



**KEY PLAYER**  
Actor Divya Agarwal says her character Grissy will bring interesting twists and turns in the show *Cartel*

LEISURE P2



**NO LET-UP IN ENCOUNTERS**  
31 arrested have been injured, 15 killed in police encounters since the Himanta Sarma govt assumed charge in Assam

TWO STATES P8



**PERSEVERANCE FAILS**  
NASA's Perseverance drilled into the surface of Mars but failed in its initial attempt to collect rock samples

INTERNATIONAL P10

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## MAN WITH THE GOLDEN ARM

**Neeraj Chopra** secures India's first track and field medal at Olympics



87.58 mtr

**“ IT FEELS UNBELIEVABLE. IT IS THE FIRST TIME INDIA HAS WON A GOLD IN ATHLETICS, SO I FEEL VERY GOOD. WE HAVE JUST ONE GOLD HERE IN OTHER SPORTS**  
**NEERAJ CHOPRA**

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## Alignment of Coastal Highway finalised

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** It took more than six years for the Odisha government and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to finalise the alignment of the much-awaited Coastal Highway passing through the state. The 382-km-long highway will pass through Tangi (NH-16), Brahmagiri, Puri, Konark, Astarang, Naugaon, Paradip Port, Ratanpur, Satabhaya, Dhamra, Basudevapur, Talapada, Chandipur, Chandaneswar and Digha. The Works department has informed the NHAI about its consent to the above alignment of the project Saturday.

The alignment has been proposed mostly as green field project avoiding forests, Balukhand Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park and the turtle nesting grounds, so as to minimise its impact on the environment, sources said. Earlier, it was proposed that the Coastal Highway would start from Gopalpur cross Satapada to Chilika lake. Now it will start from Tangi on NH-16 and avoid the eco-sensitive area of Chilika lake. The alignment of the 430-km-long highway in Odisha was modified to 382 km.

The state government has asked the NHAI to include the NH from Brahmagiri to Satapada in the project. Further, adequate cross drainage structures should be constructed to allow passage or runoff, Works Additional Secretary Hemanta Kumar Dutta wrote to the Chief General Manager (Technical) of NHAI Ram Prasad Panda

in this regard.

Dutta also urged Panda to consult with the Water Resources department of the state government during the design phase of the Coastal Highway project.

Implementation of the highway is considered to be one of the top priority infrastructure projects of the state keeping in view its socio-economic impact and connectivity to the nearby ports, he said.

The NHAI officials have been directed to expedite the work for early completion of the project.

“Now, all the bottlenecks of the project have been cleared. The project will be taken up in two phases. We are trying to complete the tendering process for at least one stretch by next March so that work can start by June,” Panda told **Orissa POST**. In April 2015, Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari had announced the Coastal Highway project during one of his visits to the state. After that the project was delayed due to a political slugfest between the BJD and the BJP.

Later, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change refused to accord approval to the alignment of the highway. Originally, it was between Gopalpur and Digha. Now, the coastal highway will start from Tangi in Khurda district and continue till Digha in West Bengal.

A total of 150 structures will be constructed for the project. Those would include 20 major bridges, 69 minor bridges, four rail overbridges, five vehicle overpasses and two flyovers, sources said.

## J&J Covid vax approved for emergency use

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 7:** Johnson & Johnson's single-dose Covid-19 vaccine has been given emergency use approval in India, Union Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said Saturday. He said this will further boost the country's collective fight against the novel coronavirus infection.

“India expands its vaccine basket!” Johnson and Johnson's single-dose Covid-19 vaccine is given approval for Emergency Use in India. Now India has five EUA vaccines. This will further boost our nation's collective fight against #Cpvd-19,” the minister tweeted.

“The US-based pharmaceutical company had applied for Emergency Use Authorisation for its job on Friday and was granted the approval the same day by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI),” a senior official said. The five vaccines granted Emergency Use Authorisation in India are Serum Institute's Covishield,



Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Russia's Sputnik V, Moderna and now Johnson & Johnson (J&J).

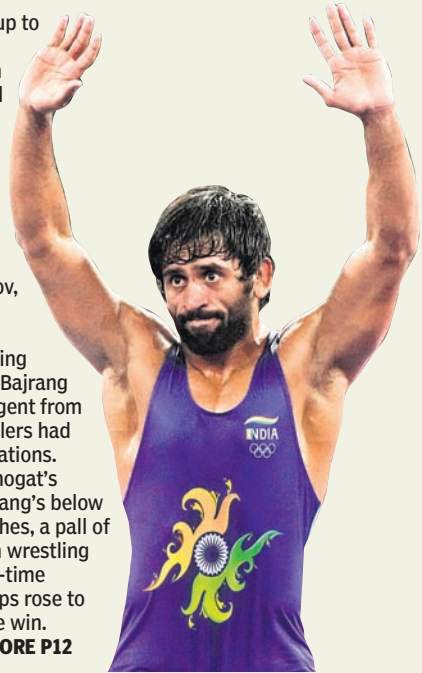
J&J earlier had sought approval to conduct phase-3 clinical trial of its vaccine on approximately 600 participants in two age groups – those aged 18 and below 60 years and those aged 60 years and above – to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of the job in healthy Indian adults. However, July 29, the firm withdrew its proposal.

A Health Ministry official at a recent press conference had clarified that J&J earlier applied for conducting phase-3 clinical trial of its vaccine.

## WRESTLER BAJRANG CLINCHES BRONZE

**CHIBA (JAPAN):** He did not live up to the sky-high expectations but India's Bajrang Punia will return from Tokyo with a bronze medal on Olympic debut after outwitting Daulet Niyazbekov in the play-off here Saturday. If his defence let him down in the semifinal against Hazi Aliev, Bajrang's smart attacking moves made him a 8-0 winner against Kazakhstan's Niyazbekov, to whom he had lost in the semifinals of the 2019 World Championship. The medal-winning performance saved 27-year-old Bajrang and the Indian wrestling contingent from embarrassment since the wrestlers had entered Tokyo with high expectations. After medal-favourite Vinesh Phogat's shock quarterfinal exit and Bajrang's below par show in the first three matches, a pall of gloom had descended on Indian wrestling contingent. However, the three-time medallist at world championships rose to the occasion with a comfortable win.

MORE P12



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Tokyo, August 7:** Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Saturday became only the second Indian to win an individual gold in the Olympics, outperforming the field by some distance to immortalise himself as the first track-and-field Games medal-winner for the country.

The 23-year-old son of a farmer from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana produced a second round throw of 87.58m in the finals to stun the athletics world and end India's 100-year wait for a track and field medal in the Olympics.

Brimming with confidence with hardly any nerves on display, Chopra walked in like a rockstar to make the Tokyo Games India's best ever Olympic outing in what was the country's final competitive outing at the ongoing edition.

His was the country's seventh medal and first gold in this Olympics and he joined shooter Abhinav Bindra (2008 Beijing Games) in an elite and very

**With a gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze in Tokyo, India sees its largest Olympic medal haul ever, better tally of 6 in London 2012**

hard-to-reach club of India's individual gold winners in the showpiece. With this, the country surpassed the previous best haul of six medals achieved in the 2012 London Games. Apart from Chopra's gold, India has won to silver and four bronze medals.

Czech Republic throwers Jakub Vadlech (86.67m) and Vitezslav Vesely (85.44m) took the silver and bronze respectively. Chopra came into the final as a medal contender after topping the qualification round on Wednesday with a stunning first round throw of 86.59m.

But few would have thought that he would bludgeon his way to gold in such a dominant fashion at the grandest of the stage.

Just like in the qualification round three days back, Chopra began with a bang by sending the spear to a distance of 87.03m and then improved it to 87.58m, his best of the day which none in the field could match. His third throw was a poor 76.76m; he then fouled his next two attempts before a final effort of 84.24m.

By the time the Nordic javelin left his right hand in his second attempt, he knew that it was going the farthest among all and he raised both his arms in jubilation, confident that the job had been done.

After the end of the event, Chopra ran towards the Indian contingent in the stands with raised fists and wrapped himself with the tri-colour to run a short lap of honour.

Season leader and pre-tournament gold favourite Johannes Vetter of Germany, who had thrown the spear to 90m plus distances seven times between April and June, was shockingly eliminated after the first three throws as he was placed ninth with a best effort of 82.52m. **MORE P12**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Before Olympics they wanted me to be a cricketer. Now, I may end up as a boxer, wrestler, hockey player or javelin thrower!

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	33.9°C	33.6°C
	MIN	25.6°C	26.2°C
	Humidity	85%	79%
	Rainfall	2.6mm	Nil
Forecast		Generally cloudy sky	

## Rlys sets eyes on hydrogen-powered trains

SUCCESSFUL TRIALS CAN MEAN CONVERSION OF ALL DIESEL TRAINS TO HYDROGEN

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 7:** The Indian Railways has begun work on hydrogen-powered trains. An official statement said that the Indian Railways has invited bids for hydrogen fuel cell-based technology by retrofitting on the Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) in 89 km Sonapat-Jind section of Northern Railway.

Simply put, the Indian Railways wants to see whether existing diesel run trains can be retrofitted to use hydrogen instead. “The retrofitting of diesel powered DEMU and converting it into hydrogen fuel powered train set will not only save the cost to the tune of ₹2.3 crore annually by converting from diesel to hydrogen, but also save the carbon footprint (NO2) of 11.12 kilo tons per annum and particulates matter of 0.72 kilo tonnes per annum,” the



statement said.

Setting an even more ambitious goal, the Railways said, “After successful implementation of this pilot project, all the rolling stock which will operate on diesel fuel after electrification can be planned to run on hydrogen fuel.”

Initially, 2 DEMU rakes will be con-

verted, and later 2 hybrid narrow gauge locos will be converted based on hydrogen fuel cell power movement.

After conversion, the train will run on hydrogen fuel, the green mode of transport as hydrogen can be generated by electrolysis of the water from solar energy, the statement added.

Presently, very few countries are

using this method. The trial of one rake is being done in Germany and the trial of other in Poland.

The bidding date for hydrogen fuel cell-based DEMU rake will start from September 21, 2021 and the closing date will be October 5, 2021. A pre-bid conference will be held August 17.

The official said that after successful implementation of this pilot project, all the rolling stock which will operate on diesel fuel after electrification can be planned to be run on hydrogen fuel.

Another Railway Ministry official said that as a pilot project, the hydrogen-powered passenger train would be operational in the Northern zone.

The official said that for the first time, two motor coaches with 1,400 horsepower (HP) each would haul the 10-coach hydrogen-powered passenger train.

# leisure



## WILL YOUNG WAS ONCE ASKED TO KISS GEORGE MICHAEL

British singer and actor Will Young claims he was once asked to kiss singer George Michael during a performance at the BRIT Awards. "They asked, 'Could you do a performance with George Michael where we get you to kiss like Britney and Madonna?'" reveals Young, adding, he had turned down the offer.

## ADDISON RAE NOT ALWAYS COMFORTABLE IN SPOTLIGHT

American singer, dancer and social media personality Addison Rae has moments of weakness when dealing with fame. The 20-year-old social media sensation admitted, "It is so hard living my life in the spotlight when I am still trying to understand who I am really."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You are in a position to affect other peoples' lives. Since you are very compassionate and caring, people will look up to you whether as a peer or a superior. Make good use of this excess energy to solve prickly issues. Ganesh encourages large-scale projects.

**TAURUS**  
Ganesh sees you taking a day off from your work and immersing your self in domestic activities. A lot of time will be spent blissfully with your family folk chatting away or doing this and that. The idea of getting your interiors redone and give your house a new look will surely occur to you.

**GEMINI**  
There is a likelihood of some household disturbance cropping up today. Your family members could make a lot of demands from you. You may feel angry because of your inability to meet all their needs and wants. Unexpected expenses are also indicated.

**CANCER**  
Watch out for winds of change and act accordingly. Ganesh warns you of drowning in a strong current. Your task will be easier if you adjust to circumstances. Fun and entertainment are today's password. In the social sector business, you will have success.

**LEO**  
'One small drop at a time fills an ocean over time'. Remember this lesson, says Ganesh, and continue to concentrate your efforts on your goal without losing heart. There may be times when you sit back and think twice, but know that all it takes is a small effort and that is what shall enable you to reach the zenith.

**VIRGO**  
Meticulous as you are, hopefully you won't grudge the extra quota of domestic responsibilities that comes your way today. But then, since the work is in a more than satisfactory state, some added issues on the home front won't hurt either. Your subordinates will offer the best of their support, and you shall feel contented at the end of the day.

**LIBRA**  
You will be very unpredictable today, and your mercurial tendencies will remain till the evening. After that, be prepared to get a pleasant surprise. Just bear in mind that being prepared is always a good idea, since you never know when the perfect moment arrives.

**SCORPIO**  
Today, the sugar and spice of work and home are delicately balanced to bring out the best in you, says Ganesh. You may spend a lot of your time brainstorming at your desk. In the evening, however, mental exercises will be substituted for pleasure and fun with friends and family.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Time to open up that can of confetti at the workplace today. Success never smelled sweeter. But you may bleed on the purchase front, says Ganesh, as in your revelry, you may just unknowingly end up shelling an extra buck or two on ordinary items.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your intuition will get the better of you today, bagging you respect and recognition, says Ganesh. But it's not every day that you get so lucky, so try and make the most of what's on the platter, for all you know, intuitions could have a mood swing too.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today is an auspicious day, particularly for astrologers, healers, spiritual guides and gurus, says Ganesh. One will think twice before challenging you today. Greed is not a word in your dictionary, and today, you are even more inspired to work for humanity.

**PISCES**  
Just as melting ice caps on faraway mountains can swell the oceans, concerted efforts you make now will have far-reaching beneficial consequences, says Ganesh. Do not be disheartened in the face of obstacles and keep soldiering on.

## Anupria thrilled to travel again

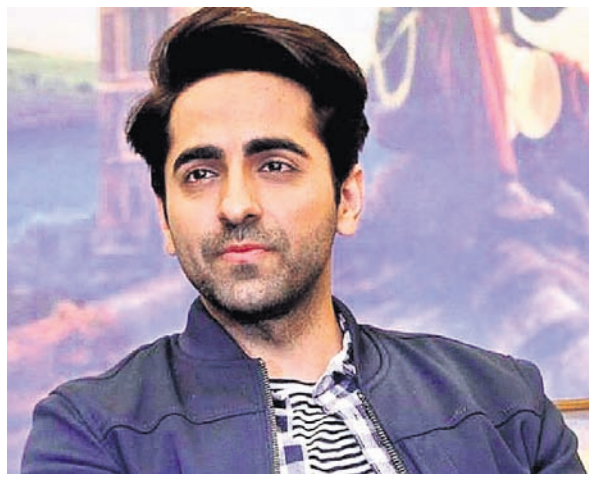


**Mumbai:** Actress Anupria Goenka has started the shoot for *Asur 2*. The actress will step out of Mumbai after a long time as the project requires the cast to shoot at different locations. The actress is thrilled to travel once again.

Due to the pandemic, the entire industry was put on a stop as a precautionary measure. Recently the shoots have resumed and Anupria is happy about it.

The actress will first go to New Delhi and then to Manali for the shoot.

"I have been enjoying this phase of getting back to work. We all had been locked down in our homes for over a year and a half. Now that we have got a breather to go out and work, I am trying to make the most of it. Thankfully there is going to be lots of travel and I am totally looking forward to it...I'm sure these would be great times as I will be back in front of the cameras, which I absolutely love the most," says the *Ashram* actress.



## Ayushmann's special connection with Prayagraj

**Mumbai:** Actor Ayushmann Khurrana will soon head to the city of Prayagraj to shoot for his upcoming film *Doctor G*. While this will be his first time shooting there for a film, the actor has an emotional and nostalgic connection with the city.

Ayushmann rode through this Uttar Pradesh city when he was participating in the hit teen reality TV show *Roadies*, which he had won in 2004.

Ayushmann says, "I have always wanted to travel the length and breadth of our beautiful country and fortunately my work is taking me to incredibly distinct destinations. I will be

shooting a film for the first time in Prayagraj. Coincidentally, when I was participating in *Roadies*, I rode through this city and shot for the series."

