



ROLE REVERSAL

Actor Vani Kapoor says she is the one who parents her own parents because they behave like kids

LEISURE P2



SHRINES TO REOPEN AUG 23

BMC decides to allow reopening of all religious shrines in Capital city from August 23

DOWNTOWN P3



'GUARANTEE OUR RIGHTS'

Iranian Prez tells Macron talks with world powers to revive 2015 nuke deal must guarantee Tehran's rights

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It is simple. When people in power shout instigating slogans, it is freedom of expression otherwise sedition!

₹19,500crore PM-KISAN given away

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday transferred about ₹19,500 crore to over 9.75 crore beneficiary farmers under the flagship scheme PM-KISAN and said the government is taking several steps to double the income of the farming community.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, the Centre provides an annual financial benefit of ₹6,000 to eligible beneficiary farmers in three equal four-monthly installments of ₹2,000 each.

The scheme was announced by the government in February 2019 in the Budget. The first installment was released for December 2018-March 2019 period. The fund is transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. On Monday, the prime minister virtually released the ninth installment for the beneficiaries. With this, the government has so far transferred around ₹1.57 lakh crore to farmer families.

Addressing the virtual event, Modi said the government has transferred over ₹19,500 crore directly to nearly 10 crore farmers and this amount will be useful for them. "Nearly ₹1.6 lakh crore have been transferred so far under PM-KISAN scheme, of which around ₹1 lakh crore has been released during the pandemic," he added.

Out of this, ₹1 lakh crore was transferred to small farmers during the pandemic, he said. This amount will be useful for small farmers at a time when the sowing of kharif crops is at

its peak in the current monsoon season, he added.

Asserting that the government is committed to providing all resources to farmers to boost their income, Modi highlighted the benefits being reaped by farmers taking advantage of several schemes including ₹1 lakh crore agri-infra fund that completed one year Monday.

Modi said farmers are benefiting from the Honey Bee Mission, which has led to huge export of honey resulting in extra income for farmers.

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Curbs on festivals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: In view of resurgence in Covid-19 infections, the state government has imposed restrictions on celebrations of Ganesh Puja and other Pujas/festivals in the state. Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra has issued an order to this effect Monday.

All the festivals including Ganesh Puja, Durga Puja, Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja and other Pujas/festivals of other religious communities in August, September, October and November of 2021, will be conducted without congregation of devotees.

"People usually congregate and get in touch with each other to celebrate the festivals/Pujas during which it is not possible to adhere to Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and such congregations have a potential to cause spread of the virus," Mahapatra said.

However, religious rituals in temples, churches, mosques and other places of worship will continue as usual with a limited number of persons with strict adherence to Covid protocols. People can observe festivals

on their premises without causing congregation at any place and maintaining safety protocols, such as social distancing, wearing masks, proper sanitisation.

The puja committees or organisers in rural and urban areas are allowed to conduct puja in mandaps/pandals with certain restrictions. For conducting Pujas in pandals/mandaps, organisers will have to apply and obtain necessary permission from the Collector, Commissionerate of Police (for Cuttack and Bhubaneswar) or any other authorised officer.

Puja will be conducted in indoor-like conditions only for observance of rituals without public participation, pomp and grandeur. Puja pandals will be covered from all sides and there will be no public darshan.

The size of the idol must be less than 4 feet and there will be no use of any public address system, it said. At any given point in time, maximum seven persons including organisers and priests and support staff present in the Puja Pandal/Mandap can be present on the Mandap, it said.

New Collectors in Bhadrak, Dhenkanal

BHUBANESWAR: The state government Monday appointed new Collectors for Bhadrak and Dhenkanal districts. The Odisha State Beverages Corporation MD Saroj Kumar Sethi was appointed as Collector of Dhenkanal while Ayush director Trilochan Majhi was named Bhadrak Collector. Gyanaranjan Das, now Bhadrak Collector, was transferred as Panchayati Raj director while Dhenkanal Collector Bhumesh Chandra Behera was posted as Ayush Director. Umakanta Tripathy, who serves as Panchayati Raj director, was named additional secretary in forest, environment and climate change department.

Suspected Pak drone drops RDX in Punjab

Chandigarh: Ahead of Independence Day, police have recovered a tiffin box bomb packed with over 2 kg of RDX from a village in Amritsar which they suspect was dropped by a drone flying in from Pakistan. Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta said some other explosives were also found from the bag containing the tiffin bomb. "We have made some recoveries yesterday (Sunday) in Amritsar rural district. We have recovered some hand grenades and cartridges... Most important is a tiffin box bomb with an Improvised Explosive Device," Gupta said.



HERO'S WELCOME

Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra being welcomed on his arrival at IGI Airport after the end of the Tokyo Summer Olympics 2020, in New Delhi, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Big push to sports infra

89 Biju indoor stadiums planned for whole state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: The state government will construct 89 multi-purpose indoor stadiums at different urban areas across the state with an investment of ₹693.35 crore. The state cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved this along with 15 other proposals Monday.

Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera said these stadiums will be taken up in 85 urban local bodies (ULBs) areas including in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Rourkela under the state government's 5T initiative to transform the sports scenario in Odisha.

The government has been focusing on development of sports and in recent years, Odisha has been recognised as a leading destination for sports events and promotion of sports

OLYMPIC BUG

- The stadiums will be completed over next 18 months
- They will be named as **Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadiums**
- ₹10.15cr will be spent on each stadium at large ULBs
- ₹6.40 crore will be spent for each stadium in NAC

in the country, Behera said, adding ULB areas act as main centres for sports and related activities. The project will ensure development of quality sports infrastructure across ULBs.

These indoor stadiums will be built for multi-purpose utilities. They will have facilities for playing badminton, table tennis, yoga and gymnasium. There will be space for most of the in-

door games. The space can be converted for use for various popular local sports. The stadiums will be completed over next 18 months. This will provide a major boost for the development of sports in the state, he said.

The stadiums to be named as Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium will come up at three municipal corporations, 30 municipalities and 52 NACs.

The state government will spend Rs10.15 crores on each stadium at municipal corporation towns and municipalities while ₹6.40 crore will be spent for each stadium in NAC. The indoor stadiums are also designed to withstand 200 kmph wind speed. They can be utilised as community shelters during disasters like cyclones, floods and others. In times of pandemics, the stadium can be converted into a 50-bed (NAC model) or 100-bed (municipality model) field hospitals.

Blasphemy on 8-yr old Pak Hindu

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 9: An eight-year-old Hindu boy is being held in protective police custody in Pakistan after becoming the youngest person ever to be charged with blasphemy in the country, a media report said.

According to the Guardian news report, the boy's family is in hiding and many of the Hindu community in the conservative district of Rahim Yar Khan in Punjab province, have fled their homes after a Muslim crowd attacked a Hindu temple after the boy's release on bail last week. Troops were deployed to the area to quell any further unrest.

On August 7, 20 people were arrested in connection with the temple attack.

The boy is accused of intentionally urinating on a carpet in the library of a madrasa, where religious books were kept, last month. Blasphemy charges can carry the death penalty; the Guardian report said.

Daily Covid load dips below 1,000

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: After a gap of nearly four months, Odisha registered less than 1,000 Covid-19 cases in a single day as 886 more people tested positive for the infection Monday, which pushed the tally to 9,87,956, a health department official said.

Sixty-six deaths, recorded in 10 districts of the coastal state, raised the toll to 6,501, he said. The health and family welfare department, however, clarified that the "list does not reflect deaths occurring on a particular day. It gives details of the past deaths for which the audit process has been duly completed, and the cause

identified as Covid-19".

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, accounted for 29 deaths, Cuttack for 13 and Sambalpur for eight. Of the 886 new cases, 253 were reported from Khurda, 81 from Cuttack and 62 from Balasore. Two districts - Bolangir and Nuapada - did not report any new case.

Odisha currently has 11,486 active cases, while as many as 9,69,916 patients, including 1,463 Sunday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease. The positivity rate stands at 5.94 per cent. Over 1.66 crore sample tests have been conducted thus far, including 66,063 Sunday. Odisha has so far inoculated 1,78,62,345 people with Covid-19 vaccines.

UN climate report sounds 'code red for humanity'

AGENCIES

Berlin, August 9: Earth's climate is getting so hot that temperatures in about a decade will probably blow past a level of warming that world leaders have sought to prevent, according to a report released Monday that the United Nations calls a "code red for humanity".

"It's just guaranteed that it's going to get worse," said report co-author Linda Mearns, a senior climate scientist at the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research. "I don't see any area that is safe... Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide."

But scientists also eased back a bit on the likelihood of the absolute worst climate catastrophes. The authoritative Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which calls climate change clearly human-caused and "unequivocal," makes more precise and warmer forecasts for the 21st century



than it did last time it was issued in 2013.

Each of five scenarios for the future, based on how much carbon emissions are cut, passes the more stringent of two thresholds set in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

World leaders agreed then to try to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit)

since the late 19th century because problems mount quickly after that. The limit is only a few tenths of a degree hotter than now because the world has already warmed nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) in the past century and a half.

Under each scenario, the report said, the world will cross the 1.5-de-

grees Celsius warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than some past predictions. Warming has ramped up in recent years, data shows.

In three scenarios, the world will also likely exceed 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial times — the other, less stringent Paris goal — with far worse heat waves, droughts and flood-inducing downpours "unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades," the report said.

"This report tells us that recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid and intensifying, unprecedented in thousands of years," said IPCC Vice Chair Ko Barrett, senior climate adviser for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "The changes we experience will increase with further warming."

The 3,000-plus-page report from 234

scientists said warming is already accelerating sea level rise, shrinking ice and worsening extremes such as heat waves, droughts, floods and storms. Tropical cyclones are getting stronger and wetter, while Arctic sea ice is dwindling in the summer and permafrost is thawing. All of these trends will get worse, the report said.

For example, the kind of heat wave that used to happen only once every 50 years now happens once a decade, and if the world warms another degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit), it will happen twice every seven years, the report said.

As the planet warms, places will get hit more not just by extreme weather but by multiple climate disasters that occur simultaneously, the report said. That's like what's now happening in the Western U.S., where heat waves, drought and wildfires compound the damage, Mearns said.

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DWAYNE JOHNSON DEFENDS HIS SHOWERING ROUTINE

Actor Dwayne Johnson recently says that there is nothing weird about showering three times a day. After someone commented: "This is...weirder than not showering?" Johnson replied: "Nothing weird about this, my friend. I work out twice a day and then I go to work for 12+ hours. I shower 3xs."

JAMIE LYNN SPEARS SHARES CRYING CLIP

The *Zoey 101* star Jamie Lynn Spears posted an audio clip twice on her Instagram account, in which her three-year-old daughter Ivey tries to reassure her that everything would 'be OK'. In the short clip, Ivey is heard saying: "It'll be OK, Mom." The 30-year-old actress replies: "Thank you, baby."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Your sportsman spirit will find its way into both your professional and personal life. Today may be an important day in your life, and Ganesh says you must not forget your special quality.

TAURUS
You will put your heart and soul into whatever you do today, says Ganesh. But there may still be dark clouds hovering over the results. Don't let that bother you. You must keep up the hard work throughout the day. Finally, you will hit the deck with a feeling of happiness and satisfaction, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
Dress to kill today! People around you may or may not comment, but they will definitely notice you. Your sense of style and taste will bowl everyone over. People would scramble for a glimpse of you. In short, you will be a celebrity. Most probably, your beloved will share the limelight with you. Enjoy!

CANCER
You are at your industrious best today. You will be able to think the unthinkable, achieve the unachievable, and impress an emotionally impregnable boss. Your confidence level will be sky-high; in fact, it will make overconfidence wallow in self-doubt. Your colleagues will be awestruck, considering themselves lucky to see you in action.

LEO
The thing with skills is that they are not static; they are as dynamic as anything else. It is akin to being on a treadmill — you need to continuously keep moving just to stay in the same place, says Ganesh. So keep refreshing yourself by learning new things in order to sustain your progress. What you need is passion to help you shine in your profession, according to Ganesh.

VIRGO
Get out of your self today, for a change, and try to look at things from a loved one's perspective. It's good to be confident, but over confidence is a different matter altogether, reminds Ganesh. Listening to others, absorbing their expressions and viewing things differently shall do you and your loved ones a world of good. With time, you shall also see your social image and rapport with others improving.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will use your mental competency to complete all your work on time. You may not give complete attention to your family as you will be spending time in the office or at work. Your extraordinary intelligence will be showcased at work today. Ganesh says do not forget your family which has played a huge role in your success.

SCORPIO
Today promises to be a joy ride for your hidden gourmand side. Relish what you eat, and thank God for the good luck. Career wise, however, you may find yourself standing at a crossroads. But, the good part about that is there shall be many paths to choose from. And, who knows the art of balancing better than you. The latter half of the day promises to bring some monetary gains.

SAGITTARIUS
Your dedication to work is set to shift to the top gear. Find yourself swamped by excess of workload in the forenoon. Things, however, will lighten as the afternoon progresses. Expect a fun-filled, exciting evening.

CAPRICORN
Opportunities are rare, and good opportunities rarer still. Today, you will run to grab an opportunity and will make the most of it, says Ganesh. This move will yield instant results, and place you better in comparison with your opponents. Rivals, in fact, will try to do you down but will fail miserably in their attempt. Your social standing, on the other hand, will grow manifold and all because of your extraordinary traits.

AQUARIUS
The game is set; you are put up against those who are holding a grudge against you and are waiting for an opportunity to pull you down. But, you are confident, skillful, and know your strengths very well. No matter how hard the opponents try, they will be no match to you, predicts Ganesh. Throughout all of these your spouse will support you silently but strongly.

PISCES
You will find yourself in a philosophical state of mind today. You will be able to see things for what they really are, rather than what they appear to be. You are unlikely to try and swim against the flow today, given your mental state. You will take things as they come to you, one at a time. Some bad news could come your way and likely keep your mind convulsed with stress, says Ganesh.



I am a responsible kid: Vani Kapoor

NEW DELHI: Actress Vaani Kapoor calls herself a responsible kid.

"I am a very responsible kid. I am the one who parents my own parents because they behave like the children of the house. So, I think they thought I would be responsible enough and it is work at the end of the day. These are choices that you make and make them sensibly," says the 32-year-old actress.

On the work front, Vani is looking forward to her upcoming movie *Bell Bottom* which was shot amid the pandemic.

Talking about going out of the house to shoot for *Bell Bottom* in Glasgow, she says, "There was a lot of paranoia. I will not deny that. There was nervousness and fear that even if somebody tests positive how do you come back to India or where does that person stay...The kind of factors that came into play."

She credited the production house and co-star Akshay Kumar for showing courage.

"Hats off to the production house who had to bring in the entire team from India to make them quarantine with 14 days of no work," said the *War* actress.



'Non-film music taking centre stage again'

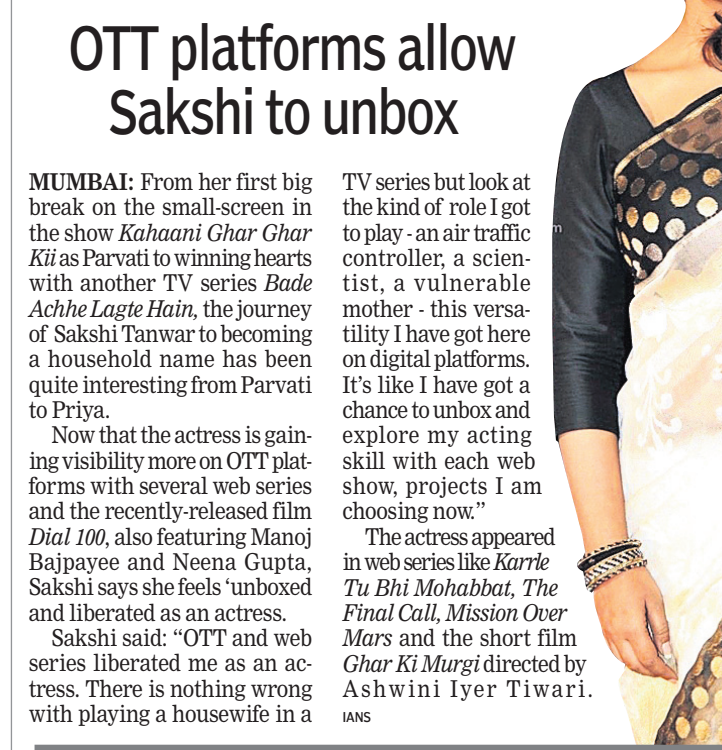
NEW DELHI: Singer Neha Bhasin is happy that independent music is taking centre stage, but adds that she misses no words while talking about famous actors being a part of these numbers.

Bhasin said: "Because of Covid I do see that non-film music is taking centre stage again because films have taken a bit of a back seat."

"But music industry and non film music main bhi wohi ho raha ki jo famous actors hain unko songs main daldo chaahe gaane kaisai bhi ho (But in non-film music they are putting Bollywood stars no matter how or what the song is). I don't know."

The singer, who is currently seen as a contestant in *Bigg Boss OTT*, says she does not see the evolution of music content.

"I don't see an evolution in content, I see an evolution in terms of it getting importance. There are some artists who are doing some good music, especially those who are independent, but with labels, I say that I get the feeling of selling soaps. That's my personal opinion and it doesn't really matter. It doesn't affect what I do. I still do what I do," Bhasin said.



OTT platforms allow Sakshi to unbox

MUMBAI: From her first big break on the small-screen in the show *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii* as Parvati to winning hearts with another TV series *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain*, the journey of Sakshi Tanwar to becoming a household name has been quite interesting from Parvati to Priya.

Now that the actress is gaining visibility more on OTT platforms with several web series and the recently-released film *Dial 100*, also featuring Manoj Bajpayee and Neena Gupta, Sakshi says she feels 'unboxed and liberated as an actress.'

Sakshi said: "OTT and web series liberated me as an actress. There is nothing wrong with playing a housewife in a

TV series but look at the kind of role I got to play - an air traffic controller, a scientist, a vulnerable mother - this versatility I have got here on digital platforms. It's like I have got a chance to unbox and explore my acting skill with each web show, projects I am choosing now."

