



CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT

Pakistani actor Sajal Aly says her show *Dhoop Ki Deewar* celebrates peace and unity between India and Pak

LEISURE P2



RAPIPAY IN VALLEY

RapiPay announced expansion of its presence in Kashmir with the launch of AEPS and micro ATM

TWO STATES P8



WUHAN MASS TESTING

Wuhan authorities would test its entire population after the city reported its first local infections in more than a year

INTERNATIONAL P10



ARMY COPTER CRASHES INTO LAKE

KATHUA/CHANDIGARH: An Army helicopter crashed into the Ranjit Sagar Dam lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua Tuesday, prompting the authorities to launch a massive search operation to trace the missing, an official said. The dam is located about 30 km from Pathankot in Punjab and the incident took place around 10.30 pm. Kathua Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) RC Kotwal told reporters that the forces and boats were mobilised for the search operation, after which some pieces of chopper were found.



NIFTY SCALES 16K FOR 1ST TIME

MUMBAI: The Sensex skyrocketed 873 points to a fresh closing peak while the Nifty finished above the 16,000-mark for the first time Tuesday as economic recovery hopes triggered across-the-board buying. Investors grew richer by ₹2.30 lakh crore, with market capitalisation of all BSE-listed reaching a lifetime high of ₹2,40,04,664.28 crore. Rising for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex ended 872.73 points or 1.65 per cent higher at its fresh closing record of 53,823.36. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rallied 245.60 points to an all-time peak of 16,130.75.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL
Taking too much time. By now the govt might have passed a couple of bills!



ON CLOUD NINE

Students celebrate their success after the announcement of CBSE Class X results at their school in New Delhi, Tuesday

99.04% students declared passed

CBSE CLASS X RESULTS
Bhubaneswar region's success rate 99.62%

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, August 3: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Tuesday declared Class X results. Students can check their results on CBSE's official website and Digilocker. Thiruvananthapuram region topped the board results with the highest pass percentage of 99.99 per cent. Bhubaneswar region recorded a pass percentage of 99.62 per cent. In the region, 99.04 per cent students were declared passed. The pass percentage of boys is 98.89 per cent and that of girls is 99.24 per cent, a difference of 0.35 per cent. Students of many schools in the Capital city did well in the exams. SAI International School continued its legacy of achieving excellence. This year 65.6% of students scored

EX-REGULAR QUESTIONS AT OFFLINE HSC EXAMS
CUTTACK: Twenty regular candidates appearing for the 10th Board offline exams were handed over ex-regular question papers of 2014. The incident was reported from Board High School where the offline exam for Science was being held. The incident triggered indignation among examinees who alleged irregularity in conducting the offline exams. However, soon after the goof-up was brought to the notice of the invigilators, correct question papers were given. The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) officials present at the centre said the error was rectified and students did not face any inconvenience to write the papers.

India to meet Germany in bronze playoff

AGENCIES
Tokyo, August 3: The Indian men's hockey team's dream of an Olympic gold after 41 years remained unfulfilled as it lost 2-5 to world champions Belgium in the last-four stage but the side is still in the hunt for a bronze in the Tokyo Games here on Tuesday. Alexander Hendrickx (19th, 49th, 53rd minutes), the tournament's highest goal getter, scored a hat-trick while Loïck Luypaert (2nd minute) and John-John Dohmen (60th) also struck to hand the reigning silver-medallists their second successive entry into the final of the Olympics. India's goals came from the sticks of Harmanpreet Singh (7th) and Mandeep Singh (8th). The Indians still have a chance to secure an elusive medal from the Olympics as they will feature in the bronze medal match Thursday against Germany, who lost 1-3 to Australia in their semifinal clash. India's last appearance in the final of the Olympics came in 1980 Moscow Games where they went on to win their last of the eight gold medals. The Indians had only themselves to blame for Tuesday's disappointment as Belgium's all four goals came from penalty corners. The Indian defence was put under relentless pressure by the Belgians. Belgium's game plan was clear from the onset as they tried to enter the Indian circle and earn penalty corners with Hendrickx and Luypaert in their ranks. The play worked to perfection as the Indian defence wilted under pressure to concede the set pieces. India too earned five penalty corners in the match but could make use of just one. The Indians started slowly as Belgium had the initial burst of the match, controlling the proceedings for the first five minutes which also yielded them a goal.

Land conversion automated

INITIATIVE LAUNCHED ON A PILOT BASIS IN ROURKELA

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, August 3: As part of its 5T initiatives, the state government Tuesday launched an automated system for conversion of land from lease hold to free hold in Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) on a pilot basis. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra launched the service in the presence of Revenue and Disaster Management Secretary Bishnupada Sethi, Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan. Mahapatra asked the RMC and the district administration to make the system more citizen-centric by reducing the burden of document compliances at the time of submission of applications. He sought exploring possibilities of substituting affidavits and indemnity with self-declaration. He sought to link the system with Jana Seva Kendras and Common Service Centers so that citizens could submit applications from those points. He also advised to make the provision for online submission of applications and fees from individual computers so that people could do it from their homes. Sethi said operation of the system would be closely watched and necessary modifications would be made based on feedback from users and stakeholders. The District Collector said in the offline system, applicants had to run to government office 5-6 times for submitting physical copies of the documents and meeting various queries. Applications were also to be sent to different sections and offices for verification.



- TECH ADVANTAGE**
 - The citizen-centric system will reduce the burden of document compliances at the time of submission of applications
 - Later, it will be linked to Jana Seva Kendras and Common Service Centers so that applications could be submitted from those points
 - Operation of the system would be closely watched and necessary modifications would be made to further simplify it

Offices to work in full strength

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, August 3: After a three-month hiatus, the state government Tuesday restored functioning of all its offices. The General Administration & Public Grievance department has issued an order to this effect. Now onwards, all departments of the state government and subordinate offices in the state will function with full strength of employees until further orders. As most of the employees are now fully vaccinated, the government has asked all of them to mandatorily attend offices regularly. The employees who are unable to get vaccinated for medical or some other compelling reason(s), may seek exemption from attending office from the head of office, which would be considered on a case-to-case basis, it said. "Employees who are neither vaccinated nor exempted would not be permitted to attend office and their absence will be treated as wilful," the order said. However, all state government offices will function on all Saturdays (excluding second and fourth Saturdays) of a month. Till now, the offices remained closed on all Saturdays in view of Covid-19 pandemic.



above 90% and 27.6% scored the school average of 91.1%. Chairperson of SAI International Silpi Sahoo and Principal Nilakantha Panigrahi congratulated the students and teachers for their hard work and sincerity. Amrutanshu Mohanty, who scored 99.8%, said, "I was expecting 90%. I am very happy that my score is 99.8%. As students we worked hard. Our teachers were always there to support us. During the pandemic, our learning and exam preparation never got hit. Going forward I would prepare for Engineering." ODM Public School recorded commendable results in AISSE (Class X) 2021 of CBSE. Sriram Patnaik of ODM scored 499 marks out of 500 (99.8%). 18 students have scored 95% and above while 78 students scored 90% and above. ODM

Principal Satyabrata Minaketan congratulated the students, parents and teachers for their diligent efforts. Students of BJEM too did well. All 245 students of the school have passed. While 95 students secured 90%, 230 students got 1st division. Sitibarna Tripathy and Aanannya Dash at 99.4% were the school toppers. Mona Lisa Bal, chairperson, KiiT International School, said the Board took the best possible decision in the circumstances we are in. Cancelling the exams and evaluating students based on their entire academic session was a sensible approach. Due to the Covid second wave and the lockdown, Class 10 and 12 examinations were cancelled this year. Instead, the CBSE prepared the 2021 results of Class 10 and 12 students on the basis of internal assessment.

Simone settles for bronze in balance beam



AGENCIES
Tokyo, August 3: American superstar Simone Biles, who had withdrawn from many gymnastics events at Tokyo Olympics citing mental health issues, bagged a bronze medal in the balance beam competition Tuesday. Simone finished third behind Chinese duo of Guan Chenchen and Tang Xijing. Simone ended with a total of 14,000 points after getting 6.100 for difficulty and 7.900 for execution. Guan had a total of 14,633 while Tang had 14,233. The 24-year-old American returned to competition after a week due to mental health concerns, especially the 'twisties'. Simone, the reigning world champion on the balance beam, had also won the bronze in the event during the 2016 Rio Olympics. Arriving for the Tokyo Olympics, Simone was looking to defend her four gold medals from the 2016 Rio Olympics. But after being unable to do two-and-a-half twists on vault during the first rotation of the women's team final last week Tuesday, she withdrew from the competition in order to protect her mental health. In her absence, the USA was unable to defend its gold from the 2016 Olympics and settled for silver behind the gold medal winning team, the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC). Simone had later said that she would make a decision on her participation in each event by every day. Later, she proceeded to withdraw from the individual all-around, vault, uneven bars and floor exercise finals. She tried to explain what was happening with her, with regard to the 'twisties', a mental block for gymnasts where the mind and body are not in rhythm. "For anyone saying I quit, I didn't quit, my mind and body are simply not in sync as you can see here," she wrote on her Instagram stories. "I don't think you realise how dangerous this is on a hard/competition surface." She added that the twisties used to affect vault and floor exercise routines, but has extended to skills on all apparatuses. On competition days, she has been cheering her team-mates Sunisa Lee, who won the gold medal in all-around event and MyKayla Skinner, who replaced her in vault and took the silver medal. Now Simone, the winner of four gold medals at 2016 Rio Olympics, has the chance to claim her first gold in Tokyo.

| MARKET WATCH | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| INDEX | | VIATION |
| SENSEX | 53823.36 | ▲ 872.73 |
| NIFTY | 16130.80 | ▲ 245.60 |
| DOLLAR | 74.44 | ▼ ₹0.12 |
| EURO | 88.52 | ▼ ₹0.13 |
| GOLD | ₹47,867 | ▼ ₹178 |
| SILVER | ₹67,828 | ▼ ₹61 |

| WEATHER | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| | BHUB | CTK |
| TEMP. MAX | 31.7°C | 32.2°C |
| TEMP. MIN | 25.6°C | 25.5°C |
| Humidity | 81% | 73% |
| Rainfall | Nil | Nil |

Forecast: Light rain very likely

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ELLEN POMPEO NOT EXCITED ABOUT HER ACTING CAREER

Grey's Anatomy actress Ellen Pompeo hasn't ruled out returning to acting one day, but she isn't 'super excited' about her acting career. "I'm not saying I'll never act again, but I'm not super excited about my acting career," Pompeo said, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

ELBA WANTS PEOPLE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH CINEMA AGAIN

British star Idris Elba currently awaits the release of his upcoming film *The Suicide Squad*, which will hit theatres August 5. The actor says he wants people to fall in love with cinema again, which he labels as the 'lifeblood' of the industry.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will make a great deal of progress which will help you set aside quite a chunk of money for lean times. There are yet more deals to be signed which will turn out to be landmarks in your business. Ganesh says that your current labours will bear fruits in the future.

TAURUS
In the more morning you are due to be gripped by an urge to acquire a fresh look, a complete make over. You will probably visit a beauty parlour for necessary treatment. Ganesh says that you will be desperate to make an impression on the people around you. In the evening you are likely to be vexed and puzzled by some particular issue.

GEMINI
You will be able to improve your social standing and status tremendously today. You will spend all your energies in making your heart's desires come true. You may end up proposing to that special someone and will find your life partner. You may finally decide to take the decision to tie the knot and settle down, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will take a bold stand to achieve full capacity and efficiency. You will come out with new ideas and strategy, which will prove to be useful and profitable. Avoid confrontation and keep your cool, says Ganesh.

LEO
Mental well-being radiates from physical health, says Ganesh, and today, you seem to be inching closer to a synthesis of the two. It is very likely that you shall remain physically alert and spiritually awake today. Career-wise, you may find yourself going for a few interviews.

VIRGO
Your focus of attention will be your monetary matters today, and working towards building on your profits. Ganesh says it will be better if you make arrangements to set aside some money for the rainy day. You may seal some deals and agreements today that will prove to be very beneficial for your business in the future.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will be able to show your personality and gain chances to enhance it too, which will be beneficial in improving your standing in society. Any new task undertaken by you shall be completed confidently. Ganesh cautions you to beware of your co workers today.

SCORPIO
Systematic and organised, you are the one who would like to keep the work pending till the last moment. Instead, you prefer to complete your tasks in advance, when it comes to work. Your heart blossoms with love and affection as you look forward to a romantic date in the evening.

SAGITTARIUS
A typical trait, you are possessive about your belongings today, says Ganesh. You are easily able to meet your deadlines at work and submit the things on time. This will keep your energy levels intact. In a nutshell, a bright and beautiful day in store for you.

CAPRICORN
You are an idol for those who find it difficult to maintain a balance between personal and professional life. During the day, you will give importance to work rather than focusing on your passion, says Ganesh. You will, however, take some small breaks here and there to freshen up your mood.

AQUARIUS
Put your best dress on, get a smart hairdo, and polish your shoes - you have to make your presence felt! Don't depend too much on the outer appearance though. You will need to apply your mind and make some vital decisions because they will have a permanent impact on your life, advises Ganesh.

PISCES
You will harbour feelings of attraction towards those of the opposite sex, and are also likely to benefit from them. You will find lady luck favouring you. Post afternoon should see you struggling with a tough decision. Overall, the day ought to be routine, with nothing exceptional lurking to surprise you, says Ganesh.

Richa's *Girls Will Be Girls* script selected for Gotham Week



Mumbai: Richa Chadha's script of her production venture *Girls Will Be Girls* has been selected as part of the international features section at this year's 'Gotham Week'. The actress hopes to be able to find 'like-minded' investors and collaborators to make the 'exciting film'.

Gotham Week is an annual event that brings together storytellers from films, television, and audio and is sponsored by Netflix, Amazon Studios, Audible, SAGindie and WarnerMedia.

Girls Will Be Girls is an Indo-French co-production between Pushing Burtons Studio (Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal), Crawling Angel Films (Sanjay Gulati and Pooja Chauhan), and others..

Richa said: "We hope to be able to find like-minded investors and collaborators at Gotham Week to join us in making this exciting film."

The team recently wrapped up shoot for a video teaser. IANS

Sajal Aly's latest show roots for Indo-Pak peace



Mumbai: Pakistani actress Sajal Aly who also appeared in the late Sridevi-starrer *Mom* in the past, says her latest show *Dhoop Ki Deewar* that released on an Indian OTT platform - celebrates peace and unity between India and Pakistan.

The story revolves around Vishal from India and Sara from Pakistan who find their lives interconnected when they lose their fathers in war and their common grief becomes a foundation

of their friendship. The show is directed by Haseeb Hassam and written by Umera Ahmed.

Talking about the show, Sajal said, "*Dhoop Ki Deewar* is a project that celebrates peace and most importantly unity between two countries. I am a director's actor, so 50 per cent of my work depends on what the director expects from me and the rest is what I believe is required of myself."

Produced by Motion Content Group and Hamdan Films, *Dhoop Ki Deewar*, is a Zindagi original streaming on ZEE5. IANS

Monica plays femme fatale in *Cartel*

Mumbai: Actress Monica Dogra, who is turning heads with her back-to-back unconventional character choices, will be a part of the action drama, *Cartel*. Monica will be seen playing Maya, Abhay's (played by Rithvik Dhanjani) love interest.

Speaking about her character Monica shares: "Maya is sexy, attractive, manipulative and yet charming. All my characters have been different from what I have played in the past. Maya is something I have never played on screen. She is sensuous and mystical."

The story of web show is based in Mumbai with action, drama and power play. It takes the viewers through the journey of five crime lords. These cartels are based in different areas of the city. How they carry out their illegal operations and how political, judiciary and corporate bodies are closely intertwined with the underworld of contemporary times forms the basic crux of the story. It features Tanuj Virwani, Rithvik Dhanjani, Sanaya Pithawalla and 137 other actors.

Cartel streams from August 20 on ALTBalaji and MX Player Gold. IANS



Kareena backs initiative to empower artisans

In its first edition with 110 designers participating, *Baradari* was amongst one of India's largest fashion fundraisers garnering almost ₹50 lakh for five weaver and embroidery communities

The *Baradari* project returns in its second season with actor Kareena Kapoor Khan lending her support to the fashion initiative. *Baradari* stands for economic equality and social justice between designers and artisans.

In its first edition, with 110 designers participating, it was amongst one of India's largest fashion fundraisers raising almost Rs 50 lakh for five weaver and embroidery communities. The fundraiser was intended to serve as seed capital, encouraging the artisan to be able to conduct a sustainable livelihood independently.

Kareena is an instrumental part of the project and has even helped in choosing the project's name. She continues her association with the fundraiser this year as a symbol of her commitment towards the mission of *Baradari*. "Baradari is a wonderful initiative as it speaks about

economic equality in the world of fashion and textiles. This is the most important conversation fashion in India needs to be having. Designers and artisans are partners in making an outfit, and *Baradari* wants all of us to acknowledge that partnership. I am so excited to be a part of *Baradari* once again this year, especially after seeing the impact of the funds we raised last year..." said the actress.

