



## KIARA'S PLAN B

Actor Kiara Advani says, if not an actor, she would have been a child psychiatrist

LEISURE P2



## INFERNO UNLEASHED

Wildfires are raging across Europe and North America as scorching temperatures fuel the blazes

INTERNATIONAL P10



## MAN UTD BEAT LEEDS

Manchester United begin their Premier League campaign with 5-1 win over Leeds, thanks to Bruno Fernandes' hat-trick

SPORTS P12



## US Congressional Gold Medal for Gandhi

**WASHINGTON:** Resolution reintroduced in US Congress to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi would be the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal, an honour bestowed upon such great figures as George Washington, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa, and Rosa Parks. An influential US lawmaker from New York Friday reintroduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi in recognition of his promotion of peace and non-violence.



## Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

**NEW DELHI:** Ahead of the 75th Independence Day Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said that the partition's pain can never be forgotten and that in memory of people's sacrifices, August 14 will be remembered as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. "Partition's pains can never be forgotten. Millions of our sisters and brothers were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence. In memory of the struggles and sacrifices of our people, 14th August will be observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day," the Prime Minister tweeted.

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# Bombay HC tears into new IT Rules

CLAUSES THAT ADHERE TO 'CODE OF ETHICS' BY DIGITAL MEDIA HAVE BEEN STAYED

**Mumbai, August 14:** In what may be called a victory for news publishers, especially the digital media, the Bombay High Court Saturday granted an interim stay to the operation of parts of the recently notified Information Technology Rules, 2021. It found "prima facie" (on the face of it) that these sub-clauses violated the petitioners' Constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19, the high court said. Provisions of Clause 9 also went beyond the scope of the substantive law (the Information



Technology Act of 2000), it said. The order came on petitions filed by legal news portal The Leaflet and journalist Nikhil Wagle which challenged several provisions of the new IT Rules claiming that they were vague and likely to have a "chilling effect" on a citizen's right to free speech guaranteed by the Constitution. The Rules went beyond the scope of the main IT Act and also the 'reasonable restric-

tions' on freedom of speech and expression allowed by Article 19(2) of the Constitution, the petitioners said. The HC, however, refused to stay Clause 14 that pertains to the setting up of an inter-ministerial committee with powers to regulate online content and deal with grievances and breach of rules, and clause 16 which is about blocking of online content in case of an emergency. As such a committee was yet to be formed, it did not see any reason to stay clauses 14 and 16 at present, the court said. The HC also did not stay sub-clause (2) of clause 9 which provides for action in case of the contravention of any law in force for the time being. The petitioners had sought an interim stay on the implementation of the new IT Rules till the court gives its final decision in the matter. Senior counsel Darius Khambata, lawyer for The Leaflet, had argued that the new IT Rules were beyond the rule-making power of the Union government as the "parent Act", that is the Information Technology Act, did not provide for anything seeking to regulate ethics and content of online publishers. On Friday, the HC had asked the Union government what was the need to introduce the new IT Rules, 2021 without superseding the existing IT Rules of 2009.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



## NOTICE

There will be no edition of the paper August 16 (Monday) as the office and press of Orissa POST will remain closed Sunday on the occasion of Independence Day.  
-EDITOR

## Shaurya Chakra for two Odisha Police commandos

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Union government Saturday selected two martyred commandos of the Odisha Police for awarding Shaurya Chakra, the third highest peacetime gallantry award given to civilians and military personnel. The jawans, identified as Commandos Sudhir Kumar Tudu and Debashis Sethy, laid down their lives during an operation against Left Wing Extremists (LWE) last year. The Ministry of Defence conferred the award posthumously for their exemplary bravery, valour and courageous actions during a fight against the Left ultras in a dense forest near village Sikri of Kalahandi district September 9, 2020. DGP Abhay in a video message said, "Two able sons of Odisha police will be awarded Shaurya Chakra posthumously. The duo participated in an anti-Maoist operation in Kalahandi last year, September 9."



**PATRIOTISM IN THE AIR**  
A boy celebrates with the national flag at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar on the eve of the Independence Day, Saturday  
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

## 98.58% REGULAR STUDENTS CLEAR PLUS II ARTS EXAM

**Bhubaneswar, August 14:** About 98.58 per cent of regular students of Arts stream have cleared the annual Plus II examination this year, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said Saturday. Due to Covid-19, the Plus II examinations were cancelled this year. The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) has given the scores on alternative methods. Announcing the results, Dash said a total of 2,20,081 students, including 1,89,363 regular students, had registered in the Plus II Arts stream, of which, 1,96,959 students, including 1,86,685 regular students, have passed in the Arts stream. The total pass percentage in Arts stream (both regular and ex-regular) stood at 89.49 per cent. The Minister informed that 30,685 students secured first division, 46,563 students passed in second and 1,19,505 students got third division this year. At least 95 students secured more than 90 per cent marks, he added. According to him, 92.34 per cent of the girls passed the HSE as compared to 85.98 per cent of the boys.

## 11 kids at VIMSAR test Covid +ve

The increasing number of infections has spread fear in the region



**Sambalpur, August 14:** Notwithstanding the claims of the government that it is prepared to meet the possible third wave of COVID, more and more children are being infected by the deadly coronavirus in the state. As many as 11 children were

old boy of Budhiakata area in Jujumura block of the district, were infected with the virus, Friday. This was stated here by VIMSAR superintendent Dr Lal Mohan Nayak to the media, Saturday. However, it is yet to be known if any children have been detected with the virus, Saturday. According to sources, the children were admitted to the hospital after they fell sick due to some disease. Later, their samples were collected and the test reports showed they were COVID-positive. They are undergoing treatment in the Covid-II ward of the hospital. Notably, 32 children in the age group of 1-17 years had tested positive for COVID-19 in Kendrapara in the first nine days of August. While the increasing number of children testing positive to the virus has triggered fear among the local people, the government claims that they are prepared with necessary infrastructure for the treatment of the infected children.

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.7°C	36.0°C
TEMP MIN	25.5°C	25.6°C
Humidity	82%	97%
Rainfall	0.8mm	20mm

Forecast: Light rain very likely

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**When SRK danced to Govinda's direction**



**Mumbai:** Farah Khan recently had some interesting revelations about how she asked Govinda to choreograph Shah Rukh Khan during the shoot of *Deewangi Deewangi* song of *Om Shanti Om*.

She shared this interesting incident on the *Zee Comedy Show*. Farah is the judge of the show. "Govinda's jodi with Ganesh Acharya was so good that I felt if I choreographed him, it would be proven that I am not good enough to choreograph him. In fact, even when he came to shoot for *Om Shanti Om*'s *Deewangi Deewangi* song, I didn't have the courage to choreograph him. Hence, I told Govinda to choreograph Shah Rukh Khan for his portion, telling them that we'll keep those steps. They did the *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan* in the end and it came out so well. So, whenever we dance, Govinda will have to choreograph me, like how he did today," revealed Farah. **IANS**

**I tell stories about real lives: Ayushmann**

**Mumbai:** Actor Ayushmann Khurrana feels he has celebrated and represented India correctly through his films which have resonated with the world. "I try to tell stories that are essentially rooted in the Indian microcosm and are about real people and their real lives in our culturally diverse country," said the 36-year-old actor. He added: "I think that's why these stories have resonated with people not just in India but also with Indians who live abroad or with people who are interested to know more about our country." **IANS**

**Kiara Advani would've been a paediatric psychiatrist**



**Mumbai:** Actress Kiara Advani is known for her roles in *Kabir Singh* and *Good Newz*. Her latest film *Shershaah* is also receiving rave reviews from the audience. Sharing her experience of working on the patriotic film, Kiara said: "What I learned while shooting for *Shershaah*, one of my experiences was the sac-

rifices made by the loved ones of the army officers and their families, who I would want to salute because they are the unsung heroes, and they form the backbone and are a pillar of strength for an army officer. For me, I salute both, our army and the army behind the army." Kiara, 29, made her debut with *Fugly*, but

her role of the real-life character of Sakshi Rawat, a hotel manager, and cricketer MS Dhoni's wife, in sports biopic *M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story* was the turning point of her career. Interestingly, Kiara had an interest in psychiatry besides acting. She said, "If not an actor, I would have been a child psychiatrist." **IANS**

**Akshay is my forever hero: Lara**

**New Delhi:** Lara Dutta Bhupathi made her debut in Hindi film industry 18 years ago in *Andaaz* starring Akshay Kumar and she cannot stop praising the actor. The actress tags the *Khiladi* star as her 'forever hero'. "I always maintain that Akshay is my friend, philosopher and guide. He is not just my first hero, he is literally a forever hero," Lara said. Lara revealed that it was Akshay who encouraged her to take up the role of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in their upcoming movie *Bell Bottom*, which is slated to release August 19. "The amount of faith Akshay has in me is tremendous. He has offered me roles in the last few years where we have worked together that have really challenged me. Before anybody saw it he saw the potential that I could do this (play Indira Gandhi)," added the actress. **IANS**

**PEANUTS**



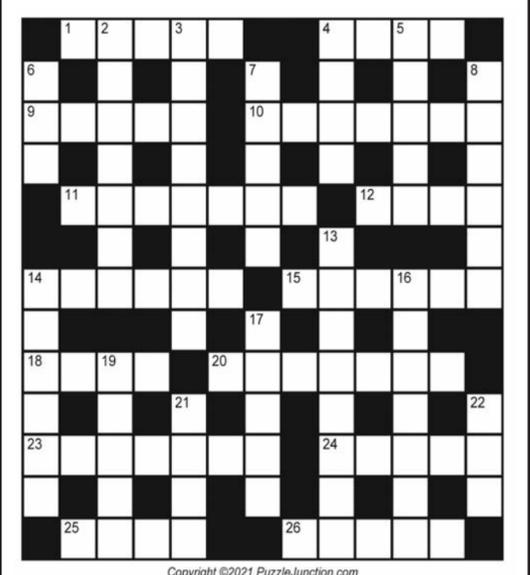
**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



**BREVITY**

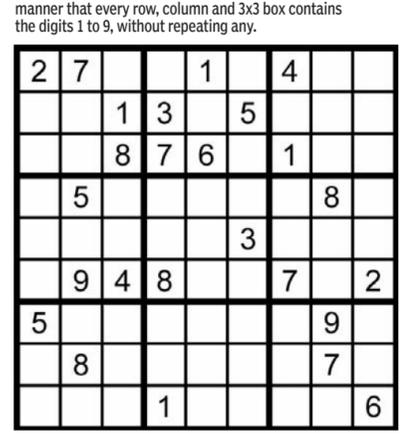


**FUN post CROSSWORD**



- Across**
- 1 Words to a sleepyhead (3,2)
  - 4 Small boat
  - 9 Hipbone-related
  - 10 Daybreak
  - 11 Toils
  - 12 Angler's stash
  - 14 Waiting lines
  - 15 Goof
  - 18 Assistant
  - 20 Juice starters
  - 23 Some Camelot girls
  - 24 Musk secreting animal
  - 25 Apartment
  - 26 Goatee
  - 23 Some Camelot girls
  - 6 Youngster
  - 7 Autocrats of old
  - 8 Washer setting
  - 13 Acme
  - 14 Misgivings
  - 16 Butcher's tool
  - 17 Hair care item
  - 19 Practice
  - 21 Adroit
  - 22 Airport posting
  - 5 Side dish
- Down**
- 2 Kuwait, for one
  - 3 Raw
  - 4 Buggy terrain
  - 5 Side dish

