



PUSHING BOUNDARIES
Actor Aahana Kumra says her new untitled film is taking her out of her comfort zone
LEISURE P2



VICTIMS OF WILDFIRES
65 people have died in wildfires raging in northern Algerian forests for more than a week now
INTERNATIONAL P10



2ND TEST STARTS TODAY
India hope for better batting show when they face England in the 2nd Test at Lord's, starting Thursday
SPORTS P12



MIXING OF VAX TRIALS APPROVED
New Delhi: India's drug regulator, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has given approval for a study to be conducted by the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore on mixing of Covid-19 vaccines Covaxin and Covishield, official sources said Wednesday. The trial will involve 300 healthy volunteers. "The aim of the study is to assess the feasibility on whether a person can be given two different vaccine shots - one each of Covishield and Covaxin - to complete the inoculation course," a source said.



TENDER FLOATED FOR RT-PCR LABS
BHUBANESWAR: All districts of Odisha will have RT-PCR labs by August 15, Director of Public Health Niranjana Mishra stated Wednesday. Tenders have already been floated for the purpose, he added. So far RT-PCR labs are operational in 14 districts. "Steps are being taken to start the labs as soon as possible in the districts of Bhadrak, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Nuapada, Sonepur, Kandhamal, Sundargarh, Rayagada and Bargarh," Mishra informed. "We are confident that RT-PCR labs in all districts of Odisha will function from August 15," he added.

JSW Cement
The Leaders' Choice
1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

IRREGULAR by MANJUL
When I said there is a shortage, I meant vaccine... we've enough 'Thank You' posters with us!

BJD bats for caste census

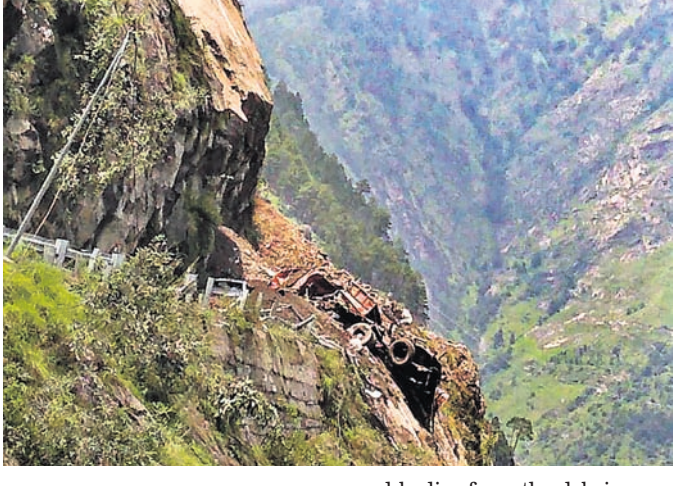
POST NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi, August 11: A delegation of BJD MPs met Union Home Minister Amit Shah here Wednesday and urged him to consider the proposal to undertake caste-based census for enumeration of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes and Other Backward Classes (SEBC/OBC) people in Census 2021. They also demanded that the reservation be raised beyond 50 per cent ceiling. The BJD MPs urged Shah to pass a central legislation empowering the states to identify and publish their SEBC/OBC lists and formulate their rational reservation policy by enhancing the percentage of total reservation beyond the existing 50 per cent ceiling. In a memorandum submitted to the home minister, the BJD contended that the legislations of most of the states on reservation policies for SEBC and OBCs had been struck down by the Supreme Court and High Courts on the ground that the policies on reservation are made without any scientific database of the SEBC/OBC population. "It is imperative that detailed enumeration of SEBC/OBC/other Caste/Class is to be made by the government of India by inserting appropriate columns in the Census Format 2021 for identification of socio-economic and educational status of these categories of population," the BJD said in the memorandum. "It is the appropriate time to make provision in the reservation policy to accommodate SEBC communities considering their proportionate share in the total population for inclusive growth of the society," it added. The BJD said that the census will benefit the backward classes.

MEMORABLE MEMORABILIA



Indian women's hockey team player Deep Grace Ekka presents Wednesday an autographed Indian jersey by her teammates to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Kalinga Stadium as (from left) Birendra Lakra, Namita Toppo and Amit Rohidas look on. Earlier the four were felicitated by the Odisha CM for their outstanding show at the Tokyo Olympics.

10 KILLED IN HP LANDSLIDE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Shimla, August 11: Ten people were killed Wednesday, 13 rescued and more than 50 are feared buried under debris after a landslide trapped a bus and other vehicles in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district, officials said. Fighting to complete the operation before nightfall, rescue workers struggled to pull out survivors and bodies from the debris near Chaura village in Nigulsari area of Nichar tehsil. Hours after the landslide a little before noon, Kinnaur Deputy Commissioner Abid Hussain Sadiq said 10 bodies have been pulled out but there are others feared trapped. Eight of the dead were found inside a Tata Sumo taxi, according to Himachal Pradesh Disaster Management director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta.

A Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) bus, which was on its way from Reckong Peo to Haridwar via Shimla, was still buried under the debris, Mokhta said. Sources said that the bus was carrying approximately 40 people. However, there was no official confirmation regarding the figure. When the initial reports of the landslide came, HP Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur told the state Assembly that more than 50 people were feared trapped under the debris but the exact number was not known. It will be difficult to ascertain till the debris are cleared, he added. However, the chances of survival of those still trapped under the debris are dim, sources said. Earlier, officials said two cars were damaged and rescue teams are trying to pull them out from the debris with the help of a crane. A truck rolled down towards a riverside due to the shooting stones and the driver's body has been recovered, they added. Among the dead also are a two-year-old girl and five women, a state official spokesperson said.

No user gains even if ATMs go cashless

AGENCIES
New Delhi, August 11: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced Wednesday that private and government banks will be fined ₹10,000 if the ATMs are without cash for 10 or more hours in a month. This new rule will certainly come as a relief for the common man. However, the customer will not get any benefit. The fines will be issued by the regional office of the RBI where the ATMs are located and the amount will go to Central Bank. RBI has directed all banks and White Label ATM operators to ensure timely replenishment of ATMs to avoid cash-outs or face penalties in a notification. The new rule will come in effect from October 1, 2021. The step has been taken to strengthen the systems/mechanisms of banks so that any kind of inconvenience to the public can be avoided. Non-compliance in this regard shall be viewed seriously, the RBI said.

State capital hit hard by dengue

The increase in vector-borne disease cases, on top of Covid-19, has been alarming

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, August 11: The state capital is reeling under the effects of high rate of Covid-19 infections on a daily basis. To compound the problems of the healthcare and administrative officials, dengue cases are also becoming a cause of headache. The total tally of dengue cases reached 1,058, Wednesday, thereby registering approximately an 86-time jump within a month. A total of 49 new cases were reported Wednesday. The current number of cases in the city is at an all-time high in the last five years. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) sources informed that the rate of increase is alarming as the city had reported only 12 cases till the end of June. It should be stated here that Odisha had registered only 496 dengue cases in 2020, 3,758 in 2019, 5,198 in 2018 and 4,158 in 2017. "We have been getting close to 40 new cases on a daily basis. Earlier huge pressure on the already stretched health infrastructure in the city. "We are admitting 15-20 dengue patients daily. There are two dengue wards with a capacity of 60 beds. The demand for blood platelets has also increased. However, as of now we are not facing any shortage of beds or platelets for dengue patients," a Capital Hospital source said. Experts at the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) of ICMR here have said that the rise is due to dengue virus serotype-2 (DENV-2 or D2), the most virulent strain. It increases severity of the attack and has been found in a large number of samples collected from Rayagada, Koraput and this city. Meanwhile, sources at the BMC said that they have surveyed over 11,564 households and have destroyed over 34,707 mosquito breeding sites, including 35,225 sites with larvae so far, to contain spread of the disease. The total number of cases so far reported in the last 41 days in the city stands at 997. It is more than double than the total number of cases reported in the entire state in the previous year. The good sign however, is that 748 persons have recovered until now. The rest are undergoing treatment. "Most cases have been observed in slums of Sailashree Vihar and Niladri Vihar. ORS tablets have been distributed in most of the affected areas and constant awareness drives are being conducted. Special teams including doctors, health and sanitation workers and entomologists have been deployed in these areas to contain the spread of dengue," informed a BMC official.

ALARMING SITUATION
BMC has destroyed 34,707 mosquito breeding sites
In the last 45 days, dengue cases have increased manifold
In the last 10 days, Bhubaneswar has registered 446 new cases of dengue

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	54525.93	↓ 28.73
NIFTY	16282.30	↑ 2.20
DOLLAR	74.55	↑ ₹0.04
EURO	87.27	↑ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹46,330	↑ ₹368
SILVER	₹62,721	↑ ₹85

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.6°C	35.0°C
TEMP MIN	25.4°C	25.0°C
Humidity	83%	89%
Rainfall	0.1mm	1mm

Forecast: Light rain very likely

Paradip may be underwater by 2100: NASA report

AGENCIES
Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, August 11: The town of Paradip, which has one of the most prominent ports in India, may not exist at all by the end of the 21st century according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). A new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that 12 Indian cities including Paradip may be submerged by 2100 due to drastic climate changes. NASA has analysed the report and said that drastic measures are needed if India is to avoid such a calamity. Most cities that face extinction are coastal towns. Among the towns that may go three feet

12 coastal Indian cities face extinction as they may go under 3 feet of water
Global warming has resulted in drastic climatic changes in the last decade leading to floods, wildfires
NASA

below the water are Kandla, Okha, Bhavnagar, Mumbai, Mormugao, Mangalore, Cochin, Paradip, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Chennai and Tuticorin. "Coastal areas will see continued sea-level rise throughout the 21st century, contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-lying areas and coastal erosion with extreme sea-level events that previously occurred once in 100 years could happen every year by the end of this century," the IPCC said in its report. The UN's climate report was made public a few days back. It says continuous reliance on fossil fuels is warming the world at an unprecedented rate in the last 500 years. The effects are already visible as droughts, wildfires and floods rage around the world. The average global surface temperature has risen by about 1.1 degree Celsius between 1850-2000, a level not seen since 1.25,000 years ago, before the most recent Ice Age. According to the UN report, in India, almost 40 million people will be at risk from sea-level rise by 2050. However, densely populated cities such as Mumbai and Kolkata will be at a higher risk. The population in these cities will also increase substantially in the next 20-30 years. The IPCC report also states that global mean sea level is increasing annually at the rate of approximately 3.7mm as per records accumulated from 2006 to 2018. Along with it the glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region are also shrinking in size due to global warming. This melting of the glaciers will result in release of huge quantities of water which in turn will be enough to submerge a large number of coastal Indian towns.

PREVENTIVE STEPS
BHUBANESWAR: The government has asked the Water Resources department to prepare an action plan for strengthening saline and flood embankments along the coast within one month. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra issued this direction while holding a high-level meeting on changing coastal characteristics and existing infrastructure to combat tidal surge. He directed officials to identify the vulnerable locations and tracks where there would be probability of tidal ingress into the land mass.

leisure



ANISTON DATING FRIENDS CO-STAR SCHWIMMER!

Friends co-stars Jennifer Aniston and David Schwimmer are rumoured to be dating. "After the reunion, it became clear that reminiscing over the past had stirred up feelings for both of them and that chemistry they'd always had to bury was still there," a source told Closer.

TOURS HAVE TAKEN TOLL ON MY BODY: BEYONCE

American pop star Beyonce Knowles says touring has taken a toll on her body. "I've struggled with insomnia from touring for more than half of my life. The stress on my hair and skin, from sprays and dyes to the heat of a curling iron and wearing heavy makeup while sweating on stage," She adds.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES

Ideas play havoc in your head today. The good thing is that you will execute them well. Here is a word of caution for you: avoid hasty decisions. Experienced people will help you find a firm footing. Ganesh advises you to pay heed to elders' counselling.

TAURUS

Ganesh sees you being very planned and focuses, poised and practical in handling your affairs today. You'll be able to take identify the best strategy, course of action that the situations demand.

GEMINI

The day will be dedicated to spending quality time with children, predicts Ganesh. You will be overloaded with household responsibilities and will find it tough to deal with them. However, you will manage to do well and will be satisfied with the outcome.

CANCER

You will not only make plans, but will also act on them. So you can save money, time and energy for creative pursuits. The quality of your work and accomplishments will be high. Your creativity plays a key role in your accomplishments in career or business.

LEO

You will need to work hard to achieve your goals today. Those who are serious about their work will be easily able to tide over the day. You need to be cautious today. Not only at work, but even in personal relationships, you need to be on guard.

VIRGO

Today is the right time to start a new project, while older projects which had been postponed will be finished. Over the next week you will try to boost your energy levels. Parties will lead to a lot of entertainment and joy. Ganesh says children will bring home pride which will put you in even higher spirits.

LIBRA

Ganesh says the higher officials in your work place may be displeased with you and you will face issues with them. Due to this you will feel mentally depressed and down but towards the afternoon you will be able to please them with your impressive work ability.

SCORPIO

Life is the best teacher, they say. And today, you even experience this. You may learn to survive the neck-tight competition in the market. This may invite a lot of envy, but nothing shall bother you. Ganesh reminds you of the adage, 'To err is human, to forgive is divine,' so, it's fine even if you commit some errors.

SAGITTARIUS

You wake up with a smile today. According to Ganesh, you have a knack of solving problems, which you may use it to the optimum. Be cautious of people around you, as their envious nature may affect your work. Ignore them and keep the optimism alive.

CAPRICORN

Singles, you may meet the one of your dreams today and plan about a future together. You will feel and enjoy the exciting feeling of meeting your life partner and letting your heart open in front of somebody, says Ganesh. All of this will not be one sided. Your sweetheart will also shower love and affection upon you unconditionally.

AQUARIUS

Listen to your inner voice, follow what your heart says and you will not need anyone else guiding you on your path. At work, you will have a smooth sailing today, as superiors will be supportive of your actions and decisions. Go on a romantic date in the evening, and mark a perfect ending to the day, feels Ganesh.

PISCES

If you are the leader of a project or a team, then today is your day. Your enthusiasm and creativity will give a sense of purpose and direction to your colleagues. You are more concerned about the means rather than the ends.

Aahana stepping out of her comfort zone

Mumbai: Actor Aahana Kumra, who is quite excited about her upcoming film for which she has travelled to London, said that the new film is taking her out of her comfort zone.

The actress said, "I am super duper excited about the movie and one of the reasons for the same is because it is a crime thriller. Since we flew to London recently, we are currently quarantining, and taking this time out to indulge in the necessary preparations. The protocols are also being worked out for the shoot, ensuring maximum safety. We are also chalking out the shoot schedule. I will also make sure to stay safe myself."

"The movie will see me in an unseen avatar for which I will be stepping out of my comfort zone. In the end, that's what an actor looks for -- to be able to push the boundaries every day. I am glad this project is giving me a chance to do so. Apart from work, I am also looking forward to exploring the city and have a good time while shooting."

IAN5



Isha to perform at LA film fest

Mumbai: Actress Isha Chhabra, who has appeared in projects like *Mastram* and *Forbiddan Angels*, is gearing up for putting up her dance performance at the closing ceremony of the Standalone Film Festival, Los Angeles, August 13.

Talking about her performance, Isha said, "I feel it's a great opportunity for me that I have been invited to perform at the closing ceremony of the festival. I feel it is a great platform to showcase my talent as well as to show the richness of the beats of Bollywood numbers."

"I have been practising really hard and trying to perfect each and every step for my final performance. Hope I can do justice to the song and my dance."

SCIENTIST ANIL PRADHAN HAD QUIT THREE COMFORTABLE JOBS TO CHASE HIS DREAMS OF INSTILLING SCIENTIFIC TEMPER IN YOUNGSTERS

BHUBANESWAR: Anil Pradhan, known as Odisha's 'Ideas Man' for inculcating the spirit of science in young minds, will get the National Youth Award at Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi, today on the occasion of International Youth Day.

Earlier, a group of school students, trained by him, had bagged the third prize in the high school division of prestigious NASA Rover Challenge-2021. Recently, NASA also selected an innovative fastener designed by seven school students led by scientist Anil to measure its viability in space. The fastener was sent to space via NASA's SR-7 Rocket from Virginia, USA June 24.

National honour for Odisha's 'Ideas Man'

For the unversed, Anil has founded two organisations - Navonmesh Prasar Foundation and Young Tinker Academy- that constantly works towards hands-on learning and innovation in education.

Felicitated with awards like Global Changemaker by Dais Foundation and National Youth Icon-2018, Anil

quit three cushy jobs to chase his dreams of instilling scientific temper in youngsters so that a student, regardless of background, becomes an achiever. To realise his dream, he founded International Public School for Rural Innovation at Bayalish Mouza, Cuttack.

"I don't do things to get awards. I started with just three students at Bayalish Mouza and now we have 1.5 lakh students across India. When I was busy making a rover my father died. He was in CRPF and often told me that 'Nation comes first.' So, I didn't hesitate to join my team a day after his death.