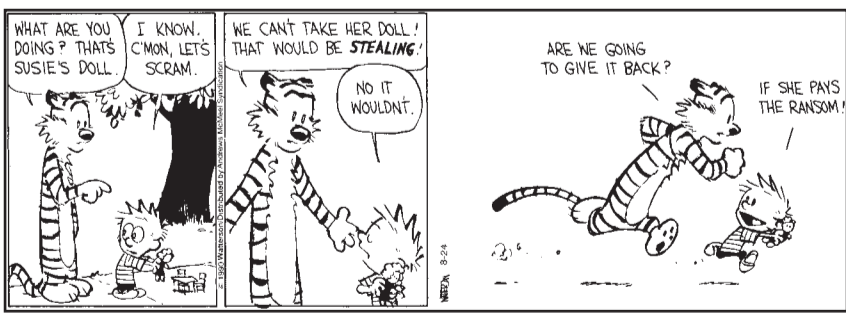
This year, reputed designers such as Sabyasachi, Tarun Tahiliani, Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla, Manish Malhotra, Anamika Khanna, Rahul Mishra, Raw Mango, Varana, Monisha Jaising and Masaba and accessory labels of Misho, Outhouse and Rohira are among the 70-plus names who have donated their signature products, for an e-Commerce sale, to raise money for their artisan brothers, their 'baradari'. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

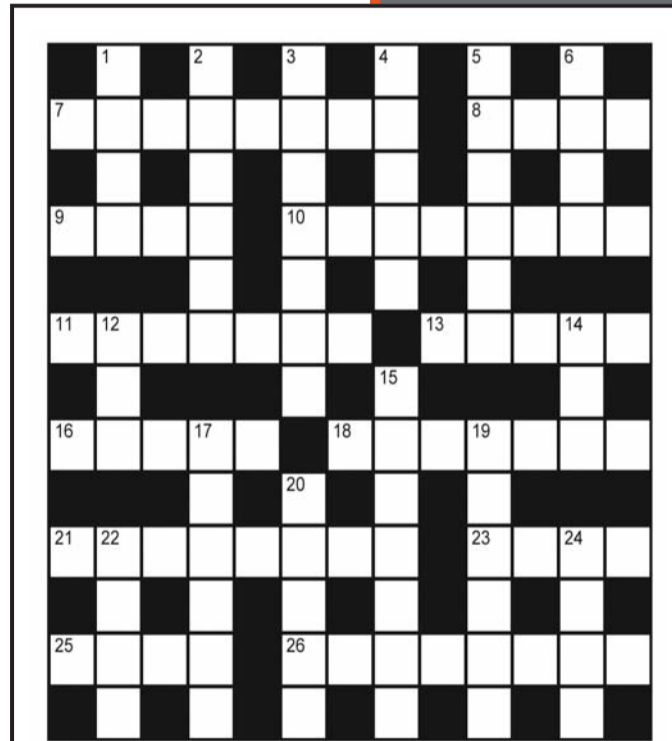


BREVITY



FUN post

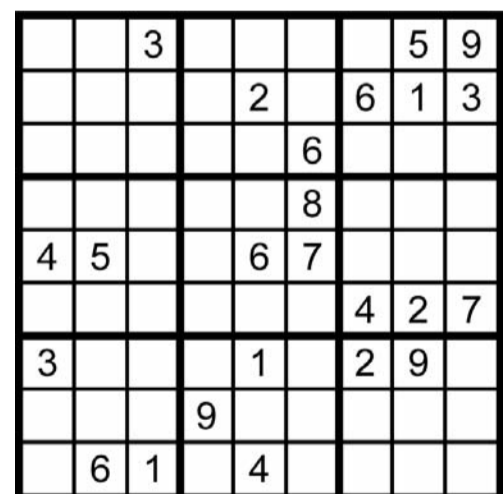
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Beauty treatment
 - 8 Consumer
 - 9 Kind of surgeon
 - 10 Speak well of the dead
 - 11 Devour
 - 13 Eucalyptus eater
 - 16 Inclement
 - 18 Hooligan
 - 21 Similar
 - 23 Cavort
 - 25 Cane toad
 - 26 Smart aleck
 - 4 Water sources
 - 5 Avid (4,2)
 - 6 Invoice amounts
 - 12 Egg cells
 - 14 Pastoral place
 - 15 Broad sword
 - 17 Unkempt
 - 19 Arrange
 - 20 Circus performer
 - 22 Mystique
 - 24 Filly's mother
- Down**
- 1 Place to hibernate
 - 2 Market features
 - 3 Relic
 - repositories

SUDOKU

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

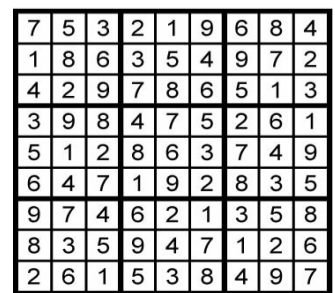


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



MUSEUM REOPENS

The Odisha State Museum in Bhubaneswar welcomes back visitors, Tuesday, after the state government eased the restrictions further

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World | 19,98,99,339 | 18,03,06,792 | 42,54,127 |
| India | 3,17,26,507 | 3,08,96,354 | 4,25,195 |
| Odisha | 9,80,866 | 9,62,088 | 6,102 |

Minor girl hangs self in City slum

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: A minor girl has committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan of her room at a slum in Unit VIII area here. Police have started probe after registering a case (68/21) in this regard.



The girl's mother had allegedly rebuked her for neglecting studies and talking over cellphone

According to sources, the girl's mother, a housemaid, had allegedly rebuked her for neglecting the studies and talking over mobile phone for several hours Monday morning.

Upset over the issue, the Class IX girl hanged herself in the room after returning from tuition Monday evening. The victim's mother and her elder sister had gone outside when she took the extreme step.

Guard shoots himself dead before police

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: A security guard committed suicide by shooting himself before the police at Ganganagar under Airport Police limits here during the wee hours of Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Krushna Chandra Dash, a native of Sarankul in Nayagarh district, who was staying in Ganganagar area for the past few years. He was working at a security agency.

According to a source, Krushna shot himself dead with his gun around 2am Tuesday.

Krushna had also worked as an attendant at the Capital Hospital. He was allegedly removed for misbehaving with some women staffers at the hospital. The Airport police had also arrested Krushna for inflicting severe injuries on his wife in January this year.

He had been suspecting his wife of having extramarital affairs and the couple would often quarrel over the issue. They both engaged in a heated argument last night too.



KRUSHNA HAD WORKED AS AN ATTENDANT AT THE CAPITAL HOSPITAL

HE WAS ALLEGEDLY REMOVED FROM THE HOSPITAL FOR MISBEHAVING WITH SOME WOMEN STAFFERS THERE

THE AIRPORT POLICE HAD ARRESTED KRUSHNA FOR INFLECTING SEVERE INJURIES ON HIS WIFE IN JANUARY 2021

The family members of the deceased, however, claimed all honky dory between Krushna and his wife.

The wife and daughter of Krushna alleged that some residents of the colony, where they

were staying earlier, had reportedly assaulted the deceased around 10 days ago. Krushna had been under severe mental stress over the issue.

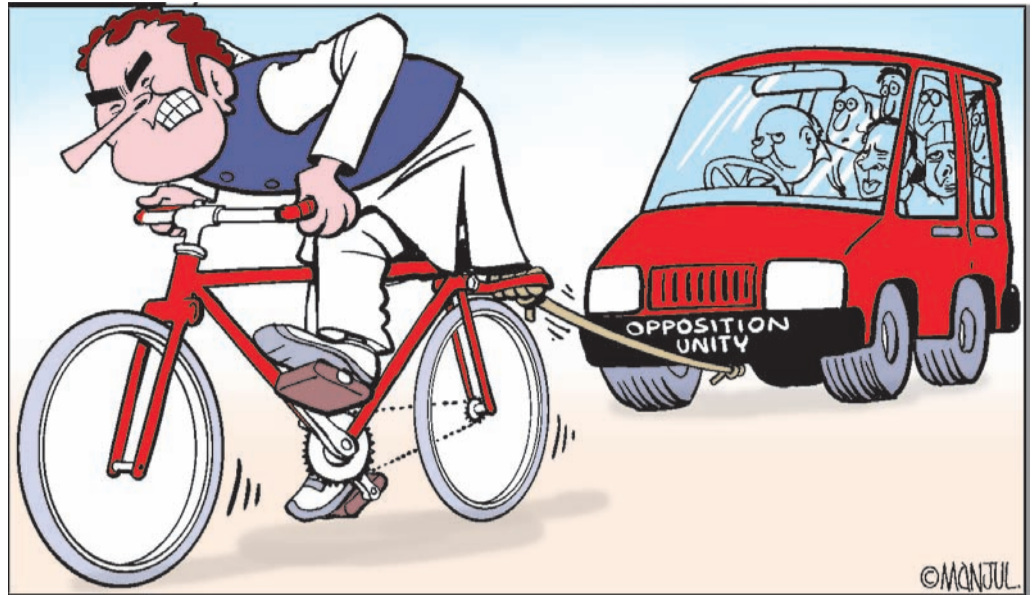
He first tried to shoot himself inside the house but the family members prevented him from doing so. He informed the police before coming out of his house and shot himself as soon as the PCR van reached the spot. He was rushed to Capital Hospital where the doctors declared him 'brought dead'.

The police have started an investigation into the issue after registering a case (19/21) in this regard. Meanwhile, rising suicides in the Capital city has become a major cause of worry for the police.

As per available data, 151 persons have committed suicide in the city between January and June, 2021. There were 310 suicides in the city during 2020 as against 220 in 2019.

As many as 38 persons (16 in May and 22 in June) committed suicide in the city during the last two months.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



CHIT FUND SCAM

Rose Valley Group's Odisha head nabbed

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Odisha police has arrested the state head of the Rose Valley Group, Bikramjit Bhowmik, from West Bengal in a multi-crore rupees chit fund scam case, officials said.

"The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) arrested the regional manager of Rose Valley Company in a multi-crore fraud case from Midnapore in West Bengal. This refers to EOW case no 15/2013. Further investigation is on," the EOW of Odisha police said in a tweet, Tuesday.

Bhowmik was arrested from Midnapur in West Bengal Monday and was produced before the local court, Tamluk and being brought on transit remand for his production before the Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) court at Balasore in Odisha, the police said.

Bhowmik was the regional manager of Rose Valley Group of companies of Odisha region and he was absconding since registration of the case.

The Rose Valley Group has duped the investors at Soro branch of ₹2.82 crore

It has been ascertained that the chit fund firm has collected several crores of rupees from the depositors of all over Odisha. The company has duped the investors of Soro branch to the tune of Rs 2.82 crore. Earlier, the chit fund firm's chairman, Goutam Kundu, and managing director (MD) Sibamoy Dutta had been remanded in connection with this case. Further, another accused Badal Chandra Kar, manager of the company's Soro branch, had been arrested and forwarded to court.

Bank balance of over Rs 83 crore and properties worth more than Rs 11 crore in the name of Rose Valley Group of Companies have been attached. Four charge-sheets have also been filed by EOW, Bhubaneswar, which is sub-judice in the Balasore OPID court, they said.

State gets ₹395cr RUSA assistance

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 3: The Union government has released Rs 395.42 crore to the state under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for higher education institutions including degree colleges till date.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that a total of 161 higher educational institutions in the state got approval under the scheme.

The institutions which got approval under the scheme are: Angul (5), Bolangir (4), Balasore (14), Bargarh (5), Boudh (2), Bhadrak (4), Cuttack (11), Deogarh (2), Denkanal (6), Gajapati (4), Ganjam (10), Jagatsinghpur (4), Jajpur (7), Jeyore (1), Jharsuguda (7), Kalahandi (5), Kandhamal (4), Kendrapara (5), Keonjhar (5), Khurda (16), Koraput (4), Malkangiri (2), Mayurbhanj (8), Nabarangpur (1), Nayagarh (4), Nuapada (3), Puri (5), Rayagada (3), Sambalpur (6), Sonepur (2), and Sundargarh (5). Funds are released for creation of universities by conversion of colleges in a cluster, upgradation of autonomous institutions, infrastructure grants to colleges and universities, new model degree colleges, upgradation of degree colleges to model degree colleges.

Is 3rd or 4th dose of vax needed: Amar to Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 3: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Amar Patnaik Tuesday asked the Union government whether there is need for administering third and fourth dose of Covid-19 vaccines and also suggested an increase in supply of vials.

Speaking during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha, the BJD MP referred to the statements of the World Bank and the IMF that the best economic policy currently is the health policy and that in the health policy, the vaccine policy is of paramount importance. He sought to know from the Union government whether it is going to roll out a vaccine plan for children between 12 and 18 years.

"Are you going to roll out a plan for children between 12 and 18

years? Is there a need for the third and the fourth dose?" Amar asked.

He apprised the House that Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has already laid a lot of importance on the vaccine policy. "I think the House would be very happy to learn that Bhubaneswar is the first city in the entire country which has vaccinated its entire population. That is because of the

BJD for dedicated centre to promote tribal culture

New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal's Rajya Sabha MP Sujeet Kumar

Tuesday sought to know from the Centre whether the latter is planning to set up a dedicated centre to promote tribal art and culture.

Speaking during Question Hour in the Upper House of the Parliament, the BJD MP said that

the KBK districts in Odisha are tribal dominated and have unique art & culture.

"They have unique culture, dance, folklore and music. I would like to know from the Union government whether it is planning to set up a dedicated centre to promote this unique culture, dance, painting and folklore," the parliamentarian said.

In response to the question posed by Kumar, Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said that the government has been preserving the tribal art through the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training and cultural zones.

also we will be able to administer them," the BJD parliamentarian said.



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

supply of vaccines. The Chief Minister has said that if we are given 3 lakh vaccines per day, then

Goof-up in offline HSC exam sparks ire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 3: In a major goof-up during the offline High School Certificate (HSC) examinations at Secondary Board High School here Tuesday, the question papers of regular and ex-regular students were interchanged.



"The regular students were handed over the question papers meant for ex-regular students and vice versa at the offline HSC examination centre at the Secondary Board High School," said a source. The glitches in the examination process irked the parents of the students who created a ruckus at the school gate. On being informed, Mangalabag police reached the spot and tried to pacify the agitating parents.

Soon, the authorities swung into action and rectified the glitches. "Steps were taken to provide the correct question papers to both regular and ex-regular students," said source in the school.

Some parents, meanwhile, alleged that the centre authorities granted additional one hour to the regular students to compensate the loss of time due to the glitches while they did not provide any additional time to the ex-regular students.

Protesting the gaffe, some parents have lodged a complaint with the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha, sources said.

Notably, a total of 15,136 regular, ex-regular and correspondence course students are appearing for the HSC examination in offline mode at 504 centres across Odisha.

All's well as many come out with flying colours in CBSE Class X

The Covid-19 pandemic has made life tough for everybody and the students are no exception. The uncertainty about conduct of exams in educational institutions took a toll on the students amid closure of schools for a prolonged period owing to Covid-induced lockdowns. In the end, all examinations were cancelled and marks were awarded through an alternative assessment formula based on overall performances in the previous tests. Initially, many were sceptical about the method but, in the end, a majority is of the opinion that it was better than sitting for physical exams amid fears of transmitting the virus. **Orissa POST** spoke to a cross section of students and parents after the CBSE Class X exam results were declared Tuesday.

I was very happy to know my results. I am very blessed that I could make my grandfather happy and proud, as well as my parents who gave us immense emotional and mental support, and teachers without whose unconditional support this wouldn't have been possible. School in every way tried to help us, and I would like to thank them for keeping faith and constantly providing us with support whenever we required them.

Krishna Tanutrishna (99.6%)
My results came as a pleasant surprise. I'm very thankful to my parents, teachers, and school for all the guidance and support they ex-



tended to us, even at such odd hours. We are indeed quite lucky to have been part of the school as we knew which teacher to approach to clear doubts. I would like to take up Engineering as my future studies.

Yashika Panda (99%)
I would have sat for the exam but the situation was not favourable. So, we have to accept this. Also, this percentage gives

kick to the past performance of the students in getting good mark. My aim is to study science and for that I have started preparations.

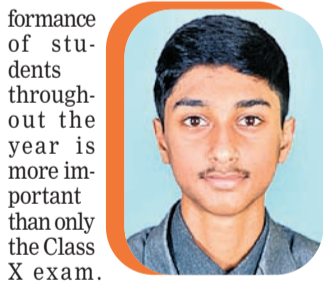
Ananya Dash (99.4%)
The year 2020 posed a great challenge to all of us. I worked hard keeping the Board exams as my final goal. Therefore, the cancellation of board exams came

as an anti-climax and the scoring methodology and sundry rumours regarding it, kept me on tenterhooks.

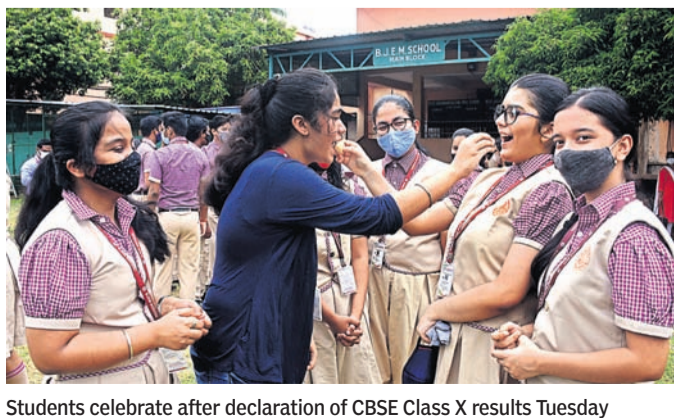
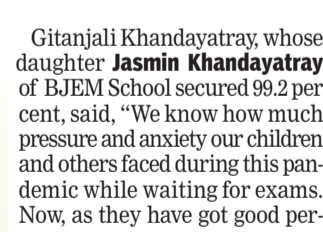
Jayashree Patnaik, whose son **Sriram Patnaik** of ODM Public School got 99.8 per cent, said that it was a satisfying end to the year which was very difficult for the students. I will say that overall per-

formance of students throughout the year is more important than only the Class X exam. Sriram's preference is biology and he has a goal to become a doctor.

Gitanjali Khandayatray, whose daughter **Jasmin Khandayatray** of BJEM School secured 99.2 per cent, said, "We know how much pressure and anxiety our children and others faced during this pandemic while waiting for exams. Now, as they have got good percentage, we are happy and also want to give them freedom to choose whatever they want to do."



Jasmin Khandayatray



Students celebrate after declaration of CBSE Class X results Tuesday

State seeks passenger trains between Haridaspur, Paradip

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The state government has once again written to the Railways demanding introduction of passenger train service on Haridaspur-Paradip route at the earliest.

This time, Commerce and Transport special secretary Manoj Mishra has written to the general manager of East Coast Railway (ECoR).

"Considering the fact that providing rail connectivity to all the districts is stated policy of the government, and keeping in view the aspirations of the local people who have been patiently waiting for the passenger trains, it is requested that passenger train services be introduced expeditiously," Mishra said in his letter.

Haridaspur-Paradip Railway Company Limited (HPRCL) was incorporated in the year 2006 to undertake construction, financing, operations and maintenance of the new rail link project, he said.

To make the project economically viable, the state government participated in the project and subscribed for equity. At present,

To make the project economically viable, the state government has participated in the project and subscribed for equity

Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Railways and state government have similar shareholding in the company.

The railway project was commissioned in the year 2020. It is connecting Kendrapara district to the railway map for the first time.

Earlier, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan have already made reference to Union Minister of Railways to ensure quick introduction of passenger train services on this important new railway line.

The 82-km rail link between Paradip and Haridaspur passing through Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Jajpur districts is most widely anticipated railway line in the state since sanctioning of the project in 1996. Passenger train service is a long-standing demand of the people of Kendrapara.

DGP unveils NH Traffic PS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulnakhara, August 3: Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay Tuesday inaugurated a National Highway Traffic Police Station at Pratapnagar along the National Highway-16 under Cuttack Sadar area here Tuesday.

Built at an expenditure of Rs 2.01 crore, the new police station is aimed at reducing road fatalities besides addressing traffic-related issues on the national highway, the DGP said.