Ayushmann says he was charmed by the beauty of Prayagraj during the shoot of *Roadies Season 2*.

"I still remember getting mesmerised by its history, heritage and architecture. Prayagraj sees the confluence of three rivers - Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati - and I was deeply enamoured by its breathtaking beauty," says Ayushmann.

## Divya plays six characters in Cartel

**Mumbai:** Actress Divya Agarwal, who is best known for *Splitsville 10* and was also seen in *Ragini MMS: Returns*, will play a prominent role in the show *Cartel*.

Divya is playing a mysterious character who is a make-up artist by profession. She shares in detail about her role and says: "I am playing the character called 'Grissy' in this show. Interesting aspect about this character is that no one knows her face or her real identity. She is a make-up artist by profession but uses it as her deadly weapon. Grissy will bring interesting twists and turns in the show."

She goes in detail about portraying multiple characters: "I play six characters with drasti-

cally different looks. From playing an old lady to a transgender - But why am I like that? That is the real mystery. It was exciting to get into those characters, but daunting at the same time."

*Cartel* has been in the making for a really long time and several times it becomes exhausting for the actors but Divya never gets tired and is completely excited about the launch.

*Cartel* streams from August 20 on ALT Balaji.

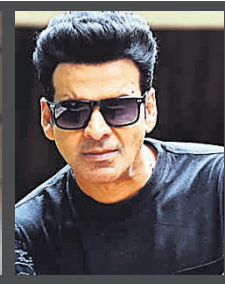


## TOP 5 GAME CHANGERS OF OTT

**S**treaming platforms came as a blessing when the Covid-19 pandemic took over the world in 2020, bringing everything to a standstill. The ever-expanding universe of the digital space not just entertained the audience with binge-worthy content but also brought forward many talented actors and shone the spotlight on them and their craft.



Pankaj Tripathi



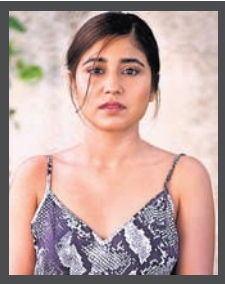
Manoj Bajpayee



Ali Fazal



Richa Chadha



Shweta Tripathi

**Pankaj Tripathi**  
Tripathi, who can be tagged as the uncrowned king of the digital space, garnered a big fan following after his portrayal as the deadly gangster Kaleen bhaiyya from *Mirzapur*, power hungry godman Guruji from *Sacred Games* and the endearing friend in his latest release *Mimi*. Pankaj, who grabbed eyeballs ever since he shone on the web crime thrillers, says he is not trying to be a

'game changer' as he is only doing what loves the most - acting.

**Manoj Bajpayee**  
National Award-winning actor Manoj Bajpayee's performances on the big screen and on the web-space cannot be questioned. He raised the bar for himself with his work in *The Family Man* and *The Family Man 2*. The 52-year-old star sees competing with himself as a 'good thing'.  
"As far as people are saying that I am competing with myself, that is a very good

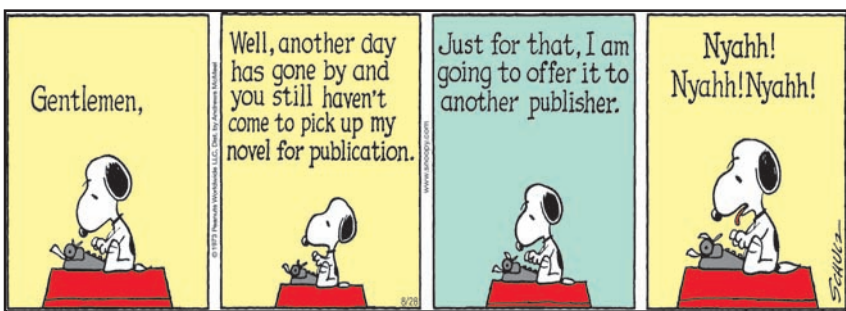
situation to be in and everyone should compete with themselves and nobody else," said the actor.

**Ali Fazal**  
Fazal's tryst with web-stardom came in 2018 with his performance as the hot-headed Govind Guddu Pandit in the *Mirzapur*, which revolves around a proverbial ruler of Mirzapur in the Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh. The 34-year-old actor is overwhelmed with the love he has got over the years for his work in the crime thriller:

**Richa Chadha**  
The actress is thankful to the OTT space for bridging the gap between TV viewing audiences and the urban audience.  
"There was a big gap between the TV viewing audience and the urban audience...so, I think the coming of OTT has solved that

problem," she said.  
**Shweta Tripathi**  
Over the years, Shweta has worked in the web space in several projects including *Mirzapur*, *Raat Akeli Hai*, *Laakhon Main Ek* and *The Gone Game*.  
"What I love about OTT is that I can watch it anytime and anywhere at my convenience. I never think about competing with myself or anybody else. I just think I want to do justice to what the director and writer have imagined because this is their story," said the actress.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

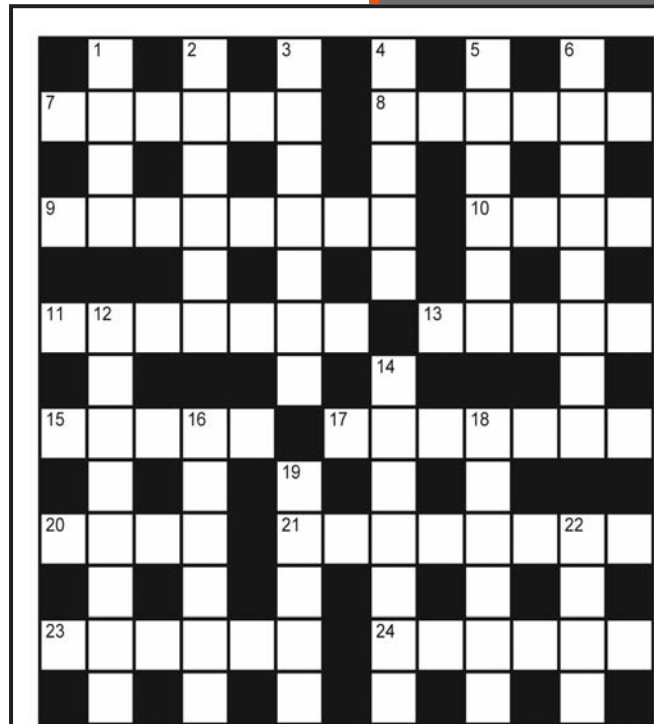


### BREVITY



### FUN post

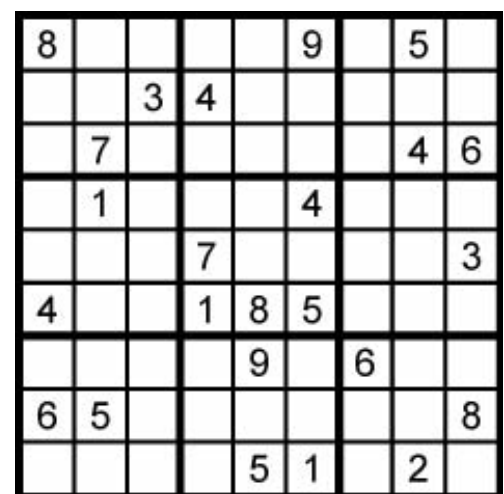
### CROSSWORD



- Across**  
7 Nook  
8 Director's cry  
9 Struggle  
10 Casket  
11 Smart aleck (4,3)  
13 Wish granter  
15 Flabbergast  
17 Po Valley city  
20 Thames town  
21 Armchair
- Down**  
23 Moon of Neptune  
24 Improvises (2-4)  
1 Nile queen, informally  
2 Morning eye-opener  
3 White cousin  
4 Pub game
- 5** Maintaining equilibrium  
**6** Unconventional person  
**12** Juvenile  
**14** Hide under the rug  
**16** Highest point  
**18** Bobolink  
**19** Pickling liquid  
**22** River to the North Sea

### 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









# Land hurdle grounds Rajendra varsity's development move

## TEETHING ISSUE



DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN ENVISAGED, KEEPING THE NEXT 50 YEARS IN MIND. ENCRoACHED LAND CAN BE RECLAIMED FOR USE OF THE UNIVERSITY, SOME LOCALS HAVE SUGGESTED

A few days ago, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has granted its recognition to the university under UGC sub-clause 2(F), 1956. To avail of UGC grants, the university is required to meet a few criteria like adequate teaching staff and land for infrastructure

University authorities had earlier intimated the Collector, the secretary of the higher education department and the additional secretary to the Governor about requirement of land for the university

## POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, August 7:** Rajendra University in Bolangir is one of the oldest educational institutions in western Odisha. However, its development has been caught in a stalemate due to a number of factors – lack of land, teachers and infrastructure, a report said.

According to reports, a year has passed since Rajendra College was upgraded into a university. Despite efforts at all level, required land is not available for expansion of its infrastructure.

A few days ago, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has granted its recognition to the university under UGC sub-clause 2(F), 1956. To avail of UGC grants, the university is required to meet a few criteria like adequate teaching staff and land for infrastructure.

Recently, it came in a section of media that the 77-year old institution does not have land patta in its name. This report created rounds of discussions in various circles.

In fact, the university needs over 100 acres while the institution has only 49 acres under its occupation.

The university authorities had earlier intimated the Collector; the secretary of the higher education department and the additional secretary to the Governor about requirement of land for the university.

As there was no progress in this matter, the authorities again reminded them about the land Friday. It was stated that the growth and development of the university is not feasible without the land.

The district administration has launched a special drive to hunt for land. Collector Chanchal Rana, ADM Ananta Narayan Singh Laguri and tehsildar Maghban Bagh are in the process of looking for the land.

It was learnt that after first round of survey, the team has not been able to find required land at one place inside the town.

Lands inside and around the Bolangir town have been under encroachment at various places.

It is said that if eviction drive is carried out, some land can be reclaimed.

Keeping the next 50 years in mind, development of the university has been envisaged. Encroached lands can be reclaimed for use of the university, some locals pointed out.

Earlier, the administration reclaimed 14 acres near the Rajendra University while only six acres can be handed over to the university. Tehsildar Maghban Bagh said a total of 66 acres including 49 acres of the university campus have been identified.

"Seven acres of the university is under the works department. This patch of land will be first brought to the revenue department. Then, the land will be handed over to the university," said ADM Laguri. This land handover process will take at least three months, he added, saying, in such circumstances, the state government needs to provide land to the university through a special drive.

## SEEKING DIVINE INTERVENTION



People resolve before village goddess to fight for closure of stone quarries and removal of stone crushing units in Harbhanga area of Boudh district, Saturday

## POLAVARAM PROJECT

# Boon for AP, bane for Malkangiri

## POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, August 7:** A boon for Andhra Pradesh, Polavaram project will be a bane for several villages in Motu area in Malkangiri district.

This under-construction multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari river in West Godavari district was started in 2004. The project has a hydroelectric plant. The main objective of the project is to generate hydroelectricity for industries and irrigating farmland.

With the AP government increasing the height of the dam, it will submerge many areas in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, forcing thousands of people to lose their ancestral lands and all sorts of natural resources. Once the project is over, it is



feared that many villages of Motu, Pushuguda, Malavaram and Tandabai panchayats under Kalimela block will get wiped out of the Malkangiri district's map.

The Andhra government has already started the process to rehabilitate the affected people. It has

served notices on many villages on its side bordering Malkangiri district to vacate the lands.

Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh and Odisha are increasingly concerned as the central government is yet to take any concrete step in this regard. Even now, the project creates

This under-construction multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari river in West Godavari district was started in 2004. The project has a hydroelectric plant

With the AP government increasing the height of the dam, it will submerge many areas in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, forcing thousands of people to lose their ancestral lands and all sorts of natural resources

flood like situations in many villages in Motu tehsil. The backwater of the project flowing in Sileru and Saberi rivers creates floods every year.

When contacted, Motu tehsildar Sashank Mishra said the backwater from the project site enters into farm lands and villages every year; destroying acres of standing crops and damaging houses.

## Ailing elephant dies despite treatment



## POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, August 7:** A 50-year-old female elephant which was sick in Sinduria forest under Bhuyan Juanga Pidhi range in Keonjhar, died Saturday despite treatment by the forest officials. The forest department suspected that the animals might have died from internal injury.

After post mortem, its carcass was buried. It was earlier said that the animal was feeble due to age and might have slipped from a hilly slope in the area.

Forest officials had spotted a six-member elephant herd moving the range and suspected 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 was doing treatment of the sick elephant. It could not be saved. Though the cause of its death is not known, it could be due to internal injury," said DFO Ajit Tripathy.

# Bridge to village with pension money

## POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, August 7:** In a show of social commitment, a 65-year old man of Hatadihi area in Keonjhar district has built a bridge across Salandi river by spending his ₹16 lakh pension money. ₹2.10 lakh was contributed by others.

According to reports, Gangadhar Rout, a retired government employee, of Soso-Kanpur village has carved out a name for himself in the district by undertaking the welfare initiative with his pension money. Some people have nicknamed him as 'bridge man' in the locality.

However, the bridge is lying unused as the work on the approach road has remained incomplete. His dream has not yet been realized. He has built the bridge with dimension – 270 ft (27-ft X 10-ft).

Earlier, the bridge work was abandoned halfway. He resumed its construction in March, 2018 and got it completed in August, 2019.

"The only problem is that an approach road to the bridge has not been completed for lack of funds. All that money with me has exhausted. But help and cooperation of people is not available to complete the project," he lamented.

He has been feted and honoured for his noble effort. However, he lamented that the



government is not extending help to complete the project. He said his son, wife and granddaughter have contributed as per their capacity to the project.

He was feted in New Delhi by an organization with ₹1 lakh prize. He has spent the money for an ap-

proach road on one side of the bridge while more funds are needed to lay the approach road on the other end. "I have not given up my effort for the project," he observed.

Earlier, people waded through the river, risking their lives. Though the

## NOBLE DEED

Earlier, the bridge work was abandoned halfway. Gangadhar resumed its construction in March, 2018 and got it completed in August, 2019

Gangadhar has been feted and honoured for his noble effort. However, he lamented that the government is not extending help to complete the project

The bridge will pave the communication to many villages like Kanpur to Daneipur in the region after completion of the approach roads, Gangadhar said

government has the Biju Setu Yojana, it is of no use for locals, he added. Locals had been demanding a bridge across the river, but their appeals fell on deaf ears of the administration and local leaders.

"When I was in service, I had resolved to build a bridge. Many people laughed it off. Despite financial constraints, I started the bridge work after I retired. It was started with eight pillars," he added.

After the approach road is completed, the bridge will facilitate communication to many villages like Kanpur and Daneipur in the region, he added.

# Second KV proposed at Baliguda; land identified

## POST NEWS NETWORK

**Phulbani, August 7:** While a Kendriya Vidyalaya is already functioning at Phulbani in Kandhamal district, another one is likely to be set up soon. Land for the school has been identified, a report said.

According to reports, Baliguda sub-collector Subhankar Mohapatra had got a patch of land identified and submitted a map of the same to the Collector. He has proposed to the Collector Dr. Brunda D to send a proposal to the government for setting up the second KV at Baliguda. The project needs approval of the government.

The children of state and central government employees in 12 blocks can get admission to the KV at Phulbani.

There are nine blocks such as Chakapada, Tikabali, G Udaygiri, Raikia, Daringbadi, K Nuagaon, Baliguda, Tumudibandh and Kotagarh under Baliguda sub-division. Phulbani KV is too far from the reach of thousands of students living these nine blocks.

They are unable to get proper educational facilities in KV at Phulbani, which is 80 km from Baliguda, it was stated.

Given the distance factor, the

**Nine blocks like Chakapada, Tikabali, G Udaygiri, Raikia, Daringbadi, K Nuagaon, Baliguda, Tumudibandh and Kotagarh under Baliguda sub-division are too far from Phulbani Kendriya Vidyalaya**

sub-collector has urged the district administration and the Chief Minister to set up the KV at Baliguda.