Whatever I have achieved is because of my parents' blessings," says Anil. PNN



Age no bar for these women influencers

Sixty-two-year-old actor Neena Gupta's social media posts are colourful as well as inspiring



Neena Gupta



Poonam Sapra



Anjali Kumar



Neetu Kapoor

Influencers dictate the way we dress, shop, style and literally live our lives. Amidst the millennials and next-gens, there are a handful of women influencers over the age of fifty, who are making Instagram less noisy and more real. Here is a look at five of them

Neena Gupta
Ever since the actor's post asking for work went viral, there's been no looking back for the 62-year-old -- successful movies, power-packed performances and even an autobiography that's become everyone's favourite read. Gupta's social media posts are an in-

sight into exactly who she is -- natural, funny and sassy. From her captions to her take on fashion and other life situations, her humour is intact.

Neetu Kapoor
She's effortless, unstoppable and probably looking her best right now. One can follow Kapoor for her immaculate style, workout inspirations and all things of film industry. Of all the yesterday actresses, Kapoor is the most active on social media, for all the right reasons.

Vinita Chaitanya
For any design and decor enthusiast, celebrity interior de-

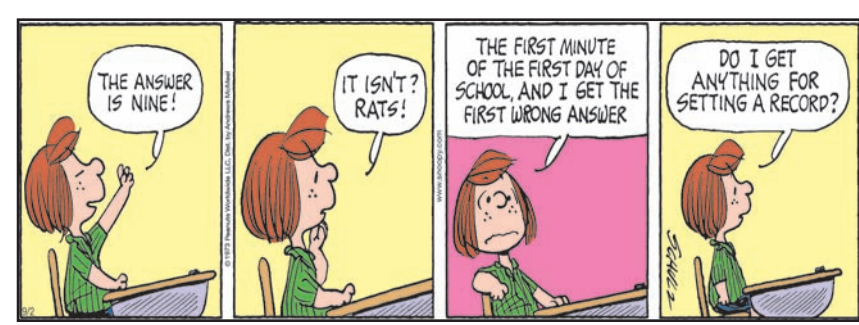
signer Chaitanya's social media is the mood board of your dreams. Beautiful pictures captured during her morning walks, conversations around interior styling and of course a glimpse into all the incredible work she does is on view on her handle, she keeps her online space colourful and inspiring.

Poonam Sapra
The Internet's most loved desi-mom, Poonam Sapra has a very interesting social media handle -- 'mother with sign'. From happy and motivational messages to "Things that Indian moms say", this social media influencer is trying to make the

world a happier place, one post at a time. Sapra's heart-warming content will inspire many to click the follow button.

Anjali Kumar
Maitri, an online community that talks about everything related to women's health is run by Anjali Kumar. She actively addresses issues related to PCOS, menstruation, pregnancy, self-care and many other topics that are often not spoken about openly. From tackling health problems to rocking headstands, this 50-something gynecologist is a super influencer. AGENCIES

PEANUTS



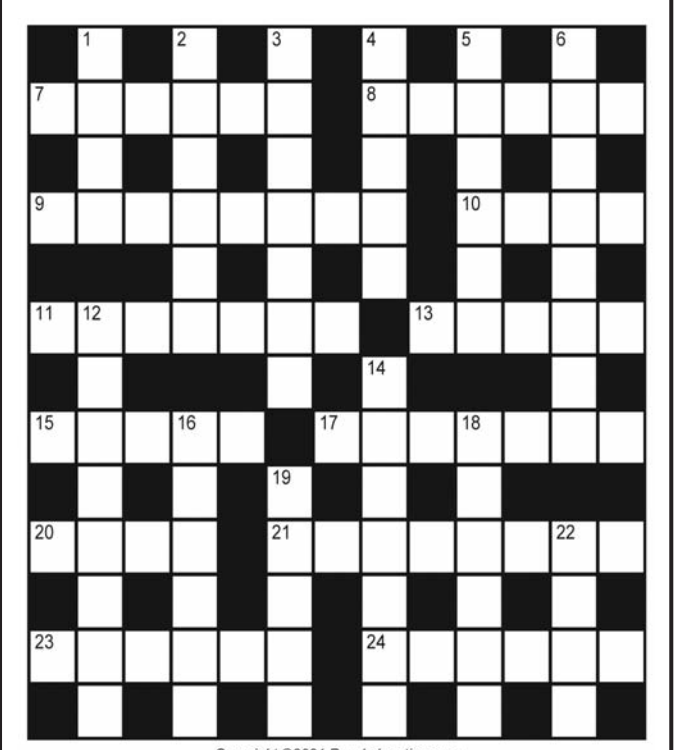
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



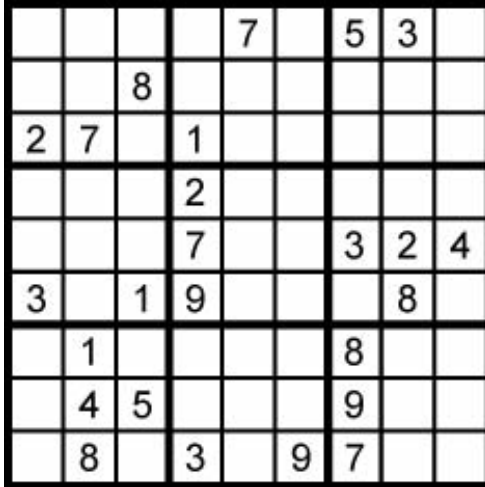
FUN post CROSSWORD



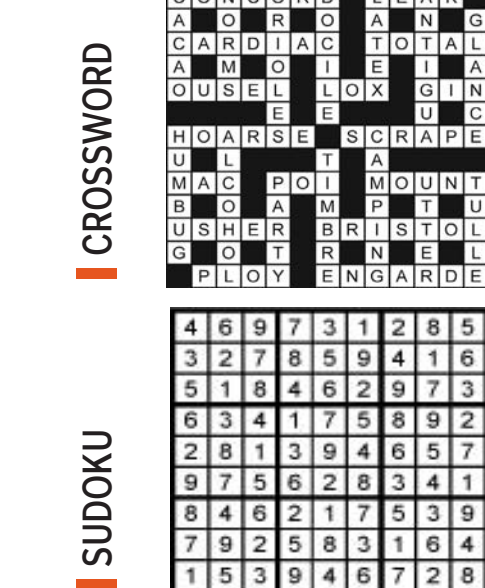
- Across**
- 7 Mooring item
 - 8 Decanted
 - 9 Budgie
 - 10 Swerve
 - 11 Wetlands
 - 13 Durable cotton fabric
 - 15 Long-legged wading bird
 - 17 Excoriate
 - 20 Bland
 - 21 Mitre or fez, e.g.
 - 23 Intertwine
 - 24 Universe
 - Down**
 - 1 Old Peruvian
 - 2 Clippers
 - 3 Vine
 - 4 Markings
 - 5 Military vehicle
 - 6 Health food
 - 12 Addax, for one
 - 14 Crowned head
 - 16 Don't give it away
 - 18 Small magazine
 - 19 Headman
 - 22 Sailor's greeting

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

Action plan soon to shore up coastal embankments

THE STATE GOVT FEELS THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE EMBANKMENTS AS FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF CYCLONES RISE



Tidal ingress threat

Chief Secretary directed the department officials to identify vulnerable locations and tracks where there would be probability of tidal ingress into the land mass

Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena directed the engineers to prepare a scientific assessment of the coastal geo-physical features for locating the areas where engineering intervention could be a solution

During the last 10 years, the coastal belt witnessed tidal surge of 3.5 metres to 4.5 metres at the time of cyclones thereby causing large-scale saline inundation

Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore.

During the last 10 years, Odisha faced seven very severe to extremely severe cyclonic storms. The coastal belt witnessed tidal surge of 3.5 metres to 4.5 metres at the time of cyclones thereby causing large-scale saline inundation.

In the wake of increasing frequency and intensity of cyclones, there is a need for further strengthening of the embankments.

The Chief Secretary directed the engineers of the department to talk to the people who live close to the sea and who have their landed properties on the coastline and convince them about the necessity as well as the utility of strengthening saline/flood embankments. Raising height of embankments would save them from tidal surge and inundation in future. The department was asked to prepare the action plan focusing on highly vulnerable tracks within a month, the source said.

Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena directed the

engineers to prepare a scientific assessment of the coastal geo-physical features for locating the areas where engineering intervention could be a solution.

Presenting the details, Water Resources Secretary Anu Garg said, with around 17 per cent (480km) of India's coastline, Odisha faces around 35 per cent of the cyclonic storms that the country faces, along with tidal surge.

Odisha is sixth most cyclone-prone state of the world. There are also flat terrains having fertile agricultural land with dense population adjacent to the coastline, she said.

1,078 new cases push nCoV load to 9,90,075

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 9,90,075 Wednesday as 1,078 more people tested positive for the infection, while 65 fresh fatalities pushed the coastal state's coronavirus death toll to 6,630, a Health official said.

The number of active cases in the state came down to 10,682 as 1,319 more people were cured of the disease, taking the total number of recoveries to 9,72,710.

Khurda district, under which Capital city Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of fresh cases at 372, followed by Cuttack (147). No new case was recorded in Koraput, while the remaining districts reported fresh infections in double digits, said the official.

Khurda also recorded the highest number of fresh fatalities at 20, followed by Cuttack (12) and Nayagarh (six).

The state has thus far tested over 1.67 crore samples for Covid-19, including 68,724 in the last 24 hours.



Odisha's cumulative positivity rate stands at 5.19 per cent, while the daily test positivity rate stands at 1.56 per cent, the official said.

The state has inoculated over 1.84 crore people, of whom 42.55 lakh have been fully vaccinated.

Public Health director Niranjana Mishra said that Odisha will have RT-PCR testing laboratories in all the 30 districts from August 15, up from 14 districts at present.

Bhadrak, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Nabarangpur,

Malkangiri, Nuapada, Sonepur, Kandhamal, Sundargarh, Rayagada and Bargarh districts do not have RT-PCR laboratories at present and tenders have been floated for the purpose, he said.

He said that Odisha will also set up its own genome sequencing facility to quickly detect mutation of the coronavirus, which will help in mitigating the possible third wave of the pandemic.

"All sentinel surveillance sites and laboratories have been asked to send around 10 per cent sam-

ODISHA'S CUMULATIVE POSITIVITY RATE STANDS AT 5.19 PER CENT, WHILE THE DAILY TEST POSITIVITY RATE STANDS AT 1.56 PER CENT

THE STATE HAS INOCULATED OVER 1.84 CRORE PEOPLE, OF WHOM 42.55 LAKH HAVE BEEN FULLY VACCINATED

THE STATE HAS THUS FAR TESTED OVER 1.67 CRORE SAMPLES FOR COVID-19, INCLUDING 68,724 IN THE LAST 24 HOURS

ples of total positive cases to the Institute of Life Science (ILS). RT-PCR laboratories will function in all the districts from August 15," he said.

Mishra said that 3,000 hospital beds have been kept ready and medical personnel trained for treatment of children, besides a drive to sensitise people about the possible third wave has also begun.

On the prevailing Covid situation, he said, "The graph indicates that the infection rate and the number of fresh cases have declined and the situation is no longer alarming."

I-DAY PREP



Police personnel rehearse for the upcoming Independence Day celebration at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: The state government has asked the Water Resources department to prepare an action plan for strengthening saline and flood embankments along the coast within one month.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra issued this direction while holding a high-level meeting on changing coastal characteristics and existing infrastructure to combat tidal surge.

Mahapatra directed the department officials to identify the vulnerable locations and tracks where there would be probability of tidal ingress into the land mass. He also asked the officials to identify 'areas at risk' from where permanent evacuation would be the only scientific solution.

Sources said around 1,636-km saline protection embankments and 5,864-km flood protection embankments were built during previous years mostly in the districts like Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur,

Train timing revised

Bhubaneswar: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to revise the timings of Jammu Tawi-Sambalpur Special and Sambalpur-Howrah Special. The timings of 08310 Jammu Tawi-Sambalpur Special have been revised between Tundla and Mirzapur stations under North Central Railway jurisdiction from August 26, 2021. It has also been decided to revise the timings of 08306 Sambalpur-Howrah weekly Special via Angul at Sambalpur and Rairakhol from August 20, 2021. Timings for these two trains at all other scheduled stations will remain unchanged.

NCC felicitates kin of freedom fighters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 11: The nation is celebrating 75th Independence Day as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' through a series of programmes conducted at national, state and district levels. On this occasion, 1 (O) Bn NCC, under Cuttack Group Headquarters Wednesday felicitated the next of kin of prominent freedom fighters of Odisha, Late Gouranga Charan Das and Binod Kanungo here.

Commanding Officer Lt Col Sanjeev Dewan welcomed the gathering and said, "Freedom fighters are a big source of inspiration to all of us and a lot needs to be learnt from their experiences."

"They gave their today for our tomorrow", said Col Rajinish Kapoor, Group Commander, NCC while addressing the next of kin of freedom fighters - Prashant Das, grandson of Gouranga Charan Das and Pabak Kanungo, son of Binod Kanungo - and the cadets.

Contempt plea filed against Lokayukta

Bhubaneswar: Pradeep Panigrahi, former BJD MLA who was expelled from the party following allegations of his involvement in job fraud, has now filed a contempt of court petition in the Orissa High Court against Odisha Lokayukta for allegedly producing a forged HC order before the Supreme Court. Panigrahi's lawyer Pitambar Acharya expressed shock on the overall development while informing about the contempt petition.

Covid patient flees SCBMCH

AGENCIES

Cuttack, August 11: A 55-year-old Covid-19 patient has escaped from Covid ward of SCB Medical College and Hospital here.

Both Cuttack city and Cuttack rural police have launched a manhunt to trace the male patient, a native of Mahanga area here. "We got a written complaint from the hospital about the incident this morning and the CCTV footage of the hospital revealed that the man stealthily walked out of

the fourth Covid ward around 3am Tuesday," said Mangalabag police inspector Amitav Mohapatra.

Family sources said the man was admitted to the hospital August 5 after he tested positive for coronavirus. During the treatment, when his condition deteriorated, he was briefly shifted to the ICU. Family members have also submitted a written complaint with the city police. "Since the patient was from Mahanga, we've intimated Mahanga police about the incident," Mohapatra said.

NABARD gives wings to handloom sector

Bhubaneswar: NABARD celebrated the 7th National Handloom Day in a function Wednesday providing live coverage of the programme. In his welcome address, C Udayabhaskar, CGM, NABARD, highlighted the contribution of handloom weavers in Odisha's long tradition of excellence. Handlooms & Textiles Director, who also holds the additional charge of BOYANIKA MD, Jyoti Prakash Das said the state has 1.22 lakh weavers and 66,531 weaver families. The size of the handloom economy is ₹500 crore.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Banki, Dist.- Cuttack, I Akshyaya Kumar Behera, S/o Kanhu Charan Behera of Village - Bhuban, P.S.- Bhuban, Dist.- Dhenkanal, Odisha have declared that my daughter's name has been wrongly mentioned as A.M. Anjali instead of Anjali Behera and her date of birth as per birth certificate is 21.2.2005 instead of 15.8.2005 mentioned in Air Force document during my service tenure. The correct name and date of birth of my daughter is Anjali Behera, Date of birth is 21.2.2005. Hence, this affidavit is a declaration for correction of my daughter's name and date of birth. Akshyaya Kumar Behera

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, August 11: Ahead of re-opening Srimandir for public darshan from August 16 in a phased manner, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Wednesday issued the standard operating procedure (SOP) for different categories of people.

In a notification, the SJTA rolled out the SOP for the servitors' families, local residents and devotees from within the state and outside. According to SJTA chief administrator Krishan Kumar, the 12th century shrine, which remained closed for public since April 24 this year in view of the second wave of Covid-19, will reopen for public August 16 as per the state government's order. However, family members of the servitors will be allowed to have darshan of the deities from August 12 to 13.

The darshan timings will be from 7am to 7pm on all the days, when temple is open for darshan of the Lords, he said, adding that the residents of Puri municipality area will be allowed entry for darshan from August 16 to 20. All devo-

tees will be allowed entry from August 23. The temple will, however, remain closed for public darshan on Saturdays and Sundays during shutdown as a measure to contain the spread of novel coronavirus and in order to sanitise the temple precincts.

The temple will also remain closed on major festive occasions in order to avoid huge gatherings that are expected on such festive occasions. Accordingly, the temple will remain closed August 30 (Janmashtami) and September 10 (Ganesh Chaturthi).

"This situation will be reviewed again for October 2021 or as required," Kumar said.

It has been made mandatory for all the devotees to wear masks all the times, inside and outside the temple, sanitise hands before entering the shrine, maintain physical distance at all times as per Covid-19 guidelines and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour.

Devotees visiting the temple will have to produce the final certificate for Covid-19 vaccination (of having taken two doses) or Covid-19 negative certificate (RT-PCR) of test-

Vax certificate or -ve report must for Srimandir entry

4-month wait ends

Between 7am & 7pm: While family members of servitors will be allowed to have darshan of the deities from August 12 to 13, residents of Puri municipality area can enter the 12th century shrine from August 16 to 20. Devotees will be allowed entry to Srimandir from August 23



No darshan days:

Apart from Saturdays and Sundays (weekend shutdowns), the temple will remain closed for public on major festive occasions like Janmashtami (August 30) and Ganesh Chaturthi (September 10) in order to avoid spike in transmission of Covid-19 on account of huge gatherings that are expected on such festive occasions

Safety first:

The shrine administration has urged the devotees to ensure following Covid appropriate behavior in and out of the temple complex

ing done within 96 hours prior to their visit to the temple, the SOP said, adding that people will be required to bring their photo ID card like Aadhaar or voter ID.

