



VAANI PENS NOTE

Actor Vaani Kapoor took to her Instagram handle to share a bunch of happy pictures with director Abhishek Kapoor

LEISURE P2



CLIMATE CHANGE RISK

11 out of 36 Maha districts have been found to be vulnerable to extreme weather events

TWO STATES P8



KHEL RATNA RENAMED

The Centre renamed the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award after hockey legend Dhyan Chand

NATIONAL P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It is difficult to start new awards to encourage sports in the country. But we can always rename an award!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	54277.72 ↓ 215.12
NIFTY	16238.20 ↓ 56.40
DOLLAR	74.50 ↑ ₹0.01
EURO	87.76 ↓ ₹0.32
GOLD	₹46,636 ↓ ₹967
SILVER	₹64,765 ↓ ₹2233

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	34.8°C	34.7°C
MAX	34.8°C	34.7°C
MIN	26.0°C	25.5°C
Humidity	92%	80%
Rainfall	28.2mm	1.1mm

Forecast: Light rain very likely

Bronze lost hearts won

WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM SIGNS OFF 4TH AT OLYMPICS AFTER NARROW LOSS TO UK

AGENCIES

Tokyo, August 6: The history-making Indian women's hockey team's dream of securing its maiden Olympic medal remained unfulfilled as it lost 3-4 to Great Britain in a hard-fought bronze play-off but the stout-hearted side managed to record its best ever finish at the Games here Friday.

The team had already created history and surpassed all expectations by entering the semifinals of the Games for the first time. But the maiden Olympic medal remained out of bounds as world no.4 Great Britain, who were gold-winners in the 2016 Rio Games, came out on top in the pulsating encounter.

India's best performance in the Olympics before this was a fourth-place finish in the 1980 Moscow Games but there were no semifinals in that edition as only six teams competed in a round-robin format and the top two featured in the final.

The heartbreak came a day after the Indian men's team ended a 41-year-old medal drought by clinching bronze with a 5-4 win over Germany. The Indians played their hearts out and overcame a two-goal deficit to lead 3-2 at half time. But a desperate Great Britain gave their everything in the second half and scored two goals to snatch the match from India's hands.



India scored three goals in a span of five minutes through Gurjit Kaur (25th, 26th minutes) and Vandana Katariya (29th) to stun Great Britain. But the Britishers found the net four times through Elena Rayer (16th), Sarah Robertson (24th), skipper Hollie Pearne-Webb (35th) and Grace Baldson (48th) to emerge winners.

As expected, Great Britain started strongly and had the lion's share of ball possession and chances in the first quarter. The Indians made some circle penetrations but failed to create any clear cut chances and were also guilty

of losing possession at the midfield. India goalkeeper Savita Punia stood out in the first quarter, denying Great Britain on at least three occasions. She first made a fine save from Great Britain's first penalty corner in the second minute and then pulled off a double save in the 12th minute to keep India in the hunt.

In between Great Britain also wasted another penalty corner. Britain began the second quarter on the same pace and took the lead when Elena Rayer's push went into the net after getting a deflection of Deep Grace Ekka's stick.

WILL CONTINUE TO BACK YOU: NAVEEN



BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday said the Indian women's hockey team lost to Great Britain in Tokyo Olympics, but won the hearts of millions of people in the country. Interacting with the players through video conference, Patnaik congratulated them for putting up a brave fight in the match against Great Britain, which it lost, crashing the dream of a Bronze medal after maiden entry into the semifinals. "Girls, you have done a lot of hard work. Performed very well in the Olympics. You have lost a match, but won our hearts," the Chief Minister said, inviting the team to Bhubaneswar for a gathering. "Keep your fighting spirit up and keep inspiring," he added. Patnaik also urged the players to keep working hard. "India lost to Great Britain after giving a very very tough fight for the Bronze medal. It may be noted that Great Britain was the Gold medalists in the last Olympics held in Rio, and India was 12th," he said. "We all in Odisha will continue to support you, be happy," he added.

The Leaders' Choice

1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

Farmer kills self over paddy distress sale

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 6: A farmer committed suicide at Kudagunderpur village under Bulra police limits in Sambalpur district Thursday by taking pesticide over distress sale of paddy. He was allegedly unable to pay off his loans. The deceased has been identified as Kaibalya Rohidas.

His son Dasarath Rohidas said his father was under severe mental stress due to financial problem. He had produced 200 quintals of paddy, but was able to sell only 45 quintals.

He produced 200 quintals of paddy during rabi while the token he received allowed him to sell only 45

quintals. Later, he suffered huge losses by selling the remaining stocks of paddy at a very cheap price, Dasarath said.

After running out of options, Rohidas allegedly consumed poison Thursday night. He was immediately rushed to hospital at Burla where he breathed his last during treatment Friday.

"My father could not sell whatever was produced. He was under severe mental stress," said Dasarath Rohidas.

Ashok Nath, president of the Charpalli Krushak Sangathan said, Rohidas was mentally distressed after he was unable to sell off his paddy and committed suicide.

ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ଜାତୀୟ ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତ ଦିବସ

୭ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ, ୨୦୨୧

“ବୁଣାକାରଙ୍କ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ବିକାଶ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ନିରନ୍ତର ପ୍ରୟାସ”

“ସମଗ୍ର ବିଶ୍ୱରେ ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବୁଣାକାର ମାନଙ୍କର ଦକ୍ଷତା ଓ ପ୍ରତିଭାର ତୁଳନା ନାହିଁ । ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଆମେ ଗର୍ବିତ ।”

ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ

ଆୟୋଜକ

ବୟନିକା ଓ ବୟନଶିଳ୍ପ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାଳୟ

ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତ, ବୟନ ଓ ହସ୍ତଶିଳ୍ପ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

OIPR-31004/13/0006/2122

leisure

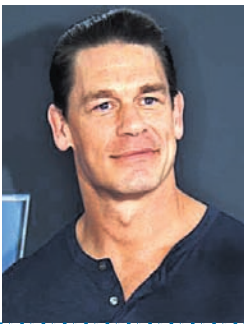


MEGAN THEE STALLION SAYS COLLEGE HAS KEPT HER GROUNDED

Grammy winning-rapper Megan Thee Stallion has shared how studying for a college degree has kept her level-headed. The *Savage* hitmaker is due to graduate with a degree in health administration from the Texas Southern University later this year, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

JOHN REVEALS WHY HE WANTED TO DO THE SUICIDE SQUAD

Hollywood star John Cena has shared what drew him to do the film *The Suicide Squad*. The former WWE champion said it was because of the filmmaker James Gunn he wanted to feature in the movie.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You may get all nostalgic and wistful today, predicts Ganesh. You will go out of your way to improve your relationships. To you, your commitment is an investment for the future. The result is loving life-long bonds.

TAURUS
Financial gains are on the cards today, predicts Ganesh. Happiness will fly in as you receive some good news from an overseas friend. If you have feelings that you haven't expressed to someone you dearly love, today is a good day to go ahead and let them know.

GEMINI
Some of your personal belongings are very dear to you. You may have to grudgingly share them with someone else. A mild pang of jealousy may kick in. But, you are merely being protective of something very personal, so there is nothing wrong with that, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will be in high spirits today, foretells Ganesh. It is a favourable day to engage in household activities, like gardening, cooking or even washing laundry. In the evening, work will be eclipsed by the pleasures of love.

LEO
Today, the force is with you. Well, at least part of the force that deals with being a smooth talker, says Ganesh. It is your power of expression that comes to the fore and stands you in good stead. Having mastered the art of communication, you now are a wizard of words who conjures showers of pearls with a mere twist of the tongue.

VIRGO
Take a break today, says Ganesh. Replace the mundane with something exotic. Attend private dos and social meets and be gregariously gregarious.

LIBRA
No matter what you do, some days are just not happening. Considering the random mood swings that affect you today, it's in the best interest of others that you put up a 'Beware of me' sign. By being forewarned about it, you should be capable of handling your erratic behaviour. Just remember that nothing can affect your mental balance, and that this is just a phase.

SCORPIO
The day today is riddled with minor, nagging ailments. Adopt a two-pronged strategy, advises Ganesh. One - change your lifestyle, and two - visit your doctor for regular examinations. Ominous at his best, Ganesh counsels to take care of your health.

SAGITTARIUS
Be set to capture the flag and sing the victory song in whatever task you take up today. Your subordinates will be the ones needing your support and motivation. At the end of the day, the icing on the cake would be the smile you take to bed.

CAPRICORN
The achievements of the day may make you feel like you were born to succeed in life. Yes, you will be successful in whatever you do today, even if you don't try too hard for it, says Ganesh. But it's important that you at least take an initiative and not expect rewards to come for no reason.

AQUARIUS
Your mood will swing by the hour today! Naturally, you leave your friends stumped. But unpredictability does not mean that you take unnecessary risk. Ganesh suggests you complete all pending projects, and bear in mind that it is only fools who rush in where angels fear to tread.

PISCES
You probably jumped out of bed this morning itching to talk to someone. And why not, since all your latent power of expression will spring out like a jack-in-the-box today. The pearls of wisdom you shower on people who are down-in-the-dumps today will make them feel good about their bluesy, taciturn selves, says Ganesh.

Vaani's heartwarming note for Abhishek Kapoor



Mumbai: Apart from *Bell Bottom*, Vaani Kapoor will soon be sharing screen space with Ayushmann Khurrana for her next project titled *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*. Helmed by Abhishek Kapoor, the movie has wrapped its shooting schedule and is awaiting its release. Throughout their shooting, Vaani and Ayushmann had shared happy memories and snippets on working with the director.

Friday was Abhishek Kapoor's birthday. Having said that, actress Vaani Kapoor took to her Instagram handle to share a bunch of happy pictures with him and

also added a heartwarming note which read, 'Happy Birthday to this amazing person! You are not only a stellar filmmaker and a great visionary but also a kind humble and generous soul, who I had the privilege of knowing and working with'.

She also added, "Being a part of *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui* and working with you have given me memories for a lifetime and I will always be grateful that you put your faith in me for bringing your vision of Maanvi to life. You inspired me to do better and always encouraged me to bring out the best in me. Lots of love and wishing all the happiness and the best in everything you do."

Vaani is currently busy with the promotions of *Bell Bottom*, as the movie is all set to hit the theatres on August 19. Directed by Ranjit M Tewari, the movie is said to be following a spy-thriller genre inspired from true events, and stars Akshay Kumar and Huma Qureshi in pivotal roles.

Preity is proud she did Dil Chahta Hai

Mumbai: Farhan Akhtar's maiden directorial, *Dil Chahta Hai* is all set to clock two decades of its release in Hindi cinema. Actress Preity G. Zinta, who played Shalini in the movie, has gone down memory lane and said that she is proud she did the movie.

Reminiscing about the film, Preity said: "This is surreal, celebrating 20 years of *Dil*

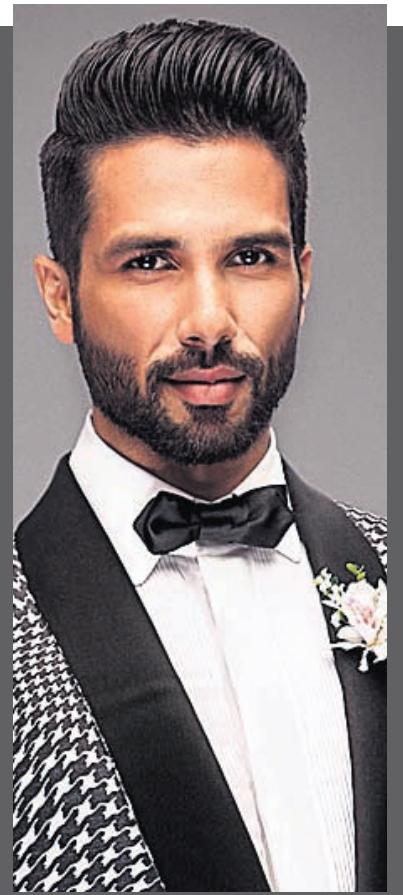
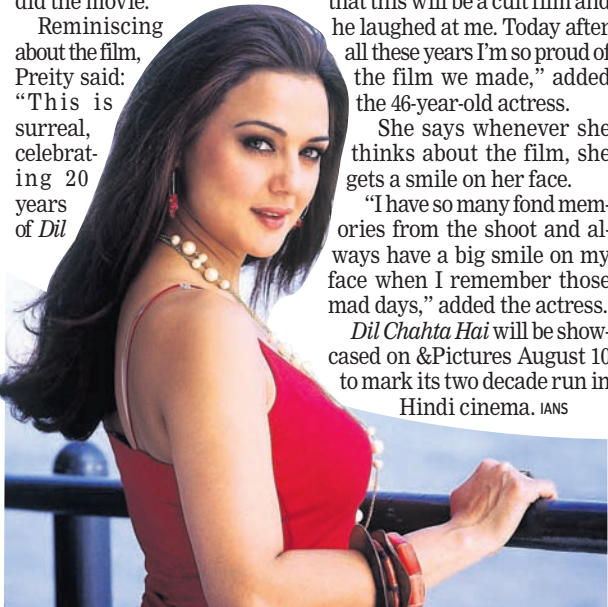
Chahta Hai. I remember Farhan telling me that whenever he makes a film, he would love for me to be part of it."

"A few months later, we signed on for *Dil Chahta Hai* and we had so much fun on set. I told Farhan on the first day of shoot, that this will be a cult film and he laughed at me. Today after all these years I'm so proud of the film we made," added the 46-year-old actress.

She says whenever she thinks about the film, she gets a smile on her face.

"I have so many fond memories from the shoot and always have a big smile on my face when I remember those mad days," added the actress.

Dil Chahta Hai will be showcased on &Pictures August 10 to mark its two decade run in Hindi cinema. IANS



Shahid reminisces being on the sets of Jersey

Mumbai: Goodbyes are always hard, be it seeing off somebody from the sets or wrapping a film project. Having said that, Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor also feels the same way. The actor who had earlier wrapped shooting for *Jersey* recollected fond memories from the sets, while he played a cricket match recently.

Sharing a video snippet of the same, the actor added a little note which read, "Played some cricket after almost a year of being on #jersey sets. #majormissing".

In the movie, Shahid would be essaying the role of a cricketer, which is a remake of a Telugu film by the same name. The film will also feature Pankaj Kapur and Mrunal Thakur in pivotal roles. The video snippet was also accompanied by the title track of the original film.

Earlier, during a live session in June, Shahid assured his fans that *Jersey* will release during Diwali this year in theatres and if theatres still continue to remain shut, they would discuss and come up with a strategy, hinting perhaps at going the digital route. The film is most probably slated for a November release.

'Belly dancing makes me feel supercharged'

Mumbai: Folks have been taking up different exercise regimens of late in the pandemic and Minissha Lamba has been learning belly dancing. She's taken up online sessions and totally loves the classes. The actress says it's a tough skillset though it's also been an enjoyable experience to learn. She states, "Belly dancing is something that gives me immense satisfaction.

It's a lot of

work that I need to put in for it, too. I came upon it when I was browsing around for a few online classes for something else and I'm so glad I found this one!"

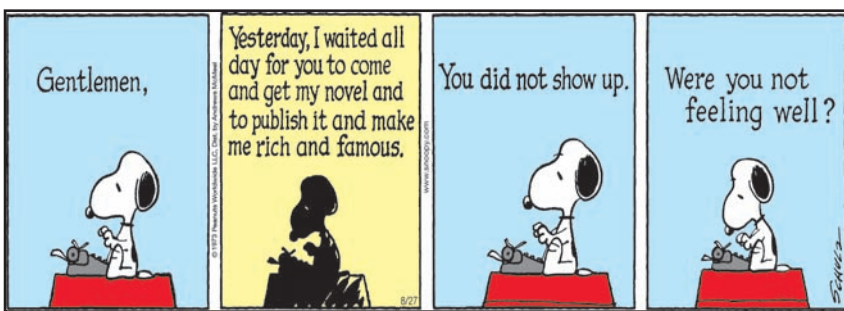
She informs, "I started with very basic moves, but the dance grew on me and I soon started to learn more and more variations of the technique. Belly dancing creates a rhythm in the body. It improves muscle toning and flexibility among other benefits. It also requires immense mental strength and physical strength

to do and is said to increase the blood flow to all parts of the body. I think anyone who hasn't tried it should check with their trainer and do so as this is a good time to learn new skills. I definitely feel supercharged after even a single belly dance session."