The actress appeared in web series like *Karle Tu Bhi Mohabbat*, *The Final Call*, *Mission Over Mars* and the short film *Ghar Ki Murgi* directed by Ashwini Iyer Tiwari.



Maitreyi Ramakrishnan on Teen Vogue cover

Never Have I Ever star Maitreyi Ramakrishnan became the second person of South Asian descent to grace the cover of the popular *Teen Vogue* magazine solo.

Versha Sharma, who is the editor-in-chief of *Teen Vogue* described Maitreyi as a rising star on her post on Instagram.

Sharma, who is the first South Asian American Editor-in-Chief of *Teen Vogue*, wrote alongside the cover: "My first cover for @teenvogue is here and I could not be happier that it's @maitreyiramakrishnan, rising star and hilarious talent, looking extra fashionable, surrounded by books. It's classic brown girl vibes + back to school all in one."

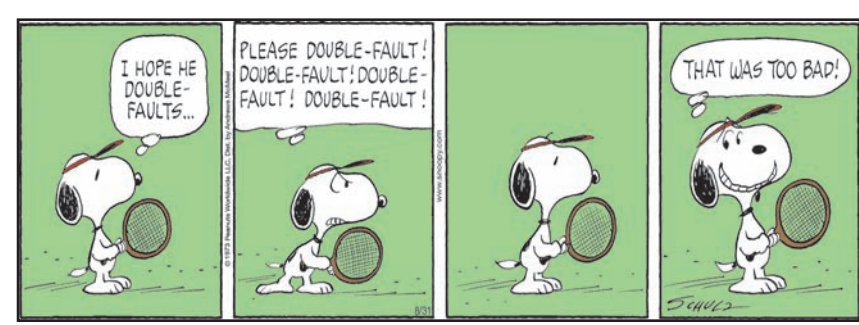
"The features by @aaminasdfghjkl and photos

by @heathersten are so fantastic. link in bio to see it all + my letter (partially to you, partially to my younger self) about why it means so much to me to choose a cover star like Maitreyi - a brown girl allowing so many of us to see ourselves portrayed in a way that is exactly how we grew up. (finally!) and that's all possible thanks to @mindykaling, too!" Sharma added.

A post from a New York-based media portal *The Juggernaut*, wrote on the photo-sharing website: "At 19 years old, @maitreyiramakrishnan has made history as only the second person of South Asian descent to grace the cover of @teenvogue solo."

With Maitreyi, Poorna Jagannathan and Richa Moorjani leading the cast, *Never Have I Ever* is a coming-of-age story that examines Indian culture against an American backdrop.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

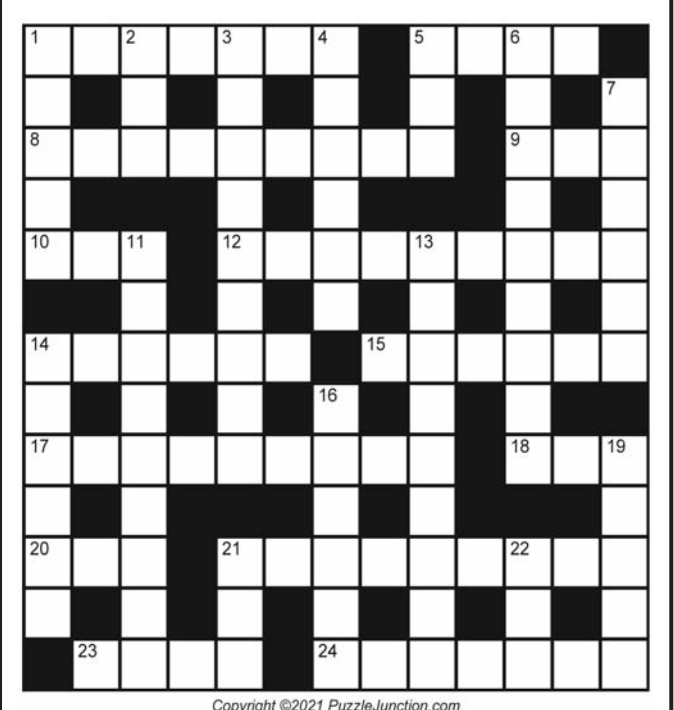


BREVITY



FUN post

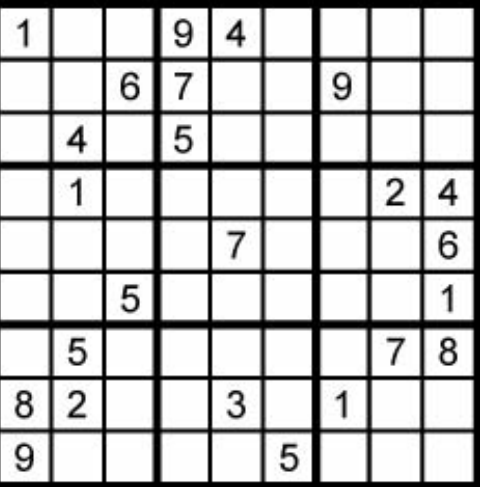
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Move about in haste
 - 5 Big brass
 - 8 Balcony
 - 9 Garage contents
 - 10 Blubber
 - 12 Church type
 - 14 Worldwide
 - 15 Trite phrase
 - 17 Right away
 - 18 Collector's goal
 - 20 Razor-billed bird
 - 21 Sleds
 - 23 Stuff in a muffin
 - 24 Astronaut's concern
 - Down**
 - 1 Big trucks
 - 2 Woodworking tool
 - 3 Seating aid (5,4)
 - 4 Dried fruit
 - 5 Bunion's place
 - 6 Hiking accessories
 - 7 Threatening words (2,4)
 - 11 Racetrack figure
 - 13 Fellow worker
 - 14 Stringed instrument
 - 16 Snipping sort
 - 19 Irascible
 - 21 Beachgoer's goal
 - 22 Prone

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



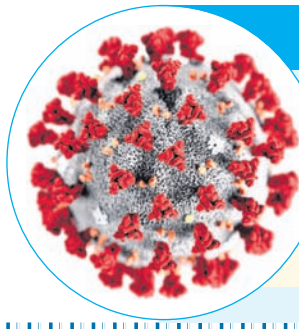
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



DRAWING ATTENTION

Members of 'Mo Katak Surakshya Mancha' hands over a memorandum to the Superintendent of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, Monday, alleging negligence in treatment of destitute



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	20,36,27,662	18,29,45,927	43,11,308
India	3,19,69,954	3,11,39,457	4,28,309
Odisha	9,87,956	9,69,916	6,501

Nod to ₹331cr Srimandir Heritage Corridor work

The tender was awarded to Tata Projects Limited and the work will be completed within 18 months



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: The state Cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday approved a tender for implementation of Srimandir Parikrama Project in Puri under Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (Abadha) scheme.

The tender was awarded to Tata Projects Limited at a cost of ₹331.28 crore. The work will be completed within 18 months, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said at

the Cabinet meeting held here Monday.

The panel also approved the tender for renovation and restoration of upper Indravati right main canal at a cost of ₹148.12 crore which is planned to be completed in 24 months.

The appointment of retired IAS officer Anjan Kumar Manik as member of Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) has also been cleared by the Cabinet.

The state government has decided to provide 40 acres of land under Jatni tehsil for establish-

ment of Bagchi-Sri Shankara Cancer Centre & Research Institute and Bagchi-Karunashraya Palliative Care Centre (Ac 20 to each institution) free of cost. The state government has remitted stamp duty and registration fees of ₹2.92 crore for this proposal.

The government has also sanctioned land measuring 18.23 acre in Sambalpur tehsil for establishment of the permanent campus of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sambalpur.

On the recommendation of the GST Council, the Cabinet also ap-

proved the proposal to amend Odisha Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act, 2017, to simplify the provisions and provide certain facilities to the taxpayers and tax authorities.

The Cabinet approved the tender for renovation and restoration of upper Indravati right main canal at a cost of ₹148.12 crore which is planned to be completed in 24 months

The government also sanctioned land measuring 18.23 acre in Sambalpur tehsil for establishment of the permanent campus of IIM, Sambalpur

The Cabinet approved a proposal to amend Odisha GST Act, 2017 to simplify the provisions and provide certain facilities to the taxpayers and tax authorities

Offline classes restart at technical institutes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: After a gap of more than six months, classroom teaching at technical institutes across the state resumed Monday with strict adherence to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) laid down by the state government.

As per the SOP, physical classes will be held regularly, covering all chapters of the syllabus even though some chapters have been taught through online mode. Classroom teaching will be recorded and shared with the absentees.

Authorities of the institutes have made elaborate arrangements for the commencement of classes in an infection-free environment with proper sanitization of classrooms, laboratories, libraries and offices.

ITI Bhubaneswar Principal Jeetamitra Satpathy said, "After a long gap, students arrived at the institute. For them, we have arranged all safety measures such as hand wash and sanitizer available in the classrooms. We have also divided the students in small groups for different classes in different shifts. On the first day, 60 per cent students attended the classes but we expect more students to show up."

Students and staffers have expressed pleasure over the resumption of offline classes after a long gap.

Covid threw spanner on routine health check-ups: Study

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, August 9: People with chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) faced multiple challenges in accessing healthcare in Khurda district during the Covid-19 pandemic, a study reveals.

The ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) and Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) jointly conducted the mixed-method study in Khurda district during May-June 2020. The report was published Monday.

A total of 491 individuals, having at least one NCD, participated in the study. Among them, 51 per cent (252) were males.

The study revealed that nearly two-thirds of the participants encountered challenges in their routine investigation (69%), while 67 per cent faced trouble in day-care procedures and 61 per cent in reaching hospitals.

Similarly, around 59 per cent participants reported issues in doctor appointments while 56 per cent faced challenges in emergency treatment. Likewise, 47 per cent participants in the survey faced issues in access to the pharmacy while 46 per cent faced delay in availing healthcare services.

Meanwhile, 37 per cent perceived that they could not access healthcare facilities because of social restrictions/lockdowns, 29 per cent attributed arranging finance as a constraint to visiting hospitals and 16 per cent avoided going to the hospital, fearing Covid-19 infection, the study says.

"Qualitative findings revealed that before the onset of the pandemic, participants managed their NCD conditions by routinely visiting hospitals or physicians. Almost all considered their routine treatment as a lesser priority during the pandemic as compared to the threat of Covid-19," it said.

Those living in urban areas with multiple non-communicable diseases reported a significantly higher challenge in having doctor's consultation as compared to those living in rural areas with a single NCD condition.

The study also found that fam-



SURVEY ON CHRONIC NCDs

Around 69% participants in the survey encountered challenges in their routine investigation, while 67% faced trouble in day-care procedures and 61% in reaching hospitals during May-June 2020

Nearly 59% reported issues in doctor appointments while 56% faced challenges in emergency treatment

About 37% said that they could not access healthcare facilities because of social restrictions/lockdowns, 29% attributed arranging finance as a constraint to visiting hospitals and 16% avoided hospital visits, fearing Covid-19 infection

ily networks were the primary source of support among the respondents (96%), while about three per cent relied on their friends and neighbours.

Some of the participating patients also tried to avail teleconsultation or consulted their physicians through telephone or Internet-based platforms. However, non-availability of their health records and background information on treatment was the major challenge while approaching a new physician on a telemedicine platform.

FILL VACANCIES IN TRIBUNALS: BJD TO CENTRE

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 9: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday supported the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021 which seeks to abolish several appellate tribunals and transfer their functions, such as adjudication of appeals, to other existing judicial bodies. The party, however, demanded filling up of vacancies in several tribunals.

Speaking on the Bill on behalf of the party in the Upper House, BJD MP Sujeet Kumar said that the tribunal system needs reforms and this Bill will fast-track justice by reducing an extra layer of litigation. He said that the two main reasons to establish the tribunals were to unclog the courts, and the lack of specialised skills in courts' part. It was expected that the tribunals would provide specialised skills to deal with the matters.

The BJD MP raised apprehension about the short tenure of members as stated in the Bill. He said that the four-year term of office is lower than the minimum term of five years as directed by the Supreme Court.

Kumar also raised concern over executive hold on the judiciary. "I share the concern that the short tenure of members along with eligibility of re-appointment ensures executive hold on the tribunals," he said.

Party MP Sujeet Kumar raised apprehension about the short tenure of members as stated in the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021

The BJD MP urged the Union government to consider the issue of vacancies in tribunals with utmost seriousness. There are many vacancies in the tribunals and these should be filled up in a time-bound manner.

Stating that there is huge pendency of cases in the high courts, Kumar said the abolishment of these tribunals will further increase the pending cases.

Significantly, the Rajya Sabha passed the Bill by voice vote while a statutory motion moved by the Opposition members to send it to a select committee was negated by a division vote. The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha August 3.

Tribunals that the Bill seeks to abolish include Film Certification Appellate Tribunal, Airports Appellate Tribunal, Authority for Advance Rulings, Intellectual Property Appellate Board and Plant Varieties Protection Appellate Tribunal. The functions of these will be transferred to the existing judicial bodies.

A DAY FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE



Textiles, Handlooms and Handicrafts Minister Padmini Dian shares a light moment with a group of tribal women during the celebration of World Tribal Day at BJD party office in Bhubaneswar, Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: After conducting several rounds of talks with relevant stakeholders, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Monday decided to allow reopening of all religious institutions in the Capital city from August 23.

Following a virtual meet with all religious heads of the city, the BMC issued an order on reopening of the institutions amid strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols. The civic authority clarified that only 100 devotees will be allowed entry to Lingaraj Temple while 25 will be allowed to other temples, mosques, gurudwaras and church.

"Only 100 devotees will be allowed from Singhadwar to Adakatha. Sa hana darshan/Garvagraha darshan will



be completely prohibited at Lingaraj Temple. The BMC will do the necessary barricading outside the temple to ensure this. No devotee will

be allowed inside the 'Garvagraha' or sanctum sanctorum of any temple area and will be allowed 'darshan' from a safe distance only. There

Shrines in Capital city to reopen August 23

ONLY 100 DEVOTEES WILL BE ALLOWED ENTRY TO LINGARAJ TEMPLE WHILE 25 WILL BE ALLOWED TO OTHER TEMPLES, MOSQUES, GURUDWARAS AND CHURCH

NO DEVOTEE WILL BE ALLOWED INSIDE THE 'GARVAGRUHA' OR SANCTUM SANTORUM OF ANY TEMPLE AREA AND WILL BE ALLOWED 'DARSHAN' FROM A SAFE DISTANCE ONLY

shall be no food offerings in the temple. Temple authorities should ensure that all instructions are strictly adhered to," the order read.

It also stated that the authorities shall ensure RT-PCR testing of their priests/servitors and only getting a negative report along with final Covid vaccination

certificate, be allowed to perform rituals.

The BMC notification said religious institution authorities shall ensure maintenance of social distancing of 6 feet among visitors.

"All priests/sebays and devotees have to wear masks all the time. The religious institutions shall make provision for hand washing and hand sanitiser for the devotees at the entry and exit points. Spitting inside and outside premises is strictly prohibited. Moreover individuals with SARI/ILI like symptoms shall not be allowed inside. Other vulnerable groups including those with co-morbidities, elderly age persons, pregnant women or children below eight years of age are advised not to visit religious institutions," the order added.

BOOST TO JUDICIARY



Newly-recruited civil judges, along with senior Orissa High Court judges including Chief Justice S Muralidhar, pose after the oath-taking ceremony at Odisha Judicial Academy in Cuttack, Monday

Brown sugar worth ₹1.1 crore seized in Cuttack; 6 arrested

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, August 9: The Commissionerate Police Monday claimed to have arrested six persons after recovering over 1 kg of brown sugar from their possession here.

Police commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi told newsmen that acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Lalbag police and special squad, led by additional commissioner of police (ACP) Ajay Das, arrested the drug peddlers during a raid near RNT College here late Sunday night.

"Around 1.159 kilogram of brown sugar packed in six sachets has been recovered from their possession. The contraband would fetch

more than ₹1.10 crore," the police top brass said.

According to Priyadarshi, all the six were booked under Section 21C of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. A case (206/2021) has been registered with Lalbag police in connection with the haul.

"Multiple criminal cases have been pending against the accused in various police stations in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and in some other places. Of the six, four are from Jagatsinghpur, one is from Cuttack and the other is from Puri," Priyadarshi said.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to have been

procuring brown sugar from Balasore and disposing of the contraband after finding prospective buyers at Cuttack, Khurda, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts.

A special team, under the guidance of Cuttack deputy commissioner of police (DCP), has been investigating the case.

Sources said the Commissionerate Police has recovered around 4.2 kg of brown sugar and 677 kg of ganja from the twin cities and arrested 39 persons in connection with the cases since January 2021.

The police, Priyadarshi said, have been working on a mission to make the twin city drug free.

ICT teachers' suicide attempt over job loss



The initially peaceful hunger-strike took a dangerous turn when a few protesters attempted mass suicide by consuming phenyl and self-immolation. The police present at the site foiled the attempts and detained the agitating teachers.

been demanding the appointment of computer teachers for the last two years but the government is sitting quiet. So, we decided to end our lives to arouse some alertness among the government."

A few protesters attempted mass suicide by consuming phenyl and self-immolation. The police present at the site foiled the attempts and detained the agitating teachers. Some police personnel, including Capital police station IIC, and teachers were injured in the incident.

The police have arrested 14 agitating teachers and forwarded them to court.

Association president Dipika Manjari Mishra said, "We have

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: More than 4,000 members of ICT School Coordinators' Association gathered at the Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) office Monday to protest the termination of computer teachers' services and demanded their re-appointment.

The initially peaceful hunger-strike took a dangerous turn when



An agitator pours kerosene on himself; an injured Capital IIC Girija Sankar Chakrabarty



OP PHOTO

Bring affidavits from 10 poor fined for not wearing masks: HC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 9: Hearing a petition terming the provisions of 'hefty' fine for not wearing face-mask in public during the pandemic as a 'burden on the poor', the Orissa High Court Monday asked the petitioner to come up with affidavits from at least 10 such 'poor' who have been fined for the violation.