Twin city police commissioner



Saumendra Priyadarshi, additional police commissioner Rekha Lohani, Cuttack deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Prateek Singh, additional DCP (Traffic) KK Panigrahi and other senior police officials were present on the occasion.

State adds 1,129 new cases, 69 deaths

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Odisha Tuesday registered 1,129 new Covid-19 cases, which took the tally to 9,80,866, while 69 fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 6,120, a Health department official said.

The coastal state currently has 14,325 active cases. As many as 9,60,386 patients, including 1,785 Monday, have recovered from the viral disease, the official said. Of the 1,129 new cases, 657 were reported from quarantine centres and rest detected during contact tracing, he said.

Khurda district, which encompasses state capital Bhubaneswar, reported the maximum number of new cases at 388, followed by Cuttack at 135. All 28 other districts recorded less than 100 infections each.

Khurda alone accounted for 23 fresh fatalities followed by nine from Cuttack, seven from Puri, six from Kendrapara and three each from Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jagatsinghpur and Bhadrak.

1,903 deaths were registered in July, which pushed the case fatality rate to 2.89 per cent.

This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities in the past.

The Health department, however, explained that the daily fatalities announced in July also included backlog from May and June, the audit process for which took time.

Over 1.62 crore sample tests have been conducted in the state thus far,



FILE PHOTO

including 59,378 Monday. Odisha's positivity rate stands at 6.04 per cent, the official said.

As many as 1,67,63,047 people have so far been inoculated with Covid-19 vaccines, of which 39,54,883 beneficiaries have received both the doses, he added.

CONG DEMANDS AUDIT OF COVID DEATHS

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) spokesperson Nishikant Mishra Tuesday demanded a special audit of Covid deaths in the state.

Mishra said right from the beginning, the government has encouraged the irregularities in providing correct data about Covid deaths and is now deliberately trying to suppress the figures.

The Congress leader said the Orissa High Court has expressed its displeasure over the affidavit on Covid deaths submitted by the gov-

ernment to the court. He said the Odisha government has sought time to submit the data on Covid deaths July 5 but submitted the report July 20 last. After analysing the report submitted by the government, the HC July 28 said the report was incomplete and asked why the government was silent on the modalities adopted for audit of Covid deaths at the district level, Mishra said. He said the government has not submitted any data on 117 Covid deaths during the last two months in Nayagarh district.

Centenarian defeats virus

Amidst the coronavirus induced gloom, a 100-year-old man receiving treatment at SUM Covid Hospital in the Capital city has defeated the disease spreading cheer all around.

Brundaban Samal, a resident of Jharpada area of the City, was admitted to the hospital in a serious condition July 26 after being tested positive for Covid-19 and was rushed into the ICU.

Doctors treating the centenarian found that he had developed pneumonia and had difficulty in breathing.

"It was a challenge to treat such an old person who had a cyst in the kidney, but we did what we could under the circumstances," the treating doctors said.

Samal walked out of the hospital Tuesday with the family members being effusive in their praise of the treatment provided to him.

"We are thankful to the doctors, nurses and paramedics for the care they took of my grandfather," said Alok Samal, his grandson.

Several persons in their 90's, who had been treated at the SUM Covid Hospital earlier, had emerged victorious in the battle against the pandemic but Samal is the first centenarian to do so in the hospital, SUM hospital sources said Tuesday.



BJP youth wing members stage a demonstration at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar Tuesday condemning the alleged irregularities in Odisha Staff Selection Commission

Four-day remand for OSSC member's PS

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The special judge (Vigilance) Tuesday allowed the sleuths of the anti-corruption agency to take Biranchi Narayan Sahoo, private secretary to a member of Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC), on remand for four days for further probe into the disproportionate assets (DA) case.

Sahoo was Monday given compulsory retirement by the state government following his arrest in the DA case July 31.

Sahoo will be produced before the court again after the end of the remand period August 6 afternoon. The Vigilance officials aimed at eliciting the illicit sources through which Sahoo accumulated such huge amount of money. The sleuths are likely to question Sahoo over his alleged involvement in a possible recruitment scam in the OSSC.

On the other hand, two officers of the Vigilance department Tuesday examined various documents related to Sahoo. The seized laptop, mobile phones of Sahoo have also been sent for forensic examination.

Meanwhile, job aspirants continued raising their voice against alleged irregularities in the examination conducted by the OSSC for various jobs during the past years. Notably, the Vigilance sleuths found Sahoo possessing DA valued around 268 per cent more than his known sources of income. Earlier, the officials had unearthed properties worth over Rs 3.79 crore in Sahoo's possession Friday. He purchased several landed properties in the name of his wife, a co-accused in the case. The vigilance also suspected that Sahoo had received huge kickbacks through his brother-in-law as well.

CM: Ensure O2 plants at DHHs by Aug-end

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday directed the authorities to ensure oxygen plants are operational in 20 district headquarters hospitals (DHHs) across the state by the end of August in the wake of a possible third wave of Covid-19.

"Two officers are specially engaged by the state government for inspection of production work in oxygen plants and management," Patnaik was quoted as saying in a release issued by the Information and Public Relations department.

The Odisha government has formed a task force headed by the CMs principal advisor A K Tripathy to coordinate movement of supply of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) to other states.

Official sources said steel makers from the state had supplied nearly 47,800 tonne of LMO during the second wave of the pandemic in the country.

The Health department, however, said the impact of the possible third wave would be much less in Odisha compared to other states.

"Health experts have predicted the onset of the third wave in August. Going by the downward trajectory of Covid-19 positive cases in Odisha at present, we can say it will have less impact on our state," Director, Medical Education and Training (DMET), CBK Mohanty, told reporters here.

As the next wave is expected to impact children more, the DMET said the Odisha government has made special bed arrangements for them in government hospitals and medical colleges.

Nandankanan sees 1,375 visitors on Day 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Barang, August 3: After remaining out of the bounds for visitors for around three months owing to the second wave of Covid-19, Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) and Botanical Garden at Barang, on the outskirts of the Capital city here, reopened Tuesday.

Zoo sources said that Nandankanan witnessed 1,375 visitors Tuesday. While 1,339 visitors booked tickets over the counter, only 36 booked tickets online. Botanical Garden, on the other hand, saw 188 visitors on Day-1.

According to NZP director Manoj Mahapatra, the zoo administration is anticipating lesser visitors in the initial days. If situation favours and demand increases, Nandankanan may entertain more visitors and reopen facilities like boating and safari.

Mahapatra said that they are leaving no stone unturned to ensure



that Covid guidelines laid down by the Central Zoo Authority as well as the state government are strictly followed on the zoo as well as the Botanical Garden premises.

A zoo official said that a limited number of visitors will be allowed into the zoo, while those with symptoms of cough, cold and fever will be denied entry to the nature's paradise. Visitors above 65 years and below 10 years will not

be allowed into the zoo.

"Those visiting the zoo should undergo body temperature scanning at the entrance. They should pass through the medicated foot mat and whole body sanitiser installed at the entrance. Visitors should maintain social distance on the zoo premises and avoid touching barricades and enclosures. They should move along the designated 'visitor path' only," said a zoo official highlighting the arrangements in place by NZP.

The official added that they are ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of all facilities, especially elements that are touched frequently, to keep Covid at bay. Besides, provision for hand sanitisation is also in place at multiple places on the zoo premises. NZP authorities are encouraging e-ticket booking for contactless transactions.

Moreover, more than six persons are not being allowed to stay on the aquarium premises at a time.

"Visitors are being urged through loudspeaker announcements to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour on the zoo and Botanical Garden premises. This apart, zoo staffers have also been asked to stay alert," said NZP's ACF (visitor management) Amulya Kumar Parida.

The Chandaka-Dampada Sanctuary which also reopened Tuesday saw a marginally low footfall. Deras and Godibari saw 60 and four visitors respectively.

Cuttack temples to reopen today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 3: All the temples in Cuttack district will reopen for devotees Wednesday, said a notice issued from the district Collector's office Tuesday.

The temples were out of bounds for devotees for over three months due to the restrictions imposed by the state government to tackle the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

People are allowed to visit Chandi temple, Charchika Peeth, Bhattacharika Peeth, Dhableswar temple and all other shrines in Cuttack from Wednesday.

However, they must follow Covid-appropriate behaviour like maintaining social distance and wearing of masks on the temple premises, said the notice.

Besides, the devotees have been barred from touching any idols or sculptures in the temples.

Similarly, they have been forbidden to partake Prasad on the temple precincts.

Meanwhile, all religious institutions except Srimandir in Puri reopened for people Tuesday.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration is likely to take a call on the reopening of Srimandir Wednesday, sources said.

PICTURE OF NEGLECT



Choked drains and stagnant water in compounds and parks at several places in Cuttack raise health concern as the city has reported a few dengue cases recently

Minor reshuffle in twin city police

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday effected a minor reshuffle in the twin city.

Additional DCP Anil Kumar Mishra who currently held the charge of ACP of Zone-V has been appointed as the additional DCP for Cuttack UPD. The ACP for special squad, Sanjib Kumar Satpathy, will replace Mishra as the ACP, Zone-V. Similarly, Tapas Chandra Pradhan has been posted as the ACP, Zone-III of Cuttack UPD.

Pradeep Kumar Rout, Inspector

In-Charge of Baliana police station, has been transferred as Chandrasekharpur IIC. Meanwhile, former IIC of Chandrasekharpur police station, Jubraj Swain will replace Rout as the new IIC of Baliana police station.

Similarly, Akash Kumar Rana, Jatindra Kumar Sathy and Kishore Kumar Pradhan have been posted as the IICs of Barang, Purighat and town traffic police station in Cuttack UPD respectively. The incumbent IIC of Barang police station, Sashikant Rout will be the new IIC of Chauliganj police station of Cuttack.

HC seeks fresh affidavit on Olive Ridley safety

Cuttack:

The Orissa High Court Tuesday directed the state as well as the Centre to file fresh affidavits about the measures required to protect the Olive Ridley sea turtles in the coastal state. A division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BP Routray posted the next hearing to September 21. According to sources, the HC has constituted a three-member committee to hold consultations with stakeholders and suggest steps required to be taken in order to ensure protection of the Olive Ridley turtles. In its report submitted to HC March 15, the committee had informed the court that Gahirmatha and Rushikulya mouths should be protected in order to safeguard the Olive Ridley sea turtles. At the same time, it should also be ensured that fishermen do not struggle for a livelihood. The court had asked the Centre and the state to file affidavits in connection with the safety of the Olive Ridley turtles. However, neither of the governments did turn up, sources said.



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Coastal erosion may soon wash away Sunei-Rupei forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 3: Coastal erosion has become a bane for Kendrapara district as the sea is constantly eating into the coastlines and wiping out areas from the map, a report said.

The district is situated closed to the sea and has a long coastline. Over 28 km out of 48 km coastline in this district are under serious threat with the tidal waves gobbling up the areas on a regular basis. Things have come to such a pass that tidal waves cross the saline embankments on full moon days and new moon days.

A case in point is the 1,200-year-old Panchubarahi temple at Satabhaya village, a seaside panchayat comprising seven revenue villages in the district.

The temple built by the Bhoumakar dynasty will soon be assigned to the pages of history as the sea has washed away 40 metres of the coast in the area. The temple was initially established at about 5 km from Satabhaya which has now gone into the sea.

Later, the Kanika royals shifted the idol of Devi Panchubarahi to Satabhaya for the second time. This month, tidal waves were again seen inundating the temple. Faced with this threat, the district administration has now shifted the idol to a new temple at Bagapatia,

Religious places yet to open in Angul

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, August 3: While shrines like Maa Samaleswari temple in Sambalpur district and Maa Biraja temple in Jajpur district have opened their gates for devotees, Angul district administration is yet to take a decision on reopening of religious places.

Many temples in the state have opened once again after three months, but not in Angul district.

Local residents have urged the Angul district administration to take a decision in this regard and allow reopening of the religious places, including Maa Hingula temple. They said if devotees follow Covid-19 guidelines inside the temples and shrines, there should not be any problem.

Meanwhile, it has been learnt that the district administration will convene a meeting to decide on reopening of religious places. After coming to know this, people are hopeful that the temples' doors will reopen in a couple of days.

FOCUS ON RURAL POLLS

BJD revamping base in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kelimela/Chitrakonda/Malkangiri, August 3: With the three-tier panchayat elections likely to be held next year, the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has started thrashing out strategies to boost organisational set up in Malkangiri.

Following a directive from state BJD organisation secretary Pranab Prakash Das, a 10-member special core committee has been formed for 15 zilla parishad zones under the guidance of the party observer for Malkangiri district Chadraserathi Behera.

The committee held a special meeting and underscored the need to consolidate the party base in the 15 ZP zones.

There are 21 panchayats in Kalimela block. These panchayats were split into three zones and



which is about 12-km from Satabhaya. The residents in Satabhaya were also shifted to Bagapatia.

As the tidal waves are constantly lashing the seaside Satabhaya villages, it is apprehended that the Sunei-Rupei jungle in the area might soon get washed away by the sea. Locals as well as environmentalists said that the only way to save Satabhaya is to create mangrove forests on the existing farmlands in the area. Some villagers have demanded construction of a stone embankment at Agarnasi island to check coastal erosion.

Sudarshan Swain, a native of

Barahipur village in Satabhaya and a new settler at Bagapatia, said many villages in Satabhaya panchayat have been gobbled up by the sea during last five decades. Only a few hamlets like Magarkanda, Adhasal and other villages still exist, but they too are counting their days.

Rapid erosion of the coastline has forced the villagers in the area to shift to Bagapatia. Around 571 families in Satabhaya, after battling with the sea for four decades, shifted to Bagapatia three years back. Swain has demanded a long-term plan to check coastal erosion, failing which the entire coastline will

vanish into the sea.

Karunakar Behera, a boatman in Baunsagadi river, said tourists have stopped visiting the area and there is none to hire his boat after seawater inundated the old Panchubarahi temple in Satabhaya. Environmentalist Hemant Kumar Rout said that mangrove plantation should be taken up in the existing areas of Satabhaya as the geo-tube wall has failed to stop the tidal waves from hitting the coast. He claimed that it is happening due to the increase in global warming and climate and environmental changes.

However, 40 per cent of fresh water is needed in the wetland for

Rapid erosion of the coastline has forced hundreds of villagers in the area to shift to Bagapatia. Around 571 families in Satabhaya, after battling with the sea for four decades, moved to Bagapatia three years back

Sudarshan Swain, a native of Barahipur village and a new settler at Bagapatia, said the sea has gobbled up many villages of Satabhaya panchayat in last five decades. Only a few hamlets like Magarkanda and Adhasal still exist, but they too are counting their days

the mangrove forests to grow. During summer, only 15 per cent of fresh water is available in the area. He also urged the government to construct large stone embankments to check coastal erosion. Harekrishna Patra, a villager from Chhapali, said that Agarnasi island was seven-km-long in the past, but it has been now reduced to just 700 metres.

When contacted, Jagnyadatt Pati, divisional forest officer, said mangrove plantations have been taken up at Satabhaya and Penthia regions in the district, while help of experts has been sought to check coastal erosion.

ACF'S DEATH CASE

Wife Bidyabharati, her parents quizzed again



POST NEWS NETWORK

Udala, August 3: Police once again interrogated Bidyabharati Panda, widow of Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra, and her parents at their house at Goudagaon village in Mayurbhanj district, Tuesday.

Even 23 days after the death of the ACF, the case remains shrouded in mystery. Answers to several questions like whether the incident was just an accident, or a pre-planned murder are yet to be found.

A four-member team led by Paralakhemundi IIC Bibekananda Swain interrogated Bidyabharati at her house. Before visiting her house, the cops had a discussion with their counterparts at Kaptipada police station.

While briefing journalists, IIC Swain told that the police will also quiz driver Dibakar Mohapatra, who had taken Bidyabharati's parents to Paralakhemundi July 13.

The team had already grilled the trio earlier. What new infor-

Even 23 days after the death of the ACF, the case remains shrouded in mystery. Answers to several questions like whether the incident was just an accident, was it a case of suicide or a pre-planned murder are yet to be found

mation the cops will manage to extract from them remains to be seen.

Notably, Soumya suffered serious burn injuries at his official residence in Paralakhemundi in the presence of his wife July 12. He was rushed to the district headquarters hospital in Paralakhemundi. As he had 90 per cent burn injuries, his condition deteriorated. He was shifted a private hospital in Cuttack where he succumbed.

ARMY JAWAN FOUND DEAD ON ROADSIDE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 3: An Army jawan was found dead in a roadside water pit near Barda chowk under Dharmasala police limits in Jajpur district Tuesday morning. His father, however, suspects foul play in his son's untimely death.

According to reports, locals noticed the youth and a bike in the water pit Tuesday during their morning walk and informed the Brahmabarada Police Outpost. Police rushed to the spot and brought the youth out of the water but found him dead.

The deceased youth was identified as Jitendra Jenasamanta, son of Maheshwar Jenasamanta of Janaka village under Dharmasala police limits of the district. Jitendra was serving in the Army and had returned to his village from Hyderabad three days ago. He had come to Brahmabarada area on a bike Monday. Preliminary investigation suggests that he met with an accident while returning home last night.



A man and his son negotiating a flooded road on a raft to reach a safer place in Baliapal area of Balasore district, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

RAFTING TO SAFETY

Youth beats disability to script success in poultry biz

POST NEWS NETWORK

Simulia, August 3: Umesh Chandra Sahu is a differently-abled youth, but his hard work and determination have helped him to script a success as a poultry farmer.

By conquering his disability, the 28-year-old youth of Biripur under Simulia block has set an example for others. Today he is a self-sufficient man and earns ₹5 lakh from his poultry business annually.

Apart from poultry, he also earns from fish and vegetable farming.

Umesh has set up the poultry farm with capacity to groom 4,000 chicks. He has dug up four ponds on two acres which he uses as a fish hatchery, apart from growing plants, brinjals and bitter guards on the periphery of the ponds.



He has also grown 100 palmolein plants and is also engaged in paddy cultivation on four acres.

Umesh, son of Ramamani and Pandmalochan Sahu of Biripur, suffers from 70 per cent disability on his left eye and left hand.

He has five sisters and a brother. "My father used to do traditional paddy farming. Managing a big family was too difficult for him. I thought of supplementing the family income when I was in Class X," Umesh recalled.

Umesh, son of Ramamani and Pandmalochan Sahu of Biripur, suffers from 70 per cent disability on his left eye and left hand

His mother sold off two cows and gave him ₹7,000 with which he initially purchased 200 chicks of Australian breed and started his poultry farm

In 2012, he started expanding his poultry farm and also added fish hatchery in ponds. Umesh has completed Plus II and cleared ITI

His mother sold off two cows and gave him ₹7,000 with which he initially purchased 200 chicks of Australian breed and started his poultry farm.