The sub-collector has stated that a majority of the population in Baliguda are Kondh tribals, whose livelihood depends on collection and sale of minor forest produce and agriculture.

There are no public schools under the CBSE and ICSE in the region. As a result, people send their kids to Berhampur, Nayagarh and Bhubaneswar for their studies.

The sub-collector further stated that till the infrastructure of the KV was ready, the school could run from the Sunapanga Urdu School.

## NEED FOR BREASTFEEDING



ANMs and ASHA workers take out an awareness rally on the concluding day of World Breastfeeding Week in Sambalpur Saturday,

## OP PHOTO

# Angul DHH approaches cops as minor gives birth

## POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul, August 7:** Angul district headquarters hospital (DHH) authorities Friday approached the district police for a probe after an alleged minor girl gave birth to a baby girl at the hospital.

According to a source, the girl – a resident of a village under Jarpada police limits in Angul district – Friday gave birth to a baby girl in an auto-rickshaw while being brought to the hospital.

The girl complained of stomachache Friday morning. Unaware of her pregnancy, her family members mistook it for something else and were bringing her to the DHH when she delivered the baby girl in the auto-rickshaw. Both the mother and the child were admitted to the DHH and are doing well, a doctor treating them said.

The DHH authorities have verbally informed about the incident to the Town police station and the Town police, in turn, have intimated their counterparts at Jarpada

**The girl complained of stomachache Friday morning. Unaware of her pregnancy, her family members mistook it for something else and were bringing her to the DHH when she delivered the baby girl in the auto-rickshaw**

police station. "The girl looks like a minor. However, a police investigation is awaited to confirm her age," the doctor attending to her said.

It was learnt that the girl has been kept under tight security as she has been insisting on going back home. While she has not revealed anything about the father of her child, her family members have also not registered any report with the police.

# Additional programme officer held for taking bribe in Sambalpur

## POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, August 7:** Vigilance officials Saturday arrested an additional programme officer in Sambalpur district red-handed while he was taking a bribe of ₹4,000 at his office chamber.

The additional programme officer has been identified as Surendra Sahu, who works at Naktideul block. According to a source, a relative of a Gaon Saathi had contacted Sahu a few days ago, requesting him to process his file in a canal work. Sahu had demanded a gratification of ₹4,000 from him for doing so.

With no options left, the victim sought the intervention of the Vigilance department. Accordingly, the department laid out a trap and arrested Sahu while he was taking the chemical-laced notes in his chamber.

Sahu, however, denied taking bribe. "I did not ask any bribe from him. He offered me the amount, requesting me to do the needful to process his file," he said. The accused official was produced in a court Saturday; it was learnt.

# No let-up in Assam police encounters

31 arrested people have been injured and 15 killed in police encounters since the Himanta Biswa Sarma government assumed charge May 10

**Guwahati, August 7:** Unabated police encounters have led the Opposition and a section of the civil society to accuse the Assam police under the second BJP government in the state of indulging in 'open killings'.

In the latest encounter, a man arrested with heroin, along with cash and gold, was critically injured after police personnel opened fire at him when he allegedly tried to snatch a constable's firearm during an escape bid in Assam's Kamrup Metropolitan district Saturday, an officer said.

The incident took place when the accused, who was nabbed Friday, was being taken by personnel of Bharalumukh police station to Matia in Azara police station area to locate his associates, he said.

The accused tried to escape by snatching a constable's carbine after injuring him, and other policemen shot at the man's leg, injuring him, the officer said.

The accused is undergoing treatment at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, where his condition is stated to be critical, while the constable has been admitted to Azara



Rural Hospital, he said.

With this incident, 31 arrested people have been injured and 15 killed in police encounters while attempting to flee custody in Assam since the Himanta Biswa Sarma government assumed charge May 10.

The chief minister had earlier said that the police have been given "full operational liberty" under the ambit of the law to fight criminals.

The Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has taken suo moto cognisance of the encounters and asked the state government July 7 to institute an inquiry into the circumstances that led to the casualties in police encounters in the last two months.

Earlier, a New Delhi-based lawyer from Assam, Arif Jwadder, had filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against the Assam Police for the series of encounters that have taken place under Sarma's rule.

# Efforts on to lift 'economic blockade'

DUE TO THE 'ECONOMIC BLOCKADE' ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY-306 IN ASSAM'S CACHAR, SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES, FUELS AND MEDICINES TO MIZORAM HAS BEEN ACUTELY HIT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati/Aizawl, August 7:** Amid the 13-day long 'economic blockade' and with hundreds of Mizoram bound goods laden vehicles stranded, two Assam Ministers rushed to trouble-torn Assam-Mizoram inter-state borders Saturday to facilitate the resumption of the movement of vehicles between the two states.

Due to the 'economic blockade' on National Highway-306 in Assam's Cachar, supply of essential commodities, fuels and medicines to Mizoram has been acutely hit since the bloodiest border clash and firing that left six Assam policemen dead and 100 others including civilians of the two states hurt July 26.

Officials said that Assam's Urban Development Minister Ashok Singhal and Environment and Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of police of Cachar district are "holding talks with all stakeholders" at Lailapur, the entry point to Mizoram.

"All efforts are being made to resume the movement of vehicles between the two states specially the Mizoram bound goods laden trucks and other vehicles," a Cachar district official said.

About the latest development, Mizoram's Information and Public Relations minister of state (Independent Charge) Lalruatkima said in Aizawl that Assam's min-



ister Singhal informed him that all vehicles stranded on NH-306 would cross the border by Saturday evening. "We are grateful to both Hon'ble CMs of Assam and Mizoram for relentlessly working towards restoration of peace between the two states," the minister tweeted.

Mizoram Health Minister R. Lalthangliana Saturday said in Aizawl that besides the essential commodities and transport fuels, Mizoram has been facing severe crisis of vital medicines. "Covid patients are dying for want of medicines. Seriously ill patients are in dire need of life-saving drugs..." the Minister said in a video message.

"With the rise in the number of Covid cases, we are finding it extremely difficult to take care of the patients who are in dire need of oxygen given the limited supply due to blockade. Other basic medicines and necessities of Covid management including PPE kits and vital drugs are still stuck at the border," the Minister said.

Assam and Mizoram held a crucial ministerial level meeting Thursday in Aizawl where they decided to maintain peace along the inter-state border and welcomed the deployment of neutral central forces, and agreed that they would not send their respective forces and officials to the troubled border areas.

"Representatives of governments of Assam and Mizoram agree to take all necessary measures to promote, preserve, and maintain peace and harmony amongst the people living in Assam and Mizoram, particularly in the border areas," said a joint statement, issued after the August 5 meeting.

The joint statement said that both state governments also welcomed and agreed to take forward the initiatives taken by the Union Home Ministry and the two Chief Ministers to remove tensions prevailing around the inter-state borders and to find lasting solutions to the disputes through discussions.

Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamliana and Revenue Minister Lalruatkima and Home Secretary Vanlalngaihaksa Assam's Border Protection and Development and Agriculture Minister Atul Bora and Singhal and state Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Border Protection and Development, GD Tripathi took part in the meeting.

After the Aizawl meeting, the Assam government August 6, withdrew its advisories and other circulars to facilitate the return of the normalcy along the inter-state borders.

Soon after the July 26 border clash and violence the Assam government had asked its citizens not to visit Mizoram and those staying in the neighbouring state to maintain utmost caution.

# Relief for 22K Gorkhas facing 'foreigner' trial

The draft NRC list published in August 2019 excluding 19.06 lakh out of 3.3 crore applications for lack of adequate documents for establishing their Indian citizenship

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, August 7:** The Assam government has decided that no new cases would be registered against the Gorkha community in the state at the Foreigners Tribunals and the cases which have already been registered would also be withdrawn, giving a big relief to at least 22,000 members of the community in the northeastern state, officials said.

An official from the state's Home Department said that the state cabinet at its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Wednesday decided not to prosecute people belonging to the Gorkha community under the Citizenship Act and to withdraw all cases pending against them at the Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs).



The Bharatiya Gorkha Parishangh (BGP), the apex body of the Gorkha community, greeted the decision of the BJP-led government and thanked the Chief Minister for solving the 24-year-old problem.

According to BGP's national general secretary Nanda Kirati Dewan, more than 22,000 Gorkhas in Assam have been marked "Doubtful Voters or D-Voters" unilaterally by the authorities in the electoral rolls since 1997 and around 2,500 cases relating to citizenship are being heard at various FTs.

The BGP leader said that about 500 cases have been disposed of after the issuance of the notification for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) began in December 2013. The BGP said that some people tried by the FTs were "identified as foreigners in ex-parte verdict and subsequently sent to detention camps."

"The Assam cabinet's decision

is a great relief for the families of Gorkha people, especially those who had been prosecuted under the Citizenship Act. The illegal immigrants tag on the members of the community would also be abolished."

"We are original inhabitants of Assam and Indian citizens as well," Dewan said, demanding that the D-Voter tags on Gorkhas should also be revoked after the significant decision of the state cabinet.

The BGP had also challenged the NRC after the first draft was published December 31, 2017, highlighting the difficulties faced by the people belonging to the Gorkha community, who were unilaterally tried at the FTs, carrying the D-Voter tag.

The Union Home Ministry had September 24, 2018 issued a notification, clarifying that Gorkhas should not be tried at FTs.

To update the 1951 NRC in Assam, the statutory notification for starting the Supreme Court-monitored exercise was issued in December 2013. The draft list was published in August 2019, excluding 19.06 lakh out of 3.3 crore applications for lack of adequate documents for establishing their Indian citizenship.

# Air Force roped in for relief ops in flood-hit Rajasthan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** The government has roped in Indian Air Force to carry out relief and rescue operations in flood affected areas of Rajasthan. Torrential rains in Rajasthan have flooded several districts, including Kota.

Several people were trapped inside their houses in Kota - known for being a major coaching hub of India for competitive examination preparations - due to the deluge. Indian Air Force will be carrying out relief operation in Kota to save trapped lives.

A senior government officer stated that the local administration had requested for Indian Air Force to undertake coordinated flood relief and rescue operations to save precious lives. On receipt of the requisition from civil administration, Indian Air Force swiftly mobilised its assets.

In the meantime, five choppers are carrying out rescue operations in Madhya Pradesh from August 2 onwards. Heavy rain in Madhya



Pradesh has flooded Gwalior - Chambal region affecting many villages in Gwalior, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Datia, Guna, Ashok Nagar, and Bhind. The flooding in many prominent rivers in the area submerged swathes of area and washed away critical road links and bridges connecting these areas.

The focus of the Indian Air Force currently is to rescue people trapped in Guna and Ashok Nagar areas as

situation on the ground is worse. The situation in Shivpuri has improved a bit. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had said that the state has not seen such devastation in the last 70 years that the rain-ravaged Gwalior-Chambal region is facing. Further, the Indian Army has also been mobilised to carry out relief and rescue operations in flood affected regions in Madhya Pradesh.

## RISING WATER



A view of the Pushkar Lake after the water level rises following monsoon rain in Pushkar, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

# 3-tier grievance redressal for female labourers

AGENCIES

**Jaipur, August 7:** The Rajasthan government is in process to bring about seven departments to establish a three-tier grievance redressal system for women working in fields, farms and work sites, officials said Saturday.

Under the system, police, labour, industries, justice, health, women and child development and social justice departments will support all working women, including those on the lowest strata and take-up their grievances actively.

As an umbrella programme, the

Women Grievance Redressal Committee shall monitor all cases of women-related grievances being reported at existing government agencies.

"Analysis of the grievances received at existing district level committees suggested for need of more focused approach for the women employed in the unorganised sector. Many of them lack basic education and understanding of their own rights," said Rashmi Gupta, Commissioner, Women Empowerment Department.

"The state government has taken

initiative for micro level support for such women and extend them support not just legal but also other social challenges as well," she said. She further said that the committees were being constituted at block, district and division levels to ensure that the women raise their concern at higher level if dissatisfied with the decision of committee at the local level.

However, to ensure that every working woman is aware of the initiatives, all workplaces shall install and display information on the grievance committee and its contact persons, she added.

# Raj to showcase beauty of borders

Rajasthan Tourism to promote Border Tourism on the same lines as Punjab has done on Wagah Border

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, August 7:** Taking a cue from Punjab, Rajasthan Tourism will soon promote Border Tourism and its beautiful stretch to tourists on the same lines as Punjab has done on Wagah Border where tourists have been thronging throughout the year.

Rajasthan Tourism officials have confirmed this and said that during the post pandemic period, the state wants to serve new destinations on platter and hence comes this idea.

Experiencing beauty of the borders of Rajasthan shall be a novel experience for tourists, they added.

The places where maximum tourists come for relinquishing their zest for border tourism are Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner and Sri Ganganagar. Jaisalmer district has the largest area of desert terrain in Rajasthan. The temple of Tanot Rai in Tanot on the Indo-Pak international border, 125 km to the west of Jaisalmer district headquarters, is the main attraction for Indian tourists and devotees. The upkeep of this temple has been undertaken by the local contingent of BSF which performs puja and devotional celebrations. This place of faith for soldiers and BSF jawans has also been portrayed in the Hindi movie Border,



a senior tourism officer told IANS.

The international Indo-Pak border which is at a short distance from the temple is a major attraction for visiting tourists. There is also a fort near this place known as Kishangarh, made of bricks and mortar. In close vicinity is the site of Longewala, which witnessed the 1971 Indo-Pak war. The military vehicles and tanks of the Pakistan army destroyed by the Indian army have been kept for display. There is also a theatre here that is run by the Indian Army in which films of triumph and victory of the Indian armed forces during the Indo-Pak war of 1971 are showcased for

tourists. The fort in Ghotas in this area also pulls the tourists and arouses their curiosity. A railway station named Munnabad is in operation in Barmer which caters to the movement of Indo-Pak passengers.

The Sanchu post of the BSF that is on the Indo-Pak international border in Bikaner district attracts travellers as it is surrounded by large sand streams. The post also houses a museum, a guest house and a canteen that are run by the BSF.

For visiting the Sanchu post, the domestic tourists need to take permission from BSF in Bikaner.

The tourists are shown the post of the Pakistan side and also the museum. There is a facility extended by the BSF to provide food to tourists on payment.

The Hindumal Kot border outpost located at a distance of 18 km from Sri Ganganagar is quite famous. The outpost has been named after chief Dewan Hindumal of the erstwhile princely state of Bikaner.

The railway station located on this post is also very famous, as it used to connect India and Pakistan through the rail route and also provide for import and export of goods between the two countries.

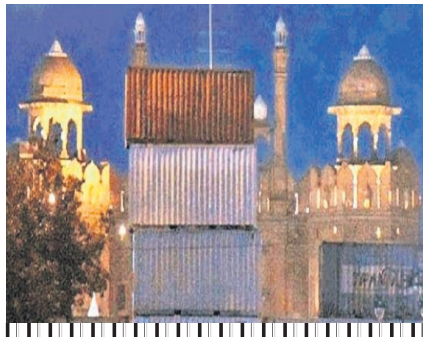


# national



**There is a huge number of vacancies in Tribunals. Posts of Chairperson of several Tribunals are vacant! The real reason is the government is looking for persons who will sympathise with its retrograde philosophy and ideology**

**P CHIDAMBARAM** | SENIOR CONG LEADER



### POLICE ERECT MAKESHIFT WALL OUTSIDE RED FORT

Delhi Police has erected a wall of shipping containers at the main gate of Red Fort for security reasons ahead of Independence Day celebrations. The containers have been placed in such a way that no one is able to see inside the premises of the Mughal-era fort

## of the day quote

The people have elected you to your respective posts, you are not only a leader of the people but are the custodians of their faith. You must restore their faith

**JP NADDA** | BJP NATIONAL PRESZ



I believe that by the next three years, entire country will be provided with national highways parallel to the standards of the American highways. At one point of time, we used to construct only 2 kilometers roads per day, whereas now we are constructing 38 kilometers roads per day

**NITIN GADKARI** | UNION ROAD AND TRANSPORT MIN



Power is too important a sector for such unilateral interferences, especially when 'electricity' as a subject is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India and any legislation on a subject in such a list needs serious prior consultation with the States

**MAMATA BANERJEE** | WEST BENGAL CM



## SHORT TAKES

### Bommai allocates cabinet portfolios

**Bangalore:** Four days after 29 ministers took oath Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Saturday allocated cabinet portfolios. Bommai retained DPAR, Finance, and Intelligence from Home, Cabinet Affairs, Bengaluru Development and all unallotted portfolios. BJP ministers from north Karnataka were being given plum posts. Newly inducted loyal party leaders were also awarded creme posts. The party gifted Araga Inanendra with the Home Department, which surprised all.