Further hearing on the plea depends on submission of the affidavits, the HC said while hearing a petition filed by Purbjit Singh Saluja. Saluja had last April informed the HC that one who does not wear a face-mask in public during the pandemic would be fined of ₹2,000 instead of ₹1,000 as per the Odisha Covid-19 Regulations 2020. The person would cough up ₹5,000 each for subsequent violations. For a poor person, the 'hefty' fine is burdensome, said the petitioner.

City cops bust highway robbers' gang

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Anti-social elements including snatchers and robbers have resurfaced in the state capital. The miscreants are targeting innocent commuters, especially at night. Six members from two such dreaded criminal gangs were arrested by the City police Monday.

According to sources, Khandagiri police managed to nab two members of a highway robbers' gang Sunday night. The accused were identified as Sunil Kumar Swain alias Kabi (30) of Fatehgarh in Nayagarh district and Kuna Pradhan alias Mangu (22) of Satya Nagar in Dumduma area under Khandagiri police limits.

One S Bhaskar Rao, a native of Erode district in Tamilnadu, has been staying at Manguli under Tangi police station in Cuttack. Sunday afternoon, Rao lodged a

TAKING TO STREETS

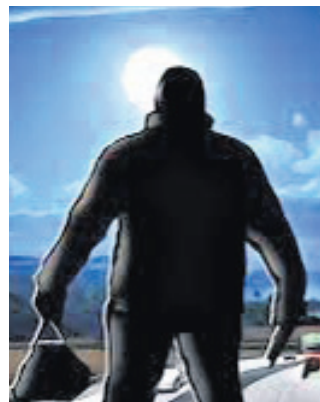


Opera artistes stage a demonstration near Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar demanding pension in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, Monday

Two from the highway robbers' gang were caught near Aiginia in Khandagiri while robbing a truck driver

Four from the snatchers gang were caught and the police seized 20 mobile phones, five gold chains, four stolen motor cycles and ₹3 lakh in cash from their possession

The snatchers' gang was involved in more than 40 cases of robbery and loot, registered at different police stations in the state Capital



Seeing the police van, they tried to flee the spot while police managed to arrest Sunil. Meanwhile, the accused Kuna jumped off the fly-over to evade arrest. He luckily escaped death but sustained severe leg injuries. The accused, during interrogation, revealed that they used to hire vehicles from various

travelling agencies and loot commuters using those.

Similarly, four dreaded snatchers were held Sunday from different places in the City. The gang was involved in series of snatching and robbery incidents in City during the past 15 days. Police seized 20 mobile phones, five gold chains, four stolen motor cycles and ₹3 lakh in cash from the possession of the accused. The gang was involved in more than 40 cases of robbery and loot, registered at different police stations in the state Capital.

The City is witnessing a significant rise in crime with the reopening of markets and increase in movement of people. The incidents expose the tall claims by City police about peaceful law and order situation here. Denizens are scared to step out at night looking at the recent violent incidents like murder, group clashes, and snatchings at different places in City.

Tent house owners, catering bodies demand ease in curbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Tent house owners and members of catering, flower, light and sound associations staged a protest, Monday here at Lower PMG demanding relaxations in restrictions imposed on social events like marriages and thread ceremonies.

Only 25 persons are allowed to attend a social event. Explaining how such a clamp has affected their livelihood, the protesters urged immediate relaxations in the current norms to revive their business.

"The number of cases has dipped in the state and the government has allowed opening of malls, cinema halls and parks. Around 10 lakh people associated with catering industry across the state are going through a tough time. The government should take steps to restore our livelihood," said Binay Patnaik, president of the Odisha Catering Association.

Requesting the government to increase number of participants to 300, the protesters warned to intensify the stir if their demands were not met. The demands come ahead of upcoming festivals such as Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi and Nuakhai.

Lawyers' body puts on hold decision to shun HC CJ's court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 9: The Orissa High Court Bar Association Monday attended the proceedings of the court of the HC Chief Justice, putting on hold its decision to boycott it till August 9.

Sources said that the lawyers' body had August 4 decided to boycott the court of the HC Chief Justice till August 9 as part of its protest against the livestreaming of the proceedings.

A decision to this effect was taken at the general body meeting of the association Monday.

"A committee of the lawyers will soon hold discussions with the HC Chief Justice on issues relating to livestreaming of the proceed-



ings. Further actions will be taken thereafter," said a source familiar with the development.

Notably, a notice was issued for livestreaming of the HC proceedings July 28.

However, the lawyers' association opposed the move and submitted a memorandum to the Chief Justice.

The lawyers' body claimed that

The Orissa High Court Bar Association had decided to boycott the court of the HC Chief Justice till August 9

the decision to go for livestreaming of HC proceedings was taken in a hurry.

The HC should have consulted the Bar Association before taking a decision in this regard, said the lawyers' body.

The Bar Association argued that proper infrastructure, arrangement for data security and high-speed internet service are required for livestreaming of court proceedings.

Cong to AG: Audit funds collected from contractors

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 9: The state Congress Monday demanded an audit by the Accountant General (AG) on utilization of funds collected from the contractors by the state government during the last ten years.

Odisha Pradesh Congress spokesperson and Chairman of the State Seva Dal, Arya Kumar Gyanendra alleged large scale corruption in the utilisation of fund collected from contractors for welfare of the workers.

Gyanendra said that the government had collected over Rs30,000 crore as cess and used the fund for procuring bicycles, shoes, umbrellas and other materials for the workers during the last ten years. He demanded a white paper on the utilisation of the fund.

He alleged that the government paid ₹1,500 each as covid assistance to the construction workers. But the money was not paid from the government's own resources but from the fund collected from contractors. However, the government took credit citing the former.

The Odisha unit of the All India Unorganised Workers Congress, led by Bidyadhar Mohanty, demonstrated before the state Assembly and demanded the fulfilment of its nine point charter of demands.

The demands, among others, included registration of all unorganised workers, action on mafia raj in MGNREGA implementation, and 100 days work to all unorganised workers including construction workers, agriculture workers and workers under MGNREGA.

Mohanty said that while the state has 1.62 crore unorganised workers, the government has registered only 80 lakh so far.

He also demanded to provide social security to migrant workers, and Covid assistance and accidental death benefits to all unorganised workers.

Centurion varsity gets 'green champion' tag

MGNCRE has released a list of 400 colleges across India which actively participated in keeping their campuses clean



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Centurion University has bagged the 'One District One Green Champion' Award by Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), Union Ministry of Education, under Swachhta Action Plan 2020-21, said a release issued by the university.

MGNCRE has released a list of 400 colleges from across the country for 2020-21 which actively participated in keeping their campuses clean and sanitised.

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) became the cleanest campus in Gajapati district. The university has a strong focus on environmental awareness and sustainable living. The campus follows solid waste segregation norms. Under beautification and biodiversity conservation drives at the campus, garden wastes are being used for bio-composting inside the campus for gardening purposes. Adoption of organic method of gardening helps in reducing carbon footprints inside the campus.

CUTM also organised Covid-19 awareness and donation camp of essentials, plantation drives and several awareness events on wastewater treatment, organic farming, plastic recycling, solar lamp assembly, sustainability, waste minimization and others where renowned experts from academia, and industry shared their valu-

able inputs. CSR Committee of the university is the embodiment of institute's spirit for significantly contributing to the society.

The committee organised blood donation camp, World Environment Health Week, donation drive for flood affected, clothes donation drives for underprivileged, mini-marathon and other events.

All campuses of the varsity incorporate sustainability aspects from planning to designing phases focusing, rain water harvesting and solid waste management and the like, said the university sources.

University VC Supriya Pattanayak said, "Along with technological and educational advancement, the university acknowledges the importance of environment and puts in concerted efforts towards achieving the development goal in line of sustainable development. This award is a testimony to the university's commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development. I congratulate all the students and staff members for this honour."

The 'One District One Green Champion' Award was announced in a formal function held virtually August 7, 2021.

Gajapati Collector Lingraj Panda announced the award conferred on CUTM. MGNCRE Coordinator Tuti Sandhya welcomed and coordinated the function.

CUTM Registrar Anita Patra received the award on this occasion.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

An affidavit, I Madan Dalei, S/o. Debendra Dalei of Village: At-Banakanthi, P.O.-Anantapur, P.S.- Soro, Balasore, Odisha - 756046 hereby declare that in my Passport vide No. H6261084 my name has been mentioned as Madan Mohan Dalei in place of Madan Dalei. Both names Madan Dalei @ Madan Mohan Dalei are one and same person.

ANTI-LIQUOR STIR



Congress workers, including Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moqim, stage a sit-in in front of the Excise Directorate office in the city demanding closure of liquor shops in residential areas, Monday

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS
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DISPLAYING TALENT



A boy displaying his martial art skill at a training camp on Taekwondo at Digapahandi in Ganjam district, Monday

OP PHOTO

Fake crop insurance racket unearthed, 10 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantabanji, August 9: Amid allegations of gross irregularities in registration of farmers' names for crop insurance, police Monday arrested six persons, including four operators of common service centres (CSC) and two fake farmers, for their alleged involvement in crop insurance irregularities in Bolangir district.

Three CSCs operators – Sanjay Kumar Panda of Kantabanji Road, Niranjan Meher of Badasaimara village under Muribahal block and Jeetendra Behera of Belpada under Bongomunda block were arrested and produced in the court, Sunday. They were remanded to judicial custody after the court rejected their bail pleas.

The crackdown has sparked panic among the fake farmers and CSC operators involved in crop insurance irregularities in the district.

Later, acting on a complaint of Chhabimanyu Putel of Dangamara village, police arrested two fake farmers Jadupati Meher and Prahallad Meher of Chaulasukha village and a CSC operator Bailochan Meher of the same village, Monday. They were produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody.

According to sources, the CSC operators in connivance with fake farmers were involved in issuing fake crop insurance policies against

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
Crop Insurance



land belonging to genuine farmers in and around Turekela, Bongomunda, Muribahal and Kantabanji areas in the district.

During the course of investigation, the police have also exposed the involvement of several other CSCs in such corrupt practices, sources said.

The police action was subsequent to an expose by one Dhanurjay Meher of Chaulasukha village who filed a written complaint in this regard with the Kantabanji police. Earlier, police had arrested three fake farmers Debendra Meher, Bishikesan Meher and Arjun Meher in this connection and produced them in court, last Wednesday.

Reports said that some fake farmers connived with the CSC operators to grab the benefits of crop insurance by forging papers of the farmlands belonging to genuine farmers in their name while registering for crop insurance, this year.

Later, when the genuine farmers tried to buy a crop insurance policy, the computers declined the registration. This gave rise to suspicion and the victimised farmers lodged complaints in this regard with their respective tehsildars, agricultural officers as well as at the local police stations. Further investigation into the matter is on even as the police are trying to bring the accused on remand and question them regarding the irregularities.

Notably the Jajpur district Collector Sunday suspended three officials, including a junior engineer, for their alleged involvement in irregularities in various developmental projects of Jari panchayat under Binjharpur block in the district.

The suspension of the officials by the Collector came days after villagers staged a protest in front of the panchayat office alleging large-scale irregularities in several projects implemented under MGNREGS scheme in the village.

RAJENDRA VARSITY ALUMNI MEET VC, DISCUSS RECOGNITION ISSUE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 9: A delegation of Rajendra University's alumni Monday met vice-chancellor Prof Umaballabh Mohapatra, registrar Prof Durgaprasanna Mohapatra and lecturers to discuss various issues such as lack of land, infrastructure and vacant teachers' posts that are hindering the university's development.

Before being upgraded as Rajendra University, the institution was known as Rajendra College, established in 1944. Around 76 years after its inception, the state government upgraded it to a university, June 1, 2020.

Few days back, the University Grants Commission (UGC) granted its recognition to the university under UGC sub-clause 2(F), 1956 and included it in the list of UGC universities.

But, the university is yet to receive recognition under Section 12 (B) of the UGC Act 1956. To obtain this recognition, the university must have required land records, enough number of teachers and adequate infrastructure.

During the meeting, it came to the fore that the university owns 49 acres but doesn't have land records of the same. This apart, of the 126 sanctioned professor posts announced by the govern-



ment, not a single professor has been appointed so far. The required infrastructure too has to be developed.

With the university not having land records, teachers and infrastructure, it fails to meet the criteria to receive recognition under Section 12 (B) of the UGC Act 1956. In absence of this recognition, the university will not be entitled to receive UGC grants.

During the discussion, vice-chancellor Prof Mohapatra clarified that besides land records, the university must have at least 30 professors and ancillary infrastructure to get the recognition and receive funds.

"Keeping the next 50 years in view, the university needs an ad-

ditional 100 acres. Similarly, the campus needs to be developed for research and study

ditional 100 acres. Similarly, the campus needs to be developed for research and study. An administrative building will soon be constructed at a cost of Rs 25 crore. Besides these, a good library, an auditorium, hostels and a dak bungalow are also required," he in-

formed. Later, the alumni members said the university owns 62 acres and the Gandhi Stadium has come up on some portions of this land. Some local people have also encroached upon some land of the university and constructed houses on them. Now, it is the responsibility of the administration to reclaim the encroached lands.

They said they would meet the district Collector, RDC (northern division), local people's representatives and request their intervention to help the university get 150 acres and Odisha Records of Rights (ROR). They urged the government to interfere and take necessary steps in this regard.

So far, 66 acres near the institution have been identified. Around 26 acres near Central School and 33 acres near Dhumamara-Patharachecha have also been earmarked. But it would be better if the required land is available at one place. Students can stay back at night to do research work.

The delegation will meet the district Collector Tuesday and request him to take initiative to provide the university an additional 100 acres.

The delegation met the university authorities after Odia daily *Dharitri* carried news on the university repeatedly.

MAN STABBED TO DEATH BY SON

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kabisuryanagar, August 9: A man was stabbed to death by his son at Mahachhai village under this police limits in Ganjam district late Sunday night after he refused to give him money to buy liquor.

The deceased was identified as Karunakar Sahu of the village. He was rushed to Hinjilicut hospital in a critical condition where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. The name of the accused is yet to be ascertained.

Kabisuryanagar police handed over the body to his family members after post-mortem and registered a case in this connection.

A manhunt has been launched to nab the accused, who is said to be absconding.

The incident occurred when Karunakar's younger son asked him to give money to foot his liquor bill.

When Karunakar refused to meet his demand, the enraged youth picked up a *lathi* and brutally assaulted the old man. Later, he stabbed him with a knife and fled the village.

MYSTERY SHROUDS UNDERTRIAL'S DEATH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Athamallik, August 9: An undertrial prisoner lodged at Athamallik sub-jail in Angul district died under mysterious circumstances Sunday night.



The deceased was identified as Suman Dehuri, 26, of Angapada village under Kishorenagar police limits. He was lodged in the jail as an undertrial prisoner in connection with a murder case, September 9, 2020. According to reports, he was watching television Sunday afternoon when he sud-

denly collapsed. On being informed, the jail warden went near him and called his name. He, however, did not respond. Dehuri was rushed to the Athamallik sub-divisional hospital where he succumbed while undergoing treatment, jail superintendent Samarendra Dehuri said.

Dehuri said that the deceased was in good state of health prior to August 8 and he did not complain of any health issues. He fainted all of a sudden Sunday following which he was immediately rushed to the hospital where he succumbed during treatment, the jail superintendent said.

The exact reason of his death has not been ascertained. The body has been kept at the hospital for post-mortem. The cause of his death can only be ascertained after a post-mortem. The body will be handed over to his family members with all formalities, he added.

RAISING DEMANDS



Members of tent, caterer, flower, light and sound association staging a demonstration outside the Keonjhar Collectorate to press for their various demands, Monday

OP PHOTO

Vig raids Gaisilet PACS member's residence, office

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, August 9: Separate teams of Vigilance sleuths Monday conducted simultaneous searches at the residence and office of Gaisilet primary agriculture co-operative society (PACS) assistant secretary Ghanashyam Sahu in Padmapur subdivision of Bargarh district. The raids, which began early morning, are underway till the time of filing this report.

The raids are being conducted over allegations of Sahu possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, a Vigilance official informed.



Valuation of the seized properties, including gold jewellery, is being estimated

According to a source, two teams from Bargarh Vigilance division comprising a DSP, four inspectors and other personnel are carrying out the raids at Sahu's residence in Kalangapali locality and Gaisilet PACS office. Cash worth ₹1,80,000, owner-

ship documents of three plots, a car and two bikes owned by Sahu have been detected so far. Valuation of the seized properties, including gold jewellery, is being estimated. The value of these can be ascertained only after the raids are over, the official added.

1 KILLED, 2 HURT IN GROUP CLASH

Cuttack: A woman was killed and two others injured when two families clashed at Kathakhunta village under Narasinghpur police limits in Cuttack district late Sunday night. According to an official in Narasinghpur police station, the deceased has been identified as 50-year-old Binodini Mahalik. An altercation erupted between the two families, who happen to be neighbours, and things took an ugly turn when Badal Mahalik attacked Binodini with a sharp weapon leading to her death, the official added. Biranchi Mahalik and his son Alok also suffered serious injuries. They were rescued by other villagers and rushed to the Narasinghpur hospital. They were later shifted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital after their conditions deteriorated. Narasinghpur police have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION NO. II, SAMBALPUR
E-mail – eesbprnbdivision2@gmail.com, Phone -0663-2410104

BID IDENTIFICATION No. EE / R and B / SBP II /12(online)/2021-22

E-procurement notice

No.2847 / Dated,06.08.2021
No. B-281:- The Executive Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.II, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in single cover System in ONLINE MODE.

- No. of work :- 06 (Six) Nos. (Electrical works)
- Tender Cost :- ₹6000/-, ₹4000/- & ₹2000/-
- Class of Contractor :- Electrical Contractor/ OEM or Specialized agency or Registered firm with Associate Electrical Contractor
- Availability of bid document :- 10.00 Hours of 14.08.2021 to 17.00 Hours of 23.08.2021
- Date of Opening of Tenders :- 11.30 Hours on dt.24.08.2021
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only. Any Corrigendum / Addendum/cancellation of tender will be displayed in the website said only.

