**KEY PLAYER** 

**VOLUME 11, ISSUE 129 | www.orissapost.com** 

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

LEISURE



#### **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



#### 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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**BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 | 2021** 

IT FEELS UNBELIEVABLE. IT IS THE FIRST MAN WITH THE TIME INDIA HAS WON A GOLD IN ATHLETICS, SO I FEEL VERY GOOD. WE HAVE Cement **JUST ONE GOLD HERE IN OTHER SPORTS** The Leaders' Choice **NEERAJ CHOPRA** GOLDEN 1800 266 266 1 (toll free)



## 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, Basudevpur, Talapada, Chandipur, Chandaneswar

and Digha. The Works department has informed the NHAI about its consent to the above alignment of the project

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

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

#### Manager (Technical) of underpasses and two flyovers, sources said. NHAI Ram Prasad Panda

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 #Cpvod-19." the minister tweeted.

"The US-based pharmaceutical company had applied for Emergency Use Authorisation for its jab 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 jab in healthy Indian adults.  $\rightarrow$ 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.

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

ARM

87.58 mtr

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

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, out-performing 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

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, betters 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 Vadleich (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

But few would have thought that he would bludgeon his way to gold in such a dominant fashion at the grand-

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

medallist at world championships rose to

the occasion with a comfortable win.



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

WEATH	1ER		
	BHUB	СТК	
MAX	33.9℃	33.6°	
Ë MIN	25.6℃	26.2°	Forecast
Humidity	85%	79%	Generally
Rainfall	2.6mm	Nil	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 cellbased technology by retrofitting on the Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) in 89 km Sonipat-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 greenet mode of transport as hydrogen can be generated by electrolysing 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 suc-

cessful 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-yearold 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**

GaneshaSpeaks,com

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. Ganesha encourages

#### **TAURUS**

Ganesha 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 ac accordingly. Ganesha 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 Ganesha, 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.

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 contended at the end of the day.

#### LIBRA

dictable 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 Ganesha. You may spend a lot of your time brainstorming at tal 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 Ganesha, as in your revelry, you may just unknowingly end up shelling an extra buck or two or ordinary items.

#### CAPRICORN

Your intuition will get the better of you today, bagging you respect and recognition, savs Ganesha. 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 Ganesha. One will think twice before challenging you today. Greed is not a word in your dictionary, and today,

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 Ganesha. 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

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



### Ayushmann's special connection with Prayagraj

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

Mumbai: Actor Ayushmann 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,"

### plays six characters in *Cartel*

Mumbai: Actress Divya Agarwal, who is best known for Splitsvilla 10 and was also seen in Ragini MMS: Returns, will play a promi-

nent 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 interest-

ing twists and turns in the She goes in detail about portraying multiple characters:

"I play six characters with

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.'



# **TOP 5 GAME CHANGERS OF OTT**

forms came as **O**a blessing when the Covid-19 pandemic took over the world in 2020, bringing everything to a standstill. The everexpanding 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**

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

FUN

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

Richa Chadha

#### Ali Fazal

**CROSSWORD** 

Fazal's tryst with web-stardom came in 2018 with his performance as the hotheaded 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.

#### The actress is thank-

Richa Chadha

ful 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.

SUDOKU

1

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR

8

4

6 5

#### **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. AGENCIES

9

4

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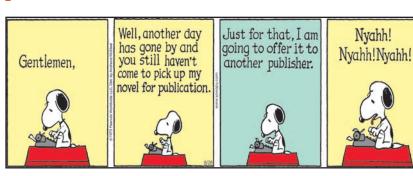
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

3

#### **PEANUTS**



#### CALVIN AND HOBBES



#### BREVITY



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23 Moon of

Neptune

24 Improvises

(2-4)

#### Across

- 7 Nook 8 Director's cry
- 9 Struggle

10 Casket

- 11 Smart aleck
- (4,3)
- 13 Wish granter
- 17 Po Valley city 20 Thames town

21 Armchair

- 15 Flabbergast

**Down** 

- 1 Nile queen, informally
- 2 Morning eye-
- opener

4 Pub game

- 3 Whist cousin
- 6 Unconventional person 12 Juvenile

equilibrium

5 Maintaining

- 14 Hide under the
- 16 Highest point
- 18 Bobolink 19 Pickling liquid
- 22 River to the North Sea

### 9 8 2 3 6 6 3 7 9 1

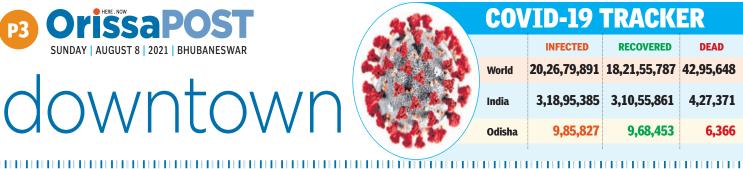
SAUCE SWEAR

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



	TD-TA	IKACI	
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
Vorld	20,26,79,891	18,21,55,787	42,95,648
ndia	3.18.95.385	3.10.55.861	4.27.371

1,27,371

# **HC** denounces practice of changing lawyers sans NOC

New Delhi, August 7: The Orissa High Court has strongly deprecated the practice of changing the lawyers without prior intimation to the previous advocate and made it mandatory to file a no objection certificate (NOC) along with the Vakalatnama in case a litigant is seeking to change the lawyer.

Objection Certificate'. The procedures and rules have sanctity and they should not be violated by the advocates and the staff either in collusion or individually," Justice Panigrahi said.

The High Court strongly deplored and discouraged the tendency of advocates filing Vakalatnamas in the midst of the proceedings without the earlier advocate being discharged Justice Panigrahi held

Significantly, the matter came to the fore after a chaotic situation prevailed during the hearing of a case when two lawyers appeared for a party-M/s S Rout and Associates. The present advocate of M/s S Rout and Associates submitted to the court that since the matter was from the jail petition, he had no occasion to get the "no objection cer-

### **Eviction drive for** heritage corridor resumes in Puri

Around 95% of the private as well as govt structures coming under 75-metre radius of Srimandir have been razed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, August 7: The district administration Saturday resumed eviction drive within 75metre radius of Srimandir to facilitate the construction of heritage-cum-security corridor around the 12th century shrine.

The eviction drive had come to a halt temporarily due to Covid-induced lockdowns and shutdowns in state.

'The eviction drive had been slowed down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The administration today resumed the drive at Baseli Sahi revenue village. Three private buildings in front of the West Gate of Srimandir were razed during the drive," said Puri Sub-Collector

The Sub-Collector revealed that around 95 per cent of the private as well as government structures coming under 75-metre radius of Srimandir have been razed for the heritage corridor work. 'Only 5 per cent of the structures are still there inside the demarcated area. Some private individuals have approached the High Court on various issues," Sahu said.

The Sub-Collector thanked the locals for their cooperation and support to the administration for the heritage corridor project.

### Cash reward for 6 weavers' societies

BHUBANESWAR: The Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department Saturday celebrated the National Handloom Day at Boyan Bhawan here. Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Padmini Dian inaugurated the event in the presence of department commissioner-cumsecretary Shubha Sarma and Boyanika Managing Director Jyoti Praksh Das. A quality dyeing manual and packaging materials were unveiled for Boyanika. Three primary weavers' cooperative societies received cash prize of ₹1 lakh each for completing 75 years' of service. They are: Pipli Thana Weavers Cooperative Society (WCS). Balanga in Puri, and Aska WCS and Kakatpur Thana WCS, Bajapur in Ganjam. Similarly, Maa WCS of Sagarpalli in Subarnapur was given cash prize of ₹3 lakh for achieving highest sales turnover in the last three years. Parameswari WCS of Pipilikani in Subarnapur received the second prize of ₹2 lakh while Barapali Kosta WCS of Bargarh got the third prize of ₹1 lakh in this category.

#### RULES SACROSANCT

- > The HC deplored and discouraged the tendency of advocates filing Vakalatnamas in the midst of the proceedings without the earlier advocate being
- The matter came to the fore after a chaotic situation prevailed during the hearing of a case when two lawyers appeared for a party - M/s S Rout and Associates
- The advocate of M/s S Rout and Associates submitted to the HC that since the matter was from the jail petition, he had no occasion to get the NOC from the previous advocate

A bench of Justice SK Panigrahi held that the procedures and rules have sanctity and they should not be violated by the advocates and staffers.

"The Registry officials must take adequate measures to ensure that in case the engaged counsel in a particular case is sought to be changed, the latest Vakalatnama must be accompanied with a 'No or the requisite 'NOC' being obtained from him.

"Most of the advocates do follow the practice of intimating the previous advocates or obtaining 'NOC' in case of change of advocate as desired by the litigant. However, I am constrained to express my strong displeasure over some of the cases where deviation brings forth an unhealthy trend,"

"The Registry should not have accepted the Vakalatnama without 'NOC' from the previous advocate or without the letter of consent from the concerned petitioner. It is very often seen that without obtaining the consent from the previous advocate, another advocate files Vakalatnama which marks a

disturbing trend," the bench said.

tificate" from the previous advocate.



Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Minister Padmini Dian flanked by departmental secretary Shubha Sarma and Boyanika Managing Director Jyoti Prakash Das felicitates Maa Weavers Cooperative Society of Subarnapur at the statelevel National Handloom Day celebration at Boyan Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

# Narcotics trade routes mapped: NCB chief

India remains in a precarious position in terms of drug smuggling and abuse. Drug trafficking through Bay of Bengal has emerged as a challenge lately. In such crucial time,

Satyanarayan Pradhan, an Odia grown up in the streets of Sahid Nagar in Bhubaneswar, is currently heading two vital institutions of the country – the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Kuldeep Singh of Orissa POST interacts with Pradhan, a 1988-batch IPS officer of *Iharkhand cadre, who* elaborates on how the NCB has mapped the trade routes of narcotics and it's in an advanced stage of profiling the states where contrabands

Recently, you have been given additional charge of NCB. What will be your roadmap to curb drug peddling?

are being traded. Excerpts...

This posting is temporary. I do not know for how long I will be in charge. The fact is that India is a user, source and transit country for drugs. We also have a huge land and sea border surrounded by source countries of narcotics. It is difficult to regulate the

source points unless we know where it is. Then you know about the drug cartels. NCB fights the drug menace but it is not the only agency. We have to work in tandem with state police, intelligence agencies, international agencies and anti narcotics agencies in foreign countries. It's a tough challenge but NCB is prepared

- Often, the NCB is considered not logistically equipped enough to stop the drug smuggling. What's vour take?
- Every organisation is a 'work in progress'. We are restructuring the NCB. The government is fully committed to expanding the agency and making it more robust given the present and future chal-

Lack of manpower and poor infrastructure are some of the major obstacles affecting NCB's efficacy. How will this? The expansion drive is

planned not only for manpower but also for infrastructure, for new offices, regional offices, state-of-the-art technology,





and mobility. There is already an internal assessment that we have to expand and reorient ourselves, and also update our technology. It is already in progress.

- Odisha, your home state, is widely known for cannabis trade. Brown sugar peddlers are active in the state and targeting students. What is NCB's study about Odisha?
- We have profiled all the states, not only Odisha. We have strategies and roadmaps for each of them looking at what exactly is happening inside the states.

■ Bay of Bengal is considered as a major transit route of narcotics. Has NCB done any study on

When we profile a state, we look for the kind of drugs being transported, the elements transporting the

its usage, the suspect organisations, funding source, and whether it has links with naxal and terrorist groups. The routes are mapped. We know exactly what is happening.