Devotees are also requested not to touch statues or idols inside the Srimandir. It is prohibited to take flowers and lamps inside the temple. There will be big containers placed at the entrance, where such items can be dropped, if being carried by the devotees, the SOP said. Devotees are not allowed to light lamps inside the temple while chewing of tobacco or paan and spitting inside the temple premises is strictly prohibited. A fine of ₹500 will be levied for each violation, the SOP said.

These apart, there is a blanket ban on carrying polythene bags inside the temple. A fine of ₹100 will be levied for each violation, it said, adding that there will be no parking of Mahaprasad on Ananda Bazar and the temple premises. However, the devotees can carry Mahaprasad and partake it at their place of residence or any other convenient place.

There will be a separate queue for differently-abled devotees, for

darshan of the Lords. Parking of the vehicles will be done only at Jagannath Ballav Mutt premises or any other designated place, it said.

The SJTA advised senior citizens (above 65 years), persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below 10 years not to visit the temple in view of the prevailing Covid-19 situation.

The family members of servitors will be allowed darshan from Mangal Alati till Rati Pahuda through any of the gates. While entering the temple, they are required to produce their health insurance card or any other ID card issued by SJTA along with photo ID card like Aadhaar or voter ID card.

Devotees will enter through the barricades opposite to the shoe stand, situated on North-East side of the temple complex. All devotees will enter through Lion's Gate.

After darshan, the exit will be through north gate. The queue system will open from 7am, August 23. Devotees will leave their belongings at the designated place outside the temple, produce their ID proof for verification and follow the Covid-19 guidelines.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

MSME parks in Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal

Facelift for Raibania fort in the offing



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, August 11: The state government has initiated a number of measures for development of ancient Raibania fort in Jaleswar area of Balasore. Office bearers of Raibania Durga Committee and members of cultural outfits from Bhubaneswar and Balasore held a review meeting on the restoration of the ancient fort which is in ruins.

A master plan will be drawn up for its development, a report said. In order to make it a tourist spot in north Odisha, they underscored the need for its protection, infrastructure development and status of tourist spot.

The meeting was chaired by MLA Aswhini Kumar Patra. It was learnt that about 72 acres of land belonging to the fort are under the government possession. Several development works will be taken up in the first phase on two acres and 62 decimal land near Chandhi temple.

₹68 lakh under the Rurban scheme has been provided for

₹68 lakh under the Rurban scheme has been provided for the fort development in two phases while the state tourism and culture department has allocated ₹50 lakh for its conservation

the fort development in two phases while the tourism and culture department has allocated ₹50 lakh. Besides, ₹15 lakh has been allocated for lighting facilities. ₹10 lakh will be spent for completion of a Jagannath temple on its premises while ₹18 lakh will be utilized for construction of an approach road.

Two zilla parishad members have provided ₹16 lakh from their fund for drinking water facility. Members of the committee reviewed project proposals for utilization of ₹50 lakh.

They decided to draw up a master plan for facelift of the historical fort.



Industry boost

Chairman of the Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) Asit Kumar Tripathy deliberated on development of industries and removal of bottlenecks in the industrial sector in Ganjam, Gajapati, Nayagarh and Kandhamal districts.

Tripathy chaired 'Industry Care' programme attended by officials of the industries department and officials of four districts at Chhatrapur

Various bottlenecks coming in the way of industrial units will be sorted out on the spot with the help of officials of industries and government to spur growth of the sector in all the four districts, he observed

Similarly, Nayagarh has a vast scope of industries, he said, adding MSME parks are going to be set up in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts.

The programme was attended by industries secretary Hemant Sharma, IPICOL MD S Punia, secretary of the MSME department Satyabrata

Sahu, director of industries Mohammed Sidique Alam and Collectors of Ganjam and Gajapati, among others.

Multiple issues faced by industries like Grasm, Tata SEZ, Gopalpur Port and several industrial units in three other districts were discussed elaborately at the programme.

"Timeline has been set for the issues which have remained unresolved as yet. Officials concerned will be responsible for effective redressal of problems and hurdles bes-

setting the industrial sector in the four districts. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has given a directive for on-the-spot redressal of issues," he pointed out.

Ganjam has a vast scope of exploring industries to encash flower, fish, prawn and mushroom farming while tourism and hospitality sector has good potential in Gajapati and

FESTIVE FERVOUR



An artisan carving a Ganesha idol ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi at Chaunrpur in Sambalpur town, Wednesday

Subsonic cruise missile test-fired

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, August 11: Long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay was successfully test fired from launch pad-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Balasore Wednesday.

The missile with a length of 6 metres, width of 0.52 metre and weighing 1500 kg has a range of about 1500 km. It can deliver 24 different types of warheads

ready been used in Nirbhay missiles, Indigenous Manik turbo engine was used for the current test fire. Therefore, it has been dubbed as the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile by DRDO.

The missile has a length of 6 metres, width of 0.52 metre, a wingspan of 2.7 metres and weighs about 1500



The test fire of the 'Made in India' missile was carried out by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at 9.53 am.

The missile is claimed to have sea-skimming and loitering capability -- it can go round a target and perform several manoeuvres and then re-engage it.

While the turbofan engine has al-

kg. It has a range of about 1500 km and is capable of delivering 24 different types of warheads depending on mission requirements between 200 kg and 300 kg.

The Nirbhay missile was first test-fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur March 12, 2013. It was tested for the ninth time Wednesday.

Youth held for cyber crime

Bari: Acting on a tip-off, Delhi Police raided Bhurunga village under this block in Jajpur district and arrested a youth on charge of his involvement in cyber crime and defrauding people of lakhs of rupees from their bank accounts. The accused was identified as Pritam Kar (30) of the village. He purchased SIM cards from various states by submitting fake ID proofs and defrauded people of lakhs of rupees from their bank accounts. He used to supply the SIMs to cyber fraudster in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and other states. Delhi Police came to know about his activities during the investigation of a cyber crime.

Crorepati PEO in Vig net

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kamakhyanager, August 11: Assets over ₹1.30 crore were unearthed by Vigilance sleuths during raids in connection with a disproportionate assets case against a panchayat executive officer in Dhenkanal district, Wednesday.

He was identified as Santosh Kumar Sahoo, panchayat executive officer (PEO), of Kerjoli gram panchayat of Kankadahada block in Dhenkanal district, said an official press release. Sahoo was arrested and will be produced in court after interrogation, DSP Surendra Nath Rayguru leading the Vigilance team said.

Following allegations of amassment of assets disproportionate

to his known sources of income, five teams of the Cuttack Vigilance Division comprising a DSP, seven inspectors and other staff conducted simultaneous searches on Sahu's properties at five places in Dhenkanal district Wednesday, it added.

During the search, the teams have unearthed one triple-storied building and two single-storied buildings under Kamakhyanager police limits, four plots including a plot at Kamakhyanager and three plots at Jiridamali of Dhenkanal district.

Two two-wheelers, insurance deposits of over ₹14 lakh and other movable and immovable properties, totaling to over ₹1.30 crore were seized.

Tender Ref.No. 084/WSN/2021-22 Date: 10.08.2021

WASSAN

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed & signed tender papers are invited from eligible bidder with superscribe on the top of envelope "Tender for Annual Rate Contract for Printing Works". The tender paper will be available under tender section of www.milletsodisha.com & www.integratedfarming.in from 11.08.2021 to 01.09.2021. The sealed tender paper should reach to the undersigned on or before 01.09.2021, 5.00 P.M. through Registered Post/Speed Post and will be opened on 02.09.2021, 11.00 A.M. The undersigned reserve the rights to cancel the whole or part of the tender at any stage without assigning the reason thereof.

Sd./-
State Coordinator, Odisha Millets Mission

WRONG INFO ABOUT LAND LEASE IN KOLABIRA

Top babus go scot-free

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, August 11: The district administration has reportedly suspended a revenue inspector on charge of providing wrong data on lease of a government land in Sodhama mouza under Kolabira tehsil, but top officials are allegedly trying to escape from this mess, a report said.

According to the report, Collector Saroj Samal has suspended Sarmarsingha RI Jagdish Sahu for furnishing wrong information about 8 acres of land before it was to be leased to a private agency. The total land in the area is 779 acres and 87 decimal belonging to khata no-490 and plot -1353.

Mahandi Waste Management Services had applied at Kolabira tehsil office August 2, 2019, for lease of the 8 acres. The agency is owned by Bishal Das, son of Health minister Naba Das. However, when local peo-

Former tehsildar Sanjib Patel has been served show cause in this regard, said the Collector

ple came to know about the attempt by the tehsil administration to lease out the land, they had opposed it. Bishal Das took back his lease application October 23, 2019. The tehsildar had to cancel his lease application. A year later, the same agency applied to take lease of the same 8 acres of land through IDCO. The Collector had approved the lease after spot verification. IDCO then had asked the agency to deposit ₹1.20 crore towards lease.

In fact, the land was full of trees while the revenue department after conducting a survey of the land had reported that there were only bushes on the land.

Locals were shocked over this faulty report. A local youth club moved the High Court against this wrong report by the tehsil.

The HC had directed the Collector to submit a report on the status of the land. A committee headed by sub-collector Shiba Toppo was formed to look into the matter.

The committee comprising the sub-collector, the regional officer of the SPCB, the Jharsuguda tehsildar and the Sambalpur ACF made on-the-spot investigation and found that there were a large number of trees like sal and piasal on the land. The report has been submitted to the HC.

A former Collector and two former tehsildars allegedly provided wrong information about the land.

The then tehsildar and present Lakhanpur BDO Sanjib Patel was served show cause, the Collector said, adding that the land has not been leased out.

Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264

Extract Of Financial Results For The Quarter Ended On June 30, 2021
Key numbers of Financial Results (Rs. in Thousands)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended June 30, 2021	Quarter Ended March 31, 2020	Quarter Ended June 30, 2020	Year Ended March 31, 2021
		Un-Audited	Audited	Un-Audited	Audited
1	Total Revenue from Operations	-	-	-	-
2	Net Profit / (Loss) (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,024)	(3,935)	(1,300)	(7,250)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,024)	(3,935)	(1,300)	(7,250)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,024)	(3,715)	(1,300)	(7,030)
5	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit / (Loss) after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax]	(1,024)	(3,715)	(1,300)	(7,030)
6	Equity Share Capital	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
7	Earnings per share (of Rs. 10/- each) Basic & Diluted (Rs.)	(0.26)	(0.94)	(0.33)	(1.78)

Notes :

a) The above unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30, 2021 have been revised and recommended by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in their respective meetings held on August 11, 2021. These results are being published in accordance with Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on June 30, 2021 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statement of Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2021, are available on the website of the Stock Exchanges - www.bseindia.com and on the website of the Company - www.suryofoods.com.

By order of the Board For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
Sd./- Amarendra Dash
(Managing Director)
DIN - 00583036

Date : 11th August 2021
Place: Bhubaneswar

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, SUNDARGARH FOREST DIVISION
Ph. No. 06622-274987, e-mail: dfosngdvn@yahoo.co.in
Bid Identification No. 149 Dated 11.08.2021
No. MM-157:- The Tender Call Notice for the Construction work under Sundargarh Forest Division published vide Bid Identification No. 127 Dated 16.07.2021 and Bid Identification No. 132 Dated 19.07.2021 is hereby cancelled due to some unavoidable situation.
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Division
OIPR-08034/11/0004/2122

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.H. DIVISION, KORAPUT
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" Procurement Notice
e-procurement Notice for 2021-22
Bid Identification No.EE, P.H.KPT-04 of 2021-22 Dt.05.08.2021

1. No. of the works	1 No.
2. Estimated Cost	Rs.23.00 lakh (Approx.)
3. Period of completion	3 months
4. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 11.00 A.M. of 13.08.2021 to 05.00 P.M. of 25.08.2021
5. Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal	05.00 P.M. of 25.08.2021
6. Date & time of opening of bids	11.00 A.M. of 26.08.2021
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Koraput

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "<https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>"
Sd./- (Er. Sarbeswar Jena), Executive Engineer
OIPR-13008/11/0004/2122 P.H. Division, Koraput

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110067

No. B.12028/4/2021-Admn.II
Vacancy Notice

The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) is an Autonomous / Apex Technical Institute funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for promoting Health and Family Welfare Programmes in the country through Education & Training, Research & Evaluation, specialized services, consultancy and advisory service. This Institute has been appointed by MOHFW, GOI as a Nodal Agency for Coordination of all the Activities in the country. It is proposed to fill up the following posts on contract basis for the development and maintenance of Covid-19 IT application a project of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India (Through Centre of Health Informatics (CHI). This project is currently approved for a period upto 31.3.2022 and likely to continue based on requirement of the resources for above IT application and satisfactory performance of the employee/staff. The engagement of following positions (On Contract Basis) will be at the CHI, NIHFW and MoHFW, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.

S. No.	Designation	No. of Position	Maximum salary in Rupees (Per Month) Exclusive of Taxes
1	Manager / Senior Technical Project Manager	1	2,00,000/-
2	Product Manager / Technical Project Manager	1	1,67,000/-
3	Team Leaders / Architects	2	2,32,960/-
4	DevOps (PHP Developers)	6	1,00,000/-
5	Database Admin	1	1,89,124/-
6	Architect (System Admin)	1	2,32,960/-
7	Testers / Test Engineer	1	95,000/-
8	Architect (Security Admin)	1	2,32,960/-
9	Web Designers / UI Designer	1	90,000/-
10	Senior UI Designer (Tableau Resource)	1	1,15,000/-

Willing and eligible candidates may send their filled application forms along with latest resume and supporting documents as per attached proforma to chivacancy@nihfw.org till 15.08.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.

For details including Hindi version of this advertisement, please visit Institute's website: "www.nihfw.org" Or MoHFW's website "www.mohfw.gov.in".
davn 17153/11/0007/2122 **Director**

FOCUS SOCIETY

A NEW VARIANT OF POPULISM



People have grown weary of authoritarianism, corruption, and divisiveness during the pandemic – a crisis that was grossly mishandled by populist governments, in particular

courtesy of its dogmatically libertarian commentators, who have made common cause with the likes of the Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy), Italy's homegrown fascist movement. Any enemy of the EU is their best friend by default. Although the overwhelming majority of Italians support the government's green pass initiative, the Fratelli's leader, Giorgia Meloni, loudly does not.

In the homeland of Louis Pasteur, such militants are particularly exercised by the government's vaccine-passport rules, which exclude the unvaccinated from concerts, cinemas, museums, swimming pools, theaters, and restaurants where 50 people or more are gathered. More trouble may ensue if nurses (only 50-58 per cent of whom are vaccinated) are prevented from working until they receive two doses; or if railway workers raise objections about having to enforce vaccine-passport rules on local and commuter trains. No job should involve the risk of being headbutted or punched in the face.

It was perhaps inevitable that the parasitic populist right would latch onto these issues. Although Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Rally party has typically hedged her bets, her former right-hand man, Florian Philippot, was very vocal at the biggest of the many anti-vaccine rallies in July. These are growing in size by the month, with 200,000 attending the first one in August. This 'movement' flourishes among the semi-educated in small towns and in cities like Marseille, where obdurate pastis guzzlers and religious immigrant communities also contribute to its ranks.

Still, one can see the outlines of an emerging political fusion between irrationality and pocket-book issues. As anti-vaxxers and anti-greens join forces, any number of stray populist demagogues might seek to lead such a movement. That underscores the importance of UN initiatives such as Team Halo, which has brought together scientists to publicise the importance of vaccines, especially on social media platforms.

The writer is a senior fellow at LSE Ideas. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Most of the 'geopolitical' threats, real or concocted, that capture headlines in the West nowadays are exogenous – emanating from China, Russia, Iran, and so forth. But others lie within the world's democracies. Among these are the US Republican Party's embrace of Trumpian authoritarianism, which is eroding the country's democracy, and the possibility that new unanticipated variants of populism will take hold around the world.

One new variant of populism might involve hostility toward both costly green policies and vaccination against COVID-19. And it would be driven by a combination of genuine concerns about pocketbook issues and the kinds of conspiratorial lunacy that thrive on the internet.

Anti-green populism is particularly likely to flourish in the more fossil fuel-dependent economies of Central and Eastern Europe, in response to the European Union's new strategy for reducing greenhouse gases by 55 per cent by 2030. Indeed, the so-called Fit for 55 plan would seem to call for the wholesale remodeling of these economies.

Consider Poland, which generates 70 per cent of its energy from coal and receives additional supplies through a gas pipeline from Russia. Coal is especially abundant in southern Poland, where it is used to fuel giant power stations that provide industry with cheap electricity.

If it is to meet EU emissions targets, Poland is going to have to decarbonise more extensively and rapidly than anyone else. The government recently set an ambitious goal of reducing the proportion of coal in the country's energy mix from 70 per cent to 11 per cent by 2040. But that will have massive implications for mining, which employs some 100,000 heavily unionised and politically influential workers.

