



## CLUELESS KIRTI

Actor Kirti Kulhari says she hasn't understood what turns a film into a success or failure

LEISURE P2



## CRACKDOWN CONTINUES

China will draft new laws on national security, technology innovation, as well as in areas involving foreigners

INTERNATIONAL P10



## CHELSEA TRIUMPH

Champions League winners Chelsea beat Europa League champions Villarreal to win the UEFA Super Cup via penalty shootout

SPORTS P12



## HP LANDSLIDE TOLL INCREASES TO 14

**SHIMLA:** Four more bodies were recovered from the landslide site in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh taking the death toll Thursday to 14. Search and rescue operations resumed early Thursday and continued till evening. The Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) bus, which, along with other vehicles, was buried under the debris after the landslide, has been found in a badly damaged condition, HP Disaster Management director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta said. However, a Bolero car with six passengers has still not been traced, he added.



## CJI TRIBUTE FOR RETIRING SC JUDGE

**NEW DELHI:** "We are losing one of the lions of the India judiciary," Chief Justice NV Ramana said Thursday while paying glowing tributes to Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman on his superannuation after over seven years at the Supreme Court bench. Justice Nariman became an apex court judge July 7, 2014. He disposed of over 13,500 cases and delivered historic verdicts including declaration of privacy as fundamental right, decriminalising consensual gay sex and permitting women of all ages to enter Kerala's Sabarimala temple.

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# Man throws acid on wife after argument

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Acid attacks have become a common occurrence in most parts of India. Every other day such attacks are reported. In most cases these are carried out by jilted lovers. However, in a strange development, a man threw acid on his wife Wednesday evening after a heated argument and fled the spot. Sources late Thursday evening said that the accused Pappu Rout has been detained. However, police did not confirm whether the accused has been detained.

The incident took place in Dhauli locality. However, the woman was lucky and managed to escape with minor injuries. Dhauli police have registered a case (121/21) under sections 326(A), voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid, and 379(theft) against the accused Rout. According to the complaint, the victim married Rout, who hails

from Nimapara in Puri district. The two tied the nuptial knot in 2019 after a prolonged relationship. However, the two had been staying in their respective parental houses after marriage.

The accused had reportedly promised to bring the victim to his house after convincing his parents. However, he did not take any steps in this regard. He had asked his wife to come to Dhauli along with the documents for some discussions Wednesday evening. When they met, a heated argument broke out. The accused put the marriage documents on fire, then threw the burning bundle and the acid at the victim before fleeing the spot.

Police reached the spot after getting information from locals. The victim was rushed to Capital Hospital where she was discharged after treatment. She lodged a complaint with the police after that.



On the occasion of 'World Elephant Day', Thursday, the pachyderms at Nandankanan Zoological Park were offered a special treat full of delicacies

## ODE TO GENTLE GIANTS

On the occasion of 'World Elephant Day', Thursday, the pachyderms at Nandankanan Zoological Park were offered a special treat full of delicacies

# HEAVY RAINS IN ODISHA FROM AUGUST 14: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The regional office of India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday that heavy rains are likely to lash different parts of the state from August 14. The IMD has issued 'Yellow Warning' sign for a week for districts in different parts of the state. These districts are expected to get heavy to very heavy rainfall.

The IMD also said that a cyclonic circulation is likely to form over west-central and adjoining north-west Bay of Bengal around August 15. It may lead to formation of a low pressure area over the same region during subsequent 48 hours. However, it is too early to comment on the development, the department informed.

"Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Nabarangpur and Koraput, the IMD said in its forecast.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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# Kendrapara violence leaves many injured

Cops-protesters clash over mega drinking water project

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, August 12:** The construction site of the mega drinking water project on Kharasrota river at Barunadiha under Rajkanika block in this district turned into battlefield Thursday as agitators against the project, clashed with the police. In the process, several people including cops were injured as the protests turned violent.

There has been opposition in Kendrapara district against the project as people do not want water of Kharasrota river to be diverted to Bhadrak district. Thousands of agitators broke prohibitory orders and barged into the project site by toppling police barricades.

The Kendrapara district administration had clamped Section-144 prohibitory orders at Barunadiha and adjoining Bharigada and Balakati panchayats from 4.00am of August 10 to October 10 to prevent congrega-



Protesters vandalising a vehicle during the agitation Thursday

tion of locals. However, agitators defied orders and destroyed the site office and damaged vehicles.

When police tried to stop them, the situation turned ugly. Police had to resort to force as the protesters hurled stones and brickbats at them. In the process, nine protesters, four police personnel and a scribe were injured. The injured are being treated at the Aul community health centre.

The protesters were demonstrating under the banner of 'Kharasrota Banchao Sangram Samiti'. After the violence at the

# AG seeks answers for ₹80cr extra expenses

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The Accountant General (AG) of Odisha has pulled up the state government for incurring extra expenditure of over ₹80 crore while executing four infrastructure projects. Principal Accountant General of Odisha Bibhudutta Basantia has written a letter to the state Finance department, seeking the views of the government on the findings.

The AG has found excess expenditure of ₹9.87 crore in one Water Resource department project and also has said undue benefits worth ₹15.64 crore were given to a contractor on another project of the same department.

The AG has pulled up the Works department for excess expenditure of ₹52.41 crore during construction of two roads. He has also pointed out that the department had spent an excess of ₹2.17 crore in another project. Construction of two-lane roads with paved shoulders in violation of IRC specification led to an extra expenditure of ₹44.40 crore, the AG said. Similarly, provision of eight per

cent overhead charges on the estimated cost and 10 per cent contractor's profit over it against the admissible 15 per cent has ensured undue benefit of ₹8.01 crore to the contractors in four road projects, the AG said in his observations.

The road projects are - Gopalpur-Chhattisgarh border road, Baripada-Bamanghati road on SH-50 (from Bisoil to Rairangapur), Godobandha-Kalanda road and Komtalpet-Kalayansingpur road.

Similarly, the audit further said that laxity in monitoring for recovery of mobilisation advance paid to the contractor led to unsettled advance of ₹2.17 crore including interest. Execution for improving the Mahanadi river embankment from Baliput to Odasingha without ensuring availability of land resulted in abandonment of work midway and that led to unfruitful expenditure of ₹9.87 crore.

Using of higher capacity crane of 80 tonne instead of the actual requirement of 35 tonne for lifting of armory stone boulders of not less than one MT inflated the estimated cost in 10 works, the AG pointed out in his observations.



"Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur in the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Koraput, Gajapati, Cuttack, Khurda and Rayagada," the met department added.

The IMD also stated that the intensity of rainfall in some parts of Odisha will increase from August 14 and continue till August 17.

No special warning however has been issued for fishermen. The state capital meanwhile is expected to see one or two spells of rainfall Friday while the maximum temperature could go up to 36 degree Celsius.

Most of the districts in the state reported scanty rainfall in the last 24 hours, the IMD said. The districts that reported good rainfall are Balasore (56.9mm), Koraput (41.5mm) and Bolangir (12.5mm).

The maximum temperature in the state was reported Thursday from Talcher (36.5 degree Celsius) while the minimum temperature in the state was recorded in Phulbani which was 20 degree Celsius.

# Despite huge heist, Leo banks on crypto

AGENCIES

**Paris, August 12:** The world may have been stunned at the recent cryptocurrency heist of USD 613 million by hackers. However, football superstar Lionel Messi's craze for cryptocurrency hasn't waned at all by the recent development. The Argentine player switched allegiance Tuesday to French club Paris Saint Germain (PSG) after a 21-year stay at FC Barcelona. His signing on fee includes some of the French club's cryptocurrency fan tokens, said sources. The amount in tokens is over a million euros and Messi is the latest big name endorsement for new digital assets.

PSG officials were quoted as saying Thursday by Reuters that the tokens were included in his 'welcome package'. French media reported that Messi's signing amount is to the tune of approximately 30 million euros (1 euro equal to ₹87). PSG

Messi has accepted over a million euros as part of his signing amount in cryptocurrency

Since Messi's joining was finalised, the market capitalisation of PSG tokens has soared by 130%



did not disclose the proportion of tokens in the package, but said Messi had received a 'large number'.

Fan tokens are a type of cryptocurrency that allow holders to vote on mostly minor decisions related to their clubs. Among the clubs to launch tokens this year are English Premier League champions Manchester City and Italy's AC Milan. Like bitcoin and other digital currencies, fan tokens can be traded on exchanges.

PSG said there had been high volume of trading in its fan tokens, which are provided by Socios.com, after reports of Messi's move to the club became public. Trading volumes exceeded \$1.2 billion in the days preceding Messi's move to PSG, it said. "We have been able to engage

with a new global audience, creating a significant digital revenue stream," said Marc Armstrong, PSG's chief partnerships officer.

Alexandre Dreyfus, the CEO of Socios.com which provides the platform for several fan tokens, said PSG was benefiting from its token and other clubs could imitate its deal with Messi. "I believe this could be the start of a new trend as fan tokens and Socios.com play an increasingly prominent role across sport at the very highest level," informed Dreyfus. Fan tokens' price moves can have little connection to on-field performance or results.

PSG's token, which has a market capitalisation of about USD52 million, soared over 130 per cent in just five days amid speculation over Messi's arrival to an all-time high of over USD60 Tuesday. They were last down 10 per cent at about USD40, according to 'CoinMarketCap' website.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	54843.98	↑ 318.05
NIFTY	16364.40	↑ 82.10
DOLLAR	74.36	↓ ₹0.19
EURO	87.35	↑ ₹0.06
GOLD	₹46,319	↓ ₹69
SILVER	₹61,811	↓ ₹960

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 35.6°C	36.2°C
	MIN 26.6°C	26.0°C
Humidity	79%	67%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil
		Forecast: Light rain very likely

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# leisure



## BERRY KEEPS SHOOTING FOR BRUISED DESPITE RIB INJURY

Hollywood star Halle Berry cracked two of her ribs on the first day of filming her new movie *Bruised* but that did not stop her from shooting, says her stunt coordinator. Berry will be seen playing a disgraced MMA fighter in her directorial, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

## MOMOA DOESN'T WANT HIS CHILDREN TO ACT

Actor Jason Momoa doesn't want his daughter Lola and son Nakoa to pursue a career in acting because he believes they are not 'strong' enough to deal with the pressure. "I just want them to, you know, really to go for other things," Momoa told *Entertainment Tonight*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Without apparent reason you may go into your shell today. No doubt you will acknowledge the contribution of others, but Ganesh says you have to do more than that; you will have to share your knowledge with your peers. Besides this, Ganesh says you need to cut down on your spending.

**TAURUS**  
This is a bright, rosy day for students and scholars, particularly who are engaged in, or are looking forward to higher studies, specializing in a particular professional stream. This is a great day for making plans for higher studies abroad. Do not miss this opportunity.

**GEMINI**  
The idea of being with your family will keep you motivated throughout the day. In business, your inquisitive approach will do you a lot of good. In fact, you will have the proverbial Midas touch – whichever venture you put your hands on will turn into a glittering success.

**CANCER**  
A shopping spree with your darling is likely to be the highlight of the day, even though you will be paying for almost everything. Though you have decided to be this lavish out of sheer love, your sweetheart will more than return the favour with a sweaty thank you 'return gift' in the evening.

**LEO**  
Seems today is just one of those days when things simply refuse to go your way. It happens to the best of us, says Ganesh, and there isn't much one can do about it except slog it out and find that hidden reserve of moral support. On a brighter note, Ganesh observes the possibility of you meeting the right person who shall help you rekindle your imagination.

**VIRGO**  
Issues regarding religious beliefs and spirituality will surface today. Pursue your goals single-mindedly to attain success in the field of your choice, and exploit your abilities and talents to the hilt, advises Ganesh. You will be more logical and calculative, rather than emotional, in matters of your relationships.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that today you shall be very careful in money matters. It is nothing to do with miserliness at all. When buying things you will be careful while spending money and will stick to your budget. On the other hand when you are out with your loved ones you will not think about holding back and will spend lavishly.

**SCORPIO**  
A creative thought or an innovative idea may spice up your routine work. Apparently, you may seem all worked up and disorganised, but actually you may be quite systematic when it comes to your work. Keep the enthusiasm in you alive to make life happier, tips Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Lengthy business meetings keep you occupied almost throughout the day. You may also do some value addition to your work by taking co-workers' suggestions and inputs, says Ganesh. Implementation of these inputs will prove highly beneficial in the long run.

**CAPRICORN**  
You are a bighearted person and you love to help others in every possible way. But, people may take you for a ride, warns Ganesh. You may realise that if you would have been extra careful, you could have stopped others take advantage of you. By the end of the day, you will shake off such negative feelings and be grateful to the God for blessing you with all the nice things in life.

**AQUARIUS**  
The day begins on high note. You work hard, put your best foot forward and at the end get the final output as per your requirements. Romantic and beautiful, the setting Sun will bring the softer side of your personality to the fore as you will spend the evening with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
You are likely to find yourself as part of a team involved in tackling a difficult project or task today. The role you will play in this Endeavour will be noteworthy. Your efforts will yield excellent results. Everything you touch will turn to gold today, says Ganesh. Make the most of it.

## Shershaah portrays a saga of bravery

Sidharth Malhotra delivers an effective performance and his chemistry with Kiara Advani is palpable



Director: Vishnuvardhan  
Cast: Sidharth Malhotra, Kiara Advani, Shiv Pandit and Nikitin Dheer.

Director Vishnuvardhan's *Shershaah* is a patriot's journey, the biopic of Captain Vikram Batra, an officer of the Indian Army who was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest award for bravery in the battlefield, after the 1999 Kargil War.

At the very start we are given an insight into Vikram's character when he says to his dad, "Meri cheez mere se koi nahin chheen sakta hai, papa." The film narrated through his brother Vishal Batra's point of view.

There appears to be some freshness in the narrative despite foreseeable, emotional and gut-wrenching moments plugged into the plot. What keeps you hooked is the romance track between Vikram Batra (Sidharth Malhotra) and Dimple (Kiara Advani). How their love blossoms and then Vikram leaves her to follow his dream of being a part of the Indian Army forms the crux of the tale.

You witness in Kashmir how Vikram wins over the hearts of the local populace and the confidence of his seniors and colleagues. The plot is interspersed with a couple of frontline battle scenes on the Himalayan terrain, a few where the Indian Army ferrets out ter-

rorists from Kashmiri homes, a brutal ambush, and when Vikram, driven berserk by grief, rage and a sense of revenge, takes action that ends up cutting his life short.

Sidharth Malhotra delivers a charming and effective performance and his romance with Kiara Advani is palpable. With her natural looks and consistent accent, Kiara performs ably. She matches Sidharth's histrionics.

Every other actor is aptly cast. They are all pitch-perfect in their mannerisms and body language.

Kamaljeet Negi's cinematography is strikingly brilliant. His camera movements are smooth and extremely focused. Each frame is well-angled and impressive.

Overall, this film, which is dedicated to the 527 martyrs who sacrificed their lives to win back our land, is an earnest portrayal.

IAN S



### Film Review

## NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD FOR ODIA SCIENTIST

Anil Pradhan was the lead design engineer for VSSUT Student Satellite Team, India's first multipurpose students' rocket mission to monitor Hirakund dam

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 12: Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur, Thursday conferred the National Youth Awards 2017-18 on Anil Pradhan of Cuttack for his outstanding social service to the community.

According to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Pradhan founded a school in the rural pocket of Cuttack to inculcate scientific spirit in young minds. He has designed a



Anil receiving the certificate from Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur in Delhi

technology to maximise day lighting in buildings for which he was listed among the top seven innovators in India by Larsen & Toubro. He was the lead design engineer for VSSUT Student Satellite

Team, India's first multipurpose students' rocket mission to monitor Hirakund dam. He worked for setting up of International Public School for Rural Innovation.

Pradhan was also felicitated as Global Change maker by Dais Foundation and National Youth Icon. The Youth Affairs Ministry informed that a total 22 individuals and organisations were felicitated with the National Youth Awards (NYA).

The award comprises a medal, a certificate and a cash prize of ₹1,00,000 to individuals and a cash prize of ₹3,00,000 to organisations respectively.

## Actors should take blame for a film's failure: Kirti

New Delhi: Kirti Kulhari agrees that if actors have not performed they are to take a part of the blame for a film's failure. However, the Pink star added that she has not really understood what makes a movie successful or a failure.

Talking about if she finds it fair if actors are blamed for a film's failure, Kirti said: "Well, if the actors have not performed well, they are to take a part of the blame but honestly, I have been in Bollywood for a while and I really haven't understood what makes a film successful or a failure."

The box-office is unpredictable, says the 36-year-old actress.

"And really a film's failure and success at the box-office most of the time is really something you cannot predict and sometimes some not-so-good films become successful and sometimes very good films fail and you just don't know why. I am still in that state like I don't know why. Haven't figured it out and I think it will be very tough to figure it out," she added.

Kirti is now gearing up for the release of her upcoming web-series *Human*, which also stars Shefali Shah.