In 2012, he started expanding his poultry farm and also added fish

hatchery in ponds. Umesh has completed Plus II and cleared ITI.

He said that prices of raw materials for fish farming and poultry have spiralled multiple times. This has affected small traders like him.

In the present scenario, there are scores of youths who want to take up such small businesses, but the prices of raw materials for fish farming and poultry are actually pinching them.

He was very critical of the government, saying that the government has rolled out a plethora of schemes, but genuine beneficiaries at the ground level are deprived of the benefits. Many government programmes and schemes are only confined to publicity and do not reach the needy, he observed.

Task Force, CCTVs to check illegal mining in Joda circle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, August 3: The district administration here has formed a Task Force and planned to install CCTVs to check the mineral smuggling at railway sidings in the Joda mining circle of Keonjhar district. In several cases the local police and Forest officials have been successful in detecting the illegally extracted minerals, a report said.

According to the report, police carried out raids near Dhatika village under Bamebari police limits in Keonjhar Monday when the mineral mafia was loading illegally extracted iron ore with a payload machine on two trucks. Fourteen tonnes of iron ore was loaded on the two trucks.

Police arrested two people, seized two trucks and a payload machine at Dhatika village. The arrested were identified as driver Jaysingh Munda and Gopal Bhadra. Police



also registered a case against the two and produced them in court Tuesday.

It was learnt that the mineral mafia has been dumping illegally mined minerals in the area from

various parts of the region and supplying them outside the state.

While such cases are coming to the fore at regular intervals, it seems the Mines department has no clue regarding such illegal mining. The state and district level squads were formed to detect such cases, but now the job is being undertaken by police and Forest officials.

Meanwhile, Collector Asish Thakre formed a district level task force committee here, comprising officials of the mines, Forest departments, regional transport office, police and the State Pollution Control Board. Tuesday, to check mineral smuggling. He directed the officials to install CCTV cameras at railway sidings where mineral smuggling often takes place.

Notably, in January this year, forest officials had seized 35 tonnes of high grade manganese in Nayagad forest.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Notice No. eT-SrDME-WAT-170-2021
Name of the Work: COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR SAFE LOAD INDICATION (SLI) SYSTEM FITTED IN 140 TON BD CRANE NO.142034/RAYAGADA OF MIS HYTECH MICRO MEASUREMENTS (P) LTD., MAKE OF WALTAIR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 03 (THREE) YEARS.
Approx Cost of the work: ₹12,15,000/-

(2) Notice No. eT-SrDME-WAT-171-2021
Name of the Work: ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 04 NOS. OF CUMMINS MAKE ENGINES FITTED IN SELF PROPELLED ACCIDENT RELIEF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (SPARME) / KORAPUT OF WALTAIR DIVISION FOR 03 YEARS WITH ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURE/AUTHORIZED DEALERS OF ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURE-MIS CUMMINS.
Approx Cost of the work: ₹5,25,600/-
Cost of tender document: ₹2,360/- (For both tenders), Completion period of the work: 36 (Thirty six) months (For both tenders).
Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 03.09.2021 (For Sl. No. 1) & 1500 hrs. of 07.09.2021 (For Sl. No. 2).
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letterhead and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website (15) fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Waltair PR-256/M/21-22

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION NO. - I, SAMBALPUR
E-mail ID - exeengsbp@rediffmail.com, Tel No./Fax: (0663)-2548013

CANCELLATION NOTICE

No. B-264:- The Tender invited vide BID IDENTIFICATION NO. EE/R&B/SBP/06/2021-22 at Sl. No.5 (Construction of office for District Investment Promotion Agency (DIPA) and Providing M.S. Gate at District Collectorate, Sambalpur for 2021-22) & Sl. No. 07 (E.I. work to DIPA Second floor at Collectorate Building, Sambalpur) is hereby Cancelled on administrative ground.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division - I OIPR-34042/11/0020/2122

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SUNDARGARH
No. 4265 Dt.02.08.2021

COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Bid Reference No. SNGM-13/2021-22/Dt.02.08.2021
No. C-686:- On behalf of the Sundargarh Municipality, on-line e-tender Percentage Rate Bids are invited by the Executive Officer, Sundargarh Municipality from the intending and eligible class/category of bidders in conformity with the Detailed Tender Call Notice in Single cover bid system i.e. Technical Bid & Financial Bid for execution of the works mentioned in the DTCN. Contractors validly registered/empowered under Sundargarh Municipality are also eligible to participate for the works as per condition of DTCN.

- Total No. of works for which Tenders invited: 10 Nos.
- Place of Execution: Inside of Sundargarh Municipality
- Estimated Cost of work: Rs.1,16,036/- to Rs.17,85,882/-
- Eligible Class of Contractors: Registered Contractors of Class - 'D' to Class - 'C' as indicated against the work mentioned in the Tender Call Notice.
- Intending bidders have to participate through "On-Line" bidding only. The website for online bidding is <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
- The bid documents will be available in the above website from 11 A.M. on 03.08.2021 to 5 P.M. on 12.08.2021 on online bidding.
- Bids received online will be opened at 11 A.M. on 13.08.2021.
- The bidder must possess valid and compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).
- The DTCN for bid shall be available in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> on-line bidding.

Sd./- Executive Officer, Sundargarh Municipality
OIPR-13130/11/0030/2122

“ Turn all things to honey; this is the law of divine living.”
SRI AUROBINDO



Left & China

The Left in India is on the firing line for its closeness to China at a time when the Sino-Indian relations are under severe strain due to the escalating border conflict in both the eastern and north-western flanks. The participation of three Left leaders, including CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury, in an online seminar July 27 hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Delhi has drawn sharp criticism. At the same time, a book penned by former foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale has called into question the real motive of the withdrawal of Left support from the Congress-led UPA government on the issue of the Indo-US nuke deal in 2008. Gokhale asserts in his book that the Left's opposition to the nuclear deal was at the behest of China.

The ostensible reason for the online seminar was the centenary celebrations of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The theme was 'Sharing Experience on Party Building, Promoting Exchange, and Cooperation.' There was nothing wrong in holding such an event by the Chinese embassy when China has party-to-party contact with several Left parties. It was only natural that the CPC would like to have an exchange with the Left parties on the Left movement in the world and its challenges. Yet, the Left parties in India have, once again, proven their insensitivity towards national interest. No political ideology should be allowed to clash with the interest of the people of the country. It is this sort of behavior which has distanced the Left parties from the millions of poor and toiling citizens of India. It may be noted that neither the Congress nor the BJP sent any congratulatory letters to the CPC on its centenary in view of the current strife between India and China. However, both the CPI-M and the CPI are prompt in greeting the CPC for the milestone it has reached.

The real intent of the online seminar organized by the Chinese Embassy becomes suspect as the Chinese diplomat raised the issue of border tension and even tried to justify its actions in Galwan Valley in Ladakh last year. The event was addressed by Sun Weidong, Ambassador of China to India and the Left participants were CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D Raja, All India Forward Bloc secretary G Devarajan and DMK Lok Sabha MP S Senthil Kumar.

The Chinese Ambassador's speech explaining the rise of the CPC and the pace of development in the country under the leadership of President Xi Jinping was on predictable lines. But, questions are being raised about diplomatic propriety and the silence of the Left leaders over Ambassador Sun's reference to the Galwan Valley incident and his assertion that the matter of right and wrong was clear in the incident.

The Left, however, defended the decision to attend the seminar arguing that the government itself is engaged with China on several issues. Yechury was smart enough to deflect criticism by asserting that the programme had nothing to do with India-China relationship.

The charge brought by former foreign secretary Gokhale against the Left is far more serious as he claims in his book that the Left's opposition to the Indo-US nuclear deal between 2007 and 2008 was the "first instance for China to operate politically in Indian domestic politics." As Joint Secretary (East Asia), Gokhale was handling the country's affairs with China in the Ministry of External Affairs when the deal was being negotiated. India got a waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) after Beijing relented. During his nearly four-decade-long diplomatic career Gokhale spent over 20 years in China and seven years on the China desk in MEA. He is supposed to be proficient in Mandarin as well and has served as India's Ambassador to China.

As such his charge about the Left's alleged complicity with China in blocking the nuke deal carries weight. In fact, there has always been room for suspicion about then CPI-M general secretary Prakash Karat's adamant attitude in forcing the UPA government to cancel the nuke deal or else the Left would withdraw its support from it. The Bengal unit of the CPI-M was divided on the Left stance as many among the front ranking leaders, including Late Somnath Chatterjee, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha, did not find any justification for pulling out of the government on the nuclear issue. Moreover, the Left then having the highest number of MPs - 60 - in its history was virtually doing back-seat driving of the government.

The worst fallout of the decision was the subsequent decimation of the Left in its bastion in West Bengal and then Tripura. The party has now been reduced to a virtual signboard organisation in Bengal. The entire Left could not win a single seat in the recently held Bengal Assembly polls.

One reason for the obduracy of Karat and his followers in withdrawing Left support from the UPA government could be China's insistence that the deal should be scrapped as it was not in its interest. Even after the publication of Gokhale's book, Karat has justified his decision on the ground that the opposition stemmed from worries that the deal would lead to consolidation of US militarization in the region and the current situation proves the Left stand was right.

But, the question survives how such a decision could be taken when it could be easily understood that the Left in that event would lose its pre-eminent position in the Parliament, chalking up the highest ever tally. Seemingly, the Left was then more interested in safeguarding China's interest than its own. Subsequent events have shown how suicidal the decision was. It was nothing short of political harakiri. Gokhale may have ample reason for his conclusion on the Left-China nexus.

WISDOM CORNER

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.
LAO TZU

When you know what you want, and want it bad enough, you will find a way to get it.
JIM ROHN

Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.
PABLO PICASSO

WORDSWORTH

Optics

March 23, 2011 The Guardian noted that the lexicon of politics in Britain had added a new term. It quoted a report that had run on its own front page the day before: "Senior cabinet ministers admitted 'the emotional optics' of cruise missiles raining down, backed by coalition military briefings, had unwelcome echoes of Iraq." It also quoted from another London paper: This UN action, which started on Saturday with French warplanes and American cruise missiles hitting Gadhafi's forces, comes none too soon. U.S. President Barack Obama temporized for weeks, worrying about the optics of waging war in another Arab state after the Iraq fiasco (Daily Star, 19 Mar. 2011). Optics is political shorthand for the public perception of some situation. It's far from new. William Safire had noted it in his last-ever On Language column in the New York Times in September 2009, quoting a reader, Tom Short of California: "It seems that politicians are now working to ensure that their policy positions are stated in a way that's 'optically acceptable' to their constituents." Safire's successor Ben Zimmer wrote about the term in his own On Language column the following year: When politicians fret about the public perception of a decision more than the substance of the decision itself, we're living in a world of optics. Of course, elected officials have worried about outward appearances since time immemorial, but optics puts a new spin on things, giving a scientific-sounding gloss to P.R. and image-making (New York Times, 7 Mar. 2010). Ben Zimmer recorded that he had found it from three decades earlier: May 31, 1978, The Wall Street Journal quoted Jimmy Carter's special counselor on inflation, Robert Strauss, as saying that business leaders who went along with Carter's anti-inflation measures might be invited to the White House as a token of appreciation. "It would be a nice optical step," Strauss said.

FOCUS SOCIETY

FAR RIGHT'S WAR ON WOMEN

A grim 10-year anniversary last month did not go unmarked. July 22, commentators around the world duly commemorated the 77 victims of a Norwegian far-right terrorist who detonated a bomb outside the prime minister's office in downtown Oslo and then massacred teenagers attending a Labour Party summer camp on the island of Utoya.



Jan-Werner Mueller

ULTIMATELY, THE REAL PROBLEM FOR MANY ON THE FAR RIGHT IS LIBERALISM, AND PARTICULARLY THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN FROM LAWS AND SOCIAL NORMS ENFORCING MALE DOMINATION

Most of these analyses aimed to understand the horror by way of the perpetrator's "closely intertwined anti-Muslim and anti-social democratic sentiment." While some expressed relief that he has not inspired more copycats, others used the occasion to indict 'neoliberalism' and other monocausal abstractions. Strikingly absent from the punditry was the killer's evident misogyny.

After more than a decade of witnessing a global resurgence of the far right, we continue to underestimate the importance of gender - especially defenses of patriarchy - as a bridge between extremists and the mainstream conservatives who are increasingly willing to collaborate with them.

Some worry that interpreting a mass murderer's online manifesto hands him a victory and helps to spread his toxic ideology. But we cannot allow ourselves to be willfully blind to a killer's mindset, nor should we surrender to the unreasonable fear that terrorists' ideas are so seductive that they must be suppressed (an argument occasionally employed to justify banning Mein Kampf).

Of course, many hate manifestos are just cut-and-paste jobs, which means that the dangerous ideas are already available elsewhere. But if one bothers to compare the diatribes published in conjunction with the Utoya mass murder and the one carried out against Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019, the similarities are striking. And so, too, are the parallels between these and far-right populist parties' official programmes.

After all, far-right politicians have been saying for decades that 'our country' is being taken away from 'us.' Here, 'our country' is imagined to be a white, Christian nation that is increasingly threatened by Islam. Muslims, it is said, are immigrating in increasing numbers and having more children, supposedly to 'replace' the



We must recognise that the ideological and emotional appeal of the far right is not reducible to a single element such as hatred of Islam. Far-right parties can be flexible in which of their hate objects they emphasise, while still keeping white Christian supremacy, misogyny, and militant anti-liberalism closely intertwined. This mixture, in any shape or form, should be unacceptable to decent center-right parties

rightful inhabitants of the 'homeland.' Yet alongside these nativist conspiracy theories about the 'Great Replacement,' one also finds an open admiration for the traditional masculinity supposedly promoted by Islam. Hence, white supremacists at the deadly Charlottesville rally in 2017 chanted 'white sharia now!'

Ultimately, the real problem for many on the far right is liberalism, and particularly the liberation of women from laws and social norms enforcing male domination. In the eyes of its enemies, liberalism does not just mean openness (or at least porosity) and flexibility; what they find threatening is its questioning of traditional authority, especially patriarchal authority to make decisions about women's bodies.

The July 22 killer left no doubt about his desire to reinstate patriarchy. In his ideal world, women would be rigidly controlled to ensure the reproduction of the white Christian Volk. He detailed how this might be achieved by returning to the 1950s, when men were in charge and women submissive; or with a scheme in which surrogate mothers in poorer countries would be paid (minimally) to have European babies; or by developing an artificial uterus that would render

women entirely expendable. With this fantasy about the complete destruction of females, his plan for July 22, 2011, included the public beheading of Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norway's first female prime minister (who happened to leave the island earlier than expected on the day of the massacre).

As astute analysts have pointed out, the far right oscillates between benevolent and hostile sexism: women are either weak vessels who need to be protected, or sly aggressors destroying Western nation-states in the name of gender equality. The latter depiction makes men into victims, allowing those who turn to terrorism to claim that they did not start the violence. As 'victims,' they are entitled to react to others' aggression, and ultimately have permission to annihilate the enemy. The same logic was also on display in the January 6 attack on the US Capitol, where men carried out most of the violence and targeted prominent women like Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (whose office was ransacked).

The far-right Norwegian Progress Party has been at pains to dismiss references to the Utoya murderer's membership in its youth section as a cynical instrumentalisation of the violence. Likewise, Republicans have ac-

cused those who tell the truth about January 6 of 'playing politics.'

But those who loudly proclaim that the homeland is under threat - Progress leaders had talked about 'sneak Islamisation' - and incite hatred of unpopular minorities cannot be surprised by what philosopher Kate Manne has termed 'trickle-down aggression.' When Björn Höcke of the far-right Alternative for Germany demands that "we have to rediscover our masculinity, for only then can we become militant," he knows full well how his rhetoric will be received.

Globally, the far right stands to gain from the massive material and financial support enjoyed by those advancing 'family values.' Far-right populists are also trying hard to make themselves appear acceptable to mainstream conservatives by emphasising a seemingly shared social agenda. It is no mystery why they would take this approach: they have only ever come to power when more established center-right forces decided to collaborate with them.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has long played this game, appealing to center-right parties with the argument that his autocratic and kleptocratic regime constitutes an authentic version of Christian Democracy. Accordingly, his government vigorously opposes same-sex marriage, and works hard to associate homosexuality with pedophilia. In recent anti-LGBTQIA legislation, Orbán has made it all too obvious that incitement of hatred against minorities, rather than fidelity to natural law or supposed 'natural order,' is the real objective.

We must recognise that the ideological and emotional appeal of the far right is not reducible to a single element such as hatred of Islam. Far-right parties can be flexible in which of their hate objects they emphasise, while still keeping white Christian supremacy, misogyny, and militant anti-liberalism closely intertwined. This mixture, in any shape or form, should be unacceptable to decent center-right parties.

The writer, Professor of Politics at Princeton University, is a fellow at the Berlin Institute of Advanced Study.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

Let's have more winners at the Games



Melvin Durai

THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE IF MORE PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO SHARE: SHARE MEALS, SHARE RIDES TO WORK, SHARE EVERYTHING BUT GERMS AND VIRUSES

One of my favourite moments from the Tokyo Olympics came in the finals of the men's high jump, when the top two competitors, Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar and Gianmarco Tamberi of Italy, decided to share the gold medal.

The tall and nimble athletes, who had become friends over the last decade while competing at various events around the world, had each cleared an amazing height of 7 feet, 9 1/4 inches, basically jumping over LeBron James by more than a foot.

Their attempts to jump even higher had failed, so an Olympic official started to tell them their options, including having a 'jump-off.' But before he could finish, Barshim asked, "Can we have two golds?"

"It's possible... if you both decide..." the official started to say, and next thing you know, the two athletes were hugging each other and celebrating. While Barshim threw

his hands in the air and pumped his fists, Tamberi rolled around on the ground, holding his chest like he was having a heart attack.

It would not surprise me to learn that an ambulance had been summoned, and that every losing athlete in Tokyo was breathing a sigh of relief, realising that a gold medal could be hazardous to one's health.

It turns out that high jump is one of the only two Olympic events—pole vault is the other—where a gold medal can be shared, as long as the athletes agree not to break a tie. Rule 26.8.4 of the technical rules for World Athletics, the international governing body for track and field, reads as follows: "If no jump-off is carried out, the tie for first place shall remain, the gold medal will be shared, and the ecstasy, euphoria and jubilation of multiple athletes will be permitted."

While most sports fans appreciated the sportsmanship that the two high jumpers exhibited, some were not thrilled about a shared gold

medal. "Maybe it's just me but I wish the rule wasn't there to 'share' the gold. Surely there needs to be an outright winner?" BBC sports reporter Rob Staton commented on his blog.

