

SSUE 124 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY. AUGUST 3



38 CHAMPIONS SCRIPT HISTORY IN HOCKEY. 1.3 BILLION INDIANS WALK AN INCH TALLER...

Indian Men's and Women's Hockey teams made a historic entry into the Semi-Finals at Tokyo Olympics.

Jai Hind!

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM INDIA!

ODIS

india

27

ODISHA

india

ODISH

india

Odisha is proud to have partnered with Hockey India in this remarkable journey

ODISHA

india

ODISHA

india

OIPR-29001/13/0004/2122

ODISH

india

ODISH

india

ODISHA

ODIS4

india

ODISHA

india

india

ODISHA

india

ODISHA

india

ODISHA

india

india

24

india





leisure



KIT HARINGTON SAYS THERE'S NO BREAK FROM PARENTING

Game Of Thrones star Kit Harington and his wife Rose Leslie welcomed their first child five months ago. "They tell you and they don't tell you (about fatherhood). But you have no way of knowing that until it happens. This goes on forever. Like, you don't get a break from it," Harington said.

BLAKE CREDITS RESTAURANT FOR HER ROMANCE WITH RYAN

Actress Blake Lively, who has been married to actor Ryan Reynolds since 2012, has shared that their relationship began after a date night at a Japanese restaurant. The star couple went down memory lane over the weekend and revisited the sentimental venue.



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

The stars urge you to focus on your finances and savings, and today, you migh remain very busy doing just that. But take care, says Ganesha, you don't want a sulking spouse when you go home. Don't cancel any plans; go ahead and enjoy that new film.

TAURUS

Your think tank will be running on overdrive today. Your possessiveness might kick in to cause a conflict. Keep your anger under the carpet to avoid any unnecessary complications. Introspection will also play upon your thoughts, leading you to explore your problems and pry for solutions, predicts Ganesha.

GEMINI

Today may not be very meaningful and productive for you, though you will get to spend plenty of quality time with yourself in the afternoon, which may not necessarily be to your liking. By evening, you may feel a little extra sensitive. A lonely day, or as an optimist would put it, you've got the whole day to yourself; it could have been worse (For instance, a day alone with your nagging mother-in-law!).

CANCER

You are likely to be at your inventive best today, feels Ganesha. You are likely to taste success, much to the delight of your colleagues at work and loved ones back home. However, experience counts, and i you are a beginner at something, you may face problems in your new venture.

LEO

Agreed that home is where the heart is. But today, your home is where your troubles will be. The faster you try to run away from them, the quicker they seem to catch up with you, says Ganesha. So, scooting off may not be the best solution Some people around you may try to blow things out of proportion; the best way to keep them in check is with a smile. For, a smile is the secret weapon of all winners, reminds Ganesha.

VIRGO

Open the mind gates and let your imagination flow, says Ganesha. At your creative best, you will pursue innovation and creativity today. Luck will be on your side and even those things that you took a risk on may lean your way. You energy levels will be unusually high and you will feel passionate about all that you undertake. A good day to organise social events for family and friends.



We don't deserve a media trial: Shilpa

MUMBAI: Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra took to social media Monday to issue a statement, saying she and her family do not deserve a media trial.

Shilpa's statement comes at a time when her husband, businessman Raj Kundra has been granted judicial custody till August 10 in a case pertaining to alleged production and distribution of porn content.

The actress said she will not comment on the case as it is subjudice and also

requested the media

for some privacy saying the past few days have been challenging for her 'on every front'

Shilpa shared her statement on Instagram Monday, which reads: "Yes! The past few days have been challenging, on every front. There have been a lot of rumours and accusations. I am a proud lawabiding Indian citizen and a hardwork ing professional for the last 29 years. People have put their faith in ME & I've never let anyone down. So, most importantly,

I request you to respect my family's and 'my right' to privacy in these times We don't deserve a media trial. Please let the law take its course Satyamev Jayate!" IANS



Amlan plays migrant worker in Lagaam

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: With no work and no way to feed themselves during the pandemic, migrant labourers had no choice but to defy the lockdown and return to their villages. Upcoming Odia film Lagaam showcases the struggle of a migrant worker who desperately wants to return home to be with his family during such difficult times.

Top actor Amlan will be seen essaying the role of this worker with Tamanna Vyas playing his love interest. The film also features Mishra, Bobby

Harihara Mohapatra, Pradyumna Lenka and Umakanta Muduli, among other important characters.

Directed by Pinu Nayak, the film's story and dialogues have been penned by Ranjit Kumar Sahu. Among other credits, Abhijit Majumdar has scored the music while the songs have been written by Tapu Nayak and Janmojoy Panda.

Ranjit will also don the producer's hat for the movie under the banner of Dipti Karan Films.

The film's director says, "Audience will get to see romance, drama, comedy and suspense in the movie. The shooting has been completed and the post-production works are in full swing.

GAUAHAR LOOKS BACK ON HER JOURNEY IN SHOWBIZ

MUMBAI: Model-turnedactress Gauahar Khan has managed to find her fan base in every section of the audience.

Be it in reality shows or making sensational screen presence in item songs or sharing screen space with stars like Ranbir Kapoor and Vidva Balan - parameters on choosing projects, especially films, has changed because she is looking to explore her acting skills now.

"Initially, for me, it was to use every opportunity with the best of my ability because I started from zero; today it is around 19 years that I am here in the business of entertainment. So much has changed! Really...now because of the OTT platform, actors like myself are getting the opportunity to showcase our acting talent; earlier in cinema chances were limited," explained the Begum Jaan actor. IANS

Isolation affected me at a very subconscious level: CarryMinati

NEW **DELHI:** YouTuber CarryMinati overcame lockdown anxiety while shooting for his debut film Mayday starring Amitabh

Bachchan and Ajay Devgn. Ajey Nagar, 22, who runs his YouTube channel with the name of CarryMinati, faced a creative roadblock during the pandemic and couldn't create content for his YouTube channel for the longest

time. He said: "Isolation and the pandemic somewhere affected me at a very subconscious level and there were days I felt creatively challenged. However, the film shoot was a game changer in the midst of it all. It was very therapeutic and gave me perspective

was seeking

creatively"

marked his

foray in the

Aiev

music score of a Hindi film with Abhishek Bachchan starrer Big Bull. He was also featured in Salim-Sulaiman's soundtrack

Date Karle. He has rap singles like Vardaan. Yalgaar, Zindagi, Trigger, Warrior. and Bye Pewdiepie to his credit

bility of major improvements in your public standing and image today. But it all depends so much upon your personal character, and, therefore, you must guard it zealously, even with your own life. Those who seek to malign or dent your reputation will be disappointed, says Ganesha.

Ľ

SCORPIO

Today promises to be an exceptional day for those involved in business. With sheer brilliance, you will steer deals right to your door step, and will display great finesse in negotiations and bartering. Bring out the leader in you and take charge when you introduce new products or market them in business, suggests Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

To do or not to do? That will be the question for most of today as you find yourself pulling out of one dilemma only to trip into the next one. Controversy will surround you and you may find yourself at the crossroads, where you are unsure of which direction to take. Turn to the wisdom of the experienced for proper guidance, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

The most intimidating of ventures can prove success-ful if fortune favours you; you will be fortunate today, says Ganesha. Those of you dealing in stocks and shares can expect a profitable day ahead, but don't forget to give credit to your spouse; it will be their luck working wonders for you.

Bursting with new ideas, you want to make the world a better place! You will give your best in a team and will come up with great schemes and solutions. At gatherings and social dos, says Ganesha, you will remain your charming self, impressing people with an amazing social grace.

PISCES

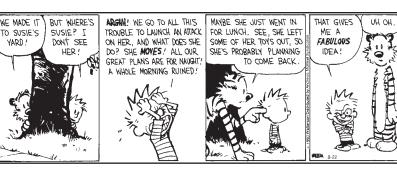
Home is where the hearth is in which the troubles you need to deal with today are smouldering, Running away from your problems will simply have you out of breath; it would be wiser to take a stand and find solutions to petty conflicts without losing your perspective. Make no mountains out of mole hills, says Ganesha



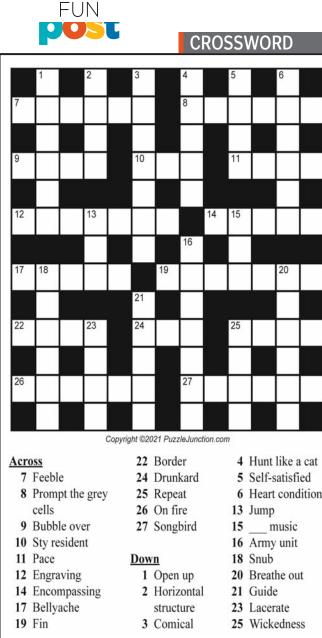


human

CALVIN AND HOBBES







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Gauahar has done it all. Even though she is mostly grabbing headlines for her social and personal life on social media, the actress says with time, her

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.

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

CROSSWORD	BASIC THUZDUR		CHA DEMAGOGUE 123	Y E B R A 5 4	C H E D D A R A I D E S	L A D 0	ENLIST SEATED 517	F M O	FOGGYRASCALS	A B A O T S 6 8		E A C I E	DETENTE MIXER 792
-	R	H	E	A	S	2	D	0	s	S	1	E	R
	7		2	5		6	1	13	2	8	4	ļ	9
	63 63		5	9	t	7	6	2	2	4	8	ļ	1
SUDOKU	1		8	6	t	3	8	5	;	7	2		6 3
SUD	4		6 9	1	ł	5	2	7	7	3	6	+	8
57		1	7	2		0	2	10		0	4	Т	

SO





RREGULAR by MANJUL



Learn from our sportspersons. They never demand a thing, manage on their own, win medals and thank us for their success!

Dutee out of Olympics

TOKYO: Indian sprinter Dutee Chand continued her disappointing run at the Olympics as she failed to qualify for the women's 200m semifinals after finishing last in her heat here Monday. Dutee registered a season's best timing of 23.85 seconds to finish seventh and last in heat 4 which was topped by Christine Mboma of Namibia with a timing 22.11 seconds. Top three finishers from each of the seven heats and the next three fastest qualify for the semifinals. Dutee, who has a personal best of 23 seconds, ended at 38th overall out of 41 competitors. On Friday, Dutee failed to progress to the semifinals of the women's 100m event as well, finishing seventh in -her heat with a timing of 11.54s.

Sun Temple reopens

BHUBANESWAR: The Sun Temple at Konark Monday reopened for the public after remaining closed for more than 100 days in the wake of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, official sources said. The 13th century Unesco World Heritage site is likely to attract a good number of visitors. Thermal screening and wearing a face mask have been made mandatory for the visitors. As per the guidelines, 2,000 tourists will be allowed to visit the temple in a day. Tourists will have to book the ticket online and scan it on their mobile phones at the main entrance. However, local guides, photographers and handicraft businessmen are not allowed entry into the shrine's August unlock process had announced that the district administrations could allow opening of religious places and tourist destinations.

Eves make history



EMOTIONS WRIT LARGE: Indian players begin celebration, while the Australians look dejected after the match, Monday

AGENCIES

Tokyo, August 2: A brave and determined Indian women's hockey team etched its name in the history books by entering the Olympic Games semifinals for the first time, stunning three-time champions and world no.2 Australia 1-0 in an intense lasteight tie here on Monday.

A day after the Indian men's team entered the Olympic semifinals following a 49-year gap, the world no. 9 women's side also produced a phenomenally gritty performance to make it way into the last four. Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur rose to the occasion when it mattered and converted India's lone penalty corner in the 22nd minute to surprise the Australians. Coming into the match, the odds were totally against India as in world no.2 Australia, a mighty unbeaten opponent, awaited them. "We are so happy, it is the result of hard work that we put in for several, several days. In 1980, we qualified for the Games but this time, we made

Naveen Patnaik @Naveen Odisha

Congratulations Indian Women's **#Hockey** Team on the spectacular win over Australia to seal the semifinal berth in **#Tokyo2020** A. What a terrific game the team played against Australia! Keep the momentum going and wish the team best of luck.

#Cheer4India

for us," Gurjit said after the match. "This team is like a family, we have supported each other and found support from the country as well. We are very happy," she added. But the Indians, determined to prove a point, produced a strong and brave performance to eke out the narrow win over the Hockeyroos. How much it meant for the team and Indian hockey in general could be gauged from the emotions that were on display after the final hooter went off. The players screamed, hugged each other, and got into a huddle with their Dutch coach Sjoerd Marijne with tears of joy rolling down their faces.

India's best performance in the Olympics came way back in the 1980 Moscow Games where they finished fourth out of six teams. In that edition of the Games, women's hockey made its debut in the Olympics and the sport was played in a round-robin format with top two teams qualifying for the final.

The Rani Rampal-led side will play Argentina in the semifinal Wednesday. The Indians started slow off the blocks progressed. Australia had the first shot at the goal but India goalkeeper Savita did just enough to deny Amrosia Malone, whose slap shot from inside the circle hit the post.

PTI PHOTOS

The Indians thereafter adopted an aggressive approach and caught the Australian defence off guard quite a few times. India's pace and determination seemed to have surprised the Australians as they panicked while defending and were lucky not to have conceded a goal in the first quarter.

In the ninth minute, skipper Rani Rampal's deflection from a Vandana Katariya shot hit the back post as Australia survived. A minute later, Broke Peris' shot from top of the circle just went wide past a fully stretched Savita. The Indians created another chance in the first quarter but an alert Australian goalkeeper Rachael Lynch came out of her line to deny Sharmila Devi from a one-on-one situation. The Australians pressed hard in the second quarter and secured their first penalty corner in the 20th minute which was defended bril-

JSW Cement

The Leaders' Choice

1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

JOINT TEAMS TO PLUG HOLES IN PROCUREMENT

FIELD VERIFICATION

Dedicated toll free number 1967 set up for receiving telephonic grievances of farmers



► Joint verification teams to be formed to ensure 100 per cent field verification of farmers and their crop area

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Following allegations of mismanagement in paddy procurement, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra Monday directed officials to ensure paddy is procured from all genuine farmers in the state during the current kharif season.

Holding a high-level meeting with Collectors and senior officials, Mahapatra said, "No genuine farmer should be deprived of selling paddy to government during the kharif marketing season 2021-22." He directed Collectors to form sufficient number of joint verification teams involving field level officers from the departments of agriculture, cooperation, revenue and water resources for 100 per cent field verifiverified with satellite data collected through ORSAC Stressing the importance of field verification in the en-

tire procurement process, the CS sought to conduct it with sincerity and accuracy.

It was decided that field verification would be combined with verification of actual land records, land category (kisam), crop areas, types and source of irrigation, bank details, mobile numbers of farmers and other factors. The paddy cultivated area would be crossverified with satellite data collected through ORSAC. After registration and verification, SMSes would be sent to farmers on the extent of the cultivated land registered for procurement. Payment to farmers would be done through their bank accounts, and, all payments would be integrated with online public financial man-

MARKET WATCH									
IN	DEX	VARIATION							
IRSES	SENSEX	52950.63		363.79					
BOL	NIFTY	15885.20		122.20					
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	74.56	₽	₹0.04					
CURR	EURO	88.30		₹0.11					
NO	GOLD	₹47,966		₹120					
BULLION	SILVER	₹67,834	₽	₹13					

WEATH			
	BHUB	СТК	
MAX	33.6℃	34.6°C	
<mark>≓</mark> MIN	25.0℃	25.2°C	- Forecast
Humidity	79%	79%	Light rain
Rainfall	Nil	3.2mm	very likely

the semifinals. It is a proud moment

e-RUPI launched

Agencies

New Delhi, August 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday launched e-RUPI, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution that is aimed at improving transparency and targeted delivery of benefits.

Over the years, several programmes have been launched to ensure that the benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leakproof manner, with limited touch points between the government and the beneficiary. The concept of electronic voucher takes forward this vision of good governance.

To begin with e-RUPI facility is available for health services and will be expanded to other segments. "Today the country is giving a new dimension to digital governance. ERUPI voucher is going to play a huge role in making digital transactions, and DBT more effective. This will help

everyone in targeted, transparent and leakage free delivery," the Prime Minister said while launching e-RUPI. Not only the government, if any general organisation or organisation wants to help someone in their treat-

ment, in their education or for any other work, then they will be able to give eRUPI instead of cash, he said. This will ensure that the money

given by him is used for the same work for which that amount has been given, he added. E-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment, an official statement said, adding, it is a QR code or SMS string-based evoucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries.

The users of this seamless onetime payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider, it said. It has been developed by the National Payments but grew in confidence as the match



e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment developed by National Payments Corporation of India

- Connects sponsors of the services with beneficiaries & service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface
- Assures timely payments without involvement of any intermediary
- It can also be used for delivering services meant for providing drugs & nutritional support under mother and child welfare schemes, TB eradication programmes etc.

Corporation of India on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority. liantly by India.

STEEP FALL IN STATE'S DAILY COVID COUNT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The state's Covid-19 toll Monday rose to 6,033 after 67 more patients succumbed to the infection while 1,032 fresh cases pushed the tally to 9,79,737, a health department official said. The state currently has 15,050 active cases while 9,58,601 patients have recovered from the disease. Khurda alone accounted for 12 fresh deaths, followed by Sundargarh at 11, Cuttack at 10, Puri at six and Dhenkanal at five.