- NCB, Bhubaneswar has not made any major seizure of narcotics in the state while the STF of Crime Branch had seized 35 kg brown sugar in 2020.
- I think that is a misconception. The NCB regional offices of Bhubaneswar, Gaya and Patna are helping the zonal offices at Kolkata in unearthing big networks which are pan India. If the office is in Bhubaneswar that does not necessarily mean that it will only handle seizures in Bhubaneswar. Unlike the state police, this is a pan-India team working across the country.
- Odisha has achieved a remarkable feat by reducing casualties during cyclones. But the state suffers a lot in terms of damage to infrastructure, incurring huge economic losses. Do you have any strategy to prevent this?
- I think we have done reasonably well in saving lives. Now, we need to work on protecting infrastructure, public properties and poor housing colonies. Odisha has already shared a proposal with the Union government about resilient infrastructure, designed to survive the cyclone. The Prime Minister has initiated the Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) which is recognised worldwide. Many countries like Japan are way ahead on that. Bangladesh has been making flood-resistant houses. The central ministries are working on establishing disaster-resilient infrastructure in the state.

**CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA** 

REGIONAL OFFICE: 108 - B, Unit-VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003, Ph. No.: 0674-2397551, 2397584

NOTICE

This is for the information to the General Public that following borrowers have availed loan facility from our Concerned Branches against the mortgaged property whose details are given below.

property consisting of Mouza:

others and North: Aintha Jena

property consisting of Mouza:

property consisting of Mouza:

Sibananda property consisting of Mouza:

North: Sub Plot No.: 1

Mohapatra

Mahatapalla, P.O.: Bajpur, Ac.0.095 dec., standing in the name of Sri

P.S./Dist.: Khurda-752055 Subash Chandra Senapati, Bounded by

Ananda Senapati, At: Area: Ac.0.095 dec., standing in the name Mahatapalla, P.O.: Bajpur, of Sri Subash Chandra Senapati

and North: Road

Schedule B property, South: Public Road and North: Anabadi

Panda Pujapanda, S/o.: Sri Nakhaura Patna, P.S.: Dhauli, Tahasil

Traders (Prop.: Sri Lingaraj Pujapanda, Plot Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No. Sibananda Pujapanda), No.: 1642, Sundara Sahi, 80/338, Plot No.: 149/492, Sub Plot No. S/o.: Sri Lingaraj P.O.: Sisupalgarh, P.S.: 1/2, Area: Ac.0.023 Dec., standing in the

Bhubaneswar-

Durga Prasad, P.S./Tahasil/Dist.

Nayagarh, Khata No.: 279/530, Plot No.

794, Area: Ac.0.08 Dec., standing in the

name of Smt. Puspalata Jena, Bounder

by East: Puspalata Jena, West: Satya

Narayan Pradhan, South: Aintha Jena

All that part & parcel of the 17.03.2020

Khamarsahi, P.S./Tahasil/Dist.: Nayagarh

Khata No.: 265/193, Plot No.: 431/936 Area: Ac.0.15 Dec., standing in the name

of Sri Debashish Pradhan, Bounded by

East: Bhobani Dhal, West: Uchhab Beher

& others, South: Road and North

All that part & parcel of the 18.03.2020

Nakhaura Patna, P.S.: Dhauli, Tahasil

Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 80

338, Plot No.: 149/492, Sub Plot No.: 1

Area: Ac.0.023 Dec., standing in the name

of Sri Ajay Kumar Patra, Bounded by East

Plot No.:178, West: Road, South: Part Plot

All that part & parcel of the 18.03.2020

name of Sri Sibananda Pujapanda.

Bounded by East: Road, West: Plot No.

146 & 148, South: Sub Plot No.: 2 and

All that part & parcel of the 19.09.2019

127. Area: Ac. 0.701dec., standing in the

name of Sri Krushna Chandra Kamala,

West: Arakhit Muduli, South: Sadhab Mishra, North: Sudhansu Mohan Mishra

All that part & parcel of the 19.09.2019

property consisting of Mouza: Kumbhilo P.S.: Khurda, Tahasil: Khurda, Dist.

Khurda, Khata No.: 798, Plot No.: 1225

Area: Ac.0.145dec., standing in the name of Smt.Sasmita Kamala, Bounded by

East: Village Road, West: Nala, South Chintamani Mohapatra, North: Somanatr

All that part & parcel of the 03.03.2021

property consisting of Mouza: Kadalibadi, P.S./Tahasil/Dist.: Khurda

Area: Ac.0.176 dec., standing in the name

of Sri Alok Kumar Mandhata & Sri

East: Plot of Rajanikanta Mandhata, West

All that part & parcel of the 03.03.2021

All that part & parcel of the 03.03.2021

All that part & parcel of the 03.03.2021

Khurda, Khata No.: 358/18, Plot No. 256/864, Area.: Ac.0.108 Dec., standing

in the name of Smt. Basanti

Bairiganjan, Bounded by East: Vendo

West: Narasinghadev, South: Vendo

property consisting o

At- Khata No.: 410, Plot No.: 1605, Area.

No.: 149 and North: Part Plot No.: 149

BRANCH/ Name and Address of Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagors Name & Address of the Address of the Property Borrowers

S/o.: Sri Kanhu Charan & others, South:
adhan. Vill.: Damodar Pattanaik

Sri Ajay Kumar Patra

Sisupalgarh, P.S.: Dhauli

All that part & parcel of the 17.03.2020 NAYAGARH BRANCH/ Guarantor/Mortgagor: property consisting of Mouza: Durga Prasad, P.S/Tahasil/Dist. Sri Gadadhar Jena, S/Smt. Puspalata Jena, : Sri Chhatia Jena, At: W/o.: Sri Gadadhar Jena, Durga Prasad (Near At: Durga Prasad (Near Nayagarh, Khata No.: 279/530, Plo Petrol Pump), P.O./Dist.: Petrol Pump), P.O./Dist.: No.: 794, Area: Ac.0.08 Dec., standing Nayagarh, PIN-752069 Nayagarh, PIN - 752069 in the name of Smt. Puspalata Jena Bounded by East: Puspalata Jena, West: Satya Narayan Pradhan, South: Aintha Jena 8 others and North: Aintha Jena . All that part & parcel of the 17.03.2020 NAYAGARH BRANCH/ Borrower/Mortgagor:

1.Smt.Puspalata Jena, Smt. Puspalata Jena W/o.: Sri Gadadhar Jena, **2. Sri Gadadhar** Guarantor: Sri Debashish Pradhan C/o.: Sri Gadadhar Jena. Jena, Both are At: Durga At: Durga Prasad (Near Prasad (Near Petrol Petrol Pump), P.O./Dist. Nayagarh, PIN - 752069 Nayagarh, PIN - 752069 Borrower/Mortgagor:

NAYAGARH BRANCH/ Sri Debashish Pradhan M/s. Raja Rani Sri Deba Restaurant & Beer Address: Parlour (Prop: Sri i) C/o.: Sri Gadadhar Jena, At: Durga Prasad (Near Petrol Pump), P.O./Dist.: Nayagarh,PIN - 752069, Debashish Pradhan), At: Plot No.: 431/936 Mayanka Palli, P.O. Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN 752069 Pradhan.

Gandapada, P.O./P.S.: Kanas, Dist.: Puri / Guarantor: Sri Gadadhar Jena, S/o.: Sri Chhatia Jena, At: Durga Prasad (Near Petrol Pump), P.O./Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN - 752069 CUTTACK PURI ROAD Guarantor/Mortgagor:

M/s. Puja

M/s. Panda Traders S/o.: Sri Sudarsan Patra, (Prop.: Sri Sachidananda At: Patra Sahi, P.O.: Pujapanda), S/o.: Sri ingaraj Pujapanda, At: Dist.: Khurda Plot No.: 1642, Sundara Sahi, P.O.: Sisupalgarh, P.S.: Dhauli, Bhubaneswar-751002, Dist.: Khurda CUTTACK PURI ROAD Borrower/Mortgagor:

Bhabataran Sahu.

"The administration will soon start the renovation of mutts located near Srimandir. Thereafter, steps will be taken to execute the heritage corridor work," Sahu added.

KHURDA BRANCH/ Borrower/Mortgagor: Sri Krushna Chandra Sri Krushna Chandra property consisting of Mouza: Kamala, S/o-Sri Madan Kamala, S/o- Sri Madan Hoseinpur, P.S.: Khurda, Tahasil: Khurda Mohan Kamala, At: Champapur, P.O.: Mohan Kamala, At: Champapur, P.O.: Champapur, Champapur, Khurda-Gadaniala, Khurda-Gadaniala, 752055 752055 / Guarantor: Sri Bounded by East: Radhamohan Mishra Rama Chandra Kamala, S/o-Sri Madan Mohan Kamala, At: Champapur, P.O.: Gadaniala, Khurda-752055

Pujapanda, At: Plot No.: Dhauli, Bhubanesw 1642, Sundara Sahi, 751002, Dist.: Khurda

P.O.: Sisupalgarh, P.S.: Dhauli, Bhubaneswar-

KHURDA BRANCH / Borrower/Mortgagor: Smt. Sasmita Kamala, Smt.Sasmita Kamala W/o- Sri Krushna Chandra W/o- Sri Krushna Chandra Kamala, At: Champapur, Kamala, At: Champapur, P.O.: Gadaniala, Khurda P.O.: Gadaniala, Khurda-752055

751002, Dist.: Khurda

Guarantor: Sri Madan Mohan Kamala, At Champapur, P.O.: Gadaniala, Khurda-752055

KHURDA BRANCH/ Borrowers/Mortgagors: 1) Sri Alok Kumar Mandhata, 2) Sri Mandhata, 2) Sri Pradipta Mandhata, 2) Sri Mandhata, 2) Sri Pradipta Kadalibadi, P.S./Tahasil/Dist.: Khurda Pradipta Kumar Mandhata, Both Khata No.: 260/75, Plot No.: 254/814 are S/o.: Sri Srinibas Mandhata, At: Kadalibadi, Mandhata, Both are S/o: Sri Srinibas Mandhata, P.O.: Daleiput, Dist.: Pradipta Kumar Mandhata, Bounded by At: Kadalibadi, P.O. Khurda - 752056 Daleiput, Dist.: Khurda Plot of Rakesh Mandhata, South: Govt. Land and North: Village Road 752056 Guarantor/Mortgagor:

KHURDA BRANCH/ Sri Subash Chandra property consisting of Mouza: Senapati, S/o.: Late Mahatapalla, P.S./ Tahasil/Dist.: Khurda Smt. Pratima Sarangi, W/o.: Sri Durga Prasad Sarangi, At: Rairang, P.O.: Bajpur, P.S./Dist. Khurda -752060 East: Vendee, West: Sanatan Jena, South: Public Road and North: Anabadi

10. KHURDA BRANCH/ M/s. Maa Chandi Sri Subash Chandra Property consisting of Mouza: 03.03.2021

Suppliers, Prop.: Durga Senapati, S/o.: Late Ananda Senapati, At: Area: Ac 0.095 dec. standing in the name Prasad Sarangi, S/o.: Sri Naba Kishore Naba Sarangi, At: Rairang, P.S./Dist.: Khurda-752055 Bounded by East: Upendra Barik, West P.O.: Baipur, P.S./Dist. Khurda, PIN-752060

11. KHURDA BRANCH/ Bairiganjan, W/o.: Sri W/o.: Sri Naba Kishore Mouza: Gokulpur, P.S./Tahasil/Dist. Naba Kishore Bairiganjan, Bairiganjan, At: Durgapur.