AGENCIES



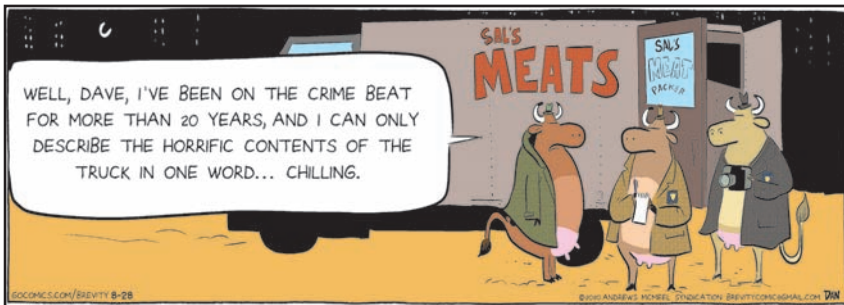
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

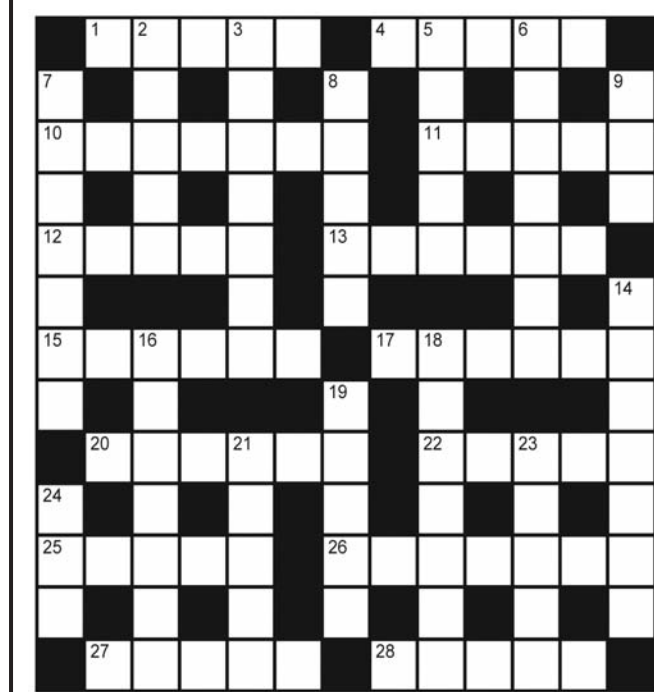


BREVITY



FUN post

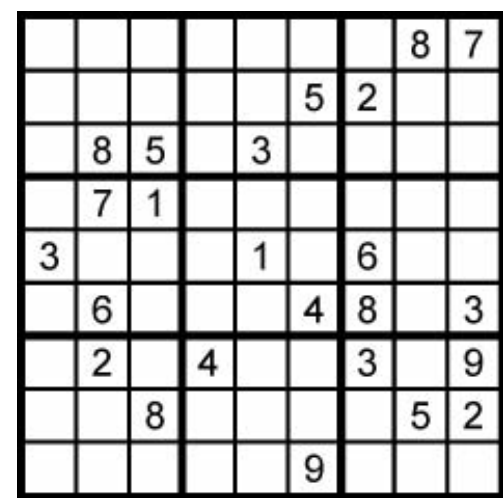
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Hollandaise, e.g.
 - 4 Cuss
 - 10 Perfect
 - 11 Vestibule
 - 12 Choleric
 - 13 Tea type
 - 15 Account book
 - 17 Connect
 - 20 Meagre
 - 22 Edible mushroom
 - 25 Astrological ram
 - 26 Fan palm
 - 27 Santa Claus feature
 - 28 Large wading bird
 - Down**
 - 2 Island greeting
 - 3 Checkers type
 - 5 Cart part
 - 6 Wave catcher
 - 7 Office space, at times
 - 8 Tick off
 - 9 Swedish shag rug
 - 14 Ski lodges
 - 16 Lead astray
 - 18 Type of glass or acrobat
 - 19 Substantial
 - 21 Stair part
 - 23 Mature
 - 24 Label

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



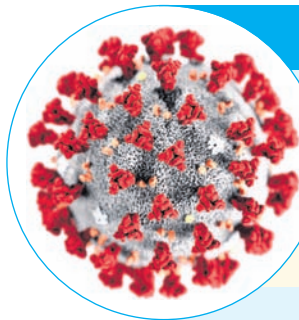
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



FESTIVAL AHEAD

An artisan paints clay idols of Goddess Khudurukuni in Kumbhar Sahi area of Cuttack, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	20,20,15,297	18,17,03,994	42,85,724
India	3,18,56,757	3,10,15,844	4,26,754
Odisha	9,84,731	9,66,928	6,302

Parl panel hails Naveen's support to hockey teams



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports appreciated the efforts of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in transforming the performance of the Indian men's and women's hockey teams.

The action-taken report on recommendations made by the panel was laid before both the Houses of Parliament Friday.

"The Committee, in its collective wisdom, has appreciated the efforts taken by Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha, in setting up the High Performance Sports Centres and sponsoring both men's and women's Hockey teams through Hockey India since 2018, which has translated into bet-

sports in general, and create and develop High Performance Sports Centres on the line of Odisha model, the Committee headed by Vinay P Sahasrabudhe recommended.

"They (states) should also identify and promote raw talent from a tender age and provide them with the much needed support of international standards in terms of equipment, sports kit, coaching (team and individual), exposure and mental conditioning, in order to nurture them for participation and podium finish at the international level," it said.

The committee recommended that there should be an assured 3 per cent reservation as sports quota in government jobs for all medal winning athletes, and the department should grant financial aid to the athletes for the period of unemployment.

Earlier, in its 311th report on 'Khelo India Scheme', this panel had recommended that the public private partnership (PPP) mode for creating sports infrastructure in the country be adopted. The panel had also said that focused strategies to rope in public-private sector were needed, as has been done in Odisha, where the state government and corporate sector have come together to fund ten high performance centres for sports like hockey, badminton and shooting etc.

PROMOTING TALENT

The panel said apart from getting corporate sponsorship, every state should focus on one sport specific to that region, besides taking up other sports in general

The committee recommended that there should be an assured 3 per cent reservation as sports quota in government jobs for all medal winning athletes

ter performance for both these teams at Tokyo Olympics, 2021," the panel said in its press note.

Apart from getting corporate sponsorships, every state should focus on one sport specific to that region, besides taking up other

NAPM plans stir for protection of citizens' rights

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: The National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) Friday revealed that it has planned several events in the state to press for safeguarding the rights of citizens, farmers and the tribals in particular.

Addressing an online press conference, NAPM convener Medha Patkar said that the events would be undertaken in several states including Odisha between August 9 and August 15. Over 150 places in the coastal state would witness freedom fighters inaugurating the events.

Targeting the BJP government at the Centre, Patkar said that farmers were protesting for their rights, trade unions were opposing the anti-labour laws. But being in power, the BJP destroyed the economy and ecology, and also tried to send all dissenters into jail.

Prafulla Samantara, a state-based environmentalist and member of NAPM, said that tribals in Odisha among other states have been victims of corporate attacks. "At this time, we need to ensure that local communities like the fishermen, forest dwellers and others have their rights. The campaign will try to reach out to people from all walks of life who are leading brave struggle against climate change and other issues," he said.

9 services of Energy dept now at fingertips

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: As part of state government's 5T initiative, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday launched nine online services of the Energy department through videoconferencing.

These online services have been integrated to a single e-district platform and will be available to beneficiaries on edistrict.odisha.gov.in and eicelectricityodisha.nic.in. Naveen said that these online services will be greatly beneficial for industries, commercial establishments besides the skilled electrical workforce of the state.

Stating that delivering hassle-free services to the people has always been the top most priority of his government, the Chief Minister said, "We are committed to bringing about such transformations in every sphere of life."

"With the objective to empower people of our state through digital transformation, we are taking the public service delivery to the doorstep of the common man," he said. With the launching of the online platform, electrical workforce - workmen, supervisors and contractors - can now apply online for grant and renewal of their licences.

Inclusion of online services such as electrical licensing, safety inspections and testing shall greatly facilitate the industries, the Chief Minister pointed out.

Commercial establishments and other stakeholders would not face any hindrances in obtaining the re-

SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE

- Drawing approvals for electrical works
- Normal inspection of electrical works
- Emergency inspection and issuance of reports
- Testing and calibration of electrical instruments
- Workman permits
- Issuance of supervisor licences
- Temporary licence for specific projects
- Chartered electrical safety engineer certificates

quired approval digitally in a time bound manner, Naveen added.

The Chief Minister further said that technological solutions for real-time payments shall greatly facilitate the applicants during the online application process. Digitally signed e-certificates can be downloaded by the applicants, ensuring transparency and authenticity.

Timely delivery of services at the fingertips shall be the essence of these online services, he added.

Energy Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra highlighted the Chief Minister's initiatives for promotion to hockey, supply of oxygen during the pandemic, drink from tap in Puri, hundred per cent vaccination in Bhubaneswar and several other examples.

Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian moderated the programme.

Biranchi was running insurance biz

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 6: Former private secretary to member of Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) Biranchi Narayan Sahoo, arrested on a disproportionate assets case July 31 last by the Vigilance, was running an insurance business in the name of his wife along with his official duties since 2009.

Sahoo was arrested after the Vigilance unearthed properties to the tune of ₹3.51 crore disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The Vigilance sleuths found Sahoo possessing 14 landed plots, gold ornaments weighing over 1.5 kg during raid July 30.

Vigilance sources said investigation revealed that insurance policies of more than 900 subscribers have been solicited by Sahoo till



Names of 21 insurance policy subscribers, who were also candidates of several OSSC exams, have been traced

date.

The sleuths suspected that many of the subscribers of the policies are candidates of OSSC exams who were allegedly influenced by Sahoo to invest in the insurance policies.

So far, names of 21 subscribers have been traced in the lists who were also candidates of various OSSC conducted examinations.

"The subscriber details are being scrutinised and further verification is being done to ascertain if

candidates were being solicited by Sahoo for such insurance policies," the Vigilance department sources claimed.

A top official of the Vigilance department said inquiry is on to ascertain whether such policies were executed before the examination notifications or afterwards and check the Income Tax returns of Sahoo's wife.

Vigilance sources also claimed that large-scale undervaluation has

been detected in a number of landed properties vis-a-vis the benchmark valuations at the time of purchase. The overall undervaluation amounts are being assessed and the sellers of these properties will be summoned for examination soon.

It said a total of 114 admit cards of candidates of various OSSC examinations were found during a search conducted on the main residential building of Sahoo at Niladri Vihar in Chandrasekharpur area here on July 30.

Out of these 114 candidates, names of 107 candidates were not found in any select list.

Bank transactions, investments in mutual funds and shares, and payment of insurance policy premiums by Sahoo and his family members, as well as benami transactions are being verified.

BJD wants rejig in cost sharing formula

Party reiterates demand for Special Focus Status to Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 6: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra Friday reiterated the long-standing demand of Odisha for Special Focus State status in Rajya Sabha citing its vulnerability to natural calamities. The regional party demanded revision of the cost sharing pattern for implementation of central schemes.

Speaking during the Zero Hour, the BJD MP claimed that Odisha has been facing natural disasters on a regular basis. Cyclones and floods hit Odisha regularly and adversely affect the economy of the coastal state, Patra said.

Through this Special Focus State status, the cost sharing formula for the central government schemes between the Centre and Odisha should be changed for a period of three years from the date of the occurrence of a natural disaster in the state, he added.

"The cost sharing pattern

should change from the present 60:40 to 90:10 between the Centre and Odisha. The central government schemes have a cost sharing pattern of 60:40 in which 60 per cent funds are provided by Centre and the balance 40 per cent is provided by the state. If the administrative costs of the state for implementing such programmes are added, the ratio comes to 50:50 between the Centre and the state," Patra pointed out.

The cost sharing pattern for central schemes should be changed to 90:10, where the Centre would provide 90 per cent of the funds and the state will arrange the balance 10 per cent for a period of three years from the date of occurrence of a natural disaster. This will expedite infrastructural development and rebuilding of the affected regions of the state.

He also informed the Upper House that the demand for Special Focus State status has been raised by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik before the Centre on various occasions.

The BJD MP also highlighted

JAJPUR MP DEMANDS MORE FUNDS FOR POSHAN ABHIYAN

NEW DELHI: BJD MP Sarmistha Sethi Friday sought clarity on the Union government's status on increasing the allocation of funds for nutrition and providing support to Odisha where Poshan Abhiyan is running successfully.

Speaking during Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Sarmistha pointed out that there are over nine lakh children facing severe malnutrition in India.

"The Odisha government is taking several measures to address the malnutrition problem. It supports the nutrition agenda through agricultural policies, public distribution system, and others. It has become the first Indian state to draw a nutrition budget in the country. Unicef as well as NITI Aayog has appreciated the efforts of the state government," she added.

The Jajpur MP said that in 2021-22 Budget, the Centre merged the Supplementary Nutrition

Programme and Poshan Abhiyan, but the budget estimate on nutrition has gone down to ₹2,700 crore in 2021-22 from ₹3,700 crore in 2020-21.

"Budget enhancement is required if you want to sustain the momentum of the Mission. I would like to ask whether there is any proposal to increase the allocation of budget in terms of nutrition and thereby provide support to states like Odisha, where this programme is running successfully," she asked.

Significantly, Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Zubin Irani replied that the ministry has ensured that not a penny is spent less on the nutritional needs of all states, including the state of Odisha. "We are in continuous engagement with the state government of Odisha to ascertain the infrastructural and nutritional needs of the project," Irani said.

various issues related to development of KBK region comprising undivided districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput where there is a need for raising

banking density, tele density and internet connectivity. All these regions also need additional support and assistance from the Centre, Patra argued.



SHOPPERS' DAY OUT

The Unit-II market in Bhubaneswar, Friday, witnesses huge rush ahead of the weekend shutdown

OP PHOTO

PROSUMERS- THE NEW AGE ENERGY SUPPLIERS

Where solar power consumers are net producers

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 6: Several electricity consumers in the smart city and a few other parts of the state spend less on power, thanks to use of solar technology at household levels.

According to sources at the state Energy department, different government and private institutions, and households in Bhubaneswar have shifted to the utilisation of solar energy instead of thermal energy. The latter is often derived from coal, a source of energy that creates pollution.

Many of these institutions and households are connected through distribution companies (discoms) and are involved in production of solar energy besides consumption.

How it works

- Solar energy created during the day is consumed by the household itself and at night, when the consumption is less, the surplus energy is transferred to the grids
- At the end of the month, the due bill is the net power - the margin between energy usage and energy transferred to discoms
- Thus, the households end up paying less than what thermal power users pay for the same amount of consumption

These, in the energy sector, are often called 'prosumers' who not only consume energy but produce it too for others.

According to the department,



these prosumers fall in the category of 'net metering'. "At the consumer's end, this energy comes cheaper than thermal power. Energy created throughout the day is consumed by the household itself but at night, when the consumption is less, the surplus energy is transferred to the grids," a source from the Energy department said.

He also added, "At the end of the month, the due bill is the net power - the margin between energy usage and energy transferred to discoms. Thus, the households end up paying less than what thermal power users pay for the same amount of consumption."

The state government is implementing net metering scheme in

some of the select towns. There is no provision of subsidy from state to support the system as of now. The rooftop solar energy works are done by discoms which were earlier done by Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA).

The state government has installed a 4-MW power plant too and more are likely to come up for this project. Some of the prosumers include Xavier University in Khurda, DAV Public School at Unit VIII here, Prabhuji English Medium School here, Mahabodhi School, and government buildings like Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board (OWSSB) office and OREDA. Meanwhile, an eye hospital at Hinjili in Ganjam district has also joined the bandwagon.

Man moves OHRC as cousin attacked in jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: A man Friday alleged that his cousin lodged in Dhenkanal jail as an under-trial prisoner (UTP) sustained severe injuries in one of his eyes recently during an attack by jail staffers. The complainant, Ramakanta Patra of Gangeswar in Cuttack, Friday lodged a petition before Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) seeking its intervention in the case.

The petitioner requested the commission to direct the jail authorities to make adequate arrangements for treatment of his brother Sangram Patra, the UTP. The petitioner said the Commissionerate Police had arrested Sangram by falsely implicating him in a murder case in 2013. Sangram, who had been lodged in Jharpada jail, was

shifted to Dhenkanal district jail May 5, 2021.

Ramakanta alleged that Sangram opposed the jail authorities when they tried to shift him to another ward of the district jail during night. The jail warden and other staffers got infuriated and started beating him mercilessly.

Sangram sustained severe injuries in his eyes and allegedly lost his eyesight too, the petitioner alleged. However, the jail authorities are not allowing the family members to meet Sangram despite repeated requests. The family members were denied permission to meet Sangram times during the last couple of days. They were made to return from the main gate.

He accused the jail staffers of not taking any steps to admit Sangram at the local hospital.

Ecotourism revenue up by 49% in 2 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: Despite pandemic, the revenue from ecotourism saw a 49 per cent growth with the destinations registering a 96 per cent rise in footfall during the last two years, an official said Friday.

The revenue from ecotourism increased from ₹5.61 crore in 2018-19 to ₹8.32 crore in 2020-21, registering around 49 per cent growth. The footfall at ecotourism destinations, too, increased from 29,024 in 2018-19 to 57,000 in 2020-21, recording a rise of around 96 per cent.

This was revealed at a high-level meeting held on digital mode under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra.

The meeting deliberated on development of new eco-tourism destinations, renovation and up-scaling of the existing ones and completion of the under-construction projects among other issues. An action plan worth ₹30 crore was approved for the pur-

Cheer for nature lovers

■ The revenue from ecotourism increased from ₹5.61 crore in 2018-19 to ₹8.32 crore in 2020-21, registering around 49 per cent growth

■ The footfall at ecotourism destinations, too, increased from 29,024 in 2018-19 to 57,000 in 2020-21, recording a rise of around 96 per cent

State's ecotourism to get ₹30cr boost



pose, sources said, adding that the Chief Secretary asked the officials to complete the projects expeditiously within the current year. The officials were asked to ensure that regular sanitisation is car-

■ The officials were asked to ensure that regular sanitisation is carried out at all eco-destinations

■ ₹1.50 crore was sanctioned for 25 forest divisions for proper implementation of Covid prevention SOP

ried out at all eco-destinations. ₹1.50 crore was sanctioned for 25 forest divisions for proper implementation of Covid prevention SOP, said a source. The Chief Secretary asked the of-

ficials to expeditiously open up newly-developed eco-retreat sites like Nrusinghnath in Bargarh district, Pine forest in Koraput, Patora Dam in Nuapada, Tensa in Sundargarh and Kanjiapani in Keonjhar. The officials were further directed to develop new spots either as day tourist spots or as night stay camps depending on the natural uniqueness and tourist attraction potential of the destinations.

According to sources, night stay camps will be developed in places like Kalinga Ghat pine forest, Bonai, Deomali hill top, Dambargarh Mahanadi river side and Jakhm eco-site in Kalahandi.

It was also decided to develop Sikiri in Phulbani forest division, Bhimdunguri eco-site in Bolangir forest division, Baliput eco-site in Satkosia wildlife division, Phurljharan waterfall spot in Kalahandi forest division, Rabandhara waterfall spot in Kalahandi forest division, Chakuria Ghat eco-centre in Dhenkanal forest division and Dambargarh eco-site in Boudh forest division.

I-DAY AHEAD



The Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar being readied Friday for the Independence Day celebrations

STF rescues pangolin from Capital; 3 nabbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: A team of Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch conducted a raid near Kalinga Studio Square here Thursday and recovered a pangolin. The STF arrested three persons including a journalist working in a web channel in this connection.