According to the Health and Family Welfare Department, the fatality list does not reflect deaths occurring on a particular day. It gives details of the past deaths for which the audit process has been duly completed, and the cause of the death identified due to Covid-19. Over 1.61 crore samples have been tested for Covid-19 thus far, including 67,131 Sunday. The TPR for the day stood at 1.53 pc.

cation of actual farmers and

their crop area. He also asked officials to prepare the final list of genuine farmers for paddy procurement by weeding out the possibilities of fake crop area registration, and sealing the scope for the entry of unscrupulous middlemen into the system. agement system. Cooperation secretary VV Yadav said interactive voice recording system would be set up to handle farmers' queries regarding registration and procurement. A dedicated toll free number 1967 had been set up for receiving the telephonic

grievances of farmers

SC notice to states on scrapped IT Act

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 2: The Supreme Court Monday issued notice to Odisha and other state governments and High Courts on a petition that challenged the continued use of Section 66A of IT Act even after the apex court struck down it in2015.

A two-judge bench of the SC comprising Justices RF Nariman and BR Gavai sought response from the state governments following the Centre's stand that it is up to the state governments to refrain from filing cases under the impugned provision. The apex court also served the notice on the registrars of High Courts and sought their re-

sponses within four weeks.

it will look separately on

the judiciary aspect as this

matter pertains to not only

courts but also police. "Let

notices be issued to all states

and Union Territories. This

is to be done in a period of

four weeks from today. List

matter after four weeks,"

It is to be mentioned here

that a petition has been filed

the bench said.

The bench observed that



by NGO People Union for Civil Liberties seeking directions to the Centre to advise all police stations against registering FIRs under Section 66A. It contended that the section has continued to be in use not only within police stations but also in cases before trial courts across the country.

Citing the findings of the Zombie Tracker Website, the petitioner contended that as on March 10, 2021, around 745 cases are still pending before district courts wherein accused are charged under Section 66A of IT Act.

Earlier July 5, the apex court had expressed shock at the cases being registered even after the provision was struck down. "Amazing. What is going on is terrible," the court had remarked.

Polish visa to Belarus Olympian who fears for safety

AGENCIES

Tokyo, August 2: Poland granted a visa Monday to a Belarusian Olympic sprinter who said she feared for her safety and that her team's officials tried to force her to fly home, where the autocratic government was accused of diverting a flight to arrest a dissident journalist.

An activist group that is helping athlete Krystsina Tsimanouskaya told The Associated Press that it bought her a plane ticket to Warsaw for the coming days. The current standoff apparently began after Tsimanouskaya criticized how officials were managing her team — setting off a massive backlash in state-run media back



Journalists gather at the Poland Embassy to report on Belarusian athlete Krystsina Tsimanouskaya after she visited the embassy in Tokyo, Monday.

home, where authorities relentlessly crack down on government critics. The runner said on her Instagram ac-

count that she was put in the 4x400 relay even though she has never raced in the event. The runner was then apparently hustled to the airport but refused to board a flight for Istanbul and instead approached police for help. In a filmed message distributed on social media, she also asked the International Olympic Committee for assistance.

"I was put under pressure, and they are trying to forcibly take me out of the country without my consent," the 24year-old said in the message. The rapidfire series of events brought international political intrigue to an Olympics that have been more focused on operational dramas, like maintaining safety during a pandemic and navigating widespread Japanese opposition to holding the event at all.

Belarus' authoritarian government

has relentlessly targeted anyone even mildly expressing dissent since a presidential election a year ago triggered a wave of unprecedented mass protests. And it has also gone to extremes to stop its critics, including the recent plane diversion that European officials called an act of air piracy.

In this context, Tsimanouskaya feared for her safety once she saw the campaign against her in state media, according to the Belarusian Sport Solidarity Foundation, the activist group that is helping her. "The campaign was quite serious and that was a clear signal that her life would be in danger in Belarus," Alexander Opeikin, a spokesman for the foundation, told the AP in an interview.











OrissaPOST TUESDAY | AUGUST 3 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown

Compulsory retirement for OSSC member's PS BJD backs Inland Vessels Bill in RS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The state government Monday gave compulsory retirement to Biranchi Narayan Sahoo, private secretary to a member of Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC), following his arrest in a disproportionate assets case July 31.

UPROAR OVER 'JOB SCAM'

he student wing of Indian National Congress, Monday staged a protest before the commission's headquarter here demanding a probe into the alleged scam in examinations conducted by the OSSC

Sahoo was found to be possessing disproportionate assets valued 268 per cent more than his known sources of income

Earlier, the officials of anti-corruption wing had Friday carried out simultaneous raids on houses of Sahoo and his relatives at six places in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

Earlier, Sahoo was suspended by the OSSC Chairman, Nirmal Chandra Mishra, who has also suggested the state government to take stringent action against the erring

NSUI members clash with police personnel as they demonstrate near the OSSC office in Bhubaneswar, Monday OP PHOTO

private secretary who was scheduled to retire after six months.

Mishra informed the media that any staffer detained for more than eight hours is deemed to be suspended. He hinted towards further action against Sahoo.

The chairman further denied any wrongdoing in the recruitment process which, he said, is 'fully transparent'. He told that all those who have secured jobs till now are selected on merit only.

Meanwhile, the student wing of Indian National Congress, Monday staged a protest before the com-

mission's headquarter here demanding a probe into the alleged scam in examinations conducted by the OSSC

Activists led by Congress MLA Suresh Routray and other senior leaders scuffled with the police while they were trying to barge into the commission's office. More job aspirants have come to

the fore alleging irregularities in the examinations by the OSSC during the past few years.

Notably, Sahoo was found to be possessing disproportionate assets valued 268 per cent more than

Rich given job cards

his known sources of income could afford. The officials arrested Sahoo by registering a case (16/21) Saturday.

Earlier, the officials of anti-cor-ruption wing had Friday carried out simultaneous raids on houses of Sahoo and his relatives at six places in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. They had unearthed properties worth over ₹3.79 crore that included ₹25 lakh in cash, 1.5 kg gold ornaments worth over ₹60 lakh and 14 landed plots in Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Puri in Sahoo's possession.

The Inland Vessels Bill 2021 was passed by Rajya Sabha Monday. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill July 29. The Bill seeks to

introduce a uniform regulatory framework for inland vessel navigation across the country

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 2: Supporting the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 in the Rajya Sabha, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday stressed on giv- **PARLIAMENT** ing more emphasis to sea

routes or waterways for cargo transportation. Party leader Prasanna Acharya cited less impact on the environment and less oil consumption as the motivating factors behind the proposition.

While speaking on behalf of the party in the Rajya Sabha, Acharya stated that less than 1 per cent of cargo transportation happens through inland waterways as compared to 21 per cent through sea route or inland waterways in United States

'We should try, as far as possible, to use our waterways because our entire road transport and air transport is congested. We should

RAIN PAIN

give much emphasis on this because when we transport cargo through sea routes or waterways, we pollute the environment comparatively less and oil consumption is also low which is beneficial for the country," Acharya said.

He appreciated the government for not centralizing everything under the bill. He said that the state governments will be making their own rules and implementing them on ground. Acharya also apprised the

House about Odisha's rich history of maritime trade. Speaking of the excellence of 'Sadhaba Pua's (traders) and their contribution to ODISHA IN the country's maritime trade, he said, "They used to export textiles and food-

grains among other things to Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and Indonesia through ships and bring in fortune to Odisha during those days.' Acharya appreciated the provision

that seeks to penalise a vessel master if he abstains from rendering assistance to a nearby ship in distress. Under the distress clause, the vessel master will be penalised with a fine of ₹10,000. It is to be mentioned here that the Inland Vessels Bill 2021 was passed by the Rajya Sabha Monday. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill July 29. The Bill seeks to introduce a uniform regulatory framework for inland vessel navigation across the country.

Sarangi bats for plastic park in Balasore

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi Monday urged the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers to consider setting up of a plastic park at Balasore and said that an adequate support system including land is available for the same.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, the $\tilde{B}JP\,M\bar{P}$ said that Balasore is a town with significant presence of plastic and related industries. According to an assessment made by the North Odisha Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Sarangi said that more than hundred MSME units in the plastic sector are located in Balasore and most of the units are successful.

"The Centre has set up the CIPET centre at Balasore for imparting training and incubation of plastic industries. The need for a plastic park is felt in Balasore for better leveraging of potential in the plastic sector. The plastic park can create the right ecosystem for the plastic sector to grow and excel, contributing to the growth of the economy of the region, state and the country," Sarangi said.

Naveen appoints

Upendra Tripathy

Six colleges get principals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Higher Education (HE) department Monday appointed principals-cumsecretaries of six colleges on temporary basis.

In a letter to the governing bodies of the colleges, HE department additional secretary Surendra Kumar Panda said that these ap pointments are temporary till alternative arrangements are made.

The department appointed Batakrushna Mohapatra (Reader in English) as principal-cum-secretary of Baruneswar Mahavidyalaya in Jajpur district, Ashok Kumar Raysingh (Reader in History) as principal-cum-secretary of Sri Jagannath College, Kaipadar in Khurda district, Ajt Kumar Behera (Reader in English) as principal-cumsecretary of Baiirout Memorial College, Bhuban in Dhenkanal, Sarat Kumar Swain (Associate professor of Economics) as principal-cum-secretary of KBDAV college, Nirakarpur in Khurda, Jyotsnarani Patnaik (Lecturer in Political Science) as Principal-cum-secretary of Rani Sukadei Mahila Women's

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The state BJP Monday took a swipe at the state government over alleged irregularities in the implementation of Centre's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The saffron party alleged that a rich family in Banki block of Cuttack is beneficiary of the central scheme



Holding a presser here, party's state general secretary Prithiviraj Harichandan said, "MGNREGS has been envisioned as a wage support system for the poor and unemployed. In Odisha, lakhs of people are migrating to other states due to lack of assistance from the government. Many Odias, who had migrated to other states, wanted to

under MGNREGS: BJP The BJP termed the state government as a 'serial offender' as it has been failing to implement the scheme properly

> government that should have the morality to give assistance under the scheme to the poor people has failed to do its work properly," he added

> The leader termed the state as a 'serial offender' as it has been failing to implement the scheme. "Odisha is the only state where MGNREGS works are fully undertaken through machines. 40 per cent of the works are done by producing false bills. A tight scrutiny of the system would expose several block development officers and engineers," Harichandan said.

> Stating that most of the benefits of the scheme were given to people close to the ruling party, he said, "At Nistipur village under Banki block of Cuttack district, all the family members of the sarpanch are MGN



Commuters negotiate a waterlogged Bomikhal road in Bhubaneswar after a brief spell of rain in the City Monday OP PHOTO

Cyber crooks duped citizens of ₹1.10cr in July

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. August 2: Cyber fraudsters have duped gullible citizens of more than ₹1.10 crore in July. The cyber help desk at the office of Deputy Commissioner of other places in the state.

The desk received complaints in connection with UPI payment related fraud from 110 denizens of the City in July. Meanwhile, 76 persons were duped by the cyber fraudsters on the pretext of providing

block or retrieve only ₹8, 56,550 in July. Police registered 15 cases in connection with cyber fraud in July

As many as 64 phone numbers were blocked due to the efforts by the city cops in July. Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi Monday advised the senior citizens not to entertain unknown callers.

He also appealed to the denizens

to double check before executing

KALA BHOOMI

GREETS VISITORS

Odisha Crafts Museum-Kala Bhoomi reopened for visi-

tors Monday in adherence to

Covid-19 guidelines. The mu-

seum staffers and authorities

have put in place a structure to

ensure the safety of its visitors.

quate hand sanitizer provisions

have been made on its prem-

ises. Six-ft distance markers

have been created across the

museum grounds to ensure

The museum was inaugu-

rated in 2018 with eight gal-

leries, an outdoor amphithe-

atre, children's play area, a

workshop zone, souvenir shop,

Known for its enthralling ar-

tifacts as well as its local ar-

chitecture, the museum is a

proper social distancing.

canteen and café.

tourist favourite.

Thermal scanning and ade-

any transaction.

as OAVS advisor POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, August 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has appointed Upendra Tripathy as advisor-cum-working president and chairman of the executive committee of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan (OAVS) and conferred the rank of Minister of State on him. Besides, Tripathy will also discharge the duties as the Principal

Advisor (Education) to the CM. Tripathy, a 1980-batch IAS (Retd) officer of Karnataka cadre, will bring in both global and local experience and expertise into the OAVS. While working as the Commissioner of Public Instruction, between 1999 and 2001, in the province of Karnataka that had 3,00,000 teachers and around 1 crore students then, he introduced a plethora of innovations, some of which continue even today.

A native of Kahakapur in Ganjam, Tripathy is the first and founding Director General of International Solar Alliance. He is known for receiving the prestigious Prime Minister's award for

Degree College, Banki in Cuttack and Dillip Kumar Mishra (Associate professor of English) as principal-cum-secretary of Subhadra Mahadab Mahavidyalaya, Asureswar in Cuttack

They will work as principals-cumsecretaries of the colleges in addition to the teaching in their won subject

HC launches e-Services

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 2: In a bid to boost the justice delivery system. Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar Monday launched a host of citizen-centric e-Services at a virtual event here.

The new-era services are Orissa High Court e-Services mobile app, e-Payment of fine in cases with the district and subordinate courts, virtual courts for online settlement of cases relating to e-Challans arising out of traffic violations in areas within the jurisdiction of the twin city Commissionerate Police and live streaming of proceedings of the Chief Justice's court.

Addressing a gathering of judges, Director General of Police (DGP), twin city police commissioner and state Transport commissioner through videoconferencing, the Chief Justice highlighted the benefits of using technology in day-today work of the judiciary.

come back during the pandemic after facing problems there."

He said, in the last seven years, the Union government has given Odisha around ₹16,000 crore under the scheme including ₹4,436 crore last year. "Unfortunately, the state

REGS job card holders. The family has three big cars and they had gone to Thailand on vacation but they have been given job cards. The husband of the female sarpanch is the local president of the Biju Yuva Janta Dal," he said.

Police here received calls from 370 victims of cyber frauds in July.

As many as 230 victims in Bhubaneswar have contacted the cops to lodge their complaints last month. The help desk received complaints from 140 persons from

Malls, restaurants reopen after 3-month hiatus

credit card related services.

The cyber criminals looted ₹1, 10. 85.654 from the accounts of the victims in July while the denizens from the Capital city lost ₹55, 59,078 to cyber fraudsters.

However, the police managed to

excellence in public administration in individual category.

He was also the Secretary to Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. He served as an Advisor (Agriculture and Marine Products) in the Indian Embassy in Brussels. Besides, his services in Revenue Administration, Rural Development, Petroleum Conservation, Agriculture & Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, Education, and Environment & Transportation have brought many accolades for him.

Tripathy has volunteered to serve his home state Odisha without any salary and to contribute his part in the transformation of education system.

Ganesh Puja allowed with riders in Cuttack

CUTTACK: The district

administration Monday allowed the puia mandaps and clubs here to celebrate Ganesh Puia, which is scheduled for September 10, while ensuring strict compliance with Covid norms. While allowing the festival, Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chavani warned of action in case of violation of any Covid protocol. "Puja mandaps and clubs in the city can host Ganesh Puia while adhering to Covid quidelines. They should ensure participation of minimum people in the festival. In case of violation of any Covid norm, action will be taken as per the provisions. Chavani pointed out.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Restaurants and mall operators of the capital city breathed a sigh of relief, Monday, as they resumed operations after incurring heavy financial losses for about three months owing to the Covid-induced lockdown.

Observing the surge in Covid cases, the Odisha government had announced lockdown all over the state May 5 to control the spread. However, the state government, July 31, allowed operation of malls, restaurants, bars and dhabas with limited capacity under phase wise unlocking of the city.

Strict adherence to Covid guidelines was ensured before entry at malls while the restaurants saw only fewer people on the first day of unlock due to 50 per cent seating capacity.

Welcoming the decision of reopening malls and restaurants, Sudhansu Mohanty, a shop owner at a mall here said, "We have not been able to operate even for eight months

STRICT ADHERENCE TO COVID **GUIDELINES WAS ENSURED BEFORE ENTRY AT MALLS** WHILE THE RESTAURANTS SAW ONLY FEWER PEOPLE ON THE FIRST DAY OF UNLOCK DUE TO 50 PER CENT SEATING CAPACITY

THE STATE GOVERNMENT JULY **31 ALLOWED OPERATION OF** MALLS, RESTAURANTS, BARS AND DHABAS WITH LIMITED CAPACITY UNDER PHASE WISE UNLOCKING OF THE CITY

OBSERVING THE SURGE IN COVID CASES, THE ODISHA GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED LOCKDOWN ALL OVER THE STATE MAY 5 TO CONTROL THE SPREAD

straight. Even during lockdowns, we were forced to pay salaries, rent and other operational costs while there was no source of income. We are enforcing all necessary Covid guidelines and hope that weekend shutdowns may soon come to an end as those are the most important



days for our business.'

Meanwhile, restaurant owners and Aahar centres in the city began dine-in operations with all Covidappropriate behavior. While takeaway orders still made the bulk of sale, restaurant owners expected increase in footfall ahead of Raksha Bandhan and Srikrushna Janmashtami.

"We are still receiving about 70-

80 orders online per day. People will start coming in numbers gradually. However, we will be following all norms as stated by the government. Despite takeaways, we still have not been able to make enough profit this year. Hopefully, we will expect an increase in customers and in business," said Biswajit Panda, a fast-food restaurant owner here.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347 Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



state

AGENCIES

complaints received from students,

parents, general public and also

through electronic and print media,

UGC has declared 24 self-styled in-

Incidentally, among the 24 uni-

versities declared as fake two are

from Odisha. They are the

Nababharat Shiksha Parishad in

Rourkela and North Orissa

University of Agriculture and

"Besides, two more institutes,

namely Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad,

Lucknow, UP, and the Indian

Institute of Planning and

Management (IIPM), Qutub

Enclave, New Delhi, have also found

to be functioning in violation of

the UGC Act, 1956. The matters of

Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad.

