India suffer humiliating loss



Australia looked dominant and

India had earlier defeated New Zealand 3-2 in their opening fixture Saturday. The Manpreet Singh-led side will next play Spain, Tuesday.

## INDIA BEAT SRI LANKA EASILY BY 38 RUNS IN FIRST T20I

# Surya, Bhuvi script victory



back-end. Dhawan added 62 with Surya in eight overs to provide a

**Tokyo, July 25:** The fancied Indian shooting team drew a blank for the second day running in the Tokyo Olympics here Sunday. A major weapon malfunction led to the sad exit for the young Manu Bhaker in the women's 10 air pistol event.

Appearing in her maiden Olympics, the 19-year-old Manu finished a creditable 12th, despite losing nearly 20 minutes during the qualifications after the cocking lever in her pistol broke down, forcing her to go to a designated area for getting it fixed. Manu shot 575, while the cut-off was 577.

Yashaswini Singh Deswal, the other first-timer at the Games, recovered from a subdued start to end 13th, with a total score of 574.

In the men's 10 air rifle event, both the experienced Deepak Kumar and the teenaged Divyansh Singh Panwar finished a lowly 26th and 32nd respectively.

Deepak aggregated 624.7 while Divyansh shot 622.8 over the six series, scores which were never going to be enough to make the final.

Taken together, the first two days' performance, or, the lack of it, is certainly going to raise a few eyebrows within the Indian shooting fraternity, including the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

## IPL to resume with MI-CSK encounter

**New Delhi, July 25:** Defending champions Mumbai Indians (MI) will meet Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in Dubai, September 19 when the IPL resumes in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the BCCI announced Sunday. The tournament was suspended in May after multiple Covid-19 cases were reported in its bio-bubble.

“The 14th season, which was postponed in May this year in the wake of the pandemic, will resume September 19 in Dubai with a blockbuster clash between Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians,” the BCCI said in a statement. A total of 31 matches including the final will be played in 27 days.

“There will be 7 double headers (five matches already played in India – total of 12 matches) with the first match starting at 3.30pm (IST). All evening matches will start at 7.30pm (IST),” the statement further said.

The first Qualifier will be played in Dubai, October 10, the Eliminator and Qualifier 2 will be played in Sharjah, October 11 and 13 respectively with Dubai hosting the final, October 15. In all, 13 matches will be held in Dubai, 10 in Sharjah and eight in Abu Dhabi.