Moreover, with little wind or sunshine in winter, Poland is ill suited for renewable-energy deployment. Instead, it has set its sights on 'solutions' like nuclear power and the 'Baltic Pipe' gas pipeline – subsidised by the European Commission to the tune of 215 million (\$251 million) – to

import gas from Norway via Denmark.

But neither of these options has gone down well in Germany. If Poland's efforts to align with EU policy put it at loggerheads with key neighbours and trade partners, it will be damned if it does and damned if it doesn't. The conditions are set for a thriving anti-green populism.

Yet this populist threat is hardly limited to Central and Eastern Europe. Opposition to climate action could just as easily spread to Europe's more established democracies if costly items like air source heat pumps and smart meters are rendered technologically redundant, or if vehicles with internal combustion engines are forced off the road by government fiat.

In fact, France was briefly the epicenter of an anti-green backlash in Europe, with the rambunctious gilets jaunes (yellow vest) protests that began in 2018. Angry citizens who rely on cars to get around their country districts eventually forced President Emmanuel Macron to rescind a new tax on diesel fuel. They had a point, considering that the infrastructure for more expensive electric vehicles simply does not exist in France (or anywhere else).

More recently, a significant share of this cohort seems to have joined with militant anti-vaxxers (many of them on the far right) who have adopted various libertarian poses propagated on the internet.

This confluence of grievance may have traction, especially as more conventional populist movements have begun to take a battering, notably in Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, and elsewhere. People have grown weary of authoritarianism, corruption, and divisiveness during the pandemic – a crisis that was grossly mishandled by populist governments, in particular. The likes of Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orbán are the elite, not some anti-systemic opposition to it.

Opposition to vaccination is as old as inoculation itself. The English city of Leicester used to be a hotbed of it. In 1885, 100,000 people there attended an anti-vaccination rally, complete with a child's coffin and an effigy of Edward Jenner, the pioneer of smallpox vaccination. Such movements were often based on a fusion of fundamentalist Christianity (which opposed interference in God's work) and suspicion of powers being arrogated by the modern state, which made vaccination mandatory for infants or children entering school.

Nowadays, any online search of vaccines immediately reveals a disproportionate number of anti-vaccination sites, as well as pernicious guff claiming that the barring of unvaccinated youth from nightclubs is akin to Jews being sent to Auschwitz. Versions of that analogy have long appeared in the British Daily Telegraph,



Michael Burleigh

AS ANTI-VAXXERS AND ANTI-GREENS JOIN FORCES, ANY NUMBER OF STRAY POPULIST DEMAGOGUES MIGHT SEEK TO LEAD SUCH A MOVEMENT



Dani Rodrik

Just think of all the important ideas that remain undiscovered because researchers from the academic periphery lack a receptive audience

Economics & Diversity

Early in his career, the economist Joseph E. Stiglitz had an extended stay in Kenya, where he was struck by various oddities in how the local economy operated. Sharecropping was one such anomaly. If farmers were required to surrender half of their harvest to landlords, Stiglitz wondered, wouldn't that greatly tax incentives and thus reduce efficiency? Why did such a system persist?

Stiglitz's quest to resolve this paradox led him to develop his seminal theories on asymmetric information, for which he would later be awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. "The time I spent in Kenya," he reminisced, "was pivotal in the development of my ideas on the economics of information."

Similarly, the economist Albert O. Hirschman was in Nigeria when he observed behaviour that he found puzzling. The rail company, long a public monopoly, had begun to face competition from private truckers. But instead of responding to this pressure by addressing its many glaring inefficiencies, the company simply deteriorated even more. The loss of consumers, Hirschman reasoned, had denied the state firm valuable feedback. This observation about rail transport in Nigeria was the seed that grew into his phenomenally influential book Exit, Voice, and Loyalty (Hirschman also fully deserved a Nobel Prize, but never got one.)

These stories attest to the value of being able to see the world in all its variety. The social sciences are enriched when received wisdom is confronted with 'anomalous' behaviour or outcomes in unfamiliar environments, and when the diversity of local circumstances is fully considered. This observation should be uncontroversial. Yet one would not know it from the way that the economics discipline is organised. The leading economics journals are populated predominantly by authors based in a handful of rich countries. The gatekeepers of the profession are similarly drawn from academic and research institutions in those same countries. The absence of voices based in the rest of the world is not merely an inequity; it impoverishes the discipline. When I recently took over as president of the International Economic Association, I looked for data on the geographical diversity of contributors to economics publications, but I found comprehensive and systematic evidence to be surprisingly scarce. Fortunately, data collected recently by Magda Fontana and Paolo Raccia of the University of Turin and Fabio Montobbio of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan provide some striking initial findings.

As I suspected, their data show an extreme geographic concentration of authorship in leading economic journals. Nearly 90 per cent of authors in the top eight journals are based in the United States and Western Europe. Moreover, the situation seems similar with these publications' editorial board membership. Given that these rich countries account for only around one-third of global GDP, the extreme concentration cannot be explained wholly by inadequate resources or less investment in education and training in the rest of the world – though those factors surely may play some role.

Indeed, some countries that have made huge economic strides in recent years nonetheless continue to be severely under-represented in top journals. East Asia produces nearly one-third of global economic output, yet economists based in the region contribute less than five per cent of the articles in major journals. Similarly, the shares of publications from South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa are minute, and significantly lower than these regions' already small weight in the world economy.

Beyond resources and training, access to networks is key in the generation and diffusion of knowledge. Whether a piece of research is taken seriously depends critically on whether the authors have gone to the right schools, know the right people, and travel on the right conference circuit. In economics, the relevant networks are based predominantly in North America and Western Europe.

The predictable objection here is that many of today's leading economists are from developing countries themselves. True, in some ways, economics has become more international. The number of foreign-born researchers in leading North American and Western European economics departments and research networks has grown. As a student from Turkey who first arrived in the US at the age of 18, I certainly benefited from these networks.

Researchers in advanced economies also have been paying more attention to developing countries, reflecting the fact that development economics has become a much more prominent field within the discipline. In the development-economics master's programme that I run at Harvard University, for example, only a minority of faculty members are from the US. The rest are from Peru, Venezuela, Pakistan, India, Turkey, South Africa, and Cameroon.

But none of these positive developments can fully substitute for local knowledge and insight. Foreign-born economists in the West are typically absorbed into an intellectual environment dominated by rich-country issues and concerns. The visiting economist's exposure to diverse local realities remains limited to happenstance and coincidence, as in the stories about Stiglitz and Hirschman. Just think of all the important ideas that remain undiscovered because researchers from the academic periphery lack a receptive audience.

Economics is currently going through a period of soul searching with respect to its gender and racial imbalances. Many new initiatives are underway in North America and Western Europe to address these problems. But geographic diversity remains largely absent from the discussion. Economics will not be a truly global discipline until we have addressed this deficit as well.

The writer, Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, is President of the International Economic Association. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does. WILLIAM JAMES
- The flower that smells the sweetest is shy and lowly. WILLIAM WORDSWORTH
- No legacy is so rich as honesty. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

WORDSWORTH

Orismology

This word rarely sees the light of day. Its only recent outing one can find was in the 2001 National Spelling Bee in the US, but then the easy words, like the poor spellers, get weeded out early in that contest. You will find it only in the larger dictionaries. It is defined in two slightly different ways. One is that it is the science of defining technical terms, but it is also used less rigorously as an alternative for terminology. If you go by the original Greek, you have to accept the first definition, as it comes from horismos, a definition plus the -ology ending for a field of study. The first persons to use it were the pre-eminent experts on insects in the early nineteenth century, William Kirby and William Spence. They didn't like the way that in terminology a Latin stem had been joined to a Greek suffix, so in their textbook in 1816 they created orismology as an alternative. They were better entomologists than etymologists, since the word really ought to have an initial h. The linguistic purity of orismology was not enough to ensure its widespread adoption, and it now languishes as a hard word for expert spellers and a topic of pieces like this one.

SPECTRUM HEALTH

False narrative of 'Anaemia Mukht Bharat'



SN Misra

DIFFERENT PERSUASIONS, BE IT THE SEN MODEL OR THE BHAGWATI MODEL, SEEM TO BE APATHETIC TO MAKING EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION FOR REDUCING ANAEMIA AMONG CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The World Health Assembly had set a target to reduce the prevalence of anaemia among women in the age group of 19-49 by 50 per cent by 2025. As per the Global Nutrition Report 2020, India will miss this target by miles. Anaemia is a pernicious social health issue which affects over 800 million women globally. Nearly 53 per cent of women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years and 58 per cent of children in the age group of 6-59 months in India are affected by anaemia (NFHS-4 survey). The government of India (GOI) launched the POSHAN Abhiyaan in 2018 to reduce anaemia at a faster clip by effective use of technology, convergence of different stakeholders and fostering a Jan Andolan to rev up awareness and behavioural change. In April 2018, it launched the Intensive National Iron Plus Initiative (INPI) for an 'Anaemia Mukht Bharat'. As against the abysmally small reduction of anaemia cases by 1 per cent per year during 2005-2015, the INPI initiative sets a target of 3 per cent reduction per year. The primary causes of anaemia

are iron deficiency and inadequate intake of Vitamin A, folate and Vitamin B12. Infectious diseases like malaria and TB further aggravate this problem. The flagship programme envisages provision of prophylactic iron folic acid supplementation, deworming tablets and IFA tablets to school children and women.

In December 2020, the GOI came up with a survey of 22 states and Union Territories on the trends of anaemia in its NFHS-5 factsheet. According to the factsheet, anaemia among children has come down from 58.4 per cent to 53 per cent (2015-2020). However, among women in the reproductive age group it has gone up from 50.3 per cent to 53 per cent. For developed states like Gujarat, anaemia among children has gone up from 62.6 per cent to 79.4 per cent and among women from 54.9 per cent to 65 per cent. Even in a state like Kerala with better HDI record, anaemia among children has gone up from 35.7 per cent to 39.4 per cent, and among women from 34.3 per cent to 36.3 per cent. Almost all states show an upward trajectory.

Different persuasions, be it the Sen Model or the Bhagwati Model, seem to be apathetic to making effective intervention for reducing anaemia among children and women. The NFHS-5 factsheet does not cover Odisha which has an enviable record of reducing anaemia among children from 65 per cent to 44 per cent (2005-2015) and among pregnant women from 68.1 per cent to 47.6 per cent (2005-2015). With initiatives like the Mamata Yojana and the women's self help group movement, Odisha's record is better than prosperous states like Gujarat.

In case of children, the crucial period when iron-deficient anaemia develops is 6-18 months when iron requirement is ten times higher by body weight compared with an adult. Food diet in most developed countries is adequate in iron content as they consume more animal food, especially meat and fortified food. In developing countries like India infants depend on iron from breast milk, which is not adequate. In Chile, they experimented with milk powder that was fortified with iron, leading to very little iron deficiency. Iron fortified infant food can

become a game changer for India.

A large number of Indians subsist on iron-deficient vegetables due to religious, economic and cultural reasons. Large scale iron supplementation and fortification of commonly consumed vegetable food stuff should be promoted. According to the Constitution, it is the duty of the State to improve nutrition level in the country (Article 47), ensure proper maternity care and relief (Article 42) and support early childhood care (Article 44). These were the premises set forth by the founding fathers of our Constitution to promote basic nutritional justice for our children, adolescent girls and expecting and nursing mothers. God-like technology and convergence models solving all problems seem to be ineffective due to lack of appropriate political priority by most states and the Centre. It would be a pity if COVID-19 becomes an excuse for the states and the Centre to fail in their responsibilities to make appropriate nutritional intervention for an 'Anaemia Mukht Bharat'.

The writer teaches Economics. Views are personal.

Promote hockey

Sir, Cinema is a strong medium to promote sports. Movies like Chak De! India, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, Mary Kom, Dangal and others have already made an impact on the audience. I met a lot of youngsters who were inspired to play hockey after watching 'Chak De...' So making movies on sports or biopics on sportspersons will encourage others. When Chak De! India hit the silver screen in 2007 none knew that it was the story of a former Indian hockey player. Mir Ranjan Negi was a great player who silently propelled Indian women's hockey team to become world champions in the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok. Later, the country recognised the tireless efforts of Negi whose role was played by superstar Shah Rukh Khan as 'Kabir Khan'. Captain of the women's hockey team Rani Rampal's performance in winning over South Africa (4-3) is the best thing I loved in this Olympics. Even the men's hockey team has a good combination of eight seniors and eight junior players. There is no void in the team and we have a world-class goalkeeper PR Sreejesh. I always feel a good sportsman cannot be made. He is born. We cannot blame the current generation if it is fond of other sports and not hockey. The blame should rest on the government of India for not promoting hockey. It should learn from the government of Odisha which has been doing so much to promote hockey. Craze for cricket and football is more in this country. That is why neither the government nor the sponsors are coming forward to promote hockey. The government must encourage hockey by making it a compulsory sport in schools and colleges.

K Ravi, BHUBANESWAR

Welcome move

Sir, One must compliment the Basavaraj Bommai administration in Karnataka for taking the road less travelled and banning the giving of gifts and memorabilia during government events. It said that organisers could, instead, present Kannada books to guests. The Chief Minister also set a fine example by refusing to accept a bouquet at a review meeting with senior police officers, calling it 'unnecessary expenditure'. Oddly, the practice of giving and receiving gifts has spawned a culture of corruption and favouritism. Other organisations and state governments would do well to emulate the Karnataka example.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Urea 'smuggling' to W Bengal hits farmers in Jajpur district



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rasulpur, August 11: Large scale irregularities in distribution of urea among farmers in Jajpur district have come to the fore, a report said. Reports said the irregularities were not limited to its overpricing or delayed distribution but smuggling of the fertilizer to outside of the state.

Farmers and traders from Rasulpur, Dharmasala, Bari and Barchana blocks under Dharmasala agriculture office have alleged urea smuggling to West Bengal and outside of the district

They alleged large chunk of urea supplied to the district by various companies has been handed over to three to four wholesalers in Korei block for distribution. Lack of action has emboldened them to carry out their work with impunity

These wholesalers instead of supplying it to retailers allegedly transport the urea stock to West Bengal and various other districts at a premium. As a result, this has given rise to urea scarcity in Rasulpur and Bari blocks where a majority of residents earn their livelihood from farming.

Lack of action on part of the district administration and district agriculture authorities has emboldened some retailer to carry out their work with impunity.

state government provides urea to farmers at subsidised rates. Various fertiliser companies supply urea to districts for which they have signed an agreement with the government.

The smooth distribution of urea among farmers is vested with the district agriculture officers while the district administration is supposed to monitor the supply. However, fertiliser companies supply urea as per their whims due to the apathetic attitude of the district administration and agriculture officials.

They do not keep the district administration informed of the stocks and supply it to the district and hand over the stocks to a few wholesalers.

Sources said that the district administration has submitted its indent with the state government for 14,700 MT of urea for this kharif season. Accordingly, over 1000 MT of urea is required for Rasulpur block. Meanwhile, Nagarjuna Fertilizers has supplied 1407.595 MT, Coromandel Fertilizers 651.690 MT, India Phosphates 274.230 MT, IFFCO Fertilizers 510.300 MT to the district which together works out to 2843.815 MT.

However, to the surprise of farmers Rasulpur block has received only 188.550 MT while 2089.615 MT has been supplied to a few wholesalers in Korei block. Moreover, retailers are not using point of sale (PoS) machines while selling fertilizers to farmers. As PoS machines are not used during sale, the urea stock available in the district is different. The online portal shows urea is available with the district while in reality the district lacks fertilizers.

Contacted, Ajay Kumar Senapati, chief district agriculture officer, said wholesalers and fertiliser companies have been directed to give details of urea supplied to the district and their plans on its smooth distribution. He, however, assured to review the wrong doings and take action.

BURNING ISSUE



Activists of Students' Federation of India and Democratic Youth Federation of India staging a demonstration at Kamapalli Square in Berhampur demanding a judicial inquiry into the alleged recruitment scam in Odisha Staff Selection Commission, Wednesday

Baghua, Daha reservoirs dry; farmers struggle

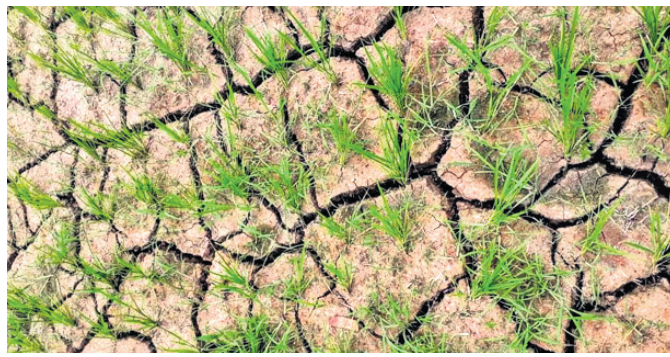
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, August 11: Insufficient rainfall has triggered drought fears in Bhanjanagar area of Ganjam district while two water reservoirs in the area have become dry, leaving little water for farming, a report said.

The pandemic has already broken the economic backbone of farmers while erratic rainfall has spoiled their hopes for paddy harvest this year. Farmlands in hectare-shave become dry while saplings have started wilting.

Lack of water has become a major concern for farmers in the region. They are apprehensive of an approaching drought.