2) Sri Naba Kishore Post-Gadagudum, Dist. Bairiganjan, At: Durgapur,

Bairiganjan, S/o.: Sri Khurda, PIN - 752056 Hata Bairiganjan, 3) Sri Santosh Kumar Bairiganjan, S/o.: Sri Naba Kishore Bairiganjan, All are At: Durgapur, P.O.: Gadagudum, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752056 COLLEGE SQUARE Borrowers/Mortgagors:

Kumar Behera, Both are S/o.: Sri Sudarsan Behera, Plot No.: 75/ 3097, Lane-3, Chahata Nagar, P.O.: Tulasipur, P.S.: Bidanasi, Dist. Cuttack

Sri Prasanta Kumar

Sudarsan Behera, Plot

No.: 75/3097, Lane-3,

Chahata Nagar, P.O.

Tulasipur, P.S.: Bidanasi, Dist.: Cuttack

o: Sri Laxmidhar Nayak

Dhenkanal-759001

BRANCH/

Borrowers/Mortgagors:
All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza:

03.03.2021

Behera, 2)Sri Prasanta Kumar Behera, Both are S/o.: Sri Sudarsan Behera, At: Plot No.: 75/3097 Lane-3, Chahata Nagar.

Ananda Senapati,

Guarantor/Mortgagor:

Borrower/Mortgagor:

Smt. Basanti Ba

1)Sri Pratap Chandra Behera, 2) Sri Prasanta Unit No.: 6, Uttara Deula Sahi, P.S. No.: 111/603, Plot No.: 75/3097, Area: Ac.0.012Dec., standing in the name o Sri Pratap Chandra Behera & Sri B P.O.: Tulasipur, P.S.: Prasanta Kumar Behera, Bounded by Bidanasi, Dist.: Cuttack/ East: Road, West: Niranjan Behera Guarantors: 1) Smt. South: Plot No.:75 and North: Rama Jharana Pallai, W/o.: Sri Chandra Behera Pratap Chandra Behera, 2) Smt. Laxmipriya Behera, W/o.: Sri Prasanta Kumar Behera

All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza 13. COLLEGE SQUARE Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagors: 1) Sri Pratap Chandra : Cuttack Town Unit No.: 6, Uttara Deule Behera, 2) Sri Prasanta Sahi, P.S.: Bidanasi No.: 4, Tahasil Kumar Behera, Both are S/o: Sri Sudarsan Behera, Plot No.: 75/3097, Lane-

Cuttack Town Unit No.: 6, Uttara Deula Cuttack Sadar No.: 207, Dist.: Cuttack Mutation Khata No.: 111/603, Plot No. 75/3097, Area: Ac.0.012Dec. 2 links 3, Chahata Nagar, P.O. standing in the name of Sri Pratap Tulasipur, P.S.: Bidanasi, Dist.: Cuttack Chandra Behera & Sri Prasanta Kumai Behera, Bounded by East: Easemile

Road, West: Rest Portion of Plot No.: 75/2980, South: Rest Portion of Mula Plot No.: 75 and North: Rest Portion Plot No.: 75/2980 All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: 03.03.2021 14. COLLEGE SQUARE Guarantor: Smt. Manini Nayak, W/o 1) Sulochana Nayak,

Sri Laxmidhar Nayak Sri Laxmidhar Nayak S/o: Sri Bhikari Nayak S/o- Sri Bhikari Nayak Both are At: Thoriasahi Both are At: Thoriasahi : Buxibazar, P.S. galabag, Dist. P.O.: Buxibazar, P.S. Mangalabag, Dist. Mangalabag, Di Cuttack, PIN-753001 Mangalabag, D Cuttack, PIN-753001 COLLEGE SQUARE Guarantors: 1) Sri Pratap Chandra Das, C/o: Sri Hari Narayan

Mortgagor:

1) Sri Pravat Kumar Das, S/o: Sri Pratap Chandra Das, C/o: Sri Das, C/o: Sri Hari Narayan Sahoo, Both are At: Bamphi Sahi, P.O.: Hari Narayan Sahoo, 2) Smt. Sanjukta Das, W/ o: Sri Pratap Chandra C/o: Sri Hari

16 DHENKANAL BRANCH/ Borrower/Mortgagor : M/s. Sanket Techno Sri Pradip Kumar Dhal Syndicate, Prop.: Sri Guarantor: Pradip Kumar Dhal, S/o: Smt. Manorama Dhal, Sri Padma Charan Dhal, At: Amalapada (Near At: Amalapada (Near Dhenkanal Bus Stand), Dhenkanal Bus Stand),

Dhenkanal-759001

Cuttack Sadar, Unit- 11, Odia Bazar, P.S. Cantonment, Thana No.: 4, Tahasil Cuttack Sadar, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No. 124/16, Plot No.: 1068/1517, Area Ac.0.019Dec., standing in the name of Sri Laxmidhar Nayak, Bounded by East: Road, West: Pond, South: Md.Rafiq and North: Jalir Khan All that part & parcel of the 03.03.202

property consisting of Mouza: Sartol, P.S.: Cuttack Sadar, Tahasil: Cuttac Sahoo, 2) Poonam Shree Sadar, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No.:199/159 Plot No.: 130/1176, Area: Ac.0.020Dec standing in the name of Smt. Sanjukta Das, Bounded by East: Kanchanbala

Telenga Bazar, Dist.: Mohanty, West: Shivani Bhoumik, South Cuttack, PIN-753009 / Road and North: Plot No.: 91 Narayan Sahoo, Both Mortgagor: Smt. Sanjukta Das, W/o: Sri Pratap Chandra Das are At: Bamphi Sahi, P.O.: Telenga Bazar, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-753009 All that part & parcel of the 03.07.2018

property consisting of Mouza: Banamali Prasad, Dhenkanal Sadar, Dist.: Dhenkana Khata No.: 535/1120, Plot No.: 2082 2144/4140, Area: Ac.0.240 dec. standing in the name of **Sri Pradip Kuma Dhal**, Bounded by East: Residence o

Saroj Sahoo, West: Plot No.: 2082(P), North: NH- 55 and South: Bipin Bihari Mishra. The above said properties are under possession of the Bank. If anybody going for any transaction dealing with the said properties, the Bank will not be held responsible

Date: 07.08.2021 Sd/- Asst. General Manager

# **ECMO treatment at SCB from Aug 15**

STAFFERS TO OPERATE ECMO MACHINES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AND THE FIRST BATCH OF RECRUITS HAS ALREADY BEEN TRAINED IN KOLKATA, SAYS DMET CHIEF



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: The muchneeded Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) treatment for critically-ill Covid-19 patients is going to start at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack from August 15.

CBK Mohanty, Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET), said Saturday that nine ECMO machines have been installed at SCB and preparations are almost complete for starting the facility at the hospital after the second week of this month.

Recruitment process for manpower to operate these machines has been completed and the first batch of recruits has already been trained in Kolkata, he said.

The nine ECMO machines have been installed in two units. One of the units comprises six ma-

Recently, the facility was inaugurated at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, making SCBMCH the second hospital with the machines

chines and the other has three, Mohanty informed.

While three ECMO machines of the second unit will be used for the treatment of Covid positive patients, the other six will be used for the patients with post-Covid complications, he further clarified.

It was seen that many patients needed the ECMO treatment after recovering from the Covid. So, the bigger unit will be kept for treatment of such patients, he added.

The machine is used when all other medical options have been ex-

## Khurda logs 27 fresh Covid fatalities

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 7: Odisha Saturday reported 1,096 new Covid-19 infections, pushing the tally to 9,85,827, while the toll climbed to 6,366 with 64 more fatalities, a health department official said.

Of the new cases, 637 were recorded in quarantine centres, and the rest 459 were detected during contact tracing, the official added.

Khurda district, of which capital city Bhubaneswar is a part, registered 389 cases followed by Cuttack at 92 and Balasore at 77. Boudh and Nabarangpur districts did not report any new case.

Khurda logged 27 fresh deaths, followed by Cuttack at 17. Four fatalities each were recorded in Balasore and Keonjhar, three in Mayurbhanj, and one each in

hausted for patients whose lungs can't provide enough oxygen to their body. It can also be used for patients whose heart can't pump enough blood to the body, and for those waiting for a heart or lung transplant.

Due to unavailability of the re-

Angul, Bhadrak, Boudh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Kendrapara, Nayagarh and Puri.

According to the health department, the list of fatalities does not reflect deaths that have occurred on a particular day. It gives details of past deaths for which the audit process has been duly completed and the cause has been identified as Covid-19.

As many as 9,66,928 people, including 1,558 Friday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease. The coastal state currently has 12,480 active cases.

The positivity rate stands at 5.97 while the test positivity rate (TPR) at 1.64 per cent. Over 1.64 crore sample tests have been conducted so far, including 66,770 Friday.

The state has thus far inoculated as many as 1,76,70,656 people with Covid vaccines, of which, 41,10,214 have received both the doses.

quired number of ECMO care facilities, many patients in Odisha had to be airlifted to bigger cities like Kolkata and Chennai for the treatment. Recently, the facility was inaugurated at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, making SCBMCH the second hospital with the machines

#### **SEVENTH NLUO CONVOCATION**



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar confers degree on a student at the seventh convocation of National Law University, Odisha, in Cuttack, Saturday

### Six transgenders held for attacking havildar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: The Commissionerate police arrested six transgenders for attacking a police havildar at Barmunda area late Friday night.

The accused persons were identified as Rini Behera alias Raju (19) of Angul, Salini Das alias Sagar (21) of Berhampur, Lopa Sethy alias Papun (19) of

Digapahandi, Dipali Nayak alias Tofan of Belaguntha, Suni Jena of Kodala in Ganjam and Rahana Mallick alias Sujit of Kandhamal. They reside at various slums in the city.

According to sources, the victim, Dinesh Kumar Biswala of Bharatpur police station, was on his way to his workplace when he spotted the six accused snatching purse and other belongings from a youth

at an isolated place near Barmunda bus stand. He immediately tried to rescue the youth and thus, earned their wrath for interfering in the matter. He sustained severe injuries in the attack.

Bharatpur police reached the spot and arrested the accused on the basis of the complaint lodged by the victim cop. They were sent to judicial custody by a local court Saturday.

# Smart cards soon for BKKY beneficiaries

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: The Health department Friday issued official circular for its plan of launching new Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BKKY) Smart Health Cards starting August 15.

Under the plan, the government has decided to provide smart cards to all 92.5 lakh beneficiaries of the State Food Security scheme and the National Food Security Scheme in a phased manner.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is slated to launch the programme for selected districts like Malkangiri, Sundargarh, Gajapati, Bolangir and Mayurbhanj to be covered in the initial phases while rest will be covered in the next few months.

The department has planned to bring in new facilities under the new norms for the scheme which will come into effect from September 1, 2021. As per the new norms, smart cards will be given to all the beneficiaries of NFSA/SFSA. Till the cards are distributed, the beneficiaries of NFSA/SFSA can use their food security scheme cards to avail the benefits from September 1, 2021. Additionally, the department also has planned to add 20,80,328 beneficiaries.