### Youth Akali Dal leader shot dead

**Chandigarh:** In a broad daylight murder, Youth Akali Dal leader Vicky Middukhera was shot dead here in Mohali in Punjab Saturday. The police didn't rule out a strong possibility of gang war resulting in the crime. Four armed men fired around 10 bullets at the leader in Sector 71, killing him on the spot. The crime was caught in a CCTV camera. In the video, the victim was seen running away from the spot when two men fired at him.

### SIT to investigate Singh's extortion

**Thane:** Thane city police has formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe a case of alleged extortion against former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh and 27 others, an official said Saturday. The case was registered against Singh and others on a complaint filed by builder Ketan Tanna at the Thane Nagar police station last week. No arrest has been made in this connection yet.

### Man dies as BT headset blasts

**Jaipur:** A 28-year-old man died when his Bluetooth headphone device exploded here, police said Saturday. The incident occurred in Udaipuria village of Chomu town in Jaipur district Friday when Rakesh Kumar Nagar was preparing for a competitive examination at his residence, they said. He was using the Bluetooth headphone device while it was plugged into an electrical outlet, police said. The device exploded all of a sudden leaving Nagar unconscious.

## Lightning activities show increasing trend across India

### A MOBILE APP CALLED 'DAMINI' HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO MONITOR LIGHTNING ACTIVITIES IN THE SKIES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** Parts of the Indian Peninsula, particularly the northeast and east, have registered a sharp increase of lightning over the past two decades, while the spike is minimal over the central part of the country and moderate over the west.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an autonomous research and development institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has established a lightning location network strategically installed at 83 places in the country to detect and locate lightning strikes with utmost accuracy. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology and Minister of State

(Independent Charge) Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh informed the Lok Sabha Friday.

According to a recent study, with 401 fatalities, Bihar topped the list of lightning deaths from April 1, 2020 till March 31, 2021, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 238 and Madhya Pradesh with 228.

Odisha (156), Jharkhand (132), Chhattisgarh (78), Maharashtra (68), Karnataka (54), Assam (46) and Rajasthan (42) are the top 10 states to witness lightning deaths for that duration.

A mobile app called 'Damini' has been developed to monitor lightning activities in the skies.

The purpose of this app is to monitor all lightning activities, specifically for India and alerts the person if there are any strikes

### Top 10 states with lightning deaths

Bihar	401
Uttar Pradesh	238
Madhya Pradesh	228
Odisha	156
Jharkhand	132
Chhattisgarh	78
Maharashtra	68
Karnataka	54
Assam	46
Rajasthan	42



nearby by GPS notification, in the distance under 20 kms and 40 kms radius.

The app gives detailed description of instructions and precautions while in the lightning prone area. The central processor of this

network, located at IITM, receives and processes the signal received from the network and identifies the location of lightning strikes with less than 500 metre accuracy.

The output from this network is shared with India Meteorological

Department (IMD) and various state governments and used for now casting purposes, the Minister said.

From the National Weather Forecasting Centre, these forecasts and warnings are given in meteorological sub-divisional scale whereas state Meteorological Centres issue the same to district level.

In addition to that, thunderstorms and associated disastrous weather phenomena are covered by nowcast (forecast for next three hours issued every three hours) in the location/district level by State Meteorological Centres.

At present this facility is extended to all the districts and for about 1,084 stations across the country.

## Passage of eight Bills in RS ups productivity to 24.2 pc

### THE UPPER HOUSE HAS WITNESSED REPEATED DISRUPTIONS IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS SINCE THE SESSION STARTED JULY 19



**Monsoon Session**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** The passage of eight bills in the Rajya Sabha during the third week of the Monsoon Session has helped increased productivity of the House to 24.2 per cent.

This has gone up from last week when the productivity was 13.70 per cent. In the first week, the Upper House of Parliament registered high productivity of 32.20 per cent, according to the data with the Rajya Sabha research department.

The overall productivity of the House for first three weeks of the Monsoon Session has been 22.60 per cent, a Rajya Sabha official said.

### Due to repeated disruptions, 197 Zero Hour occasions and 153 Special Mention occasions were lost during the session

The Upper House has witnessed repeated disruptions in the last three weeks since the session started July 19. Opposition members have been creating uproar in the House demanding a discussion on the Pegasus snooping row and on the farmers' issue, among other matters.

In the past week, 68 members from 17 parties discussed the bills before their passage.

The parties whose members took part in the discussions include ALADMK, Aam Aadmi Party, BJD, BJP, Congress, CPI, CPI(M), DMK, JD(U), NCP, RJD, RPI, Shiv Sena, TDP, TMC (Moopanar), TRS and YSRCP.

These 17 parties along with nominated members of the Rajya Sabha account for 87 per cent of the present strength of the House.

The TMC and the SAD that are insisting on a discussion on the Pegasus controversy and farmers' issues account for less than 6 per cent of the strength of the House, officials pointed out.

The House spent 3 hours 25 minutes on the passage of these bills.

Of the total time of 28 hours and 30 minutes during this week, one hour and 41 minutes were spent on the Question Hour during which 17 starred questions were taken up.

## DALIT GIRL'S DEATH

### Rahul Gandhi's Twitter handle blocked: Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** The Congress Saturday claimed that Twitter has temporarily suspended the account of its former chief Rahul Gandhi, but later said it has been temporarily locked after the microblogging platform denied having suspended the account and stated that it continues to be in service.

The action by Twitter came over a controversial post of Gandhi with a picture of him meeting the family of a nine-year-old Dalit girl who died here following an alleged sexual assault. Twitter has deemed that the account violated its rules against posting private information.

According to party sources, some features of Gandhi's account have been temporarily limited, and while he could browse the social media site and send direct messages to his followers, no tweets, retweets, follows, fleets or likes were allowed.

Twitter has communicated that all the features of the account could be restored in 12 hours once the tweet violating its rules is deleted by him, the sources said.



Sources in the party claimed that Gandhi had done nothing wrong and they had the consent of the family of the girl for posting the photograph.

Shri @RahulGandhi's Twitter account has been temporarily suspended & due process is being followed for its restoration, the Congress tweeted from its official Twitter handle.

Until then, he will stay connected with you all through his other SM platforms & continue to raise his voice for our people & fight for their cause. Jai Hind! the party said. Responding to queries about the Congress' claim, Twitter said it can confirm that the account has not been suspended.

## PORNOGRAPHY CASE

### HC dismisses Kundra's plea challenging arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 7:** The Bombay High Court Saturday dismissed petitions filed by businessman Raj Kundra and his aide Ryan Thorpe challenging their arrest and police custody in a pornography case, taking note of the prosecution's allegation that they had tried to destroy evidence.

The petitioners, who are now in judicial custody, did not deserve any relief at this point, said Justice AS Gadkari in the ruling. Kundra (45), who is married to actor Shilpa Shetty, is accused of producing

porn films and distributing them online through an app. The HC took note of a statement made on oath by the investigating officer that Kundra and Thorpe began to delete messages and other evidence from their mobile phones when a police team went to their office.

The court also referred to chief public prosecutor Aruna Pai's submission that the police could not be expected to be mute spectators while the accused destroyed evidence. The duo was arrested to ensure there was no further destruction of evidence, Pai had argued.

## FAITH AMID FLOODS



Hindu devotees offer prayers at the submerged Lord Bade Hanumanji temple after the water level rises of river Ganga and Yamuna following monsoon rains, in Prayagraj

PTI PHOTO

# 'Learning loss would've hit basic knowledge of students'

**A PARLIAMENTARY PANEL STATED THAT SCHOOL CLOSURES HAVE PUT CHILDREN'S LEARNING, NUTRITION, MENTAL HEALTH, AND OVERALL DEVELOPMENT AT RISK AND SOME STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY GIRLS, ARE AT RISK OF NEVER RETURNING TO SCHOOL**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** The learning loss of more than one year due to prolonged school closure in wake of Covid-19 pandemic would necessarily have weakened the foundational knowledge of students, especially in the subjects of mathematics, sciences and languages, at school level, a Parliamentary panel has noted.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports in its report Plans to bridge the learning gap caused due to school lockdown as well as review of online and offline instructions and exams and plans for reopening of schools has noted that the learning loss is likely to impair cognitive capabilities of students.

The learning loss of more than one year would necessarily have weakened the foundational knowledge of the students especially in

## COVID SCHOOL CLOSURE



the subjects of mathematics, sciences and languages at school level. This learning loss is a big deficit and is likely to impair the cognitive capabilities of students, the panel said in its report tabled in Parliament Friday.

This might have a debilitating effect on vulnerable sections of the society like poor and rural students, marginalized sections of so-

some students, particularly girls, are at risk of never returning to school.

In fact long closure of schools will lead to children not returning to schools and potential for children getting engaged in labour and early marriage. Therefore, the immediate need is to bring children back to school, the report said.

The committee also recommended that since the digital and online mode of education is going to be the new normal even after the pandemic subsides, efforts to technologically empower every school and students across the country may be aggressively pursued and additional funds allocated for the purpose, as per requirement.

The committee recommends that a comprehensive assessment to collect data of the post-COVID situation leading to the learning loss due to school lockdown may be undertaken by the Department of School Education and Literacy to

cover the areas of concern, it said.

The panel headed by Vinay P Sahasrabudhe advocated that a credible, fair and transparent system of continuous assessment throughout the year may be developed and put in place even when normal functioning of schools commences, so as to meet any future emergent scenarios.

This system should be over and above the final board examinations and would aid in helping students and teachers get a correct perspective of their learning curve and course correct wherever required.

Guidelines for internal assessment, practicals, project work, particularly for classes 10 and 12, be formulated and circulated for strict implementation in every school at the Centre and in States and UTs, be it government, government-aided or private, in order to ensure objective and uniform standard of assessment across the country, the panel report said.



The holdup is not on this end but we are eager to get vaccines and continue assistance to the people of India and want to continue to be a part of the arsenal of solving the pandemic

AVERAGE 1L NEW CASES DAILY IN US

The seven-day average for new daily Covid-19 infections has surpassed 100,000 in the US, returning to levels not seen since the winter surge.



of the day quote

It's clear the Prime Minister hasn't learned anything from what happened last time he tried to cook up a reason to be above the rules everyone else has to follow

It is inhuman to do politics on the health of a three-time premier. The government machinery is bent upon defaming Sharif for its politics, which is earning a bad name to the country

Our companies cannot grow if businessmen and managers cannot travel overseas to meet clients and partners. MNCs (multinational corporations) will find it hard to invest here if their people are not able to travel in and out of Singapore

SHORT TAKES

50 held in Pak for attack on temple

Lahore: Pakistan's law enforcement agencies Saturday arrested over 50 people, including the main suspects, allegedly involved in an attack on a Hindu temple in a remote town of the country's Punjab province, a day after the Supreme Court admonished the authorities for their failure to protect the shrine.

Nepal's Covid toll crosses 10K mark

Kathmandu: Nepal's Covid-19 death toll has crossed the 10,000 since the Himalayan nation registered its first virus-related fatality May 14, 2020, the Ministry of Health and Population said.

Man injures 10 with knife, held

Tokyo: Japanese police said Saturday they arrested a man who stabbed 10 passengers on a commuter train in Tokyo hours earlier, in what Japanese media reported to be a random burst of violence unrelated to the ongoing Olympic Games.

France protests enter 4th week

Paris: Thousands of people were expected to March in Paris and other French cities during a fourth consecutive week of protests against Covid-19 entrance requirements and what opponents see as restrictions on personal freedom.

Israel strikes Gaza

Tel Aviv: The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said Saturday that the air force carried out strikes in the Gaza Strip which came in response to continued launches of arson balloons from the coastal enclave into the Jewish state.

AFGHAN WAR GETS DEADLIER

The available supply in the battered cities is fast diminishing, raising the possibility of an acute shortage of food and medical supplies in coming days

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

United Nations, August 7: Deborah Lyons, the UN Secretary-General's special representative for Afghanistan, has said that the war in the country has "entered a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase"

In a special briefing to the UN Security Council Friday, Lyons said: "In the past weeks, the war in Afghanistan has entered a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase.

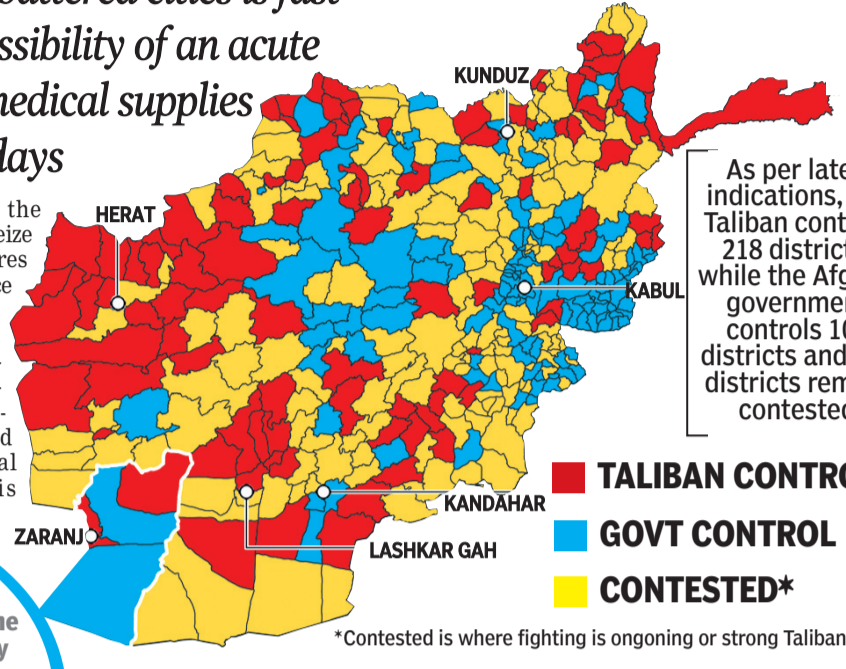
The Taliban campaign during June and July to capture rural areas has achieved significant territorial gains.

"From this strengthened position they have begun to attack the larger cities. The provincial capitals of Kandahar, Herat, and Lashkar Gah in particular have come under significant pressure."

US sends B-52 bombers to stop Taliban

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden has ordered B-52 bombers and Spectre gunships to target Taliban terrorists in Afghanistan who are advancing towards three key cities, Daily Mail reported.

attempt by the Taliban to seize urban centres with the force of arms. The human toll of this strategy is extremely distressing and the political message is



As per latest indications, the Taliban controls 218 districts, while the Afghan government controls 108 districts and 100 districts remain contested

Afghanistan is now at a dangerous turning point and what lies ahead for the country is a genuine peace negotiation or a tragically intertwined set of crises: an increasingly brutal conflict combined with an acute humanitarian situation and multiplying human rights abuses

even more deeply disturbing." She stressed that the Security Council must issue an unambiguous statement that attacks against cities must stop now.

In Kandahar, since the start of the offensive there July 9, more than 460 civilian casualties have been registered. Further to the west, in and around Herat, UNAMA has credible reports of over 135 civilian casualties from the onset of the Taliban offensive.

Let me quickly summarise that just in these three cases I am talking of over 1000 casualties, just in this last month," she said.

Lyons said what is reportedly happening in areas under Taliban control is also of great concern to us.