They said over 500 mm rain is necessary for transplantation of paddy saplings. Only 331 mm rain was received from June 1 till date, they said.



Earlier, farmers made use of water of Daha and Baghua reservoirs. Now the water level in the two reservoirs has sharply gone down. In coming days, water level will further go down. Only 15 percent of water as per its storage capacity is left with Sorada water reservoir; it was said.

Farmers said there is no water

in Baghua reservoir and the situation is turning grim.

Some farmers said, "Paddy plants are in stress for lack of water. We have raised saplings for transplantation. Protecting the saplings has been too difficult now in this condition."

Some areas witnessed blight of sprouts while such situation has left

WATER WOES

Farmlands in hectares of farmland have become dry while saplings have started wilting. Lack of water has become a major concern for farmers, who are apprehensive of an approaching drought

Farmers made use of water of Daha and Baghua reservoirs in past. Now the water level in the two reservoirs has sharply gone down while they apprehend that it will go further down in coming days

the farmers worried.

Farmers said the government makes tall claims about extending all possible help to farming while there have been no step to irrigate land at this critical time.

7 hurt as tanker hits auto-rickshaw in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, August 11: At least seven passengers sustained injuries after a tanker hit an auto-rickshaw at Jayshree Square on National Highway-16 in Ganjam, Wednesday.

As a result, passengers inside the auto-rickshaw were left trapped as the vehicle overturned at the spot. Seven persons including two kids, three women and two youths sustained critical injuries.

Locals and police rescued them from inside the vehicle and admitted them to the Chhatrapur hospital.

Two of them were shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital on the advice of doctors

The injured were stated to be residents of Minchinipatna area in Rambha of Ganjam district.

According to eyewitnesses, the mishap occurred when the auto-rickshaw loaded with passengers was on its way to Chhatrapur.

A case has been registered in this connection while the two vehicles have been seized, said police.

Tribals turn to quacks in Boudh

TWO HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITALS IN HILLY AREAS OF HARBHANGA HAVE NO DOCTOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh/Talagaon, August 11: The government spends crores of rupees to boost healthcare in both rural and urban areas. However, some existing healthcare centres in remote and tribal-dominated pockets under Harbanga block in Boudh district have been paralysed for want of doctors and staff.

People in these areas allegedly have no option but to seek treatment from quacks, traditional healers and witch doctors. The sorry state of healthcare has exposed the failure of institutional healthcare delivery system, a report said.

According to reports, Harbanga is a hill-locked and tribal-dominated region. Most of the people are daily wagers. The government has set up two homeopathic hospitals at Kushang and Madhapur.

Healthcare has come to a halt for some days at the two hospitals for lack of doctors. Earlier, thousands of people in the two panchayats used to seek treatment at the hospitals, but they are now deprived of it.

SORRY STATE OF HEALTHCARE



"The hospitals have turned into haunted houses with no doctors at all. They are locked now. A peon only comes to Madhapur homeopathic hospital," locals lamented.

This hospital was coming handy for people living in hilly villages like Kandara, Kachapaju, Silikuti,

Kuchapaju, Sulugaon, Lengerapaju and Chhatrapada.

Social activists say, "As no doctor is available at the two hospitals, people resort to herbal treatment or knock the doors of witch doctors. Their condition often gets complicated for wrong treatment while

Harbanga is a hill-locked and tribal-dominated region. Most of the people are daily wagers. The government has set up two homeopathic hospitals at Kushang and Madhapur

Healthcare has come to a halt for some days at the two hospitals for lack of doctors. Earlier, thousands of people in the two panchayats used to seek treatment at the hospitals, but they are now deprived of it

Locals alleged that the hospitals have turned into haunted houses with no doctors at all. They are locked now while a peon only comes to Madhapur homeopathic hospital

some patients die."

Though conscious people have been drawing attention of the healthcare authorities for revival of the homeopathic hospitals, their pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

They have demanded that the administration take quick steps for appointment of doctors at the 'paralysed' hospitals.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 11: A local court sentenced a youth to rigorous life imprisonment after convicting him for the kidnap and murder of a minor boy, Wednesday. The additional district and sessions judge (ADJ) Prasanna Kumar Panda heard the matter and handed down the punishment to Lingaraj Sethi, 27, of Brahmanipalli village under Chhatrapur police limits.

The judge also slapped a fine of ₹20,000 on him apart from the punishment. In default, the convict has to serve an additional two years of imprisonment, the judge observed. The judge passed the order on the basis of statements recorded by three police officers and 17 witnesses.

This was stated here by additional public prosecutor (APP) Gyanendranath Jena who pleaded the matter in the court on behalf of the state government.

Jena said two police officers investigating the case submitted the charge sheet in the court

indicting the involvement of Sethi in the crime.

According to the case diary, Sethi was in one-sided love with a girl of his maternal uncle's village Gurundi. Sethi asked the girl to marry him to which the latter denied. Enraged, he threatened to kill her brother. He tried all sorts of tricks but the girl refused his proposal

Accordingly, he kidnapped the younger brother of the girl Bhiku Sethi, studying in Class-VII, December 6, 2018. Police registered a case after the boy's mother filed a complaint in the police station. Police launched a probe and recovered the decomposed body of the boy from a mango orchard near the village, December 10, 2018.

Police changed the previous kidnapping case into a murder and arrested Sethi. During interrogation Sethi admitted to the crime where he disclosed to have killed the boy by slitting his throat and slicing his private part after the latter's sister refused to marry him, he claimed.

NORM VIOLATION



Farmers thronging the office of a Large Area Multipurpose Society (LAMPS) to receive urea fertilizer at Dabugaon of Nabarangpur district, Wednesday. Such a large gathering without care to Covid guidelines has sparked fears about spread of pandemic

2 dead as onion-laden truck falls into gorge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, August 11: At least two persons were killed and another sustained grievous injuries Wednesday after an onion-laden truck fell into a 100-ft deep gorge near Bangiriposi on NH-49 in Mayurbhanj district.

According to an eyewitness, the ill-fated truck (bearing registration number MH-28 AB-8117) was on its way from Nashik to West Bengal when the incident occurred. The mishap took place early in the morning.

The driver of the truck lost control over the vehicle while passing through Bangiriposi Ghat road leading to the accident. However, helper of the vehicle named Wasim jumped out of it and had a narrow escape.

The deceased was identified as Yunus and his friend Jawal died on the spot. They were from Malkapur



The driver of the truck lost control over the vehicle while passing through Bangiriposi Ghat road leading to the accident

town in Maharashtra, the eyewitness added.

On being informed about the mishap by locals, a team of fire services personnel immediately rushed to the spot. They rescued the injured Wasim and sent him to Bangiriposi hospital.

Locals stage stir over irregularities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliapal, August 11: People from several villages in Baliapal panchayat of Balasore district staged agitation near the block office, alleging irregularities in various schemes, Wednesday.

They alleged that large-scale irregularities have been committed in housing schemes while scores of eligible people have been left out of housing benefits. Many rich people have grabbed housing units in the panchayat.

Elderly and widows in the panchayats should be provided pension while officials at the block level are indulging in corruption and deny eligible people of their entitlements, they demanded.

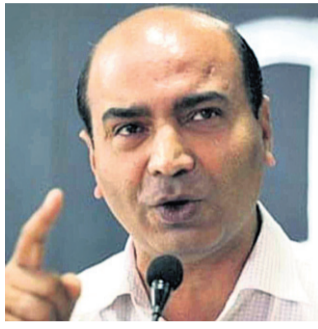
Hundreds of people from Baliapal, Kudamansingh, Kachupada, Gunapur, Chhada Sungamuhan, Athabatia, Chakrabrahma, Manonagar and Sungamuhan had earlier submitted a memorandum to BDO Lalit Sareng about their various demands.

Communal sloganeering: Court grants bail to ex-BJP member

A video showing anti-Muslim slogans being raised during a protest at Jantar Mantar was widely circulated on social media

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: A Delhi court Wednesday granted bail to former BJP spokesperson Ashwini Upadhyay who was arrested in connection with the communal slogans allegedly raised during a protest at the Jantar Mantar here.



Metropolitan Magistrate Udbhav Kumar Jain granted relief to Upadhyay, an advocate, on a bond of Rs 50,000. "As far as the offence u/s 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, etc) of IPC is concerned except for mere assertion, there is nothing on record to show that the alleged hate speech to promote enmity between different groups was done in the presence or at the behest of the accused," the judge said in the order.

During the hearing, the court also inquired from the public prosecutor and there was nothing against the accused in the alleged video. While granting bail, the court noted that there was no chance that the accused will abscond.

"Conspiracy is no doubt hatched behind closed doors and that the investigation in the present matter is at nascent stage. That however, does not imply that liberty of a citizen be curtailed on mere assertions and apprehension," the court said.

The prosecution opposed the application during the hearing on the ground that release of the ac-

dem during which large gatherings are not being allowed to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and that the gathering was held without any permission.

The gathering organised by the accused was an unlawful assembly in which he actively participated knowing the common object of the gathering, the prosecutor said.

The court rejected prosecution's contention related to the pandemic, saying that it is a difficult time indeed for everyone and serious view should be taken against those who violate the guidelines; yet, the offences, as far as the breach of these guidelines is concerned, are bailable in nature and can be dealt by the trial court on merits.

While granting the bail, the court directed the accused to cooperate with the ongoing investigations and join the probe as and when summoned by the investigating officer. It further directed the accused not to leave the country without the court's permission and "scrupulously appear at each and every stage of the proceedings before concerned court so as not to cause any obstruction or delay to its progress". The accused was sent to the judicial custody Tuesday by a court here, considering that his bail application was pending.

A video showing anti-Muslim slogans being raised during a protest at Jantar Mantar here was widely circulated on social media, following which the Delhi Police registered a case in this connection.

Goa sheds its colonial legacy

Across the state there is little appetite for the territory's 450 years of European heritage

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Panaji, August 11: Lorraine Alberto teaches Portuguese language at Goa University, but students are in short supply in this former colony.

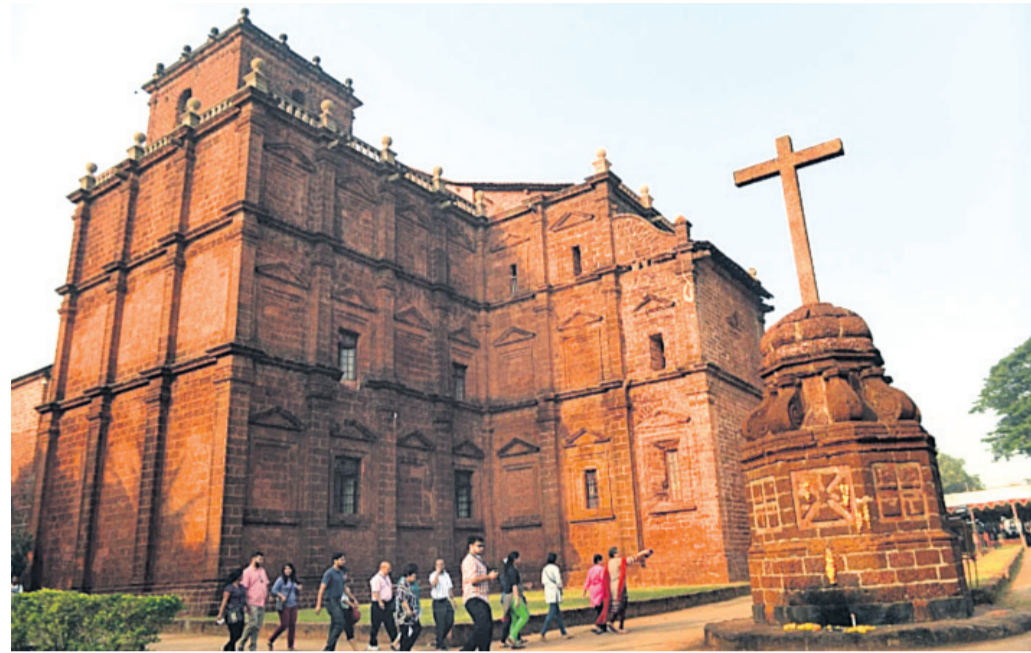
Across Goa there is little appetite for the territory's 450 years of European heritage.

Colonial homes that are falling into disrepair and Bollywood's increasing cultural dominance portend the disappearance of local history in a place where speaking Portuguese was once a passport to status and power.

"My children don't speak it at all," Alberto told the AFP news agency. "They just don't see the point of learning it."

Those alive in 1961, when Indian troops marched into Goa and incorporated it into the rest of the country, recall an overnight transformation. India's exit from the British empire in 1947 spurred many Goans to demand an end to Portuguese rule, but few expected so much to change so quickly.

"It was a very strange feeling... The changes came so fast," said Honorato Velho, a retired school principal. The 78-year-old, who once lived next door to the grandfather of Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa, fondly remembers a childhood peppered with European and local influences.



But his enthusiasm has not been inherited by the next generation.

"My wife and I still speak Portuguese out of habit, but never with our children," Velho told AFP.

Across the state, homes influenced by old Portuguese design trends are falling into disrepair or being pulled down to make way for apartment blocks. Only a handful of traditional homes have been earmarked for protection from development or destruction, according to author Heta Pandit. The gradual disappearance of covered terraces and mother-of-pearl shell windows – built to diffuse harsh sunlight – is not just a loss to architecture, she said.

"These houses are evidence of Goan history, they are capsules of our culture."

Some Goans have nonetheless found themselves drawn into a relationship with their heritage,

even against their early inclinations.

At a recent outdoor concert in a coastal village, dozens of people gathered to listen to Goan singer Sonia Shirsat, an accomplished performer of traditional Portuguese fado music. The 40-year-old specialises in the melancholy, guitar-driven genre, which was born at the turn of the 19th century and was in recent years recognised by UNESCO as an "intangible cultural heritage".

Shirsat paused between songs to patiently explain the meaning behind each track, knowing many in the enraptured audience spoke little if any Portuguese.

It is a role she is well-suited to play, tracing her own journey from a teenager who refused to learn Portuguese to a fado artist who is now training others to follow in her footsteps. "My mother tried to

teach me the language, but I just wasn't interested," she told AFP.

That changed when Shirsat met a Portuguese guitarist who told her that her rich, velvety voice was ideal for the genre.

She decided to move to Lisbon for training, becoming the first Indian to stage a solo fado concert there in 2008. Shirsat has since performed all over the world, sometimes incorporating a cross-cultural element with the use of Indian instruments like the sitar.

All fado songs are infused with a sense of yearning for the past, but in Goa, they also serve as a bridge between two eras.

"Fado doesn't just talk about what is lost, it also talks about what is to come," she said.

"It has lived in Goa for over 100 years. If we don't preserve it, it is as if we are killing a part of ourselves."

Remains of Dalit girl cremated in Delhi

The tragic incident has led to a nationwide outcry with many political leaders visiting the parents of the victim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: The cremation of the remaining human tissue and feet of the Dalit girl, who was allegedly raped and killed in southwest Delhi's Old Nangal area, was conducted Wednesday by her parents, police said.



The girl died under suspicious circumstances August 1 even as her parents alleged that she was raped and forcibly cremated by a crematorium's priest.

"The girl's parents received her mortal remains from Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital. They performed the cremation at Old Nangal crematorium in the presence of 15 to 20 people known to them," Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Ingit Pratap Singh said.

During the cremation, around 25 to 30 people from the nearby tent, where a protest against the incident

went to get water from a cooler at the crematorium. Around 6 pm that day, the crematorium's priest, Radhey Shyam, and two-three others called the girl's mother to the spot.

Showing the girl's body to her mother, they claimed that she got electrocuted while getting water. There were burn marks between her left wrist and elbow, and her lips were also blue.

The priest and the others dissuaded her mother from making a PCR call, saying police would make a case out of it and steal the girl's organs during post-mortem ex-

amination, so it was better to cremate her.

The girl was cremated, but subsequently her parents alleged that it was done without their consent.

Four people, including the priest, have been arrested in the case.

The agitated locals, along with the parents of the girl, had blocked a road in the area demanding justice. However, the city police have cleared one stretch.

The tragic incident has led to a nationwide outcry with many political leaders visiting the parents of the victim. The case was later transferred to the Crime Branch.

Microplastics present in tap water supplied to Goa households: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, August 11: A recent research by the CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has found the presence of microplastics in tap water supplied to households in Goa, an official said Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference here, principal scientist of CSIR-NIO Dr Mahua Saha said microplastics were found in tap water drawn from Margao, Panaji, Mapusa, Canacona and Marcel, spread over both North and South Goa districts.

The research by the CSIR-NIO and Delhi-based NGO Toxics Link was conducted on pre-treatment raw water and treated tap water, sourced from reservoirs at Selaulim, Opa, Assonora and Canacona in the coastal state, associate director of the NGO Satish Sinha said.

The study was initially meant to be conducted across various cities in India last year, but was restricted only to Goa due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown, it was stated.

Microplastics were found in the tap water drawn from various places in Goa, including Margao, Panaji, Mapusa, Canacona and



Marcel, said Saha, who headed the research. The major characteristics of microplastics found in tap water were similar to those found in pre and post-treated water samples, with black and blue colour ones, made of polyisoprene (used in rubber, footwear etc), ethylene vinyl alcohol (used in packaging, drugs and cosmetics) and polyvinyl chloride (pipes) polymer, she said.