# Violence in slums up as 'police measures fail'

SOME YOUTHS ARMED WITH IRON RODS, HOCKEY STICKS, SHARP-EDGED WEAPONS WENT BERSERK AT MUNDA SAHI IN PALASUNI FRIDAY LEAVING SIX INJURED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: Slums in Capital city seem to have turned fertile grounds of criminal activities even as the police have failed to control the degrading law and order situation there. Often, youths in these slums are found to have involved in various serious criminal activities.

Friday night some 30-40 youths

Friday night, some 30-40 youths laced with iron rods, hockey sticks, sharp-edged weapons went berserk at Munda Sahi in Palasuni area leaving six people injured. Sources claimed that some youths at the slum were playing carom when a member of the opposite group drove past on his bike at an unreasonably higher speed Thursday. Soon, a small fight erupted at the spot when the youths playing carom opposed rash driving in the slum.

Although the issue was amicably settled with the intervention of the elders Thursday, the youth driving the motorcycle Friday came with his friends and started attacking residents of the slum in the night. They ransacked various vehicles and other properties at the slum.



The whole incident was captured in the CCTVs installed at the place. On being informed, police reached the spot but till then the accused had left the spot. Subsequently, police arrested 21 persons including four minors and a local hotel owner on the basis of written complaints and evidence collected from CCTV footages.

Meanwhile, experts and locals hinted at failure of the Commissionerate Police to control illegal activities in slums. The police have taken many steps to rein in illegal activities in the slums and Young juveniles against par-

during the past couple of years.

However, all these steps have failed to yield any positive results. Various programmes launched by the incumbent commissioners and DCPs in this regard are proved to be media gimmicks.

During the tenure of former Commissioner of Police, Satyajit Mohanty, the twin city police launched 'APOSSA YOJANA' (Allround promotion of sports in slums and Young juveniles against narcotics abuse) in 2019 to wean slum youths away from the menace of drugs and bad habits through promotion of sports. The scheme remains only on pop and paper.

mains only on pen and paper.
Similarly, 'Basti Ku Chala' movement launched by the city police to amplify its presence in the slums through regular visits by local cops has also become a damp squib.

# State recollects Neeraj's training in Capital city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 7: Not just being the sponsor of the Indian hockey teams which performed stupendously in the Olympics, Odisha now has another reason to rejoice as gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra had trained at Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium earlier this year before the sporting extravaganza at Tokyo.

Congratulating Chopra, Chief

Congratulating Chopra, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tweeted, "A golden throw! Congratulations #NeerajChopra on historic first-ever track & field #Gold medal for India in #Javelin throw at #Tokyo2020. The country is proud of you. With this, you took India to its highest ever medal tally at the #Olympics. You will inspire generations."

State Sports and Youth Affairs Secretary Vineel Krishna recalled Chopra's training at Kalinga Stadium. "Golden throw! Congrtulations@Neeraj\_chopra!! Indian Javelin Team briefly camped at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha for Olympic training," he tweeted.

Chopra had said in a tweet February 13, "Had a great time

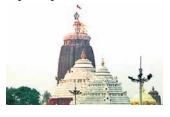
training at the Kalinga Stadium here in Bhubaneswar. Now looking forward to getting some competition experience under the belt." He had also shared a video clip of his practice here. He had won gold at the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships held in the stadium.

Sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik congratulated Chopra with a sand sculpture on Puri beach Saturday.

# Declare Srimandir as world heritage site, UNESCO urged

AGENCIES

Puri, August 7: Puri Vikash Parishad (PVP) has approached the UNESCO to enlist 12th century Srimandir in the world Heritage list as it fulfills all the requisite parameters.



Briefing mediapersons here Saturday, PVP president Jagannath Bastia said a letter to the director general of UNESCO through its India representative has been sent with a request to include Sri Jagannath temple in the world heritage list. Bastia said the temple was established by the then King

Anantverman Chodagangadeb of Ganga dynasty in 12 century AD.

The 65-metre high temple is a true reflection of Kalingan art, sculpture, culture and is one of the four dhamas (holy places) of Hindu faith. Devotees from across the globe refer to this as a place of pilgrimage with utmost respect.

The presiding deity Lord Jagannath is worshipped as Lord Vishnu, Narayan and Sri Krishna, he said. This temple is the centre of religion and spirituality for millions of people.

Bastia also said it is a marvel in itself as its fine architecture, sculptures and history almost covers the history of the state for centuries. He requested the UNESCO to consider the proposal and enlist it after verification.

In another letter, Bastia urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take up the matter at the government level.

# BJP gears up for panchayat polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: The state leadership of BJP Saturday held a meeting with its workers from across the state to prepare strategies ahead of the panchayat

polls in the state.

The party has planned a massive outreach programme at panchayat levels to woo the electorate before the election dates are announced. The local polls are slated to be held in February 2022. The two-day meeting was started at the BJP Headquarters here which was headed by state party president Samir Mohanty, party leader Raghunath Mohanty, and party general secretary Prithiviraj Harichandan.

The party has decided to boost its image in local areas by creating awareness on the development works carried out by the BJP government at the Centre and by exposing the alleged scams and irregularities of the BJD government.

## IMD warns lightning for next week

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday issued warning of lightning and thunderstorm for the

next week.

The department predicted that except Monday, all other days till August 11 could witness thunderstorms and lightning in different parts of the state. The department said that thunderstorm with lightning is anticipated in 14 districts

Sunday.

The weather warning for Monday said, "Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kalahandi,

Kandhamal and Deogarh."

The met department said that from Tuesday, lightning and thundershower could be seen in dif-



ferent districts regularly for the next few days. However, light to moderate rains may be anticipated during these days too but no warning of heavy rain was issued for the next one week.

The weathermen has, meanwhile, not issued any warning of heavy rain for the day while it has forecast one or two spells of rain or thundershower Sunday in the state Capital. The maximum temperature in the City

could go upto 35°C.

The department revealed in its rain report that during day time Saturday, the maximum rainfall was reported from Balasore which saw 55 mm of rainfall. It was followed by Paradip which saw 47mm of rainfall.

The maximum temperature in the state was reported in Boudh at 36°C whereas the minimum temperature of 19.5°C was reported from Phulbani.

#### Cong slams govt for 'ignoring' healthcare

**Bhubaneswar:** The Congress party Saturday alleged that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government in Odisha has ignored the health sector in the state. Addressing a presser here, Congress leader Ganeswar Behera criticised the state government for its alleged failure to develop the health sector. "Health is a state subject and it is the duty of the state government to ensure proper healthcare for the people. Around 2.300 posts of doctors are lying vacant in the state. The BJD has been ruling the state for more than two decades but the state government has failed to set up adequate number of hospitals in rural areas," he said. The Congress leader claimed that the recent Economic Survey talks about the establishment of more medical colleges and recruitment of additional doctors and health staffers to boost the healthcare facilities in state. "The state government has failed to provide proper healthcare to people during the Covid-19 pandemic,' Behera alleged.

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# Asia's largest bull breeding hub in shambles

Baripada, August 7: Asia's largest bull breeding centre, also famous for its livestock breeding and dairy farm, located on the outskirts of Baripada town in Mayurbhanj district, has been a shadow of its former self thanks to the apathetic attitude of the central and the state government.

Earlier it used to be a livestock breeding and dairy farm. While the rest shed and office building are in ruins, the machineries have been rusting away for want of use. And the entire compound has now taken on a desolate appearance with wanton growth of creepers.

As of now, the centre has been kept alive by selling grass seeds and grass to cattle rearers.

The livestock breeding and dairy farm spreading over 108 acres was established at Kathapal, two kilometres from Baripada town, in the year 1983. It has cow sheds, bio gas plant, water supply points, four staff quarters and agricultural equipment. Hybrid grass was grown in the rest of the space. The farm used to have over 150 cows of best breeds and produce 400 litres of milk a day. However, the livestock breeding was stopped in 2000 and bulls from best breeds of calves were reared. The fully grown-up bulls were taken to Khapuria in Cuttack district for

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, August 7: At least three women died and five others were injured when lightning struck them in Basta and Jaleswar area of Balasore district Saturday, police said. The incident took place when the women were engaged in paddy cultivation work, they said. The injured are undergoing treatment in a hospital.

3 women killed in

lightning strike

Two of the deceased have been identified as Pana Majhi (45) of Mathani village and Chabi Kalandi (32) of Brahmanamara village, a police officer said.

Meanwhile, a person was electrocuted in a paddy field at Kasabajaypur village in the same district after coming in contact with a live electric wire attached to a lift irrigation point, he said.

#### **SENIOR CLERK UNDER** VIGILANCE SCANNER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 7: Vigilance oftaneous raids at the residences and office of a senior clerk of Puintala block in Bolangir district on charges of accumulating assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Bolangir and Sambalpur

Vigilance teams carried out searches at Rabindra Kumar Mohanty's residence at Sagarpada in the town, house at Dihamal village under Gudvela block and his office chamber in Puintala.

Gold ornaments, ATM cards several bank passbooks and land documents have been seized. However, the exact value of his moveable and immovable properties was yet to be ascertained.



semen collection. And this project too suffered the same fate, allegedly due to lack of proper management. It was discontinued in 2016.

The farm is presently growing only hybrid grass. With a target of harvesting grass seeds from 10 acres in kharif and from eight acres in rabi seasons, hybrid grass varieties including 'Congo Signal' and 'Super Nepier' are being grown. Annually, 10 quintals of seeds are supplied to the Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services in Cuttack. From there, these seeds are supplied to Balasore, Bhadrak and Keonjhar districts.

"The production of grass is huge but there is no market for it. At the same time, farming equipment, tractors, power tillers and grass cutting machines have long been lying unused. Out of five water supply points, three are defunct," informed ASO Jayant Giri.

However, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) had attempted to restart the project by taking it up for use. But, it wasn't possible because the type of land couldn't be altered. "Taking advantages of the facility not being taken care of and without boundary wall, people have started en-

croaching upon its land. ₹90lakh received for boundary wall construction is also lying unused. Efforts are on to reclaim the encroached lands," informed sub fodder development officer Basant Mohapatra.

Expressing concern, Thakura Soren, a farmer, said around 25 to 30 people were engaged at the project when there were cattle. Now they are in search of work.

"Earlier, we would purchase grass from the Baripada market itself. Now, we have to visit the centre to buy fodder, by spending ₹50 on fuel," observed Ram Hansda,

The livestock breeding and dairy farm spreading over 108 acres was established at Kathapal, two kilometres from Baripada town, in the year 1983. It has cow sheds, bio gas plant, water supply points, four staff quarters and agricultural equipment. Hybrid grass was grown in several acres

he farm used to have over 150 cows of best breeds and produce 400 litres milk a day. However, the livestock breeding was stopped in 2000 and bulls from best breeds of calves were reared. The fully grown-up bulls were taken to Khapuria in Cuttack district for semen collection

Earlier, farmers would purchase grass from the Baripada market itself. Now they have to visit the centre to buy fodder, by spending ₹50 on fuel, observed Ram Hansda,

another farmer.

Local residents urged the government and district administration to take steps to revive the project which has all the elements required for a livestock breeding and dairy farm. "Once restarted, people of the district will be immensely benefitted," they maintained.

# mob attack in Bhadrak; 6 held

4 cops injured in



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak/Padmapur, August 7: As many as four police personnel including a woman constable from Sabarang police station in Bhadrak district sustained injuries in a mob attack at Toranapada village of Goramati panchayat Saturday. Police have arrested six people including five women.