IAN S

## SLB's Heeramandi triggers debate among Pak artistes

Islamabad: As India's ace director Sanjay Leela Bhansali (SLB) gets ready to reveal the untold stories of Lahore's red light district, Heera Mandi, Pakistani artistes are questioning their own industry, maintaining that such stories should be narrated by Pakistani filmmakers.

Bhansali's web series *Heeramandi* is being presented and produced by the online streaming giant Netflix.

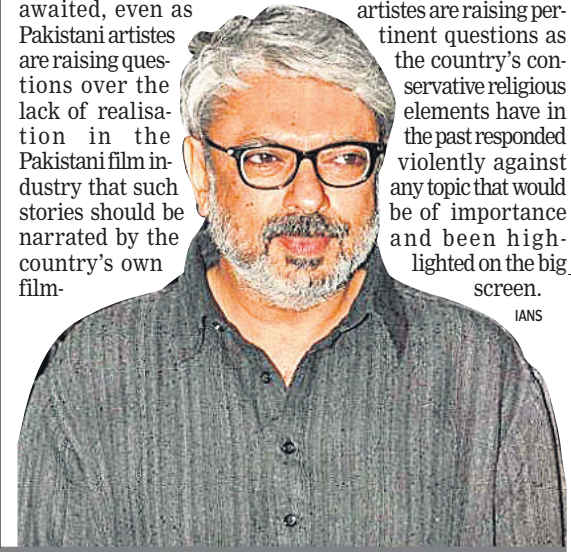
"*Heeramandi* is an important milestone in my journey as a filmmaker," Bhansali said, adding, the project is an epic, first-of-its-kind series based on the courtesans of Lahore. In Pakistan, the SLB movie is being anxiously awaited, even as Pakistani artistes are raising questions over the lack of realisation in the Pakistani film industry that such stories should be narrated by the country's own filmmakers.

makers.

"Heera Mandi is here in Lahore and the movie on this is being made by Indians," said the Pakistani actor Yasir Hussain. "And then we will be criticising how Indians show false narratives. God knows when we will talk about such issues, when we will tell our stories," he added.

"We don't make movies on such issues because if we do, a fatwa will be issued and producers will lose their money," said actress Hira Tareen. "Do you really think PEMRA (Pakistan Electronic Regulatory Authority) can tolerate a narration of the 'real' stories of Heera Mandi or any other such subject?" she asked. The Pakistani artistes are raising pertinent questions as the country's conservative religious elements have in the past responded violently against any topic that would be of importance and been highlighted on the big screen.

IAN S



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

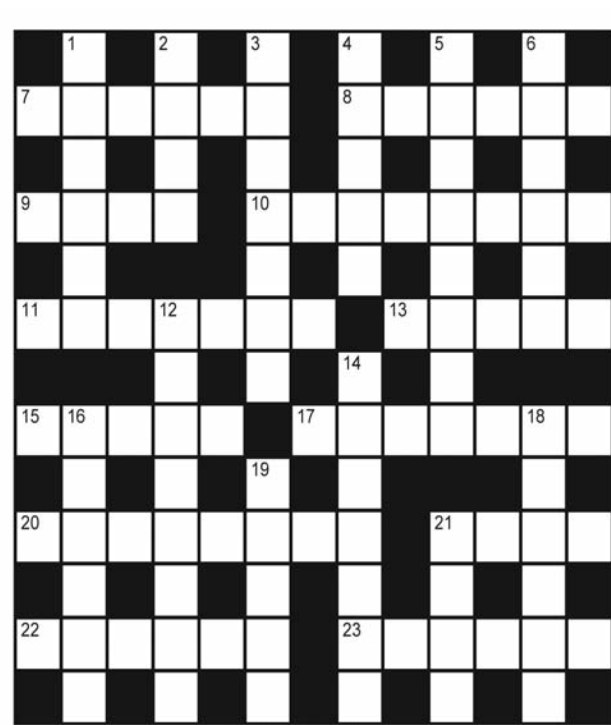


### BREVITY



### FUN post

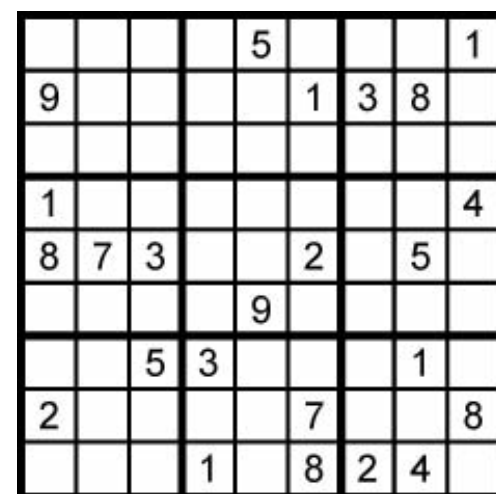
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Courageous
  - 8 Auto shop
  - 9 Snake's warning
  - 10 Increase
  - 11 Paper carrier
  - 13 Wipe dry
  - 15 Palace dweller
  - 17 Medical exam, sort of
  - 20 Team sport
  - 21 Jubilation
  - 22 Cleric's soapbox
  - 23 Sword
  - 5 Skilled musician
  - 6 Levy by force
  - 12 Drastic changes, usually in business (5-3)
  - 14 Mansion employees
  - 16 Frosted
  - 18 Spectacles
  - 19 Piquant
  - 21 Breaks
- Down
- 1 Reddish
  - 2 Menageries
  - 3 South American country
  - 4 Parenthetical comment

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

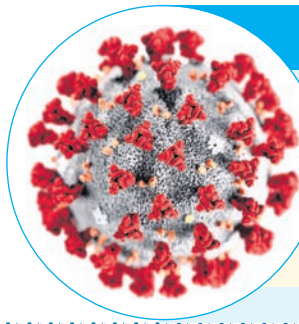
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## I-DAY AHEAD

Artistes of Puri Dance Academy during a rehearsal on the beach, Thursday, ahead of the Independence Day celebrations in Holy city



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	20,58,08,940	18,47,81,425	43,42,262
India	3,20,77,706	3,12,60,050	4,29,669
Odisha	9,91,182	9,74,756	6,697

# Netaji Bus Terminal cost up ₹19.28 crore

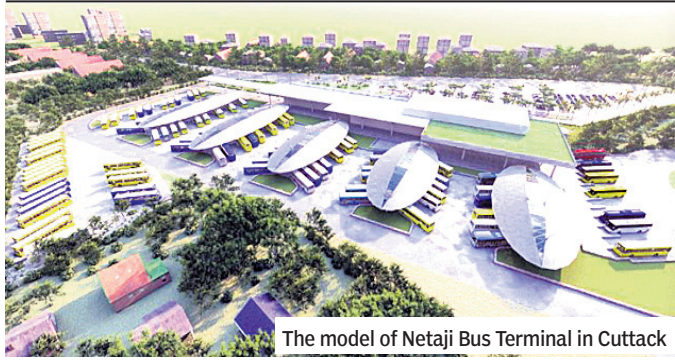
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The state government has revised the project cost of Cuttack Netaji Bus Terminal (CNBT) at Khannagar to ₹83.97 crore from ₹64.69 crore, up by ₹19.28 crore, official sources said Thursday.

The Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department has revised the project cost by ₹19.28 crore following a request from the Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation Limited (OB&CC), a state PSU under the administrative control of the Works department that has been executing the ambitious project, added the source.

Sources familiar with the development said the revision was necessitated due to a host of issues like shifting of public utilities and avenue plantation.

The Works department has asked the OB&CC to initiate the work as per the revised cost and complete the project within the stipulated pe-



The model of Netaji Bus Terminal in Cuttack

riod to avoid cost and time overrun.

As per the H&UD department's order, the OB&CC can charge upto 8 per cent of actual expenditure.

Besides, the project executing agency can also ask for an additional incentive of 2 per cent of the actual expenditure only in event of timely completion of the work, said the source.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation for the bus terminal January 23 this year, the

125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The bus terminal will come up on a 12-acre land with a built-up area of 1.18 lakh sq ft. It will have a three-storey terminal building and regular bus bays to accommodate 180 buses at a time. This apart, it will have the space for local and Mo Bus service, bus repair workshop with parking space and special parking lot for four and three-wheelers.

The state govt has revised the project cost of Cuttack Netaji Bus Terminal at Khannagar to ₹83.97 crore from ₹64.69 crore

The revision was necessitated due to a host of issues like shifting of public utilities and avenue plantation

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation for the bus terminal January 23 this year

The CNBT will also have ultra-modern ticket counters, rest rooms, cloak rooms, food court, e-vehicle charging station, rooftop rainwater harvesting and solar panels. Besides, it will boast an integrated information management system for passengers.

The new bus terminal was necessitated as the existing one at Badambadi has been dogged by space crunch.

# SFSL to have cyber forensic & DNA laboratories soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** If everything goes as per plan, the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) will have a cyber forensic lab equipped with advanced gadgets to deal with the rising cybercrime cases within four/five months.

Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay Thursday informed the media persons that two new laboratories, a cyber forensic lab and a DNA lab will be opened at the SFSL.

He also revealed that both the labs will be made functional within the next four to five months. The Odisha Police has already procured most of the advanced equipment for the cyber forensic lab and soon it will hire adequate manpower to man the lab.

Abhay affirmed that the new advanced DNA lab will help solve complex sex offence related cases.

The DGP revealed this on the occasion of inauguration of the state-of-the-art Forensic Science Laboratory building on SFSL prem-



The newly-inaugurated building at the SFSL

OP PHOTO

ises at Rasulgarh here.

"This 4-storied modern complex, constructed by Odisha Police Housing and Welfare Corporation Ltd, has all the latest features of an ideal forensic science laboratory," claimed the police sources.

The police also asserted that the SFSL, Odisha is one of the 'oldest and most developed laboratories in

the country in terms of manpower and equipment".

The spacious building will facilitate an advantageous atmosphere for work.

Senior police officers including Crime Branch ADG Sanjeev Panda and State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) ADG Vinaytosh Mishra attended the inauguration ceremony

# EOW nabs ex-under secretary in ₹36L scholarship scam

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch Thursday arrested a retired under secretary to the Higher Education (HE) department in connection with ₹36.10 lakh eMedhabruti scam.

EOW sources said that Prakash Chandra Rath, who was the under secretary, in-charge of scholarship section in HE department, was arrested from his Balianta residence here in connection with a case (20/2017) registered under Sections 409, 406 and 120B of the IPC relating to financial mismanagement and irregularities in payment of eMedhabruti, a scholarship scheme, in 2014-15 to ineligible students.



"Prakash, in a criminal conspiracy with others, had sanctioned scholarships to the tune of ₹36.10 lakh in favour of 235 ineligible students, leading to a huge loss to the state exchequer," the EOW said in a statement.

The investigating agency said that as per the existing norms, students were required to apply for scholarships online on the dedicated government portal. Thereafter, concerned institutes to which the students belong to were supposed to verify the authenticity of applications and, in genuine cases, used to validate the same and forward it to the HE department for processing.

"After the receipt of applications of genuine students by the government, it was the responsibility of the under secretary to place the same before the Financial Advisor for sanction of the scholarships. Subsequently, after necessary sanction, the scholarship amount used to be disbursed to the students. However, all such norms were violated by the accused," EOW release added.

# Coffee gone. Haldi next?

After mines and minerals of the state, corporate India has started showing interest in Odisha's farm produce. The salt to software conglomerate, Tata Group, has acquired the marketing rights of Koraput Coffee. The Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation of Odisha Limited (TDCCOL), the apex body entrusted with the task of protecting tribal interests, has signed an agreement with Tatas to sell the local beans. Many wonder what was the reason for government of Odisha to sign an MoU with Tata. Could the company not have bought the produce as a general buyer? That might have helped the farmer get competitive price. Is the state government ensuring no competition comes to play, while Tata procures the coffee? There will be no mention of Koraput anywhere in the marketing process. Excerpts of an interview with TDCCOL's Managing Director Mansi Nimbhal.

■ **Tatas have taken the marketing rights of Koraput Coffee. Should not the state government and the TDCCOL encourage people of Koraput to process the coffee they cultivate themselves and market it?**

■ We have formed six coffee producers' groups and youth are also being trained for this purpose. But, the most important thing to ensure the quality of coffee is it needs to be processed (depulping) within 6-7 hours of its harvest. But farmers go out for their work in the morning and return at 5 pm. They are not in a position to engage in depulping of coffee. Besides, they don't have the machines. Even if we provide them machines for depulping, they need to dry coffee for 11 days after depulping. This is a cumbersome process which needs to be followed under proper guidelines. This is why we have granted permission to Tatas to process and market the product. The company will follow the guidelines to do all process.

■ **Tatas will sell the local brew under a brand name of their choosing. Don't you think Odisha's importance will get lost in the process?**

■ This is good news that the company procured Koraput Coffee. We have opened the market chain through the company. This is a breakthrough. Tatas have a big market chain and will sell our coffee in various markets. We will get good response when they sell Koraput Coffee. In fact, we are launching a new product to promote our own coffee brand. Just wait 2-3 weeks when I launch the new product, Odisha's brand will be known and recognised.



coffee under their branding. Will turmeric from Kandhamal be the next product in their bag?

■ There is nothing wrong about it. Tatas are even looking to Kandhamal turmeric market as well. Private associations need to promote Odisha's brand. We don't think by selling our products private player will be able to enhance their brand names.

■ **TDCCOL procured only 23 MT of ripe coffee berries from SHGs when they produce over 100 MT of coffee. Later, TDCCOL's procurement dipped to 9.5 MT. What is the reason behind such poor procurement?**

■ Those times were different. We are in a process of procuring 100 per cent coffee produced by farmers in Koraput this year. TDCCOL is planning to buy 500 MT of coffee this year. The state government is interested in developing the entire Koraput region and make it a stock point of Koraput Coffee. The District Collector has been directed to start new plantations and maintain existing ones.

## OP TALKS

■ **Instead of giving Koraput Coffee to Tatas, would not it have been better to promote local products through local startups?**

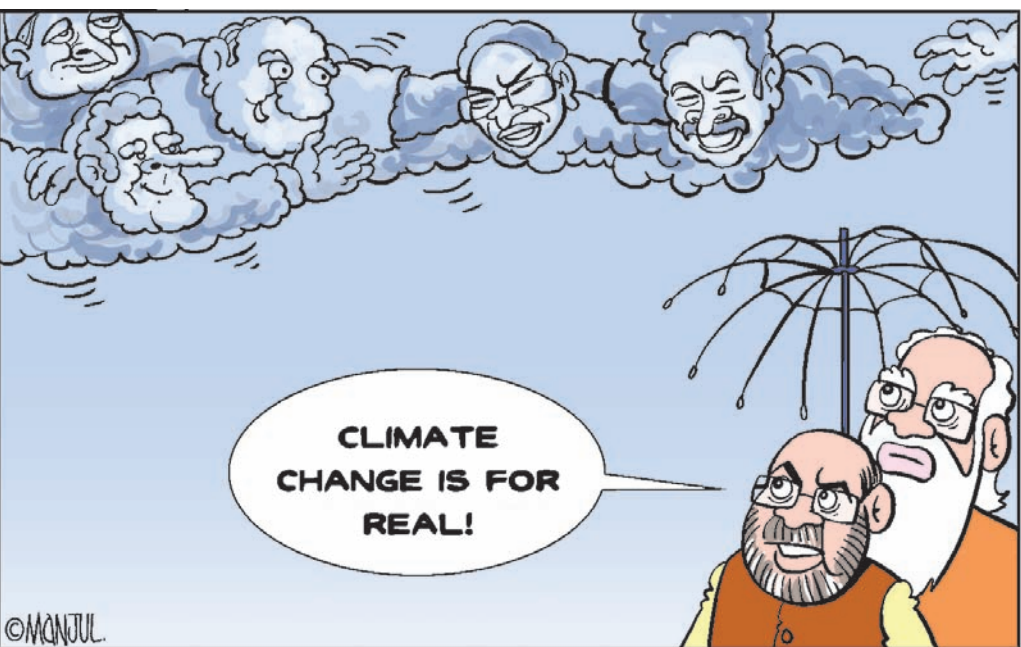
■ Don't ask too many questions. Why are you running after Tatas? This news is only meant for marketing Koraput Coffee.

■ **The state government is investing more money on machines. Should not we invest on creating supply chain infrastructure?**

■ Everything is going on. See, this is a parallel thing. If we create capacity building without procuring machineries, how can we process it? So, human infrastructure and machines are being developed.

■ **Tatas are present in multiple sectors in the state like mines, ports, hospitality and power and now they will market**

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# CM flags off cotton ginning mill, bus terminal at Digapahandi

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday inaugurated a cotton ginning mill and bus terminal at Digapahandi in Ganjam district on virtual mode.

The Chief Minister, in his virtual address, said that this is an initiative to prioritise development of small towns.