Lucknow, and IIPM. New Delhi.

are sub-judice in the court,'

Uttar Pradesh has eight such

fake universities, which is the high-

est in any state. Among them are

the Varanaseya Sanskrit

Vishwavidyalaya (Varanasi), Mahila

Gram Vidyapith (Allahabad),

Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith

(Allahabad), National University

of Electro Complex Homeopathy

(Kanpur), Netaji Subhash Chandra

Technology.

Pradhan added.

stitutes as fake universities,"

Dharmendra Pradhan said.

FAULTY DRIVE -



Chaos mars the vaccination programme at a centre in Bant of Bhadrak district as people had to wait for two hours to get vaccinated in violation of Covid protocols OP PHOTO

Survey, land issues hold up Jeypore-Malkangiri rly line

It was learnt that a survey was

conducted on a 27-km stretch of

the proposed railway project, while

the survey work for the next 10

km will be completed in the next

During the social impact as-

sessment survey, the locals raised

a number of issues, which were

investigated by the tehsildars con-

cerned. Meanwhile, the survey for

the Jeypore-Nabarangpur railway

The railway line has been pro-

posed to pass through Boriguma

town, but the locals opposed it.

They had proposed diverting the

line at the point and rework on a

map for two km. The ADM said

that the Railway authorities have

accepted the proposal and a fresh

The 130-km rail line was pro-

survey will be conducted.

line has been completed.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 2: The ambitious Jeypore-Malkangiri railway project in Koraput district has been delayed inordinately due to various bottlenecks related to survey and land acquisition even as the administration and the Railways intend to facilitate the completion of the project.

A technical committee on the railway projects from Jeypore to Malkangiri and Jeypore to Nabarangpur held its meeting here last Thursday under the chairmanship of ADM Deben Kumar Pradhan. At the meeting, a social impact assessment report was presented.

Notably, the Economic Affairs Committee of the Union Cabinet had approved a new broad-gauge railway line between Jeypore and

Malkangiri in 2008.

15 days.

posed in 2016-17 as part of an agreement between the state government and the Railways.

Of the 130 km stretch, 82.88 km passes through Malkangiri and 43.12 km in Koraput. Sources said the Railway Ministry had made budgetary allocations of ₹28 crore in 2020-21 and ₹33 crore in 2021-22. But the project is not moving forward for various factors. In October 2018, the East

Coast Railway (ECoR) had reportedly submitted requisition for 463 acres of private land and 113 acres of government land to the state government. Later in December 2020, it had submitted a revised requisition for 356 acres of private land and 743 acres of government land covering a total of 110 km in both Malkangiri and Koraput districts.



Among the 24 universities declared as fake two are from Odisha. They are the Nababharat Shiksha Parishad in Rourkela and North Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology

तई दिल्ली / NEW DELHI-110002

2 Odisha varsities among

Bose Open University (Aligarh), Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya (Mathura), Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidvalava (Pratapgarh) and Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad (Noida), the minister informed.

Delhi has seven such fake universities. They are Commercial University Ltd, United Nations University, Vocational University, ADR Centric Juridicial University, Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, Vishwakarma Open University for Self-Employment and Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya (Spiritual University).

West Bengal also has two such universities - the Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine and Institute of Alternative Medicine and Research (both in Kolkata). Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Pondicherry and Maharashtra have one fake university each, Pradhan informed.

Pradhan also elaborated on the steps taken by the UGC against the fake or non-recognised universities. "The UGC issues public notices about the list of fake universities/institutes in national Hindi and English newspapers," informed Pradhan.

"The commission writes letters to state Chief Secretaries, Education Secretaries and Principal Secretaries to take action against such universities located in their jurisdiction Show cause and warning notices are issued to the unauthorised institutes awarding invalid degrees when any self-styled institution is found or noticed functioning in violation of the UGC Act, 1956," the minister added.

Woman trampled to death by tusker POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairangpur, August 2: A 60-yearold woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant at a forest in Mayurbhanj district Monday, police said.

The incident happened at the Tiakati forest in Badampahad forest range of the Rairangpur forest division, they said.

Sukhi Baskey wife of Hemant Baskey at Tiakati village along with two other women went to the forest to collect mushrooms when the tusker attacked her, Range Officer Ramakanta Majhi said. Two other women accompanying her managed to escape and came to their village.

The woman died on the spot, he said. The body was handed over to her family members after a postmortem examination, he added. Compensation will be provided to her family after the family members submits necessary papers, forest officials said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-15-21

Description of Work: PROVISION OF ALL IN ONE SOLAR STREET LIGHT AT LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) IN LIEU OF THE EXISTING MANNED LEVEL CROSSING AT SPECIFIED LOCATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the work: ₹ 2,41,36,000.00 Cost of tender document: ₹11,800.00 ompletion period: 06 Months Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. or

23.08.2021. No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax o in person shall be accepted agains nders even if these are submitted on firm's etterhead and received in time. All manua offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without consideration

omplete information including e-ter documents of the above e-tender is available website : http://www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tende erers are advise to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes corrigendum issued for this tender. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) R-252/M/21-22 Khurda Roa

Ex-Balasore Sadar MLA Arun Dey no more

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, August 2: Former MLA of Balasore Sadar Assembly segment and trade union leader Arun Dey passed away Monday evening while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar.



and complained of difficulty in breathing. He underwent test for Covid-19 and tested positive. Later, he was shifted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, July 9.

The veteran leader had last contested Assembly election from Balasore in 2014 on an Indian National Congress (INC) ticket wherein he lost to Biju Janata Dal's Jiban Pradip Das by a huge margin.

Dev was termed a party hopper as he had joined the BJD only for 10 days after being denied ticket to contest either Lok Sabha or Assembly polls. He left the party ahead of the polls and joined the Congress party. The five-time legislator won thrice on CPI ticket, once as an Independent and once on Odisha Gana Parishad (OGP) ticket.

Floodwater from Subarnarekha cuts off over 20 villages in Balasore



Several villages in Baliapal block were inundated as water overflowed the banks and entered the villages.

Floodwater was found overflowing in Baliapal, Gunapur, Athabatia, Sungamuhan, Kudamansingh, Routrapur, under Baliapal panchayat as well as in Choudhurikuda, Charabasta Kalarui, Parukhi in Madhupura panchayat.

Floodwater also inundated Bishnupur, Rasalpur, Nayabali, Ikadpal, Kulha in Bishnupur panchayat, Jamkunda, Kulhachada, Talapada in Jamakunda panchayat and in Badhapal, Paradipa, Saradharsahi, Asti, Badakhanpur,

PUBLIC NOTI **C** =

That my client Mr. Aamit Arya, aged about 45 years, S/o Shri Suresh Maniram Arya, residing Shashi Ashiyana, B-161/162, Utkal Heights, Bhubaneswar-752101, Odisha and Mrs. Shweta Arya aged about 40 years, W/o Aamit Arya along with family members & holding company were the Directors / Shareholders of Private Limited company i.e INOXCORP INDIA PVT. LTD. CIN: U28113DL2012PTC243331, factory at IDCO Industrial Estate, Khurda, Odisha-752055.

That due to personal reason, they have given the resignation form the aforesaid company with full and final settlement on dtd.08/07/2021 (Eighth July Two Thousand Twenty One) in statute. As a result of which they have no relation with the company and the existing Director Mr. Aman Singhal since the day. Thus they have to declare that if any one is doing business / financial transaction in their name either with the company or with Mr. Aman Singhal, they are not held responsible in statute of law. That the declaration is made herewith true & correct to the best of their knowledge. ADVOCATE (Mr. Dhruba Charan Pattanaik)

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

OF HORTICULTURE. JHARSUGUDA



He was 76. Dev was admitted to the Balasore district headquarters hospital after he suffered from cold

Farmer electrocuted in Boudh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantamal, August 2: A youth was electrocuted on his farmland at Tetelkhunti village under this block in Boudh district, Sunday,

The deceased was identified as Amel Rana, 40, a farmer in the village. He collapsed on the spot and farmers and labourers working on nearby farmlands rescued him and admitted him to the Kantamal community health centre, where the doctors pronounced him "brought dead"

The incident occurred after he came in contact with a loosely hanging support wire of a utility pole which had been drawn for a borewell for irrigation facilities.

The deceased is survived by a four-year-old son and his widow. Villagers and family members blamed the Electricity department for his death and demanded financial assistance



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, August 2: Incessant rain in Jharkhand, the upper catchment area of Subarnarekha river, has resulted in a flood-like situation in the riparian areas. The river is flowing above the dan-

ger mark of 10.60 metres at Rajghat in Balasore district, Monday. Over 20 villages under five gram panchayats of Baliapal block in Balasore district have been cut-off from the rest of the world as floodwaters inundated the villages. People in the riparian villages had harrowing time as floodwaters inundated their villages, homes and farmlands.

The floodwaters also entered their farmlands and destroyed the veg-

etables cultivated by the local farmers. The flood occurred as three sluice gates, two at Galudih and one at Chandil, were opened to let out excess rain water into the river. At Rajghat water was flowing above the danger mark of 10.36 metre in the morning

Later, the floodwater level rose and was found to be flowing at the danger mark of 10.60 metre at the same place at about 3pm. The floodwater level was constant in the river from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm, an official in the flood control room at Rajghat said.

More than 50 villages and farmlands have been affected as water entered the low-lying areas of the Baliapal and Bhograi blocks.

Palachampei villages in Asti panchavat

Vehicular movement has been severely disrupted after a number of approach roads to the low-lying areas in the block were submerged.

Meanwhile, the district administration has advised residents of the riparian villages to shift to safer places.

The administration has also made arrangements at the schools and cyclone shelters to accommodate the affected villagers. If the situation worsens, dry food will be provided to the affected villagers, Deepak Kumar Das, Baliapal tehsildar said.

Notably, excess rainwater will be released later in the day if the water level crosses the 11-metre mark at Rajghat, junior engineer of Balasore Water Resources department said.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) No. L-40:-

No.889, Dt:02/08/2021, Office of the Assistant Director of Horticulture, Jharsuguda invited applications from interested NGOs/TRUSTs towards Expression Of Interest (EOI) to involve in the Promotion of Agriculture Production Cluster (APC) project in selective 1 No. of blocks in Jharsuguda district i.e. Lakhanpur from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26 (5 years) under DMF. Jharsuguda. The EOI of the NGOs/TRUSTs should be submitted to the OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, Jharsuguda - 768204 in prescribed form with necessary enclosures on or before 20th August 2021 by 5.30 PM through Registered Post/ Speed Post and by no other means.

For application form & details please visit WEBSITE: https://jharsuguda.nic.in, www.apcodisha.net Sd./- Assistant Director of Horticulture, Jharsuguda OIPR-01428/11/0001/2122

Mushroom movement transforms lives in Kalahandi village

lakh from mushroom farming.

"I earn a net profit of over ₹1 lakh

between June and October from

mushroom cultivation. This apart,

I make ₹50,000 to ₹60,000 from cul-

tivation of vegetables, pulses and

oilseeds," the tribal woman said,

adding that she is getting a pucca

house built for her children from

the money she saved over the past

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhawanipatna, August 2: Kutenpadar, a non-descript tribal village in Kalahandi district – infamous for starvation deaths in the 80s has now turned into a model hamlet, where mushroom farming paved the way for social development and individual progress.

It all began when Banadei Majhi, now 45 years of age, took up mushroom cultivation from paddy straw, having received training at a Nabard camp in 2007-08. Shortly after, villagers here, who would earlier depend on forest produce to eke out a living, followed in her footsteps, and their efforts and willpower, over the years, lifted the village from poverty.

Majhi, often referred to as 'Mushroom Maa' (mushroom mother) by locals, lives with her husband and four children. She hails from a poor family that owned only two acres of government land. which was fit to grow just millets. Decades ago, quite like other vil-



lagers, her family also depended on forest produce and manual labour to arrange for two square meals a day

After receiving basic training from Nabard for two years, Majhi started growing the fungus on her field, much to the surprise of her neighbours, and soon her efforts bore fruit.

Now a role model for the rest of

few years.

The family that once struggled to make ends meet owns as many as 45 goats. Majhi's husband Jagabandhu and daughter Jagynseni help her in her day-to-day activities. Her two sons are pursuing college education and another daughter has moved out of the hamlet after marriage. Jagabandhu has also purchased a motorbike for selling the farm produce.

Inspired by Majhi's success story, 50 other households in the village have taken to mushroom cultivation, each of them earning at least ₹50,000 a year from the agricultural venture

Malaya Kumar Meher, the district development manager of Nabard, said the 45-year-old woman imparts training to women in mushroom cultivation in 10 nearby villages.

She was awarded by Nabard in 2010 for empowering women through her contributions in the field of mushroom cultivation.

"Banadei is a role model for

women. Hers is a story of commitment and dedication," Meher stated.

Kutenpdar village, 10 km from the district headquarters town of Bhawanipatna, has 55 households, 40 of which belong to tribal families.

Recently NABARD has declared Kutenpdar as 'mushroom village'.

"A decade back, two meals a day was a blessing for us. However, things have changed for better after the introduction of a watershed programme supported by Nabard," Majhi said, while also explaining that gully control. rainwater conservation trenches have turned the oncefallow lands fertile.

Almost all households in the village have benefited from mushroom cultivation, and additional vegetable farming, said Raju Majhi, a resident of Kutenpdar.

"We learnt the tricks of the trade from Banadei. Our lives have changed for better after we took up mushroom farming. Thankfully, our kids now go to school," Raju added

The Odisha Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (A Government of Odisha Undertaking)) (An ISO:9001:2008 certified Govt. Company) Industrial Estate, Madhupatna, CUTTACK - 753 010. Odisha. Tel No.: 0671-2341204,2342816 Fax: 0671-2341875/2342561 e-mail: osicItd@gmail.com, osicmd@gmail.com, website: osicItd.in No.CAD.764 OSIC GST No. 21AACO2101MI21								
TENDER	TENDER CALL NOTICE							
Ref No. 3334	Dt. 30.07.2021							
The Managing Director, OSIC Ltd., Cuttack invites tender from experienced MSMEs duly empanelled with OSIC for "Construction of Smart Park and Crematorium at Sunabeda under Sunabeda Municipality".								
Period of availability of tender document	05.08.2021 to 18.08.2021 up to 4.00 PM							
Last date of submission of tender	18.08.2021 at 4.30 PM							
Date of opening of tender	19.08.2021 at 3.00 PM(if the day is declared as holiday the tender will be opened on next working day)							
Validity of Tender	90 Calendar days from the Last date of submission of tender.							
Tender Bid Cost	Rs. 10,000.00							
The detailed tender call notice can be downloaded from the OSIC website <u>www.osicltd.in</u> . The tender for the work is to be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the MD, OSIC Ltd, Cuttack by the schedule date and time. Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof or the tendering process may be cancelled in Toto. Any corrigendum/ changes/ modifications will appear in OSIC Ltd. website <u>www.osicltd.in</u> only.								

power post

If in work you meet with some difficulties, look sincerely into yourself and there you will discover their origin. THE MOTHER



Debate Doublespeak

he plot of alleged snooping on journalists, politicians, civil society activists, ministers and government officials with the help of the Pegasus spyware is turning murkier day by day with the government and the ruling BJP putting a spanner in debates and questioning permissibility under parliamentary rules and practices. Instead of conceding its vociferous demand for a debate in the Parliament and a court-monitored probe, the government is accusing the Opposition of disrupting the monsoon session and lamenting over loss of hours that would have allowed transaction of important legislative business. To put it bluntly, it's a ruse intended to obfuscate the main issue, which is, making the government accountable in the Parliament for the Snoopgate.

The most tell-tale evidence of the government's reluctance to face grilling in the Parliament is the scandalous behaviour of BJP MPs who dominate the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology chaired by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor. The meeting had to be postponed 28 July for lack of quorum caused by the refusal of BJP MPs to sign on the attendance register! The BJP members of the panel who were said to be present in the meeting room reportedly did not sign the attendance register in protest against the chairman's announcement that the panel members would question officials from the Information and Technology Ministry and Home Ministry, who would be made to depose before it on the Pegasus issue. BJP members objected to this agenda on the specious plea that the Congress is not allowing discussion on this issue in the Parliament, making the discussion by the panel redundant. The 32-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT was to discuss 'Citizens' data security and privacy,' according to a notification by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The panel, which has maximum members from the BJP, had summoned officials from the Ministry of Electronics, Information and Technology and the Ministry of Home Affairs. But, in a strange defiance, all the government officials skipped the meeting on one pretext or the other. This left little doubt about the government's intention, which is to stonewall all attempts to ferret out information on whether it had used the spyware. If it turns out to be true, then it will constitute a grave assault on the country's democratic institutions. An international media consortium has published reports that over 50,000 mobile phone numbers, including a few thousand from India, were on a list of potential targets for surveillance using Israeli firm NSO's Pegasus spyware. Opposition leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Union ministers Prahlad Singh Patel and Ashwini Vaishnaw, businessman Anil Ambani, a former CBI chief and at least 40 journalists figure in the list of the leaked database of NSO. It is, however, yet to be established whether all the phones were hacked or not.

The government's decision to push the matter under the carpet by dismissing it as a 'non-issue' and as such not worthy of discussion in the Parliament under Rule 267 is not in the interest of a healthy democracy. This rule allows debate on an issue suspending all other business of the House. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu dismissed the Opposition's demand and said the issue could be discussed in the normal course of time thereby disallowing discussing a matter of great public interest. Other countries affected by the alleged surveillance such as France and Hungary have already ordered probes into the matter. India, the largest democracy in the world, can't afford to pay lip service to democracy the way the present government is doing.