The increased presence of microplastics in tap water can be at-

tributed to abrasion of plastic particles, Saha said.

"Household pipes in the tap water distribution system in India are mainly made of plastic or cast iron. Hence, corrosion of plastic pipes might have taken place between the water treatment plants and outlets, adding microplastics to the treated water," the scientist said, adding that hazard levels of microplastics has not been established as yet.

No early polls in Goa: CM goes with Feb date



AGENCIES

Panaji, August 11: Elections to the Goa Assembly will be held in February next year as scheduled, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said Wednesday.

"Elections will be held on time. They will not be held early. It is scheduled to be held in February, so it will be held in February," Sawant told reporters.

Party has already started its poll outreach programme earlier this week, with Sawant and state BJP president embarking on a tour of every constituency in the state, beginning with those in North Goa.

Goa, along with Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Punjab are scheduled to go to polls in early 2022.

In the 40-member state Assembly, the BJP currently has 27 MLAs, while the opposition Congress has five legislators. Besides, the Goa Forward Party (GFP) has three MLAs, the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party and NCP - one each, while there are also three Independents in the House.

Meanwhile, Sawant congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the passage of the Constitution amendment bill to restore the power of states to make their own OBC lists in the Lok Sabha Tuesday, saying this shows the Centre's commitment towards social welfare

'Hope buses' bring school to Delhi students

EACH BUS GOES TO TWO LOCATIONS A DAY, SETTING UP AN ONBOARD CLASSROOM TO GIVE ABOUT 50 CHILDREN AT A TIME BASIC LESSONS IN MATH, BODY PARTS, ENGLISH AND HINDI, ALONG WITH DAILY MEALS



REUTERS

New Delhi, August 11: Every weekday four buses head into the New Delhi slums to give the children of migrants, labourers, rag-pickers and scavengers a chance at an education they might not get otherwise.

Each bus goes to two locations a day, setting up an onboard classroom to give about 50 children at a time basic lessons in math, body parts, English and Hindi, along with daily meals.

Ages range from 3-13, and some activity-based lessons are held outside.

These "Hope Buses" of non-profit group TejasAsia are one of several grassroots initiatives in India helping to fill the education gap caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Another such initiative delivers lessons by loudspeaker to children in rural areas.

TejasAsia has been operating

the mobile schools a few years now, said Ebnal Edwin, a project coordinator for the group, but they have become more critical since the pandemic struck.

Schools across the country have shut and moved classes online amid repeated lockdowns to curb the spread of COVID-19 over the past year, impacting nearly 247 million Indian children from 1.5 million schools, according to UNICEF.

Even for children in the slums who went to regular schools pre-pandemic, their families are often too poor to afford the phones or other devices needed to study online. For others, the two hours on the bus are time away from manual labour or scavenging the landfills with their families.

Data from India's latest Annual Status of Education Report show that the national dropout rate has risen to 5.5% from 4% over the last year.

"It takes about six months to establish our programme in one location," he said.

The NGO wants to expand its reach to ten more locations in different states but has put these plans on hold as funds and resources have been redirected during the pandemic.

The Hope buses are reaching nearly 400 children across Delhi and neighbouring areas.

Mumtaz Begum, who lives in a neighbourhood of huts in northern Delhi, said her two daughters had improved a lot after they started attending school on one of the buses.

"We want our kids to learn and grow," she said.

Ten-year-old Azmira, who has been studying on one of the mobile schools for four years and sat in a bus with a mask on, said: "We all really like coming here and studying. The teachers are very good."

national



When the state was formed in 1966, many questions were raised. But with commitment and hard work, Haryana has registered immense growth in all fields and has become one of the leading states in the country

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

HEIGHTENED SECURITY IN SECUNDERABAD

An orange alert for security has been issued from August 13 to August 17 in Secunderabad in view of the Independence Day celebrations



of the day quote

I believe strongly that my people should be enriched. First is to increase the entrepreneurship quality in my state and second is to bring in the regional balance which is not there. I want industry to be in far flung and all parts of the state

West Bengal is unparalleled repository of culture and heritage. To put @victoriamemkol @ezckolkata @IndianMuseumKol @asiatic_society on incremental trajectory and secure more footfalls Shri @kishanreddybjp @MinOfCultureGoI assured all steps

The BJP does the business of politics. The policies of its government are only to provide benefit to big industrialists. Welfare of the poor is out of the agenda of the government

'Over 40K vaccinated people test Covid +ve in Kerala'

Since the second wave abated, the authorities have been alert about the emergence of a new variant that might drive a third wave of the virus

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, August 11: More than 40,000 cases of breakthrough infection - where the patient contracted the virus after vaccination - have been detected in Kerala, sources in the Union Home Ministry said. It is very rare to find the instances of infection after vaccination elsewhere in the nation and abroad. The spike in Covid cases in the state has opened up questions about a fresh mutation in the virus that is able to dodge antibodies, sources said.

In Kerala, cases of re-infection - a second infection - have also been recorded. The maximum number



of breakthrough infections has been seen in Pathnamthitta district. Sources said among those infected are people who have received

both doses of the vaccine. Some of the worst affected districts in the state are Thrissur (3124), Malappuram (3109),

23,500 FRESH CASES, 116 DEATHS

Kerala Wednesday reported 23,500 fresh Covid cases pushing the total infection caseload to 36,10,193, with the number of people succumbing to the virus rising to 18,120 with 116 more deaths. As many as 19,411 people have been cured of the infection since Tuesday, taking the total recoveries to 34,15,595 and the number of active cases in the state to 1,75,957, a state government release said. In the last 24 hours, 1,62,130 samples were tested and the TPR was found to be 14.49 per cent.

Ernakulam (2856), Kozhikode (2789), Palakkad (2414), Kollam (1633), Alappuzha (1440), Thiruvananthapuram (1255), Kottayam (1227) and Kannur (1194). Of the new cases, 109 are health workers, 84 had come from outside the state and 22,049 were in-

fectured through contact with the source of contact being not clear in 1258 cases, the release said. There are currently 4,85,480 people under surveillance in various districts of the state. Of these, 4,56,991 are in home or institutional quarantine and 28,489 in hospitals.

Govt rejects claims on new SC branches

The government has on multiple occasions informed Parliament that the idea of opening a separate bench of the apex court outside Delhi has not found favour with the Supreme Court



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: The government has rejected claims that it has decided to expand the "branches" of the Supreme Court to three more locations.

The Press Information Bureau 'fact check' tweeted on Tuesday that the claim was "fake".

"A forwarded message is being shared on WhatsApp claiming that the government has decided to expand the branches of the Supreme Court of India to three more locations. This claim is fake," the tweet said. It said "no such decision" has been taken by the government.

The government has on multiple occasions informed Parliament that the idea of opening a separate bench of the apex court outside Delhi has not found favour

with the Supreme Court. In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha in September last year, the then Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had said representations were received from time to time from various quarters for setting up of Supreme Court benches in various parts of the country.

"The Law Commission, in its 229th report, had also suggested that a Constitution Bench be set up at Delhi and four cassation benches be set up in the northern region at Delhi, the southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, the eastern region at Kolkata and the western region at Mumbai.

"The idea of a separate Bench of Supreme Court outside Delhi has not found favour with the Supreme Court of India," he had said.

'Parl mayhem' shocks Naidu

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 11: Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu broke down Wednesday as he expressed deep anguish over some opposition MPs climbing on the Table of the House, and said he couldn't sleep because of the sacrilege in Parliament, which is regarded as the "temple of democracy".

Expressing distress over the ruckus created by opposition MPs in the House Tuesday when a discussion on farmers' agitation against farm bill was taken up, he said he struggled to find a provocation or reason for such a low in the "august House".

"I have no words to convey my anguish and to condemn such acts. As I spent a sleepless night last night, I struggled to find the provocation or reason for forcing this august House to hit such a low yesterday," an emotional Naidu said as he read out his remarks at the start of the proceedings in the Upper House of Parliament.

Regaining his composure he continued to read his remarks but was interrupted by some TMC and Congress MPs who raised the issue of House dignity also being lowered by the passage of numerous bills within minutes and without debate. One MP said the Chair should be impartial, following which slogan-shouting TMC and few other MPs trooped into the well of the House. "Please have the decency. You may not agree," Naidu, who completed four years in office Wednesday said as he continued to read his remarks amid sloganeering. Thereafter he adjourned the proceedings for almost an hour. On Tuesday, some TMC, Congress



and Left MPs climbed on the House Table which is placed right below the presiding officers' chair, forcing multiple adjournments.

"I rise in deep anguish to place on record the way this august House is being subjected to sacrilege and that too, propelled by a sense of competition among some sections of the House, since the commencement of this monsoon session," he said. "Everything said or done violating, hurting or destroying the sacredness of any place amounts to an act of sacrilege." Stating that the Parliament is regarded as the 'temple of democracy', he said the table area where the officers and reporters of the House, the Secretary-General and the Presiding Officer are seated is considered as the holy sanctum sanctorum of the House.

"A certain degree of sacredness is attached to this place. In our temples, devotees are allowed only up to this sanctum sanctorum and not beyond," he said. Entering this sanctum sanctorum of the House, in itself is an act of sacrilege and it has been happening as routine

over the years.

"I am distressed by the way this sacredness has been destroyed yesterday. While some members sat on the table, some others climbed on the Table of the House, perhaps to be more visible with such acts of sacrilege. I have no words to convey my anguish and to condemn such acts," he said.

Naidu said a discussion on 'agricultural problems and solutions' was listed for discussion Tuesday after a broad agreement in the House to discuss the plight of farmers. "Over the years, when 'Notices of Motions' of a different kind are admitted by the Chair, the language to be used in the 'List of Business' is drafted in such a way that it is acceptable to all sections of the House without denting the thrust of the issue to be discussed. It happened yesterday too," he said.

The opposition MPs, who have been demanding a repeal of the three contentious farm reforms laws over which farmers have been protesting at Delhi borders for months now, wanted a discussion on the agitation.

SHORT TAKES

Court discharges Kejriwal, Sisodia

New Delhi: With a Delhi court discharging them in the chief secretary assault case, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said the truth has won. Sisodia also accused the BJP-led Central government of hatching a conspiracy against Kejriwal. A Delhi court Wednesday discharged Kejriwal, his deputy Sisodia and nine other AAP MLAs in the case related to the alleged assault on the then chief secretary Anshu Prakash in 2018.

Malls to open in Maharashtra

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government Wednesday allowed malls to reopen with 50% capacity from August 15 for people who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. State health minister Rajesh Tope said that people can visit malls only 14 days after they take their second dose.

Missing scribe found dead

Patna: A journalist associated with a private news channel and son of a leading state vernacular newspaper editor was killed in Bihar's East Champaran district, an official said. The decomposed body of Manish Kumar Singh was found Tuesday from Mathlohiair Gaddi Tola -- three days after his disappearance. The killers removed both of his eyes.

Mamata Banerjee invited to Rome

Kolkata: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been invited to Rome by the Community of Sant' Egidio -- a Catholic association dedicated to social service -- to participate in the World Meeting for Peace, "Peoples as Brothers, Future Earth", October 6 and 7 this year where Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are likely to be present.

ISRO all set to launch EOS-03 satellite

Sriharikota: The 26-hour countdown for the launch of earth observation satellite onboard GSLV-F10 commenced Wednesday, Indian Space Research Organisation said. The launch of the satellite would be the second for ISRO in 2021 after its successful mission in February, which was Brazil's earth observation satellite Amazonia-1 and 18 co-passenger satellites.

TALKING HEADS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh during their meeting in New Delhi. During the meeting Amarinder urged the Prime Minister to immediately initiate steps for the repeal of the controversial farm laws

PTI PHOTO

'Army alert to scuttle terrorists' plan in J&K'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 11: Just days ahead of the Independence Day, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh disclosed on Wednesday that Pakistan-based terror outfits, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), are planning major strikes in the Union Territory, while asserting that the security forces are alert to thwart any such attempt.

He also said anti-terrorism operations are going on in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir and the security forces are keeping a tight vigil to frustrate Pakistani attempts to lure young-

sters into committing terror activities.

"There are reports that Pakistani terror outfits like LeT, Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and JeM are looking for an opportunity to carry out major terror attacks in the Jammu region as well as in the Kashmir region. "Our forces are alert and the police are working in close coordination with the intelligence agencies and other security agencies. I am confident that we will be able to thwart such designs of the terrorists," the police chief told reporters in Kishtwar district.

After visiting Rajouri the previous day, the DGP reached Kishtwar on Wednesday morning to review the security situation ahead of the Independence Day

in the district that saw repeated attempts by the ultras to revive terror activities. On the arrest of two newly-recruited HM terrorists from the Dachhan area of the district two days ago, Singh said, "It is an ongoing process. The operations are going on all over the Kashmir and Jammu regions." "In Rajouri, two terrorists were eliminated in a joint operation by the police and the Army in the Pangai area. There are reports about the presence of more terrorists in the area who have crossed over from Pakistan," he added. The DGP said Pakistan and agents sponsored by the country are trying to activate certain underground workers (OGWs) of terror outfits in Jammu and Kashmir.

Parl passes Bill to restore states' power on OBC list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: A constitutional amendment bill to restore the powers of the states to make their own OBC lists was passed by Parliament Wednesday, with the opposition and treasury benches joining hands in the Rajya Sabha to approve the legislation.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed by the Lok Sabha, a day before. Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar said the bill will help restore the powers of states to have their own lists of OBCs which was negated by the Supreme Court. The bill was passed in the Rajya

Sabha, with 187 members voting in its favour, and no one opposing it. Some amendments moved by the opposition were negated. The Rajya Sabha, which has been witnessing a logjam over issues such as Pegasus and farm laws, Wednesday discussed the bill for about five hours as members from both treasury as well as opposition benches participated in it.

Kumar said the legislation will help 671 communities, almost one-fifth of the total OBCs in the country, get reservation in jobs and educational institutions. The 102nd Constitution Amendment Act of 2018 inserted articles 338B, which deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National



Commission for Backward Classes, and 342A that deals with the powers of the president to notify a particular caste as Socially and Educationally Backward

Communities (SEBCs) and the power of Parliament to change the list. Article 366 (2C) defines SEBCs. The Supreme Court had dismissed the Centre's plea seeking a

review of its May 5 majority verdict that held that the 102nd Constitution amendment took away the states' power to notify SEBCs for the grant of quota in jobs and admissions.

During the discussion held in an amicable atmosphere, Leader of Opposition and senior Congress Leader Mallikarjun Kharge said the legislation would benefit 65 per cent people in the country.

Taking a jibe at the ruling BJP, he said the debate on the bill had deviated from the subject and it was limited to criticising the Congress.

Kharge also asked the government to add one line in the bill and make provision that the state gov-

ernment can go beyond the 50 per cent limit. "Add one sentence, that the state government can give (reservation) beyond 50 per cent," Kharge said.

The Congress leader asked the government to prepare for reservations in the private sector as well, since the number of PSUs were on decline. The PSUs generated lakhs of employment but they don't exist today.

In 30 states and Union territories, it is more than 50 per cent, he said, while referring to Nagaland and Chhattisgarh in particular. Similarly, while there is a 17-per cent quota for the backward classes in jobs, in reality, their percentage is higher, the Congress leader said.

international



I had five options: resign; speak out; acquiesce and abet; remain and keep silent; or remain and resist. If I had decided to quit, this action would have significantly impaired my ability to contribute to bring about an end to the graft
CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

BIGGEST TRICOLOUR AT TIMES SQUARE

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence Day, a leading Indian diaspora organisation in the US will hoist the biggest tricolour unfurled at the iconic Times Square August 15



of the day quote

As the number of infected cases has just become too big, this allowed the novel Coronavirus more opportunities to mutate and select. New variants will continue to emerge
SHI ZHENGLI | VIROLOGIST, CHINA

There's probably 20 people in the world that are crucial to solving this equity problem. We need those 20 people to say, we're going to solve this problem by the end of September. We're going to make sure that 10 percent of every country... is vaccinated
BRUCE AYWARD | SENIOR ADVISOR, WHO

India has an important role to play in contributing to the diversification of the global supply chain and making it more resilient. Indian companies have the capability, scale and resources to serve more than just its domestic market, huge as it is
HENG SWEE KEAT | DEPUTY PM, SINGAPORE

Wildfires ravage Algeria, 65 killed

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune declared three days of national mourning for the dead and froze all activities not related to the fires



AGENCIES

Algiers, August 11: Wildfires tearing through forested areas of northern Algeria have killed at least 65 people, state television reported Wednesday, as some of the most destructive blazes in the country's history continued to rage. The government has deployed the army to help fight the fires, which have burnt most fiercely in the mountainous Kabylie region, and 28 of the dead are soldiers, with an-

other 12 critically injured with burns. Forest fires have set large parts of Algeria, Turkey and Greece aflame over the past week and a European Union atmosphere monitor said the Mediterranean had become a wildfire hotspot aided by increasingly hot weather. Dozens of separate fires have raged through forest areas across northern Algeria since Monday and Tuesday Interior Minister Kamel Beldjoud accused arsonists of igniting the flames, without providing any evidence. The worst hit area has been Tizi Ouzou, the largest district of the Kabylie region, where houses have burned and residents fled to shelter in hotels, hostels and university accommodation in nearby towns. The government has said it will compensate those affected.