The STF sleuths received a tip-off from reliable sources that wildlife traders were planning to sell the animal to some buyers at Kalinga studio square in the city. Subsequently, the STF officials reached the spot, nabbed the culprits and saved the animal. The arrested have been identified as Chitrasen Sahoo of Kotapalla area under Badamba police limits in Cuttack, Khageswar Sahoo of Patrapada locality in the Capital city and Bhagirathi Behera of Kansamari in Ganjam district, an STF official said.



The STF personnel also seized several incriminating instruments and documents from the possession of the arrested. The accused failed to produce any valid document in support of possessing the live pangolin.

A case (27/21) has been registered under various sections of the IPC and section 51 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1973 in this regard. The accused were Friday forwarded to the local court which later sent them to judicial custody after rejecting their bail pleas.

The live pangolin will be handed over to Chandaka DFO and Wild Life Warden for safe custody, the official informed.

TPR at 1.74%; toll mounts to 6,302

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 6: Odisha Friday registered 1,208 new Covid-19 cases, taking the state's tally to 9,84,731, while 66 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 6,302, a health department official said.

Of the new cases, 702 were reported from quarantine centres and 506 were detected during contact tracing. Khurda district recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 399, followed by 173 in Cuttack. Boudh did not report any new case for the second consecutive day.

The daily test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 1.74 per cent as the fresh cases were detected from 69,369 sample tests conducted Thursday. The daily TPR was at 2.02 per cent Wednesday and 2.01 Tuesday.

The state has 13,006 active cases at present, out of which, 4,086 are from Khurda district alone, followed by Cuttack with 1,731 infected patients currently under treatment. Nuapada district has



the lowest active cases at 25.

The Health and Family Welfare department informed that 66 new fatalities were recorded in 16 districts. Khurda, which comprises the state capital Bhubaneswar, reported the maximum number of deaths at 19, followed by Cuttack (11), Ganjam (10), Balasore (6), Angul (4) and Keonjhar (3).

Two patients each succumbed to the infection in Bolangir; Mayurbhanj and Puri while one each died in Bhadrak, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Rayagada and Sambalpur, the official said.

The department, however, said that the list included past deaths for which an audit was done and the

Follow rules, avoid further curbs: DMET

The state Health department Friday claimed that the Covid cases in twin cities along with Puri have been coming down slowly. The department, however, warned that more curbs may be imposed if people defy the norms.

Speaking on the issue of increased R values of the pandemic, state Director for Medical Education and Training (DMET), CBK Mohanty said, "In the last week, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar have seen a decline in cases of Covid-19. The R values are calculated when chances of transmission of virus are very high. These calculations do not match

with ground reality." R value refers to a disease's ability to spread, where the growth rate and positive cases are seen as indicators of the penetration rate of the disease.

"In every pandemic, the hiking and downward trends of cases are predictable. The cases are now stable in the whole country. Lockdown curbs are reduced to ensure people have their right to livelihood. We have planned to reduce the curbs if situations favour. But if people do not abide by the norms, government will be forced to increase the curbs," he said.

cause was identified as Covid. Fifty-three other Covid-19 infected patients have died due to comorbidities, he said.

The coastal state has so far conducted over 1.64 crore sample tests,

and the overall positivity rate stands at 5.99 per cent. Over 1.74 crore people have been inoculated till Thursday with 40,75,728 of them having received both doses of the vaccine.

Dengue cases in City near 1K-mark

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) seems to be losing its grip on dengue as the daily caseload is nearing 1,000 mark in City.

As per sources, the state Capital Friday recorded 36 new cases, taking the total tally to 831. While only 11 cases were recorded until July 5, the number rose within a month.

"There has been no decrease or stagnation in daily cases. This shows the inability of the civic body which is still struggling to



control the daily Covid cases too. Even though dengue is a recurring disease in the City, the BMC did nothing in advance to combat the vector-borne disease.

Water logging and improper sanitation were the order of the day even during this monsoon in the city," said Chandan Swain, an entomologist here.

It can be mentioned that the earlier, July 31, the City's total caseload had surpassed last year's 496 cases recorded in the entire state. This has reportedly put pressure on health infrastructure. As per sources, the city's Capital Hospital is said to be admitting 15-20 patients daily with two separate dengue wards operating with 60-bed capacity.

The sources also mentioned that the surge has also increased

a demand for blood platelets which is needed for transfusion in dengue patients.

When blood banks are already struggling with shortage of blood units due to Covid, individual organizations have requested citizens to come forward and donate blood voluntarily.

A senior BMC official said, "We are continuing door to door awareness drives and have surveyed 30,000 households. Most cases have recovered and others are being monitored. We have also decided to increase fogging machines from four to 36 in order to improve sanitation activities."

ED TO INVESTIGATE FAKE DRUGS CASE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: Enforcement Directorate (ED) will probe illegal money transactions in the fake anti-Covid drugs case.

Sources claimed that the ED has registered a case against the prime accused Siba Prasanna Jena, managing director of Medilloyd Medicament Private Limited, and others involved in the racket. The ED sleuths are likely to investigate whether the accused persons laundered money while procuring the fake drugs from outside the state.

Notably, Jena along with his wife Subhalaxmi and two other aides was arrested by the special task force (STF) of the state Crime Branch in June this year for procuring spurious Favipiravir tablets from Noida-based Max Relief Healthcare. He had also supplied the drugs to various retailers in the state.

UPPING THE ANTE



Women block a road in Nuapara area of Cuttack, Friday, protesting the liquor shops opened in the locality

Lightning, thunderstorm likely today in 10 districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday issued warning of thunderstorm and lightning for Saturday.

The department, in its weather forecast for Saturday, said, "Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Angul and Boudh."

The department also added, "Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Odisha."



The met department also said that chances of witnessing heavy rains, thunderstorms and lightning for the next three days are low.

The weathermen said that the state Capital might see cloudy sky and one or two spells of rains or thundershower. The maximum temperature in the state might go upto 34°C.

The department, meanwhile,

said that out of the 30 districts of the state, Balasore, Khurda and Cuttack saw deficient rainfall (-59 to -20 per cent) in the last 24 hours while 20 districts reported rain at -60 per cent or less.

Ganjam, Nayagarh, Dhenkanal and Jajpur received no rain.

Only Malkangiri reported excess rainfall at 29.9 per cent while Koraput saw normal rainfall at 11.9 per cent.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

ILIS: Novel system for Angul civic body

ALL THE AREAS OF THE MUNICIPALITY WILL BE UNDER STRICT SURVEILLANCE FROM OCTOBER 2

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, August 6: The municipal authorities in Angul have made elaborate plans for the development and security of the region through intelligent land information system (ILIS). It is a novel system that aims at keeping the municipality area under strict surveillance so as to keep encroachers at bay.

Under the system, the civic authorities will initiate prompt action against encroachers after receiving information regarding encroachments in the municipal area. The system will also be able to access information about any untoward incident in any area. The system will be put in place from October 2.

A blueprint to this effect has been prepared. The district Collector has been apprised of the implementation of the new system.

As per a decision, a command control room will be opened in the municipality office where data regarding the civic body area will be maintained. As part of the



Officials taking a look at the map of ILIS in Angul

OP PHOTO

A blueprint of the ILIS has been prepared. The district Collector has been apprised of the implementation of the new system

As per a decision, a command control room will be opened in the municipality office where data regarding the civic body area will be maintained. As part of the measure, the town will be mapped by drones every month

The drone-based map will be uploaded routinely in computers while software will immediately detect any change in landscape or disturbance on the ground and alert the staff to initiate immediate action

CCTVs will be installed in every nook and corner of Angul town, while 20 field staff will be provided with satellite phones

as well as its inhabitants will avail 17 advantages. The system will have data base about the denizens so that the civic body will also know if anyone has been deprived of their entitlements under various schemes.

Vacant places, water bodies, sanitation, chemical depots and food warehouses will be under surveillance. The system can detect water-logging and messy sanitation in the area under the jurisdiction of the municipal body and take corrective measure quickly.

Data regarding various lines departments such as electricity, sanitation, tax collection, law enforcement, revenue collection and engineering will be added to the system. "After ILIS is put in place, all civic problems will be dealt with immediately. The civic body will be under strict surveillance as CCTVs will be installed in 23 wards. A tender will be floated soon for the CCTVs. ILIS will be operational from October 2," said Girija Shankar Mallick, executive officer of Angul municipality.

measure, the town will be mapped by drones every month.

The drone-based map will be uploaded in computers. Software will immediately detect any change in landscape or disturbance on the

ground and alert the staff to initiate immediate action, it is said.

Besides, CCTVs will be installed in every nook and corner of Angul town, while 20 field staff of the civic body will be provided

with satellite phones. The municipal staff will be immediately alerted about problems or incidents through these satellite phones for quick response.

Under the ILIS, the town area

Forest dept treating 50-year-old jumbo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 6: A 50-year-old female elephant was found sick in Sinduria forest under Bhujan Juanga Pidhi range in Keonjhar, Friday. Forest official rescued the aging elephant and started its treatment.

It is said that the animal is feeble due to age and might have slipped from a hilly slope in the area.

Forest officials saw a 6-member elephant herd moving the range and suspect that the present condition of the animal could be either due to sickness or intra-herd fight.



"A team of Forest department officials along with a veterinary doctor has started the treatment of the ailing elephant. They will ascertain the cause of its sickness," said DFO Ajit Tripathy.

It is worth mentioning here that a female elephant and its calf were found dead near Raba village under this range July 19. The Forest department has not been able to ascertain the causes of their death.



Differently-abled people receiving tricycles, hearing aids and wheel chairs at Daringbadi panchayat office in Kandhamal district, Friday

OP PHOTO

No UCs, no funds for colleges, varsities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhajanagar, August 6: Some colleges and universities in Odisha have not been able to submit the utilisation certificates (UCs) within the stipulated period. As a result, they will face problems in getting additional grants in future, sources said. In the days to come, they will receive funds in their respective 'zero balance' accounts only after utilising the funds they have been already provided.

The Higher Education department has issued a notification August 3 asking the colleges which haven't deposited their UCs to do so as quickly as possible.

An amount of ₹1,853.88 crore was provided to the colleges and universities in the state to create and reinforce infrastructure and under different projects during the period 2003-04 to 2020-21. Of this amount, UCs of over ₹1,000 crore is still pending from various colleges, a source informed. Some of these colleges are located in Ganjam district and they have been asked to submit their UCs at the earliest.

Sources said the Higher Education department will soon form a committee which will visit all the 108 colleges that have been provided with financial aid to check how the funds have been utilised.



Many colleges in the state have also failed to utilise the funds provided to them under Rashtriya

Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), it has been alleged. In an earlier notification, the Higher Education department had asked these institutions to return the unutilised funds.

Once the money is returned, these institutions will open zero balance accounts. The Higher Education department will then provide them with funds as and when required. The department wants to abolish the practice of leaving funds idle in bank accounts. It said that henceforth grants will be provided on a priority basis to those institutions that have fully utilised the funds they received earlier.

Poverty forcing minors to seek work outside state



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, August 6: Four of the six labourers from Odisha who were charred to death at a prawn processing factory at Lankabhanidiba village in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh July 30, were minors from Gunupur block in Rayagada district.

Since the tragedy, 33 labourers were brought back from the same village August 1 following the intervention of Gunupur MLA Raghunath Gamang. Among those who have come back, 15 are minors. This incident demonstrates how minors are being forced to work as migrant labourers putting their lives on the line.

According to people in the know, acute financial problems have forced these minors to work instead of

going to school as others of their age do.

Several poverty alleviation programmes have been launched by the Centre and the state governments but it seems that the benefits of these programmes are not reaching those who deserve and need them the most. Intellectuals in Rayagada district alleged that the district Labour department has no data about the number of labourers and minors who have left the district in search of work.

As per the information shared by NGO 'Childline', it has succeeded in rescuing 108 adults and 57 minors who were being trafficked to other states as labourers between April 2019 and July 2021. However, officials of the organisation said that many more have been traf-

ficked to other states without their knowledge. The organisation is only aware of the cases where it managed to trace and save the youngsters from doing tedious jobs with meagre salaries.

It has been found that people, mostly from Bairagi Halua and Alubadi areas in Rayagada block and some areas in Gunupur, Kashipur, Bisankatak, Kalayansinghpur and Kolnara blocks, are migrating to Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in search of work. Some experts opined that the Labour department should take steps to prevent people from migrating to other states in search of work.

Educationist Dushmunt Kumar Mohanty opined that the migrant labour problem has its genesis in the failure of the government to provide such people with works like rearing chicken, goats, cattle and fish farming. This will go a long way in solving the problem of migration.

"To ensure safety of labourers in other states, the licenses of the middlemen should be checked and the living conditions of labourers should be investigated regularly," Mohanty observed.

Man gets 10-yr RI for raping minor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, August 6: A local court here Thursday awarded 10-year rigorous imprisonment to a man after convicting him of rape of a minor girl in Jajpur district six years ago.

Jajpur additional district and sessions judge Gyanendra Barik pronounced the verdict and sentenced Amaresh Panda (30) of Jayasingada village

under Section 376 (2) and Section 511 of the IPC.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on Panda, the government pleader said, adding, the judgment was passed on the basis of 15 witnesses examined during the trial.

Panda had forcibly taken the 13-year-old girl to an under-construction building in the village and raped her in 2015, according to the prosecution.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. eT-M-KUR-CIG-BBS-153-21
Name of the Work: INTERIOR CLEANING AND WATERING OF COACHES OF PLATFORM RETURN TRAINS AT BHUBANESWAR (BBS) STATION FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS.
Advertised Value: ₹1,53,34,096.68, Cost of Tender Document: ₹5,900/-, Completion Period: 24 Months.
Bidding Start Date: 13.08.2021 Date & time of Tender Closing: 27.08.2021, 1530 hrs.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/ PR-270/M/21-22 Khurda Road

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY (IMU)
(A Central University under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

The following programmes are offered at IMU for the Academic Year 2021-22

Under-Graduate	Post-Graduate
B. Tech (Marine Engineering)	MBA (Port & Shipping Management)
B. Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)	MBA (International Transportation & Logistics Management)
B. Sc (Nautical Science)	M. Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)
BBA (Logistics, Retailing and E-Commerce)	M. Tech (Dredging & Harbour Engineering)
DNS (Diploma in Nautical Science)	M. Tech (Marine Engineering & Management)

PG Diploma
Post Graduate Diploma in Marine Engineering
For more details, please visit IMU website www.imu.edu.in
DAVP 37208/11/0004/2122

KHURDA-BOLANGIR RAILWAY PROJECT Railways, state yet to renew agreement



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 6: After Ashwini Vaishnaw, a Rajya Sabha member from Odisha, became the Railway Minister, people of western Odisha have pinned their hopes on him to carry forward various railway projects in the area.

One of the major projects in the area is the Khurda-Bolangir railway project. Various quarters have started discussing about the project, work on which is expected to be expedited.

However, the agreement signed between the state government and the Centre regarding the railway project has not been renewed. The renewal is necessary to expedite the ambitious project, said RTI activist Hemanta Panda.

Panda alleged that the project assumes much importance in the communication sector, but it has been a victim of negligence of the authorities.

The RTI activist pointed out that the Railway ministry and the state government had signed an agreement July 20, 2015 to expedite the Khurda-Bolangir railway project.

As per the agreement, the state and Centre will bear the cost of the project in 50:50 ratio, particularly for the stretch from Dasapalla to Bolangir. The railway project was to be commissioned in six years, which means in June 2021. However, the deadline of this agreement has expired in July this year.

The state government had agreed to complete the land acquisition work in two-and-a-half years. It was alleged that even though six years have passed, the state and the Centre have not been keen to renew the agreement of the project.

The RTI activist said that the Chief Minister had earlier expressed unhappiness over the inordinate delay in completing the project.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Superintending Engineer
U.K. Head Works Division, Kolabnagar (K), PIN 764011
e-Procurement Notice- SE-UKHWD-01/2021-22
Dated 27/07/2021 (ONLINE)**

No. A-341:-

1. No. of Work	:: 04 (Four) Nos.
2. Type of Work	:: Civil Works
3. Value of Work	:: Rs. 5.60 Lakh to 16.42 Lakh
4. Class of Contractor	:: Registered & licensed Contractors of 'C' & 'D' class
5. Period of completion	:: 02 (Two) Calendar Months
6. Date & time of availability of bid documents online	:: 10.08.2021 at 10.00 Hours to 24.08.2021 up to 17.00 Hours
7. Date & Place of opening of Bid online	:: 26.08.2021 (10.00 Hours) at office of the Superintending Engineer, UKHWD, Kolab Nagar
8. Name of the officer inviting Bids.	:: Superintending Engineer, UKHWD, Kolab Nagar

Further details can be seen in the Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Website <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
Sd./ Superintending Engineer, Upper Kolab Head Works Division, Kolabnagar
OIPR-32015/11/0003/2122

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SUNDARGARH
No. 4348 Dt. 5.8.21

Expression of Interest for Comprehensive Consultancy Services

No. C-701:- Executive Officer, Sundargarh Municipality, Sundargarh on behalf of Municipal Council, Sundargarh Municipality, Sundargarh invites expression of interest for the work detailed in the table from Registered/Experience/Reputed Consultants/Architects involved in preparation of Plan, Structural designs, Detailed estimates, Rate Analysis of project with the State Government and Central Government as per the prescribed format available with the office of the undersigned for the works as mention in table.

The bidder should be a qualified Architect. In case of Proprietor firm, the Proprietor and in case of partnership firm, all the partners must have valid Registration. The consultant should have previous experience and must have completed similar nature of work under any Development authority/Urban Local Bodies of the State or any department of State Government and Central Government. Mere submission of Quotation does not guarantee for fulfillment of eligibility criteria. The accepted firm shall also to render technical guidance during execution as and when required. The Quotationer may submit quotation as per prescribed format.