Executive Engineer
Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.II
OIPR-34042/11/0025/2122

BINAPANI SANGEET PARISHAD
Baradeswar, Bonth, Bhadrak, Odisha
padmalochandutta@gmail.com, 9337072560

TENDER NOTICE DATED: 10.08.2021
Tender Doc No. COHANDS/NA/Applied and Allied Cluster/IA/DPR/2019-20/02
Supply of Machinery and Equipment for CFC At: Baradeswar, P.O.- Bonth, Bhadrak, Odisha under SFURTI Scheme, MSME GOI

Sealed tenders are invited from manufacturer/supplier/traders (having minimum three years' experience in supply of manufacturing of machineries) for supply of Machinery and Equipment for CFC at Village Baradeswar, Bonth, Bhadrak, Odisha being facilitated by Binapani Sangeet Parishad, Baradeswar, Bonth, Bhadrak, Odisha. Tenders should be submitted in separate envelopes for Technical Bid and Financial Bid along with earnest money of Rs.2,20,000/- (Rupees two lakh twenty thousand only) and can be deposited at the below mentioned address upto 05.00 P.M. of 30.08.2021. The Demand Draft of earnest money should be in the name of Binapani Sangeet Parishad payable at Bhadrak. Tenders received will be opened before the Procurement Committee of the proposed common facility on 30.08.2021 at 3.00 P.M. in office.

Tender form can be obtained from Binapani Sangeet Parishad, Baradeswar, Bonth, Bhadrak, Odisha, any working day between 10.08.2021 to 30.08.2021 from 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. and on 30.08.2021 from 10.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. by payment of Rs.500/-.

The details of works and terms and conditions are available in the tender form. Binapani Sangeet Parishad, Baradeswar, Bonth, Bhadrak, Odisha, reserves the right to cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd./- Padmalochan Dutta
Chief Coordinator
Binapani Sangeet Parishad, Baradeswar Bonth, Bhadrak, Odisha

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BOLANGIR, E-Mail ID: eerw_bigr@yahoo.co.in
e Procurement Notice

No.O-486- **IFB IDENTIFICATION NO. EEBLGR-online-01/2021-22**

1	Name of work	: Roads & Building work
2	Total No. of works	: 59 (Fifty-nine) Nos.
3	Approximate estimated cost	: Varies from Rs.1.77 lakhs to 28.29 lakhs
4	EMD @ 1% of the estimated cost	: Rs.1800/- to Rs.28300/-
5	Cost of tender paper	: Rs.600/- to Rs.6000/-
6	Time for completion	: 3 (Three) months
7	Mode of submission of tender	: Tender should be submitted online in www.tenders.on.nic.in
8	Other details are as follow	: As per TCN No. EEBLGR-online-01/2021-22

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender
Executive Engineer, R.W. Divn. Bolangir	Online Tender/01/BLGR	From 16.08.2021 at 11.00 A.M. To 26.08.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	25.08.2021 upto 1.00 P.M.	27.08.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tenders.on.nic.in. Any corrigendum/ addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

OIPR- 25068/11/0001/2122 **Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bolangir**

FOCUS SOCIETY

ANTYODAYA & ANTILIA



Climate change, the pollution in our oceans, the rising frequency of pandemics and growing inequality seen even in the most 'developed' of nations mark the bitter harvest of which Gandhi had warned long, long ago

even to those uninitiated in the lessons of Mahatma Gandhi. Climate change, the pollution in our oceans, the rising frequency of pandemics and growing inequality seen even in the most 'developed' of nations mark the bitter harvest of which Gandhi had warned long, long ago.

The truth is that India turned away from the path of Mahatma Gandhi not today but long, long ago. The policies of privatisation and liberalisation in the 1990s meant a sharper turn in that original direction that we set for ourselves. With a new party at the helm, even as the original policies of the Congress come in for criticism, the turn in the direction is the same - sharper, faster and further away from Mahatma Gandhi, now overtly so.

There was a time it was said that the policies of liberalisation were dictated by the IMF and the World Bank. Then, what was dictated became the native language and we immersed ourselves in it and took to it seamlessly. In that sense, Dhirubhai Ambani's original words: "To think small is unbecoming of an Indian" celebrated material dreams that were always there but never came to be articulated in those words.

Now, as the Western model totters, as the world searches for a new path, it is India that is caught in a dark alley from which it will find it hard to come out unscathed.

Across the globe, the turn against the way the modern-day growth model works is gaining momentum. As the Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz wrote in the IMF's Finance & Development issue just when the pandemic struck: "We have an economy rife with market power and exploitation... We need a comprehensive rewriting of the rules of the economy."

Jagdish Rattanani is a journalist and a faculty member at SPJIMR. Sudarshan Iyengar is the former Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith, the university founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920. Views are personal.

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The growing influence of large and powerful business conglomerates continue to raise concerns, not only in India but across the world. Suspicions have risen high these days in the age of the overwhelming influence of Facebook and Google but they go back many years. Woodrow Wilson, noted for his agenda against business lobbies in the US, said it more than a century ago: "No country can afford to have its prosperity originated by a small controlling class... Every country is renewed out of the ranks of the unknown, not out of the ranks of those already famous and powerful and in control."

India has seen its own explosive rise of business conglomerates, and the attendant suspicions that they inevitably evoke among the ordinary people. The Ambanis in general and Mukesh Ambani as the head of the Reliance Industries group in particular are among the top houses that get named often, either as examples of high achievement or as a class that controls more than it should. Now, even Ambani has spoken of the uneven benefits of economic reforms, saying that "the disparity is neither acceptable nor sustainable." While celebrating growth and announcing that "India's time has come," the business leader wrote recently of the "common goal" of Mahatma Gandhi's Antyodaya or the idea of welfare and well-being reaching the last person.

Gandhi and unbridled GDP growth appear to meet in this vision, offering a unique combination of Antyodaya and Antilia, the famously chronicled \$2bln family skyscraper where the Ambanis stay in luxurious opulence.

There is of course a fundamental clash between the two but can the gulf be bridged by the "Ambani thinking," loosely a metaphor for development models that have reached us where we stand today and are being pushed on a faster track? Or is Gandhi being appropriated, his commanding ideas and powerful lexicon subsumed by the offer of delivering on the ends if you allow the business class the luxury of using any means? The

questions have to be seen in the light of the nexus between the State and big business, each protecting, supporting and enabling the other; all of it entrenched and regularised within the democratic framework.

Gandhi of course was not against wealth creation. Yet, he would use the word "thieves" for those keeping anything more than their need. In Gandhi's words: "I am no socialist and I do not want to dispossess those who have got possessions; but I do say that, personally, those of us who want to see light out of darkness have to follow this rule... If somebody else possesses more than I do, let him. But so far as my own life has to be regulated, I do say that I dare not possess anything which I do not want." (Selections from Gandhi by Nirmal Kumar Bose)

In this approach, Antilia and Antyodaya cannot go together. Yet, damning the former cannot create space for the latter. In a complex subject that spans the moral, the material and indeed the spiritual, it is best to steer clear of mixing two ingredients that are inherently unmixable. The cocktail that emerges will please no one, however enticing the colour or the promise. In fact, each standing on its own is heady stuff - one a model of instant gratification focused on the outer and the other a model of long-term fulfilment focused on the inner.

The thrills of modernity, the promise of a GDP-delivered nirvana, and an economy built on endless consumption makes for a captivating ride. It has given us jobs (for a few) and selective infrastructure upgrades on which ride fast cars, instant cash and super AMOLED screens full of AI-driven ads. It comes with its side effects - anxiety, stress, frequent crashes, plunder of the environment, rising inequality and violence embedded in every aspect of living. This is heady alright, if the nation were to argue that we never had enough and now we get all the stuff at home, ordered on Amazon.

On the other hand, stands the combination of a bania and a sage in the personality of Mahatma Gandhi, resolute in his thinking that the above is a path to doom. This is the path of self-emancipation, of inner growth, of character that lives with the ideals of Narsinh Mehta's eternal song, "Vaishnavajana tene kahiye, je peed parayi jaane re" (Only that person is the lover of the Lord, who understands the pain of another). Here is the original minimalist, long before a movement by that name began anywhere. This is heady in a deeper sense, and meant only for the true seekers, not for the faint hearted.

Across the world, the perils of the GDP ride are becoming clearer

Jagdish Rattanani & Sudarshan Iyengar

ACROSS THE WORLD, THE PERILS OF THE GDP RIDE ARE BECOMING CLEARER EVEN TO THOSE UNINITIATED IN THE LESSONS OF MAHATMA GANDHI

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Where are the green sovereign funds?

Institutional investors are increasingly embracing the effort to achieve net-zero greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. Some are already implementing portfolio measures and incorporating climate factors into their decision-making. The United Nations-convened Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance has already welcomed 46 members, comprising pension funds and insurance companies representing some \$6.7 trillion in assets under management (AUM).

The steps taken this decade will be decisive as regards hitting the mid-century target. Of the Alliance's members, 23 have publicly issued GHG-reduction targets for 2025, which means they are committed to acting immediately. The remaining five members that are required to set targets this year will declare similar interim goals soon. Net-zero initiatives are also being established in the investment-management and banking industries, representing \$43 trillion and \$37 trillion in AUM, respectively. And yet, sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) - representing AUM totaling around \$10 trillion - are conspicuously absent, even though some are owned by governments that have adopted ambitious climate objectives.

Under existing international agreements, GHG emissions are measured at the country level, which understates the potential climate impact of countries with large foreign-asset holdings. For example, the Norwegian SWF's total asset holdings are three times the size of Norway's economy, and its equity-portfolio carbon emissions are around twice the country's own total emissions.

Norway is not alone. A recent report by the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSFW) shows that SWFs around the world are lagging behind. About three-quarters report having less than 10 per cent of their holdings in climate-related strategies, while only 14 per cent have made divestment decisions related to climate or environmental targets. While 24 per cent of SWFs consider climate action part of a broader ESG (environmental, social, and governance) framework, only 12 per cent have an explicit climate-change policy.

The governments of countries that have SWFs should view the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) in November as an opportunity to commit fully to the net-zero programme. There are several reasons why

they should do this. For starters, 2050 net-zero targets are becoming a mainstream expectation for all large institutional investors. If a government chooses not to commit its SWF to this goal, it will be free riding on the growing share of the private financial sector that is already going green - a paradox of climate finance if there ever was one.

Moreover, it makes little sense for governments seeking to be consistent in their climate commitments to separate SWF portfolio emissions from overall climate objectives. The domestic focus of international climate agreements should not be interpreted as a free pass for emissions associated with foreign investments. Instead, governments should be using their SWFs' financial weight to drive climate action internationally.

Last but not least, the transition to a low-carbon economy represents the biggest investment opportunity in decades. Shifting from 'brown' to 'green' will require changes on the scale of another industrial revolution; those who create new markets or enter them early stand to reap massive returns.

Because many countries with SWFs have historically been heavily dependent on their oil and gas

sector, the transition away from fossil fuels exposes them to larger economic risks. But governments can mitigate these risks by aligning their SWFs with climate targets. A total portfolio approach would enable these governments to start delinking domestic economic growth from SWF returns, thereby enhancing the robustness of the economy as a whole. For SWFs, as for other institutional investors, staying on the sidelines of the global climate-mitigation effort is no longer an option. But nor is it enough to focus solely on climate-related portfolio risk while ignoring a fund's broader climate impact.

Countries like France, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates are well placed to lead a global SWF movement toward net-zero commitments at COP26. If they do, other funds with large investment teams and sophisticated operations may soon follow, and those with fewer resources would, one hopes, be close behind them.

Håvard Halland is Senior Economist at OECD Development Centre. Günther Thallinger is Chair of UN-convened Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance.

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Håvard Halland & Günther Thallinger

SHIFTING FROM 'BROWN' TO 'GREEN' WILL REQUIRE CHANGES ON THE SCALE OF ANOTHER INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulpur Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Thaw in relations

Sir, The disengagement of Indian and Chinese troops at Gogra in eastern Ladakh is a welcome step. The withdrawal proves the success of India's handling of the military, diplomatic and geopolitical challenges. India adopted a pragmatic approach to the crisis and this produced the results. The disengagement establishes the fact that India and China yearn for maintaining good relations. Given that India faced a series of setbacks to its interests in the neighbourhood, the disengagement at Gogra seems to be a silver lining for the country's future in international relations. Against the backdrop of Afghanistan slipping away from India's circle of friendly countries due to the re-emergence of the Taliban, maintaining good relations with China is of great importance. Indian and Chinese troops faced each other at four points - in Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Hot Springs and Gogra Post. The disengagement at Gogra heralds a thaw in relations between the two Asian neighbours. The Gogra disengagement is more important than the previous Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso withdrawals. The disengagement is indicative of the fact that both countries are determined to reduce tension along the border. Also, it suggests that complete disengagement along the remaining friction points will happen sooner or later. It is a fact that antagonism between the two countries has not produced anything positive for either of the two. By encroaching on Indian territory China could irritate New Delhi but could not achieve anything more.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Fair play in criticism

Sir, Opposition parties play a crucial role in the functioning of a vibrant democracy. But, these days, the Opposition parties are hell bent on disrupting the Parliament. Sloganeering, shouting, showing placards and banners, unnecessary walk-outs and stalling the passing of Bills in the Parliament have become the order of the day. The taxpayer's money is wasted in the ruckus. This doesn't augur well for the world's largest democracy. Opposition parties should not oppose for the sake of opposition in order to attract media or public attention. They should also applaud the positive actions of the ruling party. Only mudslinging should not be the weapon of the Opposition parties. They should play their part very well also by acknowledging the merits and achievements of the government. There should be fair play in criticism.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

The existence of poverty is the proof of an unjust and ill-organised society, and our public charities are but the first tardy awakening in the conscience of a robber.

SRI AUROBINDO



Police Menace

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana hit the bull's eye August 8 when he came down heavily on the incidence of custodial torture and other atrocities committed regularly in police stations across the country. He termed the barbarity as a "threat to human rights and bodily integrity," saying human rights and bodily integrity are 'sacrosanct'. The remarks were made at an event organised by the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA). A couple of days back, heading a two-judge bench, the CJI had castigated the two top Central investigating agencies - CBI and IB - for "not helping the judiciary at all" in matters relating to security of judges. The CBI and the police, he categorically said, don't respond to complaints from judges.

His observations are a sad commentary on the crime and punishment scenario of the country. He pointed out there are several cases in the country in which gangsters and high profile people are accused and judges are sometimes threatened physically and mentally through messages on WhatsApp and SMS or harassed through social media posts. The CJI's observation is a reminder of the death of Justice Loya some years ago and recently the Additional District and Sessions Judge Uttam Anand in Dhanbad July 28 under mysterious circumstances. ADJ Anand was killed after being hit by an auto-rickshaw when he was on morning walk. The murder of Judge Loya had deep shades of political interests and interference.

Things have come to such a pass that the CJI had to tell Attorney General KK Venugopal, who had been asked by the court to assist in the matter, that in some places the courts ordered CBI inquiry, but the agency did nothing. The CJI bemoaned a new trend has started in the country to malign the judiciary when adverse orders are passed and the CBI doesn't respond. The apex court squarely held the state responsible for the death of the young judge in Dhanbad as the area is known to be a virtual fiefdom of the 'coal mafia'. A curious plea was made by Jharkhand Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan who said the state had enhanced security for judges and built boundary walls where none existed. At this, Justice Surya Kant exposed the naive assertion of the Advocate General with the observation that boundary walls are no barriers for hardened criminals.

While delay in justice delivery has damaged the image of the judiciary, the executive too is being faulted for not responding to judicial requirements. If the judiciary is cowed down by criminals with political nexus, one can well imagine the plight of the common man.

The CJI's observations regarding human rights violations by the police bring to light incidents like the death of a fruit stall owner, 47-year-old A Murugesan, allegedly due to brutal thrashing by a special sub-inspector of Tamil Nadu police in Vazhapadi in Salem district June 22. Two other policemen watched the crime by their colleague, while Murugesan's friends pleaded for him to be spared. But, the SSI didn't relent. Such cases are galore and the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reeks of sickening tales of police brutality across all states.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah took a curious position July 12 when he rather helplessly pleaded at a programme in Ahmedabad that the police in the country are accused of either 'no action' or 'extreme action'. Official statistics, whatever available, show the matter can't be glossed over with such casual remarks. According to the NCRB, 85 cases of custodial deaths were reported in 2019 with Tamil Nadu registering the highest number of such cases followed by Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan and Odisha. No policeman was convicted, though 14 personnel of Gujarat were arrested and charge-sheeted. For six custodial deaths in Rajasthan, three magisterial inquiries and two judicial inquiries were initiated against erring policemen. In Odisha the police personnel involved in violations of human rights went scot free.

The grim reality is that though several policemen do get convicted, many are believed to get away by manipulating records, intimidating complainants or enjoying patronage from their higher-ups. Those police personnel who passively watch custodial torture taking place in their presence should be held equally guilty. Senior officers are expected to ensure that prompt actions are taken against policemen resorting to brutal torture. However, that is never happening. Once if such a message is sent loud and clear that the erring personnel would be promptly punished, the system can be cleansed. But, what the police lack most is a regular sensitisation and refresher course which should be made an indelible part of the job. Interaction with senior officers and socially prominent citizens from different walks of life on a regular basis would heighten the sense and sensibilities of the cop on the street. That is never done by the Indian police. The system still functions as a machine of colonial repression. That atmosphere makes police personnel suspicious of every citizen. Since heinous crimes committed by policemen go totally unpunished, it is imperative that police personnel realise they are not above the law and that their salary, however unimportant for them, is paid for by the taxpayer.