The condition of two of the injured cops is stated to be serious. The injured police officials have been identified as ASI Nitai Charan Mohanty; constables - Smrutirekha Bal, Prabhuranjan Nayak and Brajamohan Singh.

Sources said an audio had gone viral about a sarpanch asking for bribe to sanction housing units. The incident triggered tension between the sarpanch's supporters and some villagers.

A land owner had filed a com-

plaint against a brother of the sarpanch leading to registration of a case by the police. A four-member police team visited the village Saturday to look into the matter and arrest the accused.

As pre planned, some women suddenly attacked the policemen with sharp weapons, leaving cops injured. The family members of the accused are said to be behind the incident.

However, the injured cops were rescued and rushed to a nearby hospital. Later, two of them were shifted to Bhadrak district headquarters hospital as their condition deteriorated.

As per latest reports, SDPO Sarthak Ray visited the spot and is probing the case. The police have so far arrested

six persons including the accused in this connection. More are likely soon, according to police.

### **NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY**

## Pandemic blow to tussar weavers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rasulpur, August 7: Covid pandemic has dealt a blow to weavers in the tussar hub at Gopalpur village under this block in Jajpur district as the state and country celebrate the National Handloom Day,

Many families have stopped weaving altogether. The screeching sound of looms is rarely heard in this village.

Some of the weavers have left for other states in search of work. abandoning their traditional occupation while a lot of them work as daily wagers in various projects under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantees Scheme (MGNREGS).

The National Handloom Day is celebrated every year August 7. Every year, weavers' cooperative societies celebrate the day by organizing functions in the village. In this function, skilled and talented weavers are felicitated and given awards for their work.

The celebration of National Handloom Day holds no significance for them as they struggle to eke out their living. The Covid restrictions in the state have pushed them to the hilt, so much so that they are struggling to earn something to manage their families.

The weavers alleged that the state government, which could have otherwise come to their rescue, has abandoned them. As a result, Gopalpur village, oneof the tussar hubs in the state, is losing its sheen.

Sources said the government imposed the lockdown and shutdown all over the state following an increase in Covid-positive cases from March, 2019. The lockdown



life in the state following which weavers failed to get raw materials for their work.

They also failed to sell clothes as customers stopped visiting the village. The weavers also could not get new orders as clothes worth over ₹1 crore were lying unsold with the weavers cooperative society. The clothes manufactured from their automatic looms also remained unsold as no one evinced interest to buy those clothes.

As a result, the weavers lost their livelihood. Later, a flood in Brahmani river aggravated their problem as hundreds of looms were washed away in the floodwaters. The raw materials and

houses also got damaged.

The government announced compensations for them, but all affected weavers did not get them. It affected their survival as over 10 weavers left for Surat, June 10, the same year. The weavers wrote to the state handloom and textile department and the state government but their pleas were never addressed.

The state government later announced Covid assistance for the weavers community but many of them were allegedly deprived of the benefits.

Ashok Kumar Guin, manager of Maa Tarini Weavers' Society, said the pandemic has dealt a heavy

#### any families have stopped weaving altogether at Gopalpur village in Jajpur district.

The screeching sound of looms is rarely heard in the village risis-ridden, some weavers

have left for other states in search of work, abandoning their traditional occupation while a lot of them work as daily wagers in projects under MGNREGS

Owing to the lockdown and shutdown, weavers failed to get raw materials for their work. They also failed to sell clothes as customers stopped visiting the village. The weavers could not get new orders as clothes worth over ₹1 crore were lying unsold with the weavers' cooperative society. The clothes manufactured with their automatic looms are

blow to the weavers' community. Many families have forgotten their doing odd jobs to earn a living. In this situation, it is an irony to celebrate the National Handloom Day in the village, he observed.

Ramesh Das, head of Sri Vishnu Weavers' Cooperative Society, admitted that they were no more in a position to provide work to the weavers due to pandemic and other issues. This has deprived them of earning a livelihood.

Makardhwaj Guin, an elderly weaver, blamed the apathetic attitude of the textile department for their problem. He alleged the state government has announced bailout packages for the farmers, construction workers and MGNREGS workers, but nothing for them.

#### DIRECTORATE OF TREASURIES AND INSPECTION, **ODISHA. BHUBANESWAR** Kharavel Nagar, Unit-III

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For Tender Document and other details please visit to

https://www.odishatreasury.gov.in/webportal/newtender.do Date of publication of tender is on 09.08.2021 and last date of submission of bid documents is on 31.08.2021 by 3 PM. For further relevant details, please refer the tender document.

Sd./- Director of Treasuries and OIPR-05005/11/0003/2122 Inspection, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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Name of the work: Building Works - 1 No. Rs.45,61,486.00 Estimate cost: 04 (Four Calendar Months) Period of completion: Date & time of 10.00 AM of 09.08.2021 to availability of the Bid 5.00 PM of 24.08.2021 documents in the portal 5. Last date/Time of receipt 24.08.2021 upto 5.00 PM

of the bid in Portal. 25.08.2021 at 11.00 A.M. 6. Date of Opening 7. Name and Address of Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division.

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Sd./- Executive Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division

### 12-hour Sundargarh bandh for AIIMS partly affects life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, August 7: The civic life was partly disrupted in Sundargarh town Saturday as Congress party observed a 12-hour bandh demanding establishment of second All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here.

According to a source, the commercial and business establishments remained close during the bandh which started at 6.00am Vehicular movement in the town was also partly disrupted. A number of Congress party workers picketed in the town. The

party has been demanding that NTPC Medical College and Hospital be converted into AIIMS, the source added. Meanwhile, traders' and lawyers' associations along with several other local outfits in Sundargarh extended their support to the bandh call

The call for bandh was given close on the heels of the state government writing to the Centre for setting up a second AIIMS in Sundargarh.

Health Minister Naba Das had



recently requested the then Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan for Odisha's second AIIMS in the district. Congress intends to pressurise the Central government to accord a proposal given in this regard, a local party leader said.

Notably, a central team had reviewed the available infrastructure at existing NTPC-managed healthcare facility for the purpose of setting up proposed second AIIMS campus in Sundargarh town.

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Man dies in croc attack in Brahmani

Kendrapara, August 7: A man went missing since Friday afternoon after being dragged deep into Brahmani river water by a crocodile in Pattamundai area of Kendrapara district.

The incident took place while the man, identified as Basant Kumar Parida of Srirampur village under Pattamundai block, was washing his hands in the river.

According to an eyewitness, Parida was grazing cattle near the river and went inside the water to clean himself.

"I was also grazing cattle nearby while he went to the river for a wash. The crocodile suddenly emerged out of kneedeep water and dragged Basant into the Brahmani river swiftly," the local

herdsman said. "After hearing Basant's scream, I rushed to the spot, but could not rescue him as the crocodile had already wrenched him into deep water. Some local villagers also came to the spot after I raised an alarm," the fellow herdsman added

On being informed, a team of fire services personnel reached the water body. Despite a frantic search carried out till the evening, Basant's body could not be fished out from the water and he is feared dead.

## **UT flees police at MKCG Covid centre**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 7: An undertrial prisoner (UTP) allegedly fled from police custody at the Covid-19 ward of MKCG Medical College and Hospital (MKCGMCH) in Berhampur while undergoing treatment here.

According to a source, the UTP was

identified as Mirata Singh from Navagarh

district. He was arrested a few days ago

on a change of smuggling cannabis,

and lodged at Baliguda sub-jail. He was admitted to the Covid-19 ward July 31 after testing positive for the virus. He was about to be discharged, when he managed to escape early in the morning.

"Three policemen were guarding the undertrial prisoner in the ward. We have informed the police regarding the custody break. The CCTV footage will be examined on how he managed to escape," superintendent of MKCGMCH Santosh Kumar Mishra said



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One who loves God finds the **SRI AUROBINDO** 



## **Restless Nation**

The Modi government came into this second term with a mandate for change. The NDA government won more seats, more votes in 2019 than it did in 2014 and its performance was endorsed by the electorate to the extent that it can be in a first-past-the-post system such as ours.

This mandate for implementing its ideology was acted on immediately in 2019. The Supreme Court had invalidated triple talaq in August 2017 and declared its practice unconstitutional. But the BJP decided it would need to be acted on and in July 2019 the practice, which was already declared unlawful, was now criminalised. Implementation of a uniform civil code was part of the agenda of the BJP/Jana Sangh going back to the 1950s, and the criminalisation of triple talaq was a victory in this sense.

The following month, Article 370 was gutted in Kashmir and all its non-BJP politicians were jailed indefinitely. This was the second part of the BJP's agenda, also going back to the 1950s. Two months later, the Supreme Court delivered the goods on Ayodhya and gave a judgment handing the mosque property to the Hindu party in the dispute.

Within six months, Modi was able to make good ground on all three of the issues that the party had been campaigning on for decades. The following month, the BJP said it would implement its manifesto promise on citizenship. Under the section named 'Combating Infiltration', the 2019 BJP manifesto reads: "There has been a huge change in the cultural and linguistic identity of some areas due to illegal immigration, resulting in an adverse impact on local people's livelihood and employment. We will expeditiously complete the National Register of Citizens process in these areas on priority. In future we will implement the NRC in a phased manner in other parts of the country." As the first part of this process, as described by Amit Shah through his famous chronology, the BJP passed the Citizenship Amendment Act. This law would give asylum to non-Muslims from neighbouring states, while the NRC would then come house to house to weed out 'infiltrators' and

The BJP did not anticipate the pushback from India's Muslims and the law, though passed, has still not been implemented 20 months on. The NRC which was a 2019 manifesto promise, has also been shelved. The Delhi

pogrom of February, 2020 was the reaction to this failure. At this point, however, the spirit of implementing the mandate was still strong. The farm ordinances came in June 2020, and the government and its allies did not anticipate that the laws would be resisted. Even the major Punjab party in the NDA, the Shiromani Akali Dal, remained in the Cabinet when the ordinances were passed and only slipped out of government when it became clear that the farmers were very angry. The space between the writing of the farm ordinances and the laws being passed in September was occupied by the Covid crisis and its first wave. The most significant aspects of this period were the national lockdown, the migrants' exodus out of west and south India into the north and east, and the first economic recession in four decades. The economic crisis had in fact been building progressively since demonetisation but had not been recognised or spoken about in India. But the outside world had noticed. In 2014, India's per capita GDP (\$1573) of ₹1.17 lakh was about 50 per cent ahead of Bangladesh's (\$1118) or ₹83,000. At the end of the financial year 2020–21, Bangladesh went ahead of us at \$2227 or ₹1.65 lakh per person per year with India at \$1947 or



Aakar Patel

The nation is restless though this restlessness has not found proper political expression

₹1.45 lakh. We will remain behind Bangladesh from here on till something

The judiciary helped Modi out on the farm laws and put them in cold storage after asking an expert committee for its views in a 'sealed cover' and not releasing the findings. The government itself violated the farm laws by reversing the Essential Commodities Act, but the farmers have been left on the road because the government has moved on and doesn't care about the farm laws any longer.

On the other issues also the success has not been as clear cut as was ex pected. Kashmir remains troubled and the leaders who were jailed performed well in the local elections. The population remains sullen and resistant. China was angered by the change of status of Ladakh and we have seen the consequences of that.