In fact, the government's charge that the Opposition is disrupting democracy smacks of hypocrisy and doublespeak. For, it was BJP leaders of the likes of Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj who had in the past stoutly defended 'disruption' of Parliament sessions as a sign of a vibrant democracy. Jaitley as Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha January 30, 2011 famously said, "Parliament's job is to conduct discussions. But many a time, Parliament is used to ignore issues and in such situations, obstruction of Parliament is in the favour of democracy." He even went on to say sometimes obstruction in Parliament brings greater benefits to the country.

Again September 7, 2012 then Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj asserted, "Not allowing Parliament to function is also a form of democracy, like any other form." She was reacting to the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement that the BJP's stalling of Parliament was a 'negation' of democracy. The Opposition was then protesting against alleged corruption in coal block allocation case under the LIPA government The same day. Jaitley too defended the disrupted session and contended it helped the country cleanse the telecom sector. He expressed hope that in future governments would be encouraged by this example to clean up the process of allocation of natural resources

FOCUS DOUBLING FARM INCOME

ELUSIVE TARGET

n 2016 the government led bv Prime Minister Modi said that farmers' incomes would be doubled by 2022. It was meant to convey an ambitious target. It was also a departure from targeting production to income. To this end a committee was set up in April 2016, under the chairmanship of Dr Ashok Dalwai, an IAS officer who was Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. That committee submitted its massive 14-volume comprehensive report in September 2018. Popularly known as the DFI (doubling farm income) report, the entire report and related documents can be accessed at https://agricoop.nic.in/en/doubling-farmers-income. The aim was to reach double income for farmer households by 2023.

We are still 18 months away from that stated end date. Some of the metrics are not well defined. For instance, will it be doubling the income in nominal terms, or in real terms, i.e. adjusted for inflation? Secondly what is the start year? Will it be as of 2015-16? Will it be doubling the average income for all farmer households? That wouldn't be necessary, since a tiny fraction, especially those with large land holdings already have income far above the national average, so presumably those households are not in dire straits, and their income does not need to double. But more than 80 per cent of the estimated 140 million farmer households are small and marginal. Their incomes are far below the national average. They also constitute the bulk of India's poor. It is their income that must double.

A farm household earns income through three sources. These are cultivation, wages and other allied activities. This is as per the All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey conducted by NABARD in 2016-17. Cultivation brings in only 43 per cent of the monthly income, and wages bring 30 per cent. This is the average for all households. If you focus on small and marginal farmers, who constitute 82 per cent of the agricultural rural households, then their main source is wages and other allied activities



According to a national survey of farmers conducted many years ago, 40 per cent of the respondents said that they would gladly leave farming if only there were good quality jobs available in industry or services. This is the crux of solving the agricultural income challenge

So, it is important to remember that small and marginal farmers along with landless workers depend on wage labour for their income. Not surprisingly, two-fifth of agricultural output comes from those who cultivate the land that does not belong to them -- either tenant farmers or landless workers. This category of cultivators finds it difficult to get farm loans from institutional sources like banks. Also, these are workers who depend on MNREGA for supplementary income. During Covid, the demand for MNREGA employment has significantly shot up. The PM-KISAN scheme which gives ₹6,000 of supplementary income to farm households does not cover all small and marginal farmers, and certainly not landless workers. Thus, out of an estimated 140 million farm households, the scheme is able to reach 80 to 90 million households. This is an important sup plement, but not enough.

As per the NABARD survey, the average farm household income is about ₹9,000 per month, and for non-farm rural household it is ₹8,000. The monthly consumption expenditure is about ₹7,000. More than half of all farming households are in debt, with an average outstanding loan size of ₹1 lakh. The source of the loan could be banks, moneylenders or friends

and family. With meagre savings, there is simply no way that the farm household can hope to service the loan, and eventually repay it fully. Hence the cycle of taking new loans to repay old loans continues, with often usurious interest rates. One health episode, during a pandemic or due to a natural calamity like flooding, can wipe out whatever financial resilience the household might have

Last year, agriculture GDP grew by 3.4 per cent even though the economy was in deep recession. In fact, this was India's first nonagriculture led recession. Agriculture and allied activities constitute only 15 per cent of aggregate income. For sustained increase in farm household incomes, the DFI committee identified a seven-pronged strategy. The first six were about farming: increasing productivity of crop, of livestock; increasing efficiency and reducing cost; increasing cropping intensity; increasing crop diversification toward cash crops and improving prices received. The last measure depends on the market, or on the Minimum Support Price regime followed by the government. Thankfully for the farmer producer, the global agricultural price index is at a decadal high. How much of these global price increases help the

Indian farmer is yet to be seen. This year India has broken into the ranks of the top ten agricultural exporters of the world. The main exports are cotton, rice, soya and meat. If the government keeps export prices deregulated then this can certainly prove beneficial. It is important to note that the livestock economy i.e. milk, eggs, poultry and meat constitute one-third of agriculture GDP. It is here that much more policy focus is required to increase farmers' incomes. As for the seventh strategy, it calls for making conditions easier for farmers to leave and migrate to non-farming activity.

According to a national survey of farmers conducted many years ago, 40 per cent of the respondents said that they would gladly leave farming if only there were good quality jobs available in industry or services. This is the crux of solv ing the agricultural income challenge. The big part of the solution lies outside of agriculture. With a robust growth in manufacturing in employment intensive sectors such as construction, agro-processing, textiles and garments, leather industries, and even in services such as tourism and retail that will make a large impact on the incomes of farm households.

The farmers' agitation against the three national laws passed by the Parliament in September 2020 is now in its ninth month, and shows no sign of relenting. Clearly the main concern is what happens to MSP when the compulsory procurement of foodgrain from the northern states gets diluted. There is also concern about the relative bargaining and contracting power of the small farmer vis-a-vis the large private purchaser. In an economy still reeling from Covid, and industrial investment and employment still not vigorously picking up, the high inflation in agriculture will not be enough to raise farmers' incomes by much. The goal of doubling the income of farmers by 2022-23 is still elusive.

The writer is an economist and Senior Fellow, Takshashila Institution. ©THE BILLION PRESS

Boost public spend in higher education

work together to realise the aspirations of a 21st-century Atmanirbhar Bharat and to make India a vibrant knowledge economy." We would like to remind the minister that Atmanirbhar Bharat can be achieved only if we make use of our demographic dividend effectively. We have a reasonably well functioning primary education structure with gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 99 per cent. However, we cannot say the same about our higher education. India has also committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations by 2030. According to the relevant SDG for higher education, we have the responsibility for ensuring affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education. Moreover, we also have to make tertiary education progressively free, in line with the existing international agreements. But, the reality is far away from the expectation.

recently tweeted "...let us contribution of private universi-

he Union education minister institutions. Notwithstanding the and costly loans have made higher China is now reaping the dividends education beyond the reach of a large number of youngsters. No wonder, 83 per cent of the total unemployed people in the country in 2019 were in the 15-29 age-group. If we want to be Atmanirbhar it is time for us to rethink, revisit, and revise our policies relating to government funding of higher education. People may argue that higher education is a private good, so why public investment? Such an argument may not hold much water as higher education not only benefits the individual student, but also the communities. Moreover, people with better education lead more stable family lives, enjoy better health, and live longer and all these help in improving the overall happiness index of a country. It is worth mentioning that our happiness index has been deteriorating for several years. In fact several researches have shown that educational attainment is a significant contributor to the country's ability to emerge as a global leader. In 2000, China had a GER of 7.6 per cent in higher education as compared to India's 9.5 per cent. Over the last two decades, however, the country has achieved a GER of 50 per cent, while India still lags behind at 26 per cent.

from the huge a



Ajit Ranade **IT IS IMPORTANT**

TO REMEMBER THAT SMALL AND MARGINAL **FARMERS ALONG** WITH LANDLESS WORKERS **DEPEND ON** WAGE LABOUR **FOR THEIR** INCOME

Now the very democratic system appears to be under attack due to alleged surveillance of its own people by the government with the help of a foreign tool.

Now let us observe the interesting part. Israeli company NSO has recently announced it would block the use of its spyware by some countries to which it had sold Pegasus. This clearly implies NSO has the overall control on its spyware. In other words, all phone data collected by all governments in their snooping activities on their own citizens could and would be available to Israeli intelligence. It is known that Israel shares most of its intelligence with the US and maybe a few other countries.

WISDOM CORNER

- Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold. LEO TOLSTOY
- The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart. HELEN KELLER
- One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done. MARIE CURIE

WORDS**WORTH**

Opodeldoc

The medieval physician Paracelsus described oppodeltoch, a word he seems to have conjured up from heaven knows where. One suggestion is that he derived it from bits of three other words: opopanax. bdellium, and aristolochia. All three names come from Greek. The first is a foetid gum-resin from the root of a plant resembling the parsnip whose name is from opos, juice, plus panax, allhealing; the second is a fragrant resin related to myrrh; the third means "wellborn" and refers to a shrub that in Britain has sometimes been given the name common birthwort because it helped childbirth. Paracelsus applied the word to a type of medicinal plaster and it appears in English with that sense until the seventeenth century. After that, it shifted dramatically, under the revised spelling of opodeldoc, to refer to various sorts of liniment based on soap dissolved in alcohol, with herbs and aromatic oils added. A typical use was the one Mrs Beaton recommended in her Book of Household Management of 1861 for the treatment of a sprain: "The joint is to be rubbed twice a day with flannel dipped in opodeldoc, a flannel bandage rolled tightly round the joint, the pressure being greatest at the lowest part, and the patient allowed to walk about with the assistance of a crutch or stick." In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries a number of patent medicines incorporated the word, including Doranstorff's Opodeldoc, Noakes's Aethereal Anodyne Opodeldoc, Imperial Anodyne Opodeldoc, and Cajeput Opodeldoc, about the last of which the American Henry Hartshorne wrote in The Household Cyclopedia in 1881: "In several cases of lumbago and deep-seated rheumatic pains, it has been known to succeed in the almost immediate removal of the disease." The most famous was Dr Steer's Opodeldoc, made from Castile soap in alcohol, plus camphor, oils of marjoram and rosemary, and his special ingredient, ammonia. It was advertised in The Times of London in 1790: "The efficacy of this medicine in the Rheumatism, Lumbago, Bruises, Sprains, Cramps, &c. is universally acknowledged; it is equally serviceable in Numbness, Stiffness, and Weakness of the Joints, and in restoring a proper Circulation to the Limbs when in a Paralytic state."



DV Ramana

SPECTRUM NATION

WE ARE AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND HOW CAN WE BECOME **ATMANIRBHAR IF WE KEEP ON REDUCING** GOVERNMENT **INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION?**

> Until the mid-2000s, governmentowned institutions made up a majority of the higher education institutions in India. However, private institutions currently account for twice the number of government

> > Secure the judges

ties, we have to make a case for reviving and strengthening public universities. The role of public universities has to be overemphasised particularly at a time when the country is struggling with rising economic inequalities. The government needs to invest in higher education and skill development more when people lose jobs and overall economic activities slow down. The government cannot shift this responsibility to the private sector.

Over the years, the policies of the Centre and the states have been slowly eroding the role of public universities. We are witnessing a gradual decrease in investment in public universities, while there is a phenomenal growth in private investment in the field of education.

Since these private institutes do not receive government funding they depend on student fees. The average tuition fee charged by private institutes, for most of the courses, is more than 3 to 5 times the fees charged by government institutes. Even the government expenditure on scholarship decreased from 0.43 per cent of higher education spending in 1990-91 to 0.11 per cent in 2014-15. Higher fees, lower scholarships,

vestment in education.

The high GER at primary level in India may be attributed to large government school infrastructure which provides free education to students under the Right to Education. Higher education also needs more public investment to improve the GER. The latest Union Budget has reduced the allocation for higher education by ₹1,116 crore. We are at a loss to understand how can we become Atmanirbhar if we keep on reducing government investment in education?

Will the new Union education minister, who had seen the impact of public investment in strengthening the large public sector organisations in the oil and energy sector, make the higher education sector more vibrant by increasing public investment, bringing in transparency, and creating more public universities?

Will he set the ball rolling in that direction by initiating the steps toward converting the Utkal University, his alma mater, into a Central University? It is too early to say. Let us wait and watch.

The writer is a Professor in XIMB. Views are personal.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are (0) 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

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

Sir, Knowing well that many judges prefer to be left alone most of the times, the hit-and-run 'murder' of Dhanbad additional district and sessions judge Uttam Anand is shocking. It has sent a dangerous message to the judiciary. So far judges were not physically harmed for the verdicts they gave in a courtroom except for a very few instances. Assuming Uttam Anand was killed for reasons other than personal, the incident is a chilling warning to the top echelons of judiciary that the life of a judge is no more foolproof. The judge is said to have rejected the bail application of an unwanted element who was close to a former legislator. He was also seized of some important criminal matters pertaining to the Dhanbad mafia. The jurisdictional police presumed the judge was hit by an unknown vehicle. They did not care to go deep into the matter. Even after the video of the incident went viral, it is said the police were in two minds about registering a case of murder. They were 'waiting' for a formal complaint from the judge's family. Were they under pressure? Police say they are further investigating. But the alacrity with which the legal fraternity took stock of the situation was commendable. Senior lawyers repeatedly made references in the Supreme Court, and the Chief Justice of India spoke to Jharkhand High Court Chief Justice. Ideally a high court monitored probe has to be undertaken. The murder should be probed from all angles, and the culprits have to be quickly nabbed. Judge Uttam Anand's killing should propel the state governments and the high courts to reassess the security mechanism in place for trial court judges. Fear of retribution is the last thing a magistrate or a sessions judge wants.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA (MAHARASHTRA)

Border tensions eased

Sir, It is reassuring that Assam and Mizoram have agreed to ease tensions along their troubled interstate border following a discussion with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Tensions flared up between the two neighbours after an exchange of fire between the police forces of both states July 26 which left six Assam cops and a civilian dead and 60 others, including Superintendent of Police of Cachar district Nimbalkar Vaibhav Chandrakant injured. The border conflict is decades old, but of late, things have taken a turn for the worse

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE



OrissaPOST TUESDAY AUGUST 3 2021 BHUBANESWAR

state

GI tag to 'Rasabali' will facilitate **Kendrapara's development**



The GI tag goes a long way in improving the brand

value of a product. Once accorded, the business of

the particular item/product increases manifold and

BJD MPs Subhash Singh, Munna Khan and Mamata

August 1 and handed over a memorandum seeking

geographical indication (GI) tag for Kendrapara's

to the Lord. With the passage of

time, it came out of the temple

premises and now it is being sold in

hotels, restaurants, fairs and festi-

vals across the state. And the sweet

as well as elders are fond of it."

Mohanta met the Union Commerce and Industry

Minister Piyush Goyal at his office in New Delhi

reduces the chances of its duplication

famous sweet dish 'Rasabali

Earlier this sweet used to be prepared only inside temples and offered to the Lord. With the passage of time, it came out of the temple premises and now it is being sold in hotels. restaurants, fairs and festivals across the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 2: With Odisha MPs taking initiative to accord geographical indication (GI) tag to Kendrapara's famous sweet 'Rasabali', people have become eager to know more about this mouth-watering delicacy.

Offering details on preparing the sweet, Baishnab Panda of Keshpur market, who has been in the business of preparing 'Rasabali', says, "Earlier the sweet used to be prepared only inside temples and offered he informs

Informing about the benefits of the GI tag, Bhuban Mohan Jena, a local intellectual, says the tag goes a long way in improving the brand value of a product. Once accorded, the business of the particular item/product increases manifold and, at the same time, the chances of its duplication are less. The product also gets instant publicity which in turn helps economic development of the place of origin. "Kendrapara district is famous

for Shri Baldev Jew temple, Rasabali and Bhitarkanika National Park. When the sweet gets the GI tag, it will give us, not to mention the people of Odisha, great satisfaction," he adds.

Researchers Niranjan Mekap and Anita Sabat say the tradition of offering 'Rasabali' as 'bhog' to lord Baldevjew in Tulasikshetra was started during the rule of Maharaja Anang Bhima Deba and the practice still continues. Chandi Purana, Dandi Ramayan and Gangabanshanucharita mention about the sweet and its association with Kendrapara. They claim that Kendrapara is the sweet's place of origin.

is always in great demand. Children Notably, BJD MPs Subhash "This sweet item is not so easy Singh, Munna Khan and Mamata to prepare. It requires expertise. Mohanta met the Union Commerce Country cheese, ghee, milk, sugar, and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal big cardamom and green cardamom at his office in New Delhi August 1 and handed over a memorandum (elaichi) go into its preparation. The exact proportions of the inseeking geographical indication gredients and a set of skilled hands (GI) tag for Kendrapara's famous can only give it its original taste," sweet dish 'Rasabali'.



Collector Abdaal M Akhtar inaugurating a blood component separation unit at Saheed Laxman Naik Medical College and Hospital in Koraput, Monday

Hinjilicut street vendors say 'I am vaccinated'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, August 2: 'I am vaccinated'. Flex hoardings saying this one line message can be found pasted or pinned up on the baskets of street vendors or push carts of sellers in Hinjilicut of Ganjam district these days.

In a tweet Monday, the Ganjam Collector's office shared photographs of three such vendors. "Vendors in Hinjilicut started their activities with confidence after Covid-19 vac cination," read the tweet.

What prompted the vendors to display such a message is to inform their customers that they have been vaccinated so that the latter can buy articles from them without any fear of contracting the virus.

At the same time, they are encouraging others to get vaccinated since vaccine is the only weapon available to win the battle against



Covid-19. During the first wave,

the district was at the top of the list,

reporting the highest number of

trict administration took some stringent steps. With lockdowns and shutdowns, the administration managed to bring the situation under control. The administration tackled the

Covid cases daily. However, the dis-

situation during the second wave using their past experience. By this time, people were also well aware about the disease. The second wave did not cause as much harm as the first wave did.