"We are working to improve the livelihoods of people in small towns and the development of various civic facilities," he said and pinned hope that these new services could help in improving quality of life of people living in the area.

"The cotton ginning mill is a new initiative in the state's co-operatives," he said. He added that it



The Chief Minister, in his virtual address, said that this is an initiative to prioritise development of small towns

would also inspire other farmers to diversify their crops. The Chief Minister also said that plans are afoot to build an indoor multipurpose stadium in the area.

## ENCROACHMENT ON MAHANADI EMBANKMENT

# NGT seeks report on Hanuman temple demolition

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 12:** Expressing dissatisfaction over the state government's failure in removing Panchmukhi Hanuman temple from the embankment of Mahanadi river at Ratilo in Cuttack, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has granted two weeks to the district Collector to file an action-taken report (ATR) in this regard.

Peeved at the state government's stand that it could not remove the illegally-constructed temple due to huge gatherings, the NGT said this cannot be an excuse for administration's failure to deal with the situation.



"It cannot be pleaded by the Collector that the order of the tribunal cannot be complied with merely because a large number of people were present during the removal of illegal construction. It

The SC had earlier dismissed an appeal filed by Panchmukhi Hanuman Temple Trust against the NGT order

is the responsibility of the district magistrate to maintain the law and order and comply with the order of the tribunal," the green body observed.

Significantly the Supreme Court had Tuesday dismissed an appeal filed by Panchmukhi Hanuman Temple Trust against the order of the tribunal. A two-judge bench of

the apex court comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah had observed that it did not find any error in the order of the NGT on the issue.

It is to be mentioned here that an application had been filed with the NGT stating that the Panchmukhi Hanuman temple has been illegally constructed on the embankment of the Mahanadi river. In December last year, the NGT had delivered a judgement asking the state government to ensure removal of all encroachments from the Mahanadi embankment and not to carry out any construction activity on the floodplains of the river.

## 4 cops feted for excellence in probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 12:** As many as four personnel of Odisha police have been awarded with the 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2021.

Inspector Devendra Kumar Mallick, Inspector Debendra Kumar Biswal, Sub-Inspector Trupti Ranjan Nayak and Sub-Inspector Srikanta Sahu were conferred with the medal.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, 152 police personnel have been awarded this year. This award, constituted in 2018, aims to promote high professional standards of investigation and to acknowledge the excellence of the

The award, constituted in 2018, aims to promote high professional standards of investigating officials

investigating officers.

Among the personnel receiving these awards, 15 are from CBI, 11 each from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Police, 10 from Uttar Pradesh, nine from Kerala and Rajasthan Police, eight from Tamil Nadu Police, seven are from Bihar, six each from Gujarat, Karnataka and Delhi Police, and the remaining from the other states. These include 28 women police officials.

## Srimandir managing panel reconstituted

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The state government Thursday reconstituted Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee by nominating 10 renowned persons as members of the panel.

The state government has nominated the persons in pursuance to the Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1954, the Law department said in a notification Thursday.

The nominated members are: Senior advocate of High Court Ashok Kumar Mohapatra who is representing Mukti Mandap, Madhab Chandra Pujapanda (representing Pujapanda Nijog), Jagannath Kar (Pushpalak Nijog), Madhab Chandra Mohapatra (Pratihari Nijog) and Ananta Tiadi (Suar Mahasuar Nijog).

Similarly, Durga Prasad Dasmohapatra (Daitapati Nijog), Mahant Ramakrushna Das (Math & other institutions), chartered accountant Sarat Chandra Bhadra, Padma Bhushan Ramakanta Panda and sculptor Padmashree Sudarshan Patnaik have been nominated as members of the panel.

Meanwhile, the temple reopened Thursday in the first phase after remaining shut for over three months amid the Covid-restrictions. In the first phase, only family members of the servitors are being allowed to enter the temple, an official said. The temple will open for the public in the second phase, he said. The 12th-century shrine was shut on April 24 amid the second wave of the pandemic, and remained closed during the Ratha Yatra.

# HC summons medical officer for scribbling

THE STATE'S APEX COURT HAD AUGUST LAST YEAR ASKED THE DOCTORS IN ODISHA TO WRITE PRESCRIPTIONS IN CAPITAL LETTERS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 12:** Exasperated by the illegible content in an injury report of a case, the Orissa High Court has summoned the civil surgeon, medical officer-in-charge, Basta CHC, Balasore and issued show-cause notice to the official, observing that he had made the report callously.

A bench of Justice SK Panigrahi observed that the content in the injury report as well as the endorsement therein was totally illegible and incomprehensible. The bench observed that the surgeon had prepared the report in a callous and flimsy manner which cannot be 'consumed' by any stakeholder. "This Court feels constrained to issue show cause to the concerned doctor as the endorsements

written by him are difficult to be comprehended by this Court as well as the conducting counsels of the Court," Justice Panigrahi said.

The Orissa High Court directed the civil surgeon, medical officer-in-charge, Basta CHC to appear in person before the court August 18 through virtual mode and "reply to the show cause as to why action shall not be taken against him for adopting such a cavalier approach while preparing the injury report."

It is to be mentioned here that in August last year, the Orissa High Court had asked doctors to write prescriptions in capital letters.

The bench of Justice SK Panigrahi had observed that illegible scrawls composed by doctors create unnecessary nuisance at the end of the patients, pharmacists, police, prosecutors, judges

**Justice SK Panigrahi directed the medical officer in-charge of Basta CHC in Balasore to appear before it in person August 18 through virtual mode**

who are bound to deal with such medical reports.

The High Court had also asked the state Chief Secretary to take necessary action in this regard. It had also asked the state government to take steps to create awareness among medical professionals to record their prescriptions in a legible manner.

The court had stressed that prescriptions of physicians, OPD slips, post-mortem reports, injury reports and others are required to be legible and fully comprehensible.

"This Court feels it is imperative that the entire physician community needs to go the extra mile and make conscious efforts to write prescriptions in good handwriting preferably in capital letters. The digital era could also throw open several options to make prescriptions and the diagnosis more patient-friendly," the Court had said.

## Traffic advisory for I-Day issued

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The Commissionerate police Thursday issued traffic advisory for the state level Independence Day celebrations Sunday. Traffic restrictions will be in place near the venue at IDCO exhibition ground from 6am till the programme is over.

Vehicles going towards Ram temple and Housing board colony will be diverted towards Kendriya Vidyalaya lane at MBS blocking and St Joseph blocking respectively.

Similarly, Vehicles coming from Keshari Talkies and PMG side will be diverted towards Sachivalaya Marg near the blocking spot at Charlie hotel.

The VVIPs can park their vehicles at the right flank of gate number I of the ground.

The VVIPs and media can park their vehicles at designated spot of gate number II and V respectively. Selling of gas balloons near the venue has been barred.

# KHURDA STILL IN RED ZONE

Odisha registers 1,107 more Coronavirus cases, 67 fatalities

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** With the state's Covid-19 daily cases hovering around 1,000 for quite some time, Khurda district continues to be in red zone with 3,842 active cases.

Odisha Thursday added 1,107 more people to its Covid-19 tally with 1,107 single-day cases, while 67 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 6,697, a health department official said.

The coastal state now has 10,853 active cases, and 9,73,579 patients have so far recovered from the disease, including 969 since Wednesday, he said. Khurda district, comprising state capital Bhubaneswar, reported the highest number of 397 new infections followed by Cuttack (130) and Balasore (66). Boudh district did not report any fresh case.

The new fatalities include 18 deaths in Cuttack, Khurda (11), Sambalpur (9) and Jajpur (5).

A total of 53 other Covid-19 patients have also died due to comorbidities, the official said.

Khurda continues to be in the red zone with 3,842 active cases, while Cuttack is under the yellow zone with 1,321 active cases. The remaining 28 districts are in the green zone, he said.

Odisha has thus far conducted over 1.68 crore sample tests, taking into account 64,802 clinical examinations Wednesday. The cumulative positivity rate is at 5.8 per cent and the fatality rate stands at 0.6 per cent.

The official said 1,86,45,414 people have been inoculated till Wednesday, with 43,02,619 beneficiaries having received the second dose of the vaccine.



## State govt gears up for likely third wave

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** With the third Covid wave predicted to target children, the state government Thursday instructed all concerned authorities to be in full preparedness for managing high number of cases predicted in coming months.

Additional Chief Secretary PK Mohapatra, in a letter to all Collectors, Municipal Commissioners, Superintendents of medical colleges and Director of Capital Hospital, said that all authorities must be prepared for Covid management for paediatric population keeping in mind the lack of vaccination for the same.

"Children in age group of 0-18 are yet to be vaccinated. As per the prediction of the public health experts, there is possibility of increased in-

cidence of Covid cases amongst the population of this age group in the eventuality of a third wave. Thus you are requested to take immediate necessary steps in this regard and to remain in readiness," the letter read.

District level task forces shall be constituted under the chairmanship of Collectors and other members of the health department for effective monitoring and sponsorship. The committees will regularly analyse gaps and take steps for remedial action.

"All paediatric cases of ILI/SARI need to be listed and swab collection of children of 0-18 age group shall be ensured for RT-PCR testing, to screen out suspected positive cases in all health care facilities. Half of ICU, PICU and NICU may be isolated and earmarked for managing paediatric cases. Steps will also be taken for upgrading the capacity," the letter added.

## Evaluation of matric exam papers begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The Socially Smart Bhubaneswar Project of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) took up plantation activities at several locations across the city with the help of Peer Leaders (Pragati Sathis) on the occasion of International Youth Day Thursday.

The Peer Leaders decided to plant trees which not only provide a green corridor, but are also helpful for food and nutrition.

They have identified Baramunda Village Primary School, Baramunda Anganwadi Centre Campus (IV), Ouat Farm Gate and Gandamunda Primary School campus to plant fruit-bearing trees.

The focus was to sensitise and bring behavioural changes among youths towards transforming their neighbourhood with more greenery and fight global warming and climate change.

# CSIR-IMMT conference on Nucleic Acid Science



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** To mark the 150th year of discovery of DNA by Friedrich Miescher in the Seyler's Lab, the CSIR-Institute of Minerals & Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar, is now holding a national conference on Nucleic Acid Science and Technology (NCNST).

The conference commenced August 10 and is scheduled to continue till August 13, institute sources said.

The death anniversary of Prof Felix Hoppe-Seyler is observed August 10 while August 13 is the birth anniversary of Prof Miescher. Thus, the online conference offers

gratitude to the duo for their groundbreaking work which paved the way for future biomedical research.

More than 500 delegates from different academic and research institutes across the country are participating in NCNST. The diverse groups of participants consisting of students, scholars, school-teachers, academicians, professors, doctors, scientists and entrepreneurs have interacted with the experts in the field of Genomics, transcriptomics and DNA Nanotechnology.

Speaking on this occasion, IMMT, Bhubaneswar Director Suddhasatwa Basu said, "We are happy to organise the national conference with participation from renowned people from different academic and research institutes across the country. The conference will help all the participants in exploring newer dimensions in the areas of Nucleic acid Science and Technology."



A girl checks rakhis at a stall near College Square in Cuttack, Thursday

OP PHOTO

## 483 mobile towers for LWE-hit areas

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Accepting state's request, the Union government has floated a tender for installation of mobile towers at 483 locations in the left wing extremist (LWE) areas of Odisha.

The state government had sent a list of 483 locations for mobile tower installation under Phase-II of the mobile connectivity scheme. The Department of Telecom (DoT) has floated a tender for 2,542 towers, including 483 in Odisha, sources said.

As many as 256 mobile towers were installed in the Maoist affected districts of Odisha under Phase-I of the scheme. All the 256 towers are currently operational, the source said.

Under Phase-I, the Centre had released ₹66.75 crore to the state from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) till June, 2021.

## 'State keen on improving pvt investment in agriculture'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The share of agriculture in the budget of 2020-21 financial year was 13 per cent and the government is very keen on improving private investments in agriculture and allied sectors, predominantly in food processing and cold storage sectors, said Arun Kumar Sahoo, State Agriculture Minister.

Sahoo addressed the national e-summit on 'Agriculture-Combating the Pandemic' organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Odisha, Thursday.

"The Odisha government has been providing great focus to agriculture sector. To uplift the socio-economic condition of farmers, the government has implemented various initiatives," the Minister said.

"Although rice is the dominating crop of the state, the non-food items' share has been on the rise in the state's total agricultural production. Contribution of rice is as high as 48 per cent in total production. Few years back, non-food items like oil seed, fibre and sugarcane constituted only 2.6 per



cent of the total agriculture and allied activities. However, floriculture and livestock shares are growing in a very fast pace," he added.

Chairman of Global Agri System, Gokul Pattnaik highlighted major faults in Indian agriculture system during the pandemic. Pattnaik said, "Covid pandemic shows two major faults of Indian agriculture system. One is supply chain and another is last mile delivery. Farm produces change hands six times to reach from farmer to consumer. During the journey, price of that product increases by at least 60-70 per cent."

Meanwhile, Nabard CGM C Udayabhaskar said, "There is a need of mini supply chain system in agriculture sector. We also have to digitise the storage and transport facilities, and look at National Agricultural Market (eNam) as a reality."

# 'Media role pivotal in nCoV awareness among tribals'

**THE DISCUSSIONS REVEALED THAT COVID-19 VACCINES HAVE HIGH EFFICACY RATE AND AROUND 1.86 CRORE DOSES HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED IN ODISHA**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Unicef Odisha, in collaboration with state Health department and Press Information Bureau (PIB) Bhubaneswar, organised a virtual media sensitisation program Thursday on Covid and vaccination in three districts-Gajapati, Kandhamal and Sundargarh.

The sensitisation program emphasised on the need for generating awareness on Covid-appropriate behaviour and

encouraging more people to be vaccinated.

The panel discussion was commenced by Radhika Srivastava, Communication and Advocacy Specialist, Unicef Odisha followed by Monika Nielsen, Chief of Field Office, Unicef Odisha.

Highlighting the role of media during the pandemic, Nielsen said, "Media has been playing a crucial role in disseminating information during the pandemic, especially in tribal regions that are hard to reach."

In his remarks, Akhil Kumar Mishra, Director of Regional Outreach Bureau, Bhubaneswar said, "The focus should be not only on tribal regions of particular districts but also on the rural and tribal pockets of all developed cities."

Rajinder Choudhry, Additional Director General, Press Information Bureau & Regional Outreach Bureau, Bhubaneswar said, "In a diverse country like India and particularly in Odisha, it is difficult to reach out to the

grassroots level due to network and transport issues. Therefore, we need to deploy a combination of mechanisms including mass communication and interpersonal communication to reach out the vulnerable mass."

Speaking on safety of vaccines, State Immunisation Officer Tapas Kumar Patra said, "Around 1.86 crore doses have been administered so far in Odisha. The government has also approved vaccination of pregnant and lactating women. Since July 15, more than 60,000 pregnant and lactating women in Odisha have been successfully vaccinated for Covid."

Speaking on the efficacy of vaccines, Assistant District Public Health Officer, Koraput Nilamadhab Satpathy said, "All the vaccines approved by the government have high efficacy rate. The average efficacy rate of all vaccines including Covaxin and Covishield is 70-75 per cent. So, we should get ourselves vaccinated without hesitation."

## Central University at Anandapur sought

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** A delegation of concerned citizens of Anandapur, led by Odisha Nadi Suraksha Samiti president Maheshwar Sahoo, has urged the Union Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for establishment of a Central University at Anandapur in Keonjhar district.

In a memorandum submitted to Pradhan, Sahoo said that Anandapur in Keonjhar district having a rich cultural heritage has been a centre of learning and education since long.

Historically, it has been a centre of Buddhism and Jainism. Several eminent scholars of Anandapur had adorned the Royal Court of Keonjhar during the Bhanja dynasty rule, he said in the memorandum.

However, it is a matter of profound grief that since Independence,



this subdivision has become the victim of gross negligence of the authorities, Sahoo added.

Keonjhar district has been included in North Odisha University after its detachment from Utkal University. In this context, Sahoo said, the distance between Anandapur and North Odisha University is around 200km whereas Utkal University is 140km.

This change of university jurisdiction is quite unjust and disadvantageous to the people of Anandapur, he said, urging Pradhan to consider establishment of a Central University at Anandapur as it would help spread higher education in the tribal region.

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# Keonjhar: 121 jumbos died in 22 years

# Ganjam DM livid over sharing of official letters on social media

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, August 12:** As many as 121 elephants were found dead in Keonjhar district in past 22 years, forest department data show.

With four cow elephants dying unnatural deaths in the last 20 days, rising cases of man-elephant conflicts have been a cause of concern for the department, animal lovers and environmentalists alike.

Barring 2016-17, elephant deaths in Keonjhar forest division have been reported every year. From 2001-02 till August 11, 2021-22, the forest division reported 121 elephant deaths due to various reasons.