The actual target of the uniform civil code is actually polygamy and so the victory on triple talaq did not mean that much ultimately. The judiciary delivered on the temple, and also on other issues by not hearing the habeas corpus pleas of Kashmiris, not hearing the CAA's validity and not hearing the validity of the Article 370 move. The judge who asked for FIRs to be filed against BJP leaders Kapil Mishra and Anurag Thakur for the Delhi riots was transferred the same night as he passed the order.

But unfortunately the judges cannot help on the decline of the economy, on the lack of jobs and on inflation. The price of petrol is over ₹100.

The nation is restless though this restlessness has not found proper po litical expression. NDA ally Nitish Kumar is asking for a caste census which the government has declined (India's entitlements are still distributed on the basis of a socio-economic census that was conducted under Manmohan Singh a decade ago).

Abroad, the government has lost its friends Trump, Abe and Netanyahu. The US leader left without being able to conclude even a trade deal with his friend Modi

Modi spent much of his rightly earned political capital in 2019. It is not fully depleted but it is hard to escape the feeling that solving the problems of 2020 and 2021 will require something special which at the moment is not in view.

#### WISDOM CORNER

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than

Ideologies separate us. Dreams and anguish bring us together.

One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a



#### **■** Opusculum

n 2009, JC McKeown of the University of Wisconsin described his book Cabinet of Roman Curiosities as an opusculum, an assessment both appropriate and modest. An opusculum is a little work, usually a book. For most of us, opusculum means nothing, which disgusted the late Anthony Burgess. In one of his diatribes in old age lamenting the decline of education he challenged guests at his dinner table with idiolect, palinlogue, desquamation, lesbic, autophagous, monophthongal, autocephalous, inesculent, allomorph, strabismus ... and opusculum. For the Romans, opus was any sort of labour, but it has come to mean an artistic work, in particular one on a large scale. We meet it most frequently in music but it can be used of books, paintings and other media. It appears also in magnum opus, literally "great work", the most important creation of an artist. Burgess would undoubtedly have known that if one were in the unlikely situation of wanting to discuss the most significant output of several artists, one should describe them as their magna opera. Though opera is the plural of opus it's rarely used that way, since opera has taken on a life of its own as a singular noun for the musical genre.

#### FOCUS COVID

# **GREAT STONEWALL OF CHINA**

OVID-19 has now been with us for more than a year and a half. It has stopped societies in their tracks, triggered sharp economic downturns, and killed more than 4.2 million people. But we still do not know where the deadly virus came from, for a simple reason: China does not want us to know.

China first reported that a novel coronavirus had emerged in Wuhan weeks after its initial de tection. This should not be a surprise. The ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) prefers to suppress information that might cast it in an unflattering light, and the emergence of COVID-19 within the country's borders undoubtedly fits this description. In fact, the Chinese authorities went so far as to detain whistleblowers for "spreading rumours.'

By the time China told the world about COVID-19, it was far too late to contain the virus. Yet, the CPC has not learned its lesson. Understanding whether the coro navirus emerged naturally in wildlife or was leaked from a lab is essential to forestall another pandemic. But the CPC has been doing everything in its power to prevent an independent forensic investigation into the matter.

The CPC did allow one "investigation": a "joint study" with the World Health Organisation that China steered. But when WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus recently proposed a second phase of studies - centered on audits of Chinese markets and laboratories, especially the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) - China balked. And when US President Joe Biden announced a new US intelligence inquiry into the origins of COVID-19, China's leaders condemned America's "politicisation of origins tracing.

Without China's cooperation, determining COVID-19's origins will be virtually impossible. We know that the WIV has a published record of genetically engineering coronaviruses, some of which were similar to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19).



China has by now had plenty of time to get rid of any evidence of its negligence or complicity. For this, they can thank the major US news organisations, social-media giants, and influential scientists (some of whom hid their conflicts of interest) who have spent most of the pandemic likening the lab-leak hypothesis to a baseless conspiracy theory

and that it has collaborated with the Chinese military on secret projects since at least 2017. This information was included in a US State Department report released in the final days of President Donald Trump's administration.

But proving that COVID-19 was leaked from the WIV – or that it wasn't – would require US intelligence agencies to gain access to more data from the early days of the Wuhan outbreak, and the CPC is not giving that up. Nor does US intelligence currently have the kind of spy network in China it would need to circumvent the official blockade. (China took care of that a decade ago by identifying and eliminating CIA informants.)

In any case, China has by now had plenty of time to get rid of any evidence of its negligence or complicity. For this, they can thank the major US news organisations, social-media giants, and influential scientists (some of whom hid their conflicts of interest) who have spent most of the pandemic likening the lab-leak hypothesis to a baseless conspiracy theory.

This stance was often politically motivated. Trump directed far more of his attention toward pointing fingers at China than devising an effective pandemic response in the US. So, when he promoted the lab-leak theory, his opponents largely dismissed it as yet another Trumpian manipulation.

Even today, with Biden now regarding a lab leak as one of "two likely scenarios," many Democrats resist the idea. Meanwhile, congressional Republicans accuse Democrats of helping China to cover up the virus' origins. The GOP recently released its own report, which concludes that the WIV was working to modify coronaviruses to infect humans, and that COVID-19 was accidentally leaked months before China sounded the alarm.

If the Biden-ordered US intelligence report reaches a similar conclusion, it could push already fraught Sino-American relations to a breaking point. This is not what the Biden administration wants, as evidenced by Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman's efforts, on her recent visit to China, to "set terms for responsible management of the US-China relationship." With Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping also considering meeting on the sidelines of the October G20 sum

mit in Rome, it seems likely that at the very least, the US intelligence inquiry will be extended beyond its 90-day deadline.

But reluctance to provoke China is not the only reason why the Biden administration might hesitate to follow through on its demands for transparency. US government agencies, from the National Institutes of Health to USAID, funded research on coro naviruses at the WIV from 2014 to 2020, via the US-based EcoHealth

The details remain murky, and US officials have admitted to no wrongdoing. But accusations that the US funded so-called "gain-offunction research" - or altering the genetic make-up of pathogens to enhance their virulence or infectiousness - have yet to be definitively quelled. On the contrary, according to a Vanity Fair investigation, "In one State Department meeting, officials seeking to demand transparency from the Chinese government... were explicitly told by colleagues not to explore the Wuhan Institute of Virology's gain-of-function research, because it would bring unwelcome attention to US govern-

ment funding of it." Even as circumstances conspire to keep the truth hidden, one question will not go away: Could it have been a coincidence that the globally disruptive pandemic originated in the same city where China is researching ways to increase the transmissivity of bat coronaviruses to human cells? As CIA Director William Burns has acknowledged, we may never know for sure. But we should have no illusions about what that means. In failing to conduct a proper investigation when the pandemic began, we may well have let the CPC get away with millions of deaths.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.

#### SPECTRUM MULTILATERALISM

Josep Borrell &

Paolo Gentiloni

**GENERATIONS** 

WILL NOT FORGIVE

**US IF WE WASTE** 

THE PANDEMIC'S

**MAIN LESSON:** 

THAT WE ARE IN

THIS TOGETHER

**FUTURE** 

Brahma Chellaney

**IN FAILING TO** 

**INVESTIGATION** 

**BEGAN, WE MAY** 

**WELL HAVE LET** 

THE CPC GET

**AWAY WITH** 

**MILLIONS OF** 

**DEATHS** 

**CONDUCT A** 

WHEN THE

**PANDEMIC** 

**PROPER** 

# A big step forward for global tax justice

tilateral, competition between states seems to prevail over cooperation nowadays. However, the recent global agreement to reform international corporate taxation is welcome proof that multilateralism is not dead.

But it is not healthy, either. While globalisation has continued during the COVID-19 pandemic – albeit more unevenly than before and despite people's feelings of increased isolation - interdependence is ever more conflictual. Even soft power is being weaponised, with vaccines, data, and technology standards all becoming instruments of politi-

cal competition. The world is also becoming less free. Democracy itself is under attack, amid a pitched battle of narratives over which political and economic system can best deliver

for its citizens. The European Union continues to believe in and work for a predictable world of rules-based multilateralism, open markets, positive-sum outcomes, and social justice and solidarity. We remain convinced that today's challenges - from fighting the pandemic to tackling climate change – can be handled only through global cooperation. The

the defensive in recent years. In a global setting in order to show our citizens the conmatic exchange of tax informatic exchange technocratic concept.

> After all, the alternative to such multilateral engagement - "going it alone"-means reduced access to vaccines, insufficient climate action, festering security crises, inadequately regulated globalisation, and increasing global inequality. No country, not even the biggest, can succeed on its own. For all these reasons, Italy has rightly put multilateralism atop the agenda for its current G20 presidency.

> But it is not enough for the EU merely to emphasise its multilateral credentials. Europe must demonstrate that multilateral action can deliver for all if every country invests in it. And the new global tax agreement does just that.

The deal, endorsed earlier in July by G20 finance ministers and backed by 132 countries, will establish a global minimum tax rate of at least 15 per cent for multinational corporations and ensure that these firms pay taxes in the countries where they generate their profits. This is a historic step toward fairer globalisation and a landmark achievement of effective multilateralism.

In recent years, governments have taken important steps to tackle

that is more multipolar than mulcrete benefits of a seemingly dry, tion between states netted 95 billion (\$112 billion) in additional tax revenue for G20 countries between 2009 and 2019, while deposits in tax havens fell by 34 per cent.

An even bigger problem has proved more difficult. The OECD estimates that multinationals' tax avoidance results in global revenue losses of \$100-240 billion each year, or 4-10 per cent of total corporate-tax proceeds. Moreover, the current international corporate tax system was designed more than a century ago and is increasingly out of sync with today's globalised and digitalised economy.

The EU has long strived to mount a global response to this challenge. But it was the constructive engagement of US President Joe Biden's administration over the past six months that enabled the recent breakthrough. This was a striking and welcome sign of America's return to supporting a multilateral vision of the world.

The 132 jurisdictions currently supporting the new corporate-taxation deal represent 90 per cent of global GDP. And while the agreement will not by itself fully solve the issue of multinational firms' tax avoidance, it is a decisive step forward. It marks the beginning of

ultilateralism has been on EU will thus continue to lead on re-tax evasion by individuals. the end of the global race to the botrich winners but also billions of losers who can now start regaining faith in the power of rules.

The agreement will lead to higher and more stable government revenues at a time when all countries must bear the costs of battling the pandemic and mobilise the investments needed to tackle the climate crisis. And it will deliver greater fairness at a time of increasing inequalities between the developed and the developing world.

Above all, the recent tax accord shows how multilateral action can foster a more equitable form of globalisation. We now need similarly effective international responses in other areas, from vaccine access and the climate crisis to data security and technology standards.

Future generations will not forgive us if we waste the pandemic's main lesson: that we are in this together. We need wise strategies and bold tactics to deliver on a truly multilateral agenda for all.

Josep Borrell is High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Paolo Gentiloni is a former Prime Minister of Italy. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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#### **Patriotic students**

Sir, The adoption of the 'Deshbhakti Curriculum' framework by the Delhi State Council of Educational Research and Training is a positive move. The curriculum was unveiled in the 2021 Delhi Budget with the goal of instilling a sense of patriotism and nationhood in every student attending Delhi government schools and preparing them to be responsible citizens who contribute to the nation's development. The curriculum's three main goals are patriotism, understanding one's responsibilities and duties, and a willingness to make sacrifices for the country. We hope that this initiative will aid in the propagation of patriotism among students and make them responsible citizens.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA (MP)

#### **Renaming Khel Ratna**

Sir, One need not be critical of all the decisions of the present Union government. The Prime Minister's announcement that the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award shall now be renamed after the legendary hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand will be welcomed by all, except perhaps the Congress party. In the first place, there was no justification whatsoever in naming this highest sports award after Rajiv Gandhi; he was not known to have played any great sport. Moreover, a plethora of airports, hospitals, institutions, and welfare schemes have already been named after someone or the other of the Nehru-Gandhi family. While blindly renaming our cities, as the present dispensation at the Centre and some of the states have done, is certainly avoidable, nobody shall have any grouse on renaming this coveted sports award after one of the greatest sportsman this country has ever produced.