Another commenter named Trevor agreed with him, saying, "Imagine training for 4 years to win a gold medal and then deciding you will just share it, instead of trying to win?"

But what's wrong with sharing? The world would be a better place if more people were willing to share: share meals, share rides to work, share everything but germs and viruses.

Does every contest need an outright winner? If two Olympic finalists are so closely matched that you can't separate them without an artificial tiebreaker, perhaps they both deserve to return home as heroes. Of course, the silver and bronze medals are quite prestigious by themselves. Finishing in the top three in the world is a

magnificent achievement, and athletes such as PV Sindhu and Mirabai Chanu deserve the adulation they have received.

In fact, I believe that we should expand the medal podium and honour the top five athletes in every event. The fourth place finisher would receive a tin medal and the fifth place finisher would get aluminum. Perhaps we could also treat the sixth place finisher to zinc.

PT Usha and the late Milkha Singh both deserved Olympic medals in track and field. Usha, one of India's greatest female runners, finished fourth in 400m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, just 1/100th of a second behind the bronze medalist. Singh finished one-tenth of a second behind the bronze winner in the 400m race at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Both were a blink of an eye from a medal. They did not get a spot on the medal podium, but they were definitely winners in my book.

Future of education

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rusasingar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, It has been a year since the government of India launched the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It is hoped that the NEP would thoroughly reshape the future of education. Transformative ideas in higher education include promotion of world-class education, multi-disciplinary and liberal education, expansion of higher education system and creating a research environment. The NEP lays emphasis on the service of outstanding faculty for promoting high quality teaching and research, high quality governance and enlightened leadership, academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Additionally, public funding, performance-based incentives, internationalisation are also focus areas of the NEP. Ever since the NEP was launched in July 2020 efforts have been made to create awareness about the policy. As the stakeholders are diverse with different views and interests, the implementation of the NEP is faced with several challenges. Several factors affecting its implementation have been identified. There must be a collective and unified approach towards its implementation. A comprehensive design must be developed for the policy's implementation. Monitoring and leadership at different levels such as the education ministry, regulatory bodies, subject-based councils, state higher education councils, state higher education departments, Association of Indian Universities and so on are required for its implementation. The NEP envisions building the foundation of a new India based on a knowledge society. Different aspects of it are interlinked with institution building and nation building. However, to become a reality its implementation is the most important requirement. Let's hope that with the implementation of the NEP the deficiencies of the present education system could be corrected to a great extent.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Supriyo's flip-flop

Sir, The recent flip-flop by former Union minister Babul Supriyo is comical but not entirely unexpected. As the old refrain goes, once a politician, always a politician. Hence his U-turn after taking a supposedly high moral ground has amused none. However, Supriyo's apparently childish statement that he will remain a Lok Sabha MP but will not dabble in politics is not only contradictory but also brings out, ironically, the shrewd politician that he is. Sadly, it's nothing but a mockery of democratic norms which will fool nobody.

Bhaskar Roy, NEW DELHI

Three Jajpur teachers serving on basis of 'fake' OTET certificates



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

FACT FILE

Abhimanyu Barik, an RTI activist of Bhadrak, had drawn the attention of the Jajpur district education officer (DEO) and the Secretary of School and Mass Education Department towards a teacher serving on the basis of a forged OTET certificate

During the investigation, it was found that three teachers had got increments on the basis of their forged OTET certificates

OFFICIALS WERE ALSO DIRECTED TO LODGE FIRS AGAINST THE TEACHERS AT THE LOCAL POLICE STATIONS AND DISMISS THEM FROM SERVICE UNDER OSC (CCA) RULE-1962 IF THEIR DOCUMENTS ARE FOUND TO BE FORGED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 3: A number of fraudulent cases were detected while examining the certificates of Odisha Eligibility Teachers' Test (OTET) in Jajpur, a report said.

According to the report, in the past, many teachers have been caught furnishing forged BEd and CET certificates in the district. The latest fraud came to the fore through a response to an RTI query.

Abhimanyu Barik, an RTI activist of Bhadrak, had drawn the attention of the Jajpur district education officer (DEO) March 19, 2021, towards a teacher serving on the basis of a forged OTET certificate. He had also apprised the Secretary of the School and Mass Education department of this matter, June 9, 2021.

In response, the district Education department started an investigation into the allegation, which led to the detection of two more cases in Jajpur.

During the investigation, it was

learnt that three teachers got increments on the basis of their forged OTET certificates.

The district Education officer has asked the Barchana block education officer to issue show cause notices to the teachers concerned.

Besides, the Joint Director and nodal officer of the Directorate of Elementary Education, Odisha, (via their letter No. 12225, dated July 29, 2021) directed the district education officer and the Barchana BEO to verify the documents, certificates and mark sheets of the concerned teachers.

The officials were also directed to lodge FIRs against the teachers at the local police stations and dismiss them from service under OSC (CCA) Rule-1962 if their documents are found to be forged.

It may be noted here that the Directorate of Elementary Education and the School and Mass Education department in 2015 and 2016 had asked the DEO to look into the cases wherein teachers

have been serving on the basis of forged certificates in the district. The DEE had again ordered for verification of the certificates of teachers in 2019 (twice) and in 2020 (twice). But it is alleged that no step was taken at the district level in this direction.

As the officials orders are not carried out properly, detecting fake teachers has been an impossible task. As per the RTI response, OTET results were out November 21, 2019. In all 46,822 teachers were successful. The RTI response stated that candidates with roll numbers like 181002255; 1813010067 and 1811306011 could not succeed. The RTI activists had alleged that an assistant teacher of Barchana block was involved in the fraud. The district Education department had sought documentary data of 10 teachers from the Board of Secondary Education. As per the data provided by the BSE, three teachers had furnished fake OTET certificates.



AGAINST MERGER PLAN

Local people and social activists stage agitation against the state government's policy on merger of schools in Bolangir

OP PHOTO

Khallikote College gets unitary varsity status

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 3: The Khallikote Autonomous College, one of the oldest colleges in the state, was given the status of a unitary university, officials said Tuesday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced in May that unitary university status would be granted to the 165-year-old college, located in Berhampur town in Ganjam district.

Some of the university's existing problems, including staff crunch, will be solved gradually, while recruitment of new teachers will be carried out, an official said.

The institution was started as a school in 1856 in Berhampur and became an intermediate college in 1878. The autonomy was



FILE PHOTO

conferred to it in 1990. It got an 'A' grade from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2017, according to the college website.

A unitary university is a varsity that acts as a single unit without any affiliated college under it.

"Unitary university status to this college has fulfilled the aspirations of the people of southern

state, having a rich academic tradition, he said.

Many of its alumni have established themselves in various fields, said Sahu, who is also one of the alumni of the college. The student strength of the college is presently around 5,000. The college offers teaching in 21 different subjects, including six self-financing courses.

Khallikote Cluster University (KCU) Vice-Chancellor PK Mohanty will be acting as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) of the new university, officials said.

The government has also decided to merge the KCU with Berhampur University. It will come into effect from October, they said.

All the regular employees of the KCU would be absorbed in Berhampur University as regular employees, they said.

Centurion University holds online meet for faculty

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, August 3: Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha, conducted a five-day online faculty development programme from July 26 on "Computational Fluid Dynamics - A Potential Engineering Design Tool".

The programme, sponsored by the AICTE Training and Learning Academy (ATAL), witnessed the participation of over 200 faculty members and research scholars from different AICTE-approved technical institutions in the country.

A stress management and meditation session was also conducted at the end of the faculty development programme

Prof N Balakrishnan, Prof JS Mathur, Prof V Ramesh, Prof Sekhar Majumdar, Prof HN Das, Prof Mukundjee Pandey, Prof Sujit Mishra, Prof G Satish spoke on the occasion.

A stress management and meditation session was also conducted by Prof Sibakripa Bose at the end of the FDP which was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor Prof Supriya Pattanayak. Registrar Prof Anita Patra presented the vote of thanks.

Failure of e-auction at Daitari mines sparks fear of job loss, plant closure

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 3: An e-auction of iron ore lumpy by Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) held July 31 failed due to the high floor price fixed by the state-owned mining body for Daitari calibrated lumpy ore (CLO), a report said.

As a result, there was no bidding for the entire quantity of 90,000 tonnes of iron ore lumpy.

It is alleged that OMC arbitrarily fixed the floor price at ₹10,511 per MT knowing well that this is an unviable price for the end-user industries due to the negative factors of Daitari iron ore, such as high phosphate content and high under size.

Reports said that due to this, Daitari iron ore has limited buyers compared to other OMC mines. More than 50 per cent of lifting from Daitari mines is done by Kalinganagar-based industrial firms and nearby industries. Meanwhile, most of the units have shut shop due to such arbitrary pricing by OMC.

Members of Kalinganagar Industries Association (KNIA) and All Odisha Steel Federation (AOSF) had suggested OMC to fix the floor price at ₹7,000 per MT. This would have been a viable price for the Kalinganagar-based industries, but the suggestions fell on deaf ears. Now it is clear that even stand-alone industries had represented



KALINGANAGAR INDUSTRIES IN DOLDRUM

FILE PHOTO

to OMC to reduce the floor price.

During the last auction held June 2, the floor price was fixed at ₹11,550 per MT due to bidding by Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) and Rungta, who have their own captive mines.

Lifting from Daitari mines in June was only 63,641 MT and in July it was even less at 23,884 MT as against the usual lifting of 2.5 lakh tonnes per month. This has resulted into a sharp increase in OMC's stock of iron ore at Daitari mines to 411,000 MT of CLO as on August 1. As a result, state exporter and industries are suffering huge losses, primarily owing to drop in dispatch.

Most of the industries based at Kalinganagar having LTL with OMC could not lift their quota. Notably, companies like VISA Steel have already shut down its blast furnace. DRI

and KJ Ispat have also closed their sponge iron units in the area.

Other companies like Mesco Steel, Maithan Ispat and Neelachal Ispat are closed since long due to the unreasonable price of Daitari iron ore, which is fixed by OMC.

There is already a fear among the workers as to whether the industries who have shut their units due to high prices of Daitari iron ore CLO from OMC shall pay wages to them or not. It is learnt that already several contract workers have been retrenched by these industries.

It is high time that OMC reduces the price of iron ore CLO from Daitari and enable the Kalinganagar-based industries to survive, as the plants without captive mines cannot afford to continue operation in the face of such huge losses, reports added.

Maa Samaleswari temple reopens

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 3: Western Odisha's famous Maa Samaleswari shrine has reopened after a gap of three months. The temple's gate was thrown open to devotees Tuesday.

Eagerly waiting for this day, devotees from nearby areas were seen visiting the shrine with enthusiasm and devotion.

The devotees are allowed to visit the temple and have *darshan* of Maa Samaleswari from 6:00 am to 11:00 am and again from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. While announcing relaxations in Covid-19 restrictions imposed since May, the state government made it clear July 31 that the district administrations would take a final call on reopening of religious places in their respective areas.



After reviewing the Covid-19 situation in the district, the administration has allowed reopening of the temple. However, the devotees have to follow all the Covid-19 guidelines inside the temple premises. They have to maintain social distancing and wear masks during their stay inside the shrine. The shrine will remain closed Mondays to carry out thorough sanitization.

Six held for killing three for 'witchcraft'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khamar, August 3: The Khamar police Monday arrested six persons, including two minors, for their alleged involvement in the murder of three persons, including a woman suspecting that the victims practiced witchcraft in Angul district.

The deceased have been identified as Budhu Chatar (55) of Jitunda Kolha Sahi and Matei Gagrai (48) of Dhipa Sahi. The accused are Shankar Purty, Niranjana Champia, Chandra Danga, Titu Danga and two minors.

According to the police, the accused attacked the trio with sharp weapons at a place in Kunjam panchayat under Khamar police limits in Pallahara block of Angul district, July 30 night. After committing the crime, the accused tied the bodies together and dumped

them in Somakoi river in a bid to destroy evidence.

However, Budhu's body was spotted in the river last Sunday and the local people informed the police about it. The police recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. On the following day, Matei's body was recovered. The body of Muni Chatar, wife of deceased Budhu, was not found till the filing of this report.

On the basis of the family members' allegation, the police have registered a case and launched a detailed probe into the crime.

NO TO CHILD MARRIAGE



Residents of BAM Selma in Nabarangpur celebrate after the district administration declared their village free of child marriage

Probe starts into MGNREGS irregularities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lathore, August 3: MGNREGS projects are supposed to create job opportunities and income for the rural populace, but irregularities have scuttled their objective in some cases. Halanbhata panchayat under Turekela block of Bolangir district is a case in point.

Acting on the allegation, the district social audit officer has started an investigation into the matter Tuesday. However, many people have expressed unhappiness over the investigation and demanded a high-level probe.

Locals, including Iswar Hans, Pabitra Pradhan, Balam Hans, Hemanta Hans and Uchhan Nial, said that there is need for a high level probe into irregularities.

According to reports, a road was laid from Bhalukuna village to Kharli at a cost of ₹9.5 lakh in 2020-21, while ₹9 lakh was spent for another project. However, it is alleged that the work was botched up, while job card holders were not paid their wages.



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

JOB FRAUD

Locals, including Iswar Hans, Pabitra Pradhan, Balam Hans, Hemanta Hans and Uchhan Nial, said that there is need for a high level probe into irregularities

The fraud has come to the fore at a time when both the Central and the state governments are laying stress on effective implementation of the scheme in rural areas so that migrant returnees and local labourers get the opportunity to earn at these trying times

Scores of local people facing shortage of work are deprived of their rights under the MGNREGS. The villagers observed that use of machines has had an adverse effect on earning scope of the poorest in the area

Locals alleged that Gaon Sathi, GRS, a junior engineer and some panchayat staff had misappropriated

funds by fudging the names of the beneficiaries. They had taken up the issue with the BDO, the Collector;

the PD and the Labour Minister. Locals said that during the investigation, some people created ruckus deliberately while the district social audit officer was checking files. They warned of moving court if the matter is not probed by a high-level team.

Villagers said that such irregularities are common in the rural job scheme at a time when both the Central and the state governments are laying stress on effective implementation of the scheme in rural areas so that migrant returnees and local labourers get the opportunity to earn at these trying times.

Sadly, concerns raised by the government has allegedly been ignored during execution of projects in Turekela, one of the migration-prone areas in Bolangir. Scores of local people facing shortage of work are deprived of their rights under the MGNREGS. The villagers observed that use of machines has had an adverse effect on earning scope of the poorest in the area.

NEW CHALLENGE FOR J&K SECURITY FORCES

LIST OF TOP 10 MILITANTS RELEASED

IN MARCH, THE POLICE HAD RELEASED A SIMILAR LIST OF WANTED TERRORISTS AND ANNOUNCED REWARDS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THEM



Representational image

AGENCIES

Srinagar, August 3: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has released a list of top 10 militants that it aims to target.

The list, which was posted on Twitter by the Kashmir Zone Police late Monday night, includes seven militants who have been active for some time and three relatively new recruits.

"Top 10 #targets: #Old #terrorists- Salim Parray, Yousuf Kantrou, Abbas Sheikh, Reyaz Shetgerund, Farooq Nali, Zubair Wani & Ashraf Molvi. #New #terrorists- Saqib Manzoor, Umer Mustaq Khandey

After the eruption of militancy in Kashmir, security forces used to dismiss militants as a policy to not bring them into the limelight while they were still at large

& Wakeel Shah," the Kashmir Zone Police tweeted.

It was attributed to IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar.

The March 13 tweet from Jammu

and Kashmir Police also had the photographs of the terrorists along with their names. Meanwhile, a terrorist Babar Ali was killed in an encounter with the security forces Tuesday in the Chhandaji region of Bandipora, the police said.

"On 23/24 July, an operation was carried out at Shokbaba forest area in which three terrorists were killed, including one Pakistani terrorist. Another terrorist escaped from the jungle and was being tracked ever since," informed Dilbagh Singh, Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir.

"Last night information about his presence in village

Chhandaji was received and an operation was launched during the course of which a Pakistani terrorist Babar Ali of Pakistan's Punjab has been killed," the DGP added. Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Chhandaji area of Bandipora in north Kashmir following inputs about the presence of terrorists there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists fired upon the forces, who retaliated. In the exchange of firing, one terrorist was killed, the official said.

Ali was a resident of Ugada district of Punjab in Pakistan and his body was retrieved from the site of the encounter.

Three militants of the LeT, including Sharik Altaf, were killed in the Shokbaba encounter.

The three terrorists neutralised in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora in July were members of Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

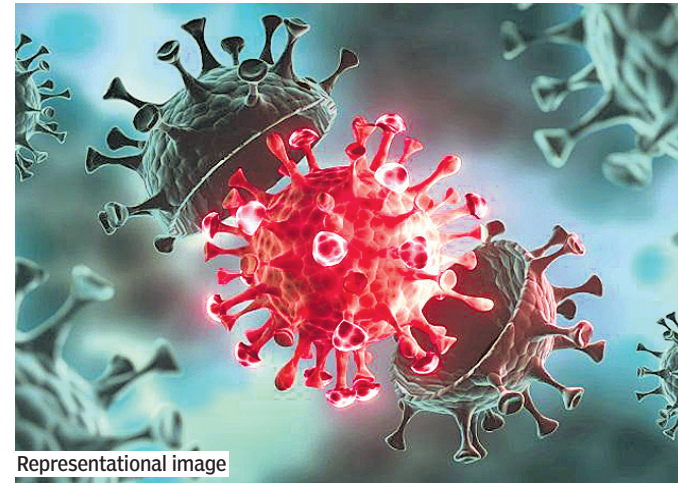
On July 16, the police said that they have neutralised 78 terrorists in Kashmir since January this year. These included some of the top commanders involved in attacks on the forces.

After the eruption of militancy in Kashmir, security forces used to dismiss militants as a policy to not bring them into the limelight while they were still at large.

However, over the past couple of years, the strategy seems to have changed with the police releasing lists of wanted militants from time to time.

DELTA PREDOMINANT IN TN COVID-19 CASES

DELTA VARIANT IS THE MOST CONTAGIOUS OF ALL KNOWN VARIANTS



Representational image

AGENCIES

Chennai, August 3: With the Covid-19 cases in Tamil Nadu showing fluctuations with increases in some days and fall in other days, a study on the samples of positive patients have found that the Delta variant is dominant in the majority of samples.

Dr. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Tamil Nadu government told IANS, "We have so far sent 2,614 Covid-19 samples for genomic sequencing and have received the results for 1,881 and found that a predominantly large number, around 73 per cent are Delta variants."