According to the information shared by the department, as many as eight elephants died in 2001-02. Similarly, 12, 3, 12, 3, 6, 6, 8, 4, 9, 4, 9, 4, 6, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 4 elephants lost their lives in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-2010, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 (till August 11, 2021) respectively.

## WORLD ELEPHANT DAY



There were only two elephant deaths in 2017-18. But since then, the number of fatalities is increasing, triggering resentment among animal lovers.

According to them, there are many reasons responsible for these deaths. Due to rapid industrialisation, roads being laid through jungles, menace of timber mafia and

encroachment of jungle areas, jumbos are losing their habitats. Their corridors are getting destroyed. So they get disoriented and roam aimlessly. The shortage of food in jungles forces them to head towards human habitations, resulting in man-elephant conflicts. Sometimes, wildlife smugglers use electricity or firearm to kill these

## FACT FILE

Barring 2016-17, elephant deaths in Keonjhar forest division have been reported every year. From 2001-02 till August 11, 2021-22, the forest division reported 121 elephant deaths due to various reasons

DUE TO RAPID INDUSTRIALISATION, ROADS BEING LAID THROUGH FORESTS, MENACE OF TIMBER MAFIA AND ENCROACHMENT OF JUNGLE AREAS, JUMBOS ARE LOSING THEIR HABITATS. THEIR CORRIDORS ARE GETTING DESTROYED. SO THE ANIMALS GET DISORIENTED AND ROAM AIMLESSLY

KEONJHAR DFO AJIT SATPATHY SAID THE DEPARTMENT IS TAKING MANY STEPS FOR THE SAFETY OF JUMBOS IN THE DISTRICT. PEOPLE ARE BEING MADE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING ELEPHANTS IN JUNGLES AND HOW THEY CAN KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE ANIMALS

animals, for their tusks. Disoriented elephants often lose lives in road and train accidents while crossing roads or railway lines. In this regard, Keonjhar DFO Ajit Satpathy said the department is taking many steps for the safety of jumbos in the district. People are being made aware of the importance of having elephants in jungles and how they can keep a safe distance from elephants.

"If elephants come near human habitations, we immediately take steps to drive them away, keeping

their safety and the safety of lives and properties of people in view. We always keep a tab on their movement. There are squads formed by the forest department to carry out these activities. Besides, the department deploys its own staff. At the same time, legal actions are being taken against the poachers and wildlife smugglers," he informed. It may be mentioned here that August 12 is observed as World Elephant Day to help protect the world's elephants and recognise their importance in biodiversity.



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, August 12:** The Ganjam Collector has expressed serious displeasure over sharing of official letters by government officials on social media platforms which is an act of negligence and a violation of the Official Secrecy Act, a report said.

The issue acquired prominence after Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange was informed about misuse of social media platforms by officials of various government offices in the district. Kulange has come to know that officials in various government offices, particularly the clerical staff are sharing various official letters in social networking sites like WhatsApp and in other platforms.

Expressing his displeasure, Kulange, in a letter-1090, has directed various departmental heads to keep a tab on these developments and take stringent action against the concerned officials.

The letter has been issued to departmental heads like the chief

district medical officer (CDMO), general manager (GM) of the District Industries Centre, district tourist officer (DTO), chief district education officer (CDEO), chief district agricultural officer (CDAO), district horticulture officer (DHO), deputy director of fisheries department and project director of district watershed department. Any clerical staff sharing the official letter in social media platforms will be deemed as his negligence towards duty, the Collector observed.

Any person in need of information has to visit the district website or through the public domain of district information and public relations officer (DIPRO) to get the information.

Government officials sharing official letters in social media platforms is not a healthy practice, the Collector has observed in his letter. Anybody found violating the order will be severely dealt with and stringent action will be taken against him, the Collector has warned.

# Man kills minor son, ends life in Jharigaon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharigaon, August 12:** In a shocking incident, a tipsy man killed his three-year-old son and later committed suicide at Arjanguda village under Jharigaon block of Nabarangpur district Wednesday night.

According to reports, the deceased was identified as Pitabash Bhadra (25). He was a tractor driver at Arjanguda village in Chacha panchayat. Bhadra was an alcoholic. It was alleged that he used to quarrel with his family members in intoxicated state.

Drunk excessively, he had a quarrel with his wife Bimala last night. Fed up, his wife went outside the house when Bhadra was with his minor son Jitendra in the house.

A few hours later, Bimala returned home and was shocked to find her husband and son hanging from roof. She raised an alarm.

Following a complaint lodged by deceased's brother Rudradev, Jharigaon police registered a case and sent the bodies for autopsy.

## SALVAGE ACT



A farmer tilling his land with a power tiller as another wets the soil by supplying water through a pipe in Buguda area of Ganjam district. Due to deficit rainfall, vast swathes of farmlands in the region have remained fallow in this kharif season

OP PHOTO

# Man bites snake to death in revenge

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, August 12:** In a bizarre case of human revenge, a 45-year-old tribal man reportedly bit a snake to death after the latter bit him in a remote village in Jajpur district.

Kishore Badra of Gambharipatia village under Salijanga panchayat under Danagadi block was returning home after working in his paddy field Wednesday night, when a snake bit him on his leg. Badra managed to capture the viper and bit it to death in a bid to take revenge.

"Something bit on my leg while I was returning home on foot last night. I switched on my torch and found it to be a poisonous krait snake. In order to take revenge, I took the snake in my hands and bit

it repeatedly, killing the viper on the spot," said Badra.

Following the incident, he came back to his village with the dead snake and told his wife the whole tale. Soon this became the talk of the village with Badra exhibiting the snake to his friends.

Some onlookers advised Badra to visit a nearby hospital, but he refused to go to the hospital and instead went to a traditional healer to seek advice on the same night. Luckily for Badra, the snake bite and his biting the snake has seemingly had no impact on him. Badra none the worse for his bizarre adventure, said Thursday. "Even though I bit the poisonous krait, I did not feel any difficulty. I went to a traditional healer near the village and was cured."

# Dengue cases on rise in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, August 12:** Dengue is reportedly spreading in parts of Ganjam. Another dengue case was detected in Sorada area. The latest is the fifth case in the district, said district malaria control officer Dr Santosh Padhi.

The gradual rise of dengue cases has been a cause of concern for local people and the health department as well.

A trader of Sorada area was



down with fever August 6 and admitted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital. His blood sample was sent for test which came out positive for dengue August 9.

In the wake of the case, a team

of health officials visited the village of the patient and made people of aware of some preventive measures.

Another team of doctors led by district malaria control officer (vector-borne) Dr Sanotsh Kumar Padhi will visit the village.

A woman of Aska has also tested positive for dengue August 8. Another person, an ex-army man, was found positive for dengue in the district August 7.

A girl had tested positive for

dengue August 6. She is a nursing officer. The first dengue patient was detected in the district July 22.

Locals were panicked in the areas where dengue cases have been detected while officials of the health department are taking up preventive measures and advising people to keep their surroundings neat and clean.

Anganwadi workers, ASHAs and ANMs have been directed to visit villages and carry out awareness drive in the affected areas.

# Airstrip project in M'ngiri dist soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** An airstrip project in Malkangiri is on the anvil. The state government has already initiated the process to chalk out a blueprint for the airstrip in the district, an official source informed Thursday.

According to the source, initially, Malkangiri district administration has plans to construct an airstrip on 13.233 hectares. Selection of a suitable patch of land for the purpose is underway.

The executive engineer of Malkangiri Public Works department had earlier written a letter in this regard to Collector Vishal Singh for land acquisition. Subsequently, the district administration has approached the deputy director-general of the ministry of environment and forests.



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

Malkangiri district administration would carry out an afforestation drive in the days ahead as part of compensation for using forest land for the project after getting a nod from the state government.

Malkangiri tehsildar was previously asked to identify a patch of land for plantation on 26.466 as compensatory afforestation. The presently identified forest land will be converted into commercial category.

It may be noted here that Jeypore airstrip in

neighbouring Koraput district is expected to see flight operations by the year end if everything goes as planned.

By the year end, around 19 chartered flights will operate from the airstrip, built under the UDAN scheme for regional air connectivity. The Central government will give approval to airline operators after bidding. Jeypore airstrip will be the third in the state after Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda to get the airport tag from the Civil Aviation Ministry.

**Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan)**  
4-Vishnu Digamber Marg, New Delhi-110002  
(An autonomous Institute under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India)  
Affiliated to University of Delhi

**CORRIGENDUM**  
**Regarding UG Entrance Test BPT/BOT/BPO**

The Entrance test for admission to BPT/BOT/BPO scheduled on 8th August, 2021 stands cancelled. The entrance test will be conducted by DUET through National Testing Agency (NTA) for details the candidates are advised to visit DUET website. The link to DUET will also be provided on our website.

Kindly note that the fees submitted by the candidates to our Institute (1200/600) will be duly refunded back to all the candidates after submissions a scanned copy of crossed cheque from the account in which the fees are to be refunded. Please send mail to pdunipddadmissions@gmail.com from your registered mail id.

The inconvenience caused to all the candidates is deeply regretted. We anticipate co-operation from all of the candidates.

Director  
PDUINIPDD  
davp 38103/11/0005/2122

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

E-Tender Notice No.PCEECor2122TP01 to 04  
Date: 06.08.2021

(1) Tender No.PCEECor2122TP01  
Description of Materials: (I) PLATE SCREW FOR USE WITH DOWELS CONFORMING TO RDSO DRAWING NO. T-3912. (QUANTITY: 61,358 NOS.), (II) PLATE SCREW FOR USE WITH DOWELS CONFORMING TO RDSO DRAWING NO. T-3913. (QUANTITY: 2,27,506 NOS.), (III) C.I BRACKET CONFORMING TO RDSO DRAWING NO. T-4917 WITH LATEST ALTERATIONS IF ANY AS ON DATE OF CLOSING OF THIS E-TENDER. (QUANTITY: 31,511 NOS.)

(2) Tender No.PCEECor2122TP02  
Description of Materials: M.S. BOLTS WITH NUTS OF VARIOUS SIZES AS PER DRAWING AND QUANTITY LISTED CLAUSE 2 OF THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT. (QUANTITY: 217.92 MT.)

(3) Tender No.PCEECor2122TP03  
Description of Materials: (I) GROOVED RUBBER SOLE PLATE FOR SEJ CONFORMING TO RDSO DRAWING NO. T-4159. (QUANTITY: 8480 NOS.) AND (II) GROOVED RUBBER SOLE PLATE FOR 60KG 1 IN 8.5 TURNOUT AS PER LAYOUT DRAWING NO. T-4865 WITH LATEST ALTERATIONS IF ANY AS ON DATE OF CLOSING OF THIS E-TENDER. (QUANTITY: 313 SETS.)

Date & time of closing: 01.09.2021 at 1500 hrs. (For SI. No. 1 & 2) and 15.09.2021 at 1500 hrs. (For SI. No. 3 & 4).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including E-tender documents of the above E-Tenders is available in website <http://www.treps.gov.in>

Dy. Chief Engineer/TP  
Bhubaneswar  
PR-282/M/21-22

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, EARTH DAM DIVISION, CHITRAKONDA, DISTRICT: MALKANGIRI**  
E-mail ID - [executiveengineereddckd@gmail.com](mailto:executiveengineereddckd@gmail.com)

No.A-355  
**"e" Procurement Notice**

(1) Name of Work: As per detailed Tender Call Notice. (2) Total No. of package: 02 Nos. individual package  
(3) Estimated cost of package(s): Varies from Rs. 16.28 Lakhs to Rs. 3.62 Lakhs (4) Period of completion: 07 (Nine) Calendar Months or 212 days.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Opening of Tender
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, Earth Dam Division, Chittrakonda	EDD-02 of 2021-22 On-line	13.08.2021 at 10.30 AM	21.08.2021 upto 5.00 PM	23.08.2021 at 11.30 A.M. onwards at Earth Dam Division, Chittrakonda

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
Corrigendum/ addendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the aforesaid website.

Sd./- (Er. K.P. Nath), Executive Engineer, Earth Dam Division, Chittrakonda, Malkangiri (O), OIPR-32019/11/0004/2122



A youth hawking plastic toys in Angul town

OP PHOTO

FOCUS PANDEMIC & CLIMATE CHANGE

# APOCALYPSE OR COOPERATION?

The Apocalypse is now. That is the glaring message of the perfect storm of COVID-19 and climate change that has now broken. The pandemic is unlikely to end for years, as the novel coronavirus mutates into increasingly transmissible, drug-resistant variants. And the climate catastrophe is no longer "impending" but playing out in real time.

The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – whose assessments predate the extreme climate events of the past year – tells us that some drastic adverse climatic changes are now irreversible. These will affect every region, as the recent heatwaves, wildfires and floods demonstrate. They will also severely damage many natural species, and adversely affect the possibilities for and conditions of human life.

Keeping future global warming to a manageable level will require a massive effort, involving sharp economic-policy reversals in every country. Major changes in the global legal and economic architecture will be essential.

For its part, the pandemic has devastated employment and livelihoods, pushing hundreds of millions of people, mostly in the developing world, into poverty and hunger. The International Labour Organisation's World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2021 show the extent of the damage in grinding detail. In 2020, the pandemic caused loss of nearly 9% of total global working hours, equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs. This trend has continued in 2021, with working-hour losses equivalent to 140 million full-time jobs in the first quarter and 127 million jobs in the second quarter.

On current trends, projected employment growth will be insufficient to make up for these losses. So, even in 2022, total employment will be lower than in 2019 by the equivalent of at least 23 million full-time jobs. This is despite relatively strong job growth in the United States, meaning that labour-market deterioration in other, mostly poorer, regions will be even sharper and more intense. Moreover, the "new" jobs associated with recovery from the



The perfect storm of COVID-19 and climate change and the resulting economic damage, will most likely trigger much more social and political instability

pandemic will be predominantly low-paying and poor quality.

Meanwhile, economic inequality between and within countries has reached levels that were unimaginable in the already extremely unequal pre-pandemic world. While many people face substantial income losses, declining access to basic needs, acute deprivation and hunger, a tiny minority of the extremely wealthy and a few large corporations have grabbed even more income and wealth, thereby multiplying their assets.

Today's new forms of conspicuous consumption – such as Jeff Bezos recently spending \$5.5 billion for a four-minute ride around suborbital space – are literally out of this world. This amount could instead have funded the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility to provide vaccines to two billion people in poor countries, who are unlikely to get them in the next two years.

This state of affairs obviously cannot continue for long without major social tensions and civil unrest. Indeed, the perfect storm we are beginning to experience will soon include much more social and political instability. Rather than spurring a progressive and transformative agenda, this could descend into ethnic, racial and other forms of conflicts, violence and chaos. This nightmarish scenario can still be averted with substantially increased international cooperation on a few key issues.

On climate, governments could collectively declare that they will cut carbon dioxide and other greenhouse-gas emissions more sharply in order to reach net zero in a decade, rather than several decades.

Rich countries with high legacy emissions should obviously make the deepest cuts and transfer green technologies to the developing world without conditions. Funds for climate adaptation are now essential and proposed global public investment can enable swift action on this.

To control the still-raging pandemic, it is imperative to redistribute available vaccine doses immediately, and remove legal constraints on widening production through compulsory licenses. In addition, the pharmaceutical firms that benefited from large COVID-19 vaccine-development subsidies must share their technology with other producers to increase supply, as the World Health Organisation Council on the Economics of Health for All has recommended. Building resilient and decentralised manufacturing capacity, including in the public sector, will be vital in order to deal effectively with future pandemics and other health crises.

As for economic policy, global tax cooperation is a no-brainer.

Simple rules that would make multinational companies pay the same rate of tax as purely domestic firms, and ensure that the revenues are shared fairly between countries, would reduce inequality and provide fiscally constrained developing economies with much-needed resources.

Likewise, an international sovereign-debt resolution mechanism would reduce many developing countries' fiscal burdens, freeing up space for urgent spending. Regulating highly mobile cross-border finance, reining in credit-rating agencies, and introducing conditions that make finance respond to social needs also will require international regulatory cooperation.

Unfortunately, the current state of global politics means this necessary and feasible agenda is unlikely to be realised. Leaders of major countries have so far displayed a pathetic lack of ambition. Instead, they have paid lip service to these existential challenges, while remaining subservient to private capital and vested interests, and all too willing to play to national and local galleries.

The attitude of G7 governments, which are more obsessed with China's rise than with preserving our increasingly fragile world, has been especially depressing. Their COVID-19 vaccine nationalism is short-sighted and obscene, while their rigid attachment to intellectual-property rights allows private firms to restrict knowledge and production in order to maximise their profits. These stances have reduced trust and hampered international cooperation to tackle the pandemic.

Humanity still has a chance to step back from the brink. Will it do so, or will future species wonder why we chose to participate actively in our own destruction?