Further detailed information regarding detail format for quotations is available in the District website of Sundargarh i.e www.sundargarh.nic.in from to

Sl. No.	Place of work
1.	Preparation of Plan, Detailed Estimate, Design, Drawing, Rate Analysis, Working drawings, Construction drawings with Detailed Project Report for "Development & Renovation of Theme Park at Mahesdihni of Sundargarh Municipality in Ward No.16" in Triplicate.

The rate should be quoted including all taxes. The receipt of the EOI shall start from dt. 6.08.2021 at 11.00 AM and close on dt. 12.08.2021 at 12.00 PM. EOI shall be received in the office of the undersigned during office hours through Registered post/speed post/ by hand only. EOI must be delivered at the office of the undersigned withing due date and time. The firm/agency shall accompany the copy of Registration certificate, ITCC/PAN, GSTIN certificate with the EOI. The EOI will be opened on Dt. 13.08.2021 at 11.00 AM in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the quotationer who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt and opening of EOI as specified the EOI will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Other details can be seen in the office of the undersigned. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Executive Officer, Sundargarh Municipality
OIPR-13130/11/0031/2122



There is a thirst for Love which no human relation can quench. It is only the Divine's love that can satisfy that thirst.

THE MOTHER



Creative thinking wins laurels

During the Covid pandemic, babus have been important players playing a critical role in framing and implementing the government's response. Some babus, however, have managed to stand out from among the crowd. SpeakIn, Asia's largest network of experts and thought leaders, recently recognised 10 distinguished IAS officers who have created impact and inspiration beyond the call of duty. Hari Chandana Dasari, a 2010-batch IAS officer of the Telangana cadre, worked her name into this exclusive list.

Known for her innovative approach and out of box thinking, Dasari has successfully demonstrated how to turn adversity into opportunity. She successfully initiated several plastic recycling initiatives and welfare programs. During the lockdown, Dasari who is the Collector and District Magistrate of Narayanpet, saw a business opportunity and engaged 4,000 women in a mask-making endeavour. In just a year, the enterprise made a profit of ₹50 lakh! She said she got new insights about recycling when she was in the UK for one year, and that they help her think on her feet when it comes to matters of environment and sustainable livelihood. She has also provided gainful employment to migrant workers through the construction of 3,000 farm ponds, fish ponds and forest trenches to conserve water.

DKB sometimes has been hyper-critical of babus, but some deserve a pat on the back.

We will profile a few babus like Dasari in the forthcoming weeks. If you know of an officer whose story deserves a mention in this column, do write in and we will try and tell it.

CENTRE JUNKS SENIORITY FOR IRS CADRE

There have been some murmurs in recent times about the eroding influence of the "heaven-born" in the current dispensation, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi increasingly appointing non-IAS officers to "traditional" IAS posts. But there are signs that the IAS lobby is still holding on to its turf, and even trying to expand it where it can.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Last week, a committee of secretaries headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba and including the Principal Secretary to the PM, the Home Secretary, Revenue Secretary and DoPT Secretary screened 19 IRS officers for the appointment of three new Members of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). DKB has learnt that this is the first time that a panel of IAS officers has screened the IRS officers instead of the usual notification based on seniority by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Usually, sources say, the CBDT chairman and members have been appointed on seniority basis in the IRS Civil List with the approval of the ACC.

Not surprisingly, the IRS cadre officers are dismayed over the move, which they think is demeaning and yet another attempt by the IAS cadre to lord over the other services. They say that it should have been a routine decision but the reliance on the top bureaucracy in the PMO has created this situation where the IAS cadre now has oversight over the tax babus.

SETTING OFF A STORM

Whistleblower babus across the country have some similar themes in their career – a penchant for raising uncomfortable issues in administration, suffering frequent transfers, and the incessant ability to bring to light what would otherwise have remained hidden behind the curtains. In Madhya Pradesh, 2014-cadre IAS officer Lokesh Kumar Jangid is making waves by targeting the Shivraj Chauhan government.

Jangid recently let loose a torrent of tweets claiming that in 2020 the state Civil Services Board (CSB) met 91 times to approve transfers of IAS officers before the completion of their minimum tenure. The minimum tenure for IAS, IPS and IFS services at each posting is two years. Citing his own example Jangid said that in his career, he had been transferred nine times in 4.5 years! He claims that he had sought to raise the issue of premature transfers to highlight "its negative impact on administration".

Jangid has raised hackles earlier as well. Earlier in June, the young babu had alleged corruption against the district Collector of Barwani district. The state government responded by issuing him a show-cause notice, but Jangid has refuted the charges of unlawful action, indiscipline and denial to take orders given to him. While no action has been initiated against him so far, could this latest 'provocation' prove to be the tipping point? Watch this space for updates.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian) on twitter. Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.
LEONARDO DA VINCI

Don't wait for your feelings to change to take the action. Take the action and your feelings will change.
BARBARA BARON

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no help at all.
DALE CARNEGIE

WORDSWORTH

■ Cancrine

This one is as defunct a word as you are likely to meet in this section – it seems to have utterly disappeared from the English lexicon. Like its close relative cancruid, it derives from Latin cancrinus, relating to a crab. It has been used on rare occasions to mean crab-like but more usually a specialised type of backwards motion, curious in view of its derivation, which would imply a sideways movement to match that of the crab. In this sense, cancrine refers to a type of Latin verse that reads the same backwards as forwards, which we would now refer to as palindromic.

LOL



Sending your son to Israel

A Jewish businessman in America decided to send his son to Israel to absorb some of the culture of the homeland. When the son returned, the father asked him to tell him about his trip. The son said, "Pop, I had a great time in Israel. By the way, I converted to Christianity." "Oy vey," said the father. "What have I done?" He decided to go ask his friend Jacob what to do. Jacob said, "Funny you should ask. I too sent my son to Israel, and he also came back a Christian. Perhaps we should go see the rabbi

and ask him what we should do." So they went to see the Rabbi. The Rabbi said, "Funny you should ask. I too sent my son to Israel. He also came back a Christian. What is happening to our young people? Perhaps we should go talk to God and ask him what to do." The three of them prayed and explained what had happened to their sons and asked God what to do. Suddenly a voice came loud and clear from Heaven. The Voice said, "funny you should ask, I too sent my son to Israel..."

FOCUS FREE SPEECH

BANNING OPINION

In May 1980, students in the South Korean city of Gwangju rebelled against the unpopular military regime. Many hundreds were brutally murdered by paratroopers sent in to quell the uprising. General Chun Doo-hwan, the leader of the military government, claimed that the students were North Korean revolutionary stooges.

Over the following two decades, South Korea became a democracy, and Chun was put in prison. While Korean liberals still mourn the students of Gwangju as martyrs to democracy, some conservatives believe that Chun was right to see the uprising as a North Korean plot. Now, South Korea's current liberal President, Moon Jae-in, is pushing for laws to ban such views as "historical distortions." Denying that the Gwangju uprising was anything but a quest for freedom can now land a person in jail for five years. Praising aspects of Japanese colonial rule in Korea can lead to an even longer prison sentence.

Proponents of such legislation in South Korea point to laws in several European countries that prohibit denial of the Jewish Holocaust. Opponents, meanwhile, regard such laws as an attack on free speech, arguing that governments should not be allowed to decide what is right or wrong in historical debates.

There are historical facts, of course: Auschwitz existed, atom bombs were dropped, and students were killed in Gwangju. But much is also open to interpretation. Bad arguments and falsehoods must be contested with better arguments and more accuracy.

That is the ideal case for free speech, anyway. In reality, legal and social constraints exist everywhere, often for good reason. Inciting hatred and discrimination on the grounds of race, creed, or sexuality is illegal in the European Union. Though the Constitution of the United States is less restrictive, it still bans speech that directs or incites "imminent lawless action." Similarly,



At a time when lies and conspiracy theories run rampant across the internet, it is not surprising that many would look to governments and private companies to censor irrational and harmful beliefs. But even if this could be done effectively, that doesn't mean it is the right thing to do

US courts do not extend free-speech protections to child pornography or defamation.

Is this enough? Is the ideal of free speech not a little naive in an age when a US president can spread noxious lies to millions of voters via the internet? Should dangerous conspiracy theories that aggravate a global pandemic or undermine democratic institutions be banned from social media? Are better arguments and more accuracy enough to stop these falsehoods from doing serious damage?

Since I believe in free speech, I don't like laws against Holocaust denial and other abhorrent opinions. But this position must be tested against the clear risks of letting some of the most poisonous views circulate. Many people believed that allowing Nazi propaganda to spread in Germany after World War II would have posed an imminent danger to the country's fragile liberal democracy. This was not an unreasonable assumption. Banning such propaganda made sense at the time.

A common practical argument against outlawing crackpot theo-

ries once held that they were marginal, and thus relatively harmless. Before the age of internet and social media, the idea that Hillary Clinton and George Soros were running a global network of cannibalistic pedophiles would have been limited to a lunatic fringe. But now, millions of people around the world – including as many as 50% of Republicans in the US – say they believe such nonsense. A cult is not open to arguments; confronting believers with facts would be missing the point.

Several European countries, as well as the EU, are working on laws to regulate internet platforms. But asking governments or social-media platforms to censor irrational and harmful beliefs is unlikely to get rid of them. True believers will only be strengthened in their conviction that they are under siege from a malevolent establishment.

Even if bad ideas could be curtailed by censorship, would it be the right thing to do? Here, I think the famous Skokie case is still relevant. In 1977, the National Socialist Party of America wanted to demon-

strate in a Chicago suburb where many Jews lived, including survivors of the Holocaust. Prompted by complaints from the local population, the municipal officials tried to stop it. The Nazis claimed their right to free speech, which included waving Swastika flags. This right was defended by lawyers of the American Civil Liberties Union. The case went all the way up to the Supreme Court, where the right to free speech was upheld. No matter how unpleasant, Swastika flags were deemed permissible, because they did not qualify as "fighting words" – a narrow category of speech that is denied the standard constitutional protections.

The argument put forward by the ACLU lawyers – some of whom were Jewish themselves, and none of whom had any Nazi sympathies – was simple: if you allow the state to ban opinions you oppose, you make it easier for the state to ban views you agree with. Protecting the right of Nazis to demonstrate was seen as a way to protect the right of others to take very different views. This argument still holds, even in our digital age.

But even in the US, which is more lenient than most countries, the principle cannot be absolute. Inciting imminent violence is not permitted. Donald Trump's speech January 6, urging the mob to storm the US Capitol, certainly came close to overstepping this boundary. It was a clear demonstration that language can be dangerous. What the internet media has done is raise the stakes: "fighting words" are spread around much faster and more widely than ever before. This will require a great deal of vigilance, to protect our freedom to express ourselves, while observing the social and legal bounds that stop words from turning into actual fighting.

The writer is the author, most recently, of *The Churchill Complex: The Curse of Being Special, From Winston and FDR to Trump and Brexit.*

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM NAT'L HANDLOOM DAY

Reinventing a traditional craft

The National Handloom Day is scheduled to be observed August 7, 2021. Initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 in Chennai, this celebration seeks to reiterate the importance of handloom in the socio-economic-cultural fabric of our country and boost the morale of the weavers to continue with this great tradition. This occasion provides an opportunity for introspection of the strength and weakness, the success and failure of the past and to suggest actions for the future of handloom in a different way. It also focuses on improving the condition of the weavers on a sustainable basis.

Advent of power loom made handloom lose its monopoly and led to the decline in the economic status of the weavers. The Central and state governments took various initiatives for promotion of handloom which has so far served only a limited purpose. This is evident from the fact that number of handlooms came down to 35.22 lakhs. As per the 4th National Handloom census held in 2019-20, the average monthly income of over two third (67.1%) weavers is less than ₹5,000 – which is the single-most important reason for the declining trend of handloom. Relatively low earnings have led the young weavers to become disillusioned with their traditional oc-

cupation and shift to alternate occupations. Restrictions on movement, marriage, festivals due to Covid-19 since 2020 have further squeezed the available marketing opportunity and worsened the financial condition of the weavers.

This has necessitated a closure look at the strategy to promote handloom and redesign it to meet the challenges more effectively. Quality production with diversity covering zero defect, new colours, and new designs as per the changing taste of the customer needs to be the key factors for handloom to compete and retain its place in the market. This needs to be supplemented by doing the business in a different way and by empowering weavers and connecting them with the market and customers within the country and abroad directly. These will reduce the cost of transaction and increase their earnings substantially. The weavers need to pursue the cost, time and distance related advantages of information technology based social media like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram aggressively in reaching out and educating customers about the unique features, and fetching a premium price for their handloom products.

In this backdrop, the celebration provides an opportunity to spot the silver linings and highlight achievements of Padmashree Govardhan Panika, famous for Kotpad weaves

in Koraput, and Sukanti Meher, a national award winner from Baragarh, who have been succeeded in carving out a niche for them and their products by connecting with the customers directly on the digital platform. This has enabled them to overcome the Covid-related setbacks. First generation handloom startups like Duiheta have set innovative examples in promoting high value quality handloom digitally and providing the skilled weavers working with it wages thrice or four times higher than the regular income.

Corporate-led interventions like "Antaran" of Tata group and "Handmade in India" of HSBC are creating silent revolution in the rural areas under their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. Young professionals deployed in the traditional handloom clusters have been empowering the weavers with market information on consumers' preference and technical guidance for production and marketing of handloom in a different way. Several entrepreneurs from traditional weavers' families in Baragarh, Maniabandh and Gopalpur are motivated to launch their startups.

Yet another heartening fact relates to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) volunteering to showcase the traditional glory of Indian handloom before the global audience and pro-

mote it with fashion in America and Europe, as a way of giving back to their country of origin.

These new developments need to be appreciated by the government for reorienting its planned interventions to catalyze promoting handloom on a sustainable basis. Startup entrepreneurs need to be supported with working capital under Mudra scheme along with handholding for taking forward their tasks to its logical end. Physical infrastructure like stable information technology connectivity facility for holding decentralised training in quality dyeing and designing and provision of technical support at the village-level need to be ensured. Mobilisation of the students and faculty of the National Institute of Fashion Technology to help the weavers on the loom will augment this further and create a win-win situation for the weavers and the students. In the interim period, one time grant may be provided to the active weavers to tide over the Covid pandemic on similar lines as given to the farmers.

Reinventing handloom and redesigning it with use of technology and induction of young entrepreneurs will take it to great heights in the 21st century.

The writer is former Secretary, Textiles, Government of India. Views expressed are personal.



Dr Sanjay Kumar Panda

REINVENTING HANDLOOM AND REDESIGNING IT WITH USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INDUCTION OF YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS WILL TAKE IT TO GREAT HEIGHTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Insurance sector in danger

Sir, Amid opposition, the Lok Sabha has approved the "General Insurance Transaction Amendment Bill, 2021". It is pertinent to mention here that while the Bill was tabled in the Lok Sabha a few days ago, the Finance Minister said that the insurance companies would not be privatised through the Bill, but only some provisions are being introduced. "Funds are needed for the development of these insurance companies that can be obtained from private sector as money and technology," she said. This means that the government will not be able to provide the resources for the development of insurance companies. By passing the Bill, the government shifted all its responsibilities to the capitalists. Under the law, local and foreign capital will be invested in insurance sector. The purpose of the protest is to ensure that the capitalists will not pay attention to the wellbeing of the public rather they will pay attention more for their profit. Capitalists will first reduce the number of employees working in the insurance sector, i.e. downsizing, which will lead to rising unemployment and its impact on the economy. Capitalists will cut interest rates on deposits, which will hurt consumers, and employees will have to work 12 hours a day under the new labour law. The possibility of closure of insurance companies cannot be ruled out if there is a possibility of damage. So this step is anti-people.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Reopening primary schools

Sir, The Odisha government is totally silent on reopening of primary schools even if the ICMR and WHO have recommended the opening of the same. Education of the students has been hampered greatly during the last two years owing to the ravages of Covid-19 pandemic. Now the ICMR and WHO have given their consent for reopening of schools. Primary education cannot be imparted online. The college students can, however, attend online classes but some activities, especially song, dance and extra-curricular activities cannot be done in online mode. So the state government can reopen the primary classes in odd even manner to avoid rush in schools. Even the students of Classes IX, X, XI and XII can attend school in odd-even manner or on a rotational basis in a day for six hours instead of the present three hours. Holding single batch classes for three hours cannot reduce the rush in schools. The government, therefore, needs to change its strategy for reopening schools.

Dilip Kumar Mishra BHUBANESWAR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

RANGE TECHNOLOGY & INSTRUMENTATION

Explore current trends: DRDO chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasure, August 6: DRDO chairman G Sathesh Reddy has said that there is a need to explore the current trends in range technology and instrumentation, which are essential elements for a world class test range.

Reddy, who is also the secretary, department of Defence R&D said this Thursday while inaugurating the second Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021) being held virtually.

The conference is being organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a laboratory of DRDO. "The event will host speakers from across the globe, who will present their technological achievements in multiple subjects related to test and evaluation of defence systems," said a spokesman.

In his address, the DRDO chairman highlighted the importance of embracing recent developments in range technology to meet future challenges in test and evaluation. He emphasised the impor-



tance of the conference in exploring current trends in range technology and range instrumentation.

Reddy lauded the effort of ITR for organising an event of such scale amidst restrictions due to Covid-19 pandemic. The conference will be a very effective platform for all range technology enthusiasts to interact with each other and stay updated with recent developments in relevant fields.

2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021) is being organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a laboratory of DRDO

More than 250 technical articles were submitted by experts on the relevant subjects, of which 122 articles have been selected by a specialised technical committee

A virtual industrial exhibition is also being held in which more than 25 industries and organisations from India and abroad will display their products and technologies

video conference from different locations.

Former scientific advisor to Defense Minister Avinash Chander was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The inaugural function was also attended by Director General (Missiles & Strategic Systems) BHVS Narayanmurthy; ex-DG, DRDO MSR Prasad; director ITR Chandipur HK Ratha along with other delegates and participants.

Tribals miffed over land encroachment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawaniapatna, August 6: Tribal people of nine villages of Malijubang and Bijepur panchayats in Kalahandi district have been farming on forest land for over 45 years. They alleged that people of Dhanpadar under Lakhbahali panchayat have forcibly acquired their land.