The Delta variant is the most contagious of all known variants and the original Wuhan strain was overtaken by the more contagious D614G. This variant spreads faster and is able to mutate faster and is able to evade the immunity pro-

vided by vaccines.

Dr. Selvavinayagam also said that his department is closely monitoring the situation and each rise in numbers is being critically reviewed. He said, "During the period of recession in any pandemic, cases will not come down that quickly and fluctuations are common. We are closely monitoring the situation."

The state health department is studying all aspects leading to the increase in cases in some districts. The department is of the view that clusters are originating in markets, crowded places, and even from hospitals. The health department is planning for localised mini containments and if there are more than three Covid-19 cases in a locality then contact tracing must be done in that locality.

Dr. Suchitra VMenon, Epidemiologist told IANS, "Government measures are in the right track and when relaxations

Docs, nurses get online training

The Indian Association of Pediatrics (IAP), Tamil Nadu chapter in association with the state health department has trained nurses and doctors to manage Covid-19 in children. The training was conducted online. Nearly 10,000 staff nurses and 3,800 pediatricians of government and private hospitals of the state were trained to manage Covid-19 in Children to date. Dr K. Rajendran, State secretary of IAP, Tamil Nadu chapter while speaking to IANS said, "We are aiming to prepare close to 50,000 health care workers in the state to handle an expected third Covid wave. It is a known fact that a majority of nurses are hesitant to handle pediatric Covid-19 cases as they were uncertain on the patient's response to medicines." The main aspect of the training, according to Dr Rajendran is to equip the nurses to understand how to manage the children and when to bring up the alert so that the mortality rates are low.

are effected, there is bound to be an increase in cases. Effective micro containment is the need of the hour coupled with an increase in testing and vaccination."

The health secretary Dr. J Radhakrishnan has already given a directive to the health officials to implement Standard Operating Procedures for workplaces, markets and crowded areas.

RapiPay to start micro ATMs and AEPS services in Srinagar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 3: Fintech firm RapiPay Tuesday announced expansion of its presence in Kashmir with the launch of Aadhaar-enabled payment system (AEPS) and micro ATM here.

The company claimed that it has become the first Indian company to start assisted payments services like AEPS and micro ATM here.

"RapiPay becomes the first Indian company to start assisted payments services like Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) and Micro

ATM in Srinagar. RapiPay has also become the first Indian company to install Micro ATMs on Dal Lake's shops," the company said in a release.

The expansion is in line with Jammu & Kashmir's high demand for banking services like ATM and domestic remittance for its underbanked population, the company said.

It said Jammu and Kashmir has around 25 lakh beneficiaries of Jan Dhan account which includes 15 lakh beneficiaries who possess a Debit / ATM Card.

"The potential market of Micro

ATM and AEPS in the state is approximately ₹1,800 crore. RapiPay is targeting 60 per cent share of this market by installing 10,000 Micro ATM machines this fiscal year through its Direct Business Outlets (DBOs)," it added.

The company said these DBOs will be its business correspondent or agents and they will earn commission on the banking and financial transactions they provide through RapiPay.

RapiPay plans to have over 15,000 new DBOs in the region over the next one year, said Yogendra Kashyap, Managing Director and Founder of RapiPay Fintech.

The company said the number of ATMs in Kashmir are far and few. Adjoining areas like Harwan, Khimber, Dara and inner areas of Dal Lake - Golden Lake and Nigen Lake - are without an ATM for years.

"RapiPay entry into the valley will ensure that the local population gets cash withdrawal and other banking services near their house through its DBOs," it added.

VICTORY FLAME



Soldiers holding the Swarnim Vijay Flame commemorating 50 years of Indian Armed Forces victory over Pakistan in 1971 during Indo-Pak war reached the frozen frontiers of Siachen Glacier in Ladakh region

UNI PHOTO

Captured wild tusker released into forest

AGENCIES

Chennai, August 3: For the first time in Tamil Nadu, a captured wild elephant was freed into the forests, an official statement said.

The wild elephant, called Rivaldo by the locals, was caught by the Forest Department personnel May 5, 2021 as it was roaming in Masinagudi in Nilgiri district for a long period.

The locals were afraid of the 30-40 year old wild elephant roaming around freely in their area and hence the Forest Department captured it and put it in a 'kraal' - an enclosure made of wooden logs for keeping captured elephants.

An official group studied in detail the issues involved in letting the elephant back into the forests and brought Rivaldo to the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. According to the government, the area is rich in green cover and would provide sufficient food for Rivaldo.

In order to monitor its movement, a German-made radio collar has been put on Rivaldo. As per the signals received, the elephant is moving around freely in the forest.

'Kashmir conflict has become a family-run business'

THE KASHMIR CONFLICT HAS ALSO CREATED AN ECO-SYSTEM FROM WHICH A SET OF FAMILIES DERIVE THEIR LIVELIHOOD AND RELEVANCE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 3: The Kashmir conflict has become a 'family business' run by a set of families, and like a family business, it is passed on from one generation to the next, DisinfoLab reported.

The way the conflict is designed, it has generated growing number of stakeholders from set of families to the 'Gora' politicians to the Pakistani establishment in a manner that it would be useful for them to keep the conflict in the perpetual flux, it said.

The Kashmir conflict has also created an eco-system from which a set of families derive their livelihood and relevance. The Fais, the Thakurs, the Kanjwals, the Ashais, the Fazilis, the Safis, and the Dars, among others, have not only been living their dream lives, they have also come to acquire an aura of 'experts' and 'human rights' activists, an aura that is very useful, particularly in these woke time, DisinfoLab reported.

In a report on 'The Kashmir Conflict Industry Network', DisinfoLab said that the only things



Representational image

that are missing in this Pakistani orchestrated theatre is Kashmiris themselves. Their role has been reduced to mere objects, in whose name the mercenaries would live

a life full of 'activism fun'.

It added that the Kashmir narrative is a globally sponsored narrative, where every so-called human-rights 'concern' on Kashmir is at

the end connected with a nexus, put in place by the Pakistani establishment.

Kashmir has become everyone's concern except of Kashmiris. There

are virtually no Kashmiris with any worthwhile connection with Kashmir involved in the discussion of Kashmir. If there were, they have been side-lined, DisinfoLab said.

The centre of gravity for the Kashmir narrative has gradually shifted from the Middle East (Saudi Arabia) to Thrace and Asia Minor (Turkey).

This change in 2016 had salient ramifications for the conflict narrative in South Asia. However, the story traces its origin back to the key players when the seeds of conflict were sown in Kashmir by Jamaat-e-Islami players; and it has continued to be played by the same set of people through their next generation.

"Hence, it would be criminally naïve for not only Indians but particularly for Kashmiris to assume that Pakistan and the net cast by its establishment would have any interest in resolving Kashmir issue. For the Pak establishment, Kashmir conflict has become a Goose that lays golden eggs, and unlike the stupid old lady, it has no intention of killing the goose," it said.

Madurai admin bans retail sale of flowers, vegetables

AGENCIES

Chennai, August 3: The Madurai district collector has banned the retail sale of flowers, vegetables and fruits taking into account the possibility of a Covid-19 spread due to the festival season. Madurai district administration has already banned entry to temples including the famous Madurai Meenakshi Temple till August 8 to prevent crowding and a possible spread of the virus.

The Collector has also warned the closure of vegetable and fruit markets and flower market in Mattuthavani and the wholesale vegetable market if the traders don't follow the standard Covid protocols.

Madurai District Collector, Dr S

Aneesh Shekhar has also warned the textile shops, commercial establishments and supermarkets that they would not be allowed to function if Covid protocols are not maintained properly.

The decision of the Collector has come in the wake of an expected huge crowd in the busy commercial streets and fruit, vegetable, and flower markets of Madurai as festival days are coming in the "Aadi" month.

The Tamil Nadu HR&CE department has already banned entry of devotees to 22 temples in Madurai district from Monday to August 8 including Madurai Meenakshi Temple which attracts huge crowds from all parts of south India during the "Aadi" month.



Representational image

national

of the day quote

The scope and budget of cheap ration schemes rose since Independence but the effect it should have had on the poor remained limited due to ineffective delivery systems and selfish elements

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Casteism and nepotism were prevalent everywhere due to which the matter went to courts which then ordered CBI investigation. The youth of Uttar Pradesh were frustrated by all this

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

I have played double roles in films. I can identify those who are playing dual roles in politics. Though names are different, both are Bommai (puppets) in the hands of the Centre

KAMAL HAASAN | MNM PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

WB: Major fire breaks out

Kolkata: A major fire broke out at the Haldia Petrochemicals plant in Haldia in East Midnapore district of West Bengal Tuesday afternoon. The chemical factory's internal fire system has been pressed to action, but even nearly two hours after the detection of the fire, it is still to be brought under control. The plant authorities, however, assured that there no one is trapped inside and there is very minimum possibility of any casualty.

4 homeopathy students killed

Rajkot: Four students of a homeopathic medical college, all in their 20s, were killed and one was seriously injured Tuesday when their car collided with a Gujarat state transport bus near Vajdi village in Rajkot district, police said. The accident occurred when 15 students, who had gone to visit a primary health centre, were returning in three cars, a Lodhika police station official said.

7,000 kg beef seized

Thane: The police in Maharashtra's Thane district have arrested a man for alleged possession of 7,000 kg of beef worth Rs 8.40 lakh, an official said Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, personnel of the Bhiwandi taluka police and an animal welfare officer intercepted a tempo on Mumbai-Nashik Highway in the early hours of Monday, the official said.

3 die in Bengal lightning strike

Canning (WB): Three persons including a couple died Monday as lightning struck them in West Bengal's Birbhum district, police said. They were working on an agricultural field in Santoshpur village under Nalhati police station.

Lalu meets Sharad Yadav

New Delhi: RJD president Lalu Prasad Yadav met Sharad Yadav, who is recuperating from a long spell of illness, Tuesday, and both leaders held talks for over an hour. The RJD leader told reporters later that the absence of socialist leaders like Sharad Yadav, Mulayam Singh Yadav and himself had resulted in neglect of people-related issues in Parliament.



All transporters in Guwahati operating in Mizoram have been instructed to stop transporting any goods into Mizoram this has resulted in a complete halt of goods including essential medical supplies coming into Mizoram

DR. R LALITHANGLIANA | MIZORAM HEALTH MINISTER

DELHI GOVT APPROVES SALARY HIKE FOR MLAs

The Arvind Kejriwal government Tuesday approved a 66 per cent hike in the salary and allowances of Delhi MLAs as proposed by the Centre, but expressed discontent that they were still among the lowest-paid legislators in the country



Oppn show of unity at Rahul's breakfast meet

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 3: Opposition parties Tuesday put up a united show of strength at a meeting here with the Congress terming it as "historic" and a "trailer" ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The breakfast meeting hosted by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was attended by over 100 MPs of Congress and 15 other opposition parties in a rare display of unity seen after a long time.

Several opposition MPs led by Gandhi later cycled to Parliament to highlight the issue of fuel price hike. Some who could not cycle walked down to Parliament from Constitution Club, the venue of the meeting.

Apart from the Congress, MPs of several opposition parties including Trinamool Congress, NCP, Shiv Sena, DMK, CPI-M, CPI, RJD and Samajwadi Party attended the meeting. Leaders of JMM, JKNC besides IUML, RSP, KCM, LJD and RSP were also present at the meeting. While leaders of 17 opposition parties were invited, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) did not attend.

Trinamool Congress, which had skipped the last meeting of Opposition leaders by Gandhi, was represented, but its main floor lead-



Rahul Gandhi with a bicycle in a symbolic protest

PTI PHOTO

ers were absent. Several opposition leaders spoke at the meeting and the stress was on unity of the opposition and strengthen it further while leaving aside differences if any. Addressing the meeting, Gandhi said the opposition represent 60 per cent of the votes of this country but is treated by the government as if they represent nobody.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said the opposition stands united and will continue to fight this government together. Claiming the entire Opposition was united, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said, "In a way, it is a historic day and the beginning of the picture to come in 2024. It is actually a historic day because this is

the trailer for 2024." The Congress leader, however, side-stepped questions on the issue of leadership among the opposition parties, saying it was not discussed and is not of relevance today. He said the issue is being used as a digression by the BJP in its bid to create division and fissures within the Opposition. Besides Gandhi, senior Congress leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, KC Venugopal, Anand Sharma and P Chidambaram were present at the meeting. The meeting comes amid continued stand-off between the opposition and the government over the Pegasus snooping issue with the opposition demanding a discussion in Parliament and a Supreme Court monitored probe in the matter.

LS PASSES 2 KEY BILLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: Lok Sabha continued to witness protests by the Opposition over the Pegasus snooping controversy and farmers' issues Tuesday and had to be adjourned for the day after the House passed two key bills.

The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021 and the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 were passed separately by voice vote in the midst of continuous protests by opposition members.

Amid the protests during the Question Hour, Speaker Om Birla said that important issues related to farmers were being discussed and urged the protesting members in the Well to go back to their seats.

He also said the protesting members do not seem to want discussions and were insulting Parliamentary traditions.

As the House reconvened at 2 PM, Speaker Birla asked the protesting members to go back to their seats and said that he would give them a chance to speak. However, the opposition continued their protests.

Amid the din, the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 was passed.

The proceedings were then adjourned till 4 PM. When the House reconvened, the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021 was passed.

Oppn targets Shah over law and order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: Opposition parties Tuesday targeted Home Minister Amit Shah over the death of a nine-year-old Dalit girl following an alleged sexual assault, questioning the law and order situation in the national capital, even as the Delhi Police said strict legal action has been taken against the accused.

The Delhi Commission for Women launched an inquiry into the incident and summoned the city police after the girl's parents alleged that she was raped and her body was forcibly cremated by a crematorium priest who had falsely claimed that she was electrocuted.

On Tuesday, the Delhi Police appealed to people not to believe in rumours and said that strict legal action has been taken under IPC, SC/ST Act and POCSO Act.

"We appeal to people not to believe in rumours. Strict legal action has been taken under IPC, SC/ST Act and POCSO Act. An ACP rank officer will be the investigating officer. All the accused have been arrested and sent to jail," the Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) said in a tweet.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that there is a need

to improve the law and order situation in the national capital, adding that he will meet the victim's family Wednesday.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that Shah went to Uttar Pradesh to "distribute certificates" but was "unable to handle his own responsibility".

TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee also trained his guns on Shah and alleged that the law and order situation in this country is in shambles

"A 9-year-old girl was allegedly raped and forcibly cremated in the national capital, right under the watch of Mr @AmitShah! The law and order situation in this country is in shambles," Banerjee tweeted.

She also targeted Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana. The Delhi Police comes under the Union Home Ministry. "The harrowing experiences faced by our women & girls and members from the SC community on a daily basis, show just how INSENSITIVE the HM is," the TMC MP, who is also the nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, stated.

The Delhi Commission for Women said that it has instituted an inquiry into the matter.

Bengal flood: 15 dead, 3L affected

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 3: At least 15 people have died, and lakhs rendered homeless or marooned, as the flood situation in six districts of West Bengal aggravated Tuesday, while torrential rains pumelled the Gwalior-Chambal region in Madhya Pradesh, affecting 1,171 villages.

Six people, including three children, died in rain-related incidents across northern states of the country which were lashed by heavy rainfall.

In Madhya Pradesh, heavy rains were witnessed in Gwalior-Chambal region, especially Sheopur and Shivpuri districts, officials said, adding NDRF and SDRF teams have rescued 1,600 people from flooded areas so far but at least 200 villages are still marooned.

The Army has been called in for rescue operations in Shivpuri, Sheopur, Gwalior and Datia districts, state Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Rajesh Rajora said, adding that despite bad weather, IAF helicopters conducted four sorties to rescue people from

the flood-affected areas. Earlier in the day, three people stranded atop a tree for about 24 hours in Beechi village and five others in Piproudha in flood-hit Shivpuri district, which witnessed "unprecedented heavy rains", were rescued, officials said.

"A total of 1,171 villages were affected in the Gwalior-Chambal region due to excessive rainfall, especially Shivpuri and Sheopur, where an unprecedented 800 mm rainfall (in the last 24 hours ending 8 am Tuesday) resulted in flooding," Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan told reporters.

A 22-year-old UP resident died and two people sustained injuries in a landslide that hit Himachal Pradesh's Solan district, a state disaster management official said.

In Uttarakhand, a stretch of Gangotri national highway caved in following a landslide triggered by heavy rains disrupting vehicular traffic along the route.

The 30-metre stretch fell and slid into Bhagirathi river bringing traffic to a halt. District Disaster Management Officer Devendra Patwal said.



MOCKERY OF COVID NORMS



People flouting social distancing norms wait to receive a dose of Covid-19 vaccine at the mega vaccination centre in Ghaziabad

PTI PHOTO

Honey Singh's wife accuses him of domestic violence

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 3: Shalini Talwar, the wife of rapper and music composer Hirdesh Singh, popularly known as Yo Yo Honey Singh, filed a case of domestic violence against him at the Tis Hazari courts here Tuesday.

In her 118-page complaint, Talwar has accused Honey Singh of engaging in extra-marital sex with various women. She has also provided details of the physical, verbal and

emotional abuse that she had allegedly been subjected to by the rapper and his family.

Honey Singh, his wife alleged in her complaint, "began having frequent casual sex with multiple women" when he was travelling and "to further his sexual intents and illicit relationships, never disclosed to the public that he was married". The rapper and Talwar got married at a Delhi gurudwara in 2011. Talwar alleged Honey Singh kept trying to conceal his procliv-



ities from the time they got married at a Delhi gurudwara in 2011. She

accused him of engaging in substance abuse and even having an affair with a Punjabi movie actress. Taking cognizance of the complaint, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Tania Singh issued a notice to Honey Singh to appear before her August 28.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate passed interim orders restraining the rapper from disposing of the property he jointly owned with his wife as well as her 'stridhan'.

'Ayyub Thakur channelled ISI funds to Kashmir'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 3: While on the face of it, Ayyub Thakur was 'lobbying for the Kashmir cause', he allegedly also provided significant support to terror activities against India, channelling ISI funds to Kashmir through various of his fronts and affiliates.

DisinfoLab reported that Thakur was alleged to have funnelled funds to militant organisations in J&K via his charity "Mercy Universal".

In June 2002, J&K police arrested a businessman, Imtiaz Ahmed Bazaz, on charges of funneling funds sent by Ayyub Thakur from the UK to Kashmiri separatists, including Asiya Andrabi and her organisation Dukhtar-e-Millat.

During his interrogation, Bazaz confessed to contacting Ayyub Thakur for channelling funds sent by Pakistan's ISI. In response, Ayyub Thakur claimed that he had



sent the money for purchasing sewing machines for the women of Kashmir.