Maa Biraja temple to Fear of dengue, malaria looms large in Angul reopen from August 4



As

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 2: The district administration here has decided to reopen Maa Biraja Temple for devo tees from August 4. The temple was closed for three months due to pandemic-related curbs. The decision came as the state government started the unlock process with declining numbers of Covid-19 infections in the second wave of the pandemic. Maa Biraja Temple will reopen for devotees from Wednesday. The devotees will be allowed for darshan and worship of deity with strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols, informed Jajpur Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore Monday. However, they cannot take flowers or make offering to the deity.

All the religious institutions including the Biraja Temple in Jajpur district were closed since May this year

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, August 2: Even though the Covid-19 situation is improving in Angul district, fear of malaria and dengue outbreak has gripped the residents. Malaria and dengue have so far claimed 54 lives in this district in the last 10 years. While 28 people succumbed to malaria, 26 died of dengue.

However, this year the district is yet to report any malaria or dengue case. Even then, the district administration is taking all precautions to prevent the outbreak of the diseases.

According to sources in the state Health department, Pallahara, Athmallik and Kishorenagar blocks have earned notoriety with a large number of malaria cases. On the other hand, dengue cases are usually prevalent in Talcher, Banarpal. Chhendipada and Angul blocks.

Officials of the district administration are constantly trying to



patients, one death in 2012; 11.553 patients, five deaths in 2013; 27,600 patients, seven deaths in 2014; 29,853 patients, five deaths in 2015; 17,272 patients, two deaths in 2016; 9,854 patients, three deaths in 2017; 647 patients, no deaths in 2018; 26 patients, no deaths in 2019; and 109 patients, three deaths in 2020.

Dengue claimed 23 and three lives in the district in 2011 and 2013 respectively. However, there were no dengue deaths in 2012.

Dengue spreads in Jagatsinghpur -JAGATSINGHPUR: Jagatsin-Meanwhile, the district Health ghpur district has so far reported department has made available nine dengue cases, leaving the

residents, who are already in panic due to Covid-19, in fear and apprehension. It is feared that the number of patients will increase in the coming days as Jagatsinghpur district is a low-lying area and during the monsoon, water remains stagnant at different places providing perfect breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes. Statistics collected from 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 shows that the district reported 333, 235, 1,056, 249 and eight cases respectively. Talking about the situation, facilities for blood tests at the district headquarters hospital and Paradip government hospital to detect dengue patients. Those who are testing positive for dengue are being admitted to the dengue wards of these hospitals. At the same time, facilities are in place at these hospitals to shift serious patients to SCB Medical and College Hospital in Cuttack When contacted, ADMO

(Medical), Dr Ajay Swain said the dengue ward at the DHH has three beds with various facilities. "So far, only two patients have been shifted to SCBMCH. Similarly, two patients have been discharged after their treatment

he informed.



as it ought to be. Garbage continues to pile up at many places across the town. The administration is focusing on rural pockets, but at the same time, it should also think about the condition in the town, Padhi added. Another resident of this town.

Biswajit Biswal said awareness can only help people keep the diseases at bay. "

HEALTH INFRA

Office of Special Relief Commissioner, the district magistrates and municipal commissioners are authorised to allow public worship in religious places with appropriate Covid-19 restrictions and due observance of Covid-19 protocols, based on local assessment of the situation and due consultation with relevant stakeholders.

On July 31, SRC Pradeep Jena announced complete unlock with effect from August 1, 2021. The state was under lockdown since May 5. 2021 with staggering number of Covid cases during the second wave of the pandemic.

develop awareness regarding the two types of fevers. They have launched a 'Nidhi Rath' (an awareness vehicle) that is moving around in the district informing people about the preventive measures necessary against malaria and dengue. ASHA and health workers have also been engaged to create awareness among the people, particu-

larly those living in remote areas. In 2011, a total of 10,316 people tested positive for malaria in the district and two succumbed to the disease. The details of malaria patients and deaths in the subsequent years for malaria are as follows: 7,676

In the years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 the number of dengue cases reported in the district were 54, 56, 45, 14, 34, 35 and two respectively. Not a single fatality was reported in these seven years.

"People have become more health cautious, thanks to Covid-19. So they are extra careful and that may be one of the reasons why malaria and dengue cases have not been reported so far," said Swarup Padhi, a local resident here.

"However, in Angul town the administration is not as serious

ven today, people are not keeping their surroundings clean and are also not using mosquito nets," Biswal pointed out.

In this regard, CDMO, Angul, Dr Trilochan Pradhan said the malaria and dengue situation is not as alarming as it was in the past. 'We have managed to check the diseases to a great extent. There will not be any outbreak of malaria and dengue cases during this rainy season, if people ensure their surroundings are neat and clean. Presently, teams have been visiting hilly, inaccessible pockets and creating awareness among the people there," he informed.

Raghunathpur block, Tarapur, Badatihada, Jagatsinghpur municipality, Patenigaon, Balia of Kujang block, Pipal of Kujang block, Jireilo village of Ersama block and Odiso Abidhanandapur reported one patient each.

district Malaria officer Dr

Kshetrabasi Dash said

Dharadharpur village of

When contacted, Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said the district has not reported any malaria and dengue cases in 2021. "That does not mean that we will let our guard down. All should be careful and take precautions as the neighbouring districts have

However, the local residents alleged the Jagatsinghpur municipality and the block administration are not taking steps necessary to check the spread of dengue.

been reporting dengue cases. All Sub-Collectors have been directed to keep a close watch on the situation and take steps to create awareness among the people in their respective areas. The health workers are also working sincerely," said Swain.

POLITICAL DEMO



Members of Aam Aadmi Party staging a demonstration demanding extension of city bus services from Bargarh to Ambapali, Monday

In a unique protest, villagers plant paddy on slushy road

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, August 2: Residents here have chosen a unique way to protest against the administration's failure to repair Malamanda-Bouddhabihar road in Ganianpali panchayat under Gaisilet block in Bargarh district by planting paddy on the slushy road.

According to the villagers, the road used to be a 'kutcha' road. In 2014 the Rural Development department had started repairing the road by laying murram on it. In 2018, work started to make the road a tarmac one started.

after two kilometers due to some reasons. The road was brought under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in 2020. But its fate did not change.

Again the construction work was abandoned after completing another stretch of two kilometres. The road is now in a pathetic state, giving nightmarish experiences to the commuters.

The villagers have now taken up the problem with the adminis-



The road used to be a 'kutcha' road. In 2014 the Rural Development department had However, work was stopped started repairing the road by laying murram on it. In 2018, work started to make the road a tarmac one

A delegation of villagers submitted a memorandum to ADM Mirdha Toppo in the absence of Collector Manisha Banerjee at the district Collectorate. They warned to resort to a mass agitation if the road was not repaired within seven days

tration on several occasions but nothing has been done in this regard yet. Protest the apathy of the administration, they have chosen a unique way of planting paddy saplings on the road.

Later, a delegation of villagers including Tulasiram Seth, Debendra Sahu and a few others went to Collector's office to submit a memorandum. Since Collector Manisha Banerjee was away on some work, they handed it over to ADM Mirdha Toppo.

They warned that they would be forced to resort to a mass agi-tation if the road was not repaired within seven days.













THE YOGI

Kerala man seeks SC nod for Will Firozabad be renamed Chandra Nagar? daughter's extradition from Af

Avisha was booked under UAPA after she left India to join terrorist organisation ISIS, while the Interpol had issued a Red Corner notice against her in March 2017

INDO-ASINA NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: A man from Kerala has moved the Supreme Court seeking extradition of his daughter, along with his grandchild, who were detained in Afghanistan after she left India to join terrorist organisation ISIS. He apprehends, after the exit of the US forces from Afghan soil foreign terrorists could be hanged. The plea filed by VJ Sebastian

Francis said necessary action should be taken by authorities concerned to extradite his daughter Sonia Sebastian alias Ayisha and his granddaughter, who is seven-yearold. The plea said: "Internationally a lenient approach has been taken against the women foreign terrorist fighters like 1st detenue (Ayisha), this is owing to the stand taken by the countries that women only played ancillary roles and therefore could not pose any significant threat to national security"

The plea said the issue is urgent in as much substantial changes politically and adminis-



tratively are going to get effected in Afghanistan, after the US troops exit. The plea contended that the Centre not facilitating extradition of the detenues is illegal and unconstitutional and violates fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution. Stringent anti-terror law UAPA was registered against Ayisha, after she left India and the Interpol had also issued a Red Corner notice against her in March 2017. The plea said after reaching Afghanistan, Ayisha's husband was killed in the war. "The

companied A1 (the husband) and was actively not involved in the fight there after his death had to surrender to the Afghan forces on November 15, 2019, along with some other women..." The peti-tioner claimed that his daughter repents the decision to join the ISIS and she wanted to return to India and face fair trial before a court.

Ayisha had made this statement during an interview with Stratnews Global, which was uploaded as a documentary titled "Khorasan Files: The journey of Indian Islamic State' Widows" on YouTube March 1st and the 2nd detenue who ac-15. last year.

ADITYANATH GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY CHANGED THE NAMES OF ALLAHABAD TO PRAYAGRAJ, FAIZABAD TO AYODHYA AND MUGHALSARAI TO DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA NAGAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Firozabad (UP), August 2: The newly elected Zila Parishad of Firozabad has moved a proposal to change the name of the district to Chandra Nagar.

The Sadar block pramukh, Laxmi Narayan Yadav, who drafted the proposal, said that the ancient name of Firozabad was 'Chandwar Nagar' and Akbar had changed it to Firozabad in the 15th century.

Firozabad Zila Parishad chairperson Harshita Singh said, 'During the first district council board meeting Saturday, a proposal to change the name of Firozabad to Chandra Nagar was unanimously approved. We will be sending a detailed recommendation to the state



government in this regard. We will also pursue the matter with the state authorities to restore the original name of the district.

Firozabad is famous for its glassware, particularly bangles. The official website of the Firozabad district administration mentions. "The ancient name of this town was Chandwar Nagar. The name of Firozabad was given during the reign of Akbar by Firoz Shah, a military official of the Mughal emperor, in 1566. It is said that Raja Todarmal was passing through this town during a pilgrimage to Gaya. He was looted by robbers. At his request, Akbar sent Firoz

Shah here. The tomb of Firoz Shah and ruins of Katra Pathanan are the evidence of this.'

The Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress district presidents have raised strong objections over the proposal. The Samaiwadi Party members

said that the proposal was moved when none of the opposition members were present.

Congress district president Sandeep Tiwari said, "It is unfortunate that the ruling BJP members are not concerned about massive water-logging, potholed roads, inadequate water and power supply in the district. However, they want

to change the name of the district for political gains because elections are round the corner."

Noted historian and AMU professor emeritus Irfan Habib, however, said, "There is no historical evidence that Firozabad was known as Chandwar Nagar. The name Firozabad came into being during the tenure of Firoz Shah Tughlaq. The point that Akbar changed the so-called ancient name of Firozabad is incorrect."

The Yogi Adityanath government has already changed the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj, Faizabad to Ayodhya and Mughalsarai to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

Will continue my fight: Expelled Catholic nun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, August 2: When a senior advocate in the Kerala High Court suddenly refused her brief in a case regarding her eviction from the home Congregation, Sister Lucy Kalappura did not get upset though she clearly knew that she was fighting a lonely do-or-die battle.

Before him, a handful of other advocates also had rejected outright her case against the Franciscan Clarist Congregation under the Catholic Church from where she was expelled recently for allegedly failing to give a 'satisfactory explanation' for her lifestyle in violation of its rules.

But, the unperturbed retired school teacher-nun was not ready to give up the fight as she argued the case on her own though she had very limited knowledge about legal jargons.

Though the Church justified its decision to expel her from the centuries-old Congregation, where she had been a member for the last four decades, the nun dismissed the charges and decided to fight it legally. "I am fighting for justice and



battle. I will take the interview. fight till the apex court She also does not mind if someseeking to uphold my one calls her an "activist nun" as dignity as a nun and she believes that there is an accontinue my stay at the tivist within everyone's persona. convent of the Learning driving, buying a car **Congregation which I am** to meet travel needs, publishing her poetry collection and even penpart of for nearly 40 years. I have complete faith in ning an autobiography might have

Congregation seeking the arrest of Bishop Franco Mulakkal, accused of raping a nun, was expelled by the FCC under the Roman Catholic Church in August 2019.

Now, she is fighting a case at a Munsif court seeking her right to stay in the FCC convent at Karackamala in northern Wayanad district.

The High Court, which ruled last month that police protection against eviction from the convent could not be provided to her, also directed the civil court to take a decision expeditiously on her plea regarding her stay at the FCC convent.

However, the 56-year old nun, who recently retired as a mathematics teacher in an aided school in the high range Wavanad district after 24 years of service, doesn't seem worried about the outcome of the legal battle.

"I know it will be a long-drawn legal battle. I will take the fight till the apex court seeking to uphold my dignity as a nun and continue my stav at the convent of the

As Covid-19 rages, Keralaites find it tough to cross borders

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, August 2: Starting Monday, all those entering Tamil Nadu and Karnataka from Kerala especially at the Walayar border and Thalapadi border in these two states are finding it tough to cross the borders, after the respective state police have made a negative RT-PCR test mandatory for people travelling from Kerala.

The facility of conducting a RT-PCR test is available at the Walayar border. Meanwhile at the Thalapadi border, at Kasargode and the entry point to Mangalore in Karnataka, those who had records to show that they have taken both the vaccines were allowed, but after 8 a.m., things changed and the Karnataka police insisted that the RT-PCR test is mandatory.

One Keralite who pr



protesters. "We had contacted the Karnataka

The sudden decision of these neighbouring governments to restrict free movement is on account of the rising number of daily cases in Kerala which saw a record over one lakh new cases in the past six days, while the test positivity rate continues to hover above 12 per cent, while the national average is 2.81 per cent.

dignity. Justice and truth will prevail finally. So why should I fear? I will stand with my head held

our judiciary

SISTER LUCY KALAPPURA

ice to the Church and society. Missionaries of

Kalappura, who took part in a protest by nuns belonging to Jesus

raised many eyebrows but Sister

Lucy said it did not make any dif-

ference in her dedication and serv-

Congregation which I am part of for nearly 40 years. I have complete faith in our judiciary," she added.

taken into custody by the Karnataka police. But angry Kerala residents at the border soon swung into action and blocked all vehicles coming

later than 72 hours. The police are not even allowing accident victims who are travelling from Kerala to hospitals in Mangalore," said angry

officials and they said that those who

have taken both the vaccines will

be allowed and now they have

changed that rule and are insisting

a RT-PCR test which should be not

Medicinal plants boon for Bundelkhand farmers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, August 2: The cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants like Lemongrass, Sataver, Ashwagandha, Khas and others is proving to be a boon for farmers in Bundelkhand region as these medicinal plants require less water and can stand the hot and humid weather conditions of the region.

Alok Kumar, chief scientist of the CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), has emphasized on strengthening the cultivation, processing and marketing of medicinal and aromatic plants in the Bundelkhand region.

He highlighted how medicinal plants can adapt to the climatic conditions of the region and bring financial gains to the farmers.

"In just eight months, a farmer

can yield 50 litres of lemongrass oils. Lemongrass cultivation needs no special arrangements to save the plants from extremely hot conditions nor does it need too much water," he said. A road map for the agrarian growth will soon be prepared for the region by the CSIR-CIMAP, he added.

"Bundelkhand can be developed as an ecotourism spot as it has a good forest cover. Also, scientific goat farming in which scientific practices are used for better milk production can help double the income of goat farmers in the region," the scientist said.

Experts from the Central Institute of Goat Farming Mathura and Central Institute for Research on Goats, Mathura also explained how goat farming can further help in increasing income of the people in Bundelkhand region.



Tourists visit the historic Taj Mahal during a cloudy day in Agra, Monday,



UP schools to reopen from Aug 16 with 50% attendance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 2: Schools in Uttar Pradesh will resume Classes 9 to 12 from August 16, but with 50 per cent attendance, according to an order issued by the state government Monday.

Apart from this, instructions have also been issued for commencement of classes in higher educational institutes from September 1, the UP government said in a statement.

"Students of high (class 9 and 10) and intermediate (class 11 and

12) schools will participate in the 75th Independence Day celebrations August 15. And on August 16, teaching-learning will commence in the schools with half capacity, while adhering to the COVID-19 protocol," Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal told PTI

According to the UP government statement, the chief minister has instructed officials to begin preparations for commencement of new session of all educational institutes in view of the controlled situation of the coronavirus in the state.



The results of Classes 10 and 12 boards have been declared, and

admission for the under-graduate classes should start from August 5,

the chief minister was quoted as saying. In the educational institutes, provisions of sanitiser, infrared thermometers and masks have to be made, while social distancing and COVID-19 protocol have to be maintained, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said.