FIGHT OR FLEE



People board a ferry during evacuation as a wildfire burns in the village of Limni, on the island of Evia, Greece

REUTERS

Taliban could take Kabul in 90 days: US intelligence

THE TALIBAN NOW CONTROL 65% OF AFGHANISTAN AND THREATEN TO TAKE 11 PROVINCIAL CAPITALS

AGENCIES

Kabul, August 11: Taliban fighters could isolate Afghanistan's capital in 30 days and possibly take it over in 90, a US defence official told Reuters Wednesday citing US intelligence, as militants took control of ninth provincial Afghan capital. The US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the new assessment of how long Kabul could stand was a result of the rapid gains the Taliban had been making around the country as US-led foreign forces leave.



But this is not a foregone conclusion," the official added, saying that the Afghan security forces could reverse the momentum by putting up more resistance. Wednesday's loss of Faizabad, capital of the northeastern province of Badakhshan, was the latest setback for the Afghan government, which has been struggling to stem the momentum of Taliban assaults. Jawad Mujadidi, a provincial council member from Badakhshan, said the Taliban had laid siege to Faizabad before launching an offensive Tuesday. "Unfortunately, after hours of heavy fighting the ANDSF retreated," Mujadidi told agencies, referring to national security forces. "With the fall of Faizabad the whole of the northeast has come under

BIDEN DOESN'T REGRET DECISION

US President Joe Biden urged Afghan leaders to fight for their homeland, saying Tuesday he did not regret his decision to withdraw, noting that the United States had spent more than \$1 trillion over 20 years and lost thousands of troops. The United States was providing significant air support, food, equipment and salaries to Afghan forces, he said. The United States will complete the withdrawal of its forces this month in exchange for Taliban promises to prevent Afghanistan being used for international terrorism. The United States has been carrying out some air strikes to support government troops. Defense Department spokesman John Kirby said the strikes were having a "kinetic" effect on the Taliban, but acknowledged limitations. "Nobody has suggested here that air strikes are a panacea, that will solve all the problems of the conditions on the ground. We've never said that," Kirby said.

UK man held for espionage in Berlin

A British man suspected of spying for Russia in exchange for cash has been arrested in Germany, federal prosecutors said Wednesday, in a stunning case compared to a Cold War thriller. The suspect identified only as David S, who worked as local staff at the British embassy, "on at least one occasion passed on documents he acquired as part of his professional activities to a representative of Russian intelligence". "The accused received a cash payment in an unspecified amount in return," the federal prosecutor's office said in a statement. The suspect was believed to have been spying since November 2020 "at the latest". His arrest was the result of a joint operation by German and British authorities. The British embassy in Berlin declined to comment.

Canadian jailed in China for spying

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Dandong, August 11: A Chinese court Wednesday jailed Canadian businessman Michael Spavor for 11 years after finding him guilty of spying in a case his country has decried as "trumped up". Spavor was detained in 2018 along with compatriot Michael Kovrig in what Ottawa said was a politically motivated move after Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Canada on a US extradition warrant. Relations between the two countries have hit rock bottom, with China also accusing Canada of politicising legal cases. Spavor "was convicted of espionage and illegally providing state secrets", Dandong city's Intermediate People's Court said in a statement. "He was sentenced to 11 years in prison."



China's conviction and sentencing of Michael Spavor is absolutely unacceptable and unjust. The verdict comes after more than two-and-a-half years of arbitrary detention, a lack of transparency in the legal process, and a trial that did not satisfy even the minimum standards required by international law
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

SCHOOLS REOPEN

94K US kids got Covid last week

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, August 11: Covid-19 cases among US children are climbing at an alarming rate, with nearly 94,000 diagnosed with the virus last week and trends showing a "continuing substantial increase". Children now account for 15 per cent of Covid-19 cases in the US, according to a study released by The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The same set of numbers also appear to show that severe illness, hospitalization and death are rare in children who get sick with the Coronavirus.

As of August 5, nearly 4.3 million children have tested positive for Covid-19 since the onset of the pandemic. Child cases have steadily increased since the beginning of July, says the AAP report. Fears are spiralling that states without tough mask mandates will likely be slammed once again by rising Covid-19 cases as students return to the classroom. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Many state governors are defying the mandate even as their ICU corridors are over-run.

SHORT TAKES

CDC urges pregnant women to get jabbed

Washington: Pregnant women should be vaccinated against Covid-19, based on a new analysis that did not show increased risk for miscarriage, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday. The CDC said it has found no safety concerns for pregnant people in either the new analysis or earlier studies. It said miscarriage rates after vaccination were similar to the expected rate. Pregnant women can receive any of the three vaccines given emergency authorization -- Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson.

FB removes anti-vax influencer campaign

Providence: Facebook said Tuesday that it has removed hundreds of accounts linked to a mysterious advertising agency operating out of Russia that sought to pay social media influencers to smear Covid-19 vaccines made by Pfizer and AstraZeneca. A network of 65 Facebook accounts and 243 Instagram accounts was traced back to Fazez, an advertising and marketing firm registered in the United Kingdom. Facebook said Fazez's work was primarily done from Russia on behalf of an unknown client.

Canada extends ban on flights from India

Toronto: Canada has again extended its ban on arriving passenger flights directly from India till September 21 due to the risks posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the federal transport ministry has said. In April, Canada banned all direct flights to and from India when the second Covid-19 wave hit India. The date of reopening has been postponed many times. "After reviewing public health data, we have decided to extend the direct flight ban between Canada and India until September 21, 2021," Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport of Canada, tweeted Tuesday.

Covid vax centres attacked in France

Paris: Vandals have attacked more than 20 vaccination centres and other health facilities, daubing some with Nazi-themed slogans, as the French government steps up its Covid-19 vaccination drive. Anger has been fuelled by the introduction of a health pass showing proof of vaccination or a recent negative Covid-19 test which is now mandatory for entering restaurants, trains and other public places.

Indian students see record entries to UK varsities

India was moved off the Red List Sunday and under the Amber List rules, all vaccinated travellers must provide an address where they would be undergoing the 10-day self-isolation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 11: A record number of 3,200 students from India have been accepted onto UK university and higher education courses through the country's centralised application system in 2021, marking an increase of 19 per cent over the previous year. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) acceptance figures, released Tuesday, come days after India was moved off the Red List Covid-19 travel



ban on to Amber. This would have a big impact on Indian students planning to travel to Britain to take up their courses as they no longer need to quarantine in a government-managed facility for 10 days at considerable additional cost. Instead, they can quarantine for the required 10 days at a chosen des-

tinuation, which for many will be their university accommodation, or a friend or family home address. "We know India being moved from the Red to Amber list will be a significant and welcome move for those Indian students due to travel to the UK soon. Those students should stay in touch with their university and be aware of the latest pro-

The UK now offers a wonderful proposition for Indian students - world-class education, a great post-study work offer, and through NISAU a home away from home for Indian students, which I can proudly say is a distinct offering for Indians going abroad to study
SANAM ARORA | NISAU CHAIRPERSON, UK

cedure for amber list arrivals to ensure a smooth arrival," said Vivienne Stern, Director of Universities UK International, which represents over 140 universities. "UK universities are preparing to give a warm welcome to Indian students this autumn. Students

have shown a great amount of patience and resilience in sticking with their plans to study overseas and we look forward to welcoming them, and welcoming them back, to our campuses and university communities," she said. "We welcome the news that for one of our largest international markets, India has been moved from the UK's Red to Amber List," said Kerry Law, Chief Marketing & Engagement Officer at the University of Leicester - which has a large Indian student population. "To ensure we welcome students and give them a great experience as we have extended our welcome by an additional week and have developed online transition support for all new starters," she added. The UK's new post-study or Graduate route visa, which came in force in July, offers students the chance to stay on for two years after completing their degree course to be able to gather work experience.

Thai police clash with protesters near PM's house

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangkok, August 11: Thai police clashed with protesters for a second successive day Wednesday, after hundreds sought to rally near the residence of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to demand his resignation for mismanaging the country's Coronavirus crisis. Hundreds of protesters threw paint at a line of riot police who confronted them as they tried to march on Prayuth's home and police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse them. Barbed wire fences and shipping containers were used to block the road. Police used tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets to break up a similar protest Tuesday, when thousands of demonstrators drove in a convoy of cars and motorcycles through Bangkok. Police defended their use of force as a necessary public safety measure and said the 48 people arrested face charges ranging from arson and assault to violating Coronavirus rules that ban public gathering. Prayuth has come under fire for a chaotic vaccination campaign and failure to quell Thailand's worst Covid-19 wave yet, which has accounted for the bulk of the country's more than 788,000 cases and 6,700 deaths.

business

of the day quote

The pandemic has been an extremely challenging time for us as a nation. The government is putting all hands on deck to curb the spread of the virus. Vaccination drives continue to remain the only viable solution to revive the disturbed economies and bring livelihoods back to normalcy

A national monetisation plan of about ₹6 trillion is in the offing which will have a range of assets under pipelines to power grid pipelines to national highways and so on

The banks and NBFCs are taking advantage of the ceiling limits of the RBI and are not ready to extend any concessions to the deeply distressed MSMEs. They are unmindful of the fact that loans under ECLGS are fully guaranteed by the Centre

SHORT TAKES

Lenskart to hire 2,000 employees

New Delhi: Omnichannel eyewear brand Lenskart Wednesday said it plans to expand its workforce and add over 2,000 employees across the country by March 2022. In addition, Lenskart will also expand its international teams in Singapore, West Asia, and the US by adding 300 more employees. Lenskart has been aggressively hiring across verticals, especially the tech and data science team, roping in data scientists, business analysts, data engineers, and experts, a statement said.

Oracle gets MeitY empanelment

New Delhi: Technology firm Oracle was Wednesday empanelled by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) as a cloud infrastructure solution provider, a move that will help the company tap into governments and public sector entities in the country more aggressively. Oracle had set up cloud regions in Mumbai and Hyderabad about a year ago. In a statement, Oracle said it has been named by MeitY as an empanelled cloud infrastructure solution provider, following a rigorous audit.

NortonLifeLock, Avast to merge

New Delhi: NortonLifeLock, the entity formerly known as Symantec, is to merge with Avast to create antivirus juggernaut for the consumer sector. Cyber security specialist NortonLifeLock (formerly known as Symantec) is to merge with security rival Avast. The "merger" will see NortonLifeLock pay between \$8.1bn and \$8.6bn for the entire ordinary share capital of Avast.

Data centre park to come up in UP

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh plans to develop a data centre park, spread over 200 acre of land at Sector-28 of Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) in the Noida district. The implementation of this plan will begin towards August end. According to the government spokesman, the data centre park at Noida will attract investments from information and technology (IT) industry giants, both from within the country and abroad.



We are not in any regional arrangement. So, where does India go. If it wants to be a global economic player and a global trading power. We need to have FTAs

BVR SUBRAHMANYAM | COMMERCE SECRETARY

ZOMATO'S LOSSES TRIPLED SINCE IPO

Food delivery platform Zomato, which witnessed a bumper IPO last month, has reported a significant loss in Q1 of the current FY. The company reported a net loss of \$48mn in the June quarter, up from nearly \$13.5mn in the same period last year



Fuel demand rebound to drive earnings of oil firms: Moody's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Moody's Investors Service Wednesday said earnings for state-owned oil firms IOC, BPCL and HPCL will grow over the next 12-18 months as a gradual easing of pandemic restrictions drives a rebound in economic activity and fuel demand.

While earnings stability of marketing operations will help to offset low refining margins, rising fuel demand will in turn increase refinery throughput. The combination of better demand and improving fuel cracks will also support an improvement in Asian refining margins from current levels, it said.

Demand for petroleum products in India declined substantially in April and May 2020 following a nationwide lockdown to control the spread of coronavirus. This led to a drop in capacity utilisation for most refiners in the fiscal year that ended on March 31 (FY21).

"However, the impact on demand for petroleum products following the second wave has been a lot more muted as the lockdowns were more regional in nature," Moody's said. Rebound in fuel demand and gradual recovery in refining margins will drive earnings improvement.

"Earnings for the three rated refining and marketing companies in India - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will grow over the next 12-18 months as a gradual easing of pandemic restrictions drives a



While earnings stability of marketing operations will help to offset low refining margins, rising fuel demand will in turn increase refinery throughput

rebound in economic activity and fuel demand," it said.

Stating that earnings stability of marketing operations will help to offset low refining margins, the rating agency said this primarily because of the oligopolistic structure of the fuel retailing industry in India where IOC, BPCL and HPCL together control 90 per cent of the fuel retailing network.

At the same time, all three companies are ultimately owned by the government, which ensures a

stable industry environment without any severe competition.

"Stable earnings from the marketing operations have helped to offset the refinery segment's weak performance over the last 12-18 months, such that the impact on Indian refining companies' overall earnings has been limited.

"The marketing business will remain a substantial earnings contributor for the Indian companies because of their large-scale fuel retailing network and entrenched market positions," it said.

Moody's said capital spending by the three refiners will remain high on strong demand for petroleum products and government efforts to boost investment spending to support economic growth.

Meanwhile, dividends will remain similar to historical levels, in line with Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) guidelines.

Fintechs attract record \$2bn in H1, says report

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 11: Attracting a little over \$2 billion in the first half this year, the domestic fintech sector has almost matched its total funding in the entire 2020, making it the best run ever, according to a report.

The record investments have been led by merchant platform Pine Labs' \$285 million from private equity funding round, \$100 million venture capital funding rounds, Cred's (\$215 million), Razorpay (\$160 million), Kreditbee (\$153 million), Ofbusiness (\$110 million) and Bharatpe (\$108 million), a KPMG report released Wednesday said.

Most of the money has flown into the digital banking space and the second biggest was insurtech, wherein the first half saw several such startups, including Turtlemint (\$46 million), Renewbuy (\$45 million), and Digit Insurance (\$18 million) raising funds from the mid-sized private equity and venture capital funds, it added.

According to the report, four of the top ten deals in Asia were into domestic companies during the period under review.

While the Noida-based Pine Labs' \$285 million was the third-largest in Asia, the \$215 million in a Series D round by the Mumbai-based financial software firm Cred was the fourth largest in the continent.

Bangalore-based payments app Razorpay's raised \$160 million in the series E round, making it the eighth largest, and lending app Kreditbee's mopped up \$153 million in series C round, the tenth-largest in Asia.

Exports may touch \$1tn by FY28: Secy

THE COMMERCE SECRETARY SAID THAT INDIAN EXPORTS HAVE BEEN ROUGHLY FLUCTUATING BETWEEN \$290BN AND \$330BN FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 11: The country's merchandise exports are expected to touch \$1 trillion by 2027-28 and the government has laid down a road map, including district as an export hub scheme, to achieve that number, Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said Wednesday.

This fiscal, the commerce ministry is aiming at \$419 billion of exports and for that a detailed analysis has been carried out and the target was disaggregated at the level of country, commodity, region, and states across 31 commodity groups.

The secretary said that Indian exports have been roughly fluctuating between \$290 billion and \$330 billion for the last 10 years.



"We have actually laid down a road map on how we hit \$500 billion in merchandise exports and when we hit a trillion dollar exports. Our guess is that, by 2027-28, very modest estimates, we should

touch \$1 trillion figure in exports of merchandise," Subrahmanyam said at the CII's Annual Meeting 2021.

He also said that work is underway for the services sector as

well and the target is to take these exports to \$700 billion in 2027-28.

The services exports sector has "no mother, and they are an orphan in many ways" as it is distributed among 30 different departments of the government, he said, adding "we are going to start an exercise. We export about \$200 billion services every year. The target is actually to hit about \$700 billion by 2027-28".

Listing out steps which the ministry is going to take to achieve these targets, he said as Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), and Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS), are stopped now, the government will notify Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) rates probably by Friday.

'VIL's position to remain tough'



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 11: Vodafone Idea's cash flow analysis indicates that its situation may remain challenging even after any relief measures, and the telco needs "meaningful capital infusion" with a long gestation period to become competitive, a report by Credit Suisse said Wednesday.

The report expects Airtel to be "well placed" in either of the scenarios, of two-private-operator sector, or three private operators post an industry repair.

The note by Credit Suisse on the Indian telecom sector said there has been increasing interest among investors to evaluate valuations of Bharti Airtel and Indus Towers under two situations, in the wake of recent developments. The developments include SC dismissing petitions of telcos on AGR, Kumar Mangalam Birla stepping down as Chairman of Vodafone Idea, as also telcos' promoters reportedly expressing potential inability to raise funds.

Hackers return \$260mn to crypto platform

REUTERS

London, August 11: The hacker or hackers behind one of the biggest ever cryptocurrency heists have returned over a third of around \$600 million in stolen digital coins, a blockchain researcher said Wednesday. Poly Network, a decentralised finance platform that facilitates peer-to-peer transactions, announced the hack on Twitter, posting details of digital wallets to which the tokens were sent.

The value of the coins in the wallets was just over \$600 million at the time of the announcement, according to blockchain analysts. Poly Network later urged the hackers to return the stolen funds to several of its digital addresses, saying it planned to take legal action.