However, while Ayyub Thakur might have denied his role, his son Muzammil seems to have a different opinion. During an interview with a J&K based media channel, "Only Kashmir" (in 2015), he admitted that his father "funded terrorism in Kashmir" and that he

also believed it was justified as "Jihad".

Registered in 2000 by Ayyub Thakur, its current board members include Javed Iqbal Aziz, A Hussain, Atif Hussain and Nazir Ahmed. Mercy International was also alleged to be the front used by Ayyub Thakur for funding militants and separatists.

The Justice Foundation was set

up in 2003 by Ayyub Thakur, but within a year he passed away. After his death March 10, 2004, Gulam Nabi Fai took over the leadership of Justice Foundation alongside his close acquaintance Nazir Ahmad Shawl as Director.

During 2011, when FBI issued an affidavit against Fai, Nazir Ahmad Shawl (Executive Director) was active in the UK circuit and was

attending events with Pak leaders and Kashmiri separatists.

Interestingly, Harsh Mander, former IAS officer and Director of Centre for Equity Studies, was also one of the advisors of The Justice Foundation (details now removed from website).

It is worth noting that Mander's name had also appeared in the earlier story on USCIRF (Un-ending War-II) in the context of fabricated database of minority atrocities in India was being peddled through DOTO and Quill Foundation. Mander was in the Advisory Board of Quill Foundation. DOTO is also partners with Justice For All, DisinfoLab reported.

Ayyub Thakur was dismissed from service at the Kashmir University in August 1980 because of political activism while working in government service, and was imprisoned for five months. Immediately after his release,

at the invitation of Gulam Nabi Fai, his friend-cum-associate at Kashmir University, Ayyub Thakur moved to Jeddah in 1981 where with Fai's help he became the Faculty of Engineering in the Department of Nuclear Physics.

Subsequently, he shifted to the UK in 1986, on a Fellowship arranged by his friend Fai. Fai and Thakur had started their Kashmir activism during their association with Jamaat-e-Islami. It is not clear whether Fai was already engaged by the ISI during that time, or was he doing it of his own will.

The duo envisaged and strategised to 'internationalise' the Kashmir issue. They decided to target 50 to 60 foreign students who enrolled at the Kashmir University, Regional Engineering College, and Government Medical College. The plan was to convince the foreign students to become 'unpaid ambassadors' of the 'Kashmir cause'.

international



Iran already knows the price we exact when someone threatens our security. The Iranians need to understand that it is impossible to sit placidly in Tehran and ignite the entire Middle East from there. That's over

INDIAN-AMERICAN GIRL IN WORLD'S 'BRIGHTEST' LIST

Indian-American school girl Natasha Peri, 11, has been named in the world's "brightest" students list based on results of above-grade-level testing of 19,000 students across 84 countries, according to Johns Hopkins Center For Talented Youth



of the day quote

We are looking, not I believe, to lockdown but we are looking to some pain and suffering in the future because we are seeing the cases go up. The solution to this is, get vaccinated

As I told you, Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India. If there needs to be a change in status, it is the vacation of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

We can't wait 30 days for the announcement of a government. We must speed up the formation of the government to be able to face economic and health challenges

Raisi inaugurated as Iran Prez

TEHRAN, August 3: Ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi was Tuesday inaugurated as President of Iran, a country whose hopes of shaking off a dire economic crisis hinges on reviving a nuclear deal with world powers. Following the people's choice, I task the wise, indefatigable, experienced and popular Hojatoleslam Ebrahim Raisi as President of the Islamic Republic of Iran...



A former judiciary chief, Ebrahim Raisi has been criticised by the West for his human rights record. Raisi, who will be sworn in Thursday will have one week to present his cabinet to parliament for a vote of confidence. He won a presidential election in June in which more than half the electorate stayed away after many political heavyweights were barred from standing...

China's Wuhan to test all residents

The city of 11 million is swiftly launching comprehensive nucleic acid testing of all residents

BEIJING, August 3: Authorities in Wuhan Tuesday said they would test its entire population for Covid-19 after the central Chinese city where the Coronavirus emerged reported its first local infections in more than a year. Authorities announced Monday that seven locally transmitted infections had been found among migrant workers in the city, breaking a year-long streak without domestic cases after it squashed an initial outbreak with an unprecedented lockdown in early 2020...



dozens of cities after infections among airport cleaners in Nanjing sparked a chain of cases that have been reported across the country. The eastern city of Yangzhou, near Nanjing, was the latest local government to order residents to stay home after large-scale testing detected 40 new infections over the past day. The more than 1.3 million residents of Yangzhou's urban core are now confined to their homes, with each household allowed to send only one person outside per day to shop for necessities, the city government said Tuesday.

SHORT TAKES

CDC can't renew ban on eviction

Washington: The White House said that the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not have the legal authority to renew an eviction ban to prevent millions of American renters of being forced from their homes during the re-surfing of the Coronavirus pandemic. Facing growing pressure from Democratic lawmakers over the weekend, the White House said Monday that so far the CDC has been "unable to find legal authority for a new, targeted eviction moratorium"...

N Korea releases army rice stocks

Seoul: North Korea is releasing emergency military rice reserves as its food shortage worsens, South Korea's spy agency said Tuesday, with a heat wave and drought reducing the country's supply. Seoul's National Intelligence Service told a closed-door parliamentary committee meeting that North Korea is supplying rice reserved for wartime uses to citizens left with little food, other laborers and rural state agencies, according to Ha Tae-keung, one of the lawmakers who attended the session.

UAE lifts ban on transit flights

Dubai: The United Arab Emirates will lift a ban on transit passenger traffic from India, Pakistan, Nigeria and other countries from Aug 5, the National Emergency and Crisis Management Authority (NCEMA) said Tuesday. NCEMA said on Twitter that passengers travelling from countries where flights had been suspended would be able to transit through its airports from Thursday as long as they present negative RT-PCR tests taken 72 hours prior to departure.

Powerful blast, gunfire hit Kabul

Kabul: A powerful blast followed by sporadic gunfire hit Afghanistan's capital Kabul Tuesday near the city's heavily fortified "Green Zone", an area home to government buildings and foreign embassies, police officials said. At least three people were killed and seven wounded. A senior security official said the blast appeared to have been caused by a car bomb and the apparent target was the residence of a member of parliament.

NY Gov Cuomo sexually harassed women: Probe

NEW YORK, August 3: New York governor Andrew Cuomo "sexually harassed multiple women," including employees, the state's attorney general Letitia James said Tuesday as she announced the findings of an independent investigation into allegations against the powerful Democrat. "The independent investigation has concluded that Governor Andrew Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women and in doing so violated federal and state law," James said at a news conference. She said the investigation found that Cuomo "sexually harassed current and former New York state employees by engaging in unwelcome and non-consensual touching and making numerous comments of a suggestive sexual nature that created a hostile work environment for women."

The probe also found that Cuomo and his senior team took retaliatory action against one former employee for coming forward with her story. At least eight women -- former or current aides -- have come forward to denounce what they said were inappropriate words and gestures from Cuomo. One former employee said he slipped his hand under her blouse last year. Cuomo denies engaging in sexual harassment and is refusing calls to resign that have come even from fellow New York Democrats and Democrats in the US Congress.

FRIENDS IN ARMS



Indian Army troops getting familiarised with equipment in use by Russian Army during Exercise INDRA 2021

US okays sale of Harpoon JCTS to India

WASHINGTON, August 3: The United States has approved the sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS) and related equipment to India for an estimated cost of USD\$2 million. The Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified the US in this regard Monday. The proposed Foreign Military Sale, the State Department said, will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by providing with flexible and efficient Harpoon missile maintenance capabilities to ensure maximum force readiness. Noting that India will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces, the Pentagon said the proposed sale of this equipment and support would not alter the basic military balance in the region. "The principal contractor will be The Boeing Company, St Louis, MO. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement required by India will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s)," it said.



Belarus activist found hanged

KYIV, August 3: A Belarusian activist living in exile in Ukraine was found hanged in a park near his home in Kyiv early Tuesday, and Ukrainian police launched a murder investigation. Vitaly Shishov, who led a Kyiv-based organisation that helps Belarusians fleeing persecution, had been reported missing by his partner Monday after failing to return home from a run. Shishov had been found with abrasions on his nose and knee but it was too early to determine whether he had been attacked, Ukraine's national police chief Ihor Klymenko told a briefing. Shishov, 26, had felt under constant surveillance since he left Belarus last year after taking part in anti-government protests, his colleagues said. He had been warned about possible threats, including being kidnapped or killed. Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania have become havens for Belarusians during a crackdown by President Alexander Lukashenko following a disputed election last year. Tens of thousands of people have been detained and leading opposition figures are either in jail or living abroad. "It is worrying that those who flee Belarus still can't be safe," exiled Opposition figure Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said on Twitter ahead of a meeting in London with British PM Boris Johnson. She said the death could be a crime. The Belarusian authorities have characterised anti-government protesters as criminals or violent revolutionaries backed by the West.



Police said they were considering the possibility of suicide or of a murder staged to appear as suicide

US BIPARTISAN BILL OMITTS KEY CLIMATE MEASURES

The White House says the bipartisan deal is just the first step, with a proposed \$3.5 trillion, Democratic-only package following close behind

WASHINGTON, August 3: The \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package unveiled by the Senate includes more than \$150 billion to boost clean energy and promote "climate resilience" by making schools, ports and other structures better able to withstand extreme weather events such as storms and wildfires. But the bill, headed for a Senate vote this week, falls far short of President Joe Biden's pledge to transform the nation's heavily fossil-fuel powered economy into a clean-burning one and stop climate-damaging emissions from US power plants by 2035. While the bipartisan plan is "a good start," lawmakers will "deal with the climate crisis in the magnitude, scope and scale that's required" in the Democratic-only bill, said Sen Ed Markey, D-Mass. For now, the focus is on the bipartisan deal, which includes \$50 billion in new spending for public works projects, \$73 billion of that to update the electric grid and more than \$50 billion to bolster infrastructure against cyberattacks and climate change. There's also \$7.5 billion for electric charging stations. Citing the deadly Texas power outages earlier this year, the White House touted spending to upgrade the nation's power grid and boost renewable energy. An Energy Department study found that power

outages cost the US economy up to \$70 billion a year. The bill also invests in demonstration projects for advanced nuclear reactors, carbon capture and storage and so-called clean hydrogen that can be burned with few emissions. "It is clear that the deal does not meet the moment on climate or



burned with few emissions. "It is clear that the deal does not meet the moment on climate or

IGNORED POINTS

Clean Electricity Standard, a key element of Biden's climate plan that would require the electric grid to replace fossil fuels with renewable sources such as solar, wind and hydropower. Civilian Climate Corps, a nod to the Great Depression-era New Deal that would put millions of Americans to work on conservation projects, renewable energy and helping communities recover from climate disasters

justice," said Tiernan Sittenfeld, a senior vice president of the League of Conservation Voters. "This looks like the Exxon Infrastructure Bill," said Janet Redman of Greenpeace USA. "An infrastructure bill that doesn't prevent a full-blown climate catastrophe by funding a swift transition to renewable energy would kill millions of Americans." The plan includes \$21 billion to clean up brownfields and other polluted sites, reclaim abandoned mine land and cap orphaned oil and gas wells. The plan will help communities near contaminated industrial sites and rural areas where abandoned oil wells pose a continuing a hazard, the White House said.

business

of the day quote

The coronavirus pandemic may have pushed the United States into a volatile era of stronger growth and better productivity, but higher interest rates and faster inflation as well

JAMES BULLARD | PRESIDENT, ST. LOUIS FEDERAL RESERVE

We have expanded our rural coverage by 16 per cent, from 60,000 villages at the end of 2020-21 to 69,000 villages in Q1, 2021-21. We plan to further expand it by 33 per cent to 80,000 villages over the next two years

MOHIT MALHOTRA | DABUR INDIA CEO

Given IndusInd Bank's exclusive suite of services comprising innovative and cost-effective solutions, coupled with our state-of-the-art technology platforms, we are confident of being a 'partner of choice' for the government, its enterprises, as well as all other stakeholders in fulfilling their financial aspirations in the most seamless manner

SOURMITRA SEN | HEAD, CONSUMER BANK, INDUSIND BANK

SHORT TAKES

Nykaa to raise \$500m via IPO

Bangalore: Indian e-commerce beauty company Nykaa plans to raise \$500 million through its initial public offering (IPO), a source with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters, becoming the latest homegrown startup to pursue a listing on the domestic bourses. Private equity firm TPG-backed Nykaa, based in Mumbai, sells cosmetics, grooming products and clothes. Nykaa, formally known as FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd, said its IPO will consist of a fresh issue of shares of up to 5.25 billion rupees (\$70.63 million) and an offer for sale of up to 43.1 million shares, according to a copy of its draft red herring prospectus dated Monday. The source said the 5.25 billion rupees will come from fresh shares issued to investors, while the rest will come from existing shareholders.

Khurda HCCB factory wins gold

Bhubaneswar: Competing with manufacturing facilities of some of the best enterprises in the country, FMCG company Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB) emerged a leader with seven of its factories winning the Gold award at the prestigious India Green Manufacturing Challenge 2021. Among the winners of the Gold award is HCCB's factory at Khurda. HCCB was also conferred the 'Responsible Corporate Citizen Award.' This award recognises HCCB's work in the areas of green manufacturing, community development and corporate governance among others. The Gold awards are based on a 200 to 800 points rating scale out of which factories scoring more than 700 points qualify for Gold.

SCI Q1 net profit declines 112%

New Delhi: State-owned Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI) Tuesday reported a 112.52 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹158.51 crore for the first quarter of the current fiscal. The company had clocked a consolidated net profit of ₹336.87 crore in the corresponding period a year earlier, according to a regulatory filing. Its total income declined to ₹1,048.47 crore in the latest June quarter as against ₹1,178.43 crore in the year-ago period.



The emergence of highly infectious virus variants could derail the recovery and wipe out \$4.5 trillion cumulatively from global GDP by 2025

GITA GOPINATH | IMF CHIEF ECONOMIST

PEPSICO TO SELL TROPICANA, OTHER JUICES IN \$3.3BLN DEAL

PepsiCo will sell Tropicana and other juices to a private equity firm in a USD 3.3 billion deal. The New York drink and snack company will keep a 39 per cent non-controlling stake in a newly formed joint venture in the deal with PAI Partners.



Nifty scales 16,000 as investors eye recovery

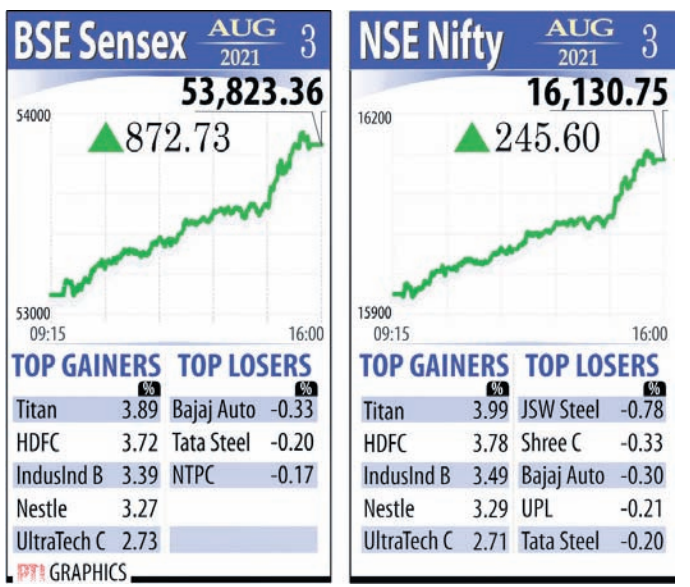
THE MARKET CAPITALISATION OF BSE-LISTED COMPANIES JUMPS TO RECORD HIGH

Mumbai, August 3: Indian shares ended higher Tuesday, with the blue-chip Nifty index surpassing the 16,000 level for the first time, as investors bet on a faster recovery in Asia's third-largest economy following a devastating second COVID-19 wave.

The NSE Nifty 50 index ended up 1.55% at 16,130.75 and the benchmark S&P BSE Sensex rose 1.65% to 53,823.36.

"The (16,000) level is important. It will add to the confidence of investors, especially because in the last 2-3 weeks the trend was weak," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Earnings are providing a lot of support to the market. The economy is able to sustain itself in the new norm. The market is betting the COVID impact next year is going to be much lower," Nair said, adding that a slew of successful initial public offerings had also boosted retail investor confidence.



The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped to a record high of ₹2,40,04,664.28 crore Tuesday, driven by a rally in stocks that also saw the benchmark Sensex touching its lifetime peak of 53,887.98 points.

Rallying for the second consecutive day Tuesday, the 30-share BSE index closed at a fresh closing

peak of 53,823.36 points, a jump of 872.73 points or 1.65 per cent. During the day, it zoomed 937.35 points to 53,887.98 points.

Investors' wealth soared by ₹4,54,915.38 crore since Friday's close.

In the previous session, the Sensex rallied 363.79 points or 0.69 per cent.

Indian shares have more than doubled since hitting near four year-lows in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, as a market flush with liquidity saw strong foreign fund inflows and increased retail participation.

Indian equities have attracted a net \$6.93 billion in foreign inflows this year as of July, despite outflows from other Asian stock markets, data from Refinitiv Eikon showed.

Domestic investors purchased a net \$2.2 billion worth of equity mutual funds in the first half, compared with net selling of \$5.34 billion in the second half of 2020, data from Refinitiv Lipper showed.

Indian auto part firms want Tesla's entry to benefit local companies



New Delhi, August 3: India's auto component makers want Tesla's potential entry to benefit the country's suppliers, and one way to achieve that is for the company to manufacture locally, the head of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) said.

Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk said in July that the company was likely to set up a factory in India if successful with imported vehicles after it sought big cuts in import duties on electric cars.

The demand, reported by Reuters, has polarised the auto industry in the country and prompted a rare public debate among car-makers over whether easing import tax rates runs contrary to India's push to promote domestic manufacturing.

"We will always promote localisation," Deepak Jain, ACMA president told reporters Tuesday, when asked about the industry body's views on Tesla's demand.

"We would welcome any foreign or domestic entry, capacity expansions on any vehicle segment as long as it promotes value addition and localisation, which gives the opportunity for the component sector to flourish"

DEEPAK JAIN | ACMA PRESIDENT

Vodafone Idea shares fall over 10 pc after Birla's offer

Billionaire businessman made an offer to hand over his stake in debt-laden VIL to government entities to keep the company operational

New Delhi, August 3: Shares of Vodafone Idea Tuesday fell over 10 per cent after reports that Aditya Birla group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla has offered to hand over his stake in debt-laden VIL to the government entities to keep the company operational.