According to reports, hundreds of tribal people have been living for generations at Janakasarp, Kandhujubang, Sinibhatta, Pradhanpada, Karanmunda, Bengabhata, Khajuriguda, Malijubanga and Sunakhadika villages.

The villagers, aggrieved over encroachment of their land, have submitted a memorandum to Kalahandi Collector, seeking his intervention in the matter. They warned of agitation if their problem is not resolved.

WOMAN KILLED, ANOTHER CRITICAL IN ROAD MISHAP



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 6: A woman died on the spot and another sustained serious injuries Friday morning after being hit by a pickup van near Durga temple in Bolangir town of this district. The deceased woman has been identified as Pramila Mohapatra and the injured as Koshal Kishori Singh aka Usha from Brahmanpada locality of this town.

Eyewitnesses said the two women were on an early morning walk when they were hit by the speeding van (registration number OD-03 Q-1679) which was coming from Bargarh district.

Some locals rescued Pramila and Usha, who were lying in critical condition on the road, and rushed them to Santha Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (SBBMCH). However, Pramila was declared dead on arrival, while Usha is currently undergoing treatment.

The vehicle and its driver have been detained at Town Police Station, officials informed. Pramila's body has been sent for post-mortem after which it will be handed over to family members, they added.

Police have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe.



A market complex is being bulldozed near Maa Tara Tarini Shrine in Ganjam to make space for various developmental works, Friday

OP PHOTO

DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Middlemen back at Sambalpur RTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 6: After a brief lull, middlemen have again infiltrated into the regional transport office (RTO) here. They are allegedly influencing the work process for their petty gains and fleeing people visiting the office.

Reports said they are allegedly making a deal during the verification of heavy and light commercial vehicles and demanding anything between ₹500-100 from the vehicle owners despite payment of prescribed fee and processing charge through online mode. They are carrying on with their work with impunity despite the presence of private security personnel and police.

The district administration and police raided the government offices as per a state government plan to free the offices of middlemen. The raid was first started in the RTO office where middlemen used to influence every sphere of work in providing necessary certificates to the vehicle owners visiting the office.

The middlemen went in hiding after the police raid but have again made their presence felt in the RTO office after the raids stopped.



Sources said, a vehicle owner is required to deposit prescribe fee through online mode as per rules but the middlemen allegedly demand payment during verification of papers. A vehicle owner alleged that the middlemen are making a deal during verification of fitness of light and heavy commercial vehicles. He, however, chose to remain silent fearing that his application for fitness certificate will get rejected.

He said that he had deposited the fee and the processing charge

for a fitness certificate for his vehicle in online mode. However, the middlemen demanded money from them during vehicle verification on various pretexts. He is not the lone person but many vehicle owners like him choose to remain silent fearing that their application for fitness certificate may get rejected if they do not heed to their demands.

Many contractual employees have been appointed in the RTO office apart from the regular staff. However, they do not put on any identity card for which it becomes difficult to distinguish a con-

tractual employee and a middleman. As a result people end up getting fleeced by middlemen.

When contacted, Pramod Sahu, motor vehicle inspector-cum-regional transport officer (in-charge) ruled out the presence of any outsider or middleman in office premises but assured to make use of identity cards making it compulsory for all category of employees.

He said all the posts in the office have been filled up and rejected the allegations of money being demanded for issuance of fitness certificates. He however, assured to direct legal action if any allegation is found to be true.

SP Batula Gangadhar said many middlemen have been arrested before and action will be taken if any person is found working as a middleman.

Mahakalpara cashew jungle in urgent need of attention

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpara, August 6: Due to various factors with pollution caused by industries in Paradip being the major one, the production of cashew from the cashew jungle spreading over more than 770 acres of land in Ramnagar panchayat under Mahakalpara block in Kendrapara district has been affected drastically over the years.

The present cashew trees in the jungle were planted by the State Soil Conservation department. In 1980, the Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation took up the orchard and has since been leasing it out.

The cashew jungle has been divided in three parts- Ramnagar cashew jungle spreading on 354 acres with 10,000 trees, Bahakud cashew jungle with 5,000 trees on 233 acres and Pitapat cashew jungle having over 5,000 trees on 182 acres.

The fruits are harvested between April and May months. Local traders buy these fruits and nuts and transport them in trucks to



Kolkata to sell. Earlier, the jungle would produce huge amount of cashew nuts. The 1999 super cyclone caused a massive damage to it. And, since then it has allegedly been lacking proper management. The air pollution caused by the industries in Paradip has also been a bane for this orchard.

This apart, some families living near the jungle are also causing damage to the jungle. In the 80s, the government had provided 2 acres of cashew jungle each to 10 SC/ST beneficiaries to encourage cashew farming. These beneficiaries have since been earning their livelihood from

these jungles. But, it has been alleged that they have been doing more harm than good. They are allegedly cutting down branches and sometimes the trees to use them as firewood. Moreover, it is alleged that some local people have also encroached upon some parts of the jungle, causing harm to it.

To protect the jungle, one supervisor and five contractual watchers are there. Considering the area of the jungle, there should be more staff to guard the jungle.

"Besides shortage of staff, Mahanadi river is also posing threat to the jungle. It's just a matter of time before over 200 trees in the jungle near Bahakud village disappear in the river. Immediate step for constructing an embankment with stone packing can save the jungle," observed some locals.

When asked, supervisor of Ramnagar cashew jungle Ashok Patra admitted that the production has reduced to a great extent. "One of the reasons for less production is the trees are old ones," he pointed out.

Boating facility for tourists at Dangamala

TOURISTS HAD DEMANDED BOATING FACILITY TO ROAM IN THE WATER OF THE DELTAIC REGION SITUATED ON THE CONFLUENCE OF MAHANADI, BRAHMANI AND BAITARANI RIVERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, August 6: The Forest department has added another step to attract tourists from abroad to Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara. In the current year, it has made provision of boating facility at Dangamala entry point so that tourists can enjoy the lush green environment of the park while roaming in water.

Earlier, tourists coming to the park land route at Dangamala entry point were deprived of boating facility. Their visits used to be limited to accessing only a few places and seeing wildlife. However, the boating facility will give them scope



to be well inside the water to have a closer look at the wildlife and

aquatic creatures from proximity. Tourists had demanded boating

facility to roam in the water of the deltaic region situated on the confluence of Mahanadi, Brahmani and Baitarani rivers.

Now, those eager to take advantage of boating facility at Dangamala entry point will have to book tickets for it.

Two boats with various luxurious facilities have been pressed into service at Dangamala entry point.

A boat can carry at best 20 tourists at a time. One has to pay ₹1000 as boat rent and bear cost of 17 litres of petrol per hour.

"Tourists can jointly hire boats for roaming in the park," said DFO Jajnadatt Pati.



Anganwadi workers and supervisors at a block-level training programme on survey of children with disabilities at Biramitrapur in Subarnapur district

OP PHOTO

77% of Maha's cropped area vulnerable to climate change

A research study - 'Socio-economic vulnerability to climate change - Index development and mapping for districts in Maharashtra', revealed that extreme climate conditions highly affect the livelihoods and agrarian economy of Maharashtra

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 6: Eleven out of the 36 districts in Maharashtra have been found to be 'highly vulnerable' to extreme weather events, droughts and dwindling water security and account for almost 40 per cent of the cropped area across central Maharashtra, a latest study has found.

Of the 36 districts in Maharashtra, 11 districts were found highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, droughts and dwindling water security and accounts for almost 40% of the cropped area across Central Maharashtra. In the same way, 37% of the state's agricultural area spread over 14 districts were moderately vulnerable, which takes the tally to three-fourths of Maharashtra's cropped regions as high to moderate vulnerable to the prevailing climate crisis.

However, the study did not include Mumbai and suburban districts in the analysis.

The farmers from western Maharashtra and Konkan are already battling the worst floods in recent times. The study adds that extreme climate conditions are affecting the livelihoods and the agrarian economy of Maharashtra may get worse from here on.

The study was conducted by Chaitanya Adhav from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, Haryana, under the guidance of R. Senthil from ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research.

Nandurbar in north Maharashtra is the most vulnerable district to cyclones, floods, droughts, changing rainfall patterns and extreme temperatures, affecting its crop production.

The other 10 highly vulnerable districts include Buldhana, Beed, Jalna, Aurangabad, Hingoli, Parbhani, Nanded, Akola, Amravati and Washim.

The 14 moderately vulnerable districts include Dhule, Jalgaon,



Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Sangli, Solapur, Osmanabad, Latur, Yavatmal, Wardha, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Gondia and Gadchiroli.

According to India's Livelihoods Report 2019, farming is the prime livelihood source for 51 per cent of Maharashtra's population.

Adhav said the findings showed that most of the highly vulnerable districts fell under the Central Maharashtra Plateau Zone, which constitutes 22.22 per cent share of the total cropped area in Maharashtra. The Central Vidarbha Zone has an additional share of 6.78 per cent area as highly vulnerable.

The authors explained that to quantify the climate change induced risk, the socio-economic vulnerability index (SEVI) was calculated using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) approach, considering the key climatic parameters such as exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of districts to climate vulnerability.

The data was collected on 44 indicators related to climatic as well as socio-economic variables, which were identified based on experts' opinion.

"Mapping of the districts shows

that there is an instant need for focused policy efforts to address the socio-economic vulnerability in the Central Maharashtra Plateau Zone, Scarcity Zone (Dhule, parts of Nandurbar and Aurangabad), and the Eastern Vidarbha Zone," Adhav said.

Nine districts - Palghar, Thane, Raigad, Nashik, Satara, Kolhapur, Ahmednagar, Nagpur and Pune - were found to be least vulnerable to climate agricultural distress, the release said.

The dominant crops from these districts which will bear the brunt of climate change in future include jowar, rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, ragi, cashew nut, barley and millets, the scientists added, even as they pointed out how there is a lot of discussion about the impacts of climate change on agriculture, but very little action is being taken on the ground.

During the last decade, there were severe droughts in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018, massive hailstorms in 2014 and 2015, and excess rainfall and flooding in 2016, 2019 and 2021. For the Konkan areas, the situation has aggravated with impacts due to back-to-back cyclones Nisarga and Tauktae in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

Maha floods: JuH sets up relief camps

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 6: The Jamiat-ul-Ulama Hind (JuH) has set up flood relief camps in the coastal region of Maharashtra, which has been badly affected by floods, especially the MHADA and Chiplun areas.

"Relief works are being carried out by JuH's Maharashtra unit in these areas, including conducting medical camps. A medical camp has been set up at the Mahakali Temple in Chiplun, where locals are being treated by doctors," said Arshad Madani, the President of JuH.

The JuH said that since auto rickshaws and small vehicles have become non-functional due to the floods, various teams of motor mechanics have been rushed to the affected areas to repair a large number of motorbikes, rickshaws and other small and heavy vehicles.

More teams of motor mechanics and electricians from different units of JuH are arriving from different parts of Maharashtra to the different areas of the Konkan region which have been affected by the floods.

Biscuits, water bottles and other essential items are being distributed among the victims in the flood-hit areas, JuH said.

Madani has instructed all the officials and workers of JuH to carry out relief and rehabilitation work on humanitarian ground.

Mumbai BJP starts 'rail-bharo' stir

Thousands of BJP activists launched the agitation demanding reopening of suburban train travel for all fully-vaccinated commuters



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 6: Thousands of activists of the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Friday launched a city-wide 'rail-bharo' agitation demanding reopening of suburban train travel for all commuters who are fully vaccinated.

Spearheaded by Leader of Opposition (Council) Pravin Darekar and local legislators in different suburbs, the agitation saw angry activists barging into major railway stations and sitting in local trains.

The police, out in full strength, erected barricades to prevent the activists from entering the railway premises and detained scores who flouted the orders.

Travelling a short distance as a token protest, Darekar said that the Railway Ministry is willing to allow commuters who have taken both their Covid-19 vaccination doses, but want a proposal from the Maharashtra government.

"When the government is allowing flights, BEST and ST buses with restrictions and precautions, then why millions of commuters debarred from the suburban trains,

which are the lifeline of Mumbai," Darekar demanded.

The agitations were held simultaneously at Churchgate, Ghatkopar, Mulund, Borivali, Kandivali, Goregaon, Vile Parle by the local legislators, besides adjoining stations in Thane.

Mumbai suburban trains are barred for ordinary commuters, barring the essential services and other approved categories, since the past 17 months, in view of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

The activists, including many women, carried banners, placards and waved copies of Covid-19 vaccination certificates, raised slogans condemning the state government and trooped inside the railway stations or trains.

The leaders pointed out that depriving the ordinary commuters of local train travel has raised a question mark on their survival as they are suffering from pay cuts or job losses.

"It is very expensive and takes hours to travel from distant suburbs to their workplaces by roads and highways. If liquor bars can start why not local trains," demanded MLA Atul Bhatkalkar in Kandivali.

Darekar said that the BJP has written several times to the state government to permit the inoculated persons to commute by suburban trains, but there has been no response, and now even the Bombay High Court is considering the same issue.



Kanwariyas carry water from the Ganga river to perform 'Abhishek' at Kashi Vishwanath temple, during Sawan month in Prayagraj

UNUSUAL ART FORM

Student paints on banana leaves

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh, August 6: It is an unusual art and Manoj Kumar, a fine arts post-graduate student of the Allahabad University, is practising it to perfection.

He paints on banana leaves and says that this is much more difficult than painting on any other surface.

"The tenderness and fragility of the banana leaf makes it extremely difficult to paint on it. The oil acrylic colours on the green and dry banana leaf often skids off," he said.

Manoj further explains, "The



biggest challenge I face with banana leaves is that an image outlining with pencil is not possible on it. Moreover, oil acrylic colours also

do not hold firmly on leaves and the colour skids on the leaf just as it would on a wet human body."

"Unlike working on other sur-

faces like canvas, paper and walls, painting on green banana leaves takes a much longer time," said Manoj.

He now ensures the leaves do not break or tear by putting them in a unique solution before drying them. He refuses to divulge the details of the solution. "Let me perfect it and then I will talk about it," he said.

"I was able to do better after trying and trying and trying to get better at it," said Manoj Kumar.

Since this is the month of 'Shravan', Manoj is making paintings of Lord Shiva on banana leaves and he hopes this will win him appreciation.

Week-long events to mark I-Day in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, August 6: As a precursor to the ongoing country-wide Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Uttar Pradesh government will organise a series of events between August 9 and August 16 to commemorate the occasion.

According to the government spokesman, "As per the programme chalked out by the state government, the main event will be held at the Kakori village in Lucknow on August 9 - the day is associated with the famous Kakori train dacoity that took place against the British rule in India."

Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will attend the Kakori function along with ministers and



legislators. All the district magistrates had been directed to chalk out various programmes, including organising 'tiranga yatra's and felicitating families of

freedom fighters.

"Children will be encouraged to participate in writing competitions on themes related to the freedom struggle, fancy dress competitions and other such functions," the spokesman said.

Several cultural functions, exhibitions and digital shows showcasing the state's glorious history, culture and development are also lined up.

The Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav, in Uttar Pradesh along with other states will continue till August 15, 2023, till a year after India completes 75 years of Independence.

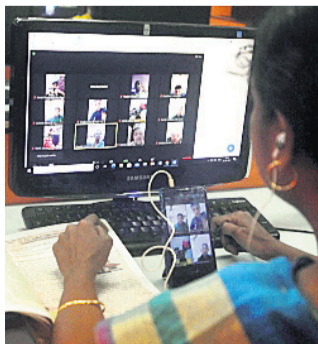
"The idea behind the Mahotsav is to showcase India's achievements since 1947 and thereby infuse a sense of pride among people apart from creating a vision for India@2047," the official pointed out.

Online Sanskrit classes for foreign students

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, August 6: The promotion of Sanskrit language in Uttar Pradesh is assuming new propositions and the Uttar Pradesh government is trying to rope in foreigners to learn and study the Vedic language.

The UP Sanskrit Sansthan is expanding its online Sanskrit speech training helpline for the students of foreign origin. A dedicated helpline through WhatsApp number is being set up to enable foreign students who can learn Sanskrit verses and rituals etc. Vachaspati Mishra, the President of UP Sanskrit Sansthan said that the foreign students will not only be able to learn the basics of Sanskrit but will also be taught verses, ritual, spirituality via a separate set of teachers. The existing online facility for Sanskrit learning and



speech has already been launched with a great success. More than 8,000 are people are registered while 1,553 students are taking daily classes in virtual classrooms even as the Sansthan is offering 47 daily classes. "Importantly, the interested students can get themselves registered in the virtual classroom via a missed call alert on mobile phone number," said Mishra.

Noida to become toy manufacturing hub

134 BIG INDUSTRIALISTS HAVE ACQUIRED LAND AT NOIDA'S TOY PARK TO SET UP THEIR FACTORIES WORTH ₹410.13 CRORE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, August 6: Noida is all set to emerge as the manufacturing hub of toys in India with enough potential to challenge China's booming toy industry.

According to the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) spokesman, the toy factories will provide permanent jobs to 6,157 people.

It may be recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for increasing the country's share in the global toy business last year.

Subsequently, Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath decided to construct the Toy Park in Noida and 100 acres of land was earmarked in Sector 33 of the YEIDA area to promote the industry.

Industrialists were invited to invest in the park and due to the investor-friendly policies of the Yogi



government, many big players in the toy business came forward to set up their units at the Toy Park.

Major national companies that have acquired land at the Toy Park are: Fun Zoo Toys India, Fun Ride Toys, Fun Zoo Toys India, Fun Ride Toys LLP, Super Shoes, Ayush Toy Marketing, Sunlord Apparels, Bharat Plastics, Jai Shree Krishna, Ganpati Creations and RRS Traders.

According to YEIDA officials, the acquisition of land by major players in the toy industry, such as Fun Zoo Toys India and Fun Ride Toys, is highly significant as they can challenge the monopoly of Chinese toy makers.

The biggest challenge before the government, however, is that out of 4,000 micro, small and medium

enterprises in the toy manufacturing business, 90 per cent are in the unorganised sector.