SINCE JULY 28, AT LEAST 104 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 403 WOUNDED. GROUND ENGAGEMENTS AND AIRSTRIKES ARE CAUSING MOST OF THE CIVILIAN HARM. ALL ROADS LEADING TO AND GOING OUT OF THE CITY ARE CLOSED BY THE TALIBAN

HOSPITALS HAVE NEARLY REACHED FULL CAPACITY AND CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT PATIENTS. TALIBAN TRYING TO SEIZE URBAN CENTRES WITH THE FORCE OF ARMS

IN 24 HOURS 2nd provincial capital captured

Kabul: The Taliban Saturday captured Sheberghan city in Jawzjan, the deputy governor said, the second Afghan provincial capital to fall to the insurgents in less than 24 hours.

"The (government) forces and officials have retreated to the airport," Jawzjan deputy governor Qader Malia told AFP.

The city is home to notorious warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, who only returned to Afghanistan this week from medical treatment in Turkey. The Taliban have gained vast parts of rural Afghanistan since launching a series of offensives in May to coincide with the start of the final withdrawal of foreign troops.

Friday, Zaranj city in Nimroz fell to the Taliban "without a fight", according to its deputy governor, becoming the first provincial capital to be taken by the insurgents.

'Pak continues to aid Taliban'



UNITED NATIONS: Afghanistan Friday accused Pakistan of assisting the "Taliban war machine" which has launched an all-out attack on the Afghanistan government as the US is pulling out of the country.

Addressing a Security Council meeting on Afghanistan, that country's Permanent Representative Ghulam Isaccai said: "The Taliban continues to enjoy a safe haven and supply and logistic line extended to their war machine from Pakistan"

in defiance of the Council's 1988 demand.

India's Permanent Representative TS Tirumurti, who presided over the meeting, said: "Those providing material and financial support to terrorist entities must be held accountable."

Speaking in his national capacity, he expressed support for Afghanistan's position. Without naming Pakistan, he said: "For enduring peace in Afghanistan, terrorist safe havens and sanctuaries

in the region must be dismantled immediately and terrorist supply chains disrupted."

Isaccai said: "Graphic reports and videos of Taliban fighters congregating close to the Durand Line (marking the boundary between the two countries) to enter Afghanistan, fundraising events, transfer of dead bodies for mass burial, and treatment of injured Taliban in Pakistan hospitals are emerging and are widely available."

"This is not only a naked violation of the 1988 UN Security Council resolution with sanction regime, but also leads to further erosion of trust and confidence towards establishing a collaborative relationship with Pakistan to work to end the war in Afghanistan," he added.

Isaccai warned of a return to Afghanistan being overrun by foreign fighters threatening peace in the region and beyond.

6K ultras being trained to infiltrate Af

The Taliban has been trying to use the services of foreign cadres for training the new entrants. According to intelligence sources, Arab and Chechen trainers are involved in training new cadres being inducted as their numbers recede with casualties being caused. Around 6,000 fresh terrorists based in Pakistan are being trained by these foreign instructors with the aim of raising a new unit. Meanwhile, infiltration of Taliban terrorists into Afghanistan from Pakistan continues.



Fires rampage forests in Greece



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thrakomakedones, August 7: Wildfires rampaged through massive swaths of Greece's last remaining forests for yet another day Saturday, encroaching on more inhabited areas after burning scores of homes, businesses and farms.

and beaches on Evia, an island of rugged, forested mountains popular with holidaymakers and campers, after flames from a massive wildfire burning for days cut off all other means of escape. People clutched babies and carried older adults on chairs as they boarded the small ferries to safety.

Another major blaze was burning in the southern Peloponnese region of Mani, where the deputy mayor of East Mani, Eleni Drakoulakou, told state broadcaster ERT that 70% of her area had been destroyed.

"It's a biblical catastrophe. We're talking about three-quarters of the municipality," Drakoulakou said, pleading for more support from water-dropping aircraft.

The multiple fierce fires have stretched Greece's firefighting forces have been stretched to the limit.

The government appealed for help through the European Union's emergency support system.

NASA Mars rover fails to collect rock in search of alien life

Data sent to Earth by the rover after its first attempt to collect a sample and seal it in a tube indicated no rock had been gathered

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

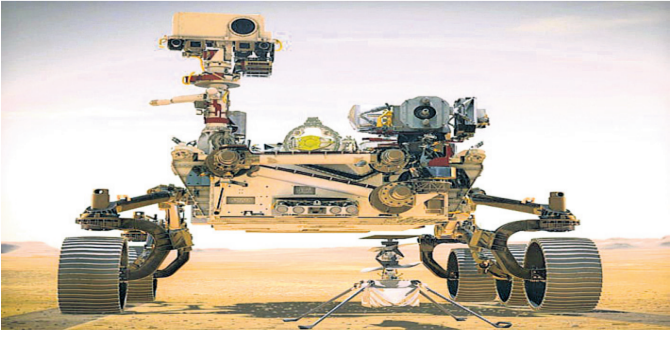
Washington, August 7: NASA's Perseverance drilled into the surface of Mars but failed in its initial attempt to collect rock samples that would be picked up by future missions for analysis by scientists on Earth.

The US space agency published images Friday of a small mound with a hole in its center next to the rover -- the first ever dug into

the Red Planet by a robot.

But data sent to Earth by the rover after its first attempt to collect a sample and seal it in a tube indicated no rock had been gathered. "While this is not the 'hole-in-one' we hoped for, there is always risk with breaking new ground," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for NASA's science mission directorate, in a statement.

"I'm confident we have the right team working this, and we will



persevere toward a solution to ensure future success."

The drill hole is the first step of a sampling process that is expected to take about 11 days, with the aim of looking for signs of ancient microbial life that may have been preserved in ancient lakebed deposits.

Scientists also hope to better understand Martian geology. The mission took off from Florida a little over a year ago and Perseverance, which is the size of

a large family car, landed February 18 in the Jezero Crater.

Scientists believe the crater contained a deep lake 3.5 billion years ago, where the conditions may have been able to support extra-terrestrial life.

NASA plans a mission to bring around 30 samples back to Earth in the 2030's, to be analyzed by instruments that are much more sophisticated than those that can be brought to Mars at present.

PANDEMIC FAILURE



Anti-government protesters try to control smoke from tear gas fired by riot police during a protest in Bangkok, Thailand

# business



There is an increasing recovery firming up at several export destinations including the US and Europe. We have a tremendous local network, and it is a great phase to extract potential for the benefit of our economy

**COLIN SHAH** | CHAIRMAN, GJPC

## TATA MOTORS DELIVERS 35 ELECTRIC AC BUSES

Tata Motors Saturday delivered 35 electric AC buses to Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) as part of an order of 340 Starbus e-buses, which are to be supplied to the undertaking. The 35-seater buses were flagged off by Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray at an event in Mumbai



## of the day quote

Rupee is expected to weaken on the back of a strong US dollar and rising inflation concerns. It is expected to trade between 74.05 to 74.60 with an upward bias

**SAJAL GUPTA** | HEAD, FOREX AND RATES, EDELWEISS SECURITIES

Nifty could rise some more in the coming week in the absence of any major negatives emerging. However, the broader markets could continue to see rotational profit-taking

**DEEPAK JASANI** | RETAIL RESEARCH HEAD, HDFC SECURITIES

If the situation remains normal, then at a conservative estimate we should be able to close our first full financial year of operations with sales of around ₹8-10 crore. We are selling online as well and creating bandwidth to meet the target. People are looking for finance options

**PRASHANTA KUMAR** | FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, VOLTRON MOTORS

## 'Showcase India's manufacturing prowess abroad'

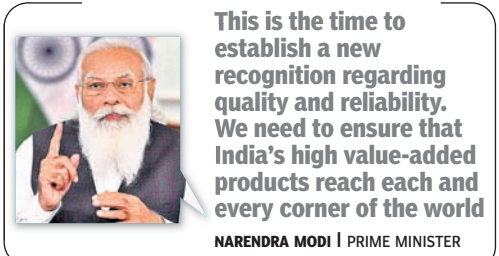
**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**

New Delhi, August 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday urged Indian Missions abroad to showcase India's manufacturing capabilities globally. Addressing the Indian Missions across the globe virtually, Modi also called for close co-ordination among the diplomats, Commerce Ministry, Indian exporters and producers in a bid to boost exports from the country. "India House" present in different countries should also become the representatives of India's manufacturing power. From time-to-time you should alert and guide stakeholders in India, which will help in improving the exports," he told the diplomats while speaking on '#LocalGoesGlobal - Make in India for the World'.



He was of the view that now is the time to move ahead with targets in terms of 'Brand India'. "This is the time to establish a new recognition regarding quality and reliability. We need to ensure

that India's high value-added products reach each and every corner of the world," Modi told the diplomats. Observing that exports amount to 20 per cent of the country's GDP, the Prime Minister said



**This is the time to establish a new recognition regarding quality and reliability. We need to ensure that India's high value-added products reach each and every corner of the world**

**NARENDRA MODI** | PRIME MINISTER

that given the size and potential of the Indian economy and that of the manufacturing and services sectors in the country, there is

government's commitment towards stable policies and consistency of those policies.

He mentioned of four key factors which are required to improve exports, the first factor being the requirement for a multi-fold growth in manufacturing.

Elimination of obstacles in terms of transportation and logistics, government's support for exports, and the international market for Indian exports are the other key factors to enhance exports from the country, Modi added.

Speaking of the government's support for the growth in domestic manufacturing, he said that the production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes would help not only in increasing the scale of Indian manufacturing, but also in raising the standards of global quality and efficiency.

## Waning traffic pushes Railways to cut down coach production

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 7: The Indian Railways has proposed to cut down its passenger coach production almost by half over next couple of years as it looks to get leaner with competition from roadways and airways eating into its traffic.



In a meeting taken by the Railway Board to finalise coach manufacturing programme for FY23 and FY24, it was decided that passenger coach production from four of its manufacturing facilities will be cut down by over 46 per cent in FY24.

This would mean Railway's coach manufacturing would fall from a level of around 6,000-7,000 units to just about 4,000 a year. In fact, the passenger coach manufacturing has been kept at 7,551 units for next fiscal year 2022-23 that would fall just about 4,027 units in FY24, as per a letter dated July 28 shot off by the ministry of railways to general managers of all its four coach manufacturing units.

## Real GDP growth of 20% YoY expected in Q1FY22: Report

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 7: India's real GDP is expected to grow by 20 per cent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in the first quarter of FY22, Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFS) said in a report. According to MOFS' EcoScope report, the 'Economic Activity Index' for India's real GVA grew by 11.6 per cent YoY in June, after growing 22.8 per cent YoY in May.

"It implies EAI-GVA growth of 22.6 per cent YoY in 1QFY22, following a contraction of 14.4 per cent YoY in 1QFY21. A low base led to higher double-digit growth in the non-farm sector, while farm activity grew 6.6 per cent in the quarter," the report said.

"The estimates suggest that India's real GDP growth was 20 per cent YoY in 1QFY22, which is in line with our expectations," it asserted.

Notwithstanding the double-digit growth in 1QFY22, the real GDP growth would slow towards 5-7 per cent in the remaining quarters of FY22.

"The way EAI-GVA, EAI-GDP was also supported largely by a low base. Although EAI-GDP grew by a modest 3.6 per cent YoY in June as against 11.6 per cent YoY in May, it increased by 23 per cent YoY in 1QFY22 as against a con-



traction of 21.2 per cent YoY in 1QFY21.

"While private consumption grew by 18 per cent YoY in 1QFY22, government revenue spending contracted in real terms in the quarter. Preliminary estimates indicate India's EAI for GVA posted lower double-digit growth of 11.6 per cent YoY in June, after growing 22.8 per cent YoY in May," the report said.

Further as per the report, the data for July indicated a recovery. "India Manufacturing PMI picked up strongly, merchandise exports were at a record high," it noted.

"Power generation grew faster, and there was a strong recovery in e-way registrations and toll collections in July '21. It confirms that the reopening has had an improving effect on the Indian economy, and will sustain for a few more months, unless India is hit by the much-feared third Covid wave," concludes the MOFSL's report.

## India offers Cairn Energy \$1bn refund

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 7: India expects to refund \$1 billion to UK-based Cairn Energy after it moved to scrap a retrospective tax law that unleashed bitter fights with prominent foreign investors, Financial Times reported.

The lower house of parliament Friday approved a draft law introduced the previous day, cancelling a 2012 policy that enabled New Delhi to tax some foreign investments retrospectively. The upper house is expected to approve the law as early as next week.

New Delhi would also drop \$13.5 billion in outstanding claims against multinationals such as telecoms group Vodafone, pharmaceuticals company Sanofi and brewer SABMiller, now owned by AB InBev, as part of efforts to repair its damaged reputation as an investment destination, the report said.

Analysts say the legal initiative would allow New Delhi to resolve a bitter international tax battle with Cairn that has grown increasingly embarrassing for India. The UK energy group has sought in recent months to seize some of the government's estimated \$70bn worth of overseas assets.

"It's a settlement offer masquerading as a law," said one foreign business analyst, who re-



New Delhi would also drop \$13.5bn in outstanding claims against MNCs such as telecoms group Vodafone, pharma firm Sanofi and brewer SABMiller, as part of efforts to repair its damaged reputation

quested anonymity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government hopes the resolution of the dispute can bolster its reputation among foreign companies as it seeks new investment to revive India's Covid-

battered economy.

"We want to give a message to the investors that the country believes in the stability and certainty of taxation," Tarun Bajaj, revenue secretary, told journalists on Friday. "Taxation is a sovereign right and can't be taken away. But we should use it sparingly, judiciously."

Bajaj said about \$1.2 billion collected from companies under the soon to be scrapped tax provision would be refunded if the companies agreed to drop outstanding litigation, including claims for interest and penalties.

About \$1 billion of this would go to Cairn and \$270 million to other groups including Vodafone, he added, as per the report.

## SHORT TAKES

### Fuel price pause continues: OMC

New Delhi: Oil marketing companies (OMC) continued with the pause on fuel price revision for the 21st consecutive day Saturday as a wait and watch policy amid fluctuating global crude prices remained. Global crude prices have swung in all directions in July starting with a low of \$70 a barrel to quickly breaching to \$77 a barrel, and then fall below \$70 a barrel to crossing \$75 a barrel later in the month.

### SAIL Bengal units post ₹876cr profit

Kolkata: Three units of Steel Authority of India (SAIL) in West Bengal have together posted ₹876 crore profit before interest and tax in the first quarter of the 2021-22 fiscal, according to a company filing. The aggregate sales of Durgapur Steel Plant, IISCO Steel Plant and Alloy Steels Plant in the state stood at about ₹4,767 crore in the quarter under review, it said. Durgapur Steel Plant reported ₹2,511 crore sales during the three months ended June 30 this year.

### Trouble mounts for McLeod Russel

Kolkata: Trouble mounts for McLeod Russel as National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) paves way for bankruptcy proceedings against the tea grower after a financial creditor moved an application against the company claiming the company has defaulted on ₹100 crore dues owed to it. McLeod on Friday informed the bourses that NCLT Delhi admitted the application filed by Techno Electric & Engineering Company Limited against it under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

### Keltrop ties up with NPOL

Kochi: Keltrop, a public sector undertaking under the Kerala government, on Saturday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) here to manufacture and deliver Defence equipment. NPOL is a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, under the Ministry of Defence. The MoU was signed here between Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation (Keltrop) CMD N Narayana Murthy and NPOL Director Vijayan Pillai.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Faceless grievance registering scheme improved

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has further strengthened its Faceless Scheme by extending grievance registering facility to taxpayers without any physical touch points. The department has now created dedicated e-mail ids for registering grievances in respect of pending cases under the Faceless Scheme. So a taxpayer may now be required to just mail his/her grievance related tax assessment, levy of penalty or appeals and the tax department would address the same without requiring taxpayer to be physically present for the work. "In a move aimed to further improve taxpayer services in alignment with the Taxpayers' Charter, the Income Tax Department has now created dedicated e-mail ids for registering grievances in respect of pending cases under the Faceless Scheme," the I-T department said on a tweet.