**SUDOKU**



**SOLUTIONS**

**CROSSWORD**

**SUDOKU**

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

**INDIAN ARMY STRONG AND CAPABLE**

**PRESIDENTIAL GALLANTRY AWARDS INDEPENDENCE DAY 2021**

- SHAURYA CHAKRA**
- Maj Arun Kumar Pandey, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Ravi Kumar Chaudhary, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Capt Ashutosh Kumar, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Capt Vikas Khatri, Mechanised Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Rfn Mukesh Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Neeraj Ahlawat, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- BAR TO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)**
- Lt Col Krishna Kant Bajpai, SM\*\*, Infantry
  - Maj Surendra Singh Lamba, SM, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Rahul Balamohan, SM, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Ankit Dahiya, SM, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
- SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)**
- Lt Col Dharendra Pratap Singh Rawat, Infantry
  - Lt Col Bhagat Akshay Suresh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Lt Col Manpreet Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Lt Col Chetan Kaushik, Army Aviation
  - Maj Bharat Singh Jhala, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Yashovardhan Bhati, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Ankit Thakur, Artillery
  - Maj Rakesh Ranjan, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Rohit Sharma, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Anil Kandpal, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Ajit Pal Singh, Infantry
  - Maj Govind Joshi, Infantry
  - Maj Anil Kumar Rangji, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Gaurav Anand Bourai, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Vipranshu Pandey, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Gaurav Choudhary, Infantry
  - Maj Tapan Kumar Tamang, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Narendra Kumar, Signals, Army Aviation
  - Maj Abhishek Kumar, Artillery, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Ashutosh Kumar, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Randeep Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Mahendra Singh, Army Service Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Rahul Dutta, Artillery
  - Maj Satish Kumar Gupta, Signals, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Sahil Sharma, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Mayank Vishnoi, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Athul James, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Rohit Kumar Upreti, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Pathak Saket, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Ankesh Jarial, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Naorem Chingthangkomba Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Kundan Kumar, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Harjeet Singh, Infantry
  - Maj Manish Kumar Verma, Signals, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Vibhore Joshi, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Abhishek Ghosh, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Capt Aaditya Anand Tyagi, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Capt Surya Prakash, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Capt Neil Silas Lobo, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Capt Sanjay Kumar Khanka, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Capt Rohit Kumar Swami, Infantry
  - Capt Snehashish Paul, Signals, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Capt Manoj Kumar Kataria, Infantry
  - Sub Sukhdev Singh, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Sub Amar Pal Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sub Satwarg Singh, Infantry
  - Sub Balkar Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nb Sub Anil Kumar, Artillery
  - Nb Sub Ravinder, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Nb Sub Sukhwinder Singh, Infantry
  - Nb Sub Rajwinder Singh, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Nb Sub Pushakar Raj, Infantry
  - Dfr Ranjit Kumar, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Hav Gurjeet Singh, Infantry
  - Hav Suresh Dewan, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Hav Rakesh Kumar Tiwary, Mechanised Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Hav Hardhan Chandra Roy, Artillery (Posthumous)
  - Hav Cheekala Praveen Kumar, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Hav Mahaveer Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Hav Kayam Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Hav Gokaran Singh, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Hav Ajit Singh, Infantry
  - Hav Guljar Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Hav Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, Infantry
  - Nk Rakesh Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Radhe Shyam, Mechanised Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Govind Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Rajwinder Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles (Posthumous)
  - Nk Sayar Khan, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Shaitan Singh Meena, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Jeevan Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Shivaji, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Gurpreet Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Baljit Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - L/Nk Nongmaithem Dhanabir Singh, Infantry
  - L/Nk Himmat Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - L/Nk Brij Mohan, Mechanised Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - L/Nk Kuldeep Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - L/Nk Dileep Kumar Yadav, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - L/Nk Rajendra Singh Dosad, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - L/Nk Surya Bahadur Soti, Infantry
  - Sep Jahaneer Ahmad War, Infantry, Territorial Army
  - Sep Mohit Bhadana, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Samsad Ali, Mechanised Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Gautam Tamang, Mechanised Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Prashant Sharma, Mechanised Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles (Posthumous)
  - Sep Manish Kumar, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Kuldeep Singh, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Rohin Kumar, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Sep Ryada Maheshwar, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Sep Ashish Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Hawa Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Lachchhu Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Gaurav Kumar Tomar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Jitendra Singh Jodha, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Anuj Mavi, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Anuj Rana, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Rajesh Singh Kasana, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Deepak Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Elonthung N Patton, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Ramandeep Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Tanveer Ahmed, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Rfn Rohit, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Rfn Naranjan, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Rfn Sajad Hussain Khan, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Spr Bibin C, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Spr Sivakumar G, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Spr Burla Anjaneyulu, Engineers, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Gdr Vikash Kumar Ram, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Gdr Ravi Kumar Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles (Posthumous)
  - Gdr Prashant Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles (Posthumous)
  - Gnr Bhupender, Artillery (Posthumous)
  - Gnr Subodh Ghosh, Artillery (Posthumous)
  - Ptr Manmohan Singh, Infantry
  - Swr Jilajeet Yadav, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles (Posthumous)
  - Scout Tashi Namgyal Lepcha, Infantry
- MENTION-IN-DESPATCHES**
- Col Jasbir Singh Maan, Army Aviation
  - Lt Col Shiv Bahadur Singh, Engineers
  - Maj Swapnil Zende, Artillery, Army Aviation
  - Maj Deepak Kumar Singh, Army Service Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Partha Sarathi Batabyal, Artillery, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Pradip Shukla, Infantry
  - Maj Aditya Bhadauria, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Maj Himanshu Pradhan, Infantry
  - Capt Shivam Dagur, Signals, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Capt Sachin Malhotra, Army Aviation
  - Lt Harinder Jit Singh, Infantry
  - Hav Kuljinder Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Roshan Singh, Artillery
  - Nk Karuppa Samy K, Artillery
  - Nk Aneesh Thomas, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Nk Mandla Pradip Saheb Rao, Infantry (Posthumous)
  - Nk Kuldeep Kumar, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Sartaj Ahmad Wagay, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Rayees Ahmad Magray, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Nk Vikram Singh, Infantry
  - L/Nk Gaurav Singh, Infantry
  - L/Nk Kamlesh Pant, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Ladhu Singh, Infantry, Rashtriya Rifles
  - Sep Khuvendra Singh, Armoured Corps, Rashtriya Rifles
  - L/Dfr Vikram Singh, Armoured Corps (Posthumous)
  - Maj Souban Kinobabu Singh, Infantry
  - Nb Sub Prem Kumar Tamang, Infantry
  - L/Nk Anal Jyoti Nath, Infantry, Territorial Army

**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

Gallant Acts of Our Heroes Will Always be a Source of Inspiration to The Nation

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davp 10127/13/0002/2122

# Jaya hey...

## CELEBRATING 75<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF FREEDOM



### Gallantry Awards for 67 state cops



POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 14:** As many as 67 personnel from Odisha Police would be conferred with the Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) on the occasion of 75th Independence Day, Sunday.

Two personnel would be conferred with President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) and nine are being awarded Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM).

Two Civil Defence personnel and five Home Guards would also be conferred with President's Home Guard and Civil Defence Medal for Distinguished Services while four Fire Service personnel are being awarded with Fire Service Medal for Gallantry.

Significantly three Prison officials would be awarded with Correctional Service Medal for Meritorious Service. A total of 1,380 police personnel from across the country are being awarded medals on the occasion of the Independence Day, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced Saturday.

Amongst 628 Gallantry Awards, one President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) has been given to Jammu and Kashmir Police and one to the CRPF posthumously.

The PPM is a decoration awarded to the police personnel in India. Established March 1, 1961, the medal was originally called the President's Police and Fire Service Medal. According to the MHA, 398 police personnel are being awarded for their gallant action in J&K region, 155 personnel for their gallant action in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas and 27 personnel in the North-East Region.

## Tricolour has sole supplier in Karnataka's Dharwad

THE CURRENT FLAG WITH SAFFRON, WHITE AND GREEN COLOURS AND THE ASHOK CHAKRA IN THE MIDDLE WAS OFFICIALLY ADOPTED JULY 22, 1947

**NEW DELHI:** Even as the country is celebrating its 75th Independence Day Sunday, there is an apparent curiosity about the national flag, which holds the central place in recalling the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters. The national flag is manufactured and supplied from only one place in India. The Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangh (KKGSS), located at Dharwad in Karnataka, has been authorised to manufacture and supply the Tricolour.

According to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the flag is manufactured only with hand-spun and hand-woven cotton khadi wafting. There are 100 specialist spinners and another 100 weavers employed at KKGSS to manufacture the flags, said sources.

The first variant of the country's national flag was designed by freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya in 1921. The current flag with saffron, white and green colours and the Ashok Chakra in the middle was officially adopted July 22, 1947, and was hoisted August 15, 1947. Interestingly, the national flag with three horizontal stripes of red, yellow and green was hoisted at Parsee Bagan Square in Kolkata August 7, 1906.

Every year people across India celebrate Independence Day August 15 and remember the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters to get independence from almost 200 years of British rule.



### AMRIT MAHOTSAV

According to the Bureau of Indian Standards, the flag is manufactured only with hand-spun and hand-woven cotton khadi wafting

There are 100 specialist spinners and another 100 weavers employed at KKGSS to manufacture the flags

The first variant of the country's national flag was designed by freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya in 1921

The national flag with three horizontal stripes of red, yellow and green was hoisted at Parsee Bagan Square in Kolkata (Erstwhile Calcutta) August 7, 1906

The Indian Independence Bill was introduced in the British House of Commons July 4, 1947, and it was passed within a fortnight.

The Bill brought an end to British rule in India. The first Prime Minister of the country, Jawaharlal Nehru, unfurled the Indian national flag atop Lahori Gate of the Red Fort in Delhi August 15, 1947. Since then, the tradition has been followed by the incumbent Prime Ministers.

As the country is going to celebrate its 75th Independence Day Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to unfurl the Tricolour on the ramparts of Red Fort in the National Capital.

Our national anthem, 'Jana Gana Mana' was composed by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1911, but the song was originally composed as 'Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata'. It was renamed as 'Jana Gana Mana' and adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India as the National Anthem January 24, 1950.

Along with India, five other countries namely Bahrain, North Korea, South Korea, Republic of Congo and Liechtenstein celebrate their independence day August 15.

Goa was the last state to join the Indian Territory. Even after India's independence, Goa was a Portuguese colony. It was annexed to India only in 1961.

AZADI KA  
AMRIT MAHOTSAV

## NALCO

### MINING A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE NATION

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

नालको NALCO

ordinary people, extraordinary attitude

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**ARIES**  
A new acquaintance will make you feel happy today. You must remember that things don't have to be expressed explicitly; a word or a song from deep within can make a bigger impact. Ganesh says today is the right time to do something which will be more rewarding in the long-term.

**TAURUS**  
This day, your heart is likely to rule your head. You will be driven by your moods feelings and sentiments. Most of the decisions will be based on your emotions, instead of your reason and experience. Ganesh urges you not to allow your emotionality to enter your professional activities.

**GEMINI**  
Your day will be spent indulging in activities that appeal to you. You may go out shopping with your family members, or go out to dinner with friends. A leisurely, entertainment filled, fun day awaits you, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
People will be stunned at the swift pace of your work. All your pending tasks and projects will fructify. But Ganesh counsels you not to do anything haphazardly or in any careless manner. Ganesh thinks you as an extraordinary orator.

**LEO**  
Long forgotten relationships may be renewed today. Old acquaintances, room partners, hostel mates and the like may bump into you today. You will be in a happy mood as a result. Marital life will be blissful, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
You will be the flag-bearer for people around you, spreading hope and inspiration. Ganesh advises you to be the ideal family man today. By doing this you will radiate affection and love. This will, in turn, work remarkably in cultivating positive relationships.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh advises you not to take stress about small issues or matters. To avoid tension and to gain mental peace it is advised you perform yoga or meditation. There will be pressure put on you regarding certain matters at the work-front. You should take decisions regarding critical matters only after carefully weighing the pros and cons.

**SCORPIO**  
According to Ganesh, your family and friends top your priority list today. Life looks hunky dory on personal as well as professional front. Apart from business developments, romantic relations are on the bloom. And this is evident from your blushing cheeks. Creative indulgences may give a new dimension to your life!

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your business is likely to scale new heights, says Ganesh. You need to build up your confidence and move ahead with zest and enthusiasm. Rake in the moolah as the business yield profits.

**CAPRICORN**  
You will walk down the memory lane, cherish those lost moments and later on feel an urge to meet or contact old friends, says Ganesh. Expectations of your near and dear ones, however, may seem burdensome. You will still see the brighter side of everything, and spending quality time with your sweetheart will certainly re-energise your powers to deal with difficulties.

**AQUARIUS**  
If the Almighty loads you with pain, He will also bless you with pleasure, assures Ganesh. You will begin the day with a long list of things to be done, but luckily you will be able finish them off one by one.

**PISCES**  
You are not by nature ill-tempered or jealous. However, you will need to be on guard against being both, today. Someone may try to sully your image or slander your name today. However, the best way to deal with provocation is not to lose your temper and to continue as usual, for things will take care of themselves soon enough, says Ganesh.

**CLIPPING THE WINGS**



Artists draw graffiti at Doordarshan road in Bhubaneswar to create awareness on dengue, Saturday. The Capital city has reported more than 1,000 cases of the vector-borne disease

**WETLAND CONSERVATION**

**Step up eviction of prawn gheris: HC**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, August 14:** The Collectors of four districts Saturday deposed before the Orissa High Court in virtual mode on a case pertaining to the conservation of wetlands. Depositing before the HC, the Collectors of Kendrapara, Khurda, Ganjam and Puri submitted detailed data on the eviction of prawn gheris (enclosures) from wetlands at Bhitarkanika and Chilika lake. Similarly, some fishermen also deposed before the HC in connection with the case. A bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BP Routray directed the four Collectors to expedite the eviction of illegal prawn gheris and seize their equipment. The bench posted the next hearing to September 23. Earlier, the HC had directed the



Collectors to file separate affidavits regarding steps taken by the district administrations to remove prawn gheris from Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara district and Chilika lake that spreads over Khurda, Ganjam and Puri districts. The Collector of Ganjam submitted his affidavit in the HC July 27 while his counterparts in the other three districts did not do so. Expressing displeasure over the non-submission of affidavits, the HC directed the four Collectors to depose before it and furnish all data regarding the eviction of prawn enclosures.

**Special train between Puri and Rourkela**

**BHUBANESWAR:** It has been decided to run a special train between Rourkela and Puri. This train will run from Rourkela with effect from August 24 and from Puri with effect from August 25, 2021 till further notice. This train will leave from Rourkela at 08:05hrs towards Puri and will leave from Puri at 04:35hrs towards Rourkela.