*The writer, Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates, is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.*

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Jayati Ghosh

**HUMANITY STILL HAS A CHANCE TO STEP BACK FROM THE BRINK. WILL IT DO SO, OR WILL FUTURE SPECIES WONDER WHY WE CHOSE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN OUR OWN DESTRUCTION?**

SPECTRUM SURVIVAL INSTINCTS

## Man-animal conflict getting worse

Dogs and monkeys – the first, man's oldest friend from the animal world, and the other, is man's closest relation from the animal world.

But, no less than 300 stray dogs are estimated to have been killed by poisoning in a small village in Andhra Pradesh around a fortnight ago. And, around the same time, in neighbouring Karnataka, at least 60 monkeys were found in gunny bags strewn along a country road. Found dead or dazed, the simians are believed to have been drugged before their capture.

Predictably, the grisly incidents provoked a hue and cry in several quarters. Animal rights activists took up the matter in Andhra Pradesh, and local police reluctantly filed a case. In Karnataka, the High Court, taking suo motu cognisance, ordered an enquiry into the killings of the monkey.

While a few persons, belonging to traditional animal-trapper communities, have been arrested in Karnataka for the monkey murders, in Andhra Pradesh, the perpetrators have been identified as tribals who are animal hunters. Both cases show certain disturbing similarities. In Andhra Pradesh, the animal rights activists have pointed fingers at the village panchayat officials for ordering the disposal of the stray dogs which were overrunning the village. In Karnataka, the monkeys were trapped and being transported away, allegedly at the behest of villagers fed up with the monkey menace to their crops.

While instances of cruelty meted out to animals regularly make news headlines, these have generally been isolated cases involving individuals or small groups. In contrast, the recent incidents in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are a 'commissioned' crime.

The scale and planning involved in these 'organised' pogroms, raises concerns and questions. The man-animal conflict over dwindling habitats is no longer about 'wild' animals like leopards, tigers, and elephants alone, but has expanded to include domesticated species and species that have acclimatised to urban surroundings, which are home to humans.

So, how big a problem is the issue of cruelty to animals? Is it a problem in the making? While the Central government does not maintain records of crimes against animals, the Animal Welfare Board of India compiles data on complaints on reported cruelty to animals. Compared to 155 cases that were reported in 2014-15, the numbers grew to 228, 256 and 225 respectively in the next three years. Following a comparative lull in 2018-19 when 144 cases were reported, the numbers grew to 300 in 2019-20, 383 in 2020-21, and stood at 210 in the first seven months of 2021-22.

The above figures may just be the proverbial volcano's tip, and not exactly reflect the ground realities because it is a given that every case of animal cruelty is not recorded. Secondly, these are just a number of cases filed, and do not detail the numbers of animals subjected to cruelty. Take for instance, the case of the 300 dogs killed in Andhra Pradesh, or that of the 60 monkeys in Karnataka.

A sharp rise in such incidents can be noticed over the last two years, which incidentally corresponds to the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Of late, a number of animal cruelty cases have been initiated on the basis of videos trending on social media. It raises the question of whether remaining cooped up indefinitely in homes,

is taking a silent toll on human sensitivities, leading to acts of cruelty on innocent animals. While it certainly does not justify such inhumane acts, the Covid fallout is definitely not to be ignored.

The abysmally low penalties and punishments laid out in the law are also a factor fuelling acts of cruelty against animals. For instance, ₹50 is the highest penalty for a first offence under The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

A population explosion caused by lack of systematic birth control mechanisms for these species, is cited as the major factor behind this emerging problem. In India, kill rather than birth control, is the convenient mantra for civic officials tasked with maintaining hygiene in our villages, towns, and cities. For them, the costs of finishing off the problem work out cheaper than sterilisation of the dumb animals.

Eliminating them totally means inviting new problems, apart from the ethical issues involved in such flagrant vigilante responses. The man-animal conflict certainly seems to have come closer home, possibly, a bit too close for comfort.

IAN5

You take up the spiritual path only when you feel you cannot do otherwise.



THE MOTHER

## Invest in global vaccine equity

The extraordinary global effort to develop safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines in record time highlights the power of vaccines to bring us closer to our loved ones and to a more prosperous, equitable world in which everyone has the chance to achieve their full potential. Vaccines are among modern medicine's greatest innovations, allowing billions of people to lead healthy lives. But stopping outbreaks of vaccine-preventable disease – and not only COVID-19 – depends on achieving critical mass with immunisation campaigns.

Consider polio. The shuttering of classrooms to protect children from COVID-19 outbreaks might seem unprecedented, but a 1937 polio outbreak in the United States inspired school-by-radio programs – an early innovation in remote learning. In those days, polio was thought to afflict only industrialised countries, until a major outbreak in South Africa in 1948 led to the establishment of the first African foundation for polio research and catalysed greater awareness of the disease's global burden. In the 1950s, polio paralysed an average of 600,000 people each year.

Fortunately, scientists developed the first polio vaccines later that decade. And since the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, vaccines have reduced the global incidence of wild polio cases by more than 99%, from hundreds of thousands annually to a handful of endemic cases in just two remaining countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2020, Africa was certified as being free of wild polio, giving the continent a much-needed glimmer of hope amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Strong vaccine coverage has made it possible to believe that polio could become the second disease – after smallpox – to be eradicated through vaccination.

But the polio clock has not stopped ticking: back in 2014, the World Health Organisation sounded the alarm when it designated the disease as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. In particular, areas with low immunisation rates, and thus low levels of protection, are also vulnerable to rare but increasingly frequent outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV), which occur when the weakened pathogen originally contained in oral polio vaccines eventually regains virulence.

Today, cVDPV outbreaks outnumber wild polio cases. Although we are closing in on the virus, we are struggling to maintain the strong vaccine coverage needed to stop these outbreaks before they start, owing to a lack of resources, conflict or civil unrest, and pandemic-related disruptions to immunisation drives.

The COVID-19 crisis has so far caused the postponement of 57 life-saving mass vaccination campaigns in 66 countries, affecting hundreds of millions of people, mostly African children. In November 2020 the WHO and UNICEF called for emergency action to avert a secondary crisis of measles and polio outbreaks caused by disrupted vaccine access.

Even as we rally together against COVID-19, PATH and other partners continue to call upon national governments and donors to double down on immunisation against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases. The newly launched Immunisation Agenda 2030 global framework has a crucial role to play both to make up for lost time and to boost our collective resilience. As the pandemic has shown, cross-border spread of infectious disease is an ever-present threat. All therefore have a strong interest in international immunisation coverage.

Investing in disease prevention through vaccine development and delivery protects us all and will pay dividends for years to come. We should thus feel heartened by the stunning speed with which the scientific community – helped by many previous years of research into other coronaviruses – came together to develop effective COVID-19 vaccines.

These investments are bearing fruit not only for COVID-19, but also for polio. Last year, after a decade of research and development, the novel oral polio vaccine against type 2 (nOPV2) became the first vaccine to receive a WHO Emergency Use Listing. Researchers expect that nOPV2 will be less likely to seed new cVDPV2 outbreaks, thereby helping to hasten the eradication of polio.

When it comes to highly infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and polio, our fates are bound up together; what affects one part of the world affects us all. Investing in tools for a single country does little to a control or eliminate such global health threats. Instead, we must keep global vaccine access at the center of our efforts. Strong national commitments and financing for the Immunisation Agenda 2030 framework can help get us there.

Globalisation has already brought us closer together. With a commitment to equitable immunisation access, the world can advance toward a shared future of health and prosperity.

The writer is Regional Advocacy Director at PATH, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark. MICHELANGELO
- If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart. NELSON MANDELA
- My father said there were two kinds of people in the world: givers and takers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better. MARLO THOMAS

LOL

### Hanging herself

A blonde really got tired of all blonde jokes and decided to hang herself in the bathroom. As she locked the door, she yelled at her husband, "I'm hanging myself because I'm tired of jokes about blondes being stupid!" Her husband broke into the bathroom and saw his wife with a rope tied on her toe. The



husband said, "I thought you were hanging yourself." She said, "Yes, I am!" The husband replied, "Usually when people hang themselves, they tie the rope around their neck, so why is yours tied on your toe?" She said, "I tried that, but I couldn't breathe."

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

Orissa POST  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Pay heed

Sir, Minimal accountability, disdain for court directives and abysmal conviction rates are factors that continue to embolden the Indian police to run amok. When an innocent man, including the educated and privileged, fears the police, it speaks volumes about his/her abject loss of confidence in the law enforcers. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana's take on human rights violations at police stations is making headlines. Justice Ramana was vocal over his displeasure about police stations becoming the first point of threat to human rights. He should know well because the Supreme Court guidelines in all cases of arrest or detention are clear-cut. Though the Chief Justice specifically spoke about the third degree treatment meted out to the accused at police stations, there is no doubt that he had in mind the boiling issue of custodial deaths. Indian police assume they are 'powerful' if thrashing an arrested person defines 'power'. That is exactly what the Chief Justice has lamented: violation of bodily integrity at police stations. No state has put the 'Police Complaint Authority', as ordered by the top court, in place. Augmenting investigative techniques, providing better facilities in rural police stations, refresher courses in wide ranging subjects, psychological counseling – all are some ways to reform the police. As Justice Ramana has said display boards and outdoor hoardings in police stations depicting the salient features of free legal aid services should help. Also, doctors conducting the post-mortem examination, and judicial magistrates in front of whom the arrested is produced, require appropriate training.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### Mixing vaccines

Sir, Earlier it was thought that the first dose of Covishield vaccine followed by Covaxin or vice-versa would have ill-effects or may even prove fatal. But this view has lost ground to the view that mixing vaccines would be safe and improve the immunity, according to the study released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Several cases of deaths have been reported even in the case of people having received two doses. Israel has been contemplating for booster dose to contain the corona spike. No hasty recommendation should be given for mix of vaccines without conclusive evidence to show that it would improve the safety and immunity. Vaccine supply should be speeded up and people of all the age group need to be administered vaccine at the earliest possible time leaving no one unvaccinated all over the world. It is the only ray of hope to eradicate the lethal disease. KV Seetharamaiah, HASSAN

GREEN CAUSE



Residents of Parbatipur village under Khaira block in Balasore district distributed over 2000 saplings to commuters on Soro-Kupari road as part of a programme celebrating the 137th birth anniversary of Mukunda Prasad Das, the Speaker of first pre-independent Odisha Assembly, Thursday

# Spectre of drought looming large in Bolangir district

**BANKEL, MATHANPALLA AND JAMUNA JORA IRRIGATION DAMS ARE OF NO USE FOR FARMERS. EXISTING CANALS ARE UNABLE TO DELIVER WATER DUE TO BAD SHAPE**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Titlagarh, August 12:** With deficient rainfall in July and August, Titlagarh area in Bolangir district is going to see a drought situation. Agriculture activities have failed to make progress with the farmlands getting dry and cracking for lack of sufficient rainfall. Paddy saplings are dying due to lack of water.

As there is no likelihood of rain in the coming days, farmers fear the spectre of drought. According to reports, normal rainfall in July should have been 360.5 mm, but it was far less. Other blocks Bangomunda, Puintala and Muribahal have also received deficit rainfall. Farmers apprehend a drought with the monsoon almost doing a vanishing act. Telltale signs of drought were found at several places where farmlands have been left cracked for want of rain.

Farmers in these areas expressed concern over the scanty rainfall. On the other hand, Bankel, Mathanpalla and Jamuna Jora irrigation dams are of no use for farming. Some areas have canals, but they are unable to deliver water due to bad shape, farmers alleged. At many places, canals have collapsed. "Mathanpalli dam has no water at this time. Lift irrigation points at some places are not working. Paddy saplings have wilted



**FACT FILE**

Reports said, normal rainfall in July should have been 360.5 mm, but it was far less. Other blocks Bangomunda, Puintala and Muribahal have also received deficit rainfall

Farmers apprehend a drought with the monsoon almost doing a vanishing act. Telltale signs of drought were found at several places where farmlands have been left cracked for want of rain

Locals in these areas expressed concern over the scanty rainfall. They lamented that irrigation facilities in the block have become defunct. Some areas have canals, but they are unable to deliver water as they are in their bad shape

and turned yellow. The situation will turn worse if the saplings don't find water immediately. In most areas where there are no irrigation facilities; paddy cultivation depends on rains," some farmers lamented. They pointed out that the area is a drought prone one. They alleged that there are two mega irrigation points, but they are unable to supply water due to faults

in the projects. "Covid-induced shutdowns and lockdowns have already affected our activities. Deficit rainfall has badly affected farming activities," farmers said. In some areas, several hectares of land were left fallow. Farmers demanded that the state government take welfare measures and do damage assessment in the area.

# VIMSAR students, docs send postcards to PM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, August 12:** The state government has proposed the second AIIMS in tribal-dominated Sundargarh district. Both the state and the central governments had earlier initiated the process for the establishment of the facility, but the efforts have slowed down, it was alleged.

Now, doctors and students of VIMSAR have pressed for setting up of the second AIIMS in Sundargarh. They have sent postcards to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take expeditious steps in this direction.

It may be noted here that people of some districts in western Odisha had staged protests for the AIIMS in their respective districts.

Hundreds of students and doctors - Ashok Panigrahi, Sanjib Mishra, Ashok Kumar Dhal, Pinak Prasad Bhal and Hemanta Patel - organised a meeting Thursday and urged the Prime Minister to take necessary steps for setting of AIIMS in Sundargarh.

## AIIMS IN SUNDARGARH



Sundargarh has various facilities like Jharsuguda Airport and Biju Expressway for connectivity. If AIIMS is set up people of other western Odisha districts, neighbouring Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh will avail of medical services

Dr Sanjib Mishra said Sundargarh district is a tribal-dominated one and tribal people will get quality healthcare services through AIIMS

The second AIIMS will bring about a change in healthcare sector in entire western Odisha

dominated one and tribal people will get quality healthcare services through AIIMS. The second AIIMS will bring about a change in healthcare sector in entire western Odisha. It may be noted here that former chief secretary Asit Tripathy had proposed the central government in 2020 for setting up of the second AIIMS in Sundargarh.

Thereafter, various outfits in different districts staged protests demanding the facilities in their districts.

In their postcards, they have mentioned that Sundargarh has various facilities like Jharsuguda Airport and Biju Expressway for connectivity, apart from good infrastructure in education and medical education. If AIIMS is

set up in the district, people of other western Odisha districts, neighbouring Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh will avail of medical services. Dr Sanjib Mishra said Sundargarh district is a tribal-

# Show cause to 3 asst teachers over dereliction of duty

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, August 12:** Show-cause notices have been issued to three assistant teachers in Ganjam district on charge of irregularities and dereliction of duty, a report said.

The teachers were identified as Madhu Charan Sethi, assistant teacher of Jharapalli Project UP School, Khitish Dash, assistant teacher of Kairasi Nodal UP School and Kishore Chandra Ghasi, assistant teacher of Komanda UP School under Khallikote block.

The block education officer has appraised the district education officer and all district project co-ordinators of the development.

The notice has been issued by Abinash Satapathy, Chhatrapur and Khallikote block education officer on behalf of the director of primary education.

The BEO, in separate letters-1791, 1795 and 1799 has issued the show-cause notices to the concerned teachers.

The teachers have been asked to file their reply to the charge within a week of the receipt of the letter. They have been warned of disciplinary action if they fail to file their reply to the letter



BLOCK EDUCATION OFFICER ABINASH SATAPATHY IN THREE SEPARATE LETTERS HAS ISSUED THE NOTICE TO THE CONCERNED TEACHERS ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

THE TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO FILE THEIR REPLY TO THE CHARGE WITHIN A WEEK OF THE RECEIPT OF THE LETTER. THEY HAVE BEEN WARNED OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION IF THEY FAIL TO FILE THEIR REPLY TO THE NOTICE WITHIN THE PERIOD

THE TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF INSTIGATING OTHER TEACHERS IN STAGING A HUNGER STRIKE WITHOUT INFORMING THE HIGHER AUTHORITIES

within the period. Moreover, their service book will also be affected, they have been warned.

The teachers have been accused of instigating other teachers in staging a hunger strike without informing the higher authorities. Irregularities and dereliction in

official duty, disobeying the higher authorities, inviting teachers and conducting meetings in alleged violation of Covid-19 protocols and frequently visiting the block education officer's office and disrupting the daily works of the officials are the charge against them.

## Burglars decamp with cash, jewellery

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Patana, August 12:** Burglars looted a house at Dianali village under Erandei panchayat in Patna block of Keonjhar district Thursday morning and decamped with ₹80,000 and gold ornaments.

Bimala Mahanta, wife of Netrananda Mahanta, was alone at their house. After finishing daily chores, she locked the door of the house and went to their farmland at the backside of their house. On her return, she found the lock broken and the door ajar. Sensing something wrong, she alerted her neighbours. In the house, she found the almirah had also been prised open and ₹80,000, a gold chain, two pairs of gold earrings, two gold rings and silver anklets missing.