### Pre-launch bookings for new Amaze open

Bhubaneswar: Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL), leading manufacturer of premium cars in India will launch the new Honda Amaze August 18, 2021. The company today commenced the pre-bookings of the new car at all authorised Honda dealerships across the country with a booking amount of ₹21,000. Additionally, the customers can also book the car online from the comfort of their homes through 'Honda from Home' platform on HCIL website with an amount of ₹5,000. Honda Amaze, currently in its 2nd Generation, is Honda's largest selling model and enjoys a diverse customer base in India. It is a contemporary and premium model offering 'One Class above Sedan experience' with its bold design, sophisticated and spacious interiors, outstanding driving performance, advanced features, and safety technologies.



## Flipkart, IIM Sambalpur agree to support small businesses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sambalpur, Saturday announced a partnership to support and promote small businesses, artisans and weavers by leveraging technology, e-commerce platform and market insights. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed soon.

Through this partnership, IIM Sambalpur and Flipkart will leverage their deep expertise and knowledge to create an operational framework to support under-served communities by helping them build capacity and enhance market reach.

Flipkart executives will actively participate in this programme by sharing operational know-how, market and consumer insights. The company will also explore opportunities to enable pan-India market access for products created by these entrepreneurs, MSMEs and artisans through its marketplace.

Mahadeo Prasad Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, said, "Our partnership with Flipkart and the e-commerce industry will help strengthen the spirit of entrepreneurship by creating opportunities to leverage technology and accelerate growth for small businesses and artisans. By combining institutional learning and practical in-

dustry experience, we aim to provide entrepreneurs best practices and deeper insight on how to leverage e-commerce for their growth.

We are hopeful that weavers, artisans and farmers will leverage this opportunity to showcase their skills and high-quality traditional heritage products to a national consumer base and reach new heights and recognition."

Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group, said, "Our team's expertise, technology, learnings and insights serving a pan-India market will come very handy for MSMEs, artisans and the Indian handicraft industry through this partnership with IIM Sambalpur."

## Companies to spend \$342bn on AI solutions in 2021: IDC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 7: Worldwide revenues for the artificial intelligence (AI) market, including software, hardware and services, is estimated to grow 15.2 per cent (year-over-year) in 2021 to \$341.8 billion, according to the International Data Corporation (IDC). The market is forecast to accelerate further in 2022 with 18.8 per cent growth and remain on track to break the \$500 billion mark by 2024. Among the three technology categories, AI software occupied 88 per cent of the overall AI market.

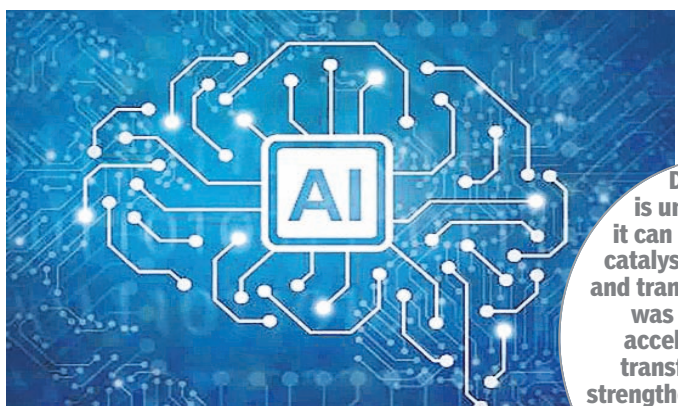
"However, in terms of growth, AI Hardware is estimated to grow the

fastest in the next several years. From 2023 onwards, AI Services is forecast to become the fastest growing category," the report showed.

In AI Server market, there were a total of six companies that generated over \$500 million each in 2020 - Dell, HPE, Huawei, IBM, Inspur, and Lenovo. Together, they held 62 per cent of overall market share.

Meanwhile, in the AI Storage market, Dell, HPE, Hitachi, Huawei, IBM and NetApp achieved over \$100 million each in 2020. Within the AI Software category, AI Applications has the lion's share at nearly 50 per cent of revenues.

In terms of growth, AI Platforms



is the strongest with a five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 33.2 per cent. "Disruption is unsettling, but it

can also serve as a catalyst for innovation and transformation. 2020 was the year that accelerated digital transformation and strengthened the value of enterprise AI

"Disruption is unsettling, but it can also serve as a catalyst for innovation and transformation. 2020 was the year that accelerated digital transformation and strengthened the value of enterprise AI

**RITU JYOTI** | GROUP VP (AI AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH), IDC

adapt at speed is an important business imperative," Jyoti said in a statement.

The AI Services market was estimated at \$19.4 billion in 2020, representing the fastest growth relative to hardware and software. For 2021, it is forecast to grow at 19.3 per cent. Over the next five years, it is expected to enjoy the best CAGR at 21 per cent.

"AI has emerged as an essential component of the future enterprise, fueling demand for services partners to help organisations clear the many hurdles standing between pilot projects and enterprise AI," said Jennifer Hamel, research manager, Analytics and Intelligent Automation Services.

# THROWING HISTORY OFF

Javeline thrower Neeraj Chopra's second attempt of 87.58 mtr ends India's wait for a medal at Olympic track-and-field events as the country produces their best ever result – 7 medals – at the Games surpassing their previous best of 6 medals at 2012 London Olympics

## Chubby kid to Olympic champ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** A plump kid took to athletics to lose weight and ended up being India's first track-and-field Olympic gold-meddallist. Sounds like a fairytale?

That's Neeraj Chopra's life actually, all of 23 and a superstar, or dare one say a messiah, that Indian athletics had been waiting for over a century.

Saturday with his javelin in hand, Chopra was nothing short of a rockstar at Tokyo's Olympic stadium, which should have been full to capacity to watch his genius unfold but had just a handful of officials and coaches thanks to COVID-19 pandemic.

He got everyone to cheer for him like he always does and didn't even need to throw a personal best of 88.07m. The gold was sealed with the 87.58m throw, which was just his second of the final round.

But many years before this moment of greatness, Chopra was under tremendous pressure from his joint family of 17 to lose weight.

He was all of 13 at that point and had become a mischievous boy, often fiddling the bee hives on village trees and trying to pull buffaloes by their tails.

His father Satish Kumar Chopra wanted something to be done to discipline the boy. So, after a lot of cajoling, the child finally agreed to do some running to shed the flab.

His uncle took him to Shivaji Stadium in Panipat – around 15km from his village. Chopra wasn't interested in running and almost instantly fell in love with javelin throw when he saw a few seniors practising at the stadium.

He decided to try his luck and as the cliched saying goes, rest is history, which would now probably

make its way into school textbooks.

He has been a consistent performer since bursting into spotlight with a historic gold in the junior World Championships in 2016 with an U-20 world record of 86.48m which still stands.

His other achievements include gold medals in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and the 2018 Asian Games, besides the top finish in the 2017 Asian Championships. He is also a 2018 Arjuna Awardee.

His infectious smile doesn't give it away but Chopra has had his brush with low phases too. He underwent an arthroscopic surgery on the elbow of his right throwing arm in 2019 which kept him out of action for nearly a year but he came back stronger.

In pursuit of excellence, it was a roller-coaster ride for the tall, sprightly and humble athlete after being pulled into the sport by senior javelin thrower Jaiveer Choudhary from a nearby village in 2011.

Chopra was game to it and after a few months, in search of better facilities, he shifted to the Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula. By the end of 2012, he had become the U-16 national champion.

At this point came the financial issues as Chopra needed accommodation, better equipment, a kit and better diet to go up the next level.

It was a tough decision for the joint family which owns less than 10 acres of land. But they pulled through and by 2015, Chopra had joined the national camp.

"We are farmers, nobody in the family has a government job and my family has been supporting me with difficulty. But it is a sort of relief now that I am able to support my family financially besides continuing with

my training," Chopra had told this agency in an interview after he was made a Junior Commission Officer in the Indian Army in 2017. He is now a Naib Subedar.

"A medal in Tokyo Olympics is my target, it's the ultimate for an athlete. I am still young and my best is yet to come," he had said then.

In 2013, he took part in the World Youth Championships in Ukraine but returned without any medal. Next year, he won a silver in the Youth Olympics Qualification in Bangkok, his first international medal.

Chopra's first medal in a national senior championship came in July 2015 during the Inter-State event in Chennai with a throw of 77.33m. A few months later, he won gold in the National Open C'ships in Kolkata.

The year 2016 was a breakthrough one for Chopra. After crossing the 80m mark at the end of 2015, Chopra won the South Asian Games in Guwahati in February 2016 with a throw of 82.23m.

A few months later, under the guidance of late Australian coach Gary Calvert, Chopra created history during the World Junior C'ships and announced the arrival of a truly world-class javelin thrower.

There is still a wall-hanging in the drawing room of Chopra's ancestral home which features an oft-repeated motivational quote – "A single idea can light up your life."

The Chopra family's single idea to let him pursue javelin throw lit up the country in its golden glow.

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gold at 2018 Asian Games
- Gold at 2018 Commonwealth Games
- Gold at 2017 Asian Athletics Championships
- Gold at 2016 World U-20 Athletics Championships

- Gold at 2016 South Asian Games
- Silver at 2016 Asian Junior Championships
- \*Current National Record Holder (88.07m – 2021)
- \*Current World Junior Record Holder (86.48m – 2016)



### India reveals in Neeraj's 'golden moment'

Neeraj Chopra became the toast of the nation after claiming India's first-ever track-and-field medal at the Olympics. Let's see some reactions...

**RAM NATH KOVIND:** Unprecedented win by Neeraj Chopra! Your javelin gold breaks barriers and creates history. You bring home first ever track and field medal to India in your first Olympics. Your feat will inspire our youth. India is elated! Heartiest congratulations!

**NARENDRA MODI:** History has been scripted at Tokyo! What Neeraj Chopra has achieved today will be remembered forever. The young Neeraj has done exceptionally well. He played with remarkable passion and showed unparalleled grit. Congratulations to him for winning the Gold.

**ANURAG THAKUR:** NEERAJ CHOPRA. India's Golden Boy! India's Olympic History has been scripted! Your superbly soaring throw deserves a Billion Cheers! Your name will be etched in the history books with golden letters.

**KIREN RIJJU:** History has been made, Milkha Singh Ji's wish is fulfilled as India wins first ever Olympic medal in Athletics! A golden moment 4 (for) India as Neeraj Chopra won Olympic Gold medal for India at Tokyo 2020. Congratulations Neeraj Chopra on this historic achievement!

**ABHINAV BINDRA:** And Gold it is for Neeraj Chopra. Take a bow, young man! You have fulfilled a nation's dream. Thank you! Also, welcome to the club – a much needed addition! Extremely proud. I am so delighted for you.

**SAIKHOM MIRABAI CHANU:** Congratulations Neeraj Chopra on winning first ever gold medal in Athletics for our country. Really a proud moment for our nation.

**SACHIN TENDULKAR:** India shines brighter today because of you, Neeraj. Your javelin carried the tricolour all the way and made it flutter with the pride of every Indian. What a moment for Indian sport!



### INDIAN WRESTLERS MATCH BEST RESULT AT OLYMPICS WITH TWO MEDALS

## Bajrang bags bronze

**Chiba:** He did not live up to the sky-high expectations but India's Bajrang Punia will return from Tokyo with a bronze medal on Olympic debut after outwitting Daulet Niyazbekov in the men's freestyle 65kg play-off here Saturday.

If his defence let him down in the semifinal against Hazi Aliiev, Bajrang's smart attacking moves made him a 8-0 winner against Kazakhstan's Niyazbekov, to whom he had lost in the semifinals of the 2019 World Championship.

The medal-winning performance saved 27-year-old Bajrang and the Indian wrestling contingent from embarrassment since the wrestlers had entered Tokyo with high expectations.

After medal-favourite Vinesh Phogat's shock quarterfinal exit and Bajrang's below par show in the first three matches, a pall of gloom had descended on the Indian wrestling contingent.

However, the three-time medalist at World Championships rose

to the occasion with a comfortable win. Aware of the weight of expectations he was carrying, Bajrang knows this is not a result that would give him satisfaction.

"I am not happy. This is not the result I had set out to achieve. Winning an Olympic medal is no mean achievement but I can't jump with joy with bronze," Bajrang told PTL.

The Haryana grappler said the knee injury he suffered in run up to the Games did impact his performance. "It did trouble me and played on mind. But I did not have the option to rest. After semifinal, I had to give my all and I did that," Bajrang added.

With Bajrang's medal, Indian wrestlers have matched their best performance at the Olympics by earning two podium finishes. Ravi Dahiya had won an inspiring silver medal in the 57kg category.

At the 2012 London Games, Sushil Kumar had won a silver and Yogeshwar Dutt returned with a bronze.



### GOLFER ADITI FINISHES HEARTBREAKING 4TH AT GAMES

## SO NEAR YET SO FAR

**Tokyo:** She pulled off the best performance by an Indian golfer in the Olympics but Aditi Ashok could not clinch the eagerly-anticipated medal, signing off fourth after spending a majority of the four rounds in contention for a podium finish, here Saturday.

The 23-year-old from Bangalore ended two strokes off the pace with a total of 15-under 269, which was just one stroke below the medal bracket. In the final round, she managed a 3-under 68.

It was a heartbreaking end to Aditi's campaign considering she started the day in sole second position. But it was nonetheless a massive improvement as she had finished tied 41st in the 2016 edition where golf made a comeback to the Olympics after over 100 years.

In the final round, she fired five birdies – on the 5th, 6th, 8th, 13th and 14th holes – against two bogeys on the 9th and 11th. The world number 200 Indian had her mother Maheshwari as her caddy.

Aditi kept her smile intact even as her 25-foot birdie attempt ball slid past the cup on the 18th and final hole. With that she knew that her final chance of a shot at the medal in the Olympic women's golf had gone.

Overnight leader and World No.1 Nelly Korda clinched the gold medal



with a 2-under 69 that left her 17-under overall and a shot ahead of Japan's Mone Inami (65) and New Zealand's Lydia Ko (65).

Inami and Ko competed in a play-off to decide the silver and bronze medal winners in which the former emerged triumphant.

### MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Country	G	S	B	Total
1	China	38	31	18	87
2	USA	36	39	33	108
3	Japan	27	12	17	56
4	ROC	20	25	23	68
5	Great Britain	20	21	22	63
6	Australia	17	7	22	46
7	Germany	10	11	16	37
8	Netherlands	10	11	12	33
9	Italy	10	10	19	39
10	France	8	12	11	31
47	India	1	2	4	7

On the play-off hole (par-4 18th), Ko dropped a bogey, while Inami managed to hold on for a par in overcast and damp conditions.

The other Indian in fray, Diksha Dagar, finished her campaign at tied 50th after managing her first sub-par round of the week, a one-under 70, which left her with an aggregate total of 6-over 290.

The New Zealander Ko, with her bronze medal, became the first double medallist in golf since its return to the Olympic programme in 2016. She had silver in Rio.

Interestingly Aditi was one of the only three players in the field who had all three rounds in the 60s with 67-66-68 for a total of 269.

## India on course for win against England



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nottingham, August 7:** Skipper Joe Root (108, 172b, 14x4) led from the front with a superb counter-attacking hundred but Jasprit Bumrah's (5/64) five-wicket haul on the fourth day made India favourites to chase down a tricky target of 209 against England in the first Test.

In the time left during the penultimate hour, India scored 52/1 with Stuart Broad (1/18) dismissing KL Rahul (26) with a beauty. Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara were unbeaten on 12 each.

It was Root's 21st Test hundred that saw England put up a much-improved batting show, scoring 303 and secure a lead of 208 runs. Bumrah polished the tail in a jiffy with the second new ball en route to his sixth fiver.

On the final day, if weather permits, India will need another 157 runs but in these conditions, it could prove to be more than a handful with James Anderson, Broad, Ollie Robinson and Sam Curran making the ball talk.

However the day belonged to Root, who once again bossed the Indian bowling having scored a half century in the first essay. Root, who came out at 46/2, never for once batted for survival. He left that for Dom Sibley (28) during their 89 run stand.

Whether opening the bat face to use Bumrah's pace or crunching Mohammed Siraj (2/84) and Mohammed Shami's (1/72) half-volleys, Root was a delight to watch. Shardul Thakur (2/37) did trouble him a couple of times but not causing any concern.