By late afternoon around \$258 million in stolen tokens had been returned, according to public blockchain records and crypto tracking firm Elliptic.

Tom Robinson, Elliptic's co-

founder, said the extraordinary move could have been prompted by the headaches of laundering stolen crypto on such a scale.

Poly Network did not respond to requests for further details about the heist or the return of the funds. It was not immediately clear where the platform is based, or whether any law enforcement agency was investigating the heist.

The size of the theft was comparable with the \$530 million in digital coins stolen from Tokyo-based exchange Coincheck in 2018.

'AI adoption can add \$90bn to economy by 2025'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 11: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to add nearly \$90 billion to the Indian economy by 2025, a new report showed Wednesday. During the pandemic, India has reported the highest increase in the use of AI at 45 per cent, as compared to other major economies (the US at 35 per cent, the UK at 23 per cent and Japan at 28 per cent).

"In fact, AI startups in India attracted total funding of \$836.3 million in 2020. Also, despite the total number of high-value funding shrunk, the companies that received funding almost doubled in



2020 compared to 2019," according to homegrown independent Transaction Advisory firm, RBSA Advisors.

"The future of Indian ecosystem

is poised to witness the rapid penetration and adoption of AI and investors should make full use of this opportunity," said Rajeev Shah, MD and CEO of RBSA

BIZ BUZZ

PwC India to invest ₹1,600cr, create 10K jobs

New Delhi: Global consultancy firm PwC India Wednesday said it will invest up to ₹1,600 crore and create additional 10,000 jobs in the next five years. Announcing its new business strategy 'The New Equation', PwC India said the firm will also increase its campus hiring by over five times in the same time period. The New Equation is based on analysis of trends and thousands of conversations with clients and stakeholders, it said. "India has strong economic fundamentals, a huge advantage in the form of its demographic dividend and an ecosystem to boost innovation. Our new strategy will enable us to further India's economic development," said S Krishan, Chairman PwC India said.



I-T dept to refund excess interest, late fee



New Delhi: The Income Tax Department Wednesday said it will refund the excess interest and late fee paid by taxpayers due to software error while filing ITR for 2020-21. The last date for filing ITR for last financial year has been extended till September 30, 2021, from July 31 to give taxpayers compliance relief during the pandemic. However, some taxpayers complained that interest and late fee was charged while filing income tax return (ITR) after July 31, 2021. The department in a tweet said the ITR software was rectified on August 1 itself to remove the error due to incorrect computation of interest under section 234A and late fee under section 234F of Income Tax Act.

Now, Microsoft challenges cloud contract won by AWS

San Francisco: After a bitter war over the \$10 billion JEDI Cloud computing contract, Microsoft and Amazon have once again locked horns, this time over another \$10 billion contract by the US National Security Agency (NSA) won by Amazon Web Services (AWS), the retail arm of Amazon. According to a report in Washington Technology, Microsoft is challenging that decision at the Government Accountability Office (GAO), "saying NSA didn't conduct a proper evaluation" while considering a Cloud provider for its new project code-named 'WildandStormy'. A decision is expected back from the GAO by October 29. In a statement to NextGov, an NSA spokesperson said that "the Agency will respond to the protest in accordance with appropriate federal regulations." The NSA is pursuing a "Hybrid Compute Initiative" to manage what goes into a "commercial cloud infrastructure and what pieces cannot be moved".

AI startups in India attracted total funding of \$836.3mn in 2020. Also, despite the total number of high-value funding shrunk, the companies that received funding almost doubled in 2020 compared to 2019

RAJEEV SHAH | MD AND CEO, RBSA ADVISORS

Advisors. According to the study titled Artificial Intelligence & Its role in Delivering Economic Value to Indian Enterprise, investment in AI has accelerated in India during the pandemic and the country

has a potential to be a global epicentre of AI.

IT services and technology sectors contribute to more than 60 per cent of the AI market, followed by BFSI, engineering and retail. The BFSI sector has recorded highest adoption (20 per cent) due to increasing penetration of digital banking and cashless payments in India, the findings showed.

"Energy and utilities and retail sectors report adoption of 15 per cent each with lot of untapped market opportunities for AI penetration, followed by pharma and healthcare, telecom, manufacturing and other sectors," it added.

LORD'S TEST AWAITS INDIA



R Ashwin may come into playing XI in injured Shardul Thakur's place

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 11: Captain Virat Kohli might have to seriously consider playing his best spinner Ravichandran Ashwin while expecting a far better show from the seasoned batting line-up when India meet England in the second Test at the Lord's starting Thursday.

While India were in a better position to win the first Test before heavens opened up on the final day, the first innings score of 278 was still below par as none among Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane (horrible mix-up) scored runs.

Not to forget that all three haven't scored heavily in the past two years and save Rahane, who got a hundred in Melbourne, the other two batting mainstays haven't been able to convert a lot of their half-centuries into three-figure mark.

As far as team combination is concerned, Shardul Thakur's hamstring injury does again tilt the lower-order batting balance although the Mumbai seamer didn't trouble the scorers in the only innings that he played.

Ashwin, who was dropped from the playing XI in the drawn opening game in Nottingham because of Ravindra Jadeja's superior skills with the willow, is back in the mix as Thakur seems to have done his hamstring some damage during the training session at the Lord's Monday.

It's still not clear whether he picked up the injury during the first Test or not. With Thakur being all but ruled out of the upcoming match, Kohli might have to revisit his 4-1 bowling combination which can't be cast in stone considering the lean nature of his team's lower-order batting.

London has been recording a maximum temperature of 24 degrees with average temperature around 14 degrees.

It would be interesting to see if England retain a green top like they did in 2018 when Indian batting collapsed twice in two days and all-rounder Chris Woakes walked away with the honours.

In case, the pitch is on the drier side, there could possibly be no harm in playing both Ashwin and Jadeja, who can trouble this brittle England batting line-up with their different variations.

The poor quality of new generation of England Test players was exposed again as skipper Joe Root had to come to his team's rescue for the umpteenth time with a fifty in the first innings and possibly a match-saving 21st Test hundred in the second essay.

There is every possibility that Rory Burns could be replaced by Haseeb Hameed, who scored a hundred opening the innings for the Combined Counties against Indians in the four game last month.

For Kohli, if four pacers are non-negotiable, then one among Ishant Sharma or Umesh Yadav will be straightaway replacing Thakur but the choice might not be that easy.

But adaptability is the rider that Indian skipper used during that post-match conference and hence Ashwin, who is currently on the verge of surpassing Harbhajan Singh's (417 wickets) tally comes into the picture.

If the skipper believes that his batting needs to be suitably beefed up, then Ashwin is the right choice in case weather permitting, there is something available on the fourth or fifth day Lord's pitch.

England are likely to miss their senior pacer Stuart Broad as he had injured his right calf muscle during a training session which possibly rules him out of the game.

In case the pitch offers some assistance, Moeen Ali, who has been inducted might again like to torment the Indians like he did in 2014 and '18 series or else there is world's fastest bowler Mark Wood, whose average speed is 90 clicks per hour.

For India, KL Rahul would like to consolidate his position at the top of the order even though Mayank Agarwal being back in the nets is a welcome sign for India.

While batting order might not be tinkered with but Agarwal's fit-

ICC TEST RANKING FOR PLAYERS Bumrah back in top 10, Kohli slips



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 11: Riding on his fine show in the opening Test against England, India pacer Jasprit Bumrah has returned to the top 10, but skipper Virat Kohli slipped to the fifth position in the latest ICC men's Test player rankings.

Bumrah, who held a career-high third position in September 2019, has improved 10 slots to grab the ninth place among bowlers after a match haul of nine for 110 in the Nottingham Test.

Kohli, however, slipped a place following his duck in the first innings of the series opener. He was overtaken by England skipper Joe Root, who grabbed the fourth position in the batters' list after his Player of the Match performance of 64 and 109 earned him 49 rating points.

Opener Rohit Sharma and wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant were static at the sixth and seventh spots respectively.

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja progressed three slots to 36th among batters with a first in-

ness could also make Rahul an option in the middle-order, where he personally prefers batting.

While both Pujara and Rahane

PLAYERS PENALISED

DUBAI: The ICC has imposed a 40 per cent penalty on match fees for both England and India teams along with deduction of two ICC World Test Championship points each for maintaining slow over-rates in the first Test in Nottingham. ICC match referee Chris Broad imposed the sanctions after both the sides were ruled to be two overs short of their targets after time allowances were taken into consideration. Captains Joe Root and Virat Kohli pleaded guilty and accepted the proposed sanctions, so there was no need for formal hearings.

nings half-century and opener KL Rahul has re-entered the rankings in 56th position with scores of 84 and 26.

Jadeja also improved a spot to take the second position in Test all-rounder ranking list, which also had senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin at the fourth spot. Ashwin continued to stay at the second place in the bowlers list, which was topped by Australia's Pat Cummins.

are not in the best of form of late, they will only be replaced in the likely event of a last-minute injury.

Odisha hockey stars felicitated



CM Naveen Patnaik presents cash awards to hockey stars - (from L) Amit Rohidas, Birendra Lakra, Deep Grace Ekka and Namita Toppo - at the Kalinga Stadium, Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday felicitated the Indian hockey players of the state and handed them cash awards for their historic performances at the recently-concluded Tokyo Olympics.

While Birendra Lakra and Amit Rohidas were awarded Rs 2.5 crores each following the national men team's historic bronze-medal winning feat in Tokyo, Deep Grace Ekka and Namita Toppo were

handed Rs 50 lakhs each after the women's side reached the semifinal stage for the first time in Olympics.

Patnaik also handed Lakra and Rohidas offer letters for appointment as Deputy Superintendent of Police in the State Police department during the felicitation program at the Kalinga Stadium here.

Patnaik lauded the performances of the two teams and advised them to continue their hard work and bring more laurels to the country.

The players expressed their gratitude with Lakra presenting Patnaik, a former hockey goalkeeper in his school days, the Indian team jersey with signatures of all team members. Ekka also presented the chief minister with the women's team jersey signed by all the team members.

The Indian men's team had defeated Germany 5-4 to win the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, the country's first medal in the sport in 41 years. The women's team, however, also to Great Britain in the bronze medal play-off.

Anderson, Broad's absence may hurt England: Bairstow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 11: The thought of going into a Test without veteran seamers Stuart Broad and James Anderson is definitely not a good one but it's not something his team can't cope with, England's Jonny Bairstow said on the eve of the second match against India.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Bairstow said he doesn't have much knowledge about the extent of injuries suffered by Broad and Anderson, rendering one unavailable and the other doubtful for the second Test against India.

Broad will miss the match with a calf injury, while Anderson is also a doubt starter for the game and struggling with a tight quad. "We don't really have much information. We know that Broad has gone for scans, we don't know anything else," Bairstow said at the pre-match press conference Wednesday.



Asked about the possibility of playing a Test without both Anderson and Broad, he said, "It's a loss for the team - both have over 1000 wickets between them - so naturally going to be slightly depleted, but it's also an opportunity for others to go and express themselves, just like it was against Pakistan in the ODIs recently when the COVID situation happened," Bairstow said. "We've had a lot of people stand up previously."

He added, "It's the nature of professional sport. There will be injury and illness at times. You have to be adaptable within the group."

Odisha FC sign Spanish defender Hector Rodas



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Odisha FC have signed Spanish central defender Hector Rodas ahead of the eighth season of the Indian Super League (ISL).

The 33-year-old from Valencia started his youth career with Levante before making his senior debut for their reserve team and eventually played for the first team in 2009.

"I am extremely happy to join Odisha FC. I am looking forward to meeting my teammates and the coaches and also reaching India for the ISL. I want to achieve good things at OFC and we all will work towards one common goal. Come on Odisha!" Rodas said in a release.

He has also played for numerous Spanish teams like Elche, Betis, Cordoba, Cultural Leonesa, Alcorcon. His first stint at a foreign club came in 2017 when he joined Belgian club Cercle Brugge.

"Hector is going to give us the defensive balance that we need to improve the tactical game of the team. He is an experienced player who played in the first division in Spain and knows how to command

HECTOR IS GOING TO GIVE US THE DEFENSIVE BALANCE THAT WE NEED TO IMPROVE THE TACTICAL GAME OF THE TEAM. HE IS AN EXPERIENCED PLAYER WHO PLAYED IN THE FIRST DIVISION IN SPAIN AND KNOWS HOW TO COMMAND THE DEFENSIVE LINE

KIKO REMIREZ

the defensive line," coach Kiko Ramirez said.

"He is also an aggressive player in defending and can help us in taking good decisions during the game for the build-up. He is a winner in aerial duels and will give us power in set pieces both in attack and in defence," coach concluded.

Welcoming Hector to Odisha FC, club president Raj Athwal said, "We are very pleased to have captured the signature of Hector Rodas. Having played at the highest level in Europe we are looking forward to seeing him show his great qualities in an Odisha shirt."

Neeraj feat in Tokyo magical moments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's historic gold-winning feat in the Olympics was listed as one of the 10 magical moments of track and field in the Tokyo Games by World Athletics.

The 23-year-old Chopra clinched the country's maiden Olympic medal in athletics with a best throw of 87.58m on Saturday to become only the second Indian to win an individual yellow metal in the Games.

"Most keen followers of the sport had heard of Neeraj Chopra before the Olympic Games. But after winning the javelin in Tokyo, and in the process becoming India's first athletics gold medalist in Olympic history, Chopra's profile sky-rocketed," the global governing body said on its website.

WA noted that the 23-year-old Chopra had 143,000 followers before the Olympics, but now has a staggering 3.2million (on Instagram), making him the most followed track and field athlete in the world.

In a tweet posted after winning the gold in Tokyo, Chopra has said, "Still processing this feeling. To



all of India and beyond, thank you so much for your support and blessings that have helped me reach this stage. This moment will live with me forever."

Gymnastics legend Nadia Comaneci was one of those former international stars who congratulated Chopra on Twitter.

MESSI sends PSG into new dimension

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 11: By securing the prized signing of Lionel Messi, Paris Saint-Germain moved into a new dimension with a player widely considered to be one of the all-time greats of the game.

The 34-year-old Argentine forward, who joined on a two-year deal on Tuesday with an option for a third year, will be presented to a 50,000 crowd at Parc des Princes before the game against Strasbourg Saturday.

He strengthens a glittering attack that includes his friend Neymar, his countryman Angel Di Maria, and France's star striker Kylian Mbappe.

"Everything about the club matches my football ambitions," Messi said. "I am determined to help build something special for the club and the fans."

Ten years after Javier Pastore was unveiled as PSG's first marquee signing for 42 million euros (USD 49 million), Messi joined on a free transfer after bidding a tearful farewell to Barcelona Sunday. Messi's net salary of 35 million euros (USD 41 million) is less than Neymar's (37 million euros/USD 43.4 million).

After taking over at PSG in June 2011,

cash-rich investors QSI now boast one of the best squads in European soccer, having already signed Italy's Euro 2020-winning goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, veteran Spanish defender Sergio Ramos and former Liverpool midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum on free transfers.

One transfer outlay was the hefty 60 million euros (USD 71 million) it spent on Achraf Hakimi from Italian champion Inter Milan. He is arguably the best attacking right back in Europe and scored a fine goal on his league debut.

Qatari-backed PSG has been desperate to win the Champions League, falling just short when it lost the 2020 final to Bayern Munich.

Now, with Messi on board, it has arguably the strongest attack in the game. Eager fans waited at Le Bourget airport Tuesday afternoon and broke into chants of "Messi! Messi! Messi!" as he waved from a window wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with "Ici C'est Paris" (This Is Paris) — a favorite chant among fans.

His arrival surpasses the fanfare of Neymar's world-record signing for 222 million euros (USD 261 million) from Barcelona in 2017, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic's brazenly self-promoting presentation by

the Eiffel Tower in 2012.

Their transfers boosted TV viewing figures considerably, with broadcaster Canal Plus getting a 40% increase for Neymar's first few games.

But neither Neymar nor Ibrahimovic won a Ballon d'Or — Messi has a record six of the top awards — and PSG's revenue stream from marketing and merchandising will greatly benefit.

His staggering tally of 672 goals for Barca includes an extraordinary 50-goal season in 2012; 96 league goals and a remarkable 133 overall across 2012 and 2013; eight Spanish league and six Champions League scoring titles.

Messi has four Champions League trophies with Barcelona, a record 91 goals in a calendar year for club and country, and a 2021 Copa America title with Argentina.

His next quest is to help PSG win the elusive Champions League title it craves. With Messi in the side, PSG has to deliver. Messi will wear the No.30 jersey — the same number he wore in his first two seasons with Barcelona before switching to No.19 and then the prized No.10, which Neymar gets to keep at PSG.



WHAT LEO SAYS

My goal and dream is to raise another Champion's (League Trophy) and I believe that I am in the right place to have the best chances to achieve that. When you see this squad, you really want to play with them because there are so many possibilities. We have the same goal. And Neymar of course did a lot and was important for my choice

I'm going to play with best players, it's very nice, it's incredible to be able to experience this. Obviously, one of the reasons (I came) was the locker room: Neymar, Di Maria, Paredes, whom I know