**Swargadwar to open for non-Puri residents Aug 16**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 14:** In view of the low Covid positivity rate in Puri, the district administration has allowed last rites of the deceased from other districts at Swargadwar cremation ground in the Holy City from August 16. Puri Collector Samarth Verma Saturday issued an order in this regard. "The funeral rites of the deceased (non-Covid deaths) belonging to

**MAHANADI WATER DISPUTE**

**Tribunal for talks on river basin documents**

**A THREE-JUDGE BENCH OF THE MWDT, HEADED BY SUPREME COURT JUDGE JUSTICE AM KHANWILKAR, POSTED THE MATTER TO SEPTEMBER 4**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 14:** The Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal (MWDT) Saturday asked Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Central Water Commission (CWC) to hold a meeting with regard to the river basin documents sought by the riparian states for adjudication of the matter. A three-judge bench of the tribunal headed by Supreme Court judge Justice AM Khanwilkar posted the matter to September 4. Justices Ravi Ranjan and Indrmeet Kaur are the two other members of the bench. During the hearing, both Odisha and Chhattisgarh apprised the tribunal that they have not received all the documents required in connection with the case from the central agencies. Both the states also suggested a meeting with CWC for availing the remaining documents of Mahanadi river basin. The Central Water Commission also submitted to the tribunal that after the meeting it would become easy for the two states to understand the kind of documents they need



The Odisha government had sought copies of Technical Advisory Committee notes on over 23 projects cleared in Mahanadi Basin since 1950 namely Mayana Tank, Gej Tank, Dhara Tank, Saroda Tank and others. It also sought detailed reports on several projects cleared by the Central Water Commission in Mahanadi Basin. Moreover, the Odisha government sought environment clearance reports given to around 35 projects in Mahanadi basin by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Odisha government had sought copies of Technical Advisory Committee notes on more than 23 projects cleared in Mahanadi Basin since 1950 for adjudication of Mahanadi river water dispute. The MWDT had directed the central agencies June 26 to provide the required documents to the two states.

**Rain may play spoilsport for I-Day fete**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 14:** The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday issued warning of heavy rains in nine districts of the state on Independence Day. The department in its warning for Sunday said, "Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Deogarh." It also said that thunderstorm with lightning could be seen in districts of Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Kandhamal, Bolangir, Nuapada, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur Sunday.

**State sees uptick in Covid-19 cases**

PNN/ AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 14:** Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 9,93,507 Saturday as 1,132 more people tested positive for the infection, while 66 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 6,823, a Health department official said. The state had registered a slow rise in fresh infections for four days after daily cases dipped below 1,000 August 9. While 886 cases were recorded August 9, it increased to 1,041 August 10, 1,078 August 11, 1,107 August 12 and 1,193 August 13. As many as 657 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while the remaining 475 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing. Khurda, under which

Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of new cases at 410, followed by Cuttack at 197, he said, adding that the daily test positivity rate slightly dipped to 1.64 per cent from 1.67 per cent on Friday. Barring Khurda and Cuttack, the remaining districts registered less than 100 cases each, while Nuapada did not report any fresh infection. Cuttack reported the highest number of fresh fatalities at 15, followed by Nayagarh (12) and Kendrapara (nine). Odisha has thus far tested over 1.69 crore samples for Covid-19, including 68,872 Friday. Its cumulative positivity rate stood at 5.85 per cent. As many as 1.91 crore people have been inoculated so far.

**NEWS SNIPPETS**

**BJP's Jan Aashirbad Yatra from Aug 19**

**BHUBANESWAR:** The state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Saturday decided to launch Jan Aashirbad Yatra across the state from August 19 that will continue till August 22. Several senior party leaders and Union ministers from the state are likely to participate in the event. The programme is likely to be attended by Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnav. While Pradhan is likely to march in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Khurda, Vaishnav might visit Rayagada in Hirakud Express. He is expected to visit Koraput, Jeypore, Nabarangpur and Bhawanipatna too. The national leaders of the party are likely to conduct meetings in around seven districts to garner support for the party ahead of the panchayat elections by highlighting the works done by the BJP.

**Rly's handloom stalls in Bhub, Puri stations**

**BHUBANESWAR:** Participating in the year-long celebration 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', which marks India's 75 years of Independence, the Indian Railways has identified 75 stations across the country to install handloom stalls symbolising 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The celebration will begin August 15 this year. Altogether 75 railway stations across the country will install Handloom/Khadi stalls for exhibition-cum-sale purpose. Bhubaneswar railway station, being one of those 75 stations, opened the handloom stall August 14 that will run till August 22. The stall, opened with the help of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME), was inaugurated in the presence of Bhubaneswar station director C R Nayak and Director of KVIC, Sameer Kumar Mohanty. Another stall will be installed in Puri railway station too.

**Cong team to probe Kendrapara violence**

**BHUBANESWAR:** The state Congress Saturday announced formation of a special 'fact finding committee' that will probe into the revolt against a drinking water project proposed to be set up in a village in Kendrapara. The committee, chaired by former finance minister Panchanan Kanungo, will analyse the reasons for the wrath of people against a project in which diversion of Kharasrota river water from their area into Bhadrak district was proposed. The panel comprising party leaders would visit the site and submit a report to OPCC president Niranjana Patnaik.

**17TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF KIIT**

**Create positive impact on the less fortunate: Min**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 14:** With a culture of quality research and the quest for empirical accuracy, KIIT Deemed to be University contributes effectively towards taking India to the top of the global knowledge economy, said Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan at the 17th Annual Convocation of the university held virtually, Saturday. Altogether 7,032 students of 2020-21 batch of KIIT Deemed to be University received their degrees on the occasion. Pradhan said, "You have acquired skills that will help you achieve milestones in the years to

come. While you strive for excellence, I hope you also measure that excellence in terms of outcomes that help achieve the greater common goal that positively impacts people less fortunate than you." "Recent initiatives like the academic bank of credit, multiple entry and exit system and National Education Technology Forum launched on completion of the first year of the National Education Policy 2020 will act as catalysts for developing the quality higher education in India," he stated. The university conferred Honorary Causa Degrees of DLitt upon Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma), Spiritual Leader, Guru & Humanitarian and Vallabh



Bhanshali, Co-founder, ENAM Securities; Founder, Desh Apnayan Sahayog Foundation & Founder-Director, FLAME University, and Prof Jean-Marie Lehn, Noble Prize

in Chemistry (1987), France. Amma said, "The most important thing to be developed through education is compassion towards our fellow beings. Amma heartily ap-

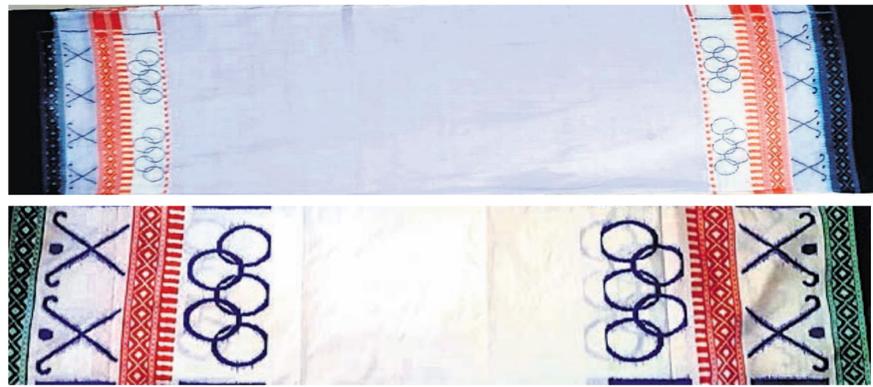
plauds KIIT & KISS Founder Prof Achyuta Samanta as he has chosen to offer his humanitarian service in 'Kalinga', which is the soil of compassion." Bhanshali said that no human quality is greater than gratitude and suggested students to cultivate this quality. "The batch of 2021 has fared well with their erudite and resilience despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic," said Samanta, in his message to the students. He said it is the only university in India to have sent three of its students - Dutee Chand (Athletics), Shivpal Singh (Javelin Throw) and CA Bhavani Devi (Fencing-Sabre) - to represent India in Tokyo Olympics, 2021.

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### Sambalpuri stoles for Indian hockey players



hockey stoles. Giridhari Meher, Gunanidhi Meher of Pada village and Jhasaketan Meher of Bandhapali village have weaved the stoles.

Seven weavers of Bargarh district have prepared 54 silk stoles and 64 cotton stoles within three days while 16 stoles have been made in Sonepur.

Sisir Kumar Nag, managing director of Sambalpuri Bastralaya, marketing officers Hemant Kumar Mishra, Chandrabhanu Meher, Ramachandra Meher, Dutia Meher and Ghanashyam Meher supervised the preparations of the stoles by the designers and weavers.

Notably, Sambalpuri Bandha art has carved a niche for itself in the whole world. The success of the design is attributed to Padma Shri Krutarth Acharya who worked tirelessly during his lifetime to put the design and the fabric in the world map.

(Top) A cotton stole and (bottom) a silk stole with Sambalpuri Bandha designs made by Sambalpuri Bastralaya OP PHOTO

**Bargarh/Sonepur, August 14:** Stoles with special Sambalpuri Bandha designs will don the shoulders of Indian hockey players, the bronze medal winner in Tokyo Olympics this year, a report said. The stoles will be gifted to hockey players by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at a felicitation programme organised by the state government, August 16, the report said. In this function, hockey players will be felicitated with the stoles made with special Sambalpuri Bandha designs. This was stated here by Sambit Acharya, former president of Sambalpuri Bastralaya to media persons, here Saturday. He said the stoles have been prepared as per an order placed by the state sports and youth services department with the Sambalpuri Bastralaya. The state sports and youth services department, in a letter (6786 dated-11.08.2021) had placed an indent for 65 silk stoles and 64 cotton stoles. These stoles will be sent to the department for use in the felicitation of the Indian hockey team. Designer Makardhwaj Meher has drawn the

stoles with a new design which is a combination of last year's design and a logo of the hockey stick and Olympics, he said. Prominent weaver Bhikari Meher, winner of Santh Kabir award of Barpali has dyed the silk stoles in the traditional Bandha style assisted by weaver Ganesh Meher. Weavers Gopal Meher, Abhaya Meher of Khuntapali, Bhikari Meher of Barapali and Siba Shankar Meher of Sonepur have weaved the stoles. Similarly, Jeetendra Meher of Banjidunguri, Birendra Meher, Sabita Meher, Ranjita Meher of

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**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY**

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**Jai Hind**

**75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

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Government of India

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**-Narendra Modi**

**Nation First, Always First**

Independence Day Ceremony at the ramparts of Red Fort to be telecast live by Doordarshan from 6:25 a.m. onwards

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FOCUS NATION

# WAGES OF IGNORANCE



Little wonder that often individuals from the North-East, where Mongoloid-stock tribals constitute over 80 per cent of the population, are mistaken to be foreigners by people in other parts of India!

As it is, the indigenous people from the North-East face enormous difficulties in securing accommodation in metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai or Bangalore, because house owners are suspicious of their origins. The pandemic made a bad situation even worse, and hundreds of tenants in different parts of the country, some of whom had lived for years on the same premises, were asked to vacate these. Often crowds had gathered to enforce their removal and some who resisted were beaten up!

The harassment and abuse confronted by individuals from the North-East have aroused the conscience of right-thinking people from other parts of India and many have appealed to the Union and state governments to undertake corrective measures. Student organisations from this region have also stepped up their efforts to eradicate this blatant blot on India's image of a unified nation where there is no discrimination based on one's religion, race or colour.

For instance, a number of students' organisations have placed a 'joint petition' before the Union Minister of Education appealing to the Ministry to add a mandatory chapter/section highlighting the culture, ethnicity, natural resources, history people and society of North-East India in NCERT textbooks.

Apart from other measures that may be contemplated, the above suggestion appears to be pragmatic and laudable. There can be little doubt that discrimination and prejudice confronted by people of the North-East within other communities is the result of the latter's ignorance. Familiarising them with the ethnic and cultural history of this region as well as other relevant aspects might be one way of combating the adverse wages of ignorance.

*The writer, a Padma Shri awardee, is a prominent social historian and author based in Guwahati.*

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The people of North-East India have been, in numerous ways, paying the price for geopolitical remoteness. The reality that, after Partition, this region was tenuously connected to mainland India through a 20-km-wide 'chicken's neck' had, of course, accentuated this sense of remoteness.

For instance, much of the ignorance of the rest of India about the people and cultures of the North-East is due to the peripheral nature of its role in mainstream polity. The common masses in many other parts of India even today do not know that the Mongoloid element constitutes an important component of the ethnic diversity of our nation. Little wonder that often individuals from the North-East, where Mongoloid-stock tribals constitute over 80 per cent of the population, are mistaken to be foreigners by people in other parts of India!

The outcome is that people from this part of the country who had chosen to go out are often treated as aliens in their own land. Today, we have the presence of citizens from the North-East in almost every nook and corner of the nation. Unfortunately, in many parts of mainland India the local people were unable to come to terms with the ethnic and cultural differences embodied by migrants from the North-East, and the latter increasingly became the target of hate crimes. Ignorance not only breeds indifference but also bigotry; the free, fun-loving nature of the people of the North-East and the easy mixing of the sexes not prevalent, say in North India, seemed to be an ethos unacceptable to certain sections of mainland Indian society.

There was another reason for the antipathy displayed by some elements towards migrants from the North-East. Early enough, canny employers in other parts of the country had discovered the relative innocence and trustworthiness of people from this region, which made them a preferred choice for employment. In many

cases it had roused the envy of the so-called local populace, who used the 'alien' dresses, customs and languages as an alibi for perpetrating hate crimes.

This resulted in the targeting of individuals from this region by hoodlums and predators - things reached such a pass that in places like Delhi the administration had to set up help-lines in order to aid persons under assault.