With the resumption of the educational institutes, it would be appropriate to organise special vaccination camps for students above the age of 18 years. The health department should makeall the necessary arrangements in this regard, he said.





national

AGENCIES



TMC's poll slogan 'khela hobe'(there will be a game) has become immensely popular among people MAMATA BANERJEE WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

WB HOOCH TRAGEDY: LIFE TERM FOR KEY ACCUSED

A court here Monday awarded life imprisonment to Khora Badshah, the main accused in 2011 hooch tragedy that claimed 172 lives. Badshah was handed over his sentence Mondav based on the complaints filed in connection with the 64 deaths that were registered in Magrahat police station



insurance law to allow the gov-

ernment to pare its stake in state-

owned insurers was passed with-

out a debate. The bill is aimed at

generating required resources from

the Indian markets so that public

sector general insurers can design

Moving the bill for considera-

tion and passage, Finance Minister

Sitharaman said that she wanted

to respond to the concerns raised

by the opposition members but

could not do so as the House was

Accusing the opposition of dis-

turbing the proceedings of the

House and avoiding discussion on

the bill, she said if "they are seri-

ous, they should sit down, debate

and ask questions. Since you are

afraid that truth will come out,

She was responding to allega-

tions made by Congress leader

Chowdhury who described the

amendment bill as "anti-people

Sitharaman sought to counter the

criticism by stating that private

sector companies were providing

better insurance to people at a

you don't want discussion."

and anti-national".

innovative products.

not in order.

uote 🦅

Conduct only **RTPCR** tests as they are more accurate compared to other tests and continue door to door surveys, testing people with symptoms and monitor 104 services regularly for uninterrupted services

YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY

ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

To address the issue of the flood situation in western Maharashtra, there is a need for effective flood management. I

received some suggestions about diverting the floodwaters to droughthit areas. We are thinking about it also

UDDHAV THACKERAY MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER

Great show of tenacity, resilience and confidence! I congratulate the Indian Women's Hockey team for cruising into the semifinal of of #Hockey in #Tokyo2020. I am sure you will succeed in the next game

too. My best wishes! SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

MP: 2 dead as rains pound many areas

Bhopal: Defence aircraft Monday launched rescue operations to evacuate people stranded in some flooded villages in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh as heavy rains continued to lash large parts of the state, especially Shivpuri and neighbouring Sheopur districts, leaving two people dead, officials said. Torrential rains continue to pound the two districts in the night. Nearly 60 people, who were stranded in a flooded building located near the Vijaypur bus stand in Sheopur district following heavy rains, were rescued after over seven hours by this noon.

300 stray dogs poisoned in AP

Covaxin effective against Delta+: ICMR

Hyderabad, August 2: The domestically developed Covaxin is effective against the Delta plus variant of Covid-19, claims Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in its study released Monday. Covaxin is developed by the Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR and National Institute of Pune.

The study states: "The sera of individuals who were fully immunized (with 2 doses) didn't show significant fold-reduction in the NAb titer against Delta, Delta AY.1 and B.1.617.3.

Delta Plus is a mutated form of the Delta variant and was first discovered in India. It is characterised by increased transmissibility and spike protein mutations. The study points that Delta vari-

ant with its characteristic spike protein mutations has mutated further into four sub-lineages with an additional mutations which are associated with higher transmission and probable immune escape.

Last week. Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh informed parliament last week that 70 cases of the Delta



Plus variant were found by IN-SACOG, a group of 28 laboratories involved in genome sequencing. Covaxin along with other two vaccines -- Covishield and Russia's Sputnik -- has formed the trio for India's massive vaccination drive

against the virus. The research further states, "A significant increase in the NAb titer against B.1 variant in recovered cases with vaccination and breakthrough cases was observed compared to the Covid-19 native vaccines. Similarly, a significant increase in NAb titer was also observed among these two groups against Delta, Delta AY.1 and B.1.617.3 variants.

"This demonstrates the possible role of memory cells in immune boosting with post-infection or infection after immunization. The comparative analysis of all the groups revealed that the B.1.617.3 variant seems to be less susceptible to neutralization followed by Delta AY.1 and Delta variants." The study on efficacy analysis fur-

ther establishes Covaxin to be 93.4

STILL IN TALKS WITH GOVT: J&J

Bangalore: Johnson & Johnson (JNJ.N) said Monday it was still in talks with the Indian government over its Covid-19 vaccine after the country's drug regulator announced the company had pulled its approval for local trials. India had, in May, scrapped local trials for "well-established" foreign coronavirus vaccines as it tried to hasten vaccination rollouts to fight a second wave of infections.

per cent effective against severe symptomatic Covid-19 cases and 63.6 per cent protection against asymptomatic Covid-19. India registered 40,134 fresh COVID-19 infections, pushing its virus tally to 3,16,95,958, while the number of active cases recorded an increase for the sixth consecutive day, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated Monday.

demic climbed to 4,24,773 with 422 daily fatalities.

LS passes Bill to amend general insurance law

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 2: Proceedings of Lok Sabha were disrupted for the 10th straight working day Monday with a relentless opposition raising slogans on the Pegasus spying row and the farmers' issue and amid the din, the House passed a Bill that allows the government to pare its stake in state-owned insurers.

Since the Monsoon session of Parliament commenced July 19, opposition members have been storming the Well of the House raising slogans mainly on the Pegasus spying row and the farmers' issue. Speaker Om Birla also expressed his anguish at repeated disruptions, saying crores of rupees have been wasted.

He said members should provide directions to the society but instead they were holding placards and raising slogans.

Leader of Congress party in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sparred on the provisions of the bill before it was cleared by a voice vote.

The bill to amend the general lesser premium.

> Assam to send ministers to broker peace with Mizoram

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati/Aizawl, August 2: In a bid to resolve the inter-state border row, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Monday night said that he will send two senior Ministers to Aizawl August 5 for "a meaningful dialogue" with the Mizoram government.

The two states have also decided to withdraw most cases filed against each other, including those against Sarma, Mizoram Rajya Sabha member K Vanlalvena and senior officials of two states.

Sarma, in a tweet, said that "in aid of an early amicable resolution". Agriculture Minister Atul Bora and Urban Development Minister Ashok Singhal would go to Aizawl Thursday to talk with the Mizoram Ministers and officials to defuse the border crisis. that intensified with the July 26 border clash and firing that left six Assam Police personnel dead and scores of others injured. "Assam stands committed to ensuring peace on its borders. paving the way for a peaceful & developed North-East," he said. Noting that he learned his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga has asked Mizoram Police to withdraw the July 26 FIR against Assam officials, he said: "I heartily reciprocate this positive gesture and ask Assam police to withdraw cases against DC Kolasib and SDPO Virengte (sic)." Before Sarma's tweet, Zoramthanga has announced withdrawal of the FIR registered against the Assam Chief Minister and six other senior officials in connection with the July 26 violence. Zoramthanga posted: "In order to build a conducive atmosphere for amicable solution to the Mizoram-Assam border dispute & to reduce the plight of suffering of citizens, I have directed Mizoram police to withdraw FIR dt. 26.07.2021 filed at Vairengte, Kolasib District, Mizoram against all the accused persons.'

Rainfall in Aug, Sept likely to be normal: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mrutyunjay Mahapatra said.

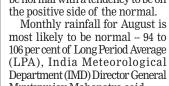
He was addressing a virtual press conference to declare southwest monsoon rainfall forecast for the second half of the season and for August.

The LPA of the August to September period rainfall over the country as a whole for 1961-2010 is 428.3 mm.

The IMD said this year, it expects the rainfall to be 95 to 105 per cent of the LPA for August to September. The spatial distribution suggests that below normal to normal rainfall is likely over many parts of the northwest, east and northeast parts of the country and normal to above normal rainfall is most likely to be experienced over most parts of peninsular India and adjacent central India, he said in a statement. Explaining the details about the probabilistic forecast for August, the LPA of the August rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 258.1 mm. The spatial distribution of probabilistic forecasts for tercile categories (above normal, normal and below normal) for the August rainfall suggests that below normal to normal rainfall is likely over many areas of central India and some areas over northwest India. Normal to above normal rainfall is most likely over the most parts of peninsular India and Northeast.



New Delhi, August 2: Rainfall over the country as a whole during the second half (August to September period) South-West monsoon season is most likely to be normal with a tendency to be on the positive side of the normal.



proposal seeking an accelerated

The death toll from the pan-

Eluru (Andhra Pradesh):

The killing, allegedly by poisoning, of more than 300 stray dogs by a village panchayat in Andhra Pradesh's West Godavari district has sent local animal rights activists into a fury. The gruesome incident first came to light July 29 when animal rights activist Sri Latha Challapalli received a tip-off.

Zika: Central team rushed to Maha

New Delhi: Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has rushed a multidisciplinary team to Maharashtra to monitor a Zika virus case reported and assist the Uddhay Thackeray government in effective management in case of an outbreak amid an ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Pune city reported the Zika case, after neighbouring Kerala reported a few. Maharashtra Sunday reported its first-ever case of Zika virus infection.

People jump into the Yamuna river after its water level increases in Vrindavan of Uttar Pradesh

243 SUSPECTS DETAINED, 17 HELI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhanbad/Ranchi, August 2: Police detained 243 suspects and arrested 17 persons in connection with the death of judge Uttam Anand in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, besides seizing 250 auto-rickshaws, a senior official said Monday. Two police officers were also

suspended, including one for making the CCTV footage of the incident public, he said. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sanjiv Kumar said that 243 persons were taken into custody after raids in different police station areas of the district Sunday evening. They are being interrogated, he added. "Police have also searched 53 hotels of the district and ar-



250 autorickshaws that had docu-

ments irregularities were seized,

There are about 16,000 au-

torickshaws registered with the

Transport Department in Dhanbad,

sources said. Sub Inspector Adarsh

mentum of dialogue and negotia-

tions. "The two sides also agreed

that in the interim they will con-

the officer said.

rested 17 persons in connection with the incident. FIRs have been lodged against them in different police stations," he said. Though the police recovered the autorickshaw that hit the judge when he was out on morning walk, in a special drive,

said. Pathardih police station's officer-in-charge Umesh Manjhi was suspended on Saturday for lodging FIR about an autorickshaw theft two days after the accident, he said. Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday decided to hand over the probe to the CBI. The Jharkhand government had set up a Special Investigation Team to crack the judge's death case, which triggered a nationwide outrage The leaked CCTV footage showed

Kumar was suspended for mak-

ing the CCTV footage public, Kumar

PTI PHOTO

that the judge was jogging on one side of a fairly wide road at Randhir Verma ChowkWednesday morning when an auto-rickshaw veered towards him, hit him from behind and fled the scene

'India, China to resolve remaining issues expeditiously'

THE TROOPS OF TWO HIMALAYAN GIANTS HAVE DISENGAGED FROM BOTH THE BANKS OF PANGONG TSO IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi: A senior bureaucrat in the Prime Minister's Office, Amarjeet Sinha, has resigned from his post, sources said Monday. A retired IAS officer, Sinha was an advisor in the PMO and handled projects related to the social sector. A Bihar-cadre IAS officer of 1983 batch, Sinha had superannuated as the rural development secretary in 2019 and was then appointed to the PMO. He is the second top officer to quit the PMO in recent months after former cabinet secretary P K Sinha, who worked there as principal advisor, resigned in March.

PMO official resigns

Ministers of India and People's Republic of China July 14 New Delhi, August 2: India and in Dushanbe and the 22nd meeting China agreed to resolve of the Working Mechanism remaining border issues in an for Consultation and Coordination 'expeditious manner' in accoron India-China Border Affairs dance with the existing agreements (WMCC) held June 25. 'The two sides had a candid and and protocols and maintain the momentum of dialogue and ne-

in-depth exchange of views on resgotiations, the Indian Army said olution of remaining areas related Monday in a joint statement after to disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western the 12th Round of India-China Corps commander level meeting. Sector of India-China border areas," India and China military said Indian Army in the statement. delegates deliberated for almost nine The force further stated that the

hours to resolve border crisis at two sides noted that this round of Moldo in the Ladakh region July 31. meeting was constructive, which further enhanced mutual under-The Indian Army stated that this round of meeting was held standing. They agreed to resolve following the meeting of the Foreign these remaining issues in an ex-



peditious manner in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols and maintain the motinue their effective efforts in ensuring stability along the LAC in the Western Sector and jointly maintain peace and tranquility," the force added.

The talks between two countries happened after a gap of three months. Indian military delegates discussed disengagement at friction areas like Hot Springs, Gogra and 900 square km Depsang plains.

Indian delegation was led by Leh-based XIV Corps chief Lt Gen PGK Menon and Additional Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Naveen Srivastava.

The Chinese military delegation was led by Commander of the PLA's Western Theatre Command

Xu Qiling, who was appointed earlier this month.

The build-up in Depsang was not being considered part of the current standoff that started in May last year as escalation here took place in 2013. India has insisted during recent military commander meetings to resolve all issues across the Line of Actual Control.

In April, during 11th round of Corps Commander level talk, the focus was also on disengagement on friction points at Gogra, Hot Springs and Depsang. Till now, apart from 12 round of Corps Commanderslevel talks, the two forces have also held 10 Major Generals level, 55-Brigadiers-level talks and 1.450 calls over the hotlines.

















international



We either sit knee to knee at the real negotiating table or break their (Taliban) knees on the battleground ASHRAF GHANI AFGHAN PRESIDENT

PANDA LOANED TO FRANCE ZOO GIVES BIRTH TO TWINS

A giant panda on loan to France from China gave birth to two female twin cubs early Monday. China, for decades, gifted friendly nations with its unofficial national mascot in what was known as 'panda diplomacy'



uote

Taliban fighters waiting to cross the border from Pakistan to Afghanistan.. anvone still denving that Pakistan is engaged in an 'act of aggression'

against Afghanistan is complicit in proxy war & war crimes CHRIS ALEXANDER EX-CANADIAN POLITICIAN

Action is needed, and it must come from the Administration. Science and reason demand that they

must also extend the moratorium in light of the delta variant. Doing so is a moral imperative

There are people who hurt Tunisia. I ask myself how they could make 1.500 youths leave. They give them money so that they leave. Those people

exploit misery and want a remake of what happened in 2011. They are hurting Tunisia's relations with Italy, Europe and other countries

KAIS SAIED PRESIDENT, TUNISIA

SHORT TAKES

Indian student in China found dead

Beijing: A 20-year-old Indian student studying in a university in the Chinese city of Tianjin has been found dead in his room and the cause of his death is not yet known, officials here said Monday. Aman Nagsen, who hailed from Gaya in Bihar, was a student of Business Administration in the Tianjin Foreign Studies University. He was found dead July 29. The cause of his death is under investigation, officials said. He was one of the few Indian students who remained in China through the coronavirus pandemic.

Germany to jab all kids over 12

Berlin: Germany will

China's death toll 3X higher

The massive floods, described by meteorologists as a once-in-a-lifetime event, has resulted in apocalyptic scenes in Zhengzhou, with its public avenues and subway tunnels getting submerged in surging waters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, August 2: The death toll from last month's unprecedented flash floods triggered by the heaviest rainfall in a thousand years in central China's Henan province has climbed to 302, three times higher than the previous official figures. The Chinese government Monday ordered a probe into the

handling of the calamity. In Henan province's capital, Zhengzhou -- which was the worsthit -- a total of 292 people were confirmed dead and 47 still missing, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported, quoting local officials. The previous death toll, an-

nounced by provincial authorities Friday, was 99. Now, the provincial death toll stands at 302, while 50 others are still missing.

More than 14.53 million people in 150 county-level regions had been affected by the torrential rains. Over 1.09 million hectares of crops were damaged, and over 30,600 houses collapsed across the province, the report said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

United States

Since July 16, record rainstorms had inundated Henan. In Zhengzhou, 617.1 mm of rainfall fell

HENAN PROVINCE FLOODS



over a three-day period, which is close to the city's average annual rainfall amount. The city also registered a record hourly precipitation rate of 201.9 mm.

In the aftermath of the worst flood in the region, the local government came under severe criticism for not being transparent about the loss of life and damage caused by the deluge.

As the death toll shot up, the State Council (China's Cabinet) announced Monday that it has decided to set up an investigation team to assess the response to the devastating flood in Zhengzhou.

The team will be headed by the Ministry of Emergency Management and include officials and experts from relevant departments, an official statement said The investigation aims to sum-

marise the experience and lessons drawn from the response and propose measures that can be taken to improve disaster prevention and relief in the future.

Since July 16, record rainstorms had inundated Henan. In Zhengzhou, 617.1 mm of rainfall fell over a three-day period, which is close to the city's average annual rainfall amount

n the aftermath of the worst flood in the region, the local government came under severe criticism for not being transparent about the loss of life and damage caused by the deluge

he Chinese government Monday ordered a probe into the handling of the calamity

Those who are found breaching their duties in the Zhengzhou flood will be held responsible according to the law and regulations, it added.

Zhengzhou, a metropolis of 12.6 million people, saw tragic scenes as floodwaters inundated metro trains and tunnels leading to the deaths of a large number of people. Several hospitals were also flooded and officials made desperate efforts to shift patients to safety.

The Chinese Army sent its troops to a damaged dike in Yichuan county to explode it to divert the floodwater.

Trillion dollar infra Bill goes for Senate debate



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, August 2: After much delay, US senators have unveiled a nearly USD 1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package, wrapping up days of painstaking work on the inches-thick bill and launching what is certain to be a lengthy debate over President Joe Biden's big priority.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act clocked in at some 2,700 pages, and senators could begin amending it soon. Despite the hurry-up-and-wait during a rare weekend session, emotions bubbled over once the bill was produced on Sunday night. The final product was not intended to stray from the broad outline senators had negotiated for weeks with the White House.

"We haven't done a large, bi-

long time," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. He said a final vote could be held "in a matter of days' A key part of Biden's agenda, the bipartisan bill is the first phase of the president's infrastructure plan.

partisan bill of this nature in a

It calls for \$550 billion in new spending over five years above projected federal levels, what could be one of the more substantial expenditures on the nation's roads, bridges, waterworks, broadband and the electric grid in years.

Senators and staff laboured behind the scenes for days to write the massive bill. It was supposed to be ready Friday, but by Sunday even more glitches were caught and changes made. To prod the work, Schumer kept senators in session over the weekend, encouraging the authors to finish up work.