According to the government spokesman, India's toy industry will be worth ₹147-221 billion by the year 2024, given the fact that the demand for toys in India is rising at a faster pace compared to the global rate.

Against the global average of the demand for toys increasing annually by five per cent, India's demand is rising by 10-15 per cent.

However, the fact remains that India currently exports toys worth ₹18-20 billion only annually due to the presence of the vast majority of manufacturers in the unorganised sector.

India is also unable to compete with foreign players in toy business due to the higher cost of its products compared to theirs, owing to its whopping manufacturing cost.

The Toy Park at Noida seeks to reduce the cost of manufacturing of Indian toys while guaranteeing its quality.

The government is relying on use of state-of-the-art technology by manufacturers to produce high-quality, more durable and cheaper than the Chinese toys.

Chinese toys are expensive and have a short life. Therefore, it is now believed that the demand for Chinese toys will decrease as Indian toys start flooding markets with the manufacturing of toys in Noida.

According to people, the demand for Chinese decorative lights and Lord Ganesh's and Goddess Lakshmi's idols has dropped sharply in the recent past during the festival of lights (Diwali) because better quality, cheaper and durable indigenous products are available now.

national



On the withdrawal of the Retrospective Tax (Vodafone), I am glad that we have put an end to an issue that has been troubling us for 8 years
P CHIDAMBARAM | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

A BIG MOVE

As India makes efforts to thwart threats at its borders from China and Pakistan, troops from the three countries are set to take part in a mega anti-terror drill of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia aimed at expanding cooperation to deal with the growing menace of terrorism and extremism



of the day quote

The government is helping us and we are facing no financial crunch. We are thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for all the cooperation and support

ADAR POONAWALLA | SERUM INSTITUTE OF INDIA CEO

Remembering my dear sister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj on her Purnya Tithi today. She was a distinguished parliamentarian and an eloquent orator, who strove relentlessly for the empowerment of women & downtrodden sections

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

The state government was committed to becoming self-sufficient in food production and increasing agricultural land

MK STALIN | TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

2 ultras killed in encounter

Jammu: Two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in the Thanamandi area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district Friday, officials said. "Based on accurate intelligence from JK Police, a joint operation was launched in night of 05 Aug in the forested area of Thanamandi, Rajouri. In the fire fight two terrorists have been neutralised. Operations are under progress," the Army said in tweet.

Heavy rain in Jhalawar

Kota/Jaipur: A 15-year-old boy died as a wall of his house collapsed on him Jhalawar district Friday as heavy to very heavy rainfall in isolated areas of Rajasthan's Hadauti region affected normal life. Khanpur, which received the highest 172 mm of rains in a day, Sarola and Asnawar areas of Jhalawar were already facing a flood-like situation due to intense rain in the last six days.

Five killed in road mishap

Hyderabad: Five persons, including three of a family returning from hospital, were killed in a road accident in Telangana's Sangareddy district Friday, police said. The accident occurred near Chowtkur village when a car collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction.

11-yr-old boy dies of bird flu

New Delhi: The death of an 11-year-old boy due to bird flu has prompted PETA India to put up a billboard holding the meat industry responsible for the spread of zoonotic diseases. In an official statement, PETA India said the lives of not only chickens, but of children can also be lost due to zoonotic diseases, while reiterating that vegetarian diets must be fully embraced.

ED summons Mufti's mother

Srinagar: The Enforcement Directorate Friday served a notice on the mother of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti in connection with a case related to money laundering, official said here. The summons served on Gulshan Nazir, who is in her late seventies, has asked her to appear before the ED's Srinagar office August 18, they said.

Khel Ratna Award renamed after Major Dhyan Chand

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted Friday that he was naming the nation's highest award for sports in response to "many requests from citizens across India". It will now be called Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award after the hockey wizard who won three Olympic gold medals for India from 1928 to 1936. Instituted in 1991-92, the Khel Ratna Award was named after the late former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and India's chess prodigy Viswanathan Anand was its first re-

ipient. Some of its notable recipients are baize sport exponents Geet Sethi and Pankaj Advani, boxer MC Mary Kom, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, shooters Abhinav Bindra and Vijay Kumar, shuttler PV Sindhu and wrestler Sushil Kumar. The award is administered by the Sports Ministry and given away every year at a special function by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan. On Thursday, Manpreet Singh-led men's hockey team won a medal - bronze - at the quadrennial showpiece after more four decades. The women's team fought tooth and nail before losing to Great



Britain 3-4 in the bronze-medal match Friday. The Indian women's hockey team had defeated world

No. 2 Australia in the quarterfinals, but went down to Argentina in the semifinals and played for

bronze against Great Britain Friday. "I have been getting many requests from citizens across India to name the Khel Ratna Award after Major Dhyan Chand. I thank them for their views. Respecting their sentiment, the Khel Ratna Award will hereby be called the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award! 'Jai Hind!'" tweeted the PM. Soon after the women's team lost the bronze-medal match, PM Modi tweeted, "We narrowly missed a medal in Women's Hockey but this team reflects the spirit of New India - where we give our best and scale new frontiers. More importantly,

their success at #Tokyo2020 will motivate young daughters of India to take up Hockey and excel in it. Proud of this team." Retweeting PM Modi's announcement about the Khel Ratna being named Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said, "Major Dhyan Chand is India's most legendary & loved sporting icons; it is only befitting that India's Highest Sporting Honour be named after him. His life and achievements have inspired generations of sportspersons who have achieved glory for India."

BORDER DISPUTES Assam, Meghalaya to set up committees

AGENCIES

Guwahati, August 6: Assam and Meghalaya Friday decided to set up two regional committees, each headed by a cabinet minister, to resolve the vexed border issue between the North-eastern neighbours, Chief Ministers of the two states said.

The five-member panels of the two states will initially aim at resolving the border disputes in a phased manner in six of the 12 disputed sides, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma told a joint press conference held after both the governments held talks on the issue here.

If there is a need to redraw the borders, though chances are slim, both the state governments would recommend it to the Centre, Sarma said.

The committees headed by a cabinet minister will have bureaucrats and maybe a local representative as members and they will visit the disputed sites, interact with the civil society members and complete the discussions within 30 days, Sarma said in a state. "The talks held by both the governments here today took certain decisions to facilitate further discussions to resolve the vexed problem," Sarma said in a statement.

Oppn joins farmers' protest, AAP skips



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 6: The opposition led by Rahul Gandhi Friday joined the farmers' protest at Jantar Mantar here. The AAP, however, did not join the protest.

The leaders assembled in the Parliament premises and then boarded a bus to reach the venue. Rahul Gandhi along with other leaders sat with the agitating farmers. He said, "Everybody in the opposition has gathered to extend support against the 'black laws'. We want a discussion over Pegasus, but they (Government) are not allowing the discussion, Narendra Modi has intercepted every Indian's phone with the spyware."

The Congress leader said, "One thing that is constant in the history of our great land - the victory of the kisan, over oppression, over discrimination and over tyranny. This time too, history will repeat." Though the opposition is trying

to show itself as a united front, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) did not join the protest. All the three parties are also against the new farm laws and support the agitating farmers.

AAP MP Sushil Gupta said that if the protest was done under the leadership of LoP Mallikarjun Kharge, then they would have joined.

The AAP and the SAD-BSP combine are pitted against the Congress in Punjab. All the parties are supporting farm agitation but differ in showing solidarity.

Earlier in the day, the opposition met at the office of the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and decided to continue with their demand of discussion on Pegasus snooping issue, farm laws and fuel price hike. The leaders also decided to join the farmers' protest at Jantar Mantar.

India, China disengage in Gogra

The Indian Army said that both the countries have ceased forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 6: In a major breakthrough, India and China have withdrawn troops from the friction Patrolling Point (PP) 17A in Gogra along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army said Friday.

"The disengagement process was carried out over two days, i.e., August 4 and 5. The troops of both sides are now in their respective permanent bases," the Indian Army said in a statement.

The force said that the 12th round of talks between the Corps Commanders of India and China were held July 31 at the Chushul Moldo Meeting Point in Eastern Ladakh. The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the resolution of the remaining areas related to disengagement along the LAC in the Western Sector of India-China border areas.

"As an outcome of the meeting, both sides agreed on disengagement in the area of Gogra," the Indian Army said. The troops in this area were in a face-off situation since May last year. The force said that all the temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides have been dismantled and mutually verified. "The landform in the area has



been restored by both sides to the pre-stand off period," the Indian Army stated.

This agreement ensures that the LAC in this area will be strictly observed and respected by both sides, and that there is no unilateral change in status quo.

With this, one more sensitive area of face-off has been resolved.

"Both sides have expressed their commitment to take the talks forward and resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector," the force added. The Indian Army also pointed out that along with the ITBP, it is totally committed to ensure the sovereignty of the nation and maintain peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector. In a joint statement after the 12th Round of India-China Corps Commander-level

talks held earlier this week, it was stated that the two sides have also agreed that in the interim, they will continue their effective efforts in ensuring stability along the LAC in the Western Sector and jointly maintain peace and tranquility.

The talks between the two countries took place after a gap of three months. With the latest disengagement reached between both the countries in Gogra, India will now take up the other remaining friction areas like the Hot Springs and the 900 sq km Depsang plains.

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

JEE-Main results declared

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 6: Seventeen candidates have scored 100 percentile in the third edition of engineering entrance exam JEE-Main, results of which were declared by the National Testing Agency (NTA) Friday.

The perfect scorers included Karnam Lokesh, Duggineni Venkata Pameesh, Pasala Veera Siva and Kanchanapalli Rahul Naidu from Andhra Pradesh, Vaibhav Vishal from Bihar, Anshul Verma from Rajasthan, Ruchir Bansal and Pravar Kataria from Delhi, Harsh and Anmol from Haryana, Gaurab Das from Karnataka, Polu Lakshmi Sai Lokesh Reddy, Madur Adarsh Reddy and Velavali Venkata from Telangana and Pal Aggarwal and Amaiya Singhal from Uttar Pradesh. A total of 7.09 lakh candidates had registered for the exam conducted at 915 examination centres in 334 cities, including 12 cities outside India in Bahrain, Colombo, Doha, Dubai, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Lagos, Muscat, Riyadh, Sharjah, Singapore and Kuwait. "Examination of the 1,899 candidates in the flood-affected districts



of Kolhapur, Palghar, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Sangli, and Satara in Maharashtra who could not appear 25 and 27 July was conducted August 3 and 4, 2021," the NTA said in an official statement. "A total of 162 candidates from Bahrain who could not appear for session 1 due to lockdown also appeared August 3 and 4. A total number of 707 observers, 293 city-coordinators, 19 regional coordinators, 6 special coordinators and 2 national coordinators were deployed at these centres to oversee the smooth and fair conduct of the examination," it said. The examination was conducted in 13 languages - English, Hindi, Gujarati, Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

LS passes Bill to end retro tax

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 6: Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day shortly after noon Friday after passage of two bills, including the one which proposes to end a controversial retrospective tax policy, amid protests by Opposition members over Pegasus and other issues.

As the House convened for the day at 11 am, Speaker Om Birla took up the Question Hour. However, the members resorted to sloganeering over Pegasus snooping controversy and farm laws.

As the protests continued, the Speaker urged the agitating members to go back to their seats. The proceedings lasted for around 15 minutes after which Birla adjourned the House till noon.

When the House resumed at noon, Rajendra Agrawal, who was in the chair, allowed discussions on 'The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021', which proposed amendments to the Income Tax and Finance Act 2012 to make it clear that no tax demand will be raised for any indirect transfer of Indian assets if the transaction was un-



dertaken prior to May 28, 2012.

After a brief statement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and clause-wise consideration of the bill, it was passed by voice vote.

Similarly, another bill 'The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021', to set up a central uni-

versity in Ladakh was passed by the House following a brief statement by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. After the two bills were passed, the chair announced the adjournment of the House for the day. Lok Sabha will now resume on Monday after the weekend break.

J&J seeks emergency use nod for Covid-19 vaccine in India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 6: Johnson & Johnson has applied for emergency use approval of its coronavirus vaccine in India, the US pharmaceutical giant said Friday, moving a step closer to supplying the first single-dose Covid-19 shot to the country.

The shot will be brought to India through a supply agreement with homegrown vaccine maker Biological E Ltd, J&J said in an emailed statement. The company's application comes at a time when legal wrangles have held up US vaccine donations to India, which has not met requests for granting foreign manufacturers indemnity from lawsuits.

J&J said it was in talks with the Indian government to accelerate the availability of its vaccine, without giving further details. Indian health authorities have so far approved the use of vaccines developed by AstraZeneca, Bharat Biotech, Russia's Gamaleya Institute, and Moderna.

SC anguished over incidents of threat to judges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 6: Expressing concern over the incidents of judges getting threats and abusive messages, the Supreme Court Friday said the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the CBI are "not helping" the judiciary at all and there is no freedom to a judicial officer to even make such complaints.

The apex court said there are several criminal cases involving gangsters and high-profile persons and at some places, judges of the trial courts as well as high courts are being threatened not only physically but also mentally through abusive messages on

Whatsapp or Facebook. "In one or two places, the court ordered CBI inquiry. It is very sorry to say that CBI has done nothing in more than one year. At one place, I know, CBI has done nothing. I think we have expected some changes in CBI's attitude. But there is no change in the attitude of CBI. I am sorry to observe this but this is the situation," said Chief Justice N V Ramana, who was heading a bench which also comprised Justice Surya Kant.

"This is a new trend developed in the country unfortunately. There is no freedom to a judge even to give a complaint. Such a situation is created," said the bench, which was



hearing a suo motu case on the issue of safeguarding courts and

protecting judges in the wake of recent incident of alleged mowing

down of a judge at Dhanbad.

The CJ said though judges complaints to the chief justice or the concerned head of the district, when they complain to the police or the CBI or others, these agencies do not respond.

"They think it is not a priority item for them. The IB, CBI they are not helping the judiciary at all. I am making this statement with a sense of responsibility and I know the incident that is the reason I am saying this. I do not want to divulge more than this," the CJ said. The bench termed the issue "serious" and told Venugopal that some interest has to be taken to help the judiciary. Venugopal said judges

dealing with criminal cases are very vulnerable and said there has to be safety measures for them.

He said judges are more vulnerable than the bureaucrats who take decisions within the four corners of their rooms. Venugopal said he would file his written note on the issue.

Meanwhile, the bench issued notice to the CBI after it was informed by Jharkhand government that investigation into the death of the judge in Dhanbad has been handed over to the probe agency.

The apex court also asked all the states to file status reports explaining what security they are providing to the judicial officers.

international



Iran and India can play a constructive and useful role in ensuring security in the region, especially Afghanistan and Tehran welcomes New Delhi's role in the establishment of security in Afghanistan
EBRAHIM RAISI | PRESIDENT, IRAN

NEW SPACE TICKET TO COST \$450,000

Virgin Galactic is restarting ticket sales beginning at \$450,000, the company announced Thursday. The new price is about double the \$200,000 to \$250,000 paid by around 600 people who previously booked seats on Virgin's spaceship



of the day quote

I am deeply concerned by the lack of progress toward the goal of a nuclear-free world. I call on all states that possess nuclear weapons to adopt risk reduction measures, individually and jointly

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

We support building a consensus for modest enlargement of the Security Council for both permanent and non-permanent members, provided it does not diminish its effectiveness or its efficacy and does not alter or expand the veto

NED PRICE | STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON, US

Biden's move slandered and smeared Hong Kong's national security law, nakedly intervened in Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs, and blatantly trampled on international law and the basic norms of international relations

ZHAO LIJIAN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

SHORT TAKES

Google founder gets NZ residency

Wellington: Google co-founder Larry Page has gained New Zealand residency, officials confirmed Friday, stoking debate over whether extremely wealthy people can essentially buy access to the South Pacific country. Immigration New Zealand said Page first applied for residency in November under a special visa open to people with at least 10 million New Zealand dollars (\$7 million) to invest. Gaining New Zealand residency would not necessarily affect Page's residency status in the US or any other nations.

Australia widens Covid restrictions

Sydney: Australia has enacted tough border controls requiring residents to apply for exemptions to leave and incoming overseas travellers, capped at around 3,000 a week, must go through a two-week mandatory quarantine. The rules will further tighten from Aug 11 by removing an automatic exemption for citizens and permanent residents living outside of Australia to leave, a government statement tabled in the parliament Thursday showed.

Heavy rain wrecks houses in N Korea

Seoul: Heavy rains in northeastern North Korea have destroyed or flooded 1,170 houses and forced 5,000 residents to evacuate to safety, North Korea's state TV reported. Thursday's TV broadcast said this week's downpour in South Hamgyong Province inundated or washed away hundreds of hectares of farmlands and destroyed many bridges. Footage showed houses submerged up to their red-brick roofs, a severed bridge over muddy water and a swollen river.

Zuma hospitalised

Johannesburg: Former South African President Jacob Zuma, who has been serving a 15-month prison sentence for contempt of court, was Friday admitted to a hospital for medical observation. The spokesperson added that the former President's healthcare needs at the Estcourt Correctional Centre require the involvement of the South African Military Health Services.

CALIF WILDFIRE DECIMATES HISTORIC TOWN

THE DIXIE FIRE IS ALREADY THE SIXTH BIGGEST IN THE STATE'S HISTORY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Greenville, August 6: Evacuation orders were widened Thursday as California's biggest wildfire raged through the state's tinder-dry landscape, laying waste to hundreds of square miles.

This week it all-but wiped out the historic mining town of Greenville, a settlement of a few hundred people dating back to the mid-1800's Gold Rush.

"I'd say the majority of downtown Greenville is completely destroyed," tweeted wildfire photographer Stuart Palley, sharing images of the devastation.