The immensely adverse consequence of such bigotry born of ignorance dawned upon the nation in a dramatic fashion in 2012, when there were widespread attacks on people from this area, forcing thousands of them to leave their jobs and return home. Fed by rumour-mongering and propaganda through social media, victims were identified and targeted, almost undoing the slowly enhancing empathy of the North-East with mainland India.

The travails of individuals from

this region have increased dramatically after the COVID-19 pandemic spread in India. A study commissioned by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) on racial discrimination and hate crimes against people from the North-East found that "North-East India seamlessly fits the Indian's imagination of a Chinese person."

The study found that 78 per cent of the people from the region who were interviewed believed that physical appearance was the most important reason for the prejudice against them. The study said that, amid the pandemic, people from the region "faced an increased number of acts of hate and prejudices against them." A series of attacks were reported in various parts of the country where people from the region were "harassed, abused, and traumatised" and were disparagingly called 'coronavirus,' the study said.



Arup Kumar Dutta

**THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT DISCRIMINATION AND PREJUDICE CONFRONTED BY PEOPLE OF THE NORTH-EAST WITHIN OTHER COMMUNITIES IS THE RESULT OF THE LATTER'S IGNORANCE**



Aakar Patel

**Independence Day is a good moment to reflect on what we have done with the power we acquired on that day and what we are leaving for the generations to come after us**

## Moment To Reflect

The Indian government leads the celebrations for two national holidays. One is Independence Day, which is 15 August. The second is Republic Day, 26 January. On the first we mark the passing of the British Raj and the transfer of power to Indians. This did not happen fully, and the head of state even after 15 August 1947 continued to be Lord Mountbatten, for another 10 months. In this period, the Congress party began integrating the princely states into the Union, often with Mountbatten's assistance. Some of the states were more tricky than others. For instance Jodhpur's king Hanwant Singh wanted to join Pakistan and Hyderabad's Nizam Osman Ali Khan wanted to remain independent. Mountbatten nudged these individuals towards India and was useful for the Congress party as it began the hard task of integration. The task was hard because many princely states said that their agreement with the Raj stood cancelled the moment the British withdrew.

Independence Day is seen as a cut-off point but in many ways it wasn't. The British transferred significant power to Indians through the few decades before 1947. It was already clear by the late 1930s that the British would leave India at some point in the near future. The people who would lead India after independence, Nehru and Patel and the rest, all had experience in legislatures because the British allowed limited power sharing. Of course the Indian army was entirely British in its raising and creation. The British had also fallen to hard times, especially with the Second World War, where it had a limited role. Managing India in these circumstances was quite difficult. As we have seen even in 2021, our Atmanirbhar government runs large deficits which must be financed through borrowing. Lastly, Churchill and the American President Roosevelt had signed a document called the Atlantic Charter in 1941 which committed them to decolonising the world after Hitler was defeated, and giving all people the right to self-determination.

For all these reasons, 15 August was inevitable and though we use the words freedom at midnight, indicating that the event happened in a moment, it was really a longer time-frame. This is the background we need for a fuller understanding of 15 August and its meaning.

The second holiday the government leads us through is the Republic Day. This is when the Constitution of India, which began being written before Independence (because the British allowed it) formally came into force in 1950. On that day we celebrate India as a Republic. What does that mean? It means a form of government where the power is held by the people. It is the Indian people who are sovereign and not any individual. It is their government through their representatives. And so Republic Day is a celebration of the Constitution, the document which says Indians are sovereign. The question is: are we? The answer is no.

The sovereign in India is the really the State, meaning the government and all the apparatus is controls. It is not the people. The people are useful for the State because they give it legitimacy but they are also seen as a nuisance that gets in the way of government.

It is for this reason that the Constitution has been severely undermined over the years. It is true that this has happened under all governments but it is equally true that it has particularly accelerated under the present one. This has happened in three ways. First through the attack on fundamental rights. Though these are constitutionally guaranteed, the rights to equality, freedom of expression, occupation, religion, movement, assembly and association and right to life and liberty do not exist in India in any meaningful way. This is not the place to go into why and how but ask constitutional scholars and they will agree with what I have said. I have discussed this at length in my last book, 'Our Hindu Rashtra'.

The second attack has been through the misuse of the State and ensuring that those who violate the law but are on the side of the ruling party are not punished or prosecuted. They include legislators and ministers, like Anurag Thakur and Kapil Mishra. A judge ordered FIRs to be filed against them but he was transferred out the same night and the FIRs not filed. This sort of thing is common now in India.

The third thing has to do with the Parliament. Those parties for whom Indians voted but are not part of the government are treated with disdain, as if their voters are irrelevant. The government has made much of these parties creating a nuisance in the Parliament. However, the problem is that the violation of parliamentary rule was initiated by the government. Passing the farm laws without a vote in the Rajya Sabha was unconstitutional.

All this leads us to the question - how much of a republic are we? And if we are not especially republican seven decades after Independence what does the future hold? These are things we have to consider as a nation. Independence Day is meant to unite us as a nation across parties because it marks our victory over outsiders who did not consider themselves Indian. It is a good moment to reflect on what we have done with the power we acquired on that day and what we are leaving for the generations to come after us.

## WISDOM CORNER

- Happiness is a direction, not a place. **SYDNEY J. HARRIS**
- The greatest remedy for anger is delay. **LUCIUS ANNAEUS SENECA**
- Art is man's expression of his joy in labour. **HENRY KISSINGER**

## WORDSWORTH

### Orotund

This started its life, at the end of the eighteenth century, as a positive word that was associated with the qualities of good public speaking, especially a way of speaking that was full, round and imposing. It comes from the Latin phrase ore rotundo, "with rounded mouth" which appears in Ars Poetica by the Roman writer Horace (so the word has a very close link to rotund, which comes from Latin rotundus, as indeed does round, all three ultimately deriving from rota, a wheel.) In 1840, the Penny Cyclopaedia described the qualities of such speech in terms as rounded themselves as one could reasonably wish: "The name of orotund... is given to that natural or improved manner of uttering the elements, which exhibits them with a fullness, clearness, strength, smoothness, and a ringing or musical quality rarely heard in ordinary speech." One thinks of rounded vowels rumbling up from rounded bellies, of expansive language accompanied by equally expansive gestures. But such oratorical tendencies can quickly tip over into pretentious or pompous long-windedness, and this is the word's downside. When William Makepeace Thackeray wrote The Book of Snobs, which appeared in 1848, he had this other sense in mind, but preferred the Latin original to the derived English term: Jawkins is a most pertinacious Club Snob. Every day he is at that fireplace, holding that Standard, of which he reads up the leading-article, and pours it out ore rotundo, with the most astonishing composure, in the face of his neighbour, who has just read every word of it in the paper.

## SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# Big Tech flies too much

Last year, Microsoft announced that it will be carbon-negative by 2030. "If we don't curb emissions, and temperatures continue to climb," the firm said in its official blog, "science tells us that the results will be catastrophic." Microsoft deserves credit for publicly discussing the climate crisis, being transparent about its own greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, and at least having some sort of plan to reduce them.

But the elephant in the room is that Microsoft is one of the top 10 corporate buyers of commercial flights in the United States. Before the pandemic, in the financial year 2019, the firm's business travel alone accounted for 392,557 tonne of GHG emissions.

That's far more than my entire Pacific island country emits in a year. Tuvalu is well known for its vulnerability to the effects of climate change. We contribute almost nothing to global GHG emissions, but their consequences affect us on a monthly or even daily basis.

Microsoft's high level of corporate air travel is not a good look for a company that talks big on climate, sustainability, and racial justice, especially one that literally has its own videoconferencing platform. Surely an advanced tech firm that claims to be "reimagining virtual collaboration for the future of

work" should practice what it preaches, crank up Microsoft Teams, and fly less.

But Microsoft is hardly an outlier among tech firms. Five of the 10 largest buyers of corporate air travel in the US are technology companies: Amazon, IBM, Google, Apple, and Microsoft. These digital giants, along with the big consulting firms, are also among the top buyers of flights globally.

Although one might expect these big, growing companies' large number of employees to fly to many meetings, there are plenty of even bigger employers that fly less. Companies that tout technological innovation as the key to tackling climate change should be savvy enough to use video calls, rather than shuttle employees around the planet on airlines that before the pandemic burned 7.8 million barrels of oil per day - more than India.

In May last year, a paper in the journal Nature Climate Change found that the pause to aviation accounted for 10 per cent of the decrease in global emissions during COVID-19 lockdowns. Given that only 4 per cent of the global population took an international flight in 2018, and that half of all aviation emissions come from just 1 per cent of the global population, this outsized impact shows not only how often the 1 per cent fly, but also

that flying is a function of privilege. And according to the International Air Transport Association, many, if not the majority, of frequent flyers are businesspeople.

Microsoft, which is so committed to business travel that it has its own priority check-in lane at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, sits near the top of a highly unequal and skewed global carbon hierarchy. The wealthiest (and often the whitest) pollute the most, while those who emit the least - predominantly people of colour, the socially vulnerable, and inhabitants of the Global South, including the Pacific - bear the costs.

Comparatively wealthy flyers must recognise their responsibility to those less fortunate, who deserve to live without fear of global warming's effects. Climate-vulnerable people want to maintain their homes and identities as citizens of their country, rather than being forced to migrate elsewhere.

If concern for equality and climate justice won't cure Big Tech's corporate flight addiction, maybe money will. The profits of Amazon and other large technology firms soared during last year's lockdowns, even when commercial flights were reduced to zero for many months.

Chief financial officers and accountants are therefore now won-

dering whether the expense of business flights makes any sense. Employees can hold more meetings in a day via videoconference, and business flyers say the pause in air travel either had no impact on their productivity, or actually improved it.

Meanwhile, many Big Tech firms buy 'carbon credits,' and maintain that this somehow erases or 'offsets' their own flight emissions. But this claim is losing whatever scientific credibility it once may have had. A recent investigation revealed that the most popular carbon-offset scheme used by airlines is based on a flawed system, in which so-called 'phantom credits' are often sold on the promise to protect forest areas that were never at risk of being cut down. In reality, neither airlines nor their biggest corporate customers are in a position to claim that their flights are 'carbon neutral.'

Microsoft and other big technology companies therefore must commit to remain permanently at their 2020 flight levels. This is possible, necessary, and fair. It is also good business.

*The writer, a former meteorologist, is Executive Director of Tuvalu Climate Action Network.*

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## 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)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Concern for India

Sir, This is in reference to "Taliban nears Kabul as major cities fall," Orissa POST, August 14. With the rampaging Taliban having captured Kandahar and Herat, the trouble-torn country has plunged deeper into chaos. A bloody power struggle and humanitarian crisis have ravaged Afghanistan, even as the world is struggling to come to grips with the fast-deteriorating situation. Although, 12 nations including the US, China and India along with the UN and the EU representatives in Qatar conclave agreed that peace process needs to be accelerated and decided not to recognise any government imposed through military force, most countries prefer to pursue their own interests amid the mayhem in Afghanistan. The ongoing developments leave no room for doubt that the Taliban will remain a decisive player in the scheme of things. India has invested about \$3 billion in projects aimed at rebuilding Afghanistan. New Delhi's contingency plan ought to include negotiations with the Taliban so that the good work done by India doesn't come to naught. But, the reports of Pakistan's continued support to the Taliban and the influx of terrorists into Afghanistan from that country are of grave concern for India. India's strategic interests in Afghanistan will be under serious threat as long as Pakistan keeps providing logistical and tactical aid to the militant outfit. New Delhi must spearhead global efforts to expose Islamabad's nefarious designs.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Grim scenario

Sir, The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released recently makes for grim reading for the world in general and for India in particular. According to the IPCC report, the evidence is now unequivocal that anthropogenic warming is in effect and that temperatures have already risen by 1.1 degree Celsius since the Industrial Revolution. There are special warnings in the report for South Asia and India. The Indian Ocean is warming faster than the global average and snow covering in the Himalayas is fast depleting. It is a fact that India is one of the countries most exposed to the impact of global warming. Rising sea levels, frequent cyclones and other extreme weather events pose threats to its coastline. Hilly regions in India are vulnerable to landslides. Recently occurred landslides in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh have led to great loss of lives. Frequent glacial runoffs and intense cloud-bursts increase the chances of landslides.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

## RWSS plans drinking water projects with solar power

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasure/Langaleswar, August 14:** The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) under the panchayatiraj and drinking water department is planning to run drinking water projects with solar power, without depending on hydro electricity in various parts of north Odisha.

It was learnt that the RWSS has set up scores of drinking water projects with funds provided under Water Mission, Basudha, RIDF, OMBADC and DMF.

At a workshop organised by the RWSS, Balasure, it was stated that in future all drinking water projects will be operationalised with solar power.

Expert trainers groomed by Unicef imparted training to all en-

gineers of the RWSS in Balasure, Bhadrak, Keonjhar, Anandapur, Baripada and Rairangpur on its technical knowhow, maintenance and management and application of solar power in this sector.

It was learnt that many remote and hilly areas lack electricity. The solar power will come handy in running the drinking water projects in these areas.

In a related development, two mega drinking water projects will be set up in Naikudi panchayat under Basta block of Balasure. Local MLA Nityananda Sahu laid the foundation stone for the two projects recently. Rs1.5 crore has been allocated for the projects to be set up at Nadabani and Agatmala.