S Korea seeks to improve **SWISS CELEBRATION**



A traditional high altitude bonfire burns on the occasion of the Swiss National Day on the Stanserhorn mountain near Stans. Switzerland



On Sunday night, the powerful South Korea. South Korea's Defence Ministry said sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned the drills would se-Monday the exact timing, size and riously undermine efforts to reother details of the drills haven't store mutual trust between the been fixed and that they were the is-Koreas and becloud prospects for sues that must be determined by better ties if the training is launched South Korean and US authorities. as scheduled this month. Her state-Spokesman Boo Seung-Chan repeated ment raised a question about the sinhis previous statement that Seoul cerity of North Korea's recent deand Washington are examining factors like the pandemic's current stacision to reopen long-stalled communication channels with tus, diplomat efforts to curb North

Korea's nuclear ambitions and South Korea-US military readiness.

Lee Jong-joo, a spokeswoman at the Unification Ministry, said Seoul views the communication channels' restoration as a starting point for restoring long-suspended ties between the Koreas. She said Seoul will steadily seek to resume talks with North Korea, but without haste.

North Korea sees regular military drills between South Korea and the United States as an invasion rehearsal and often responds them with its own weapons tests. In the past few years, however, South Korea and the US have cancelled or downsized some of their training to support the now-dormant diplomacy on ending the North Korean nuclear crisis or because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NANCY PELOSI US HOUSE SPEAKER

start offering coronavirus vaccinations for all children and teenagers aged 12 and older, top health officials said Monday. German Health Minister Jens Spahn said after a meeting with the 16 German state health ministers that "We keep our promise: everybody who wants can get vaccinated in the summer – we have enough vaccines for all age groups.'

Turkey wildfire: 10K evacuated

Bozalan: For the sixth straight day, Turkish firefighters battled Monday to control the blazes that are tearing through forests near Turkey's beach destinations. Overall, some 10,000 people have been evacuated in Mugla province alone, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said Monday. Fed by strong winds and scorching temperatures. the fires that began Wednesday have left eight people dead. Residents and tourists have fled vacation resorts in flotillas of small boats or convovs of cars and trucks.

US expands Af refugee programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 2: The Biden administration Monday expanded its efforts to evacuate at-risk Afghan citizens from Afghanistan as Taliban violence increases ahead there of the US Military pullout at the end of the month.

The State Department said it is widening the scope of Afghans eligible for refugee status in United States to include current and former employees of US-based news organisations, US-based aid and development agencies and other relief groups that receive US Funding. Current and former employees of the US Government and the NATO military operation who don't meet the criteria for a dedicated program for such workers are also covered.

However, the move comes with a major caveat applicants must



leave Afghanistan to begin the adthe US as judication process that may take 12refugees. It 14 months in a third country, and did not offer the US Does not intend to support a more spetheir departures or stays there. cific number of Nevertheless, the State those who might be Department said the move will nity to be permanently resettled in

eligible for the program. mean that "many thousands" of Afghans and their immediate families will now have the opportusaid in a statement.

certain Afghans, including those who worked with the United States, the opportunity for The refugee resettlement to **US Objective** the United States." remains a peaceful, The creation of a secure Afghanistan. 'Priority 2" cate-However, in light of increased gory for Afghans

levels of Taliban violence, the US government is working to provide certain Afghans, including those who worked with the United States, the opportunity for refugee resettlement to the **United States**

US STATE DEPARTMENT

Affiliation" but aren't able to get a Special "The US Objective remains a Immigrant Visa because they did peaceful, secure Afghanistan," it not work directly for the US "However, in light of increased

Government or didn't hold their government jobs long enough.

levels of Taliban violence, the US

government is working to provide

within the US

Program is in-

tended for Afghans

ate families who

'may be at risk

due to their US

and their immedi-

Refugee

Admissions

ASEAN diplomats mull envoy, aid to Myanmar

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila, August 2: Southeast Asia's top diplomats were meeting Monday to appoint a special envoy to help deal with the political crisis and violence gripping Myanmar and finalise an emergency plan to help control a coronavirus outbreak that many fear is spiralling out of control in the military-ruled nation.

The foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were also expected to announce after their video meeting some progress in four years of painstakingly slow negotiations with China to craft a nonaggression pact aimed at preventing conflict in the disputed South China Sea. The 10-nation bloc, frequently

dismissed by critics as an ineffec-

tive talk shop, has been under increasing international pressure to act on the troubles unfolding in Myanmar, an ASEAN member where the military in February toppled the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The grouping, however, is hamstrung by its policy of noninterference in the domestic affairs of member nations as well as its requirement to reach a consensus among members.

In Monday's online meeting the ministers were to decide who among at least three nominees from Thailand Indonesia and Malaysia should be designated as the bloc's special envoy to try to broker a settlement between the country's ruling generals and rival parties led by Suu Kyi, a Southeast Asian diplomat told the Associated Press.

Serbia benefits from 'quarantine tourism' as Indians visit

IT HAS BECOME A POPULAR STOPOVER DESTINATION FOR INDIANS BECAUSE IT OFFERS THEM VISA-FREE ENTRY IF THEY HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AND TEST NEGATIVE FOR THE VIRUS

UK updates Covid smartphone app

London: The UK government Monday announced a tweak to its Covid-19 smartphone app in order to combat concerns around a so-called 'pingdemic', caused by its over-sensitivity in alerting individuals to self-isolate after being in the vicinity of someone who goes on to test positive for the deadly virus. Currently, the app looks for close contacts five days prior to a positive test.

AGENCIES

Belgrade, August 2: Serbia is benefiting from Covid-19 'quarantine tourism' as thousands of Indians make a two-week stopover on the way to other countries.

India has registered more coronavirus cases than any other country except the United States. Its citizens are barred from entering many countries during the pandemic unless they spend two weeks in another country en route.

Serbia has become a popular stopover destination for Indians

because it offers them visa-free entry if they have been vaccinated

and test negative for the virus They are also required to spend at least the first seven days of their stay in Serbia in isolation, depending from conditions set by their destination countries. They must also take another coronavirus test at the end of their quarantine. Jagdish, who is from the Indian city of Visakhapatnam, stayed in

Serbia's capital, Belgrade, en route to the United States. Jagdish, who declined to give his full name, said he had waited



in India for some time for things to open up.

But things were not opening up .. We chose Serbia because we do not need a visa ... and it (Belgrade) is also a beautiful city to explore, Jagdish said

Hotel owners said thousands of Indians came to Belgrade in July. I would not call this 'quarantine tourism', but in the end it comes to that ... there are plenty of hotels which are full, said Ilija Smiljanic, manager of Mark Group hotels

In June, Serbia recorded a 48.4%

annual increase in tourist arrivals and the number of overnight stays increased by 39.3%, the Statistics Office said.

Tourism accounts for around 2.5% of the country's gross domestic product. Serbia suffered a loss more than 1 billion euros (\$1.19 billion) in revenues last year because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Since last December, Serbia has vaccinated almost a third of its 6.7 million population. Serbia has recorded more than 722,220 peo-ple Covid-19 cases and 7,118 deaths from the virus.







business

AGENCIES



We need to recognise that our strategy for moving towards net zero emission has to be consistent with the economic and infrastructure conditions prevailing in the country RC BHARGAVA I CHAIRMAN, MARUTI SUZUKI

FORTUNE 500 PROFITS FALL

The Fortune Global 500 companies experienced an overall 5% drop in revenues in 2020, the largest since 2016, while their aggregate profits were down 20%, the biggest decline since 2009. Last year's list contained six airlines: with their revenues down 60% in 2020, not a single one made it to the new list



SIAM postpones Auto Expo 2022 due to Covid-19 **Hiring activity** rises 11% in



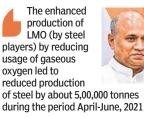
delight ou

customers, to constantly innovate and experiment, to create value for our shareholders, to not mis-sell in an industry which is known for its bad sales tactics

uote

GAURAV MUNJAL

CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, UNACADEMY



RAM CHANDRA PRASAD SINGH UNION STEEL MINISTER



young minds igniting India's innovation ecosystem, building capabilities among the students to make them industry-ready, and also promote industry-academia collaboration

DIPESH SHAH MANAGING DIRECTOR, SRI-E

SHORT TAKES

Adani Wilmar plans to raise ₹4,500cr

New Delhi: Business conglomerate Adani Group's edible oil firm Adani Wilmar Monday filed draft papers with markets regulator Sebi to launch its initial public offer (IPO) to raise up to ₹4,500 crore for funding its expansion. Adani Wilmar, an equal JV between Adani Group and Singapore-based Wilmar, was formed in 1999. It sells cooking oils under the Fortune brand and other food products.

Pfizer. Moderna raise vax prices

London: US drug makers Pfizer and Moderna have increased the prices of their mRNA-19 for the European market, the media reported. According to the new contracts, a Pfizer shot will now cost 19.50 euros against 15.50 euros previously, while a Moderna jab has been priced at 21.49 euros a dose, from about 19 euros in the first procurement deal, The Financial Times reported.

.....



New Delhi, August 2: The country's leading automobile show, the Auto Expo, which was scheduled to take place in February next year at Greater Noida, has been postponed due to the Covid-19 situation and apprehensions of a possible third wave, industry body SIAM said Monday.

The last edition of the biennial automobile show took place in February 2020.

"The magnitude of the risk of spread of infection is extremely high in a business-to-consumer (B2C) show like the Auto Expo which is visited by large crowds and maintaining social distancing



would be difficult. It has therefore been decided to postpone the Auto Expo – The Motor Show for now,"

Automobile Society of

Manufacturers (SIAM) Director General Rajesh Menon said in a statement

The exact date for the next edi-

tion of Auto Expo – The Motor Show would be finalised later this year keeping in view the COVID situation and in alignment with the OICA Calendar of global Auto shows. he added

Menon noted that safety of exhibitors, visitors and all stakeholders involved and present at the Auto Expo is the top most priority for SIAM.

It is in this context that the Indian automobile industry and SIAM recognises the inherent risks in organising the Auto Expo due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and the apprehensions of a possible third wave, he said.

Elaborating further, Menon noted that there is uncertainty around

how COVID-19 would develop in the coming months and at the same time organising Auto Expo would need a lead time of preferably a year.

"Also, Auto Expo is like a festival of celebration, for the Indian auto industry and we look forward to receiving maximum people with no fear of spread of infection," he added.

The Auto Expo 2020 saw total footfalls of over six lakh visitors. The country's flagship auto show had witnessed around 70 product launches and unveils, 352 product displays from 108 exhibitors. Keeping in pace with the trend

of eco-friendly vehicles, the expo had also witnessed the launch of 35 electric vehicles.



Apr-Jun: Survey

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 2: Overall recruitment activity witnessed an 11% growth during April-June, as the job market began showing signs of recovery from the Covid-19 second wave, says a survey.

According to the Indeed India Hiring Tracker, that maps quarterly job market activity to June 2021, hiring increased by 11% over the previous quarter, with standout growth in Information Technology (61%), financial services (48%), and BPO/ITeS (47%).

This survey was conducted by Valuvox on behalf of Indeed among 1,500 employees and 1,200 businesses across nine cities in the month of June 2021

As businesses continue to find a rhythm of working through multiple pandemic challenges, the tracker reflects the resilience of India's labour market," Sashi Kumar, head of sales, Indeed India said.

Kumar further noted that "with hiring activity seeing a monthon-month increase, it was interesting to see businesses pivot their hiring priorities from operation roles to sales roles

BIG BAZAAR'S 'MAHA BACHAT' OFFER WOOS CUSTOMERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Big Bazaar, the most loved hypermarket brand, started 'Maha Bachat' offer to give maximum value to its customers. Customers can prebook the 'Maha Bachat' offer of atta (flour), dal (lentils) and rice for free. It can be done at any Big Bazaar store or via online on the Big Bazaar app and shop.bigbazaar.com till August 8, 2021.

On pre-booking, customers will get an e-Gift Voucher for ₹3,000 which they can use to shop during 'Maha Bachat' and claim the offer of 5 kg

'July manufacturing PMI returns to expansion zone' New Delhi, August 2: India's

manufacturing sector activities witnessed the strongest rate of growth in three months in July amid improved demand conditions and easing of some local Covid-19 restrictions, a monthly survey said Monday.

AGENCIES

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 48.1 in June to 55.3 in July, pointing to the strongest rate of growth in three months. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"It's encouraging to see the Indian manufacturing industry recover from the blip seen in June. Output rose at a robust pace, with over one-third of companies noting a monthly expansion in production, amid a rebound in new business and the easing of some local Covid restrictions," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit.

Lima further noted that "should the pandemic continue to recede, we expect a 9.7 per cent annual increase in industrial production for calendar year 2021. On the recruitment front

57.5 =57.756.3 $\equiv 58.9$ =56.852.0 46.0 Riter, Markit DTI GRAPHICS.

GROWTH REBOUND

he seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing PMI rose from 48.1 in June to 55.3 in July, pointing to the strongest rate of growth in three months

onset of Covid. With firms' cost burdens continuing to rise, however, and signs of spare capacity still evident, it's too early to say that such a trend will be sustained in coming months," Lima said.

On the inflation front, there was a softer but still sharp increase in input costs. Output charges rose only slightly, however, as several companies absorbed additional cost burdens amid ef-

On the inflation front, there was a softer but still sharp increase in

input costs and output charges for seven months.

input costs

"Hence, we expect the RBI to keep interest rates unchanged in its August meeting as it continues to support growth," Lima said.

The RBI is scheduled to announce its bi-monthly monetary policy review on August 6 at the end of the three-day meeting --August 4-6 -- of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

Odisha records 54% growth in GST collection in July

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The state recorded 54 per cent growth in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in July as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year, officials said Monday. According to an official statement issued by the office of the state GST

commissioner; Odisha collected GST worth ₹3,615 crore in July 2021 as against ₹2,348 crore in July last year. This growth rate of GST in Odisha is the second highest among all major states in India after Maharashtra, the statement said.

GST collection till July end of this financial year is ₹13,661 crore, as against ₹7,540 crore collected till July last year, thereby recording a growth of 81 per cent. The state collected ₹927 crore in CGST, ₹1,028 crore in IGST and ₹592 crore in cess in July. Moreover, the total collection of VAT (petrol and liquor) was ₹824.53 crore in July as against ₹611.36 crore



The state collected GST worth ₹3,615cr in July

collected in July 2020, recording a growth of 34.86 per cent.

ucts stood at ₹674.53 crore during July, 2021 as against ₹501.36 crore in corresponding period of previous year, registering a growth of 34.54 per cent. Similarly, collection from liquor stood at ₹150.01 crore during the same month as against ₹110.43 during July 2020. Revenue collection from liquor recorded a

CT & GST organisation has been focusing on increasing the tax base of GST with regular survey and registration. About 9,386 numbers of new registrants have been brought under the GST during the current financial year

2021 as against ₹2,348cr in July last year Collection from petroleum prod-

growth of 36.36 per cent.

Zomato rolls out 'Pro Plus'

New Delhi: Online food delivery platform Zomato Monday said it is launching a limited edition 'Pro Plus' membership for its select customers. "We have 1.8mn Zomato Pro members as of today. And one of the most requested features from our customers has been "Unlimited Free Deliveries" (something like Amazon Prime). So...in a few hours. we are launching our Limited Edition *Pro Plus* membership for select customers...," Zomato Founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal said in a tweet.

Steel production impacted in Apr-Jun

New Delhi: The country's steel output took a hit during the April-June period of 2021 due to the emergence of the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, Parliament was informed Monday. During the second wave of pandemic, the public and private sector steel plants together supplied 2,30,262 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) between April 1 to July 25, 2021, Union Steel Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

was a marginal increase in employment in July that ended a 15month sequence of job shedding. "Although marginal, the rise in

employment was the first since the

forts to boost sales.

"Policymakers will welcome evidence that inflationary pressures are starting to abate. Firms signalled the slowest increases in

Experts believe, amid fears of a third wave of coronavirus pandemic and hardening of retail inflation, the RBI is likely to maintain status quo on interest rate.



atta, 1 kg dal and 1 kg rice for free.

Also, the hypermarket brand is starting new offer between August 9-15 and it will be 'Bachat Pe Bachat' where customers can avail all the biggest deals and offers across food, fashion, home and electronics along with the mega offer and additional bank discounts.

BILI BAZAA

"Maha Bachat is one of the most

Exports up 47.91% in July to USD 35.17bn Furniture Godown opens new outlet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2 : Leading furniture retail house, Furniture Godown Monday unveiled its third extension outlet at Patrapada in City. This outlet is built up in 12,500 sq ft area. Furniture Godown provides vast variety of furniture by the lead-

ing manufacturing companies. Its design range is from traditional to contemporary spreading across 52,000 sq ft retail showroom space. Furniture Godown enjoys the expansion in furniture retail business in Odisha. Its management team has a vast experience and expertise of over 25 years in home



furniture, office furniture, modular, interiors and furnishings with manufacturing units (Make in Odisha) providing one stop solution for all furniture requirements. The entire sales staff are well trained & well groomed to cater to the customer needs and requirements with updated product knowledge of the Industry.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: The country's exports grew 47.19 per cent to USD 35.17 billion in July on account of healthy growth in petroleum, engineering, and gems and jewellery segments, according to provisional data of the commerce ministry. Imports during the month also rose by 59.38 per cent to USD 46.40 billion, leaving a trade deficit of USD 11.23 billion.

Exports of petroleum, engineering, and gems and jewellery in July increased to USD 3.82 billion, USD 2.82 billion and USD 1.95 billion, respectively, the data showed



However, exports of oilseeds, rice and meat, dairy and poultry products recorded negative growth in the month under review.

Imports of petroleum, crude, and products soared by 97 per cent to USD 6.35 billion. Similarly, imports of gold zoomed 135.5 per cent to USD 2.42 billion, while pearls, precious and semi-precious stones inbound shipments stood at USD 1.68 billion in July. However, imports of transport

equipment, project goods and silver posted negative growth in the month.