The Dixie Fire - just one of a welter of blazes wracking the western



United States -- has been raging in the dry forests of northern California since mid-July, part of a global warming climate crisis that has brought sweltering heat and an alarming drought to

the region. It has now engulfed around 500 square miles (1,300 square kilometers). Almost a fifth of that area was added overnight Wednesday into Thursday. The blaze is so big that it has been gen-

Thousands flee fires in Greece

Athens: Thousands of people fled wildfires burning out of control in Greece Friday, as a protracted heat wave turned forests into tinderboxes and flames threatened populated areas, electricity installations and historic sites. Fires have raged in many parts of Greece as the country has been backed by a prolonged heat wave that sent temperatures soaring to 45 degrees Celsius. Thousands of people have fled their homes or holiday accommodation, while at least 20 people, including four firefighters, have been treated for injuries. Two of the firefighters were in intensive care in Athens, while another two were hospitalized with light burns, the Health Ministry said.

erating its own weather system.

"We did everything we could," California fire department spokesman Mitch Matlow told reporters. "Sometimes it's just not enough."

Almost 5,000 personnel are involved in the battle to tame the blaze. But very low humidity and a parched landscape were offering ideal conditions for the fire to rage.

AMID TENSIONS WITH IRAN

Hezbollah, Israel trade cross-border strikes

HEZBOLLAH SAID IT HAD TARGETED OPEN GROUND NEAR ISRAELI FORCES IN RETALIATION FOR ISRAELI AIR STRIKES



Third day of salvos in longtime theatre of conflict

Projectiles hit open ground, suggesting no wish for war

Tensions simmering after attack on oil tanker in Gulf

Israel, Hezbollah fought one-month war 15 years ago

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon said the situation was very serious

AGENCIES

Tel Aviv, August 6: The Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah fired barrages of rockets towards Israeli forces Friday, drawing retaliatory fire from Israel into south Lebanon, in a third day of cross-border salvos amid wider regional tensions with Iran.

Suggesting its attack was calibrated to avoid further escalation, Hezbollah said it had targeted open

ground near Israeli forces in retaliation for Israeli air strikes that had also struck open areas.

Israel said it did not wish to escalate to a full war, though it was ready for one.

"Our understanding is that Hezbollah deliberately aimed at open areas in order not to escalate the situation," Israeli military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Amnon Sheffer told reporters.

The flare-up, which has caused

no casualties, followed an alleged Iranian attack on an Israeli-managed oil tanker in the Gulf last week in which two crew members, a Briton and a Romanian, were killed. Tehran denied involvement.

With the Islamic Republic facing the possibility of Israeli or international action in response to the Gulf incident, the violence has flared across a border that has long been a theatre of conflict between the Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said the situation was very serious and urged all parties to cease fire.

The Israeli military said its Iron Dome system intercepted 10 of 19 rockets Friday, with six falling in open areas and three landing inside south Lebanon. There have been no reports of casualties or serious damage over the three days of aerial fire, which have jarred an extended period of relative calm since Israel and Hezbollah fought a one-month war in 2006.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's office said he was consulting with his defence and military chiefs over the violence. The military said it had struck "the rocket launch sites in Lebanon" in Friday in response to Hezbollah's salvos.

AGENCIES

Kabul, August 6: The Taliban captured an Afghan provincial capital and assassinated the government's top media officer in Kabul Friday, dealing twin high-profile blows to the Western-backed administration.

A police spokesman in southern Nimroz province said the capital Zaranj had fallen to the hardline Islamists because of a lack of reinforcements from the government. Fighting to reimpose strict Islamic law after their 2001 ousting by US-led forces, the Taliban have intensified their campaign to defeat the US-backed government as foreign forces complete their withdrawal after 20 years of war.

Zaranj was the first provincial capital to fall to the group since the United States reached a deal with the Taliban in February 2020 for a US troop pullout.

Taliban sources said the group was celebrating, and Zaranj's fall would boost the morale of their fighters in other provinces. A Taliban commander, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it has strategic importance as it is on the border with Iran.

Afghan govt top media chief killed

Taliban fighters Friday assassinated the Afghanistan government's top media and information officer in the capital Kabul, an act condemned by the senior US diplomat in the country as an affront to human rights and free speech. The Taliban claimed responsibility for killing Dawa Khan Menapal, head of the Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC). An official in the federal interior ministry said that "the savage terrorists killed" him during Friday prayers. A Taliban spokesperson said Menapal was "killed in a special attack by the Mujaheddin (Taliban fighters) and was punished for his actions."



"This is the beginning and see how other provinces fall in our hands very soon," he said.

SA Prez reshuffles Cabinet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg, August 6: Three senior ministers are out of the new Cabinet announced by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa here.

The senior ministers who will not be the new Cabinet are Finance Minister Tito Mboweni, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize and Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

This was part of major changes to the security functions of the national executive in the wake of what Ramaphosa again referred to as "sabotage", which led to a week of widespread violence, loot-

ing and arson last month.

Reiterating his earlier acknowledgement that the country was ill-prepared for the violence, Ramaphosa said he was doing away with the Ministry of State Security and placing political responsibility for the state security agency in the presidency.

"This is to ensure that the country's domestic and foreign intelligence services more effectively enable the president to exercise his responsibility to safeguard the security and integrity of the nation," Ramaphosa said.

Ten deputy ministers were also announced.

Pak SC pulls up govt for failure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 6: Pakistan's Supreme Court Friday pulled up authorities for failing to stop an attack on a Hindu temple in a remote town in Punjab province and ordered the arrest of the culprits, observing that the incident has tarnished the image of the country abroad.

Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed, who took note of the attack Thursday, presided over the hearing in Islamabad. The apex court took suo motu notice of the case after patron-in-chief of the Pakistan

ATTACK ON TEMPLE



Hindu Council Dr Ramesh Kumar met the Chief Justice Thursday.

Hundreds of people, carrying sticks, stones and bricks attacked the temple, burning parts of it and damaging the idols, in Bhong area of Rahimyar Khan district of the province in protest against the re-

lease by a court of a nine-year-old Hindu boy, who was arrested for allegedly urinating in a local seminary.

"What were the administration and the police doing when the temple was attacked? Chief Justice Ahmed asked Inspector General of Police (IGP) Inam Ghani, who was specially summoned to appear before the court.

"A Hindu temple was demolished, and just think what they must have felt. Imagine what would have been the reaction of Muslims, had a mosque been demolished," the Chief Justice said.

Apple to scan US iPhones for images of child abuse

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

San Francisco, August 6: Apple Thursday said iPhones and iPads will soon start detecting images containing child sexual abuse and reporting them as they are uploaded to its online storage in the United States, a move privacy advocates say raises concerns.

"We want to help protect children from predators who use communication tools to recruit and exploit them, and limit the spread of child sexual abuse material (CSAM)," Apple said in an online post.

New technology will allow software powering Apple mobile devices to match abusive photos on a user's phone against a database of known CSAM images provided

by child safety organizations, then flag the images as they are uploaded to Apple's online iCloud storage, according to the company.

The Silicon Valley-based tech giant said the matching of photos would be "powered by a cryptographic technology" to determine "if there is a match without revealing the result," unless the image was found to contain depictions of child sexual abuse.

India McKinney and Erica Portnoy of the digital rights group Electronic Frontier Foundation said in a post that "Apple's compromise on end-to-end encryption may appease government agencies in the United States and abroad, but it is a shocking affront for users who have relied on the company's leadership in pri-



vacuity and security."

Minding Messages The new image-monitoring feature is part of a series of tools heading to Apple mobile devices, according to the company. "When receiving this type of

content, the photo will be blurred and the child will be warned," Apple said.

"As an additional precaution, the child can also be told that, to make sure they are safe, their parents will get a message if they do view it."

IMAGE-MONITORING FEATURE

- The new software will match abusive photos on a user's phone against a database of known CSAM images
- Matching of photos would be "powered by a cryptographic technology" to determine "if there is a match without revealing the result"
- If any image contains depictions of child sexual abuse, Apple will report such images to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Apple's texting app, Messages, will use machine learning to recognize and warn children and their parents when receiving or sending sexually explicit photos
- Similar precautions are triggered if a child tries to send a sexually explicit photo
- Siri will be taught to "intervene" when users try to search topics related to child sexual abuse
- Apple stresses that it will not have direct access to the images

Apple has built its reputation on defending privacy on its devices and services despite pressure from

politicians and police to gain access to people's data in the name of fighting crime or terrorism.



Our focus on operational efficiency and financial discipline gives us the confidence that our core performance will continue. Our farm business delivered yet another exemplary quarter result, while our auto business showed demand recovery

ANISH SHAH | MD & CEO, M&M

S&P REVISES OUTLOOK ON INDIAN BANK TO 'STABLE'

Credit rating agency S&P Global Ratings has revised its outlook on public sector mortgage lender Indian Bank to stable from negative. According to the rating agency, Indian Bank's capitalisation has strengthened owing to its recent equity capital raising and improving profitability



of the day quote

There is no crisis now on this front, as the stress level among small business borrowers is not very high, even though slippages and loan restructuring are rising of late. The situation is not very bad as many accounts are going in for restructuring

MUKESH JAIN | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

Policy announcement with respect to accommodative stance and policy signal rates is on the expected lines. It is pertinent to note that while the decision of the monetary policy committee for continuance of the accommodative stance was unanimous in the June policy, it is not so in this policy

RAJ KIRAN RAI G | CHAIRMAN (INDUSTRY LOBBY), INDIAN BANKS ASSOCIATION

I normally don't react to these, as by the frequency of them, if (deal with Byju's) these were true, we would have been sold over 4-5 times by now. This information is absolutely false and we are not doing or even remotely considering anything of this sort

VAHINI KRISHNA | CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, VEDANTU

'Hiring activity at all-time high, crosses pre-Covid levels'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 6: Hiring activity in India touched an all-time high in July 2021, indicating a strong revival of economic growth and a sustained recovery from the impact of Covid-19 on business, according to the latest Naukri JobSpeak report.

The country's premier index on hiring trends grew by 11 per cent in July versus June, to touch 2,625, the highest it has ever been, including the pre-Covid timeline. The rapid digital transformation across all sectors drove up the demand for jobs in the IT sector by

18 per cent, the report showed.

Sectors that were severely hit by the movement restrictions during the pandemic continued to show growth in hiring for the second month in a row, including hotels/restaurants/airlines/travel (up by 36 per cent) and retail (up by 17 per cent).

Hiring activity in accounting/taxation (up by 27 per cent), FMCG (up by 17 per cent), banking/financial services (up by 13 per cent) and education/teaching (up by 8 per cent) also saw positive sequential upswing during the same period.

The pharma/biotech/clinical



research sector saw a marginal drop of 5 per cent in jobs while the media/dotcom/entertainment

sector dropped by 15 per cent in July, the report said. Prominent IT hubs such as

July '21 has provided conclusive proof of the revival of hiring activity in the country, after a setback in April and May '21. Not only has it increased by 11% in this month, but the Naukri JobSpeak Index has reached an all-time high surpassing pre-Covid levels

PAWAN GOYAL | CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER, NAUKRI.COM

Bangalore (17%), Hyderabad (16%) and Pune (13 per cent) and megacities like Delhi/NCR (13%) and

Mumbai (10%) witnessed double-digit growth in hiring during July vs June. Among the smaller cities, Coimbatore (24%) and Jaipur (11%) clocked positive growth while Ahmedabad (3%) was the only city to record negative numbers in July.

July also recorded a higher demand for jobs across all functional areas, with more job options for freshers.

"July '21 has provided conclusive proof of the revival of hiring activity in the country, after a setback in April and May '21," said Pawan Goyal, Chief Business Officer, Naukri.com, in a statement.

RBI keeps key repo rate unchanged at 4%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 6: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday expectedly kept interest rates unchanged at a record low as it chose to support economic revival despite raising its forecast for inflation.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to retain the main repurchase (repo) rate -- the key lending rate at which the central bank lends short-term funds to banks - at 4%, but was split on continuing with the lower-for-longer stance.

"The MPC also decided on a 5 to 1 majority to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the monetary policy.

This was a departure from the past when they were unanimous on the need to support growth. An accommodative stance means a rate hike is unlikely.

This is the seventh time in a row that RBI has left the policy



rate unchanged. RBI had last revised its policy rate on May 22, 2020 in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low amid the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prior to that, the MPC had cut key lending rates by 250 basis points since February 2019 to support growth.

With the ebbing of the second Covid wave, RBI retained its GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year ending in March 2022 at 9.5%, but revised its retail infla-

The six-member MPC voted unanimously to retain the repo rate, the key lending rate at which the central bank lends short-term funds to banks at 4%

The central bank scaled down the growth projections for the next few quarters in the current fiscal but raised the forecast for April-June to 21.4%.

This, analysts said, may be reflective of its concerns on the pace of consumption demand revival despite the expectations of a favourable Kharif crop, buoyant exports, steady progress in vaccination, and a conducive monetary and fiscal policy.

Growth in Q1 of next fiscal was forecast at 17.2%. "The supply-side drivers could be transitory while demand-pull pressures remain inert, given the slack in the economy," the Governor said on inflation.

Arnault overtakes Bezos as world's richest person

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 6: Bernard Arnault, Chairman of Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy (LVMH), has become the richest person in the world after surpassing Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. The French businessman's net worth is estimated at \$198.9 billion, as per the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List. Arnault had earlier become the world's richest person in December 2019, January 2020 and May 2021.



As per the latest rankings, Bezos's net worth stood at \$194.9 billion while Elon Musk is placed third. Tesla and SpaceX chief Musk's net worth is estimated at \$185.5 billion.

Arnault overtook Elon Musk when the company reported first-quarter revenue of 14 euros billion in 2021, which surged by 32 per cent as compared to the first quarter of 2020.

LVMH comprises 70 brands, including Louis Vuitton, Sephora, Tiffany & Co, Stella McCartney, Gucci, Christian Dior and Givenchy, which are independently managed and operated under the LVMH umbrella.

Nalco's net profit jumps ₹347.73cr in Q1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: National Aluminium Company Limited (Nalco) reported ₹347.73 crore net profit in the first quarter of current financial year. The net profit jumped to ₹347.73 crore from ₹16.63 crore, achieved in the corresponding period of previous fiscal.

According to the results taken on record at a meeting of the Board of Directors in Bhubaneswar Friday, the company has reported revenue from operations of ₹2474.55 crore, an increase of 79.2% compared to ₹1380.63 crore achieved in the corresponding quarter of last fiscal.

This is mainly propelled by



strong demand, higher volumes, better realisation and effective capacity utilisation of its operational units.

On the production front, Nalco has put up an impressive performance. During the quarter, the production of bauxite, alumina and aluminium have been 17.61

lakh tonnes, 5.21 lakh tonnes and 1.14 lakh tonnes respectively, compared to 17.10 lakh tonnes, 4.65 lakh tonnes and 0.98 lakh tonnes respectively in the comparative period of the last fiscal.

Nalco CMD Sridhar Patra said, "In spite of the challenges imposed due to the pandemic, Nalco through strategic planning of raw materials, manpower and marketing initiatives, coupled with continued focus on cost optimisation, has been able to steer towards organisational success."

Patra has also conveyed his thankfulness to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India and the state government for the unstinted support extended to the organisation.

Homegrown startups urge PM to allow direct overseas listing

AGENCIES

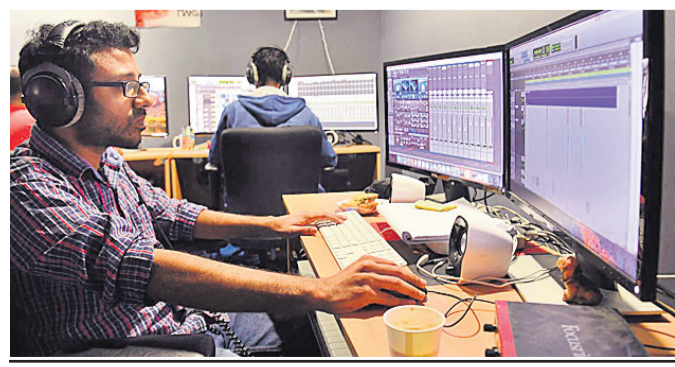
New Delhi, August 6: Founders of homegrown startups like Byju's, Cred, Urban Company and BharatPe have jointly written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the government to allow direct overseas listing of Indian companies.

In their letter, the founders pointed out that the current inability of unlisted companies to tap international markets for raising capital is "an impediment to the growth ambitions of Indian startups as their access to wider global

pools of capital is blocked".

"As a result, most Indian startups do not have a level-playing field with their counterparts in other global startup hubs. "It is also a factor resulting in the migration of startups outside India, or flipping as we term it, with many of them moving their base overseas," the letter added.

The letter was signed by Rebel Food's Jaydeep Barman, Byju's founder Byju Raveendran, Cred's Kunal Shah, Urban Company's Abhiraj Singh Bhal, and Matrix Partners India MD Vikram Vaidyanathan, among others.



The entrepreneurs emphasised that such a move will be the single most significant, big-bang reform

for the start-up ecosystem and will instantly pave the way for many Indian companies to be on the

GROWTH AMBITIONS

In their letter, the startups pointed out that the current inability of unlisted companies to tap international markets for raising capital

Founders of homegrown startups contended that if India wants to produce multinational tech giants, permitting Indian startups to access global capital by listing on international exchanges is an absolute must-have

global map. The founders contended that if India wants to produce multinational tech giants,

"permitting Indian startups to access global capital by listing on international exchanges is an absolute must-have".

The letter pointed out that in 2021 alone, India has added 18 unicorns (companies valued at more than \$1bn), taking the tally to 55.

Given this trend of fast-paced growth, many such mature companies are now keen to tap stock markets to raise further capital, as it will allow them to fuel their domestic and international expansion, generate employment and make India more efficient and competitive, they said.

RETAIL BATTLE

Amazon scores big win as SC stalls Future's deal

A bench headed by justice RF Nariman held that the emergency award passed under the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) rules can be enforced in India under Arbitration and Conciliation Act



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 6: In a major victory for Amazon, the Supreme Court Friday ruled in favour of e-commerce giant in its dispute with Future Retail. The top court held that the emergency arbitrator award is enforceable in Indian law.

A bench headed by justice RF Nariman held that the emergency award passed under the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) rules can be enforced in India under Arbitration and Conciliation Act.