Once completed, the two projects will provide safe drinking water to over 3,000 people.

## Conjoined-twin Jaga gets sister Subhadra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Phulbani, August 14:** Conjoined twin survivor Jaga from Melupada village in Kandhamal district, who had lost his brother Balia last year following separation, has got a newborn sister, his family said Saturday.

According to Jaga's father Bhuan Kanhar, the family is happy to have got a baby girl as part of their family. She has been named Subhadra.

Jaga's mother Puspanjali gave birth to the baby girl at Phulbani district headquarters hospital (DHH) August 7.

"We were in fact heartbroken following the demise of Balia. The newborn in our family has helped us overcome our grief. Everyone in our family is very happy and the infant is healthy," Pushpanjali said.

Jaga feels immensely happy to play with Subhadra. He is taking care of his sister.

## ACF SOUMYA DEATH CB takes over probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, August 14:** Police DG Abhay has directed Crime Branch to investigate Paralakhemundi assistant conservator of forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra's death case, a top police official said Saturday.

According to Crime Branch ADG Sanjeev Panda, a three-member investigating team has been constituted. The team will be led by a DSP level official.

The Crime Branch was earlier assisting local police in the probe, Panda further said.

It is pertinent to mention, Soumya's father Abhiram Mohapatra had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking justice for his son August 8.

Abhiram had complained against the tardy pace of investigation in his letter. The death of his son had taken place July 12, Abhiram stated. He had alleged Soumya's death to be a case of murder and sought action against persons who are involved in it.

"Paralakhemundi police have been beating around the bush for last so many days. An unfair and biased probe which is underway has made the incident murkier," he had written.



ACCORDING TO CRIME BRANCH ADG SANJEEV PANDA, A THREE-MEMBER INVESTIGATING TEAM HAS BEEN CONSTITUTED. THE TEAM WILL BE LED BY A DSP LEVEL OFFICIAL

THE CRIME BRANCH WAS EARLIER ASSISTING LOCAL POLICE IN THE PROBE, THE ADG ADDED

Abhiram had also claimed that the incident was a well-planned murder in which Soumya's wife Bidyabharati Panda, Gajapati DFO Sangram Keshari Behera, Gurandi police station OIC Mamata Panda and the cook who was present at ACF's government residence on the intervening night were involved in the "murder".

The conspiracy to eliminate his son Soumya was hatched a month back, he had added.

"The investigating police team

says the deceased ACF's residence was the crime spot. However, there was no trace of fire when his family members visited the house following the incident," Abhiram had mentioned.

"Moreover, the DFO who is also a suspect in the case has not been transferred elsewhere, thereby influencing the probe," he had written in his letter. Besides, Abhiram had threatened self-immolation in front of Naveen Niwas in case justice is denied to him.

## STF seizes 990 kg cannabis from WB-bound truck

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasure, August 14:** A special task force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch raided a truck near Mathani Chhachh on NH-60 in Basta area of Balasure district Friday and seized 990.6 kilogram of cannabis from the vehicle which was on its way to West Bengal from Balasure.

According to an official, the raid was carried out by STF team based on a tip-off from a reliable source that the contraband was being transported to a location outside the state. Swinging into action, the team intercepted a ten-wheeler truck loaded with cannabis and apprehended a person named Pravat Kumar Sahu, son of Kailash Chandra Sahu from Kantapada area under Kodala police limits in

Ganjam district.

During the search, the seized contraband was found concealed in a secret chamber of the truck. The accused could not produce any valid document in support of possessing the contraband following which he was arrested.

Pravat was produced in the court of District and Sessions Judge in Balasure. A case was registered in this connection. A detailed probe is still underway, STF officials said.

Notably, in its special drive against narcotic drugs being carried out for the last one year, the STF has seized more than 36 kilogram of brown sugar and heroin apart from more than 84.28 quintal of cannabis. The STF has arrested around 100 drug peddlers and mafia so far.

## Flag design error in I-Day cards

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, August 14:** In a curious case, Bargarh district administration was found printing an inaccurate symbol of the National Flag on its Independence Day celebration invitation card.

Bargarh district administration will celebrate 75th Independence Day at George High School ground this year.

The district administration has

invited journalists to attend the function. Journalists have pointed out the design error in the card.

The card had a vertical strip of saffron colour and green colour on its left side. There was an Ashoka Chakra in the middle of these two colours. It missed the white colour in the middle. When the mistake was pointed out to the district administration, they hastily printed fresh invitation cards, correcting the error, it was learnt.

# YOUTH'S HOPES TAKE WINGS

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

India will celebrate 75 years of Independence August 15, 2021. Youth (15-24) constitute one-fifth of India's 1.3 billion people. On the occasion of 75th Independence Day, what does freedom mean to this new generation? Orissa POST asks this question to youths from different fields



society and not merely engage as keyword warriors or arm-chair activists.

**Nishant Nihar**, a youth activist, said: I think the first 75 years have put us in a unique position where we are at the cusp of achieving many dreams. We are recovering well from the effects of the pan-



demic. The start-up sector is booming and many MNCs are now shifting their manufacturing bases to India. I hope this serves as a play in generating more employment for India's youth. The National Education Policy's implementation is going to be a game changer. Good performance in Olympics will inspire many young people to follow alternative career paths.

**Subhansu Dash**, a young author, said: Youth is the voice of this nation. The country has been doing a lot for the betterment and development of youth but I think they need to be implemented in a correct manner. Here,



I am saying about the rural youth. We as urban people enjoy a lot of things as compared to rural youth. I expect the government to take bold steps towards development and educational responsibilities of rural youth because they do not get enough resources like their city counterparts.

**Ayushi Reddy**, a young model, said: India has come a long way in these 75 years. Since it's a developing country, it has more growth to achieve. As the youth of this country, I wish my



country would concentrate on individuals rather than their religion.

**Jyotsna Priyadarshini**, an anchor, said: India is progressing but not us! As an artiste I am insecure about my life with regard to my fu-



ture! I believe there is a lot to be done for today's youth! I wish "entrepreneurship" is something that is talked a lot but isn't practiced.

**Jayshree Pradhan**, an associate analyst in a private company, said: as we know the outbreak of Covid-19 has affected India's economic and so-



cial level in a big way. Even healthcare is facing a lot of challenges. The situation is coming under control. But at some places, people are still affected.

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## 7 years on, CB fails to crack case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, August 14:** Seven years have passed since a college student was gang-raped and murdered at Dharmasharanpur in Ganjam district. The Crime Branch has failed to get a breakthrough and arrest the culprits.

As the case drags on, locals accused the Crime Branch of being in slumber, a report said.

According to reports, an orphaned girl of Dharmasharanpur was pursuing Plus-II. August 2, 2014, the girl had gone to her farmland with her aunt at Benigouri. After work, she was returning home alone. But she did not reach home.

August 3, her body was found near a hill in a cashew forest with multiple injuries. It was alleged that the girl was gangraped and murdered.

Ganjam police started an investigation into the crime, but failed to crack the case. Later, the case was handed over to the Crime Branch. But the CB has so far failed to find out who were in-

involved in the crime.

Locals and various outfits had staged agitations over the failure of the CB in cracking the case.

Another case being investigated by the CB has met the same fate. A person suspected to a Maoist was detained at Chamakhandi police station. The accused had died in police custody. The case was handed over to the Crime Branch, but there is no headway in the case.

Ganjam police have also failed to get breakthroughs in many other cases. A girl of SC community was found hanging in Benigouri Road area December, 16, 2016. Five years have passed, but the case has not been cracked by police.

September 14, 2020, a woman of Nimashala village was found hanging at Palang panchayat under Rambha police limits. It was confirmed that she was raped and hanged. 14 local outfits had gheroaed the police station, demanding arrest of the culprits. But the case has not made much progress, it was alleged.

**AM/NS INDIA**

**Badhte Kadam, Atmanirbharta Ki Aur**

ARCELORMITTAL NIPPON STEEL INDIA CELEBRATES 75<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY



# Blast in school triggers tension along Assam-Mizo border

AGENCIES

**Hailakandi (Assam), August 14:** After a brief lull, tension along the Assam-Mizoram border escalated again Saturday after unidentified miscreants bombed a government educational institute in Hailakandi district, triggering fear among locals, a senior police officer said.

The blast that took place at Sahebmarra around midnight damaged a major portion of a primary school, close to the interstate border, though no casualty has been reported so far, Hailakandi Superintendent of Police Gaurav Upadhyaya told reporters.

Locals in the area suspect that miscreants from the other side of the border bombed the school. According to the SP, more details will be available after a thorough investigation.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated that he will write to his Mizoram counterpart and request for a probe into the blast.

As the incident occurred within "our territory, the Assam police will conduct an inquiry into it," Sarma maintained.

He also said that intelligence reports had suggested sporadic incidents may occur along the border and "I had mentioned about it in



the Assembly Friday."

"It will take time for complete peace to return to Assam's border with Mizoram," he added.

Meanwhile, AIJDF MLA from Katlicherra, Suzam Uddin Laskar, alleged that people from Mizoram have initiated road construction work in Chhuninullah area of Hailakandi, and demanded immediate action from the Assam government.

He claimed that "inaction on the part of the state government has

**It will take time for complete peace to return to Assam's border with Mizoram**

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

made the boundary dispute critical." Officials in Mizoram have denied the allegation.

Border dispute between Assam and Mizoram had reached a flashpoint with six Assam policemen and a civilian losing lives in a bloody

conflict July 26 in Cachar district.

A series of complaints was filed in both the states against top officials, with the Mizoram Police even registering a case against the Assam chief minister.

Assam followed it up by issuing a travel advisory cautioning people from travelling to Mizoram while several organisations resorted to a road blockade to prevent trucks from moving to the neighbouring state.

It was after the Centre inter-

vened and neutral forces were deployed along the interstate border, the situation eased considerably with both the states withdrawing the cases against each other.

Two Assam ministers Atul Bora and Ashok Singhal visited Aizawl and the both the state governments subsequently issued a joint statement pledging to maintain status quo and peace along the border.

The Assam government also persuaded the organisations staging a blockade to lift it and free movement of vehicles resumed from August 8.

Tension along the border with Mizoram in Cachar and Hailakandi districts of Assam has been building up since October 2020 with frequent incidents of land encroachment, grenade blasts reported from these areas.

The two states share a 164.6-km border spanning across Assam's districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj, and Mizoram's Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl.

The long-standing dispute has its origin in two notifications - one of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar, and another of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur. Mizoram insists that the boundary demarcation made in the 1875 notification be followed.

# TN's 1st agriculture budget focuses on farmers' income



AGENCIES

**Chennai, August 14:** Encouraging agriculture graduates to turn into entrepreneurs, farmers to produce millets/pulses/oilseeds, converting fallow lands into cultivable ones, focus on organic farming, are some of the major points of the Tamil Nadu's first agriculture budget.

The budget was presented by Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare MRK Panneerselvam in the Assembly Saturday.

According to Panneerselvam, a total of Rs 34,220.65 crore has been allocated for the agriculture and allied sectors for the year 2021-22. He dedicated the budget to the farmers protesting in Delhi against the three farm laws of the central government.

The minister also announced the procurement price of paddy Grade-A varieties at Rs 2,060/- per quintal and common varieties at Rs 2,015/- per quintal. About six lakh farmers will be benefited and the government will be incurring an additional expenditure of Rs 99.38 crore. The DMK government headed by Chief Minister MK Stalin had announced that a separate budget for agriculture will be presented by the government.

"There are more challenges - decrease in crop area due to conversion of agricultural lands into real estate, depletion in soil nutrition, declining of water resources due to over-exploitation; reluctance among youngsters to take up farming, deprivation of remunerative price for agricultural produce, enhanced cost of cultivation, post-harvest loss, etc. Farmers are facing these challenges in agriculture like Atlas," the minister said.

Panneerselvam said during the current fiscal the cultivable land will be increased by creating water sources in about 2,500 villages so as to increase the farmer's income. A total sum of Rs 1,245.45 crore has been allocated for the scheme. He said Stalin has given three tar-

gets - a) to bring in additional 11.75 hectares for cultivation (b) an area of 10 lakh hectare cropped area to be doubled in 10 years and (c) Tamil Nadu to be brought within the first three positions in the country in agricultural productivity in crops like foodgrains and commercial crops such as coconut, cotton, sunflower, and sugarcane.

The government plans to convert 11.75 hectares of fallow land into cultivable land over the next ten years and the crops like millets, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits will be grown to increase the net sown area to 75 per cent, Panneerselvam said.

A cluster of 100 hectare of rain-fed lands will be identified wherein summer ploughing, rainwater harvesting systems such as farm ponds and contour bunding will be created, bio-fertilizers and quality seeds of nutri-cereals, pulses and oilseeds will be distributed at subsidised rates.

The farmers who adopt organic farming will be encouraged with provision of inputs subsidy. The noble project of "Organic Farming Development Scheme" will be implemented during the current year.

According to Panneerselvam, traditional paddy variety seeds will be multiplied in 200 acres in State Seed Farms to distribute them to the farmers.

He also said the government will focus on making agricultural graduates into entrepreneurs and also make efforts to nurture the impression that agriculture is a noble profession so that educated youth take farming to the next level.

With the demand for millets increasing, Panneerselvam said a Millet Mission will be implemented to increase its production.