WISDOM CORNER

Death and love are the two wings that bear the good man to heaven. MICHELANGELO

Our individual lives cannot, generally, be works of art unless the social order is also. CHARLES HORTON COOLEY

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. MOTHER TERESA

WORDSWORTH

Organic

The word organic has been applied to crops grown without the aid of chemical fertilisers or pesticides at least since the early 1940s. Though in the developed world it still only produces a tiny proportion of the food we eat, many countries have regulations defining what can be described as organic produce. The word has become so established that it has almost come to mean "natural; unadulterated", a significant development in its history. Its source is the Greek organon, which comes from the same root as erg, "work", and which had the linked meaning of "implement, instrument, tool", that is, something one works with. It could also refer to a part of the body in the restricted sense of one that's an instrument to do something with. It's the name given to Aristotle's treatise on logic (in the sense of the instrument of all reasoning). The word was used in its Latin form by Francis Bacon in 1620 as the title of his philosophical treatise Novum Organum, "new instrument", which set out a new set of principles for scientific investigation. In late Latin and in French organ could mean a wind instrument, perhaps because the larynx, being the source of human speech, had a special status as one of the functional parts of the body. For example, where in the King James bible of 1611, Psalm 150 says "Praise him with stringed instruments and organs", organ meant a wind instrument. But by the 1660s it had come to mean particularly the wind-driven instrument made of a complex set of pipes which is what we now understand by the word organ. From its application in Greek to any of the specialised functional parts of living things, our word organism was coined for the whole body, seen as an assemblage of organs (a closely-related word is organisation, originally "the condition of being ordered as a living being").

LOL

Looking into their eyes

A policeman pulls a man over for speeding and asks him to get out of the car. After looking the man over he says, "Sir, I couldn't help but notice your eyes are bloodshot. Have you



been drinking?"

The man gets really indignant and says,

"Officer, I couldn't help but notice your eyes are glazed. Have you been eating doughnuts?"

CM TO LAY FOUNDATION STONE AUGUST 13

State govt to rejuvenate Alaka river in Jagatsinghpur



DYING RIVER

Odisha Construction Corporation Ltd (OCCL) has been awarded the contract to undertake the rejuvenation work of the river. The OCCL has signed a contract with the state Drainage department in this regard

A five-member team from the Chief Minister's office visited the area and reviewed the condition of the river, Sunday. The team members interacted with the local residents and recorded their statements regarding the river while drone cameras were used to click the photographs of the river

An outfit had claimed that the rejuvenated river will have normal water flow and facilitate irrigation facilities in the district. The river can also be used for cultivation of various kinds of fish which will help in providing livelihood opportunities to scores of fishermen

of desiltation. While the dead river runs for 52 km, the portion which is still active runs for 22 km.

The State government's technical advisory committee had recommended its renovation. A survey of the river was undertaken to identify and remove encroachments on its banks on the stretch from Birabarapatana to Odisso.

Reports said that the matter was placed before the Union Ministry of Water resources, which had asked the State Government to prepare a project report and submit it to the Centre for further action.

Earlier, a six-member team of Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Kolkata had visited Biridi block to prepare 'Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR)' required for submission of detailed project reports to the State government and the Centre for approval of projects to revamp the river in 2018.

Kamini Ranjan Patnaik, DIPRO, Harekrushna Behera, superintendent engineer of Drainage division of Jagatsinghpur, Sudhir Kumar Praharaj, SDO, Dillip Kumar Das, and others accompanied the five member team during their visit.

rejuvenated river will have normal water flow and facilitate irrigation facilities in the district. The river can also be used for cultivation of various kinds of fish which will help in providing livelihood opportunities to scores of fishermen and locals in the district.

Convener Ratnakar Nayak, president Susant Mohapatra, vice-president Prakash Ray, joint secretary Chittaranjan Mishra, Kulu Charan Sahu, Harish Chandra Satapathy informed the team members from the CMO about the problems related to the river and stressed on urgent need to rejuvenate it.

The outfit had build up a mass movement in the area demanding rejuvenation of the river. Public interest litigation (1969/13) was also filed in the Orissa High Court in this regard. The petitioner had stated in the PIL that the river requires desiltation and preservation of water which will help the farmers in the area in agriculture. Later, the outfit also submitted separate memoranda to the offices of the Chief Minister and the state Water Resources Minister on the issue.

Alaka forms a branch of Biluakha river at Birabarapatana under Biridi block in Jagatsinghpur district. The river used to sustain thousands of villages in Biridi, Jagatsinghpur, Balikuda and Erasama blocks but soon it ran out of its purpose as the water flow in the river got restricted due to invasion of weeds and absence

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balikuda, August 9: The dying Alaka river, which was once the life-line of thousands of people in Jagatsinghpur district and a part of the region's past heritage, will soon be rejuvenated, a report said.

The state government has plans for rejuvenate the river and has initially sanctioned ₹6.5 crore for the project. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will lay the foundation stone of the project August 13 in virtual mode for which the tender process has been completed.

Odisha Construction Corporation Ltd (OCCL) has been awarded the contract to undertake the rejuvenation work of the river. The OCCL has signed a contract with the state Drainage department in this regard.

The matter came to fore after a five-member team from the Chief Minister's office visited the area and reviewed the condition of the river, Sunday. The team members interacted with the local residents and recorded their statements regarding the river while drone cameras were used to click the photographs of the river.

On being informed, members of an environmental outfit Alaka Surakhya Abhiyan, which has been spearheading a movement for the rejuvenation of the Alaka river, reached the spot and met the team members.

The outfit had claimed that the



Members of OBC Manch, demanding constitutional rights, stage a demonstration outside the RDC office in Sambalpur, Monday

Cops bust gambling den, detain 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 9: In a crackdown late Sunday night, Koraput police busted a gambling den in Borigumma area of this district. Twenty persons have been detained in this connection for interrogation, a senior official informed Monday morning.

Police received a tip-off from a source that gambling activities were on inside Nilgiri forest. Swinging into action, a team of Borigumma police personnel raided the forest area. During the raids, ₹7,00,000 in cash, a large number of playing card sets and other incriminating materials were seized from the detained persons. However, a few gamblers managed to escape.

Acting on directives of Koraput SP Varun Guntupalli, a special team conducted a surprise raid on a gambling den.

Cash worth ₹7,83,440 was seized and 20 persons were detained. The detainees are from Nabarangpur and Jeypore including some local residents, Borigumma sub-divisional police officer Harekrushna Majhi said.

Derjang dam site no longer a safe tourists' destination



POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, August 9: Derjang dam site in Angul block, which is known as one of the top tourist spots in the district, has recently earned notoriety due to several reasons.

If considered from tourists' safety point of view, the site has become unsafe.

The reservoir area has been declared as restricted zone. Though tourists are not allowed there, many are reportedly going into the prohibited area without any hindrance. They are clicking selfies as well. Youths are seen diving into the reservoir water and there is none to stop them at the entry point.

An incident occurred August 8 wherein a youth, identified as Avinash Tripathy (25) of Gorakhpur area in Uttar Pradesh and was staying in Angul town, drowned in the reservoir after he lost balance while clicking selfies with friends.

The tourist spot is no longer considered to be safe as it has become a haven for anti-social elements. Once, the spot was well illumined,

Drug addicts, alcoholics and criminals have made the tourist site as their meeting place to prepare blueprints for their activities

ated, but now utility electric poles stand without bulbs.

Taking advantage of these, drug addicts, alcoholics and criminals have made the site as their meeting place. It is alleged that criminals chose this spot to prepare blueprints for their activities. Peddlers carry out their trade from here. All such activities often end up in group clashes.

Yet, police have been allegedly looking the other way. "There is hardly any police patrolling in the area. As a result, all sorts of criminal activities, including snatching, loot and even rape are increasing there," observed some locals.

It is worth mentioning here that a gun fight took place between miscreants and the police in 2018. Acting on a tip-off that miscreants had congregated at the spot to prepare a blueprint to loot a petrol pump, the police conducted raid, leading to an exchange of fire. Notorious criminal Bilu Khan suffered injuries in the encounter.

In a recent case, miscreants robbed two youths of their mobile phones and cash, August 6. Two days later, August 8, some youths in inebriated state were responsible for a series of accidents near the spot. Locals overpowered the youths and later handed them over to police.

With such incidents taking place regularly, local residents have urged the administration to take steps to make the spot tourist-friendly.

They demanded tight security and complete ban on tourists' entry into the reservoir site. Or else, local residents and tourists would stop visiting the spot, they said.

A senior police officer refuted allegations that there is no patrolling at the site. "Police patrolling is there at the dam site. Police rush to the spot whenever they receive any complaint from the area. But, it is not our lookout to see who are going into the restricted area and what they are doing there," the officer said on the condition of anonymity.

Notably, Avinash, a youth from Uttar Pradesh who worked as project manager at an under-construction site in Angul town, and his three friends visited the reservoir site, August 8.

There they took bath and while taking selfies, Avinash' feet slipped and he went missing in the reservoir. On receiving information about the incident, Fire personnel reached the spot and rescued him. He was rushed to Angul DHH, but the doctors there declared him "brought dead".

169 students discontinue studies in Champua block

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, August 9: Despite scores of yojanas and schemes launched by the government, students in some parts of the district are discounting their studies, putting up a big challenge for the Education department in bringing them back to the rolls.

Champua block in Keonjhar district is a case in point. In this block, as many as 169 students, including 13 from Champua NAC area, have already stopped attending their classes.

Investigation revealed that they have discontinued their studies chiefly due to their families' poor financial condition and health-related issues. It is learnt that they



Many students are working as daily labourers along with the elder members of their families. Few others are grazing cattle

are working as daily labourers along with the elder members of their families. Few others are grazing cattle. This way, they are helping their parents run their families. Most of these children are from tribal families.

When contacted for his comments in this regard, Champua block education officer (BEO)

Gobardhan Naik said each cluster resource centre coordinator (CRCC) has been given the charge of two panchayats and entrusted with the task to bring the drop-out students back to mainstream education.

"They have been directed to conduct meetings in their assigned panchayats involving sarpanchs,

panchayat samiti members, retired teachers and headmasters. In these meetings, they will create awareness among the parents and children about the value of education. The CRCCs will make all the necessary arrangements for the drop-out students' stay in government hostels and their education," he added.

STUDENTS' STIR



Activists of All India Democratic Students' Organisation demanding filling up of vacant faculty posts in newly upgraded Khallikote University in Berhampur, burn an effigy of National Education Policy-2020 during a demonstration, Monday

Farmers here rely on rituals for rain forecast

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhendipada, August 9: India Meteorological Department's forecast regarding rain always holds great significance for the farmers. But, not for many farmers in Bagadia village of Chhendipada block in Angul district. They have their own tradition to forecast the amount of rainfall they would receive.

Strong believers in their 200-year-old tradition, the villagers here say that they get accurate information about rainfall from a small earthen pot, which they call 'Kandi' after their village deity. They start their agricultural activities following their deity's divination.

"There are cases of farmers facing problems after relying on the IMD's weather forecast. But, the information received from the pot has never deceived us. This is why we contact our relatives in Bagadia village every year at the onset of Shrawan month to know about the amount of rainfall for the entire season," claimed Subash Majhi, a farmer from Kanalei village.

According to the farmers of Bagadia village, they perform a ritual on the second day of Krushna Paksha (waning phase of a lunar month) of Shrawan month every year. There is dense jungle of 'ankul', 'peepal' trees and 'bamboo' to the north of Budhadhipa



Sahi, where they perform the ritual. The priest is a member of the 'Kandha' community. After putting ghee, honey and jaggery together in an earthen pot, they cover it securely and bury it under the ground.

At the same time, the pot buried last year is dug out with the help of a wooden crowbar. They untie the cover and look into it. If the pot is full of water, it indicates they will get enough rain that year. But if the pot is found filled with sand, they understand that harvest will be good from low lands. If the pot has something in semi-muddy form, they believe paddy in half of fields will destroy. They know they will

have drought if the pot contains dry sand and dust.

Sometimes, roots are seen inside the pot. It says they will experience seedling death (*Gaja Marudi*). If insects are found, it means their paddy plants will suffer pest attack. If the pot contains only ghee, they assume there will be delay in getting rains and consequently delay in starting agricultural activities.

People fearing that bad omen may visit upon don't go near the jungle, let alone the place of worship. They believe that the changes that occur inside the pot are due to the intervention of 'Kandi' deity.

In addition to farmers from sev-

eral villages under Chhendipada block, people from different areas in neighbouring Redhakhol and Naktideul blocks swear by this tradition even in this age of science. Some call this 'Kaduali Puja' as well.

This year, there only ghee was found in the pot. It foretells agricultural activities will get delayed in the area due to delay in rains.

"It is Shrawan month now. During this time, the fields should have had enough water to start agricultural activities. But the situation is just the opposite. The fields do not have water. This year, there was ghee only in the pot. So we have already got the message that there will be delay in getting adequate rain this year. However, we have started plantation in some fields," said Dushmant Behera, a farmer from Bagadia village.

Echoing the same belief, Ramesh Tripathy, another villager from Bagadia village said, "The tradition is 200 years old. The farmers have deep faith in this tradition even in this age of science because they get accurate information."

When contacted, Khirod Dehury of Bagadia village said, "We have been worshipping the deity for generations. 'Kandi' worship is performed to know about the weather conditions for agriculture."

Terrorists kill BJP sarpanch, his wife in Valley

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 9: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists Monday barged into the house of a BJP sarpanch in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district and sprayed him and his wife with bullets, taking the number of saffron party workers killed in the valley this year to four.

The incident, according to the police, took place at 4 pm in Lal Chowk area as the two terrorists entered the rented accommodation of Ghulam Rasool Dar and fired indiscriminately at him and his wife Jawhara Begum, officials said.

The BJP leader and his wife received critical gunshot injuries and were immediately shifted to a hospital, where they were declared brought dead, police said.

Immediately after the incident, Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range) Vijay Kumar reached the spot to have a first-hand assessment of the situation.

The IGP said that "two motorcycle-borne terrorists of banned LeT outfit were involved in this barbaric terror incident."

The couple were provided a secured accommodation at the Snow



Cap Hotel, Kulgam, and both stayed there for a short period, but they had been continuously insisting to move to their house at Anantnag Town and also submitted an undertaking in this regard, police said.

"On their request, they were al-

lowed to stay at the house in Anantnag. He was also provided with one PSO who, however, was found absent from duty at the time of incident. The said PSO has been placed under suspension," a statement from the police said.

Police have registered a case in

this regard and a probe is in progress to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime.

Dar, a resident of Redwani area of district Kulgam, was a sarpanch affiliated with the BJP. He had unsuccessfully contested the last year's District Development Council

TARGETED KILLINGS

Ghulam Rasool Dar is the fourth BJP leader to be targeted by terrorists this year

While two BJP councilors were killed in a daring attack on the Municipal Council in Sopore area of Baramulla district in March this year, Rakesh Pandita, the BJP councilor from Tral in Pulwama district was shot dead June 2 this year

Militants have also targeted civilians, policemen and an off-duty army jawans during the year. While nine civilians have been killed by terrorists, six police personnel and an army man also lost their lives in similar attacks

Last year also, militants targeted BJP workers killing at least six of them

elections.

He was also the district president of the BJP's Kisan Morcha for Kulgam and was living in a rented accommodation in Anantnag.

Dar becomes the fourth BJP leader to be targeted by the terrorists this year alone.

Renaming Khel Ratna is a political game: Sena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 9: The Shiv Sena Monday claimed the Centre's decision to rename the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award after hockey legend Dhyhan Chand was not the people's wish, but a 'political game'.

An editorial in the Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana' also asked what was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's contribution to cricket that a stadium (in Ahmedabad) was named after him.

Monday, the editorial in 'Saamana' said late Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were victims of terror acts. There could be political differences with leaders like them, but their sacrifices towards the country's development cannot be mocked, it opined.

"Changing the name of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award to Major Dhyhan Chand Khel Ratna Award is not the people's wish, but a political game," it claimed.

"Major Dhyhan Chand could have been honoured without insulting Rajiv Gandhi's sacrifice. But, the country has lost such tradition and culture. It would have made Dhyhan Chand sad in heaven," the



Sena said. It said just because the Modi government changed the name of the award does not mean earlier governments had forgotten Dhyhan Chand.

The Dhyhan publication said the question raised by some BJP leaders about whether Rajiv Gandhi ever held a hockey stick in his hands was valid. "People are also asking what Narendra Modi has done for cricket that a stadium in Ahmedabad is named after him by replacing the (earlier) name of Sardar Patel," it said.

The same yardstick should have been applied while renaming a Delhi stadium (Feroz Shah Kotla) after (late BJP leader) Arun Jaitley. People are also asking these questions, the Sena said.

NIA keeps up raids against Jamaat-e-Islami

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 9: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted raids against members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in the Kashmir valley for a second day Monday in connection with a terror-funding case, officials said.

NIA sleuths, along with police and the CRPF personnel, Monday carried out searches at five places in north Kashmir's Bandipora, a day after raids at 56 locations across the 10 districts of Kashmir and four - Ramban, Kishtwar, Doda and Rajouri - of the Jammu province.

"During the searches, various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized from the premises of the suspects," an NIA spokesperson said.

The raids on the premises of office-bearers of the proscribed outfit, its members and also the offices of trusts purportedly run by the JeI were conducted more than two years after the sociopolitical and religious group was banned by the Centre under anti-terror law, the



Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. In February 2019, the Centre announced to ban the JeI for five years on the grounds that it was 'in close touch' with militant outfits and was expected to 'escalate secessionist movement' in the erstwhile state.

A notification banning the group under the UAPA was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs after a

high-level meeting on security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hundreds of JeI activists were arrested in a major crackdown across Jammu and Kashmir following the ban, which came just months ahead of the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and its division into two union territories in August 2019.

The NIA said a case was registered February 5, 2021 in pursuance of an order from the Ministry of Home Affairs relating to separatist and secessionist activities of the JeI despite its proscription February 28, 2019.

It said the members of the organisation have been collecting funds domestically and from abroad through donations particularly in the form of 'Zakat, Mowda and Bait-ul-Mal' purportedly to further charity and other welfare activities but these funds are instead being used for violent and secessionist activities.

"The funds raised by the JeI are also being channelised to proscribed terrorist organisations such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and others through well organised networks of JeI cadres. The JeI has also been motivating impressionable youths of Kashmir and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in J&K to participate in disruptive secessionist activities," an NIA spokesperson said Sunday.