Bhaskar Roy, NEW DELHI

#### Welcome disengagement

Sir, It is heartening that India and China have undertaken disengagement from the Gogra area of eastern Ladakh following an agreement at the 12th round of Corps Commander talks. This is the second friction area from which disengagement was carried out after Pangong Tso in February as part of the overall disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh. The sabre-rattling along the border has tested the nerves of the Indian soldiers besides claiming lives, and the disengagement process could pave the way for the return of peace and tranquillity in the region.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

# Land hurdle grounds Rajendra varsity's development move

In fact, the university needs over

The university authorities had

100 acres while the institution has

only 49 acres under its occupation.

earlier intimated the Collector, the

secretary of the higher education

department and the additional sec-

retary to the Governor about re-

quirement of land for the university.

matter, the authorities again re-

minded them about the land Friday.

It was stated that the growth and

development of the university is not

The district administration has

launched a special drive to hunt for

land. Collector Chanchal Rana,

ADM Ananta Naravan Singh

Laguri and tehsildar Maghban

Bagh are in the process of looking

It was learnt that after first round

of survey, the team has not been able

to find required land at one place

Bolangir town have been under

encroachment at various places.

Lands inside and around the

feasible without the land

for the land.

inside the town.

As there was no progress in this



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

few days ago, the University Arants 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

carried out, some land can be reclaimed.

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

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 uni-

It is said that if eviction drive is

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.

campus have been identified.

"Seven acres of the university



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

This under-construction multipurpose 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

ready started the process to rehabilitate the affected people. It has

of the Malkangiri district's map.

The Andhra government has al-

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

multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari river in West Godavari district was started in 2004. The

project has a hydroelectric plant

ith the AP government increasing With the AP government 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

#### Ailing elephant dies despite treatment

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 fac-

tors – lack of land, teachers and in-

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

A few days ago, the University

Grants Commission (UGC) has

granted its recognition to the uni-

versity 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.

media that the 77-vear old institu-

tion does not have land patta in

its name. This report created rounds

of discussions in various circles

Recently, it came in a section of

frastructure, a report said.

infrastructure.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 7: A 50-yearold female elephant which was sick in Sinduria forest under Bhuvan 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

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

He was feted in New Delhi by an organization with ₹1 lakh prize.

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 ob-

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

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

**NOBLE DEED** 

angadhar has been feted and

However, he lamented that the government is not extending help to complete the project he bridge will pave the

communication to many villages like Kanpur to Daneipur in the region after completion of the

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 complated, 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 Kotagarah 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

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.

# He has spent the money for an ap-**NEED FOR BREASTFEEDING** ୧ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ରୁ ୭ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ଷ୍ଟନ୍ୟପାନ ଜୀବନରମୂଳଦୁଆ

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

## 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 doc-

tor 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 34,000 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.



# TWO STATES





SUNDAY | AUGUST 8 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

# No let-up in Assam Efforts on to lift 'economic blockade' 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 treat ment 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

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 se ries of encounters that have taken

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 Suklabaidva 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

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 dving for want of medicines. Seriously ill patients are in dire need of life-saving drugs..." the Minister said in a

"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 trou-

"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 Vanlalngaihsaka 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

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 main-

# 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

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

'We are original inhabitants of Assam and Indian citizens as well," Dewan said, demanding that the D-Voter tags on Gurkhas 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 Courtmonitored 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



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

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 rainravaged 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

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

## 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 by the BSF. 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

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

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 alsoprovide for import and export of goods between the two countries.

## 3-tier grievance redressal for female labourers

Jaipur, August 7: The Rajasthan government is in process to bring along 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

"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.

# national

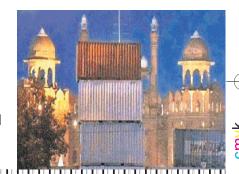


There is a huge number of vacancies in Tribunals. **Posts of Chairperson of several Tribunals are vacant! The real** reason is the government is looking for persons who will sympathise with its retrograde philosophy and ideology

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



have elected vou to vour respective posts, you are not only a leader of the people but are the custodians of

their faith. You must restore their

JP NADDA | BJP NATIONAL PREZ

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

NITIN GADKARI UNION ROAD AND TRANSPORT MIN

Power is too important a unilateral 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 Jnanendra 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 vet.

#### **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 lighting over the past two decades, while the spike is minimal over the central part of the country and moderate over the rest.

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

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

Rajasthan 42

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

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

#### 3 held for murder bid on Tripura CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, August 7: Three men were arrested the charge of attempting to murder Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, police said Saturday.

The three men drove a car through the security cordon of the chief minister when he was out on evening walk near his official residence at Shyamaprasad Mukerjee Lane Thursday, they said.

Deb managed to jump aside as the vehicle whisk past him, but one of his security personnel sustained minor injuries, they added.

The chief minister's security tried to intercept the car but could not, police said. The three men were arrested late on Thursday from Kerchowmuhani and the vehicle seized, they said. They were produced before the

court of Chief Judicial Magistrate PP Paul on Friday and remanded to 14 days in iail. Assistant Public Prosecutor

Bidyut Sutradhar said the motive of the three men, all in their mid-20s, were yet to be ascertained.

We demanded two days of police remand for interrogation, but court has remanded them to judicial custody till August 19. Now, the police would interrogate them in jail to know their motive behind driving through the security cordon of the chief minister, Sutradhar told PTI.

# **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



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 Raiva 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 AIADMK, 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.

#### Hoax bomb call sends Mumbai cops into tizzy PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

sons were arrested Saturday after a hoax call claiming that bombs had been planted at three railway stations and actor Amitabh Bachchan's residence in the city led to hourslong futile searches, an official said. No suspicious material was found at any of the four locations, the police spokesperson said. 'Our main control room re-

Mumbai, August 7: Three per-

ceived the call around 9.45 pm Friday. The caller claimed that bombs had been placed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and Byculla and Dadar railway stations and also at Amitabh Bachchan's bungalow in Juhu," the official said. Teams of the Government Railway Police, Railwav Protection Force, Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, dog squads and local police personnel rushed to these locations and carried out searches, he said. Officials of the Anti Terrorism Squad and Quick Response Team were also involved in the searches, the official added. After several hours, it was confirmed that the call was a hoax. The police traced the caller from the mobile number to Shil Phata area in neighbouring Thane. The caller turned out to be a truck driver from the Marathwada region, the official said. Along with him, two other men, his drinking buddies, were also held. It is suspected that they were drinking together when the hoax call was made. A First Information Report was

registered at the Azad Maidan police station under IPC sections 505(1) (circulating a rumor with an intent to cause alarm to public), 506(2) (criminal intimidation) and 182 (giving false information to public servant). Further investigation is going on, said the official.

#### **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

**A PARLIAMENTARY** 

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

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

**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

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



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 society and young women who might have been unable to connect to any form of digital education during the pandemic. This needs to be addressed and immediate remedial steps required to be taken, the re-

The 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

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 under taken by the Department of School Education and Literacy to cover the areas of concern, it said. The panel headed by Vinay P Sahasrabuddhe 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 recommences, so as to meet any fu-

ture 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.

# international



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**

'Pak continues

to aid Taliban'

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. The country was averaging about 11,000 cases a day in late June. Now the number is 107,143 JEN PSAKI | PRESS SECRETARY, US number is 107,143





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 ANNELIESE DODDS | LABOUR PARTY, UK

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 SHAHBAZ SHARIF OPPOSITION LEADER,

PAKISTAN

Our companies cannot grow if overseas to mee 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

ONG YE KUNG | HEALTH MINISTER, 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. They also booked 150 people in connection with the attack Wednesday.

#### **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. According to the Ministry, the death toll presently stood at 10.019. Two thirds of the new deaths were reported during the second wave of the pandemic or after April/May, date from the Ministry revealed.

#### **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. The 36-yearold man told police he wanted to kill women who appeared happy, and chose his targets at random, public broadcaster NHK said. Police identified the attacker as Yusuke Tsushima.

#### 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. The demonstrations Saturday come two days after France's Constitutional Council upheld most provisions of a new law that expands the locations where health passes are needed to enter.

#### **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. The Israeli fighter jets struck a military compound and rocket launching site.

# 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 the past few weeks as the Taliban is continuing its relentless battles against government forces In a special briefing

to the **Afghanistan** Security is now at a dangerous Council turning point and what lies Friday ahead for the country is a genuine Lyons peace negotiation or a tragically said: "In intertwined set of crises: an the past increasingly brutal conflict combined weeks. with an acute humanitarian situation the war and multiplying human rights

DEBORAH LYONS | UN REPRESENTATIVE Afghanistan FOR 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." "This is a clear

**WASHINGTON:** US President

Joe Biden has ordered B-52

bombers and Spectre gunships to

target Taliban terrorists in

Afghanistan who are advancing to-

wards three key cities, Daily Mail

bomber first flew in the 1950's but

is still used due to its 70,000lb pay-

load and range of more than 8,000

They are being supported by

the AC-130 Spectre gunships which

are armed with a 25mm Gatling

gun, a 40mm Bofors cannon and

a 105mm M102 cannon -- which

can provide pinpoint accurate

Reports said the B-52's and AC-

fire from the air.

The Cold War-era strategic

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

even more

deeply dis-

turbing." She stressed that abuses 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

US sends B-52 bombers to stop Taliban

\*Contested is where fighting is ongoning or strong Taliban presence **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** 

"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 HOSPITALS HAVE NEARLY REACHED FULL CAPACITY AND **CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT PATIENTS** 

**TALIBAN CONTROL** 

GOVT CONTROL

**CONTESTED\*** 

As per latest

indications, the

Taliban controls

218 districts,

while the Afghan

government

controls 108

districts and 100

districts remain

contested

**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.

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 Isaczai 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.'

Isaczai 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 avail-

"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.

Isaczai 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

130's are targeting insurgents

around Kandahar. Herat and

Lashkar Gar in Helmand Province.

Qatar, while the aircraft carrier

USS Ronald Reagan is on de-

ployment in the Arabian Sea. The

nuclear-powered warship has a

The B-52's are operating out of



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.

In neighbouring Turkey, fires described as the worst in decades have swept through stretches of the country's southern coast for the past 10 days, killing eight people.

A fire threatening the Greek capital's most important national park killed one volunteer firefighter, while at least 20 people have been injured in blazes during the country's worst heat wave

In apocalyptic scenes overnight and into Saturday, ferries evacuated 1,153 people from a seaside village

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.

fleet of F/A-18 Super Hornets.

aid the Afghan air force's bomb-

ing of Taliban targets in southern

Helmand and Kandahar provinces

as Afghan security forces try to pre-

vent a Taliban takeover, the

report said.