Value addition in minor millets will be encouraged to ensure remunerative price to farmers. Minor Millet rice will be procured by Co-operative societies and distributed through Public Distribution System in Cities like Chennai and Coimbatore, he added.

# Aspirants of all castes appointed as temple priests in Tamil Nadu

*The DMK had assured in the run up to the April 6 Assembly polls that it would appoint persons belonging to all castes, who have completed training as priests in temples*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 14:** Implementing its electoral promise of appointing aspirants belonging to all castes as temple priests, the DMK government Saturday appointed as many as 24 trained 'archakas' of various communities as priests in shrines. Chief Minister MK Stalin handed over the appointment orders of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department to 75 persons here marking appointments to 208 positions under various categories.

The appointments include 24 aspirants who had formally completed training in a state-run centre for becoming priests in Hindu temples, 34 others who completed 'archaka' training in other 'patshalas.'

The 208 appointees include 'Bhattacharyas', 'Odhuvars' Poojaris and technical and office assistants who were recruited after due process, the government said. While Bhattacharyas are Vaishnavite priests, Odhuvars are trained in Tamil Shaivite tradition to recite and sing devotional hymns composed by Shaivite saints including Appar and Manickavasagar in praise of Lord Shiva. While August 14 marks the 100th day of DMK government assuming power in Tamil Nadu, the party had assured in the run up to the April 6 Assembly polls that it would appoint persons belonging to all castes, who have completed training as priests in temples. Stalin took over as Chief Minister on May 7. Quoting reformist leader Thanthai Periyar EV Ramasamy the government in an official release here said he fought for equal rights in worship for all those who believe in God. Following in his footsteps, the previous DMK government (2006-11) helmed by late Chief Minister M Karunanidhi had issued a Government Order paving the way for appointment of persons belonging to all Hindu castes as priests in temples, the government said. Continuing the initiative, the government has appointed persons

belonging to all castes who have completed training for the envisaged priestly role in temples.

Stalin on his Twitter handle said the initiative to appoint priests from all castes fulfilled the dream of Kalaigarnar (former CM, M Karunanidhi). Tamil orator Suki Sivam, noted for his Hindu religious lectures, welcomed the move to appoint persons belonging to all castes as priests.

Rigid casteism in Hinduism would only be an obstacle for its growth and this initiative of the state government is a seed for easing rigidity, he said.

Mata Amritanandamayi, hailing from a humble background, provided a great spiritual leadership and Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa chose Swami Vivekananda as his key disciple only based on spiritual mooring and no other consideration, he told PTL. Such a reformist path initiated by Ramakrishna Paramahansa led to the growth of Hindu religion because of Swami Vivekananda, he said.

Only when the in-built caste based structures break up, "Hindu religion will see a magnificent growth," Sivam said. The event to give away the appointment orders was held at a temple owned marriage hall here. Pontiff Kunderakudi Ponnambala Adigalar, spiritual leader Shantalinga Marudhachala Adigalar, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister PK Sekar Babu, Health Minister Ma Subramanian, Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru, top HR and CE and government officials participated.

While most temples have Brahmin priests, there are also many shrines where people belonging to several other castes officiate as archakas.

The previous AIADMK government had appointed a couple of non-Brahmin priests in temples who had completed training. Hindu outfits and BJP leaders had already welcomed the initiative to appoint aspirants belonging to all Hindu communities as priests.



# Assam's border dispute with Arunachal at 1,200 places

AGENCIES

**Guwahati, August 14:** Amid border disputes with Mizoram, Meghalaya and Nagaland, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told the Assembly Friday that the state's boundary disputes with Arunachal Pradesh are at 1,200 places.

The Chief Minister said that the Assam government has been holding informal talks on the border issue with the Arunachal Pradesh government.

"Assam has 12 areas of border disputes with Meghalaya, but the disagreement with Arunachal is at 1,200 places," he said.

"There was clear demarcation of boundary when the states of Uttarakhnd and Jharkhand were created. However, when Mizoram, Arunachal and Nagaland were carved out, the matter was left to certain conditions and the uncertainty remained, causing the disputes," he added.

Sarma said that Assam's boundary dispute cases with Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are lying in the Supreme Court and any forward movement on these issues without the direction of the apex court would be unwise.

Referring to the historical perspective of the Mizoram boundary with Assam, the Chief Minister



said that in 1870, the British administration had given the forest (now a reserve forest) to the Lushai Hills (present day Mizoram).

"The forest areas were bifurcated in 1932 with one portion going to Assam and the other to Mizoram. When Mizoram was given a Union Territory status in 1972, it was decided that the 1932 boundary will be the inter-state border. During the signing of the Mizo peace accord in 1986, that very boundary was agreed to be maintained as Mizoram's boundary. Based on this boundary, Mizoram created a state in 1987," he stated.

The worst-ever violence along the

Assam-Mizoram border July 26 left six Assam Police personnel dead and around 100 civilians and security personnel of the two neighbouring states injured.

The fierce border troubles between Assam and Mizoram subsided only August 8 after the withdrawal of the 'economic blockade' on National Highway 306, ensuring supply of essential goods, transport fuel and vital medicines to the mountainous border state.

The Assam Chief Minister had also discussed with his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu about an out of the court settlement of the boundary disputes.

# ULFA (I) extends ceasefire for another three months



AGENCIES

**Guwahati, August 14:** The banned ULFA (Independent) outfit Saturday extended the unilateral ceasefire, announced in May this year, for another three months as the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Assam is yet to improve.

ULFA (I) commander-in-chief Paresh Barua, in a statement mailed to journalists here, said that the outfit had announced the ceasefire May 15 and decided to refrain from any operation during this three-month period as people were facing difficulties due to the pandemic.

"The COVID-19 situation is yet to stabilise and as our social responsibility, we have extended the ceasefire for another three months and no operations will be conducted during this period," he said.

Responding to the development, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "This is a very encouraging and positive an-

ouncement. The ULFA (I) has also not called for any bandh on Independence Day either, which was the norm earlier. These measures are commendable. I hope that the ceasefire becomes permanent and the outfit under the leadership of Paresh Barua returns to the mainstream."

Since assuming office May 10, the chief minister had urged the outfit to come forward on the negotiating table.

For the first time in three decades, the ULFA (I) has announced that it will not engage in any "armed protest" or call for bandh on this Independence Day, which was the norm earlier, due to several issues including the pandemic, border conflicts in South Asia, floods, erosion and unemployment.

The outfit, however, urged people to protest the day 'democratically' by unfurling the ULFA flag, wearing black badges and waving black flags with strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

# TN TO LAUNCH ₹500 CRORE CLIMATE CHANGE MISSION

## GREEN TAMIL NADU MISSION TO INCREASE THE TOTAL AREA UNDER FOREST AND TREE COVER TO 33 PER CENT OF THE STATE'S LAND AREA

AGENCIES

**Chennai, August 14:** In order to combat and mitigate the impact of climate change in the coastal state of Tamil Nadu, the government said that it will launch a climate change mission under Chief Minister MK Stalin.

Presenting the Budget for 2021-22 in the Assembly, Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said: "This government will launch the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission under the Honourable Chief Minister to focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities with a total outlay of Rs 500 crore."

He also said the state government will launch the Green Tamil Nadu Mission to increase the total area under the forest and tree cover to 33 per cent of the land area of the state. A massive tree plantation programme of indigenous and diverse species, in co-ordination with multiple departments, public and private institutions will be taken up with people's participation over 10 years.

According to Rajan, to protect the coast line and to reduce pollution in coastal stretches action plans



will be prepared and implemented.

Over the next five years, 10 beaches will be upgraded with the active support of local bodies to achieve the prestigious Blue Flag Certification which mandates higher standards of quality, safety, environmental education and information, and safety services.

The government will launch the "Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission" with the objective of ecological restoration of wetlands in the state.

**Over the next five years, 10 beaches will be upgraded with active support of local bodies to achieve prestigious Blue Flag Certification which mandates higher standards of quality, safety, environmental education, information, and safety services**

The mission will identify and map 100 wetlands in 5 years and restore the ecological balance with focus on livelihood options at a cost of Rs 150 crore.

These apart, a Green Fund will be created based on the levy of the green seigniorage cess to ensure that abandoned quarry sites are appropriately secured and restored.

A Fossil Geological Park will be developed in Ariyalur and Perambalur districts at a cost of Rs 10 crore where indigenous fossils which are six crore years old are found, Rajan said.

# national



It is a matter of pride for us that four Indian sites get Ramsar recognition. This once again manifests India's centuries old ethos of preserving natural habitats, working towards flora and fauna protection, and building a greener planet  
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

## TWITTER UNLOCKS RAHUL'S HANDLE

A week after temporarily suspending his account, Twitter restored Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's handle Saturday, but not before the principal opposition party accused it of bias. Gandhi's account was temporarily suspended last week



### of the day quote

Announcing August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is a rightful tribute to the struggles and sacrifices of our people who were a casualty of the Congress' ambition and tunnel vision

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION MINISTER

One of the reasons: ONLY 12 per cent of Bills in Modi-II have gone through any Parliamentary Committee scrutiny. This was 27 per cent in Modi-I, 71 per cent in UPA-II & 60 per cent in UPA-I

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONG LEADER

I have requested the Indian Navy to go ahead with their original plan and have assured full cooperation from Goa Police. These attempts of anti-India activities shall be dealt with an iron fist. It will always be 'Nation First'

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

## Taliban warn India against military moves in Af

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 14: The Taliban have warned India against military moves in Afghanistan, pointing to the fate of other military powers.

If they (India) come to Afghanistan militarily and have their presence, I think that will not be good for them. They've seen the fate of military presence in Afghanistan of other countries, so it is an open book for them, Taliban spokesperson Muhammed Suhail Shaheen said as per media reports.

He also denied that the Taliban



has ties with other terror groups based in Pakistan. They are not

based on ground realities but on basis of their certain policies to-

We appreciate everything that has been done for people of Afghanistan like dams, national and infrastructure projects and anything that's for Afghanistan's development, reconstruction and economic prosperity for people

MUHAMMED SUHAIL SHAHEEN | TALIBAN SPOKESPERSON

wards us, on the basis of politically motivated goals, he added. The Taliban have assured embassies and staff that there is no danger from their side. The Taliban spokesperson said that it follows a general policy of not allowing anyone to use Afghan soil against any country including the

neighbouring nations.

On reports of Indian officials meeting the Taliban in Doha, the spokesperson said that he could not confirm the development.

Shaheen said the Taliban appreciates India for helping the Afghan people, while also praising reconstruction activities.

We appreciate everything that has been done for people of Afghanistan like dams, national and infrastructure projects and anything that's for Afghanistan's development, reconstruction and economic prosperity for people, he added.

## BSF high alert along Indo-Bangla border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhubri (Assam), August 14: The Border Security Force (BSF) has been put on a 'high alert' along the India-Bangladesh border following inputs of possible security threats on Independence Day from Islamist terrorists based in the neighbouring country and Indian insurgents operating in states sharing the international boundary, a senior officer of the paramilitary force said Saturday.

Strict vigil is being maintained along the entire India-Bangladesh border in Assam and Coochbehar district of West Bengal and orders have been issued to strictly deal with anyone trying to cause any untoward activity along the international boundary, BSF Deputy Inspector General, Regional Headquarters, Shailendra Kumar Sinha said Saturday.

The BSF has launched 'Operation Alert' along the international border and all officers and jawans from all branches of the paramilitary force are participating in the exercise that will continue till August 16, he said.

## Ex-IPS officer to contest poll against Adityanath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

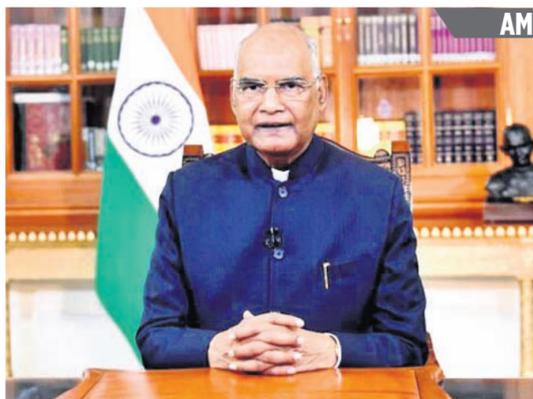
Lucknow, August 14: Former Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer Amitabh Thakur, who was given premature retirement, will be contesting the next year's state assembly polls against Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, his family has announced.

In a statement issued here, Amitabh Thakur's wife Nutan said it is a fight for principles for him. Adityanath undertook many undemocratic, improper, suppressive, harassing and discriminatory steps during his tenure as Chief Minister, she alleged. Hence, Amitabh shall be contesting the election against Adityanath from any place he contests. It is a fight for principles for him, where he shall be presenting his protest to the wrongdoings, she said.

Following a decision taken by the Union Home Ministry, Thakur was given compulsory retirement March 23 in public interest.

He was not found fit to be retained for the remaining tenure of his service, an order from the Union Home Ministry had said of Thakur, who would have completed his service in 2028.

## 'Parliament temple of democracy'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 14: President Ram Nath Kovind Saturday said Parliament is the temple of the country's democracy which provides the highest forum to discuss, debate and decide issues for the well-being of people, remarks that came against the backdrop of the recent ruckus and continuous disruptions that led to the abrupt adjournment of the two Houses.