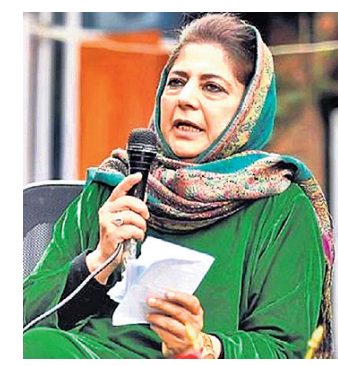
Mehbooba bats for 'self-rule' formula to solve Kashmir issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 9: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti Sunday pitched for her party's self-rule formula for the resolution of the Kashmir issue, saying it addresses both internal and external dimensions of the problem.

Chairing a meeting of youth PDP leadership from all districts of the Valley, Mehbooba also underlined the need to initiate a threadbare conversation on how the PDP's vision and roadmap have become all the more important given the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the fast-changing geopolitical situation in the subcontinent.

"Self-rule is an internally consistent framework indicative of direction for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue. It addresses the internal and external



Self-rule is an internally consistent framework indicative of direction for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue. It addresses the internal and external dimensions of the problem in a manner that is realistic, practical, just and acceptable

dimensions of the problem in a manner that is realistic, practical, just and acceptable. It is a creative framework for the resolution of the issue without compromising the sovereignty of the two nation states involved," the PDP president said.

"These are the times of the youth, for the youth. The mantle of responsibility has befallen the

youth of J&K to shape a brighter future for the coming generations. Youth should not shy away from mainstream politics but rather take up the role and responsibility," she said. At the meeting, the party's chief spokesperson gave a detailed presentation on the contours and elements of the self-rule roadmap and asked the participants to take it to the masses.

Mumbai's ugly duckling will soon soar to skies

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 9: The ugly duckling of Mumbai's underbelly -- century-old clusters of BDD Chawls -- where Mahatma Gandhi spent a night among the 'Mehtar Samaj' (sweepers) 84 years ago -- is all set to don a new 'avatar' with Asia's biggest redevelopment finally kicking off, officials said.

After three decades of hiccups, delays, litigation, political upmanship and other speed-breakers, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray performed the ground-breaking ceremony last week for the mega-redevelopment project estimated to cost around Rs 20,000-crore.

The first bulldozers started razing the historic but crumbling eyesores, built (1921-1924) by the erstwhile 'British Development Department' (BDD), conceptualised by the then Governor of Bombay, Sir George Lloyd, for middle-class mass-housing - identical, matchbox structures, similar to those built by erstwhile Communist countries.

"A total of 207 old buildings with

160-sq. feet facing chawls (tenements) a passage of upto 20-feet width, common water supply, bathing and toilet areas, spread across 93 acres in Worli, Naigaum, NM Joshi Marg and later, Sewri, shall be rebuilt," an excited Akhil BDD Chawl Bhadekaru Hakk Sanrakshan Samiti (ABCBS) General Secretary Kiran Mane - who was born and spent his entire life here - told IANS.

Each of the 17,000 families, mostly mill-workers, eked out a miserable existence -- some cramped as many as 15-20 people per tenement in the ground-plus-3-storied buildings with 20 chawls on each floor.

Over the next few years, they will move to some 32 swank towers in 500-sq. feet 2-BHK ultra-modern flats with top amenities, bringing a sea-change to their lives.

Ex-Shiv Sena legislator Sunil Shinde, who spent years on the project groundwork, said it will be supervised by Maharashtra Housing & Area Development Authority (MHADA), and shall be completed in eight years, and the first phase expected to be ready within three years.



Hip-hop making waves at India's largest slum

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mumbai, August 9: After India's largest slum defeated the pandemic, some of its young residents pulled out their phones to write, shoot and release a triumphant rap video.

"At first we were afraid, what would happen to us? But we stood with the doctors... now it's your turn," rapped the young men in the video.

"We Did It" -- "Kar Dikhaya" in Hindi -- showcased new talent and won acclaim from celebrities, but its creators' abiding goal was to fight the stigma dogging this densely populated corner of Mumbai.

The Dharavi slum is home to about one million people, many of whom live in single-room shanties and share communal toilets.

Its alleys have long been associated with filth and disease despite its remarkable success in the battle against COVID-19, and its residents battle constant discrimination.

But Ayush Tegar Renuka, one of the star students of the Dharavi Dream Project hip-hop academy, told AFP he feels "so proud" of belonging to the community.

"The Dharavi shown on TV channels and the real Dharavi are very different places," the 16-year-old said.

Ayush began breakdancing three years ago, persevering in spite of his widowed mother's pleas to give up a pursuit she feared would result in a trip to the hospital.

She was not alone. Many parents were initially reluctant to enrol their children in the school's free classes, dismissing hip-hop as dangerous, a distraction from homework or simply a waste of time.

The Dharavi Dream Project's co-founder Dolly Rameshwar was determined to change their minds.

The daughter of a Hindu priest, Rameshwar was nervous about venturing into the neighbourhood, but the teenagers she met struck a chord with her.



"I was raised in a very conservative family... I never knew there was a bigger world out there," said the 38-year-old. "And I was worried that these kids might lose out on life because they didn't know the possibilities open to them."

The school opened its doors in 2015, offering free classes in breakdancing, beatboxing and rapping to approximately 20 students, with digital media start-up Qyuki -- Rameshwar's employer -- and US entertainment titan Universal Music Group footing the bill.

As the project won praise from musical icons such as Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman, it rapidly expanded, with young students like Joshua Joseph -- now better known as MC Josh -- using hip-hop to tell their stories.

If Black rappers in the United States could shine a light on racism,

he reasoned, hip-hop could do the same for India's glaring inequality and mistreatment of marginalised communities. "My confidence level was zero before I started to rap," the 21-year-old told AFP. "The school changed my life."

When COVID-19 arrived, the rapper's income collapsed overnight as Dharavi was put under a stringent months-long lockdown.

Mumbai authorities quickly realised that the slum held the key to defeating the pandemic and launched "Mission Dharavi" -- aggressively sanitising communal toilets, running daily "fever camps" to check for symptoms, repurposing wedding halls as quarantine facilities, and asking residents to stay home. By the end of June 2020, Dharavi had recorded just 82 deaths, a fraction of Mumbai's more than 4,500 fatalities. Like the slum, the

school's staff also refused to be cowed by the virus, switching to online classes soon after the first wave of infections hit last year.

As the pandemic ground on, Rameshwar realised that the academy could expand its reach even further, and broadcast an invitation on Instagram for anyone, anywhere, to join their classes.

They received 800 responses in the first 24 hours.

A year on, the school hosts 100 students who attend every online session -- half from Dharavi itself -- and 300 others who pop in occasionally, including from overseas.

But Rameshwar's focus remains firmly on students from the Mumbai slum, on making sure their voices are heard and their future prospects secured.

"Obviously everyone wants to become a superstar but... I also try to

tell them about alternative careers in the music industry, as artists' managers, or jobs in social media," she said.

"Most of all, I want them to stand tall."

For 21-year-old teacher Vikram Gaja Godakiya, who learned breakdancing from YouTube videos, the school means much more than a steady paycheck.

"People have always been unfair to Dharavi," he told AFP, describing how the pandemic had made employers increasingly reluctant to hire slum-dwellers.

When Godakiya started breakdancing in secret nine years ago, he never imagined he would be able to do it for a living. "Breaking has given my life purpose," he said. "I want my students to know that they can do anything if they give it their 100 percent."

of the day quote

OBCs are an integral part of 'Bahujan Samaj' for whose interest and welfare, Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar had made the provision for Article 340 in the Constitution and had also resigned from the post of the country's first law minister as it was not implemented properly. Similarly, the BSP is also devoted wholeheartedly to these sections

MAYAWATI |
BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY (BSP) SUPREMO

We have already submitted a detailed project report to the central government. I have been assured of issuing early clearance to the Mekedatu project by the Centre

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI |
KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

A staggering 65% of the tuberculosis cases in India are in the 15-45 age group, which is the most economically productive population segment

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA |
UNION HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Yamuna crosses danger mark

Prayagraj: As the water levels of both the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers crossed the danger mark in Prayagraj Monday, the district administration has started the evacuation of families affected by floods. The water level of the Ganga at Phaphamau was 85.08 metres Monday morning, while at Chhatnag, it was 84.29 metres.

Shilpa Shetty, mother booked

Lucknow: There is more trouble brewing for Shilpa Shetty as she and her mother Sunanda Shetty have been named in an alleged case of fraud in Uttar Pradesh. A team of Lucknow Police is expected to be in Mumbai to question Shilpa and her mother Sunanda in the alleged fraud case in the name of a wellness centre. Two FIRs have been registered at Hazratganj and Vibhuti Khand police stations in Lucknow and the police has now intensified the probe in both the cases.

14 landmines recovered

Jamshedpur: Security personnel recovered 14 landmines in Dalma forest near here planted by outlawed CPI(Maoists) to harm those engaged in anti-naxal operation, a senior police officer said Monday. "The security personnel comprising district armed police force and CRPF had launched a massive search operation and recovered the explosives weighing six to eight kg each," he said.

Raj flood: 161 rescued by SDRF

Jaipur: As many as 161 people have been rescued and two bodies have been fished out during the rescue operations being carried out in the flood affected districts of Rajasthan in the last 24 hours, said a SDRF official Monday.

4 Naxals surrender

Raipur: Four Naxals, including a couple, surrendered Monday in Bijapur and Dantewada districts of Chhattisgarh, police said. Naxal "commander" Raju Kaaram (24) and his wife Sunita (21), an area committee member of the outlawed outfit, with cash rewards of ₹8 lakh each on their heads, laid down arms in Bijapur district, an official said.

No transaction with NSO Group: MoD



SNOOPING ROW

- NSO Group has been under increasing attack following allegations that its Pegasus phone spyware was used for surveillance on journalists, activists and political leaders in several countries including India
- NSO has denied any wrongdoing
- The opposition parties have been targeting the central government regarding the issue in Parliament since it met July 19 for the Monsoon session

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 9: The defence ministry Monday said it did not have any transaction with the NSO Group, the developer of military-grade spy software Pegasus that is in the eye of a huge political firestorm following the snooping controversy allegedly involving the programme.

The brief written statement on the NSO Group came from Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt in response to a question in Rajya Sabha by CPI(M) member V Sivadasan.

"Ministry of Defence has not had any transaction with NSO Group Technologies," the minister said.

Sivadasan, as part of a number of questions on expenditure by the defence ministry, also asked whether the government had carried out any transaction with the NSO Group Technologies.

The opposition parties have been demanding a discussion on

the Pegasus issue in parliament, claiming it has national security implications.

IT and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had dismissed media reports on the use of Pegasus software to snoop on Indians, saying the allegations levelled just ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament were aimed at maligning Indian democracy.

In a suo motu statement in Lok Sabha, Vaishnaw had said that with several checks and balances being in place, "any sort of illegal surveillance" by unauthorised persons is not possible in India.

The controversy erupted after an investigation by a global media consortium based on leaked targeting data claimed evidence that the military-grade malware from the NSO Group was being used to spy on politicians, journalists, human rights activists and others.

In his reply, Bhatt also said that an allocation of ₹4,04,364 crore was made to the defence ministry in the budget estimate (BE) stage in 2018-19 and the expenditure made during that fiscal by the ministry was ₹4,03,459 crore.

The minister said that an outlay of ₹4,31,010 crore was made at the BE stage in 2019-20 while expenditure against the allocation was ₹4,51,902 crore.

In 2020-21, the defence ministry incurred an expenditure of ₹4,85,726 crore as against an allocation of ₹4,71,378 crore at the BE stage, he said.

The percentage of allocation to the defence ministry out of the total budget of the central government for 2018-19 was 16.56 percent while it was 15.47 percent in 2019-20 and 15.49 percent in 2020-21, according to the minister.

Bhatt said an amount of ₹45,705 crore was spent in 2018-19 on procurement from foreign sources while the figure for 2019-20 was 47,961.47 crore.

The ministry spent ₹53,118 crore in procurement from foreign countries in 2020-21.

Foreigners can now take vaccine in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: To ensure safety from Covid-19, the Union Health Ministry has taken a decision to allow foreign nationals residing in India to register on CoWin portal and get vaccinated against the disease.

They can use their passport as identity document for the purpose of registration on CoWIN portal, the health ministry said in a statement.

Once they are registered on this portal, they will get a slot for vaccination.

According to the statement, a significant number of foreign nationals are living in India, especially in large metropolitan areas. In these areas, the potential of spread of Covid-19 is high due to higher population density.

To counter any possibility of such occurrence, it is important to vaccinate all eligible persons.

Amid ruckus, 3 Bills passed in LS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 9: The government Monday pushed through six bills, three of which were passed, in Lok Sabha despite the unrelenting Opposition protests over Pegasus snooping row and other issues, prompting the Congress to hit out at the treasury members for "violating" constitutional and democratic norms.

However, Lok Sabha also witnessed some rare moments of opposition members withdrawing their protests, which have been continuing since the beginning of the Monsoon Session, and returning to their seats when the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 to restore the states' right to identify Other Backward Classes was introduced.

Members of the Congress, DMK and the BSP among others supported the bill even as they slammed the government over the manner in which it has pushed forth its

'Nilav', which means moonlight in Malayalam, is Kerala government's energy conservation initiative which also aims to reduce carbon emissions by 165 kilotons per year

PINARAYI VIJAYAN |
KERALA CHIEF MINISTER



MAN BITES SNAKE IN A REVENGE BID

A 65-year-old drunk man chewed on a snake after the latter bit him in Bihar's Nalanda district. The man was identified as Rama Mahto, a resident of Madhodeh village under Chandi police station. The incident took place Sunday and he died Monday morning



Tribal women perform a cultural dance in Nadia district of West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

Submit action taken report on oxygen allocation: SC to Centre

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 9: The Supreme Court Monday asked the Centre to submit the action taken report based on the recommendations of the court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) on allocation of oxygen to the states and union territories amid Covid, within two weeks.

A bench comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah noted NTF held numerous meetings and submitted its report to the Centre. The bench said it would like the steps taken by the Centre to ensure that the recommendations are duly observed at the policy level to enhance preparedness and for the foreseeable future and the present. The bench said it will be appropriate if these proceedings are listed together with the matter where it has taken suo motu cog-



nisation of the Covid-related issues. It added that reports of the NTF and also the action taken report of the Centre should be made available to all the counsel, including the amicus curiae in the matter. The bench asked senior advocates Jaideep Gupta and Meenakshi Arora, amicus in the matter, to prepare a short point-wise submission. Citing that it has given enough time to the government to implement its orders, the

bench said, "Now we want to look towards where we stand, should there be a third wave".

The top court said the Centre should complete the exercise of preparing the action taken report and placing it on record within two weeks.

The top court was hearing the plea by the Centre challenging a contempt notice issued by the Delhi High Court over non-supply of 700 MT oxygen to Delhi.

Eight killed as truck rams into roadside hut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amreli, August 9: Eight people were killed and two others seriously injured when a truck rammed into a hut in which they were sleeping in a village in Gujarat's Amreli district Monday, police said in a statement.

The deceased included two children aged 8 and 13 and two elderly persons, the police said, adding two other children were seriously injured in the accident that took place around 2.30 am in Badhada village under Savarkundla rural police limits.

The Gujarat government announced a compensation of ₹4 lakh for the kin of each of the deceased and asked the district collector to conduct a probe into the incident, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO)

The driver of the truck lost control after dozing off and ploughed into the roadside hut in which 10 people were sleeping

said. The driver of the truck, which was modified to include a crane, lost control after dozing off while driving and ploughed into the roadside hut in which 10 people were sleeping, Amreli Superintendent of Police Nirpiti Rai said. The truck was going from Rajkot to Jafrabad in Amreli district when the accident took place, he said. The two injured children, aged 3 and 7, were rushed to Amreli civil hospital for treatment.

The bodies were also sent to the hospital for postmortem, the official said. The truck driver, identified as Pravin Parmar, was arrested from the spot, according to police. The deceased were identified as Pujaben Solanki (8), Lakshminben Solanki (30), Shukanben Solanki (13), Hemrajibhai Solanki (37), Narshibhai Sankhla (60), Navdhanbhai Sankhla (65), Virambhai Rathod (35), and Lalabhai Rathod (20), the police added.

J'KHAND HC TO MONITOR CBI PROBE WEEKLY: SC

The apex court also referred to the "alarming situation" in the country where judicial officers and lawyers are being pressurised and intimidated, and said there was an institutional need to create an environment where judicial officers feel safe and secure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: Noting "gravity" of the matter, the Supreme Court Monday asked the Jharkhand

DHANBAD JUDGE DEATH CASE



High Court Chief Justice to monitor weekly the CBI probe into the alleged mowing down of a judge by a vehicle July 28 in Dhanbad, and observed that the sealed cover re-

port of the central agency did not have any detail. The Jharkhand government has transferred the probe to the CBI

A CCTV footage showed that

District and Sessions Judge-8 of Dhanbad court, Uttam Anand, was jogging on one side of a fairly wide road at Randhir Verma Chowk early July 28 when a heavy auto-rickshaw veered towards him, hit him from behind and fled the scene. He was declared dead by the hospital.

"Taking into account the gravity of the matter, we deem it appropriate to direct the Central Bureau of Investigation to file a report before the High Court of Jharkhand every week and we further request the Chief Justice of the said High Court to monitor the investigation," a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said in the order.

The bench, also comprising justices Vineet Saran and Surya Kant, further said: "Apart from the specific incident in question, this

Court had also taken up this matter to take note of attempt(s) to resolve the alarming situation in the country where judicial officers and lawyers are being pressurised and intimidated by threats of, and/or actual violence.

"There is, therefore, an institutional need to create an environment where judicial officers feel safe and secure". The larger aspect, related to threats to judicial officers and lawyers, would be taken up with a pending plea of 2019 on the issue and ordered that the replies be placed on record, the top court said.