**BRIEF SCORES:** England 183 & 303 (Joe Root 109; Jasprit Bumrah 5/64, Shardul Thakur 2/37); India 278 & 52/1 (KL Rahul 26; Stuart Broad 1/18). Match to continue.

AUGUST 8-14, 2021

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

NAGASAKI DAY - AUGUST 9

# The Survivors

P  
3,4

COVER STORY



Model-cum-actor Sonam Dash, set to make her debut as a heroine in Odia movie 'Mitali Apa', prefers to take long drives alone on Sundays.



With Sritam Das on the sets of Mitali Apa

### An Hour For Body And Mind

I practice yoga religiously to keep my body and mind in sync. No matter what time I wake, I make sure to spend an hour practicing yoga.

### Avid Gardener

I love to spend time in the company of plants I have grown in my terrace garden. I feel that flowers keep us stimulated and observing them from the stage of bud to bloom is a great feeling.

### Solo Traveller

I love to go on long drives alone as solo travelling gives me freedom. If I am driving with another person, he or she automatically becomes my priority.

### Binge-watcher

Often I miss my favourite movies or TV shows owing to my hectic work schedules. So it is on Sundays when I try to catch up on all the missed movies / shows, thanks to a plethora of streaming platforms.

### Food Connoisseur

Being a native of Berhampur, I love good and home-cooked food. On working days I go for quick easy meals as I am not too finicky about food. But on holidays, I spend hours to prepare my favourite dishes to pacify the foodie in me.



With brother

### Sibling Bond

My elder brother, with whom I share a special bonding, is my inspiration. On most Sundays, I call him and my sister-in-law and talk to them for hours.

### Home Decorator

Sundays are meant for organising wardrobes, jewellery, kitchen & pantry and laundry stuff. I love to give a new look to my room every Sunday.



RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

## WhatsApp This Week

Only on Sunday POST!

Send in your most interesting Whatsapp messages and memes received to: features.orissapost@gmail.com And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- Life is too short. Don't waste it reading my Whatsapp status.
- Always give your 100%, unless you're donating blood.
- Having one child makes you a parent; having two you are a referee.
- Did anyone ever notice that "STUDYING" is a mixture of STUDY and DYING?



## MAN-ANIMAL BONDING

Dear Sir, 'Incredible Tales', the unusual stories of man-animal bonding was a highly enjoyable read. Kanhu's nurturing of 132 peacocks, Triman's deep concern and unflinching affection for the stray canines and Debabrata's camaraderie with the baby squirrel exemplify the unusual and amazing bonds of friendship forged on the basis of compassion, unconditional love and mutual trust. The box item on Saroj Raj Choudhury, the renowned wildlife conservationist-cum-environmentalist and his family's undying seven-year long bonding with Khairi, the domesticated tigress, made it a true collector's item. One fervently hopes that your weekly supplement carries a separate cover story on the exemplary contribution of this Padma Shri awardee and the inventor of the 'pugmark technology for facilitating tiger count' in preserving the wild cats of Odisha.

AMIT BANERJEE, NEW DELHI

## LETTERS



### A WORD FOR READERS

Sunday POST is serving a platter of delectable fare every week, or so we hope. We want readers to interact with us. Please send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to features.orissapost@gmail.com B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948



NAGASAKI DAY – AUGUST 9

# The Survivors

BUDDHADEV NANDI

The conflagration of the great Second World War could hardly singe Hiroshima and Nagasaki before the doomsdays August 6 and 9 in the year 1945. In the morning of August 6, a B-29 airplane named Enola Gay dropped the first atom bomb called Little Boy over Hiroshima. August 9, another B-29 airplane named Bockscar dropped a nuke named Fat Man over Nagasaki. The two atomic bombs killed at least 0,000 people immediately and several thousands more in the years that followed.

Fortunately, Nagasaki so far has remained the last space on earth to suffer such devastation.

Ahead of Nagasaki Day August 9, a day observed across the globe to promote peace and create awareness about the threat of nuclear weapons, Sunday POST takes a look at those who survived the worst kind of destruction ever unleashed by humans on earth.

**Etymology of Hibakusha:** About 650,000 survivors of atomic explosions, recognised as Hibakusha by the Japanese government, were destined to bear the testimony of the tragic end of the World War II. The Japanese word 'hibakusha' is a compound of three words 'hi' (affected), 'baku' (bomb) and 'sha' (person). Any victim of bombs was earlier described as hibakusha in Japanese. But the meaning of the word hibakusha has now been reduced only to atomic bomb survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki explosions that marked the end of the World War II.

**Hibakusha Population:** There were 1,36,6 2 hibakushas as of March 31, 2020, with an average age of nearly 4 years bearing the sole testimony of the atomic fallouts, whereas, the other signs

of ravages of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are almost recuperated. However, as per the recognition of Japan government about 1 of these unfortunates have illnesses caused by radiation. People recognised as hibakusha are granted with a certain amount of allowance per month excluding those certified as suffering from bomb-related diseases having received a special medical allowance.

On the other hand, the memorials in Hiroshima and Nagasaki maintain lists of the names of hibakushas who are known to have passed away since bombings. The list is updated annually on the anniversaries of the bombings. So far, the names of more than 510,000 people have been recorded as hibakusha as of August 2020 by the memorials. Of them, 3,24,119 belong to Hiroshima and 1 5,9 2 to Nagasaki.

**Categories of Hibakusha:** The Atomic Bomb Survivors Relief Law has categorised hibakusha according to the intensity of their exposure to radiation: People exposed directly to the bomb and its immediate aftermath People exposed within a 2 km radius who entered the sphere of destruction within tow weeds of the explosion People exposed to radioactive fallout generally and those exposed in utero, whose mothers were pregnant and belonging to any of these defined caterories.

Nearly two third of them have already died of cancer, whereas, thousands are still undergoing treatment in Red Cross hospitals. Besides, the parental genetic damage is another great concern to the future generation of hibakusha. Truly speaking, they are the incarnation of human resilience and fortitude.



Three days after dropping the first atom bomb on Hiroshima, the US released the second one on Nagasaki that claimed thousands of lives instantly and several thousands more in the years that followed

QUOTES TO REMEMBER

If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst at once into the sky...That would be like the splendour of the Mighty One...I am become Death, The shatterer of worlds

J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER | WARTIME HEAD OF THE US'S LOS ALAMOS LABORATORY AND KNOWN AS THE 'FATHER OF THE ATOMIC BOMB'

If I had foreseen Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I would have torn up my formula in 1905.

ALBERT EINSTEIN | GERMAN-BORN THEORETICAL PHYSICIST

76 years since the last atomic bombing, let us remain committed to ensuring Nagasaki is the last place on Earth to suffer such devastation.

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY GENERAL

Science has nothing to be ashamed of even in the ruins of Nagasaki. The shame is theirs who appeal to other values than the human imaginative values which science has evolved.

JACOB BRONOWSKI | UK BOMB STRATEGIST DURING WORLD WAR II

Hiroshima and Nagasaki were atomized at a time when the Japanese were suing desperately for peace.

DAVID DELLINGER | AMERICAN PACIFIST AND ACTIVIST FOR NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE



A few survivors of Nagasaki

Social Discrimination & Recognition Crisis

To add plight to their hapless situation, hibakusha who withstood radiation exposure not only suffered ailments but also discrimination because of the stigma labeled on them by the Japanese out of ignorance about the effects of radioactive contamination. In 1945, very little was known about the effects of radioactive contamination. It was bruited that the radioactive exposure was like an infectious disease. They fell victim to discrimination and were found ineligible for work and marriage. There was nothing more appalling than the first silent decade the hibakusha had gone through, after the atomic explosion. As the Secretary Law was in effect and the US withheld records, even the existence of hibakusha was brazenly denied.

Fight for World Peace

In 1956, an organization "The Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations" called Hidankyo was formed by hibakushas. The aims of the organisation were to pressurise the Japanese government to improve support of the victims and lobby governments for the abolition of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. Submitting to the pressure mounted by hibakusha, the Japan Govt. passed Hibakusha Aid Law and established medical services for them in 1957. Hidankyo's role against war aggression cannot be diminished, too.

Hibakusha are considered extraordinary human being who are not phased out by despondence and despair. They have perceived through their excruciating agony and suffering that the nuclear holocaust must not be reenacted in the earth. In the annual Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) review conferences, Hidankyo members do not fail to delineate their traumatic experiences to rekindle the memories of the participating countries and remind them with the impending danger of nuclear wars. Swiss based International Peace Bureau (IPB) in its nominating letter in favor of Hidankyo for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize wrote, "Over 70 years they have made the choice of activism, unceasingly recounting their experiences and struggles and working constantly for a total ban and the elimination of

nuclear weapons, appealing to governments and peoples all over the world."

**Sadako Sasaki:** Sadako Sasaki, recognised as the most famous Hibakusha who was exposed to nuclear radiation at the age of 2, survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and later contracted leukemia. Her determination to live after nuclear radiation has been recognised as the epitome of human resilience and fortitude. Inspired by the Japanese legend "If you fold 1000 paper cranes (origami cranes) your wish will come true as a wish granted by the God," Sadako attempted to fold only 644 cranes before she became too restless to fold any more, and died in her sleep on the morning of October 25, 1955, knowing her family will always be there. Her friends and family helped finish her dream by folding the rest of the cranes, which were buried with Sadako. She has left her legacy after the death. The Children's Peace Monument, a statue based on the true story of Sadako Sasaki, is dedicated to the memory of the children who died as a result of the bombing. Students and teachers of today's generation inspired by Sadako story, learn to fold paper cranes.

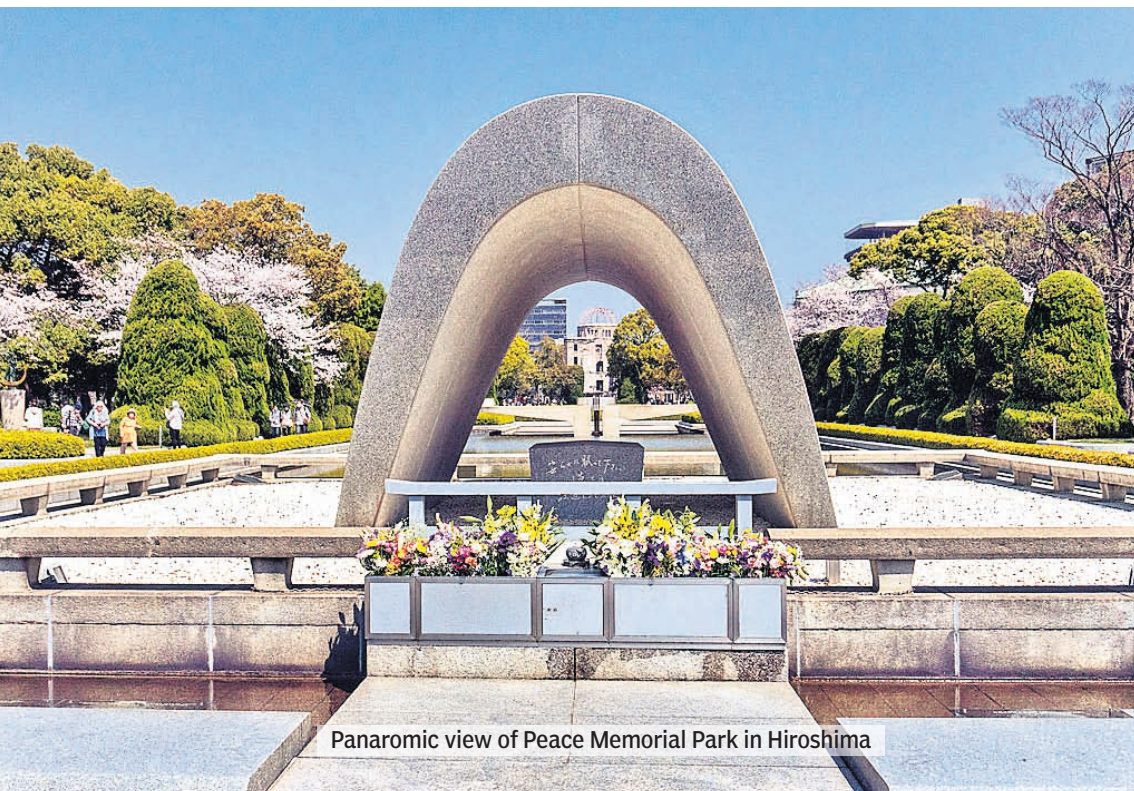
Unfortunately, discrimination against people as hibakusha, the survivors of 'unforgettable fire' still continues. It has been reincarnated after the radiological catastrophe at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex.



Sadako Sasaki



Painting of a survivor made by a Japanese school student



Panoramic view of Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima

FACT SHEET

- The bombings led to the deaths of at least 150,000-246,000 people
- Initially, there were five Japanese cities on the US's initial hit list and Nagasaki was not one of them
- The bombs were detonated in the air
- The bombs that fell on Hiroshima & Nagasaki were based on very different designs
- The US Air Force dropped pamphlets in Japan before the bomb attacks
- The effects of the bomb attack last to this day
- UN adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to make sure it never happens again
- The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons holds great significance for the Hibakusha
- Oleander is the official flower of Hiroshima as it was the first plant to blossom again after the atomic bomb blast
- In Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, a flame burns continuously since it was lit in the year 1964





# 'Not awards, winning viewers' heart is my priority'

- ### Major awards for Mask franchise
- Special Mention Jury Award in Social and Economic Justice Film Festival at San Francisco
  - International People's Choice Award at the Quarantine Image Film Festival-2020 in Argentina
  - Best Inspirational Film Award at Istanbul Film Festival
  - Best Short Film at London Shorts Film Festival
  - Best Inspirational Short Film Award and Audience Choice Award at Mokka International Film Festival, Pondicherry

**BUREAUCRAT-CUM-FILMMAKER SWETA KUMAR DASH SAYS, HE PREFERS TO HIGHLIGHT IN HIS FILMS ISSUES SUCH AS CASTE SYSTEM, MIGRANT LABOURER AND PROBLEMS OF THOSE WHO STAND IN THE LAST ROW OF SOCIETY**

RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

An Indian film getting international recognition is no mean feat. Then, what to say about someone who has so far bagged as many as 13 awards at various international film festivals? It is quite an achievement for Odia filmmaker Sweta Kumar Dash.

At a time when people avoided wearing masks, Sweta, a senior officer of Odisha Administrative Service (OAS), took it upon himself to change their mindset through films. His short film *Mask*, released in May last year, has so far won 13 prestigious awards at various film festivals across the globe while its sequel *Mask 2*, released in June this year, too has created a buzz in festival circuits. He has also bagged the Odisha State Film Award for his short film *Sani* in 2019. In a tete-a-tete with **Sunday POST**, the bureaucrat-cum-filmmaker talks about his passion and future plans. *Excerpts:*

**On the journey so far**

Hailing from Pathara village of Ganjam district, I left for Delhi after my graduation and did my MA, MPhil and PhD in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University. At present, I am posted as a Joint Secretary in SC & ST Development department, Government Odisha. This is all about my profession. Speaking about my creative journey, I started watching films from a very early age when none in my friend circle had an idea about cinema. Gradually, it became a passion and I also wanted to reach out to the viewers with my ideas

through films like other filmmakers. I am quite happy to achieve that to some extent despite my professional obligation. Apart from making *Mask* and its sequel, my short film *Sani, the son of river Mahanadi* has also won a State Film Award in the Best Short Film category in 2019. Besides, it also received several national and international awards. I was also the creative director of Hindi film *Delhi Bus*, made on the backdrop of the Nirbhaya incident.

**On favourite subjects**

I prefer making short films on social issues such as the caste system, migrant labourers and on those who stand in the last row of society. Besides, I make an effort to offer solutions to various problems of the society. Basically I make films having a clear message for society.

**On striking a balance between filmmaking and bureaucracy**

Working in government is my profession while making films is a passion for me. I am happy to strike a fine balance between the two. I use holidays and days-off to work on films as I hardly get time to explore my creativity during weekdays. As a senior officer, I often have to deal with social issues which help me in scripting my films.