The stock plunged 10.30 per cent to close at ₹7.40 on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 13.09 per cent to ₹7.17 - its 52-week low.

At the NSE, it closed at ₹7.40, lower by 10.30 per cent.

The billionaire businessman made the offer in June in a letter to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba.

According to official data, VIL had an adjusted gross revenue (AGR) liability of ₹58,254 crore out of which the company has paid ₹7,854.37 crore and ₹50,399.63 crore is outstanding.

VIL along with Bharti Airtel had approached the Supreme Court for correction in the government calculations, but their



plea was rejected.

In the letter, Birla, who holds around a 27 per cent stake in VIL, said investors are not willing to invest in the company in the absence of clarity on AGR liability, an adequate moratorium on spectrum payments and most importantly floor pricing regime above the cost of service.

Without immediate active support from the government on the three issues by July, the financial

GST officers detect ₹7,421 crore tax evasion in April-June

New Delhi, August 3: GST officers have detected tax evasion of ₹7,421 crore in the April-June period of the current fiscal, Parliament was informed Tuesday.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary gave details of the total tax evasion detected in GST in the last 3 years. In 2019-20, 10,657 cases of evasion, involving ₹40,853.27 crore were detected. Recovery was ₹18,464 crore.

In 2020-21, ₹49,384 crore worth GST evasion was detected in 12,596 cases. Recovery stood at ₹12,235 crore. In the current fiscal up to June, 1,580 cases of Goods and Services Tax evasion involving ₹7,421.27 crore were detected, and ₹1,920 crore recovered in April-June 2021.

Chaudhary said the GST interface for the taxpayers is on a digital platform and software-based to be used for payment of tax and to comply with the requirements of law and procedure by taxpayers.

"However, tax evaders are known to commit fraud even on electronic platforms by way of misrepresentation of facts," he said.

PNB posts ₹1,023cr net profit in Q1, FY22

Bhubaneswar, August 3: State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) registered over three-fold jump in its standalone net profit to ₹1,023.46 crore for the first quarter ended June 30 as against corresponding period of previous fiscal.

The bank had posted a net profit of ₹308.45 crore in quarter one of last financial year. During a virtual press briefing, the bank Tuesday highlighted its achievement to the media. Operating profit of the bank grew by 15.5% on YoY basis to ₹6,099 crore in Q1 FY'22. Also, net interest income grew by 6.6% on YoY

BoI posts ₹720cr Q1 net profit

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Bank of India (BoI) registered a net profit of ₹720 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal. The net profit is up by 188% over quarter four of the previous financial year. Operating profit stood at ₹2,806 crore that is up by 34% over Q4, FY21. Also, Non-Interest Income grew by 39% YoY. Net Interest Margin has been improved by 15 bps sequentially and Net Interest Income has shot up by 7%.

This apart, the bank stated that it's the gross NPA ratio has downed by 40 bps YoY. Also, Net NPA ratio has decreased by 23 bps YoY. The bank showed improvement in Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR)



as well. PCR stood at 86.17%, improved by 130 bps YoY.

CRAR stood at 15.07% higher than both March, 2021 and June 2020. The retail, agriculture & MSME (RAM) advances grew by 11.02% YoY and it constitutes 51.36% of advances in the sector. The retail credit grew by 10.57% YoY, agriculture credit grew by 11.08% YoY and MSME credit increased by 11.45% YoY. Current Account Savings Account (CASA) deposits have shown rise by 13.80% YoY in the bank. Credit cost declined by 241 bps over Q4, FY21. Also, slippage ratio declined by 96 bps over Q4FY21. BoI also stated that its global business stood at ₹10, 38,083 crore in June Quarter for FY'2021-2022.

India's female labour participation rate falls to 16.1%

ACCORDING TO WORLD BANK ESTIMATES, INDIA HAS ONE OF THE LOWEST FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES IN THE WORLD

Mumbai, August 3: Female labour participation rate in India fell to 16.1% during the July-September 2020 quarter, the lowest among the major economies, a government report said, reflecting the impact of pandemic and a widening job crisis.

The percentage of women in the labour force had fallen to a record low of 15.5% during the April-June 2020 quarter, when India imposed strict lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19 virus, said the report, released late Monday by the Ministry of Statistics.

According to World Bank estimates, India has one of the lowest female labour force participation

rates in the world. Less than a third of women - defined in the report as 15 or older - are working or actively looking for a job.

The female labour participation rate in India had fallen to 20.3% in 2019 from more than 26% in 2005, according to World Bank estimates, compared with 30.5% in neighbouring Bangladesh and 33.7% in Sri Lanka.

Most employed women in India are in low-skilled work, such as farm and factory labour and domestic help, sectors that have been hit hard by the pandemic.

The unemployment rate among women touched 15.8%, compared with 12.6% among male workers during three months that ended



in September 2020, the latest quarter for which data was released.

Most economic activities have resumed in the country after state gov-

ernments eased pandemic curbs in response to a decline in coronavirus infections from May peaks. That is likely to help create more jobs for all workers, government officials said.

India's July unemployment rate fell to 6.95% from the June figure of 9.17%, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed on Monday.

Many private economists have warned that the slow pace of vaccination and a slump in consumer demand could hurt growth prospects, and the economy is unlikely to attain its pre-Covid size before March 2022.

Asia's third-largest economy, which shrank 7.3% in the fiscal year ending in March, the worst recession in last seven decades, is expected to grow at 8.9% year-on-year in the current fiscal year.

Hiring rate around 42% above pre-Covid levels in India: Report

New Delhi, August 3: India's recruitment activity has been recovering steadily as the hiring rate in June 2021 was around 42 per cent above the pre-pandemic levels in 2019, says a report.

According to LinkedIn India - Labour Market Update for June 2021, there was a deepening hiring dip in April 2021, corresponding to a second wave of COVID-19 cases in India. Since then, it has been recovering steadily, compared to the pre-COVID levels in 2019.

Hiring rate was 35 per cent higher at the end of May 2021, and 42 per cent higher at the end of June 2021.

Hiring rate is a measure of hires divided by LinkedIn membership. This analysis looks at the changes in hiring rate between this month and the same month in 2019.

The uptick is possibly due to a release of pent up hiring, as companies took a more cautious stance towards hiring in 2020, the report said. The report further noted that competition for jobs was lower compared to 12 months ago, but applicants are applying more aggressively. "Last year, we saw the applications per job double in the middle of 2020, during the height of global lockdowns. Right now, it is going in the opposite direction - average applications per job is 0.6x compared to the same month last year. Meanwhile, the applications per applicant has been slowly increasing and has reached 1.2x compared to last year," it said.

Taken together, this suggests that the supply of jobs has increased in the market.

Disappointing day at Games

1ST INDIA-ENGLAND TEST BEGINS TODAY Test of Virat's strategic acumen



TAJINDER PAL SINGH TOOR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, August 3: Asian record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor and javelin thrower Annu Rani failed to qualify for the final rounds of their respective events following below-par performances at the Olympics here Tuesday.

The day turned out to be a disappointing one as men's hockey team also lost their semifinal match against Belgium 2-5. However, they still have a chance to bag a medal when they play for third place to secure a bronze medal.

The 26-year-old Toor, who was expected to at least make the finals, failed to live up to the expectations as he could only manage one legal throw of 19.99m, in his first attempt, to finish 13th out of 16 competitors in qualification A.

Competing with a heavily bandaged shoulder, his next two throws were fouls. Every participant gets only three attempts in the qualification round. The below-par show meant that Toor made an exit even before the start of second qualification.

Those who cleared 21.20m or at least 12 best performers from the two qualifying rounds made the final cut. Toor had qualified for Olympics with a personal best of 21.49m in the Indian Grand Prix 4 in June. And had he managed to achieve that, he would have been an automatic qualifier to the finals.

Rio Olympics bronze winner Tomas Walsh of New Zealand took the top spot in qualification A with an automatic qualifying mark of 21.49m, which he produced in the third round. His effort was initially ruled as a foul but later restored as valid.

Brazil's Darlan Romani (21.31m) and Egyptian Mostafa Amir Hassan (21.23m) were the other two automatic qualifiers for the final round.

In the women's javelin throw, national record holder Rani was even worse as she finished 14th and last in qualification A with a best third round throw of 54.04m, which was well below her personal best of 63.24m which she had produced in March.

Rani, who qualified for the Olympics on the basis of her world rankings, was unable to breach the automatic entry standard of 64m and eventually ended at 29th and last after the two qualifying rounds. Her two other throws were 50.35m and 53.19m.

SONAM GOES DOWN

Young Indian wrestler Sonam Malik lost her opening bout on criteria to Mongolia's Bolortuya Khurelkhuu in the women's 62kg category here on Tuesday and will now have to wait and see if she gets a repechage round on her Olympic debut. The 19-year-old led the bout 2-0 after scoring two push-out points but the Asian silver medalist Khurelkhuu effected a

No slot for Naresh

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court was informed Tuesday that "Tokyo has refused to allot additional slot" for Paralympian shooter Naresh Kumar Sharma, who was to be included as additional participant for the upcoming Paralympics in Japan as per the apex court's order to the PCI. The top court granted liberty to Sharma to approach the Delhi High Court and request it to expeditiously take up his appeal against its single-judge order which had refused to interfere with his non-selection for Tokyo Paralympics, scheduled for later this month. A bench of justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna passed the order after senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Sharma, said it is a classic case as "Tokyo has refused to allot additional slot" to the petitioner as there were 10 slots - eight for men and two for women participants.

INDIA'S SCHEDULE

ATHLETICS: Neeraj Chopra in men's javelin throw Qualification Group A: **5:35am IST**; Shivpal Singh in men's javelin throw Qualification Group B: **7:05am IST**.

BOXING: Lovlina Borgohain vs Busenaz Surmeneli (Turkey) in women's 69kg semifinal: **11am IST**.

GOLF: Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar in women's individual stroke play round 1: **4am IST**.

HOCKEY: India vs Argentina in women's semifinal: **3:30pm IST**.

WRESTLING: Ravi Kumar vs Oscar Eduardo Tigreros (Colombia) in men's freestyle 57kg; **fourth bout after 8:00am IST start**; Anshu Malik vs Iryna Kurachkina (Belarus) in women's freestyle 57kg; **fifth bout after 8:00am IST start**; Deepak Punia vs Ekerekeme Agiomor (Nigeria) in men's freestyle 86kg; **eighth bout after 8:00am IST start**.

take-down move with just 35 seconds left in the contest to level the score. The score remained 2-2 till the end but since it was the Mongolian who scored the last point with her move, she was declared winner on criteria.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nottingham, August 3: The toughest four months of Virat Kohli's eventful leadership career start here on Wednesday when his strategic acumen will be tested while selecting a perfect Indian combination to take on a good England side in the first Test of a five-match series.

Kohli announced his playing XI for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand couple of days before the game and drew flak for not respecting the conditions.

However, Wednesday, he will have to think overtime about the balance of his squad with a long tail, often bushy with runs, and just two openers - one untested (Rohit Sharma) but very capable and another supremely talented (KL Rahul) but highly reluctant starter.

Rahul, with 2000 plus Test runs, looks a logical choice to partner Rohit after Mayank Agarwal's concussion but the lack of Hardik Pandya and the utility of two specialist spinners does come into the equation.

Bengal's Abhimanyu Easwaran had last played a first-class game in March, 2020 and that too after enduring a horrendous season. Will the team risk him? It would be a

INDIA SQUAD

Virat Kohli (C), Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohd. Shami, Md. Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prithvi Shaw & Suryakumar Yadav.

huge call. That brings into the equation Hanuma Vihari, the team's 'All-Purpose Player', who had once faced the new ball in Australia.

His handy off-spin, along with that of automatic choice Ravi Ashwin, could also pave the way for Shardul Thakur's entry as the bowling all-rounder in place of an experienced Ravindra Jadeja.

Mohammed Shami is still a wily customer and Ishant Sharma still possesses a big heart but they are ageing. Jasprit Bumrah, since his lower back stress fracture in 2019, is hardly the Test bowler one has come to know but his success in the last series may ensure a start for him.

But where does it leave India's fastest and most in-form bowler Mohammed Siraj, whose raw pace

ousted a concussed Agarwal from this Test match? It would probably require a leap of faith from the skipper to ignore Siraj's calibre.

But if one looks at this team's performance in England, India have lost 11 out of 14 Tests across the last three tours.

As the Indian captain walks out with his band of men against a side that has two artists of red Dukes at work in James Anderson and Stuart Broad. The veterans will be complemented by one of the world's fastest bowlers in Mark Wood and a smart apprentice in Ollie Robinson.

The job for Kohli and his seasoned top-order would be easier said than done on a grassy Trent Bridge pitch.

So Cheteshwar Pujara, whose middle-name critics would want to be 'intent', and Ajinkya Rahane, who at times has looked a better Test match captain, would have to do something special.

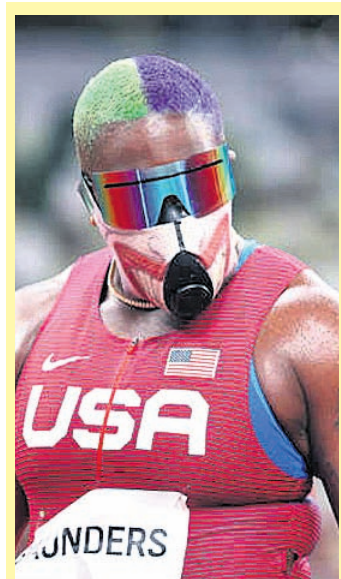
There is still no danger to their places in the squad contrary to popular belief but if there are options like Suryakumar Yadav (he boarded the flight from Colombo Tuesday) and these players don't perform, it will be difficult to keep talented men out of the team.

OFFICIAL THEME SONG FOR INDIAN PARALYMPIC CONTINGENT LAUNCHED

NEW DELHI: Sports Minister Anurag Thakur Tuesday virtually launched the theme song 'Kar De Kamaal Tu' for the country's Paralympic contingent and urged the public to cheer the para athletes during the upcoming Games in Tokyo. The song is composed and sung by divyang cricket player Sanjeev Singh, who is a resident of Lucknow. "The song embodies the grit and determination of our amazing Paralympic athletes. Indian para athletes have consistently performed well all over the world. You have made India proud," Thakur said. "Let's all come together and cheer for our para athletes," he added.

HAIRSTYLES DO THE TALKING!

After a year-long wait for the Olympics due to pandemic, the participants are finally able to showcase their efforts at the Tokyo 2020 that transcend sport. But their hair game is as strong, bold, colourful and to some extent weird. Let's take a look at some of eye-catching hairstyles which caught attention to many...



RAVEN SAUNDERS (USA, shot put)
The accessories she modeled during her event at the Tokyo 2020 had made her a sudden sensation back home. She dyed the right side of her buzz cut green and the left half purple. Her hair sat atop Technicolor-shield sunglasses and a mask designed with a sadistic smile of either the Joker or the Hulk, the latter a nod to her nickname.

KIRAN BADLOE (The Netherlands, windsurfing)



For the hairstyle, the Dutchman sought inspiration from a character - Aang - from an American animated series -- 'Avatar: The last Airbender.'

MEGAN RAPINOE (USA, football)

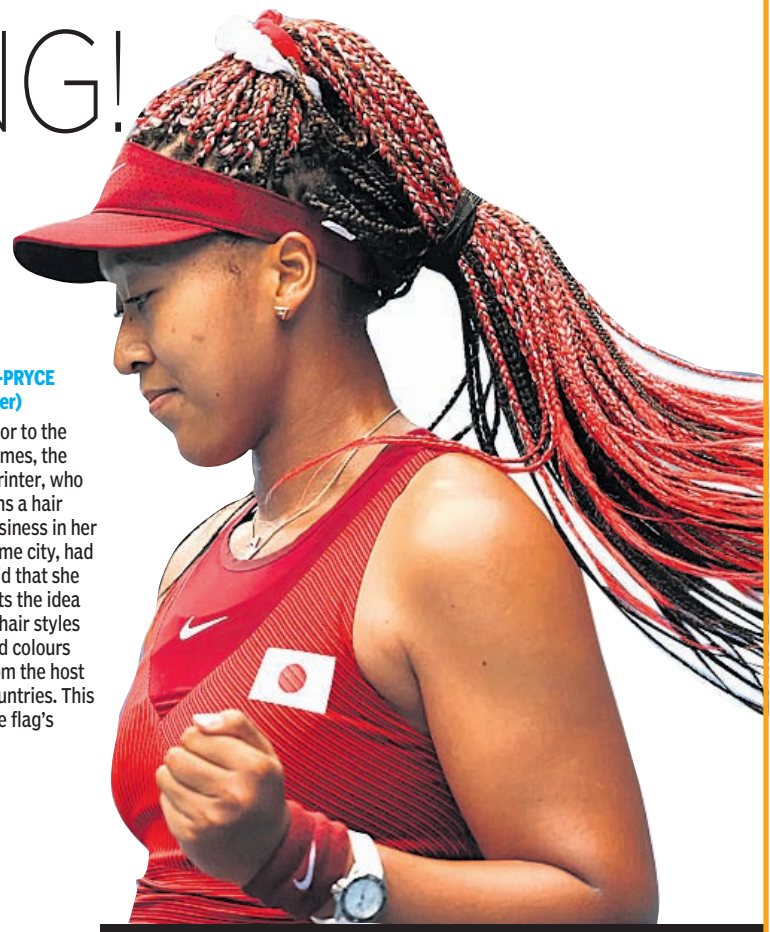


She went with a colour that has elements of pink and purple, the same as her World Cup look. Rapinoe and her hair colourist named the colour as 'Rapinkoe'.

SHELLY-ANN FRASER-PRYCE (Jamaican sprinter)



Prior to the Games, the sprinter, who runs a hair business in her home city, had said that she gets the idea of hair styles and colours from the host countries. This time she followed Japanese flag's colours (red and white).



NAOMI OSAKA (Japan, tennis)
Osaka was sporting some of her trademark colourful red box braids. She hogged limelight when she had the honour of lighting the Olympic Cauldron at the opening ceremony with a the hairstyle that closely resembled the colours of Japan's flag - red with white strands woven throughout.



GABRIELLA DE BUES-STAFFORD
Canadian 1500m runner



EBRAR KARAKURT
Turkish volleyball player



COURTNEY HURLEY
American fencer



UNDRALBAT LKHAGVA
Mongolian coach



UCHE EKA
Nigerian gymnast



TIA-ADANA BELLE
Hurdler from Barbados



STEPHANIE MAWULI
Japanese Basketball player



ROMANE DICKO
French Judoka



FRANCINE NIYONSABA
5000m runner from Burundi