On August 6, the CJ-led bench had expressed concern over the incidents of judges getting threats and abusive messages and had said that Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the CBI are "not helping" the ju-

diary at all and there is no freedom to a judicial officer to even make such complaints.

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

Prior to this, the top court had July 30 taken suo motu cognizance of the unfortunate sad demise of the judge in gruesome incident and had sought a status report within a week from Jharkhand's Chief Secretary and the DGP on probe.

The Jharkhand police had arrested two persons, auto driver Lakhman Verma and his helper Rahul Verma, in connection with the case.

international



Israel will not accept rocket fire from Lebanon. Their government and army should take responsibility for what happens in their backyard (now)
NATALI BENNETT | PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL

FIRE-FRIENDLY WEATHER TO RETURN

Thick smoke that held down winds and temperatures began to clear Sunday from the scenic forestlands of Northern California as firefighters battling the largest single wildfire in state history braced for a return of fire-friendly weather



of the day quote

The dialogue with the opposition, led by former deputy and self-proclaimed interim President Juan Guaido, is going well
NICOLAS MADURO | PRESIDENT, VENEZUELA

Freedom only exists if the freedom of everyone is protected. It's worth nothing if by exercising our freedom we contaminate our brother, neighbour, friend, parents, or someone we have come across at an event. Then freedom becomes irresponsibility
EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

We are aware of concerns about the evolving markets for Covid-19 tests for international travelers. We look forward to providing the Secretary of State with advice on how best to ensure that travelers have access to tests that are affordable and reliable
SAJID JAVID | HEALTH SECRETARY, UK

Nuclear talks must guarantee Iran's rights: Raisi to Macron



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tehran, August 9: Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi Monday told his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron that negotiations with world powers to revive the 2015 nuclear deal must guarantee Tehran's "rights".

"In any negotiation, the rights of the Iranian people must be upheld and the interests of our nation ensured," Raisi said in an hour-long phone call, according to the Iranian presidency's website. This is Raisi's first reported call with a western leader since taking office last week.

Raisi took over from Hassan Rouhani, a moderate whose landmark achievement during his two-term presidency was the 2015 nuclear agreement, which provided international sanctions relief in exchange for limitations on Tehran's nuclear programme. Former US president Donald Trump torpedoed the deal three years later by unilaterally withdrawing Washington from it and reimposing crushing sanctions.

Six rounds of nuclear talks between Iran and world powers were held in Vienna between April and June in an attempt to revive the accord. The last round concluded June 20, with no date set for another. Iranian officials have said negotiations will not resume before the new government takes over, while an EU official said at the weekend that meetings could resume in Vienna from early September.

The accord's remaining parties are Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia. "The Americans clearly violated their obligations by imposing new sanctions," Raisi told Macron, while also stressing the "failure" of European members of the deal to help Iran circumvent US sanctions.

In response to the reimposed US sanctions, Tehran pulled back from most of its main nuclear commitments under the deal.

THIS IS EBRAHIM RAISI'S FIRST REPORTED CALL WITH A WESTERN LEADER SINCE TAKING OFFICE LAST WEEK

SIX ROUNDS OF NUCLEAR TALKS BETWEEN IRAN AND WORLD POWERS WERE HELD IN VIENNA BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE IN AN ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE ACCORD

During his swearing-in ceremony on Thursday, Raisi repeated Tehran's official position that it was pursuing only "peaceful" nuclear technology, and said that he will support "any diplomatic plans" to lift the sanctions on his country. Tehran has recently also faced warnings and accusations from Israel and its allies over a deadly tanker attack, for which it denies responsibility.

The MT Mercer Street, an oil products tanker operated by Israeli-controlled Zodiac Maritime, was struck July 29 off Oman's coast. Two crew members, a Briton and a Romanian, were killed. Iran has warned Israel not to take military action against it after its arch-foe threatened Tehran over the tanker attack.

"The Islamic republic is very serious about providing security and maintaining deterrence in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman Region," Raisi told Macron, without referring directly to the incident or the accusations.

IMMORTAL LOVE



People stop to look at artwork believed to be created by street artist Banksy in Great Yarmouth, Britain

Journalist taken hostage by Taliban

AGENCIES

Kabul, August 9: Niamatullah Hemat, editor-in-chief of the local Boost radio station and reporter of Gharghakht TV channel based in Khost province, has been taken hostage by Taliban fighters in Nawa district of Helmand province.

As per media reports, provincial in charge of Nai (Open Media Advocate in Afghanistan), Abul Sami Ghairatmal said that Hemat was taken out of his home in Nawa district on Monday.

Ghairatmal has asked the Taliban to abide by the promise made with



media outlets in Afghanistan and release the journalist as soon as possible.

The Taliban are now controlling all the districts of Helmand province and have been fighting the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces in the provincial capital, Lashkargah. Meanwhile, Toofan Omari, edi-

tor-in-chief of Paktia Ghag radio station based in Paktia province, has also been murdered in Deh Sabz district of Kabul on Sunday. No group has taken the responsibility for the murder yet. A former reporter, Omari was also an attorney in the Judicial and justice center in the Bagram district of Kabul, reports said.

The killing and abduction of the two journalists come three days after the head of the Government Media and Information Center (GMIC), Dawakhan Minapal, was assassinated by the Taliban in Kabul city.

SHORT TAKES

10 charred to death

Lahore: At least 10 people, including three children, were burnt to death and seven others injured when a van carrying 17 passengers caught fire after a collision with another vehicle in Pakistan's Punjab province. The Lahore-bound van from Rawalpindi met with the accident in Gujranwala, some 80 kms from here. According to Gujranwala Commissioner Zulfiqar Ghumman, the van with 17 passengers was hit from behind by a mini-tanker that caused loosening of the nozzle of the gas cylinder installed in it.

Serbian capital engulfed in smoke

Belgrade: A fire has erupted in a large garbage landfill close to Belgrade, prompting city authorities to warn residents of the Serbian capital to stay indoors Sunday. Much of Belgrade was covered in smoke, foul smells and haze after the fire that erupted in Europe's second-largest landfill, located in the village of Vinca on the city's outskirts. The Belgrade mayor, Zoran Radojic, said the fire was under control, but added that Belgrade residents should close their windows and refrain from leaving their homes.

Lupit makes landfall in Japan

Tokyo: Typhoon Lupit lashed Japan with strong winds and heavy rain Monday after making landfall on the southwestern Kyushu region the previous night, the weather agency said. According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, Lupit, the ninth typhoon of the year, is expected to reach the Sea of Japan after making landfall near Kure in Hiroshima prefecture, reports Xinhua news agency.

Miscreants attack Hindu temples

Dhaka: Miscreants attacked at least four Hindu temples, some shops and households belonging to the minority community in Bangladesh's Khulna district, prompting police to arrest ten people and beef up security in the area, according to a media report. The incident took place Saturday in Shiali village in Rupsha Upazila following a heated altercation between Hindu and Muslim residents Friday night, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

Nirav Modi granted permission to appeal against extradition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 9: A UK High Court judge here Monday granted fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi permission to appeal against a magistrates' court order in favour of extradition to India to face charges of fraud and money laundering before the Indian courts on mental health and human rights grounds.

Justice Martin Chamberlain delivered his verdict remotely under COVID-19 rules to conclude that the arguments presented by the 50-year-old diamond merchant's legal team concerning his "severe depression" and "high risk of suicide" were arguable at a substantial hearing.



He also noted that the adequacy of the measures capable of preventing "successful suicide attempts" at Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail, where he is to be detained upon extradition, also fall within the arguable ambit.

MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION

Modi puts forward five principles to prepare roadmap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, August 9: Chairing a high-level United Nations Security Council open debate, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday put forward five principles, including removing barriers for maritime trade and peaceful settlement of disputes, on the basis of which a global roadmap for maritime security cooperation can be prepared.

In his statement while chairing the debate on "Enhancing Maritime Security - A Case for International Cooperation" via video conferencing, Modi highlighted that maritime routes were being misused for terrorism and piracy. He stressed that the oceans are the world's common heritage and sea routes the lifeline of international trade.

Underlining that the countries' shared maritime heritage is facing many challenges, the prime minister put forward five principles on the basis of which, he said, a global roadmap for maritime security cooperation can be prepared.

"We should remove barriers for legitimate maritime trade. Global prosperity depends on the active flow of maritime trade. Any hindrance in maritime trade can



threaten the global economy," Modi said elaborating the first principle.

The second principle, he said, was that the settlement of maritime disputes should be peaceful and on the basis of international law. "This is very important for mutual trust and confidence. This is the only way we can ensure global peace and stability," he said.

Modi said the third key principle was that the global community should together face natural disasters and maritime threats created by non-State actors. India has taken several steps to enhance regional

cooperation on this subject, he added.

Preserving the maritime environment and maritime resources, and encouraging responsible maritime connectivity were the fourth and fifth principles enunciated by the prime minister.

Modi is the first Indian prime minister to preside over a UN Security Council Open Debate, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

The meeting was being attended by several heads of state and government of member states of the

We should remove barriers for legitimate maritime trade. Global prosperity depends on the active flow of maritime trade. Any hindrance in maritime trade can threaten the global economy
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER, INDIA

United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and high-level briefers from the UN system and key regional organisations.

The open debate was focussed on ways to effectively counter maritime crime and insecurity, and strengthen coordination in the maritime domain.

The UN Security Council has discussed and passed resolutions on different aspects of maritime security and maritime crime in the past.

However, this is the first time that maritime security was discussed in a holistic manner as an exclusive agenda item in such a high-level open debate.

Once-in-50-yr heat waves now happening every decade: UN Report

THE REPORT FOUND THAT WE ARE ALREADY EXPERIENCING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AS THE PLANET HAS SURPASSED MORE THAN 1 DEGREE CELSIUS IN AVERAGE WARMING

REUTERS

New York, August 9: Extreme heat waves that previously only struck once every 50 years are now expected to happen once per decade because of global warming, while downpours and droughts have also become more frequent, a UN climate science report said Monday.

The report found that we are already experiencing those effects of climate change, as the planet has surpassed more than 1 degree Celsius in average warming. Heat waves, droughts and torrential rains are only set to become more frequent and extreme as the earth warms further.

It is the first time that the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has quantified the likelihood of these extreme events in a wide variety of scenarios.



The report found that once-in-a-decade heavy rain events are now 1.3 times more likely and 6.7% wetter, compared with the 50 years up to 1900 when major human-driven warming started

to occur. Previously once-in-a-decade droughts could happen every five or six years.

Scientists emphasised that these effects of climate change are already here, with events like the heat wave in the US Pacific Northwest killing hundreds in June and Brazil currently experiencing its worst drought in 91 years.

"The heat wave in Canada, fires in California, floods in Germany, floods in China, droughts in central Brazil make it very, very clear that climate extremes are having a very heavy toll," said Paulo Artaxo, a lead author of the report and an environmental physicist and the University of Sao Paulo.

The future looks even grimmer, with more warming meaning more frequent extreme events.

Heat waves show stronger increases in frequency with warming than all other extreme events.

Twice in a century heat waves could happen roughly every six years with 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming, a level which the report says could be surpassed within two decades.

Should the world become 4 degrees Celsius hotter, as could happen in a high-emissions scenario, those heat waves would happen every one to two years.

Carolina Vera, another report author and a physical climate scientist at University of Buenos Aires and Argentina's main agency for science research (CONICET), said there is also an increasing likelihood that multiple extreme weather events could happen at the same time.

For example, extreme heat, drought and high winds - conditions that could feed wildfires - are more likely to happen at the same time.

The IPCC has a medium or high-

level confidence that many important agricultural regions around the world will see more droughts or extreme rain. That includes parts of Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia and Brazil that are major growers of soybeans and other global commodities.

"It is scary, sure, with the risk that fires, heat waves, droughts will affect humans in the form of weather and food insecurity, energy insecurity, water quality and health - mainly in poor regions," said Jose Marengo, a climatologist at the Brazilian Science Ministry's disaster monitoring center. Marengo was not involved in the IPCC report.

For example, regions that are already prone to drought are likely to experience them more frequently, including in the Mediterranean, southern Australia, and western North America, said Friederike Otto, IPCC author and climatologist at University of Oxford.



Stock-specific moves are visible as the Q1 results announcement continues. BSE MidCap shed over 1% while the BSE SmallCap declined nearly 0.75%
DEEPAK JASANI | HEAD OF RETAIL RESEARCH, HDFC SECURITIES

NEW IDENTITY UNVEILED

Home-grown auto major Mahindra and Mahindra Monday unveiled a new visual identity, including a brand-new logo, exclusively for its SUV portfolio, ahead of the launch of its much awaited SUV, XUV700



of the day quote

On rebalancing supply chains, India can significantly benefit from the geopolitical shifts that we are seeing. At the group, we have already set up a business to seize the promise of high-tech manufacturing of electronics, precision manufacturing, assembly and testing and semiconductors in the medium term

N CHANDRASEKHARAN | CHAIRMAN, TATA GROUP

India was projected to grow in double-digit percentage growth rates this year but the second wave has raised downside risks. Whether the recovery materialises soon will depend upon the government's policy support, faster vaccination and return to normalcy

BHARAT HARI SINGHANIA | CHAIRMAN, JK PAPER

We are thrilled to partner with Hemex. Together with Mylab's accurate FIA test kits, we can make testing available anywhere - from a small village without electricity to an international airport

HASMUKH RAWAL | MD, MYLAB DISCOVERY SOLUTIONS

India may slash import tax on EVs after Tesla lobbying

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 9: India is considering slashing import duties on electric cars to as low as 40%, two senior government officials told Reuters, days after Tesla Inc's appeals for a cut polarised the country's auto industry. For imported electric vehicles (EVs) with a value of less than \$40,000 - including the car's cost, insurance and freight - the government is discussing slashing the tax rate to 40% from 60% presently, the officials told Reuters.

For EVs valued at more than \$40,000, it is looking at cutting the rate to 60% from 100%, they said. "We haven't firmed up the reduction in duties yet, but there are discussions that are ongoing," one of the officials said.

India is the world's fifth-largest car market with annual sales of



about 3 million vehicles but the majority of cars sold are priced below \$20,000. EVs make up a fraction of the total and luxury EV sales are negligible, according to industry estimates.

Tesla, in its pitch to the government - first reported by Reuters

in July, argued that lowering import duties on EVs to 40% would make them more affordable and boost sales. This triggered a rare public debate among automakers over whether such a move would contradict India's push to increase domestic manufacturing.

India is the world's fifth-largest car market with annual sales of about 3 million vehicles but the majority of cars sold are priced below \$20,000

Even so, the government is in favour of a cut if it can see companies such as Tesla providing some benefit to the domestic economy - manufacture locally, for example, or give a firm timeline on when it would be able to, one of the officials said.

"Reducing import duties is not a problem as not many EVs are imported in the country. But we need some economic gain out of

that. We also have to balance the concerns of the domestic players," the official said.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said on Twitter last month that a local factory in India was "quite likely" if the company was successful with vehicle imports but taxes on them are high. The second official said that since the duty cut is being considered only for EVs and not other categories of imported cars, it should not be a concern for domestic automakers - that mainly manufacture affordable gasoline-powered cars.

India's finance and commerce ministries, as well as its federal think tank Niti Aayog, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are discussing the proposal and all stakeholders will be consulted, the person added. Both sources did not want to be identified as the discussions are still private.

'Bill to nullify retro tax will give impetus to \$5tn economy goal'



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 9: The Taxation Laws Amendment Bill, which seeks to nullify retrospective tax demands raised on companies, will instill investor confidence and provide impetus to India's goal of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy, the Income Tax Department said Monday.

The bill, which was cleared by the Lok Sabha August 6, was passed by the Rajya Sabha on Monday. The bill, as passed by the Upper House, will be cleared by the Lok Sabha for it to become an Act.

The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 seeks to withdraw tax demands made using a 2012 retrospective legislation to tax the indirect transfer of Indian assets and also refund the amount paid in these cases without any interest. In a series of tweets after the bill was passed by the Upper House, the I-T department listed out key features and benefits of the bill.

'Inquiry has to be conducted': SC junks Flipkart, Amazon plea

Carefully perusing the material available on record, we see no reason to interfere with the impugned orders passed by the High Court of Karnataka dismissing the Writ Appeals of the petitioners, the top court said

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 9: The Supreme Court Monday declined to entertain a plea by e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart, saying they must face an inquiry by Competition Commission of India (CCI) for anti-competitive practices.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana and comprising justices Vineet Saran and Surya Kant said: "Big organisations like you (Flipkart and Amazon) should volunteer for inquiry... Inquiry has to be conducted."

The bench declined to interfere with the orders of the Karnataka High Court, which refused to interfere with the preliminary enquiry ordered by the CCI into their alleged anti-competitive practices.

"Carefully perusing the material available on record, we see no reason to interfere with the impugned orders passed by the High Court of Karnataka dismissing the Writ Appeals of the petitioners. The Special Leave Petitions are, accordingly, dismissed," said the top court in its order.



Senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for a petitioner, submitted that time to reply to the notice issued by the Office of the Director General, CCI is going to expire August 9 and sought extension of time.

The top court, in its order, said, "Taking into consideration the request made by the learned senior counsel, time to reply to the notice is extended by a further period of four weeks from today. It is made clear that no further extension of time would be granted for the purpose. Consequent upon dismissal of the Special Leave Petitions, all the pending applications filed in the matters also stand

disposed of."

The e-commerce companies had moved the apex court challenging the Karnataka High Court order. The Karnataka High Court, July 23, dismissed the plea by Amazon and Flipkart against a probe initiated by the CCI for the alleged violation of competition law.

A division bench of Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and Natraj Rangaswamy passed the order on a batch of appeals moved by the e-commerce companies challenging a June 11 order passed by a single judge of the high court.

The bench noted that by no stretch of imagination, can the inquiry can be quashed at this stage and the appellants shouldn't be afraid of investigation by the CCI. The bench said: "In the considered opinion of the court, appeals filed by appellants are devoid of merit and deserved to be dismissed..."

Amazon had moved Karnataka High Court against a CCI order which had called for a Director General level investigation into allegations of anti-competitive conduct in the online sale of smartphones on its platform.