**On childhood and tryst with films**

I don't remember when I started watching films. But my parents say I used to enjoy movies patiently when I was a kid. So, I always wanted to be a filmmaker. Though I couldn't make it my full time profession,

I am happy that my present profession has helped me realise my dream of becoming a filmmaker. I got into the entertainment industry because of my own interest and experience as none from my family is remotely connected with filmmaking.

**On awards and felicitations**

My sole intention behind making films is to win the hearts of the viewers through social awareness, not to win awards. However, it motivates me when my efforts are recognised by the jury at festivals.

**On challenges of filmmaking**

It is certainly a challenging task as the director has to maintain a balance between technical and non-technical teams. I also faced problems in making films during Covid times. Another challenge for me was at the beginning of my career as a director. I started making films in 2014. Before that, I used to write scripts and dialogues.

**On future projects**

Currently, I am working on two films- *The Healing Touch* and *My National Flag* - both based on social issues. Shootings of the films have been completed and they will be released ahead of Independence Day.



## A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

There is no dearth of animal lovers in Bhubaneswar but not many care for the stray animals like Triman Sehgal does. Every night, over 70 dogs and other stray animals wait for her to get their dinners. Sehgal also feeds cats, bulls, birds, squirrels and mongooses and takes care of their medical needs and what's more, she even offers them respectful burials after their death.

In a quick chat with **Sunday POST**, the prominent animal rights ac-

tivist reveals how she manages to do so many things.

**How would you describe your works with stray animals?**

My work for stray animals is much like offering to the god. I would say, it is a spiritual experience for me. It teaches me how to be more loving, compassionate and understanding. For me, the stray animals are my teachers as they teach me never to hate but love, never give up in life and to have faith and hope.

**How did it all begin?**

It started when I took up a few papers from the Philosophy department in my MSc anthropology syllabus on environmental philosophy and animal psychology and adopted

three rescued dogs in Pune as children.

**How do you manage so many animals and their expenses?**

I cook food for them - chicken, rice and fish for the cats and roti for bulls and cows. I spend nearly Rs 30,000 a month on their food. There are other expenditures also that include medicines, vaccination, buying belts and chains and utensils for People for Animals (PEA) activities. The expenses are met from the contributions of my family members and friends. This apart, we run Gurprasad Nursery, a nursery of rare plants, which also works for conservation of nature. Besides, at Gurprasad Natural Remedies, we teach Iyengar Yoga to the enthusiasts for good health and healing. The proceeds are spent for the welfare of animals.

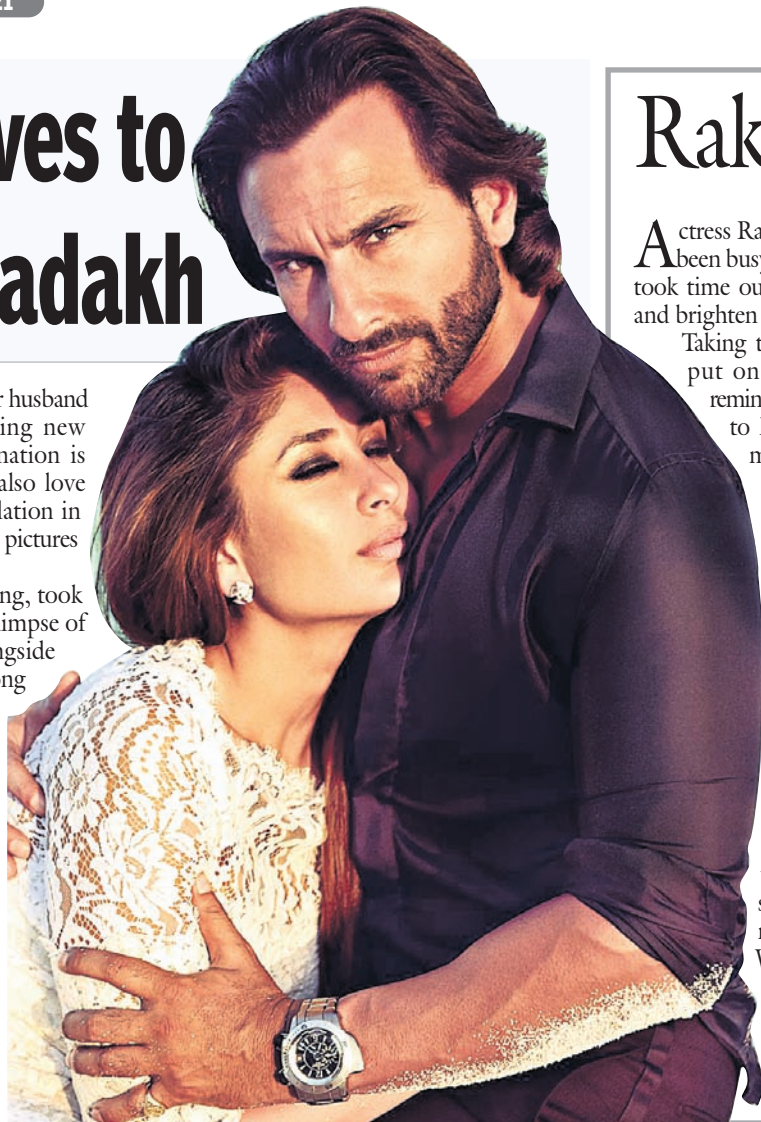
# Saifeena loves to holiday in Ladakh

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan and her husband actor Saif Ali Khan love exploring new destinations and their favourite destination is Switzerland. But did you know they also love Ladakh? Bebo recently made this revelation in her brother-in-law Kunal Kemmu's travel pictures from Ladakh.

Actor Kunal who is currently travelling, took to his Instagram handle and shared a glimpse of his trip from Mumbai to Ladakh. Alongside a reel video with Mohit Chauhan's hit song *Phir Se Ud Chala*, he wrote, "First time in the land of passes so excited to be here. It's been a dream for so many years #ladakh #leh".

To this, Kareena rushed to the comment section and wrote, "Finallllly Kunalllll...me and saifu love love love Ladak ...miss us ...". Kunal replied to the comment with a red heart emoji.

Interestingly, Ladakh seems to be a special place for Kareena and Saif who shot their first film together *Tashan* in Ladakh. The two fell in love on the film sets and the rest is history. AGENCIES



# Rakul spreading smiles

Actress Rakul Preet Singh, who has been busy with her film schedules, took time out to spread some smiles and brighten up her fans' timelines.

Taking to the Gram, the actress put on her best smile while reminding her fans and friends to laugh and live a little more.

"Laugh until your belly hurts and then just a little bit more," she wrote in her caption.

Rakul has been shooting for her next film with Ayushmann Khurrana titled *Doctor G*.

The *Junglee* Productions film that also stars Shefali Shah, will be a college drama set in the backdrop of a medical institute campus. While Ayushmann will be playing the role of Dr Uday Gupta, Rakul will be seen as Dr Fatima, a medical student.

Apart from *Doctor G*, Rakul also has *MayDay* with Ajay Devgn and Amitabh Bachchan. Rakul will play the role of a pilot in the film currently slated for an April 29, 2022 release. She will also be teaming up with Ajay for *Thank God* that will co-star Sidharth Malhotra.



AGENCIES

# Manoj anchors for TV series

Actor Manoj Bajpayee is anchoring three episodes of real-life crime drama series *Crime Patrol Satark*.

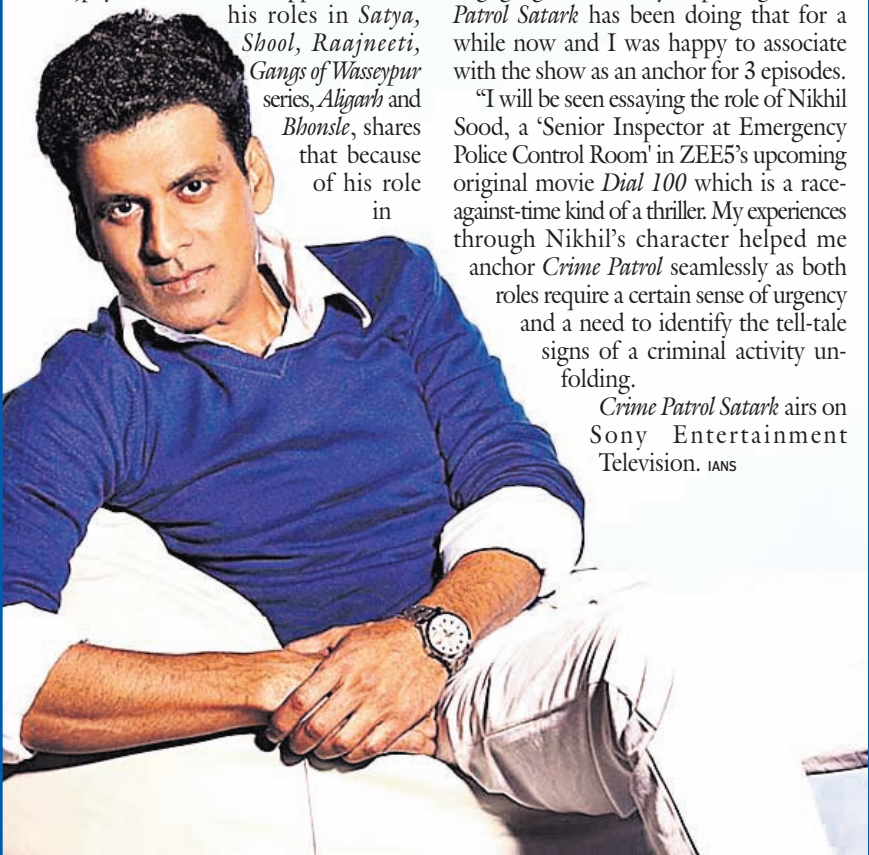
Bajpayee who has been appreciated for his roles in *Satya*, *Shool*, *Raajneeti*, *Gangs of Waseypur* series, *Aligarh* and *Bhonsle*, shares that because of his role in

*Dial 100*, he got an idea about crime and thus it helped him in doing this show.

He says: "Crime as a genre is not just engaging but also eye opening. *Crime Patrol Satark* has been doing that for a while now and I was happy to associate with the show as an anchor for 3 episodes.

"I will be seen essaying the role of Nikhil Sood, a 'Senior Inspector at Emergency Police Control Room' in ZEE5's upcoming original movie *Dial 100* which is a race-against-time kind of a thriller. My experiences through Nikhil's character helped me anchor *Crime Patrol* seamlessly as both roles require a certain sense of urgency and a need to identify the tell-tale signs of a criminal activity unfolding.

*Crime Patrol Satark* airs on Sony Entertainment Television. IANS



# Kiara on rumoured boyfriend Sidharth



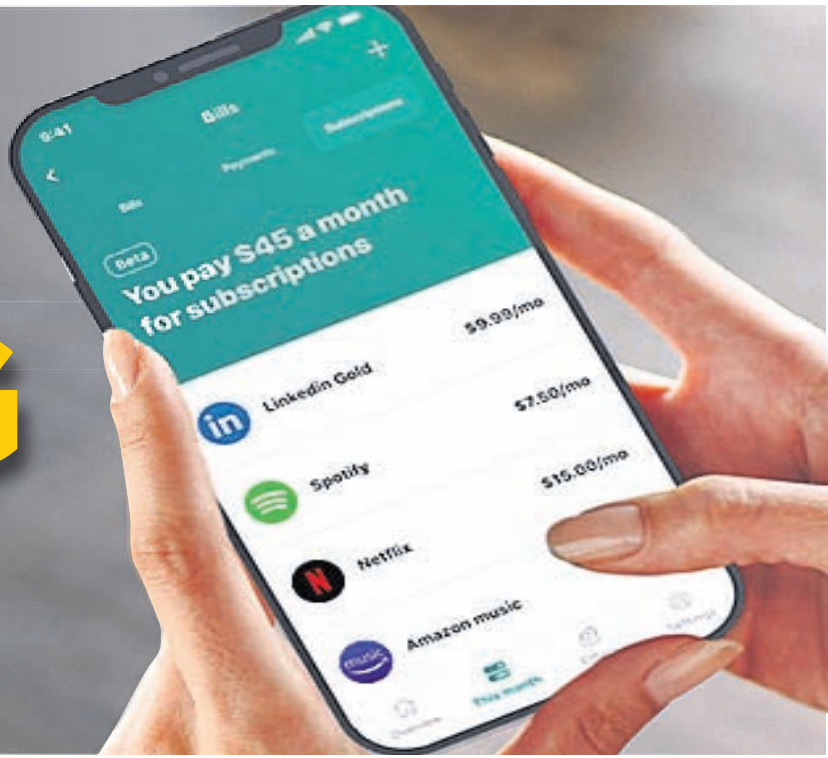
With films like *MS Dhoni*, *Kabir Singh*, *Good Newwz* amongst several others, Kiara Advani has managed to impress the audience with her choice of films. Having completed seven years in the industry, the actress feels 'excited' as an actor to be offered the kind of roles, she is being offered today.

The actress is currently gearing up for her upcoming release, *Shershaah*, which is based on the life of Param Vir Chakra awardee and army captain Vikram Batra. Kiara, who will be seen playing the role of Vikram Batra's fiancée Dimple Cheema in the film, has collaborated with her rumoured beau Sidharth Malhotra for the first time in this film. Fans of both the actors are quite excited to watch them together. Recently, in an exclusive interview, Kiara spoke about her equation with Sidharth as a co-star and a friend.

"As a co-star, Sidharth is extremely driven and focused. He loves to prep a lot and does a lot of readings. That's very similar to the way I like to work on a film. So, in that sense, we got along very well. As a friend, I'd say he is one of my closest friends in the industry. I think, even as a friend, he's full of life and always fun to be around," gushed Kiara.

AGENCIES

# Apps for TRACKING EXPENSE



Rent, utilities, equipment, furniture, inventory, licenses, insurance, marketing, staff – small businesses incur all sorts of expenses. It's essential that you keep careful track of all your spending to make sure you stay on budget, but not every business has access to the best accounting software. Fortunately, thanks to an explosion of quality money-tracking apps, it's now easier to track your expenses than ever before. We researched dozens of popular expense tracking apps to bring you our top picks for 2021.

## Expensify



Available on Android and iOS devices, Expensify is great for making expense reports on the go. A must for frequent business travelers, Expensify allows you to take photos of receipts and manually log expenses. When you take a photo of a receipt in Expensify, the app automatically reads the receipt and translates it into a logged expense. In addition, you can organise your expenses by categories, like mileage, travel and food. Best of all, Expensify is free for individuals and just \$5 a month for teams.



## SAP Concur

SAP Concur is the perfect business expense reporting app for established (and growing) small and midsize businesses. In addition to the ability to track expenses, SAP Concur has built-in workflows for employee reimbursement, submissions and approvals, invoice tracking, vendor payments, travel booking, and more. The great thing about SAP Concur is that you can build it out however you want, and it charges you accordingly (based on features and number of users). SAP Concur is also a great choice because the company offers a suite of products for small businesses, so you can add more functionality as you need it. The app is free and available on iOS and Android for existing Concur customers.

## Wally

Wally is a colourful app with lots of great expense-tracking functionality. You can use Wally on an iOS device, and the basic version of the app is free. Like in other expense-tracking apps, you can take photos of receipts directly in Wally or enter expenses by hand and categorise them accordingly. Wally also tracks your income for you and offers you projected savings for each month. With its focus on personal rather than business finance, Wally is a good fit for people who run microbusinesses or side hustles.



## FreshBooks

FreshBooks is a comprehensive cloud-based accounting program that starts at \$7.50 a month for a single user and five clients. However, if you own a small business, we recommend the \$25-monthly plan. This plan allows an unlimited number of clients and an extra staff member, and it offers several useful project management tools. You can access FreshBooks on any iOS or Android device as well as your laptop, making it a good option for entrepreneurs who want a fully functional accounting package that also has mobile expense-tracking abilities.



## Mint

Mint is one of the best expense tracker apps known for personal finance tools – and a great option for microbusinesses or side hustles. Mint is free, supports a wide range of banks and lenders, and helps in expense tracking, bills and credit monitoring, and budgeting. It's available on iOS and Android.

# Goldy



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