## Nuapada woman eatery owner murder; 4 held



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nuapada, August 12:** The police Wednesday solved the murder case of a woman dhaba owner who was recently killed at Duajhara area. Four persons were arrested in this connection including the deceased's son-in-law, his elder brother and two other contract killers.

Nuapada police have also seized ₹90,000, four mobile phones and two bikes from their possession, a source informed.

According to sources, the deceased woman eatery owner, identified as Basanti Meher, was shot dead Saturday night following an argument with two miscreants who were in an inebriated condition. During the probe, it was as-

certained that Basanti's son-in-law Minaketan Behera and his elder brother had hatched a conspiracy and hired two contract killers for ₹6 lakh to eliminate her over a family feud.

"Family members of the woman alleged that Minaketan had been threatening to kill his mother-in-law. The prime conspirator along with his elder brother had made a deal with two supari killers and given them ₹2 lakh in advance," Nuapada SP Pratyush Diwaker said.

"Minaketan had also promised to give them ₹4 lakh more after the murder. The arrested four were forwarded to court Thursday morning. Probe into the murder case has been intensified," the SP added.

## GIRL EDUCATION GOES FOR A TOSS IN MAYURBHANJ

# KGBV upgradation in limbo despite huge funds

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, August 12:** The central government is executing universal education programme aimed at ensuring education to the needy, helpless and economically backward girl students in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) since 2004.

Crores of rupees are spent for establishment and upgradation of these schools. But upgradation programme has been caught in a stalemate in Mayurbhanj district despite allocation of huge funds, a report said.

Lack of upgradation of KGBVs has deprived the girl students of pursuing their higher studies.

According to reports, the central government issued a directive in 2018-19 to open Classes from IX to XII in these residential schools. However, many schools do not have hostels with adequate beds to accommodate students. Class-IX and Class X have been opened in almost all these schools but Class-XI and Class XII are yet to be opened. It is explained that lack of additional hostel facilities for students is the reason for not opening Class-XI and Class XII.

It was learnt that the government has allocated ₹26 crore for construction of additional hostel facilities in this tribal-dominated district. In Mayurbhanj, a majority of population belongs to tribal



## MATTER OF CONCERN

Central government issued a directive in 2018-19 to open Classes from IX to XII in KGBV residential schools. However, many schools do not have hostels with adequate beds to accommodate students

Class-IX and Class X have been opened in almost all these schools but Class-XI and Class XII are yet to be opened. Lack of additional hostel facilities for students is termed as the reason for not opening Class-XI and Class XII

**Government has allocated ₹26 crore for construction of additional hostels in this tribal-dominated district where the majority of population are from tribal communities and economically backward classes**

communities, economically backward classes. The district has 26 KGBVs where 3, 264 girl students are studying - 371 are in Class VI, 645 in Class-VII, 925 in Class-VIII, 716 in Class IX and 598 in Class-X.

Accordingly, the government has allocated ₹99.99 lakh for each additional hostel three years ago. Three years have passed, but the funds lie unutilized due to apathy of the district administration. Guardians of the KGBVs like Narottam Nayak, Sahadev Barik and Kalicharan Singh alleged that the officials concerned are not

kept on upgradation programme of these schools.

"As upper classes have not been opened, our kids have to face a lot of problems in pursuing higher studies. After completion of their studies, our children have to return home and drop out their studies. We are not able to afford to pay for higher studies," they pointed out.

Students of Class-IX like Sukumari Nayak, Phulamani Murmu and Jaba Tudu expressed concern over their fate after completion of Class-X. "As upgradation scheme has not been executed, many students of economically weaker section will drop their studies," they lamented.

When contacted, district education officer Pradosh Kumar Nayak, who is also project coordinator of the universal education programme, said that all arrangements have been made to set up additional hostels for seven KGBVs in Rairangpur sub-division while ₹7 crore has been handed over to the rural development department. Tender process will be initiated soon, he added.

Similarly, steps have been taken to build hostels for 19 KGBVs in Baripada and Karanja sub-division, he added. Zilla Parishad chairperson Sujata Murmu said the issue has been raised at the Zilla Parishad meeting, but the district administration is not keen to execute the centrally sponsored scheme.

## DEMO OVER POWER CUT



Residents of Sathipur village in Jajpur district protesting unscheduled power cuts staging a sit-in outside the electricity sub-division office at Panikoili, Thursday

# 499 kids test Covid+ve in last 10 days

In the coming weeks the number might get three times more than this, said Health dept sources

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, August 12:** As many as 499 children have tested positive for Covid-19 during the first ten days of August in Bangalore, creating a worrisome situation for parents.

According to a health bulletin, about 88 children in the age group of 0 to 9 years and 305 children between the age of 10 to 19 years have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Out of 499 cases, 263 were reported in last five days. Among these, 88 are between 0 to 9 years and 175 are between 10 and 19 years old.

The Health department has considered this development as alarming situation and has already started initiating strict measures to contain the infections.

In the coming few weeks the number might get three times more than this, sources in the Health department explain.

Parents have been advised to vaccinate themselves with two doses of Covid first and then monitor their children properly and avoiding them from crowded places.

The state is recording 1,500 plus Covid cases on an average and so far 15,919 deaths have occurred due to the virus.

At least 19 children between the ages of 0 and 9 have died and 26 children in age group of 10 to 19 have lost their lives. Hence, 45 children of the age group of 0 to 19 years have died. As many as 279 individuals of 20 to 30 age group have lost their lives to the deadly coronavirus.



## 50% ICU beds for paediatric cases

**MANGALURU:** Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is on a visit to Mangaluru to review the Covid situation, Thursday announced that 50 per cent of ICU beds in the state hospitals will be converted into paediatric ICU beds. Asked about the preparation for the third wave of Covid which is expected to hit the children, he said that the state government is already taking precautionary measures. At all hospitals in zilla panchayats, 100 plus bed hospitals in taluka panchayats and government hospitals in Bengaluru, it has been decided to convert 50 per cent of ICU beds into paediatric ICU beds, he said.

## 'VATSALYA' SCHEME TO BE REPLICATED ACROSS K'TAKA

**MANGALURU:** The 'Vatsalya' scheme launched in Udupi district for children will be replicated across Karnataka in view of the apprehensions of some experts that the third wave of Covid-19 may affect kids most, Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai said Thursday. In Udupi, 'Vatsalya' (meaning affection) scheme has been launched. The same has to be implemented in Mangaluru and across the State. In the next one and half months a health checkup of all the children will be carried out. Such camps should be held in every school of the state. If there is any shortcoming in the nutrition then it should be improved, Bommai told reporters here. He opined that the nutrition intake is low among a section of children from economically weaker sections and rural areas leading to their under-growth, lack of immunity, and malnourishment. In order to identify them, health camps have to be organised. If there is any shortcoming in the nutrition then it should be improved, Bommai added. He added that some medical experts are of the view that the third wave may hit children the most. Hence, a special drive will be launched under 'Vatsalya'. Bommai said he would hold a meeting with experts next week as part of efforts to contain Covid-19.

# Doorstep assistance scheme for the aged, disabled and destitute



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 12:** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Thursday announced a 'doorstep assistance' scheme under which senior citizens unable to go out due to their age, those bedridden as well as destitute and disabled persons would be provided various services like social security pension and emergency medicines at their place of residence.

To start with, a lifetime certificate, preparation of an application for assistance from the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, social security pension, delivery of emergency medicines and palliative care would be the services provided under the scheme, the CM said and added that other services

**To start with, a lifetime certificate, preparation of an application for assistance from the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, social security pension, delivery of emergency medicines and palliative care would be the services provided under the scheme**

would be added subsequently. The first phase of the scheme, which would commence from September, will be implemented in areas under 50 local bodies and based on the gov-

ernment's experience it would be extended to the entire state in December, he said in a release.

Explaining how the scheme would be implemented, the release said that in all Local Self Government Institutions, a committee consisting of an accredited social health activist (ASHA), a Kudumbasree representative and volunteers under the chairmanship of the Ward member will carry out the work of providing the services. The Asha workers will have the primary responsibility of contacting those in need of service, the release said, adding that those in need of the service can contact the committee members by phone. For this, a card containing the phone numbers of the committee members will be issued, it said.

Akshaya centres and volunteers will be available to assist the Asha workers. The LSGs would be responsible for locating the volunteers by using a transparent methodology, the CM said and he directed the Health department to ensure that the medicines required by each person are available locally. He also said that the progress of the door-to-door service activities should be regularly reviewed at the district-level and at the level of the LSGs and added that the District Collector and the District Planning Committee will have a crucial role to play in the implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

# BJP MLA protests own party govt's apathy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, August 12:** Ruling BJP MLA from Mudigere MP Kumaraswamy Thursday staged a protest accusing his own party's government in Karnataka of neglecting his constituency that has been ravaged by torrential rains, floods and landslides over the past few years.

He staged a protest alone, with a placard, in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue at Vidhana Soudha, the seat of the state legislature and secretariat here.

In 2019 we had heavy rains and about six people were washed away along with their houses and it took



fifteen days to search for their bodies, several houses and coffee plantations were destroyed due to landslides, we asked for compensation, we were completely neglected, we remained quiet, Kumaraswamy said.

Noting that the situation continued last year and this year too, he said, I did not want to question why other constituencies are being considered and we were not, but one name I will take- Shivamogga city- was considered for relief under NDRF norms, but Mudigere which is a hilly area that comes amid western Ghats and receives heavy rains, was left out.

Pointing out that in 2018 when HD Kumaraswamy of the JD(S) was the Chief Minister, he had given grants and had promised to help in other ways, following his appeal on the social media not to neglect Mudigere constituency, the MLA said, but now despite our

own party being in power we are neglected every year.

My constituency is facing a tough situation, we are facing floods every year, we have requested it to be declared as rain and flood prone area. There are seven to eight panchayats here that come under Western Ghats region, but the government is not declaring it rain and flood prone. They are completely neglecting us, he added.

The protest by MLA against his own party government is being seen as an example for simmering discontent within the ruling BJP, after the recent cabinet formation exercise by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

# Let Cong open 'Nehru Hookah bar' at its office: Ravi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, August 12:** Reiterating his demand to rename Indira Canteens as Annapoorneshwari Canteen, BJP National General Secretary CT Ravi Thursday said; let Congress open the Indira Canteen or Nehru Hookah Bar at its office.

Alleging that there was pure politics behind naming the canteens after late former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, he said the BJP doesn't have prejudice to reject everything she and her father Jawaharlal Nehru, the first PM of the country, did, as both have contributed to the nation.

Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar, while recounting the contributions of Nehru

and Indira Gandhi for the country, hit back at the BJP national General Secretary and asked him to speak responsibly. "We don't have prejudice to reject every stand taken by Indira (Indira Gandhi). Nehru and Indira Gandhi have contributed to this nation. But to say only that family contributed to the nation is something only slaves will agree with," Ravi said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said 217 schemes have been named after the Nehru-Gandhi family, and sought to know if others haven't contributed to the nation. Defending his suggestion to rename Indira canteen as Annapoorneshwari canteen, Ravi, who is MLA from Chikmagalur said, "Annapoorneshwari is not a political name, she's a goddess of



food and we pray to her as part of our culture. In the Congress office, let them open the Indira Canteen or

Nehru Hookah Bar...Let them open. Who will object?" But, let them not use it to play politics. That's why I said the canteens have to be renamed as Annapoorneshwari canteen, he said.

Launched in 2017, the Indira Canteen, which was the pet project of then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, serves highly subsidised food. These canteens serve breakfast for five rupees and lunch and dinner for ten rupees. Pointing out that Indira Gandhi was assassinated in 1984, Ravi asked whether canteens in her name were started in 2017 out of love. "No, it was for pure politics. Why didn't Congress open the canteens when it was in power between 1989 and 1994, 1999-2006, 2013-2017. They did it for politics and to make money," he said.

# Kerala not opening its cinemas anytime soon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 12:** Despite a number of blockbusters lined up for Onam release, with Covid still raging in Kerala and the daily number of new cases touching as high as 52 per cent of the total daily cases reported nationally, the Pinarayi Vijayan government has decided not to open the movie halls anytime soon.

The Onam season starts from next week. The big names waiting include Mohanlal starrer Marakkal Lion of the Arabian Sea, which has already won a number of awards. State Minister for Culture and Cinema Saji Cherian said it will not be possible to open the movie halls as the daily positivity rate touched 15 per cent, only the other day.

So with the TPR continuing to remain high we will not be able to allow permission for movie halls to open. Let us wait for the TPR to fall below 8 per cent and once it does, we will decide then. We all know that



the entire film industry here is struggling, but what can be done, we all have to be patient. Perhaps by December, we are expecting everything to be normal, said Cherian.

The Covid pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the Malayalam film industry and according to industry sources close to 100 films are ready for release with around Rs 800 crore investment stuck.

# Flower growers, vendors decry ban on garland, bouquet

The Karnataka government Tuesday had issued a circular banning the practice of giving garland, shawls, flower bouquets, fruit baskets and memorabilia at government events, following directions from CM Bommai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, August 12:** Flower growers and vendors Thursday protested at the city's international flower auction market demanding the immediate withdrawal of the ban on the practice of giving garland, flower bouquets at government events.

They said it will put a burden on the state's floriculture farmers, recovering from the hardship due to

coronavirus. The Karnataka government Tuesday had issued a circular banning the practice of giving garland, shawls, flower bouquets, fruit baskets and memorabilia at government events, following directions from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and had said Kannada books can be given instead.

TM Aravind, President of the South India Floriculture Association said the decision will affect the families of thousands of farmers engaged in flower cultivation in the state covering 7,500 hectares.

Noting that there was no scientific thinking behind this decision, he said, "With this ban the flower growers who are already suffering from hardship due to pandemic will be further affected. Farmers who have been affected by lack of public meetings for a year may be driven to commit suicide. Crores of rupees were involved in floriculture."

Representatives of state's florists



and farmers' organisations involved in floriculture participated in the protest, holding bouquets, garlands and fruit baskets. Srikanth Bollapalli, President of the Flower Council of India, said, floriculture is being carried out in GreenHouse on 7,500 hectares, besides flowers are also grown on many acres in the

informal sector. There are about six people working on an acre and about 15 people on a hectare. Bangalore is a major hub of the country's flower industry, with flowers exported from Bangalore within the country and abroad, he said, as he termed the ban as inappropriate.

## Guard of honour to be done away with

After doing away with the practice of giving bouquets, garlands, and memorabilia at government events, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai said Thursday that he would soon issue an order banning guard of honour given to him and other ministers at every district and public places during their visits. "I have said that there is no need for a Guard of Honour at airports and other public places. It is not required at the district level every time I visit. I will issue a direction soon after going to Bangalore tomorrow," Bommai told reporters. According to government sources, Bommai asked officials in Mangaluru that there was no need for such 'pompous show'.





The Central government, adopting a very irresponsible and insensitive attitude, refused to accept that there were any deaths due to lack of oxygen in the country but has now started asking for data from the states after being rebuked by the court  
MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

## MAMATA BANERJEE ALLEGES POLITICALLY MOTIVATED QUESTIONS IN CAPF EXAM

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee came down heavily on the Centre for alleged "politically motivated" questions asked at the CAPF (central armed police force) recruitment examination and said it proved that BJP has politicised the central forces to serve its political interests



### of the day quote

We need to identify areas where animal conflicts exist. We will have to visit local areas while framing a policy to address these issues  
BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

A voice of poor, Dalits, farmers and workers will be heard in the country. It will gather momentum gradually and turn into a storm that will throw Narendra Modi out of Prime Minister's residence  
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

₹50,000 will be given to homeowners whose homes have received minor damage due to floods  
PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

### SHORT TAKES

#### Six Manipur militants killed

New Delhi: At least six members of Manipur based outlawed outfit Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) have been killed and three injured in a factional battle in Myanmar, officials said Thursday claiming that the number of slain extremists might be eight. Security and intelligence officials familiar with the northeast India militant outfits said that six or eight PLA guerrillas were gunned down by their fellow cadres when the slain rebels tried to flee the Myanmar camp "out of frustration" Tuesday.

#### Teen drowns off Goa beach

Panaji: The Goa Police Thursday issued a public appeal urging people not to share photos of the remains of a 19-year-old girl, who was found in a semi-naked state on the popular Calangute beach earlier in the day. The deceased, a resident of Nachinola village in North Goa, was missing since Wednesday morning and a complaint was filed by her father with the local police station.

#### 22 Bills passed: Govt

New Delhi: The Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs Thursday said that altogether 22 Bills were passed in the Monsoon Session of Parliament which was adjourned sine die Wednesday. This Session provided 17 sittings spread over a period of 24 days, though, it was originally scheduled to have 19 sittings from July 19 to August 13, 2021, was curtailed due to continuous disruptions in both the Houses of the Parliament.