In a televised address to the nation on the eve of the 75th Independence Day, the President also referred to the second Covid-19 wave, and said the country is yet to come out of its devastating effects. He asserted this is the time for extra care and caution, and people should not let their guard down.

President Kovind also sought to address the concerns raised by protesting farmers' unions against the three contentious farm laws, saying the series of agricultural marketing reforms will empower our 'annadata' farmers and help them

get better price for their produce.

Referring to the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics, he lauded the stellar performance by the country's sports persons.

President Kovind said when India won independence, many sceptics thought democracy would not survive in India.

"Little did they know that roots of democracy were nurtured in this soil in ancient times, and even in modern times India was ahead of many western nations in offering franchise to all adults, regardless of any distinctions."

The founding fathers had reposed their faith in the wisdom of the people, and "we, the people of India" have made India a strong democracy, he added.

"We have adopted the system of parliamentary democracy. Therefore, our Parliament is the temple of our democracy which provides us highest forum where we discuss, debate and decide issues for the well-being of our people," the President said.

Both the Lok Sabha and the

### AMID ONGOING IMPASSE

We have adopted the system of parliamentary democracy. Therefore, our Parliament is the temple of our democracy which provides us highest forum where we discuss, debate and decide issues for the well-being of our people

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die August 11, two days ahead of the scheduled date of August 13, after a tumultuous Monsoon session that witnessed unruly scenes in the Upper House Wednesday when the Insurance bill was being passed.

The Government and the opposition parties had traded charges over the abrupt end of the Monsoon session which was marred by continuous disruptions since it commenced July 19.

The opposition parties accused the government of crushing their voice in Parliament, murdering democracy and bringing outsiders as marshals to beat up MPs, a charge denied by the government. The government on its part had alleged that it was pre-planned by the opposition to not allow Parliament to function.

Kovind also said it is a matter of great pride for all Indians that our Parliament will soon be housed in a new building.

It will be a fitting statement of our outlook. It will honour our legacy while also walking in step with the contemporary world, he said, adding that it is more than symbolic that the new building will be inaugurated in the year of the 75th anniversary of Independence.

## 4 more Indian wetlands make it to Ramsar list



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 14: Four more Indian sites -- two each from Haryana and Gujarat -- have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, taking the number of such sites in the country to 46, the Union Environment Ministry said Saturday.

According to the ministry, for the first time, two wetlands in Haryana - Sultanpur National Park in Gurgaon and Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary in Jhajjar - have been included in the Ramsar list.

The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav tweeted, PM Shri @narendramodiji's concern for the environment has led to overall improvement in how India cares for its wetlands. Happy

to inform that four more Indian wetlands have got Ramsar recognition as wetlands of international importance. Thol and Wadhwa from Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana have made the cut for Ramsar recognition. The number of Ramsar sites in India is now 46, he added.

Haryana's Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary is a human-made freshwater wetland. It is also the largest in Haryana. Over 250 bird species use the sanctuary throughout the year as a resting and roosting site.

The site supports more than 10 globally threatened species including the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Black-bellied Tern.

The Sultanpur National Park in the state Haryana supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds at critical stages of their life cycles.

## Curbs in UP on Muharram

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government has asked district authorities to not allow any religious processions to be taken out on the occasion of Muharram in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and security concerns. 'Tazias' will not be installed publicly. However, they can be set up at homes. Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said in directions issued to district magistrates, senior superintendents of police and other senior officials.

## Jallianwala Bagh memorial unveiled

Amritsar: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Saturday inaugurated Jallianwala Bagh Centenary Memorial Park here. It has been set up in the memory of all those who died in the massacre of April 13, 1919. The CM dedicated the memorial to people of Punjab, saying this second memorial at the site of the gory massacre is a tribute to all those unknown martyrs who laid down their lives during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Nobody knows the exact number of lives lost, although the DC office has the names of only 488 who fell to the bullets of the British led by General Dyer.

### Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

**INVITES APPLICATIONS**

for

## Social Innovators (SPARSH Fellows)

for

### Social Innovation Immersion

SPARSH is the social innovation program of BIRAC and Social Innovation Immersion program (SIIP) is one of its components under which a pool of "Social Innovators/SPARSH Fellows" is being created to identify and address the social problems through social and rural immersion

The program is being implemented through 14 SPARSH Centres who would provide all the requisite support to the Social Innovators in the following thematic areas:

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Ageing and Health

Food and Nutrition

Waste to Value

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**Features**

- Rs. 50,000 pm fellowship
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- Access to BIRAC network
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**Eligibility**

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For submitting application and queries please log on to BIRAC website [www.birac.nic.in](http://www.birac.nic.in)  
Contact: GM & Head Investment, E-mail: [investment@birac.nic.in](mailto:investment@birac.nic.in) or Chief Manager, E-mail: [sgandhi.birac@nic.in](mailto:sgandhi.birac@nic.in)

**Last date: 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Tender No. 12-KUR-TRD-OT-2021-22, Date: 10.08.2021

**Name of Work: TESTING OF 3<sup>RD</sup> HARMONIC IN LIGHTNING ARRESTORS (LA) OF TSSs, SPs AND SSPs IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR TWO YEARS AND CONDITION MONITORING OF POWER TRANSFORMERS BY MEASURING CAPACITANCE AND TAN DELTA AND TESTING OF TRANSFORMER OIL OF IN SERVICE TRACTION TRANSFORMERS OF VARIOUS TRACTION SUB STATIONS (TSSs) IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR TWO YEARS.**

Approximate Value: ₹11,57,320/-  
Tender Closing date & time: Upto 1300 hrs of 02.09.2021.

Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/PR-288/M/21-22  
Khurda Road

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR**

Phone: 0680-2404096, E-mail: [eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in)  
No. O-527 Government of Odisha

**"e" Procurement Notice**

Bid Identification No. Online Tender/10/EERWD-II/2021-22  
No. 4820/RWD-IIGB Date: 06.08.21

1 Name of the work	Road Work
2 Estimated Cost	Rs. 1.33 lakh to Rs. 17.70 lakh
3 Period of Completion	30 (Thirty) days to 45 (Forty five) days as per Annexure
4 Date & time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	From 16.08.2021 at 10.00 A.M. to 26.08.2021 upto 3.00 P.M.
5 Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the portal	26.08.2021 upto 3.00 P.M.
6 Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app>.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer  
R.W. Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur  
OIPR-25073/11/0010/2122

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B.Sc. (Nautical Science)	M.Tech (Marine Engineering & Management)
BBA (Logistics, Retailing & E-Commerce)	M.Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)
DNS (Diploma in Nautical Science)	M.Tech (Dredging & Harbour Engineering)
B.Sc. (Ship Building & Repair)* - conducted at affiliated institute only	
PG Diploma	
Post-Graduate Diploma in Marine Engineering	

Last date of registration: **20.08.2021**  
For more details, please visit IMU website: [www.imu.edu.in](http://www.imu.edu.in)  
davp 37208/11/0005/2122

Wildfires are raging across Europe and North America as scorching temperatures and dry conditions fuel the blazes that have cost lives and destroyed livelihoods. The combination of extreme heat and prolonged drought have in many regions led to the worst fires in almost a decade. Scientists warn rising global temperatures due to greenhouse gas emissions are increasing the risk of fire conditions across the planet. Parts of Europe are enduring severe heatwaves, while hot, bone-dry gusty weather has caused devastating wildfires in California



# INFERNO UNLEASHED

## DIXIE FIRE

### California's monster flame



- ▶ July 13 - present
- ▶ The second largest fire in the state's history
- ▶ The fire has burned 790 square miles (500,000 acres)
- ▶ Death toll from the wildfire climbs to 30
- ▶ 233% increase over the same period last year

The Dixie Fire, the second largest fire in state history, has destroyed 893 structures and damaged another 61 in 27 days, according to Cal Fire. Last year's August Complex, the largest fire in California history, burned more than 1 million acres over nearly three months.

Heatwaves and historic drought tied to climate change have made wildfires harder to fight in the American west. California's fire season is on track to surpass last year's season, which itself was the worst fire sea-

son in recent recorded state history. California's raging blazes were among 107 large fires burning across 14 states, mostly in the west.

After burning through huge swaths of forest and reducing small Northern California towns to ash, the nation's largest active wildfire continues to grow in hot and dry conditions even as containment inches up.

Gov Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency for the counties affected by

the Dixie Fire, along with the McFarland and Monument Fires, which collectively have burned an additional 85,000 acres.

Wildfires have burned more than 917,000 acres across California this year, a, which went on to become the state's worst wildfire year on record, according to Cal Fire.

Across eight California counties, more than 12,000 people are under evacuation orders from the 11 large fires, according to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

### Evia: A Greek island ravaged by wildfires

Greece has been fighting some of the worst blazes in Europe amid blistering temperatures. Fires have raged across the country for nearly two weeks, leaving dozens needing hospital treatment.

Evia, Greece's second largest island, was under severe threat over the weekend and thousands packed up their belongings and fled their homes.

In the 10 days to 7 August, nearly 57,000 hectares (140,000 acres) were burnt in Greece, according to the European Forest Fire Information System. The average area burnt over the same period between 2008 and 2020 was 1,700 hectares.

Hundreds of firefighters battled Thursday to contain new flare-ups in wildfire-ravaged areas of Greece, where summer infernos have caused what the prime minister described as the country's "greatest ecological disaster in decades".

Greece's most severe heatwave in decades has fanned blazes that have destroyed more than 100,000 hectares of forests and farmland, the country's worst wildfire damage since 2007, the European Forest Fire Information



- Wildfires started early August
- More than 100,000 hectares burned in Greece
- Greece is experiencing the worst heatwave since 1987

System said Thursday. The fires in Greece stretched the country's firefighting capabilities to the limit, and the government appealed for help from abroad. Around 24 European and Middle Eastern countries sent aid, including firefighters, aircraft and vehicles.

### Biggest blaze in Siberia



The fires raging in Siberia are bigger than fires in Greece, Turkey, Italy, the United States and Canada combined, with analysts warning that this year could surpass Russia's worst fire year which was 2012.

For Russia, there are two types of fires raging across Siberia, the kind authorities are fighting and the others they are allowing to burn.

That's because Siberia is so vast that huge fires can burn without threatening any major settlements, transportation systems or infrastructure — but are still part of a swath of infernos that together are larger than all the other blazes around the world.

Russia is fighting more than 190 forest fires in Siberia that have closed airports and roads, forced widespread evacuations and sent a pall of smoke across the North Pole. But it has abandoned dozens more fires covering thousands of square miles, with no

**AUTHORITIES ARE LETTING 69 FIRES BURN UNHINDERED BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN**

effort to fight them.

As Russia increasingly confronts extreme weather associated with climate change, the rapid spread of fires in Yukutia — a vast forested Siberian region around the size of Argentina — came with drought, some of the hottest weather on record and strong winds.

More than 8600 firefighters, agricultural workers, soldiers and other emergency workers are fighting forest fires that have burned more than 62,300 square miles since the beginning of the year, according to Greenpeace.

### ANTICYCLONE 'LUCIFER'

Italian firefighters Thursday battled hundreds of fires throughout the country's south that have killed four people, fuelled by unrelenting temperatures enveloping southern Europe.

Firefighters said there were over 500 blazes reported overnight as the anticyclone dubbed 'Lucifer' sweeps across Italy, sending temperatures soaring and causing what is believed to be a new European record of 48.8 degrees Celsius (119.8 Fahrenheit) in Sicily Wednesday.

An anticyclone is an area of high atmospheric pressure that in summer brings dry, hot weather.

### Heatwave fuelled fires boil Italy

The heatwave across vast swathes of the Mediterranean region in recent days began to shift west Thursday, with many of France's southern areas put under a high temperature alert.

The searing heat is due to continue in Italy for several days and risks fuelling fires that have already plagued much of the country's south in recent weeks, notably in Sicily and the region of Calabria.

The fire service Thursday morning reported making 528 interventions in the past 12 hours, "where the situation is currently



under control", including in the Madonie mountain range, near Palermo.

Prime Minister Mario Draghi said the government would put in place a "relief programme for people and businesses affected, along with a special plan for reforestation and securing the territory".

The Mediterranean has been singled out as a "climate change hotspot", with increasing temperatures and aridity lengthening fire seasons and doubling the areas potentially burnt, according to a draft UN assessment seen exclusively by AFP.

### CLIMATE ON CODE RED

Latest extreme weather events come after a "code red" report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was published Monday warning that the world is warming far faster than previously feared.

The report, the sixth from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change since 1988, took eight years to conduct and publish. It represents the fullest knowledge of how the Earth's climate has changed and how that change will continue.

One of the lead authors of the report, Richard Allan, a professor of climate science at the University of Reading, told Yahoo News that wildfires and other extreme weather events could become more intense if global warming is not tackled effectively.



"These events are caused by the weather. The weather generates heat waves, heavy rain and associated flooding or wildfire weather conditions," Allan explained. "But when these ingredients come together in a warmer world, they will be more intense or more severe than they would otherwise be."

"It's not really a matter of there'll be more [extreme weather] events," he said. "It's just the events that we

do see will be more severe."

"The most extreme events we see today will be kind of elevated to unprecedented events in the future," Allan added.

Climate experts say that if the Earth continues to heat up at the current rate, life could be devastating for many communities.

### Evacuations affecting lives

Wildfires that have ripped through the woodlands around Athens and encroached on the city's northern suburbs have not caused the human casualties seen three years ago when more than 100 people were killed in Greece's deadliest fires.