Further, exports to the US, UAE, and Belgium increased to USD 2.4 billion, USD 1.21 billion and USD 489 million in July.

Exports during April-July 2021-22 rose by 73.86 per cent year-onyear to USD 130.56 billion, as against USD 75.10 billion in the same period last year.

"Till July, India's merchandise exports have achieved 32.64 per cent of USD 400 billion. Target for the remaining eight months is USD 269.44 billion or USD 33.68 billion per month," the commerce ministry said.

loved and awaited retail events of the year. At Big Bazaar our aim is to always give back maximum value to our family members.

This time we had such a strong offer with atta, dal and rice, essentials that every household needs, that we wanted to give our customers a chance to pre-book it in advance," said Pawan Sarda, CMO -Digital, Marketing & e-Commerce, Future Group.

RIL slips 59 places on Fortune list, SBI jumps 16 notches



rankings as revenues dropped owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. This is its lowest ranking since 2017

Walmart continues to top the Fortune list with a revenue of USD 524 billion, followed by China's State Grid at USD 384 billion. With USD 280 billion revenue. Amazon came in at the third spot, replacing Chinese giants. China National Petroleum was ranked fourth and Sinopec Group fifth.

Reliance's revenue fell 25.3 per cent to USD 63 billion, mostly

because oil prices plunged in the second quarter of 2020 when the global spread of the pandemic wiped away demand. Other Indian oil compa-

Walmart continues to top the Fortune list with a revenue of \$524bn, followed by China's State Grid at \$384bn. With \$280bn revenue, Amazon came in at the third spot, replacing **Chinese giants**

nies on the list too slipped ranks as their revenues tumbled because of the fall in oil prices.

State Bank of India (SBI) moved up 16 places to rank 205 but Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) dropped 61 places to 212th rank. This is the second straight year of SBI improving its ranking. It had moved up 15 places last year. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

(ONGC) was ranked 243rd, 53

notches lower than last year's

ranking. Rajesh Exports was an-

other firm that improved its rank-

ing with a massive 114 positions

jump to 348th rank. Tata Motors

slipped 20 places to rank 357 and

Bharat Petroleum Corporation

Ltd (BPCL) fell to 394 from 309 last

year. Fortune said companies are

ranked by total revenues for their

respective fiscal years ended on or

While SBI had a revenue of USD

52 billion, IOC had revenue of USD

50 billion. ONGC had revenue of

USD 46 billion and Rajesh Exports

Walmart claimed the top spot for

before March 31, 2021.

the eighth consecutive year, and for the 16th time since 1995," Fortune said. Mainland China (including Hong Kong) once again has the most companies on the list at 135, up 11 from last year. Adding Taiwan, the total for Greater China is 143. The US is up one with 122, and

Japan held steady with a total of 53 firms. "Fortune Global 500 companies generated revenues totaling more than one-third of the world's GDP. They generated USD 31.7 trillion in revenues (down 5%). USD 1.6 trillion in profits (down 20%) and employ 69.7 million people worldwide," it said.

Apple (No. 6) netted USD 57 billion in profits, and is the Fortune Global 500's most profitable com-pany in 2021, ending Saudi Aramco's (No. 14) two-year reign.

USD 35 billion.



GOING GUNG-HO OVER HOCKEY

Odisha contributing significantly in revival of Indian hockey

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Tokyo Olympics have turned out to be a landmark for the Indian men's and women's hockey teams with both sealing semifinal berths. The men's team led by Manpreet Singh ended Sunday a 49-year wait for a last four berth at the Games, while the Rani Rampal-captained side made the semifinals Monday for the first time in the history of Indian women's hockey

The excellent performances of both the teams have raised hopes of an Olympic medal after a long time. The efforts put in by both teams have been praised by all and

sundry including the Naveen Patnaik-led Odisha government. In fact the Odisha chief minister has congratulated both the teams in separate video messages.

itable turnaround in the fortunes of Indian hockey lies with Odisha and Patnaik, who was a hockey goalkeeper in his school days.

The state has contributed to the sport through former players like Dilip Tirkey, Prabodh Tirkey, Ignace Tirkey, Lazarus Barla, William Xalxo, Jyoti Sunita Kullu and the current ones including Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas, Deep Grace Ekka, Namita Toppo, Lilima Minz, Sunita Lakra, Shilanand Lakra, Dipsan Tirkey and few more.

In 2018, the revival of hockey got a major boost when the Odisha government decided to help out the hockey teams - men, women and juniors, not just financially as an official sponsor, but through infrastructure as well.

When most of India focused on a glamourous sport like cricket. Patnaik decided to bet on hockey. It was this game only which had put India on the world map in the last century. The feats of the Indian hockey team that have won eight gold medals are still talked about.

The Odisha government may be fund-strapped at times, but Patnaik has found a way to help out the hockey teams. He has tapped into the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) a state undertaking with regular cash inflow - to fund hockey. The money ploughed into the teams isn't spectacularly huge, but substantial. The mega amount (approximately Rs 150 crore) given for five years to the teams, as the Olympic results show, is doing the talking now.

Prior to the Tokyo Olympics, Indian men's team goalie PR Sreejesh referred to Odisha as his team's 'second home' and hailed the government's contribution towards developing sports in India.

"The world today knows Odisha the hub of sports. When we train in Odisha, it feels like our second home. Nowadays if you ask kids in Odisha, they don't want to be IAS officers or get government

Rani's speech of 'belief' did the trick for women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, August 2: Belief was the cornerstone of the Indian women hockey team's victory over formidable Australia in the Tokyo Olympics here Monday, which earned the side their first semifinal berth at the Games.

A day after the Indian men's team entered the Olympic semifinals after a gap of 49 vears. the world number nine women's side

produced a phenomenal performance against World No.2 Australia. to emerge 1-0 winners in an in tense contest

"I don't know what to say because emotions are too high at the moment, and we all are very happy because it was not an easy game to win from Australia," an elated Ran

60 minutes, and give everything that you have got. And I think everyone did that, so yeah, I am super proud," Rani said.

She feels the victory over threetime Olympic champions Australia is "big" for the women's game in India and will inspire a generation to take up the sport in future. "This will be a very big, big thing in India.

Especially, you know, we have a team motto that means we want to inspire the young girls in India

"And I'm really thankful to all people who supported us to be here, and I know people from India they are cheering in every game for us and they are praying a lot for us. So yeah, I am really thankful to all of them who supported us in this journey," she said. The India captain said

INDIA REJOICES EVES' HISTORIC FEAT

"A dream moment", said the country's sports fraternity in unison as it celebrated the resurgence of Indian hockey at the Olympics after the women's team advanced to their first ever semifinal at the Games in Tokyo Monday. A day after the Indian men's team entered the Olympic semifinals following a 49-year gap, the World No.9 women's side also produced a

phenomenally gritty performance against the World No.2 Australia in an intense quarterfinals here. It triggered an outpouring of emotions as people from all walks of life, including former and current sportspersons and politicians, congratulated the team...

The Indian women have created yet another history at Tokyo as they stun World No. 2 Australia at the #TokyoOlympics.

Onwards and upwards from here! 🙌

#hockevindia @TheHockevIndia

GANESHI LAL (Odisha Governor): Congratulation to the Indian women's hockey team as they stun the World No.2 Australia women's in the quarters while storming to the semis in Olympics2020. Wishes the women in blue good luck for the semifinal.

TUSHARKANTI BEHERA (Minister of Sports & Youth Services): History created. Congratulations team The Hockey India Women for making through the semi-finals defeating the here time Olympic Champion Australia. A proud moment & inspiring moment for all of us. Odisha is the only state in the country to sponsor any national team. This visionary decision of CM Naveen Patnaik has taken our national sport to a new heights. I am sure, other states too

VIREN RASQUINHA: Impressed with the way the Indians

defended post the goal. They didn't just defend the lead,

they almost attacked the lead. They were not afraid to go up

and press the Australians. The men's game made us much

more uncomfortable yesterday than the Australian women.

Hockey is scripting history with every move at Tokyo 2020!

We're into the semifinals of the Olympics for the 1st time

ANURAG THAKUR: Splendid Performance!!! Women's

the coaching staff. India is proud of you all & every Indian is celebrating this victory. Good luck for semis. Believe in yourself.

COL RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE: Congratulations to the Indian Women's Hockey Team for entering the Olympic semifinals. You've made India proud! Best wishes for the next match

ABHINAV BINDRA: Incredible Morning. So proud of our women's hockey team. Nothing unites us the way sport does!!!

SAKSHI MALIK: THESE GIRLS HAVE DONE IT! THEY HAVE DONE THE UNTHINKABLE! The Indian women's hockey team are into the SEMIFINALS after beating Australia 1-0.

PANKAJ ADVANI: Chak De India! Indian hockey has been super impressive at the Olympic Games. Imagine if both men and women came back with Gold medals First place medal. #Cheer4India

SUNIL CHHETRI: If you thought Sunday was good then our women have just gone and made Monday exceptional with a performance for the ages! First semifinal appearance in an Olympic Games and that's how you do it - with a big, solid fight. Had us glued throughout.

career in sports because they have now seen that you can have good things through it," the senior campaigner had then said. Much of the credit for the cred-Odisha, in partnership with Hockey India (HI), has conducted

major hockey tournaments in the state capital including the 2018 Men's World Cup, World League, Pro-League, Olympic qualifiers etc. And after India getting its own 'Chak de India' moment, many were quick to point out that Odisha and Naveen deserved gratitude.

jobs. All of them want to pursue a

Recently, the Odisha government promised Rs 6 crore to medal winners in the Olympics from the state. Odisha is also developing 14 new astro-turf surfaces. It should also be noted that Odisha will play host to the FIH Men's World Cup in 2023.

The hockey stadium coming up at Rourkela in Sundergarh district of Odisha will be named the 'Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium', the second venue for 2023 extravaganza. The relation of the sport with the Munda tribe can best be explained by the fact that Jaipal Singh Munda captained India at the Amsterdam Olympics in 1928, which marked the begin-

ning of India's run of eight gold medals at the Games A budget of Rs 120 crore has

been set for the Rourkela stadium, which will be the biggest hockey stadium in the country. "Spread over 15 acres of land, this stadium will be a sporting colosseum in its uniqueness in design and grandeur," Vishal Dev, principal secretary of sports and youth affairs department, Govt. of Odisha, had said earlier adding the stadium would be ready by June 2022.

The position India finally achieve at the Tokyo Olympics, does not really matter if one looks at the bigger picture. But there can be no doubts, that one of the main reasons for the turnaround in Indian hockey has been the involvement of the Odisha government and Chief Minister Patnaik championing the cause for hockey. His patronage has succeeded in putting the passion back and hockey in India will hopefully surge ahead from here.

said after the upset win. "But I'm super proud

of my team is, each one of them really worked so hard throughout the game. And we just said one thing to each other, 'Just believe in ourselves, we can do this well.'

India will play Argentina in their first-ever Olympic semifinal appearance Wednesday. The skipper said a sense of belief and determination to success helped them achieve the historic feat

"I think that belief like we can work really hard throughout the game... And this is only 60 minutes, just focus on the 60 minutes. Don't think further what will happen, just focus on

Kamalpreet finishes 6th



TOKYO: Discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur finished a creditable sixth in her first Olympics with a best throw of 63.70m in a raininterrupted final here Monday. The 25-year-old Kaur, who has qualified for the final as second best on Saturday, was never in the running for a medal in the eight rounds of competition which was interrupted by rain for more than an hour. She had a third round throw of 63.70m to end at sixth and equal 2010 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Krishna Poonia's performance in the 2012 London Olympics. American Valarie Allman took the gold with a first round throw of 68.98m while Kristin Pudenz (66.86m) of Germany and

the win over Australia is a thing of the past now as their focus shifts to the remaining two games in the competition.

"We made history by just reaching the semifinals and now we are looking forward to the semifinals, because we don't want to just finish here. In this tournament there's two more games left for winning medals," she said.

Indian women's best performance at the Olympics came way back in the 1980 Moscow Games. where they finished fourth out of six teams.

reigning World Champion Yaime Perez (65.72m) of Cuba won the silver and bronze respectively. Twotime defending champion Sandra Perkovic of Croatia was fourth with a best throw of 65.01m.

Equestrian Mirza finishes 23rd



returned without a medal for the **TOKYO:** Equestrian Fouaad Mirza second straight time at the Monday finished a creditable 23rd Olympics. Only the top 8 athletes in eventing after he became the qualify for the final. Tomar shot a first Indian to reach the final of the total of 1167 with 63 inner 10s in the qualification over the stages of event here. Mirza and his equine Seigneur Medicott sneaked into the kneeling, prone and standing, while Rajput, appearing in his third top-25 in the morning to make the Olympics, aggregated 1157 with 55 jumping finals and become the first Indian to do so. In the final, Mirza inner 10s. The cut was made at incurred 12.40 penalty points for an 1176. With this, Indian shooters overall 59.60 that included the failed to win a medal for a second points from the three rounds of successive Olympics.

KIREN RIJIJU: India's dream is coming to reality! Our Women's Hockey Team has defeated Australia! India's Men's and Women's teams have reached semi-finals at Tokyo 2020 Olympics! I have no words to express my excitement and happiness! DHANRAJ PILLAY: This win against Australia showed what

qualifying events - dressage, cross

creditable performance for the 29-

TOKYO: Indian shooters Aishwary

Pratap Singh Tomar and Sanjeev

Raiput failed to qualify for the

finals of the men's 50m rifle 3

positions event at the Tokyo

Olympics here Monday. Tomar

finished 21st in the qualification

while Rajput was placed in 32nd

Range as the Indian shooting team

position at the Asaka Shooting

country and jumping. It was a

year-old Bangalore rider Mirza,

who was the first equestrian to

qualify for the Olympics since

Imtiaz Anees in Sydney 2000.

Shooters finish

without medal

Credit to the Indian women's team.

can do more for the sports.

beating Australia.

Indian women are capable of. A step away from getting a medal & a giant leap of faith. Applause to the entire team &

VVS LAXMAN: Our girls have created history. Beaten Australia in the quarterfinal match of women's hockey by 1-0 to seal their spot in SEMIFINAL for the first time ever! Best wishes for the semis.

VIRENDER SEHWAG: Never ever ever ever estimate the Indians. Once again, the mighty spirit, the great selfbelief and never say die attitude at the forefront and a victory to remember for a long long time. Brilliant effort from our girls. Itni khushi shayad kisi jeet par mehsoos huvi hogi! Absolute Wow moment. First ever Olympics hockey semifinals for our girls. Filled with pride. Chak De India.

SHAH RUKH KHAN: (Replying to women's team head coach Sioerd Mariine's tweet - 'Sorry family, I (am) coming again later') Haan haan (yes yes) no problem. Just bring some Gold on your way back ... for a billion family members. This time Dhanteras is also on 2nd Nov. From Ex-coach: Kabin Khan (from movie 'Chak de India').



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik poses alongside captains, Rani Rampal (L) and Manpreet Singh, February 15, 2018 after Odisha government announced its association as official sponsor with the Indian hockey teams

MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Country	G	S	В	Tota	
1	China	29	17	16	62	
2	USA	22	25	17	64	
3	Japan	17	6	10	33	
4	Australia	14	4	15	33	
5	ROC	12	21	17	50	
6	Great Britain	11	12	12	35	
7	France	6	10	7	23	
8	Germany	6	6	11	23	
9	South Korea	6	4	9	19	
10	Netherlands	5	7	6	18	
62	India	0	1	1	2	

INDIA'S SCHEDULE

ATHLETICS: Annu Rani in women's javelin throw Qualification Group A: 5:50am IST; Tajinderpal Singh Toor in men's shot put Qualification Group A: 3:45am IST.

HOCKEY: India vs Belgium in men's semifinal: 7:00am IST.

WRESTLING: Sonam Malik vs Bolortuya Khurelkhuu (Mongolia) in women's 62kg. Seventh bout after 8:30am IST start.

New Delhi, August 2: In a major mega-event in Japan.

Taking note of the urgency of the Sharma's petition, the bench ordered communication of the order to the Paralympics Committee of India (PCI) through e-mail and sought a compliance report by Tuesday.

"For the time being, we direct the respondent No.1- Committee to recommend the name of petitioner (Sharma) as additional participant/additional entry for Men's 50m Rifle Position SH1, at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics without any exception and report compliance in that behalf by tomorrow, i.E., August 3, 2021," a three-judge bench of justices AM Khanwilkar, B R

Immediately include Naresh: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

victory for shooter Naresh Kumar Sharma before firing a shot in the upcoming Tokyo Paralympics, the Supreme Court Monday ordered the PCI to immediately include the five-time Paralympian as an additional participant for the sporting

Gavai and Krishna Murari ordered after an urgent hearing this afternoon.

The hearing assumed significance as the shooter, an Arjuna awardee, through senior lawyer Vikas Singh, mentioned the matter for hearing Monday itself before a bench headed by Chief Justice

NV Ramana by referring to the urgency saying that any delay would render his plea for selection infructuous as August 2 is the last day for the entry forms to sent. The CJI had assured the senior lawyer that he would see the files and decide and this led to listing of case for immediate hearing during the day itself. "Today is the last day," Singh submitted.

The three judge bench took up the case and asked about the representation from the PCI and was told by Singh that the President of the committee "switched off her phone after speaking for 5 minutes" with a lawyer named Satyam Rajput.

The bench said it would issue directions if the sports committee does not want to appear and asked Additional Solicitor General KM Natrajan, appearing for Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, about his views on "cut-off date for entering the bubble"

'There is a requirement to enter the bubble before cut-off date. What is that date? What is the last date to send names," the bench asked.

The central government has no objection to orders as the team selection has to be done by the committee and the government would -(be happy if medals increase, the law officer said.

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