## Chandrayaan-2 orbiter detects water molecules on Moon

According to the researchers, the formation of hydroxyl or water molecules occurs due to a process called space weathering, which is when the solar winds blow over the lunar surface

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, August 12: Chandrayaan-2, ISRO's second lunar mission, has detected the presence of water molecules on the Moon, data obtained from the mission has revealed. In a paper co-authored by A S Kirankumar, former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman, said imaging infrared spectrometre (IIRS) is one of the payloads on-board Chandrayaan-2, which is placed in a 100 km polar orbit to acquire global scientific data. "The initial data analysis from IIRS, clearly demonstrates the presence of widespread lunar hydration and unambiguous de-



tection of OH and H2O signatures on the Moon between 29°N and 62°N lat., after incorporating physics-based thermal correction to reflectance data," the paper which was published in Current Science journal said. Plagioclase-rich rocks have been found to have higher OH (hydroxyl) or possibly H2O (water) molecules when compared to the mare regions, which were

found to have more dominance of OH at higher surface temperature, it said. The development also assumes significance considering that Chandrayaan-2 did not yield desired results. Planned to land on the South Pole of the Moon, Chandrayaan-2 was launched July 22. However, lander Vikram hard-landed September 7, crashing India's dream to become the first nation to successfully land on the lunar surface in its maiden attempt. The orbiter of the mission is working fine and has been sending data to Chandrayaan-1, the first lunar mission, and showed evidence that there was water on the Moon, the paper said.

## Twitter blocks Cong's official handles, several leaders' accounts

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, August 12: The Congress alleged Thursday that its official Twitter handle as well as that of a large number of party leaders and workers have been blocked by the microblogging website, which justified the action saying it has been done for violating rules.

The development comes close on the heels of the blocking of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Twitter handle after he shared pictures of the family of a nine-year-old alleged rape-and-murder victim in Delhi last week in violation of laws. Twitter, on its part, said the blocking of the accounts of several Congress leaders, including that of Gandhi, was done to protect individual privacy and safety after they posted images that violated its rules.

The Congress accused the website of acting under pressure from the government. The chief spokesperson of the party, Randeep Surjewala, said the Narendra Modi government will not be able to suppress their voice by threatening Twitter. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi accused Twitter of colluding with the government to stifle democracy. On Instagram, the Congress said: "Twitter India has locked the official handle of the principal opposition party. This is an unprecedented attack on the voice of the people. The Twitter accounts of All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretaries Surjewala, K C Venugopal, Harish Rawat, Ajay Maken, the party's whip in the Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore, Assam in-charge and former Union minister Jitendra Singh and Mahila Congress president Sushmita Dev have also been blocked, the party said.

## Govt, Opposition blame each other



Parliament Disruptions  
New Delhi, August 12: The government and opposition parties were involved in a slanging slugfest Thursday over curtailing of the Monsoon Session of the Parliament. The government accused the Opposition of 'literally threatening that if (the government attempts to pass more) bill, there will be even more damage done'. The Opposition on the other hand marched in protest against the government on several issues, including Pegasus, farm laws and alleged manhandling of their MPs in Rajya Sabha.

behaviour of some opposition members in the House. "For the first time in Rajya Sabha MPs were beaten up, after bringing people from outside," alleged Rahul. "It is the Chairman's and Speaker's responsibility to run the House," he added. Meanwhile, the government represented by seven ministers blamed the Opposition for unruly scenes witnessed during the Monsoon Session. They said the Rajya Sabha Chairman must take the strongest possible action against those who broke the rules. Addressing a joint press conference, they also accused the opposition leaders of manhandling marshals. Union Minister Piyush Goyal said that the Opposition's approach of "my way or highway is highly condemnable" and the India also condemns such attitude. So the opposition leaders must univocally apologise to the nation.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the voice of people was crushed in Parliament and democracy was 'murdered'. The opposition protest evoked a furious response from the government which pressed into service an array of seven ministers. Top leaders of several opposition parties met in the chamber of Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge and then walked in protest from Parliament House to Vijay Chowk. Those who attended the meeting included Rahul, Sharad Pawar, Kharge, Sanjay Raut, Tiruchi Siva, Manoj Jha and a few others. They met Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and complained against the alleged heckling and manhandling of MPs including some women. A couple of hours later in the day, some Union Ministers also met Naidu and complained against the alleged unruly

The Secretary General's table in Rajya Sabha is not meant for dancing and protesting, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said. He was referring to an incident when an opposition leader was seen above a table inside the upper house of Parliament. Condemning the Opposition's behaviour in the just-concluded Monsoon Session of the Parliament, the government Thursday demanded the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha to take strictest possible action against the unruly members of Opposition, who should apologise to the nation for their conduct.

## Several hundred crores lost: ISRO

The GISAT-1/EOS-03, with a life span of 10 years, would have been the country's first eye in the sky or earth observation satellite to be placed in geostationary orbit

AGENCIES  
Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh), August 12: Indian space programme suffered a serious setback Thursday as its GSLV-F10 rocket failed midway in its mission of putting into orbit the Geo-Imaging Satellite-1 (GISAT-1). The rocket's cryogenic engine did not fire up to complete the mission, said the Indian space agency. Along with the rocket, the 2,268 kg GISAT-1/EOS-03 communication satellite carried by the rocket, both valued over several hundred crore of rupees, revenue opportunity for 10 years, were also lost.



to be probed by ISRO, whether a faulty component was the reason. Earlier in a GSLV rocket that went up, a component with higher dimension than what was designed was fixed and the rocket failed. The Indian space agency does not insure its rockets and satellites launched from the country.

The GISAT-1/EOS-03, with a life span of 10 years, would have been the country's first eye in the sky or earth observation satellite to be placed in geostationary orbit. Announcing the mission failure, K Sivan, Chairman, ISRO said: "The mission cannot be fully accomplished because of a technical anomaly observed in the cryogenic stage." Later, the ISRO in a statement said: "GSLV-F10 launch

## Muslim man thrashed, asked to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'

AGENCIES  
Kanpur (UP), August 12: A Muslim man was assaulted in the public and allegedly asked to chant "Jai Shri Ram" even as his minor daughter tried to save him, said police here Thursday. A one-minute video of the incident surfaced on social media on Wednesday. The 45-year-old man is seen being assaulted by some men, who ask him to chant "Jai Shri Ram". Some policemen took the man to their Jeep. The footage also shows the man being hit while in police custody. Deputy Police Commissioner (South) Raveena Tyagi said the matter came to the fore at the Kacchi Basti locality near the Ram Gopal crossing in the Barra area of Kanpur on Wednesday. "On the complaint of the victim, we have lodged an FIR and legal action is under way," she said in a statement.

## GEARING UP



Tamil Nadu Women Commando Force contingent during a rehearsal for the 75th Independence Day celebrations in Chennai

## CONCERNED OVER SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN, SAYS INDIA

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, August 12: India Thursday said the situation in Afghanistan is of concern and that it continues to hope for a comprehensive ceasefire to end violence in that country. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi also said India is in touch with all the stakeholders in Afghanistan and closely monitoring the ground situation in the war-ravaged country. At a media briefing, Bagchi said India attended a regional conference on Afghanistan in Doha on Thursday at the invitation of Qatar. "The situation in Afghanistan is of concern. It is a rapidly evolving situation. We continue to hope that there will be a comprehensive ceasefire in Afghanistan," he said in a statement. Asked about Pakistan's continued support to the Taliban, Bagchi said the international community is well aware of that country's role.

India has also been calling upon all sections of the political spectrum in Afghanistan to work together to meet the aspirations of all people in the country

The Taliban has been making rapid advances across Afghanistan by resorting to widespread violence since the United States began withdrawing its troops from the country May 1. The US has already pulled back the majority of its forces and is looking to complete the draw-down by August 31. India has been engaged with a number of stakeholders and leading powers on the latest developments in Afghanistan. It has been supporting a national peace and reconciliation process that is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled.

## COVID THIRD WAVE

## 'Majority of citizens confident about preparedness'

AGENCIES  
New Delhi, August 12: As many as 58 per cent of citizens surveyed feel confident that India is well prepared to handle the third wave of Covid, LocalCircles said Thursday.



India is well-prepared to handle the 3rd Covid wave in the coming months," LocalCircles said in a statement. This is a marked shift from March

2021 when LocalCircles had asked citizens about India's ability to handle the second Covid wave. Back then, only 41 per cent had exuded confidence in India's ability to ef-

fectively handle the second wave. The survey also asked respondents on how they foresee economic recovery from the impact of Covid in the next one year.

This question in the survey received 11,081 responses, of which 33 per cent said they are hopeful that the economy "will recover completely and surpass pre-Covid 2019-20 GDP level". About 11 per cent of the respondents said it "will recover completely but not surpass pre-Covid 2019-20 level". On an aggregate basis, 3 in 4 Indians foresee India that will be able to drive significant economic recovery from Covid within the next one year before it completes 75 years of Independence, LocalCircles said. The survey also found that confidence levels about India being able to leverage demographic dividend and create enough jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities has dropped to an all-time low.

**3,87,987 ACTIVE CASES**  
India logged 41,195 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,20,77,706, while the active cases increased to 3,87,987, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated Thursday. The death toll climbed to 4,29,669 with 490 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

To the similar question asked in the 2018 and 2019 surveys or before the Covid-19 hit India, 35 per cent of citizens had said they were confident about India creating a lot of new employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. This percentage declined to 31 per cent in the 2020 survey, and is currently at 26 per cent.

# international

## of the day quote

The climate crisis — I'd like to use this term, and not climate change — the climate crisis is here. We are in the middle of August and it's clear we will have difficult days ahead of us

Palestinian armed groups during the May fighting flagrantly violated the laws-of-war prohibition on indiscriminate attacks by launching thousands of unguided rockets towards Israeli cities

The US should honour its commitment, stop meddling in China's internal affairs under the pretext of Tibetan affairs, offer no support to the Tibetan independence forces to engage in anti-China separatist activities

## SHORT TAKES

### Pak blames India, Af for July 14 blast

Islamabad: Pakistan Thursday alleged that India and Afghanistan were behind last month's suicide attack on a shuttle bus in the country's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that killed 13 people, including nine Chinese engineers. The bomb attack took place in the Dasu area of Upper Kohistan district where a Chinese company is building a 4,300-megawatt hydropower project on the Indus river. At least 13 people were killed when the bus carrying Chinese engineers and workers to the site of the under-construction Dasu Dam exploded July 14. The bus fell into a deep ravine after the explosion.

### Flash floods kill nine in Turkey

Istanbul: Nine people were killed in flash floods in Kastamonu in Turkey's Black Sea region that sent water and debris gushing through streets and damaged bridges, authorities said Thursday. There was also flooding in the Black Sea provinces of Sinop and Bartin, where one person went missing on Wednesday and another died due to a heart attack, according to state broadcaster TRT Haber. More than 900 people were evacuated from the areas affected in the three provinces.

### Tourist helicopter crashes in Russia

Moscow: A helicopter carrying tourists plunged into a deep volcanic crater lake on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's Far East early Thursday, and rescue workers were searching in the lake for up to eight people missing, officials said. At least eight others reportedly survived. The Mi-8 helicopter sank in Kurile Lake, which was formed in a volcano caldera and crater and is located in the Kronotsky nature reserve.

### B'desh nabs three neo-JMB members

Dhaka: The Bangladesh Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes Unit (CTTCU) has arrested three neo-JMB members, including Jahid Hasan alias Forkan, a bomb expert who used to conduct online training on making explosives. The members of the CTTCU nabbed Forkan, also a student of Jahangirnagar University (JU), and two of his aides during a drive at Kafrul Police Station area in Dhaka on the night of August 10.



The drills are a rehearsal for war and prove the US is responsible for destabilising the situation. We will also boost cooperation between North Korea and Russia with the view to counter the US, a common threat

## BIDEN THANKS HARRIS

US President Joe Biden has thanked Kamala Harris for her work as Vice President, saying he couldn't have asked for a better partner and friend than her. Biden, a Democrat, recalled that he had picked Harris as his running mate August 11 one year ago



## Ship splits into two off Japan coast, spills oil



AGENCIES Tokyo, August 12: A Panamanian-registered ship ran aground in a northern Japan harbour, then split in two and was leaking oil, but there were no injuries among the 21 crew and the oil leak was being controlled with no signs it had reached shore, the Japan Coast Guard said.

The 39,910-tonne vessel, the "Crimson Polaris," was carrying wood chips when it ran aground on Wednesday morning in Hachinohe harbour. It managed to free itself, but due to poor weather was unable to move far and ended up anchoring about 4 km (2.4 miles) out from the port. The vessel, which was at the end of a voyage from Thailand, split in two early Thursday, the

Coast Guard said. An oil slick 5.1 km long by about 1 km wide was visible later in the day, but containment measures were being taken by patrol boats. The vessel's two parts have not moved and are being closely monitored by patrol boats, and by late afternoon there had been no apparent major change in its situation, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

## SQUEEZING KABUL

# Taliban capture third largest city

The seizure of Herat marks the biggest prize yet for the Taliban, who have taken 11 of Afghanistan's 34 provincial capitals



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kabul, August 12: The Taliban captured Afghanistan's third-largest city and a strategic provincial capital near Kabul Thursday, further squeezing the country's embattled government just weeks before the end of the American military mission there. Taliban fighters rushed past the Great Mosque in the historic city — which dates to 500 BC and was once a spoil of Alexander the Great — and seized government buildings. Witnesses described hearing sporadic gunfire at one government building while the rest of the city fell silent under the insurgents' control.

The capture of Ghazni, meanwhile, cuts off a crucial highway linking the Afghan capital with the country's southern provinces. While Kabul itself isn't directly under threat yet, the losses and the battles elsewhere further tighten the grip of a resurgent Taliban, who are estimated to now hold over two-thirds of the nation and are continuing to pressure government forces in several other provincial capitals. Thousands of people have fled their homes amid fears the Taliban

## Af govt offers 'share in power'

The Afghan government has offered the Taliban a share in power so long as the rising violence in the country comes to a halt, Al Jazeera reported Thursday, citing a government source. The proposal was delivered through Qatar, the host of Afghan peace talks, according to the source. In another development, the head of the High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR), Abdullah Abdullah, presented to the members of Troika-plus the scheme of Afghan government for winding up the ongoing war in Afghanistan. Abdullah said the Afghan government is committed to end the ongoing conflicts through negotiations. Abdullah further added that the major powers of the world along with the Afghans want an independent and united Afghanistan which is free of terrorism.

will again impose a brutal, repressive government, all but eliminating women's rights and conducting public amputations, stonings and executions.

## RULE OF LAW GOVERNANCE

# CPC mulls law-based control

The announcement signals that a crackdown on industry with regard to privacy, data management, anti-trust, and other issues will persist on through the year



## BLUEPRINT FOR 2025

CPC would improve legislation around public health by amending the infectious disease law. Better legislation for areas including education, race and religion and biosecurity was also on the cards. Authorities will aim to develop laws consistent with new sectors such as the digital economy, internet finance, artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing.

## AGENCIES

Beijing, August 12: China will draft new laws on national security, technology innovation, monopolies and education, as well as in areas involving foreigners, the national leadership said in a document published late Wednesday.

The Chinese Communist Party and the government said in a blueprint for the five years to 2025, published by the state-run Xinhua news agency, that they would also improve legislation around public health by amending the infectious disease law and the "frontier health and quarantine law". Regulations dealing with food

and medicine, natural resources, industrial safety production, urban governance, transport, would also be strictly enforced, they said. They additionally laid out directives for the prevention and resolution of social conflicts and reiterated an order for officials to "nip conflicts in the bud".

The government has in recent months reined in tech giants with anti-monopoly or data security rules and clamped down on tutoring companies, as the state increases its control of the economy and society. Thursday, state-media outlet the Securities Times reported that banking regulators would step up scrutiny of online insurance companies in an effort to "purify the market environment" and "protect the legal interests of consumers".

Authorities used a law aimed at responding to foreign sanctions for the first time last month to sanction former US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and imposed a national security law on the special region of Hong Kong last year, employing legal means to protect interests beyond the mainland border. President Xi Jinping has made "rule of law governance" a signature of his rule, which will be extended if, as expected, he seeks a third term next year.

## 'US prefers India, uses Pak to settle Af mess'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 12: Taking a jab at the US, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Washington sees Pakistan as "useful" only for clearing the "mess" it has left behind in Afghanistan after 20 years of fighting and prefers India when it comes to forming a "strategic partnership". "Pakistan is just considered only to be useful in the context of somehow settling this mess which has been left behind after 20 years of trying to find a military solution when there was not one," Imran Khan told foreign journalists at his home in Islamabad Wednesday.

Islamabad is unhappy that Joe Biden has not spoken to Imran Khan since he assumed the US Presidency in January. Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf recently expressed disappointment over

President Biden's reluctance to contact PM Khan despite considering Islamabad as an important country in some critical issues like Afghanistan.

At the meeting with foreign journalists, Imran Khan said that a political solution to the Afghan problem was difficult as the Taliban was not ready to talk with the Kabul government as long as President Ashraf Ghani is there.