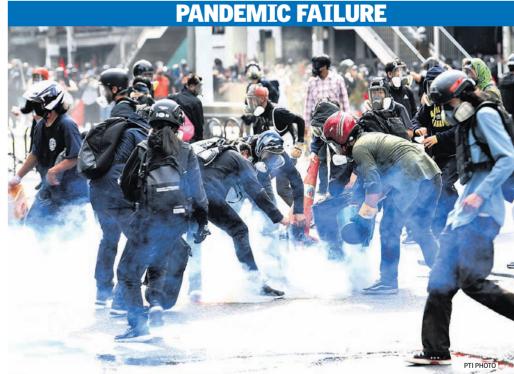
The US Air Force continues to

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.



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

# 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

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 en-

sure 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 extraterrestrial 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.

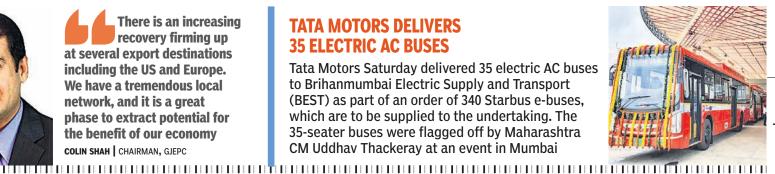
# business



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, GJEPC

#### **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





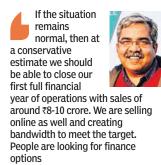
expected to weaken on the back of a strong US between 74.05 to 74.60 with an

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



PRASHANTA KUMAR | FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, VOLTRO MOTORS

#### 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).

#### **Keltropn ties** up with NPOL

Kochi: Keltron, 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 (Keltron) CMD N Narayana Murthy and NPOL Director Vijayan Pillai.

# '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-totime 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

Real GDP growth of

20% YoY expected

in Q1FY22: Report

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

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

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 I PRIME MINISTER

scope to increase the share of exports in the GDP.

Talking of the government's decision to nullify the much contentious retrospective taxation provisions, the Prime Minister noted that the decision shows the

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 aid in raising the standards

#### **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.

# **India offers Cairn Energy \$1bn refund** INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 doubledigit 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 ent YoY in 1QFY22 as against a con-



traction of 21.2 per cent YoY in Q1FY21.

'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

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.

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 promi-

nent foreign investors, Financial

Times reported.

report said.

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

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 Covidbattered 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 col-

lected 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.

#### Goyal calls for increasing handloom exports to ₹10K cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal Saturday called for increasing handloom exports to ₹10,000 crore and doubling the production to ₹1.25 lakh crore in the next three years with a view to promoting the growth of the sector.

At present, handloom exports are worth ₹2,500 crore and production is about ₹60,000 crore.

"Let us today all resolve collectively on this day that we will go for a ₹10,000 crore target for exports of handloom products and a target to increase our production to ₹1.25 lakh crore in the next three years," he said at the National Handloom Day celebrations.

He also suggested forming a team under the chairmanship of Sunil Sethi of Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) consisting of weavers, trainers, equipment makers, marketing experts and other stakeholders to recommend ways and means to promote the growth of the sector.

#### BIZ BUZZ

#### Faceless grievance registering scheme improved

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has its Faceless Scheme by extending facility to taxpayers



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 advanced features, and



# Flipkart, IIM Sambalpur agree to support small businesses

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 industry 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

Meanwhile, in the AI Storage market, Dell, HPE, Hitachi, Huawei, IBM and NetApp achieved over \$100 million each in 2020. Within the

AI," said Ritu Jyoti, group vice president for AI and Automation Research at IDC. 'We have now en-Disruption is unsettling, but

tered the domain of AI-augmented work and deciit can also serve as a sion across all catalyst for innovation the functional and transformation. 2020 areas of a was the year that business. accelerated digital

ated digital transformation and

strengthened the value of enterprise

Responsible transformation and

creation and use of AI sopredict, readapt at speed is an important business imperative," Jyoti said in a

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 be-

strengthened the value of enterprise Al AI Software category, AI is the strongest with a five-year lutions that tween pilot projects and enterprise can also serve as a RITU JYOTI I GROUP VP (AI AND AI." said Jennifer Hamel, research-Applications has the lion's share at compound annual growth rate catalyst for innovation can sense, AUTOMATION RESEARCH), IDC nearly 50 per cent of revenues. and transformation, 2020 (CAGR) of 33.2 per cent manager, Analytics and Intelligent "Disruption is unsettling, but it In terms of growth, AI Platforms was the year that accelerspond, and 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 trackand-field Olympic gold-medallist. 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 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 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  $roller\hbox{-}coaster\,ride\,for\,the\,tall, sprightly$ 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 accomodation, 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

"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.

a Naib Subedar.

in the Indian Army in 2017. He is now

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 fag 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 worldclass javelin thrower.

There is still a wallhanging 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)

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.

India revels 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...

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 RIJIJU: 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 Neerai 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 A golden throw! flutter with the pride of every Indian.

moment for

Congratulations #NeerajChopra on historic first-ever track & field #Gold medal for India in #Javelin throw at #Tokyo2020 1. The country is so proud of you. With this, you took India to its highest ever medal tally at the #Olympics 🚺 . You will inspire generations



**Lovlina Borgohair** 

**Bairang Punia** 

Wrestling

#### **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 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 the Indian wrestling contingent.

However, the three-time medallist 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 PTI.

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



### **GOLFER ADITI FINISHES HEARTBREAKING 4TH AT GAMES**

## 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 caddie. 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 17under 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.

Rank	Country	G	S	В	Tota
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

The other Indian in fray, Diksha

Dagar, finished her campaign at tied 50th after managing her first sub-par round of the week, a oneunder 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 67-66-68-68 for a total of 269

# India on course for win against England



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nottingham, August 7: Skipper Joe Root (109, 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.

that saw England put up a muchimproved batting show, scoring 303 and secure a lead of 208 runs. Bumrah polished the tail in a jiffy with the second now ball en route to his sixth fifer. On the final day, if weather per-

mits, 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) halfvolleys, Root was a delight to watch. Shardul Thakur (2/37) did trouble him a couple of times but not con-

sistently enough. 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.





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.

#### 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 hud to bloom is a great

#### 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 homecooked 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 dishes to pacify the



#### Solo Traveller

feeling.

I love to go on long drives alone as solo travelling gives me freedom. If I am driving with another

person, he or automatically becomes my priority.

#### 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.



With Sritam Das on the

sets of Mitali Apa

### **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

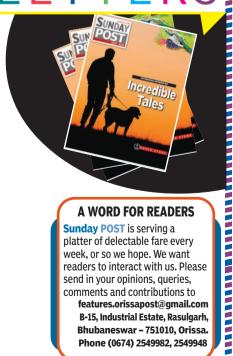
- Life is too short. Don't waste it reading my Whatsapp status.
- Always give your 100%, unless you're donating blood.
- Having one child makes you a parent; having two you
- Did anyone ever notice that "STUDYING" is a mixture of STUDY and DYING?



#### 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 unfailing 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 conservationistcum-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** 



#### 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



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

BUDDHADEV NANDI

he 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 fol-

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 1,36,62hibakushas 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 al-

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.



#### **OUOTES 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 I WARTIME HEAD OF THE US'S LOS ALAMOS LABORATORY AND KNOWN AS THE 'FATHER OF THE ATOMIC BOMB'



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

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.

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

VID 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.

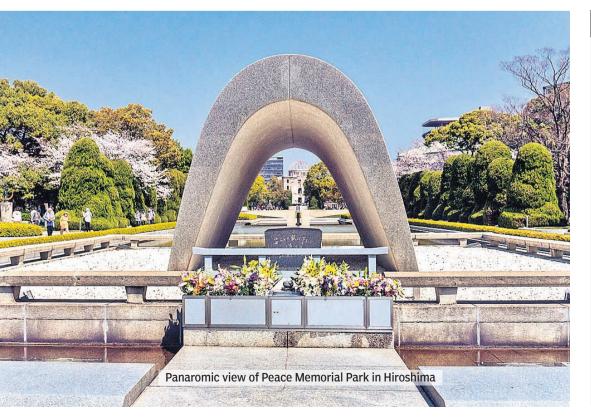
Hibaksha are considered extraordinary human being who are not phased out by despondence and despair. They have perceived through their excruciating agony and suffering that the nuclear holocaust must not be reenacted in the earth. In the annual Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) 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 1,000 cranes. However, she could manage 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.





#### **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

#### INTERVIEWS

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

■ Best Inspirational Film Award

at Istanbul Film Festival

London Shorts Film Festival

Short Film Award and Audience Choice Award at

Mokkho International Film

Festival, Pondicherry

Best Short Film at

**Best Inspirational** 



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

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

n 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

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 bureau-

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

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.

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.

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

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 (PFA) 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.

On awards and felicitations

On challenges of filmmaking It is certainly a challenging task as the director has to maintain a balance between technical and nontechnical teams. I

> 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

On striking a balance between filmmaking crat-cum-filmmaker talks about his passion and future plans. Excerpts: and bureaucracy Working in government is my profession On the journey so far while making films is a passion for me. I am happy to strike a fine balance between the Hailing from Pathara village of Ganjam district, I left for Delhi after my graduation two. I use holidays and days-off to work on dialogues. and did my MA, MPhil and PhD in Political films as I hardly get time to explore my Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University. creativity during weekdays. As a senior officer, On future projects At present, I am posted as a Joint Secretary I often have to deal with social issues which Currently, I am workin SC & ST Development department, help me in scripting my films. ing on two films- The Government Odisha. This is all about my Healing Touch and My National Flag - both On childhood and tryst with films profession. Speaking about my creative based on social issues. journey, I started watching films from a I don't remember when I started watching very early age when none in my friend films. But my parents say I used to enjoy Shootings of the films have movies patiently when I was a kid. So, I circle had an idea about cinema. Gradually, been completed and they will it became a passion and I also wanted to always wanted to be a filmmaker. Though be released ahead of reach out to the viewers with my ideas I couldn't make it my full time profession, Independence Day. A VOICE FOR tivist reveals how she manages to do so many things. **VOICELESS** 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 There is no dearth of animal lovers in Bhubaneswar but not many care for spiritual experience for me. It teaches me 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 mon-

gooses and takes care of their medical

needs and what's more, she even

offers them respectful burials after

In a quick chat with Sunday POST,

the prominent animal rights ac-



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, "Finalllly Kunallll...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



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

she wrote in her caption. Rakul has been shooting for her next film with Avushmann Khurrana

titled Doctor G. 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

# Manoj anchors for TV series

ctor Manoj Bajpayee is anchoring Athree episodes of real-life crime drama series Crime Patrol Satark.

Bajpayee who has been appreciated for his roles in Satya, Shool, Raajneeti, Gangs of Wasseypur series, *Aligarh* and Bhonsle, shares that because of his role 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 raceagainst-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 un-Crime Patrol Satark airs on

Sony Entertainment Television. IANS



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.

# 100s for You pay 545 a month for subscriptions

ent, 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 moneytracking 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**



vailable on Android and iOS devices, Expensify is great Afor 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**

AP 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

reshBooks is a comprehensive cloud-based accounting FreshBooks is a comprehensive cloud cannot be program that starts at \$7.50 a month for a single program that starts at \$7.50 a month for a single program at the starts at \$7.50 a month for a single program at the starts at \$7.50 a month for a single program at the starts at \$7.50 a month for a single program at the starts at \$7.50 a month for a single program that starts at \$7.50 a month for a 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**

M int 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.