China's economic risks build as delta cases spread

REUTERS

Beijing, August 9: China's economic risks are building in the second half of the year, with growth set to slow while inflation pressures are picking up, clouding the outlook for central bank support.

A report Monday showed factory-gate inflation surging again to 9% in July as commodity prices climbed, while core consumer prices - which strip out volatile food and fuel costs - rose the most in 18 months.

At the same time, the spread of the delta variant is threatening China's outlook, with Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. downgrading growth forecasts for the third quarter and full year, and predicting more central bank easing. The latest developments are another complication for policy makers, who have already pledged fiscal and monetary support for the economy in the second half of the year. While some economists see inflation risks limiting the room for central bank action, many see the uncertain growth environment as a bigger worry, with more easing likely to come.

"As the outbreak unfolds, China's domestic demand will weaken, and

the overall inflation pressure will decline," said Xing Zhaopeng, senior China strategist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. "Even though prices are still high, they won't have much momentum to rise further, so it won't create a huge constraint on monetary policy."

Chinese government bonds extended losses after the data, with the yield on the 10-year security rising 4 basis points, the most since January, to 2.85%.

Inflation, though, is unlikely to be a key consideration for monetary policy in the near term. The growth outlook - under pressure from new outbreaks of the Covid-19 variant - will be a bigger concern that could prompt the People's Bank of China to do more to support the economy, following a cut in the required reserve ratio in mid-July.

The jump in factory-gate inflation was largely due to higher commodity prices, in particular oil and coal. Beijing has been trying to quell the surge in commodity prices by releasing inventory from the nation's strategic reserves, cracking down on hoarding and speculation, and ordering state-owned enterprises to limit their exposure to overseas commodities markets.

Equity MFs' net inflows at over ₹22K cr in July



AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 9: Equity-linked mutual fund schemes saw a net inflows of over ₹22,500 crore in July. As per the data furnished by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) Monday, the net inflows stood at ₹22,583.52 crore.

In June, the net inflows had stood over ₹5,980 crore, while in May, the total sum was over ₹10,000 crore. In April, equity-linked mutual fund schemes saw a net inflow at ₹3,437 crore. Besides, the contributions through systematic investment rose on a sequential basis last month.

The SIP inflows at the end of July rose to ₹9,608.86 crore from ₹9,155.84 crore reported for end of June. "RBI's accommodative stance, healthier earnings growth, vaccination-driven steady containment of Covid pandemic and global and domestic liquidity is driving the Equity markets to historic highs," AMFI Chief Executive NS Venkatesh said.

"Taking a cue, retail investors too are participating in the equity rally, largely through 'Mutual Fund SIPs', on a continued rising quantum at record levels."

According to the data, the net AUMs for the India's MF Industry breached ₹35 lakh crore landmark for the first time ever. Furthermore, the MF industry added a whopping 50 lakh folios to reach 10.54 crore folios.

VEHICLE RETAIL SALES BOOM YoY, SEQUENTIALLY IN JULY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 9: Low base, along with rising demand, pushed up India's overall vehicle retail sales on both sequential and year-on-year basis in July 2021. The data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) showed a rise of 34.12 per cent during the month under review from the level of July 2020.

Vehicle retail sales rose to 15,56,777 units last month from 11,60,721 units sold during July 2020. On sequential basis, the FADA had reported an overall vehicle retail sales figure of 12,17,151 units for June 2021. However, last month's overall retail sales figure, when

compared to July 2019 (per-pandemic) period, showed a decline of 13.22 per cent.

In July 2019, the overall vehicle retail sales stood at 17,93,882 units. On YoY basis, segment wise, registration of personal vehicles increased by 62.90 per cent to 2,61,744 units. Similarly, two-wheeler registration gained by 27.56 per cent to 11,32,611 units. Besides, tractor retail sales rose by 6.64 per cent to 82,388 units.

FADA President Vinkesh Gulati said: "With the entire country now open, July continues to see robust recovery in auto retails as demand across all categories remain high. The low base effect also continues to play its part."

India witnesses addition of 16mn jobs in July: CMIE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 9: India saw an addition of 16 million jobs in July mainly in the agriculture and construction sectors, however, the number of salaried jobs fell by 3.2 million in the same month, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

"India saw an addition of a massive 16 million jobs in July 2021. But, all the additional employment provided by India in July was of poor quality. 18.6 million additional people were employed as small traders and daily wage labourers," CMIE's MD and CEO Mahesh Vyas said



in his analysis.

He said most of these were engaged in agriculture where 11.2 million additional people were employed. The number of salaried jobs, which are mostly better quality jobs, fell by 3.2 million in the same month, Vyas said.

"The big jump in employment seen in agriculture in July is a re-

flection of the increase in sowing activities. Monsoon has been playing truant this year. This has delayed kharif sowing activities. By the end of June 2021, kharif sowing was more than 20 per cent lower than it was in the corresponding period of 2020," Vyas observed.

By the end of July, he said, the sowing was less than 5 per cent lower than a year ago, that is 65.3 million hectares were sown during July compared to 19.5 million hectares in June.

This could be the reason why the sharp increase in employment in agriculture is seen, he pointed out.

HOW SLEEPY SILIGURI IS TURNING INTO INT'L TRADE HUB

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 9: The sleepy town of Siliguri - in the foothills of the Himalayas, which has typically served as a connecting junction for people of West Bengal travelling to their favourite hill station Darjeeling or Sikkim, is quietly getting a makeover. This town is soon going to become an international trade hub.

Siliguri is strategically located with easy access to Nepal, Bangladesh and China. That is not all. The critical Siliguri Corridor marks the 60 km long and 22 km "Chicken Neck" connecting the rest of India with the north-eastern states.

"The chicken's neck is critical as it is not very far off from the Tibet

border. Therefore, security is a major concern," Bipul Chatterjee, executive director CUTS International said at a webinar on multi-modal transport organised by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies.

Not only is the Siliguri corridor important for an inclusive transport-led growth for India's northeastern region, from the security paradigm, it is even more crucial.

Security issues:

"Wedged between Bangladesh to the south and the west and China to the north, the Siliguri Corridor also links India to neighbouring Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. By an advance of just 130 kilometres, the Chinese military could



cut off Bhutan, west Bengal and the north-eastern states of India. About 50 million people in north-east India would be separated from the country," the Lowy Institute in a study said.

The study noted that China,

which already claims 90,000 square kilometres of territory in India's north-east, has been a perennial threat to the Siliguri Corridor.

"Last year's Chinese aggression and the Galwan Valley military standoff between India and China

is an immediate wake up call for New Delhi. This is a very critical stretch that needs focus - it is important for connectivity which is related to our northeast as well as the international borders," an analyst told India Narrative.

The Lowy Institute study added that strategically, the Siliguri Corridor is precisely the point where China could hit in case of escalating conflict between the two Asian giants. With such a twist, China could change the entire status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and put India under even greater pressure.

Siliguri's importance for trade and economic activities

The corridor is crucial - as a gateway to the northeast. A report published by Dhaka Tribune pointed

out that under the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBIN-MVA), Siliguri will be a key point of the South Asian road network. Siliguri is also part of the Asian Highway Network, which is supposed to connect the BBIN countries with Thailand and Myanmar through Bangladesh.

However, the rapid development on this little stretch has made Bangladesh wary. "This network will connect Myanmar and Thailand to Northeast India [Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram] through Siliguri, circumventing Bangladesh." The newspaper quoted Khondaker Golam Moazzem, regional connectivity expert and research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) as saying.

RED CARPET FOR OLYMPIC HEROES



STARS RETURN



- 1 A fan takes a selfie with Ravi Dahiya as he comes out of the airport
- 2 Bronze-winning wrestler Bajrang Punia is escorted upon his arrival
- 3 Fans break into a dance after heroes arrive in New Delhi
- 4 Indian men's hockey team players celebrate with a cake after their return
- 5 Indian women's hockey team comes down the escalator at the airport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 9: India's Olympic medal-winners were accorded a grand welcome by the government in a dazzling felicitation ceremony here Monday with sports minister Anurag Thakur saying that their journey is an "incredible story of resilience and sporting excellence".
Gold medal winning javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was the cynosure of all eyes in the ceremony at a five star hotel here, held a couple of hours after the seven podium finishers made their way out of the airport amid utter chaos.
At the felicitation ceremony, they were presented mementos and shawls by the minister. Both the bronze-winning men's hockey team and fourth-place finishing women's team cut cakes after arriving at the hotel.
While Chopra added the golden sheen to the campaign, the silver

medals came from weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya.
The bronze medals, apart from the men's hockey team, were claimed by boxer Lovlina Borgohain, shuttler P V Sindhu, and wrestler Bajrang Punia.
"I am very happy to be back home. I knew India is very happy but after coming back here, to get this love first hand, it feels really nice. I would try to do my best for more such medals," Borgohain said.
Sindhu and Chanu did not attend the ceremony as they had arrived earlier and are currently at their home bases. "I only tried to give my best," said Punia, who fought through his semifinals without any protective gear on his injured knee.
Among those present on the occasion to felicitate the medal winners also included Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju,

Secretary (Sports) Ravi Mittal and Director-General of Sports Authority of India Sandip Pradhan.
"Tokyo 2020 was an Olympic Games of many firsts for India. The success of Team India at the Olympics is a reflection of how New India desires and aspires to dominate the world...even in sports," Thakur said.
"The Olympic Games showed us that with self-discipline and dedication we can be champions. Team India excelled and inspired while Indians cheered and celebrated all around.
"Truly sports is a great unifier as our athletes come from villages and cities, north to south, from east to west. Their journey is an incredible story of resilience and sporting excellence," he added.
There were many firsts in India's campaign, including the biggest ever 128-member athlete contingent, seven Olympic Medals, first

Olympic gold medal in an athletics event, two successive medals in consecutive Games by Sindhu, and a medal (bronze) by the Indian men's team in hockey after a gap of 41 years. Also, the women's hockey team achieved its best ever fourth place finish in the Games.
"We will continue to support our sports persons and we endeavour to make India a sporting powerhouse," Thakur said.
The minister also lauded some close finishes including the fourth place finish by golfer Aditi Ashok. Thakur's predecessor Rijiju praised the performances of all the athletes and reiterated that India will be a force to reckon with by the 2028 Olympics.
"This is just the beginning because India's resurgence in sport is visible now and I am confident that by 2028 Olympics India will be a force to reckon with," Rijiju mentioned.

Lovlina eyes fresh start for Paris 2024

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 9: She had the time of her life in Tokyo with a medal on Olympic debut being the icing on the cake but Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain says all of it is "done and dusted now" and she will start afresh in every aspect of her game for the Paris edition in 2024.
In an exclusive interview to this agency, Borgohain, who clinched the welterweight (69kg) bronze, spoke about the hardships she endured to get where she is, the joy of watching the triumph of human spirit at the Games and how her regular life now becomes much more eventful thanks to overnight fame.
The 23-year-old from the tiny Baro Mukhia village of Assam's Golaghat district became only the third Indian boxer to finish on the Olympic podium, joining two of the biggest icons in Indian boxing - six-time World Champion MC Mary Kom and the very decorated Vijender Singh.
She had vowed to touch upon her sacrifices only after her campaign was over and she did exactly that. "My first sacrifice was to stay away from my home for the past eight years and not being there for my family in times of their problems and watching from a distance. This is the biggest sacrifice," she said.



Lovlina Borgohain shows off her bronze medal ahead of felicitation ceremony
"Personally, I have sacrificed some desires that youngsters like me would have. For example not eating things that so many others of

my age eat (fast food), I wouldn't take leave from training to concentrate on the game. And this continued for eight years," she revealed.
She does plan to take a holiday now that the job is done before getting down to prepare herself for a better medal in Paris in three years from now.
"This Olympics is done and dusted. I will have to start afresh in every aspect, not just one," she said, when asked what changes she would make to her technique after the Tokyo campaign.
Would those changes include additional strength in her punches, which despite being accurate, seemed to be slightly low on power, especially in the semifinal loss to reigning world and now Olympic champion Busenaz Surmeneli of Turkey?
"It is not like strength and conditioning hasn't been worked on. It was being done. You can say it was not up to the level of what it should have been ideally. I could work on my strength and conditioning only in the last four months of what was a four-year cycle.
"I was benefitted by the work but for something as big as Olympics, four months is not enough. Uss se kuch nahi hota, you need such work in a four-year cycle," she explained.

Indian team off to London

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
London, August 9: The Indian contingent Monday were off to London for the second Test against England at Lord's though replacement players, Suryakumar Yadav and Prithvi Shaw, remained in Nottingham to complete their quarantine.
It is learnt that the entire Indian contingent left for London at around 11 am local time after every member tested negative for RT-PCR. The second Test begins August 12.
Shaw and Suryakumar, who linked up with the squad in Nottingham August 3, will only complete their 10-day quarantine August 13, which means that they can only train from August 14 and will be available for selection from the third Test, starting August 25 at Leeds.
The nine-day gap between second and third Test will certainly give the duo ample chance to train and get match ready in case the team management feels the necessity of playing either of the two.
GANGULY IN ATTENDANCE
With United Kingdom moving Indian travellers from red to amber list from last Sunday (August 8), BCCI president Sourav Ganguly is set to leave for London Tuesday to watch the second Test at Lord's starting August 12.
The move from red to amber list

means that any person who is fully vaccinated as per UK health authorities protocol will not need to serve the mandatory 10-day hard quarantine period which the likes of Shaw and Surya are currently serving, having arrived in a commercial flight from Colombo.
It is also expected that secretary Jay Shah, vice-president Rajiv Shukla, treasurer Arun Dhumal might be in the UK to watch the Indian team play at some point during the series.
"For any of the office bearers, it was very difficult with 10-day hard quarantine in place as everyone's busy schedule goes for a toss. Since some of the travel protocols have been relaxed, especially the quarantine, our office bearers if they want can now attend."
Prithvi Shaw (L) and Suryakumar Yadav will join for team training after their 10-day quarantine ends, August 14



Football team's camp in Kolkata after 15 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 9: The national football team's camp will be held in Kolkata after 15 years when initial 23 probables assemble at the 'City of Joy' August 15 to prepare for next month's international friendlies.
The training sessions will start from August 16, the AIFF said in a statement. This will be the first time Blue Tigers' camp will be held in Kolkata as they assembled here for training way back in 2006 ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qualifier against Saudi Arabia.
The camp will be conducted under a secured bio-bubble adhering to the laid-down health parameters in wake of the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. The contingent will also be undergoing regular testing.

After Tokyo, Olympians hanker for Paris Games

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Tokyo, August 9: They'll always have Paris. That thought, full of promise, has been a lifebuoy for athletes to cling to as they coped, as best they could, with thickets of restrictions at the pandemic-hit Tokyo Games that severely crimped their Olympic experience — and left some hungry for more.
Barred from bringing family and friends with them to Japan, playing in empty arenas and not allowed to sightsee in Tokyo, some athletes found themselves day-dreaming about the French capital's Olympic rendezvous in 2024.
If the coronavirus is tamed by then, the Paris Games could quickly become the party games. Already, there is palpable pent-up eagerness among athletes to make up for Tokyo and its disappointments.
"When Paris happens, I'll be

like, 'OK, wow, like this is a whole new energy. This is it,'" said U.S. Skateboarder Mariah Duran. "Maybe I had to have the appetizer before the whole meal."
For now, Paris officials say they're betting that the pandemic will be over when their turn comes. "Normally, we'll be able to party," the city's mayor, Anne Hidalgo, said Sunday on French TV when Tokyo passed the baton.
But if the coronavirus is still ruining the best-laid plans, then Tokyo has served up a model of how to hold an Olympics even as infections are surging.
It pared the games down to their most essential ingredient: competition. No spectators. No city-wide partying. Very little mingling between Olympians and their hosts. Paris officials were watching closely and say that while they hope for the best, they'll also plan for the worst.

Toughest for many Tokyo Olympians was not being accompanied to Japan by loved ones who had no choice but to watch them compete on TV. American surfer Carissa Moore said it was "a huge challenge" being separated from her husband and his "strong constant voice."
Moore ultimately found her foot-

ing to win gold in surfing's debut as an Olympic sport. As painful as separation was, Tokyo was also a learning experience for the Hawaiian. "I'm very proud of myself, to be here and stand on my own two feet," she said.
Traveling without her parents for the first time at age 17, US Skateboarder Brighton Zeuner compensated by staying closely connected even during her competition, video-calling her father from the Olympic skate bowl "between every single run I did."
To limit infection risks, organizers also asked athletes to arrive in Tokyo no earlier than five days before competing and leave within 48 hours of being done — a rapid turnaround that further truncated the Olympic experience.
Belgian skateboarder Axel Cruysberghs, who competed in week one, and his skateboarding

wife Lizzie Armanto, who competed in week two, passed each other like ships in the night. As she took off for Tokyo, his flight back to their home was 20 minutes from landing.
"It worked out for our puppy," she joked. But it wasn't the fairy-tale Olympics they'd planned before the pandemic. "We'd hoped to like be here for a month together and, you know, I could see his event and he could stay for mine," Armanto said. "But because of COVID and everything ..."
Armanto came away from Tokyo having not made up her mind about whether she wants to go again in Paris. In an Instagram livestream from the Olympic residential compound where athletes were largely confined when not training or competing, she was wrestling with cabin fever, complaining of rooms that "feel a little prison-like" and

wishing that organizers hadn't barred athletes from going to watch sports other than their own in their downtime.
"I've circled the perimeter quite a few times because what else do you do here?" Armanto asked. Not being able to pass the time at sports venues was a common complaint.
"That's something I would have liked to have experienced as an Olympian, to go watch my other teammates, other than wrestlers, compete," said Elias Kuosmanen of Finland, who wrestled in the Greco-Roman heavyweight class.
But because the pandemic delayed Tokyo by a year, Paris is now only a three-year wait instead of the usual four. "That is exciting, yes, to think about being able to do this again," Slater said. "To see even more of the beauty and coolness of people coming together and being able to really connect to the Olympics."