He said the Taliban told him during a visit that the Ghani government was allegedly a "puppet". "The condition is that as long as Ashraf Ghani is there, we (Taliban) are not going to talk to the Afghan government," Imran Khan quoted the Taliban as saying. Prime Minister Khan also reiterated that Pakistan wouldn't provide bases to the US forces after the drawdown. Though it was unclear if the US formally asked for the facility.

## SIGH OF RELIEF



A woman receives cash assistance from the government following the imposition of two-week lockdown to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus Delta variant in the Philippines

## Booster for weakened immune systems: Fauci

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, August 12: Dr Anthony Fauci says an additional Covid-19 booster shot will be recommended for previously vaccinated people with weakened immune systems.

He told NBC's "Today" show Thursday that he expects the booster recommendation to come "imminently". Fauci says for other vaccinated groups, such as the elderly data is being collected to determine if or when their protection goes "below a critical level" and "that's when you're going to be hearing about the implementation of boosters" for others. The expert says "at this moment, other than the immune compromised, we're not going to be giving boosters."

Fauci says "inevitably there will be a time when we'll have to get boosts because no vaccine, at least not within this category, is going to have an indefinite amount of protection."

# NZ sets out plan for opening borders next year

THE PLAN WILL ALLOW THE COUNTRY TO CAPTURE THE OPPORTUNITIES VACCINATION BRINGS, WHILE PROTECTING THE GAINS NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE WORKED SO HARD FOR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Wellington, August 12: The New Zealand government unveiled Thursday a framework for re-opening borders next year and moving to an individualized risk-based model for quarantine-free travel, while using the second half of 2021 to vaccinate as many New Zealanders as possible.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told a forum on Reconnecting New Zealanders to the World that the country will "safely conduct a self-isolation trial for vaccinated New Zealanders in order to prepare for a phased resumption of quarantine-free travel." The release of the plan followed

the publication of the Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group's advice to the government Wednesday, the Xinhua news agency reported.

"Getting vaccinated is the number one thing everyone can do to be protected against Covid-19, help accelerate our economic recovery, reduce the risk of lockdowns, and safely allow New Zealand's borders to begin re-opening next year," Ardern said. The prime minister said the plan was informed by "the best available scientific evidence and public health advice," adding it will allow the country to capture the opportunities vaccination brings, while protecting the gains New



Zealanders have worked so hard for. "Key to this is maintaining our Elimination Strategy. The advice is clear: If we open our borders now, we will lose the freedoms

## RISK-BASED APPROACH

- HIGH-RISK PATHWAY WILL SEE THE CONTINUATION OF A FULL 14 DAYS IN MANAGED ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE (MIQ) AND TESTING FOR ANY TRAVELLER
MEDIUM-RISK PATHWAY WOULD INCLUDE A COMBINATION OF SELF-ISOLATION AND/OR REDUCED MIQ FOR VACCINATED TRAVELLERS
LOW-RISK PATHWAY WILL PERMIT QUARANTINE FREE ENTRY FOR VACCINATED TRAVELLERS WHO HAVE BEEN IN LOW-RISK COUNTRIES

and advantages we have achieved so far," she said. Ardern stressed the first step

in the plan is speeding up the vaccination process to "ensure everyone is at least partially vaccinated as soon as possible" to reduce the risk and impact of Delta entering the country.

Period between doses was extended to six weeks from Thursday. Those who work at the border, have underlying health conditions or wish to be fully vaccinated sooner can still get their second dose after three weeks, according to the Ministry of Health. Once enough people are vaccinated, the government will be able to start a phased introduction of an individual risk-based approach to border settings in 2022.



# Rahul ton propels India

Becomes 10th Indian batsman to score a century at the iconic Lord's as India reach 276/3 at stumps on the opening day of the second Test against England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 12: KL Rahul (127 batting, 248b, 12x4, 1x6) scored a splendid century to help India reach 276/3 at stumps on the opening day of the second Test against England at the Lord's here, Thursday.

With this feat, Rahul became the 10th Indian batsman to achieve the feat – scoring a Test ton at the iconic ground known as the 'Home of Cricket'. Vinoo Mankad (1952), Dilip Vengsarkar (1979, 1982, 1986), Gundappa Biswanath (1979), current India head coach Ravi Shastri (1990), Mohammed Azharuddin (1990), Sourav Ganguly (1996), Ajit Agarkar (2002), Rahul Dravid (2011) and Ajinkya Rahane (2014) have their names in the elite list.

Rahul was accompanied by Rahane (1 batting) at stumps, after a solid 117-run stand between Rahul and skipper Virat Kohli (42, 103b, 3x4) was broken by Ollie Robinson (1/47) with the second new ball. James Anderson (2/52) took the other two wickets.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma (83, 145b, 11x4, 1x6) blended caution with aggression en route his highest overseas Test score as India gained early advantage, reaching 157/2 at tea.

Put in to bat at the Lord's, the Indian opening pair of Rahul and Rohit negated the overcast conditions on a good batting surface during the visiting team's first century opening stand since the tour of 2007. They added 126 for the opening stand to set up a much-needed foundation for India.

It needed a magic delivery from veteran Anderson, who got a 43-over old Dukes ball to jag back viciously and literally cut the batsman into half, ending Rohit's dreams of a maiden Test hundred in a SENA country.



ROHIT SHARMA

The out-of-form Cheteshwar Pujara (9) was also snuffed out by Anderson before tea to bring some cheer in the English camp.

It was an enticing first hour but the Indian openers displayed impressive technique and, more than anything else, appreciable temperament to tackle Anderson and Robinson's testing new ball spells.

Both Rohit and Rahul battled their minds to leave most of the deliveries on the 'fourth off-stump' channel. Both didn't fiddle much with those incoming deliveries and knew where their off-stump was and covered the swing.

If Rohit left it alone at times not offering any stroke, Rahul would present a dead bat but keep it close to his body, which ensured that he negated the maximum chance of getting a nick. The first 10 overs yielded only 11 runs but not for one moment did one feel bored or bogged down.

The first boundary came in the

13th over bowled by Sam Curran. Having done all the hard work during that first hour, Rohit understood the urgency to get a move on in the scoreboard and, in Curran's next over, smashed four boundaries.

Mark Wood, the world's fastest pacer, was brought after lunch but this time Rohit's mistimed pull-shot fetched him a six and 'chinese cut' got him a boundary. Rohit kept the scoreboard moving and allowed Rahul to take 100-odd balls to reach 20 but confidence is infectious.

Rahul, who was unable to get a boundary for more than 100 balls, suddenly stepped out and hit Ali over long-off for a six. Once Rohit left the scene, Rahul upped the ante and finished the session with a glowing cover-drive.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India 276/3 (KL Rahul 127 batting, Rohit Sharma 83; James Anderson 2/52) vs England. Match to continue.

## 54-MEMBER CONTINGENT LEAVE FOR TOKYO PARALYMPICS

# Warm send-off for Team India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: A 54-member Indian team for the upcoming Tokyo Paralympics was on Thursday accorded a warm send-off by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and the national governing body, with high hopes that the country will return with its best ever performance.

The team has some of the brightest medal prospects like Devendra Jhajharia, seeking his third Paralympics gold (after 2004 and 2016) in F-46 javelin throw, Mariyappan Thangavelu (T-63 high jump) and world champion Sandeep Choudhary (F-64 javelin throw). India will compete in nine sports.

Mariyappan, who had won a gold in the last edition in Rio, will be the flag bearer of the Indian contingent during the opening ceremony on August 24. The Tokyo Paralympics will end September 5.

The Tokyo-bound players were part of the event virtually as they are in strict bio-bubble. "The ambition and self-confidence of our para athletes give inspiration to 1.3 billion Indians. In front of their courage, the biggest of challenges bow. And they deserve every bit of it," Thakur said in a video message.

"The number of our para athletes participating in the upcoming Games is three times bigger than the last edition. I have full faith in your abilities. I believe that your performance too will be better than last time." He said it's a matter of great pride and satisfaction that para athletes have so far won three Khel Ratna, seven Padma Shri and 33 Arjuna awards.

"It's not easy at all but your hard work, the desire to win and your passion translate all the challenges into triumphs. I know when you go to Tokyo Games, you will go with only



Odisha para shuttler Prasanna Prasad is among the medal hopefuls

one thought – to better India's ranking in the medals tally from before." Thakur said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done his best to motivate the country's athletes before and during the Tokyo Olympics and will do the same for the para athletes also.

India achieved its best ever performance in the Paralympic Games in the 2016 Rio Games with two gold, one silver and one bronze medal. PCI president Deepa Malik, who herself had won a silver medal in shot put at Rio 2016 Games, said, "The games will not be the same again after Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. We are going to see a record haul of medals as our athletes are in prime form."

PCI secretary general Gursharan Singh will be the chef de mission of the Indian team. Badminton will make its debut at the Paralympic Games, which will feature as many as seven Indian shuttlers. India will start its campaign August 27, with men's and women's archery events.

# Nat'l Sports Awards function pushed back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: The National Sports Awards function, which is held August 29 every year, has been pushed back since the government wants the selection panel to consider the performances of the para athletes competing in the Tokyo Paralympics. The Paralympics will hold from August 24 and conclude September 5.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said the selection panel for picking the award winners has been formed but they would prefer to wait for some more time before going ahead with the selection process.

"National sports award committee has been formed for this year but Paralympics are yet to be held so we want to add winners from paralympic also. I hope and wish they will perform really well," Thakur said during the National Youth Awards function.

The awards – the Khel Ratna Award, the Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award and the Dhyanchand Award – are given away each year by the country's president August 29, the National Sports Day which is also the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyanchand.

"Like last time, this year's award ceremony could also be held virtually," a ministry source told this agency. The process of nominations for the national honours ended

July 5 after two extensions. The applicants were allowed to self-nominate online in view of the pandemic but national federations have also sent their preferences.

The Indian contingent produced its best ever performance at the recently concluded Tokyo Games where country's athletes won seven medals, including a gold, two silver and four bronze medals.

India is sending its biggest-ever contingent of 54 para-athletes to Tokyo. At the last Paralympics, the Indian athletes returned with a haul of four medals, including two gold, a silver and a bronze.

The Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting honour, was recently renamed after hockey wizard Major Dhyanchand. The award was earlier named after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The prize money for the sports awards was increased substantially last year. The Khel Ratna Award now comes with a reward of ₹25 lakh, much higher than the previous amount of ₹7.5 lakh.

The cash reward for Arjuna award has been enhanced to ₹15 lakh from ₹5 lakh, the Dronacharya (Lifetime) awardees, who were earlier given ₹5 lakh, are now being given ₹15 lakh.

Dronacharya (Regular) get ₹10 lakh instead of ₹5 lakh per awardee, while Dhyanchand Awardees are being given ₹10 lakh instead of ₹5 lakh.

# BLUES SINK YELLOW SUBMARINE

Late sub Kepa helps Chelsea win UEFA Super Cup on penalties against Villarreal



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Belfast, August 12: Thomas Tuchel made the bold call, and Kepa Arrizabalaga made the big saves. Brought on as a substitute with seconds remaining in extra time, Kepa kept out two spot-kicks as Chelsea beat Villarreal 6-5 in a penalty shootout to win the UEFA Super Cup Wednesday.

Tuchel, the Chelsea manager, has been informed by his team of

statisticians that Kepa has a better record at saving penalties than first-choice goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, so the substitution was made in the 119th minute of a match that ended 1-1 after extra time.

Kepa had already saved a penalty from Aissa Mandi when he dived low to his right again and parried out Raul Albiol's attempt in what proved to be the final kick of the shootout at Windsor Park in Northern Ireland. As Chelsea's

players sprinted from the halfway line to celebrate with Kepa, one of the first to reach him was Mendy.

Less than 10 weeks after Chelsea's 1-0 win over Manchester City in the Champions League final in Porto, Cesar Azpilicueta was again lifting a European trophy to the backdrop of fireworks and ticker-tape. Among the players celebrating on the podium behind him was Hakim Ziyech, who had his right arm in a sling after a suspected

dislocated shoulder in the 40th minute – 13 minutes after putting Chelsea into the lead by converting a cross from Kai Havertz.

That was cancelled out by Gerard Moreno in the 73rd for the Spain international's record 83rd goal for Villarreal – breaking the record he shared with US-born former Italy striker Giuseppe Rossi. Moreno exchanged a one-two with Boulaye Dia before lifting his shot over Mendy and into the top corner.

Villarreal were playing in the Super Cup as the Europa League champion, a tournament it won by beating Manchester United in a penalty shootout. On that occasion, every one of its players converted their penalties in the shootout before goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli saved from opposite number David De Gea to seal an 11-10 win.

Rulli was on the bench Wednesday, with Sergio Asenjo starting as goalkeeper and he saved the first kick of the shootout from Havertz. Chelsea scored its next six, while Kepa saved Villarreal's second – from Mandi – and then Albiol, Villarreal's 35-year-old captain.

Wednesday's match – billed as the most prestigious ever to be staged in Northern Ireland – was played in front of 13,000 people, with Windsor Park at 70 per cent capacity during the pandemic and spectators required to wear face masks.

# Neeraj jumps 14 places to 2nd in world

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: India's Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra gained a whopping 14 places to occupy the second spot in the men's javelin throw world rankings after his historic gold in the Tokyo Games.

The 23-year-old Chopra, who sent the spear to 87.58m to clinch India's maiden Olympics athletics medal Saturday, was at a lowly 16 before the Tokyo Games with an average performance score of 1224.

But in the latest rankings issued by World Athletics, Chopra found himself at the second spot with 1315 average performance score behind German Johannes Vetter (1396), who finished a lowly ninth in the Olympics final after coming into the Games as the gold medal contender.



Chopra collected 1296 performance points for topping the Olympic qualification round on August 4 and 1559 points for winning the gold in the final. Three other events of this year – Federation Cup, Indian Grand Prix-3 and Kuortane Games (Finland) – where he had come up with big throws were also considered in the ranking process.

Vetter, however, remained on top of the world rankings despite failing to make it to the last eight in the Olympic finals as he was dominating before the Tokyo Games with seven 90m plus throws this year. Marcin Kruskowski of Poland, who also had failed to make it to the Olympics final despite having the season's second best throw of 89.55m, was third in the latest world rankings with an average performance score of 1302. Tokyo Olympics silver winner Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic was fourth with a score of 1298.

# Belarus sprinter looks to future in Poland

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warsaw, August 12: After all the turmoil of the last week, Krystsina Tsimanouskaya finally feels safe.

The Belarusian Olympic sprinter who found refuge in Poland to avoid punishment at home after criticizing team officials at the Tokyo Games says she now hopes to focus on how to keep up a world-class running career.

Speaking in an interview Wednesday with this news agency at the Olympic Center in Warsaw, the 24-year-old runner said she has already asked Polish officials to help her resume training.

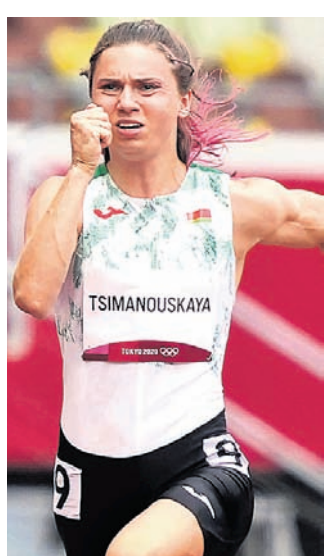
"Life changed in one day, and now we are starting it from scratch in a new country," she said, speaking with her husband, Arseni

Zdanevich, by her side. "We are planning to stay in Poland and continue our careers here."

"We have turned to the Ministry of Sports, turned to the Polish athletics national team, with issues regarding a coach, a group and a place where I can train and many other issues regarding the continuation of my sports career here in Poland," she said.

She emphasised that she and her 25-year-old husband, an athletics trainer who also has been her coach, feel that it would be a waste to abandon an online training program they launched in Belarus.

"We had so many ideas, we planned it to a tiny detail," Tsimanouskaya said. "We have put a lot of time and effort in it and we would like to keep it going." Tsimanouskaya said she and



Krystsina Tsimanouskaya

her husband feel secure in Poland, where they arrived separately last week on humanitarian visas.

The runner recalled the harrowing, confusing moments when she sought Japanese police help at Tokyo's Narita International Airport, when she was being forced by Belarus officials to leave the Summer Games early and return home.

"They didn't understand first what happened to me," the runner said of the police. "They thought that I was unwell or lost something. And then I wrote that I was being forcibly taken out of the country and I don't want that to happen."

She used her phone to translate the desperate plea for help after her grandmother warned her not to return to Belarus.

# HOCKEY STARS FETED



(From L): Amit Rohidas and Birendra Lakra show their medals, while Deep Grace Ekka and Namita Toppo look on during their felicitation ceremony at a city hotel in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Rohidas and Lakra were part of the Indian men's hockey team, who won bronze at the Tokyo Games. Ekka and Toppo also became a part of history when the women's team qualified for the semifinals at Olympics for the very first time.