The top court said: "Emergency arbitrator's award holds good under section 17(1) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and single judge's order for such award cannot be appealed under Section 17(2)".

On July 29, the Supreme Court had reserved the judgment on the pleas of e-commerce giant Amazon challenging the ₹24,713 crore deal for merger of Future Retail Ltd

(FRL) with Reliance Retail. Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC and FRL have been locked in a bitter legal battle over the deal.

Amazon had argued that the Singapore's Emergency Arbitrator (EA) award, which restrained FRL from going ahead with the merger, was valid and enforceable. Amazon had moved the apex court challenging the Delhi High Court's division bench order which gave a green signal to the Reliance-FRL deal.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, representing FRL, had contended there was no notion of EA under the Indian law on arbitration and conciliation and also, there was no arbitration agreement to this effect. Salve emphasized that there was no provision for EA under the Indian law.

On February 8, a Division Bench had stayed the single-judge direction to FRL and various statutory authorities to maintain the status quo on the deal.

94,855 houses delivered under PMAY-U in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 6: About 94,855 constructed houses have been delivered to the beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAYU) in Odisha, a report released by the Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs said.

The ministry says, "For Odisha, 1,77,187 house projects has been sanctioned by the Centre for construction under PMAYU of which about 1,31,999 projects are grounded for construction." The ministry expects to complete the project soon. Based on the project proposals submitted by the states/UTs

houses, 84, 67,568 have been grounded for construction and 50,16,642 have been completed and delivered to beneficiaries.

To achieve the Mission of 'Housing for All' by 2022, states/UTs have been advised to ground for construction of the remaining sanctioned houses, complete all houses already grounded and saturate the demand city-wise. Further, to ensure uninterrupted flow of funds, in addition to budgetary resources, National Urban Housing Fund (NUHF) worth ₹60,000 crore has been created for raising Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) in phases for rapid implementation of the scheme.



BAJRANG outwitted by Aliev

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chiba, August 6: Bajrang Punia's perennial leg-defence weakness came to haunt him at the big stage as he lost the men's freestyle 65kg semifinal to three-time world champion Haji Aliev here Friday and he will now fight for bronze medal at the Olympic Games.

Rio Olympics bronze-winner Aliev of Azerbaijan consistently attacked Bajrang's legs and twice got himself into position from where he could roll the Indian comfortably for easy two-point throws.

Trailing 1-4 after the first period, Bajrang looked for a big attack but Aliev very smartly effected a counter take down, placing his shoulder close to the thighs of Bajrang and threw the Indian for a huge 8-1 lead.

The Azerbaijani was losing steam and Bajrang got two take-downs to reduce the deficit but the required big move never came. Under 30 seconds left in the bout, Bajrang desperately looked for an attack but Aliev did not let him do that by

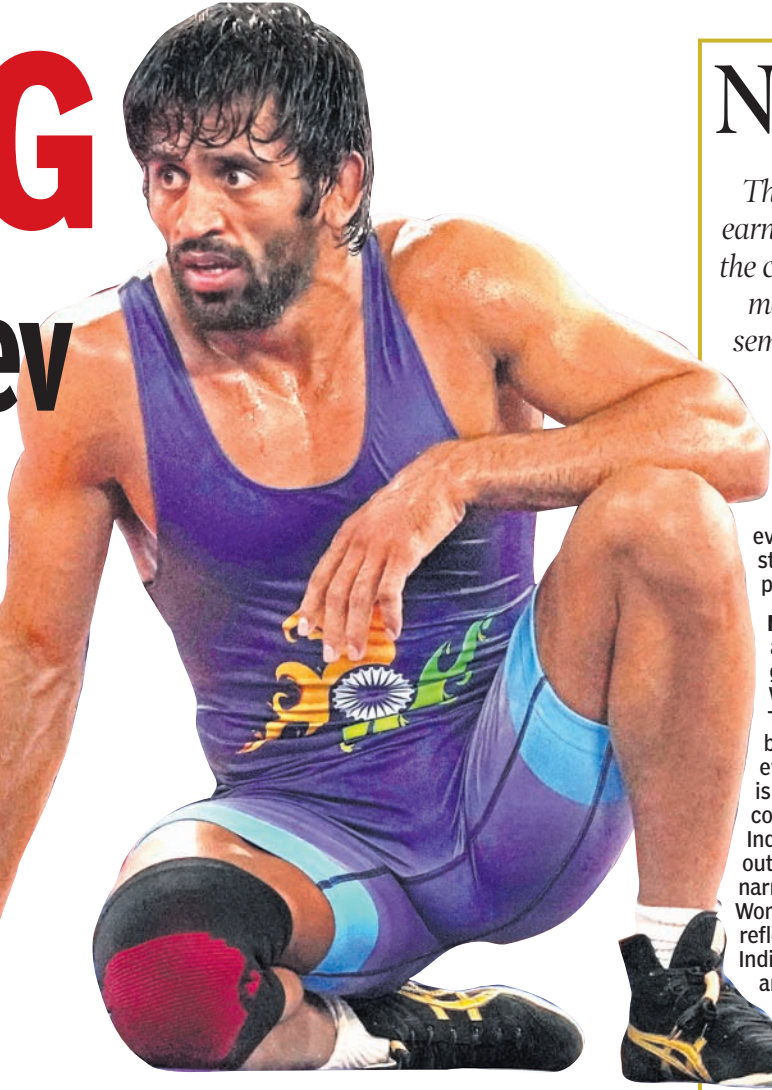
gripping him in strong body-lock. A dejected and helpless Bajrang fell on the mat, aware that he had lost battle to a superior wrestler. Bajrang will now fight for bronze.

If he manages to win, India will match its best result at the Olympics. Sushil Kumar and Yogeshwar Dutt had won a silver and a bronze at the 2012 London Games.

Debutant Indian wrestler Seema Bisla could not find a way to get out of the defensive trap of Tunisia's Sarra Hamdi and lost her 50kg opening round 1-3. The 27-year-old could not make her moves as Hamdi applied the body lock to great effect, never allowing Seema to initiate a strong attack.

There were hardly any moves in the bout with Hamdi getting two of her three points on push out and one on Seema's passivity.

Seema got on board when she too pushed her rival out after being



put on activity clock for a second time. The Tunisian later lost her next bout, which drew curtains on Seema's campaign.

The Rohtak grappler had not

even won a national event till 2017 but went on to secure her berth for the Games by winning the World Olympic Qualifier, held in Sofia in May.

Nation heaps praise on eves

The bronze medal slipped out of their grasp but the Indian women's hockey team earned plaudits for their gritty display against Great Britain in the play-off match as the country celebrated the side's best-ever performance at the Olympics. The history-making Indian eves, who had already surpassed all expectations by entering the semifinals of the Games for the first time, signed off with a fourth place finish after going down to Great Britain 3-4 in the bronze medal play-off...

RAM NATH KOVIND: Indian Women's Hockey team excelled on the field and won the hearts of every Indian with their stellar performance. We are proud of you all.

NARENDRA MODI: We will always remember the great performance of our Women's Hockey Team at Tokyo 2020. They gave their best throughout. Each and every member of the team is blessed with remarkable courage, skill and resilience. India is proud of this outstanding team. We narrowly missed a medal in Women's Hockey but this team reflects the spirit of New India- where we give our best and scale new frontiers.

More importantly, their success at Tokyo 2020 will motivate young daughters of India to take up Hockey and excel in it. Proud of this team.

ANURAG THAKUR: India's daughters - our determined athletes; we are immensely proud of you! A giant leap of faith & fighting spirit by our women's hockey team; a legacy that will inspire us to do even better! You have shown us the way.

Kiren Rijju: Don't break down girls, you all played superb at Tokyo 2020 by reaching top 4 in the world! I appreciate our Women's Hockey for making India proud!!

MANPREET SINGH: This being our (Hockey India eves) highest finish at the Olympics - tough luck but they fought superbly till the end! They have won the nations heart and we are proud of them.

VIREN RASQUINHA: The performance of the Indian women's hockey team has been one of the best stories of the Tokyo Olympics. They played as a team and gave it their all. Cannot ask for any more. Thank you for giving us fans so many wonderful memories.

SACHIN TENDULKAR: Well done Team India on giving your best and fighting till the very end. You may have lost the match but you have won our hearts. We are all very proud of you.

GREAT BRITAIN HOCKEY: What an amazing game, what an amazing opponent (Hockey India), you've done something special at Tokyo 2020 - the next few years look very bright.

VIRENDER SEHWAG: Brilliant Effort girls. You must hold your

heads up high for the magnificent effort and the spirit with which you fought. You have been instrumental in making the nation ho crazy for Hockey again.

HEENA SIDHU: GB played better than us no doubt. We have lost to a better team there's no shame in that. We celebrated the medal yesterday, we must stand with them during this loss as well. They give it their all. Proud of our girls.

JWALA GUTTA: Played like tigresses.....Chin up girls....You were outstanding...there's more to come!!!

DIPA KARMAKAR: Just so emotional. Each and every member of this team must be celebrated for the fight they have put up.

SHAH RUKH KHAN: Heartbreak!!! But all reasons to hold our heads high. Well played Indian Women's Hockey Team. You all inspired everyone in India. That itself is a victory.

DEVENDRA JHAJHARIA: You have strengthened the roots of hockey, your passion will teach the coming generations that standing back up after losing is what sports is all about. I salute your passion.



No comments: Vandana on alleged casteist slurs

Tokyo: Indian women's hockey team forward Vandana Katarriya on Friday sought to steer clear of commenting on the allegedly casteist slurs hurled at her family after the side lost to Argentina in the Olympic semifinals, saying that the police is probing the incident.

Soon after the Indian team went down to Argentina in the semifinal on Wednesday, two men danced and burst firecrackers outside Katarriya's house in the Roshnabad area of Haridwar in a gesture of



mockery, an official at SIDCUL police station said.

When some members of Katarriya's family came out hearing the noise, the two men also passed casteist remarks against them, saying the team had lost because it had too many Dalit players in it, the official said.

"I won't like to comment on this matter. I have heard a little bit about it. I have spoken to my family and they said all is well with them. The police is investigating

this," Katarriya said after the team's fourth-place finish in the Games.

Police arrested one person after a complaint was lodged by Katarriya's brother owing to a heated argument between members of his family and the two men involved in the incident.

The arrested man, identified as Vijay Pal, has been booked under section 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of the Indian Penal Code and the SC-ST Act, the official said.

Marijne quits India job

TOKYO: The Indian women's hockey team's chief coach Sjoerd Marijne Friday revealed that the bronze medal match against Great Britain in the ongoing Olympics was his last assignment with the side. The 47-year-old coached the Indian women's hockey team to its best ever performance in the Olympic Games, guiding them to a creditable fourth place finish here. Hours after this feat, Marijne announced that it was his last assignment with the Indian team. "I don't have any plans because this was my last match with Indian women. It's upto Janneka (Schopman) now," the Dutchman told the Indian media in a virtual press conference. "I will miss the girls but I miss my family more. My family is No.1. I want to be with my son, daughter and wife after being away for three and a half years. This is a beautiful way to end this journey," he said. Sources in the know of developments told PTI that team's analytical coach Janneka Schopman is expected to take over Marine's position on a full-time basis now.

Relay team fail to qualify for final despite record time

TOKYO: The Indian 4x400m relay quartet shattered the Asian record with a 3:00:25 effort in the Olympics heat race but failed to qualify for final round by a whisker Friday. The quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahya, Tom Noah Nirmal, Rajiv Arokia and Amoj Jacob ran 3 minutes 6 second to finish fourth in the second heat. India missed out on the eight-team final finishing at ninth. The earlier Asian record was in the name of Qatar (3:00.56 in the 2018 Asian Games).

WFI sacks Deepak's coach

TOKYO: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Friday terminated the services of Deepak Punia's Russian coach Murad Gaidarov after it emerged that he had assaulted a referee during the ongoing Olympics. The incident also led to his expulsion from the Games. Deepak lost his 86kg bronze play-off to San Marino's Myles Nazim Amine Thursday, after which Gaidarov

went to the room of the referee, who had officiated in the bout, and assaulted him. The United World Wrestling (UWW) summoned the WFI for a disciplinary hearing, where the national federation faced an embarrassing situation as a ban on them was being considered.

Aditi maintains 2nd spot

TOKYO: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok carded a three-under 67 in the third round to hold on to the second position and remain in strong contention for the country's maiden Olympic medal in the sport. Aditi was 12-under 201 after three rounds and is the sole golfer in second position, three strokes adrift of leader Nelly Korda of USA who carded a two-under 69 in the penultimate round. New Zealand's Lydia Ko (66), Australia's Hannah Green (67), Denmark's Kristine Pederson (70) and Japan's Mone Inami (68) shared the third spot with totals of 10-under 203. Aditi fired five birdies and two bogeys Friday. She was three-under after picking up shots on fourth, sixth and seventh holes before bogeys on ninth and 11th pulled her back. However, she made amends with birdies on the 15th and 17th to keep herself in the medal hunt.

END OF AN ERA!

JOAN LAPORTA (BARCA PRESIDENT)

There are objective reasons regarding the economical situation at the club and an investment of that volume with the contract of Messi was risky. We wanted to assume those risks, but when we realized the real situation of the club after the audit, it meant that we would have put the club in great risk. After all of this negotiation process, there comes a moment where you need to say enough. You need to analyze rigorously with a cold head and look at the numbers.

In the Spanish league we have to abide by the rules. We think they could be more flexible, but that's not an excuse, we knew the regulation. We couldn't abide by it because of the inheritance we had.

MESSI AT BARCELONA

778 Matches 672 Goals 288 Assists
383 Wins in La Liga matches
50 Goals in 2011-12 (most in a season)
48 Hat-tricks
36 La Liga hat-tricks
26 Goals in El Clasico (vs Real Madrid)
6 Ballon d'Or awards
6 FIFA player of the Year
6 European Golden Shoe awards
7 La Liga top scorer
6 Champions League top scorer
10 La Liga titles
4 Champions League titles
7 Copa del Rey titles
3 Club World Cup titles
3 European Super Cup titles
8 Spanish Super Cup titles

Lionel Messi's time at Barcelona appears to be over after 17 successful seasons. The club announced Thursday that Messi will not stay with Barca, saying that the Spanish league's financial regulations made it impossible to sign the Argentina star to a new contract...

THE TIMELINE

MAY 28, 2011: Messi wins his third Champions League - winning 3-1 against Manchester United with a goal to his name - to complete a season double with his fifth Spanish league titles.

MARCH 7, 2012: Messi becomes first player to score five times in a Champions League match to fuel a 7-1 rout of Bayer Leverkusen.

MARCH 20, 2012: Messi becomes Barcelona's all-time leading scorer at age 24 after surpassing Cesar Rodriguez's 232 goals. He will go on to score 672 goals for Barcelona.

DEC 9, 2012: Messi surpasses Gerd Mueller's 1972 record of 85 goals for club and country in a single year. He finishes 2012 with 91 goals for Barcelona and Argentina.

NOV 22, 2014: Messi becomes the Spanish league's all-time scorer after surpassing Telmo Zarra's 251 goals. He goes on to score 474 goals in La Liga.

JUNE 6, 2015: Messi wins the Champions League for a fourth and final time after Barcelona beats Juventus 3-1 in the final.

JULY 6, 2016: Messi and father Jorge Messi are found guilty of defrauding Spain's Tax Office of 4.1 million euros (then USD 4.6 million) in undisclosed revenue from image rights. Messi and his father, who serves as his agent, are sentenced to 21 months in prison, but the sentence is waived by a judge because they are first-time offenders.

NOV 25, 2017: Messi signs his last contract with Barcelona, a five-year deal lasting through June 30, 2021. Spanish newspaper El Mundo reveals years later that the deal earns Messi 138 million euros (USD 168 million) per campaign, making him the highest wage-earner in world sports.

APRIL 27, 2019: Messi wins the Spanish league for a 10th and final time.

FEB 5, 2020: Messi lashes out at Barcelona sports director Eric Abidal for his questioning of the team's effort with it struggling following the firing coach Ernesto Valverde.

JULY 17, 2020: Messi calls his team "weak and erratic" after it loses the league title.

AUG 25, 2020: Messi sends Barcelona board a fax saying he wants to leave following the club's first season without a title in over a decade. His request is denied and he later says that he will play out the final year on his contract before deciding his future.

DEC 23, 2020: Messi surpasses Pele's milestone of 643 goals scored for one club.

APRIL 17, 2021: Messi scores twice to lead Barcelona to a 4-0 win over Athletic Bilbao in the final of the Copa del Rey. Messi's seventh domestic cup takes his club record to 35 titles for Barcelona.



Jaddu, tail-enders help India take 95-run lead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nottingham, August 6: And the sword came out again, this time meaning Ravindra Jadeja (56, 86b, 8x4, 1x6) has justified his selection in the team, which gave India a priceless first-innings lead of 95 runs over England in the first Test here Friday.

The chatter around all-rounder Jadeja being preferred over specialist off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin would stop for the time being as the optimistic visitors focus on things more important to take them closer to victory and a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

England were 25 for no loss in their second innings when the play was abandoned due to rain. They were 11 for no loss at the tea break on the third day.

While opener KL Rahul (84, 214b,

12x4) laid the foundation for the visitors, Jadeja snatched the initiative with his characteristic enterprise at Trent Bridge.

For England, medium pacer Ollie Robinson (5/85) emerged as the most successful bowler, leading the team out in the presence of legends such as James Anderson (4/54), who is now third in all-time bowlers' list behind Muttiah Muralitharan and Shane Warne with 621 wickets.

The Indians were up to the task, especially the likes of Rahul and Jadeja, while Rishabh Pant (25) and Jasprit Bumrah (28) contributed useful runs.

BRIEF SCORES: England 183 & 25 for no loss; India 278 (KL Rahul 84, Ravindra Jadeja 56, Jasprit Bumrah 27; Ollie Robinson 5/85, James Anderson 4/54). Match to continue.



Ravindra Jadeja in action during his half century, Friday