But the flames and apocalyptic spirals of black smoke - visible from the centre of the capital - have spread alarm among residents forced to flee.

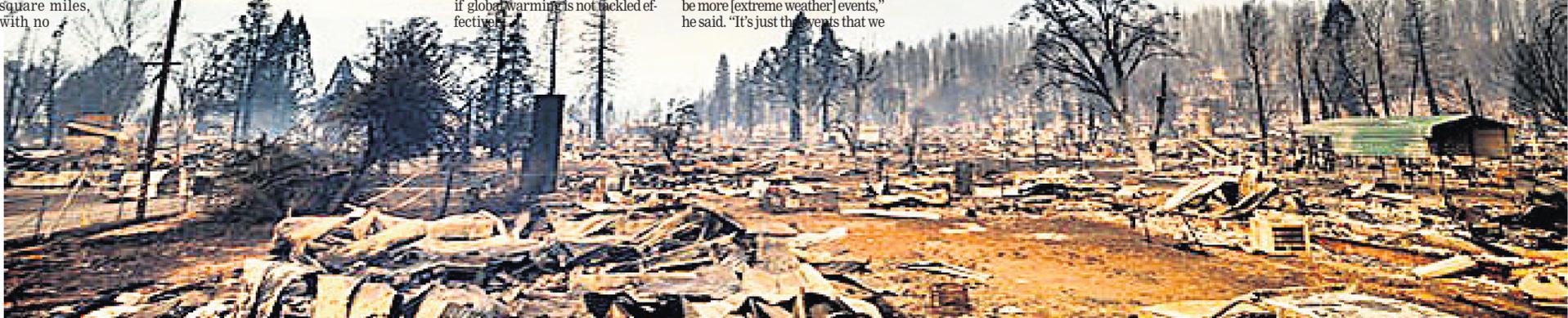
"We are very sad, very sad," said a resident of the suburb of Kapandriti as she hosed her garden. "It's not just about us, there are thousands of people who lost their homes, their fortunes," said the woman.

"Fire, so much fire. Everything burned, houses, factories, every-

thing," said Wasim Khan, an employee of a pottery workshop destroyed by the blaze. "Everybody has left, so I will leave too. What are we going to do now, where are we going to go?" Many people face uncertain days before they know whether they will have a home to return to.

"I was watching TV and I could see the fire burning on the mountain opposite. I could never imagine it would reach us," Papaioannou said.

"We'll probably sleep in the car tonight until we find a friend to host us."



## OTMA accuses Tata Power of negligence



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 14:** The members of the Odisha Transformer Manufacturers Association (OTMA) accused that Tata Power is not following procurement policy framed by the state government, which might lead to the shutting down of 60 transformer units.

"After takeover of Discoms by Tata Power, state transformer units and allies' items manufacturers and service units are not getting orders due to monopoly and unilateral policy of the company. The company is deliberately creating such rules which will not entertain the state manufacturer. Though having all certification from BIS, BEE, ISO, etc but Tata power is intentionally not taking us as their vendors," said members. OTMA faced loss of around Rs 40 crore in one year.

Sarada Prasana Das, President, OTMA said, "State government has its own procurement policy and it was previously followed by OPTCL under MSME Policies. It is purely indicate

that intention of Tata Power to purchase transformers from out of state which will be indirectly loss of revenue in crore to state exchequer and also going to sick our local transformer industries and services of our state."

The body urged state government to order Tata Power to proper procurement policy. Satwik Swain, Secretary General, Odisha Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME) said that, "We want Tata Power to start vendor development programs and all vendors of the state must be enlisted. Tata Power must have to relax its strict eligibility criteria immediately to enlist all vendors. TATA power should procure all material from state only."

Odisha transformer units have investment worth Rs 100 crore and are giving employment to 1,520 persons directly and 3,000 persons indirectly. These units have Rs 40 crore bank loan exposure. Transformer units of Odisha have paid Rs 19 crore and Rs 11 crore GST respectively in 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial year.

## CENTRE WOOS US INVESTORS TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES

**NEW DELHI:** Union minister RK Singh interacted with investors from the US and invited them to explore investment opportunities in the renewable energy and power sector in India. The power and new & renewable energy minister also highlighted India's achievement in the sector during his virtual meeting with the business community. "The meeting provided an opportunity to the business community to interact with Union Minister on various aspects of the renewable energy and power sector in India and the associated opportunities available to the global investors," a power ministry statement said.

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## ନୂଆ ଓଡ଼ିଶା : ବିକାଶର ନୂଆ ଛବି

- ୧.୭ କୋଟିରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ବ୍ୟୟକୁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିକାକରଣ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସଫଳତାର ସହ ଚିକା ଦାନ । ଶତପ୍ରତିଶତ ଚିକାକରଣରେ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ଦେଶରେ ପ୍ରଥମ ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟର ୩୦ଟି ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ମେଡିକାଲ ଅକ୍ସିଜେନ୍ ପ୍ଲାଣ୍ଟ ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆରମ୍ଭ । ଖୁବ୍ ଶୀଘ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ହେବ ୨୦ଟି ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ।
- କୋଭିଡ୍ ମହାମାରୀର ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ଲହର ଯୋଗୁଁ ଅସୁବିଧାଜନକ ସ୍ଥିତିରେ ରହିଥିବା ରାଜ୍ୟର ନିର୍ମାଣ ଶ୍ରମିକ, ମନରେଗା ଶ୍ରମିକ, ଆଦିମ ଜନଜାତି ପରିବାର, ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି ଓ ଜନଜାତି ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ, ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତି ସଦସ୍ୟା, ଉଠା ବୋକାନାଙ୍କୁ ୨୦୦୪ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ସହାୟତା ।
- ବାତ୍ୟା 'ୟସ୍କ'ର ସଫଳ ମୁକାବିଲା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଜାତିସଂଘର ପ୍ରଶଂସା । ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟ ପରିଚାଳନା ପାଇଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ମଡେଲ ଅନୁକରଣୀୟ ।
- କୋଭିଡ୍ ମହାମାରୀରେ ବାପା, ମା' କିମ୍ବା ପରିବାରର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ରୋଜଗାରକମାନଙ୍କୁ ହରାଇଥିବା ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ଶିକ୍ଷା, ଭରଣପୋଷଣ, ଯତ୍ନ ତଥା ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ନିର୍ମାଣ ପାଇଁ 'ଆଶାବାଦ' ଯୋଜନାର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କର୍କଟ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାକୁ ଆହୁରି ସୁଦୃଢ଼ କରିବା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ କଟକସ୍ଥିତ ଆଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହରିହର କର୍କଟ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ମାଗଣା ସିଟି ସ୍ଥାନ ଓ ଏମଆରଆଇ ସେବା ଆରମ୍ଭ ।
- 'ଟ୍ୟାପୁରୁ ବିଶୁଦ୍ଧ ପିଇବା ପାଣି' ମିଶନରେ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମନ, ଲସ ଏଞ୍ଜେଲସ୍ ଓ ସିଙ୍ଗାପୁର ଭଳି ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ସହର ସହିତ ସମକକ୍ଷ ହୋଇଛି ପୁରୀ ସହର । 5T ପ୍ରୟୋଗରେ ମାତ୍ର ୯ ମାସ ମଧ୍ୟରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ହୋଇଛି ଏହି ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ।

- ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତିରେ ସଶକ୍ତ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ୭୦ ଲକ୍ଷ ସ୍ୱାବଲମ୍ବୀ ମହିଳାଙ୍କୁ ୩୩୮ଟି ବୁକ ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତି ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ପାଇଁ ୧୬୯ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା, ୩୩୮ଟି ବୁକ 'ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତି' ମହାସଂଘକୁ ୮୪.୫୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ଆବର୍ତ୍ତନ ପାଣି ଏବଂ ସ୍ୱୟଂ ସହାୟକ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତି ରଣ ସୁଧ ରିହାତି ନିମନ୍ତେ ୨୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- 'ଗୋଟିଏ ଦେଶ, ଗୋଟିଏ ରେସନ କାର୍ଡ', ଯୋଜନା ସମଗ୍ର ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଆରମ୍ଭ । ମାଲକାନଗିରି ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ସାଧାରଣ ବନ୍ଧନ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟବର୍ଦ୍ଧକ ଭିଟାମିନିୟୁଲ୍ସ ଚାଉଳ ବନ୍ଧନ ଆରମ୍ଭ ।
- ୪୨ ଲକ୍ଷ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ଓ ନାନାମାତ୍ର ଚାଷୀ ଏବଂ ଭୂମିହୀନ ଚାଷୀ ପରିବାରଙ୍କୁ ଖରିଫ ୨୦୨୧ ପାଇଁ ୯୨୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର 'କାଳିଆ' ସହାୟତା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- 'କାଳିଆ' ଯୋଜନାରେ ୧୮ଲକ୍ଷ ଭୂମିହୀନ କୃଷକ ପରିବାରଙ୍କୁ ୩୮୬ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର କୋଭିଡ୍ ସହାୟତା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କ୍ରୀଡ଼ା ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମିର ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ୧୦୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବିନିଯୋଗ । ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ନିର୍ମିତ ହେବ ୮୯ଟି ବହୁବିଧ ଲନଡୋର୍ ଷ୍ଟାଡ଼ିୟମ । ୨୦୨୩ ବିଶ୍ୱ କପ୍ ପୁରୁଷ ହକି ପାଇଁ ରାଉରକେଲାରେ ନିର୍ମିତ ହେଉଛି ଦେଶର ସର୍ବବୃହତ୍ ହକି ଷ୍ଟାଡ଼ିୟମ ।
- କୋଭିଡ୍ ମହାମାରୀ ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ନିଜସ୍ୱ ସମ୍ବଳରୁ ୧୧୨.୫୪ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ରାଜସ୍ୱ ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି ଘଟିଛି । ବିଗତ ବର୍ଷ ଜୁଲାଇ ମାସ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ଏହା ୮୩୦୭.୫୪ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ଥିବା ସ୍ଥଳେ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଏହା ୧୭,୬୫୬.୭୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଛି ।

ସମାବ୍ୟ ତୃତୀୟ ଲହରର ମୁକାବିଲା ପାଇଁ ଆପଣମାନେ ଚିକା ନିଶ୍ଚୟ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ, ୨ଟି ମାସ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ କୋଭିଡ୍ କଟକଣା କଢ଼ାକଢ଼ି ଭାବରେ ପାଳନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

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# Joe becomes Root for England essay

Home team skipper remains unbeaten on 180 to help his side take 27-run first innings lead against India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 14: England captain Joe Root (180 n o, 321b, 18x4) continued his dream run with an artistic 22nd hundred to ensure a morale boosting first innings lead as the second Test against India is poised for an interesting finish in the next couple of days.

Root, who scored his second successive hundred of this series, took England from a position of weakness to strength with the first innings total of 391 after India scored 364 in their first essay.

More than the quantum of lead which stands at 27 currently, it is the psychological advantage that England gained after a poor first day which will put them in good stead as their bowlers would go flat out to dismiss the low on confidence Indian middle order cheaply on the fourth day.

En route his knock, Root became the first England captain to hit five hundreds in a season and also complete a personal milestone of 9,000 Test runs while clinically annihilating the Indian attack which has till now failed to crack the 'Root Code'.

If these records were not enough, he is also now the first English captain with six 150-plus scores, a testimony to his knack of hitting 'Daddy Hundreds'.

His sequence of scores now reads 64, 109, 180 n o in this series. What makes him more special is the fact that he had made an attack, which otherwise gave a decent account of themselves, look pedestrian with his counter-punches.

Mohammed Siraj (4/94) had the most number of wickets but bowled too many boundary balls in that first session along with Mohammed



Shami (2/94), who would like to forget this innings in a hurry.

Old workhorse Ishant Sharma (3/69) once again did his part but at times looked tired in his later spells although the in-cutter that cleaned up Jos Buttler (23) would be any pacer's dream.

Jonny Bairstow (57, 107b, 7x4) did help him with a 121 run stand for the fourth wicket as the first session was a virtual nightmare for Indian bowlers.

Kohli's decision to not start with Ishant or Bumrah first-up didn't

help the cause as runs leaked easily in the form of cover and square drives and along with the whip through mid-wicket region.

As many as 97 and 98 runs were scored in first two sessions, signalling the plight of the Indian bowling attack.

#### BRIEF SCORES

India 364; England 391  
(Joe Root 180 n o, Jonny Bairstow 57; Mohammed Siraj 4/94, Ishant Sharma 3/69).  
Match to continue.

# Bruno, Pogba lift United; Chelsea win too

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, August 14: Bruno Fernandes scored a hat-trick and Paul Pogba set up four goals as Manchester United thrashed Leeds 5-1 Saturday to make a statement about their Premier League title credentials. Later in the day, Chelsea thrashed Crystal Palace 3-0, Leicester edged past Wolves 1-0, Watford scraped past Aston Villa 3-2 and Mohamed Salah helped Liverpool with a goal and two assists to beat Norwich City 3-0.

On a day when Jadon Sancho made his debut off the bench and Raphael Varane was presented as the club's second big signing, a packed crowd at Old Trafford was treated to a midfield clinic by United's two most high-profile players against a fierce local rival.

Pogba set up Fernandes for United's 30th-minute opener and, after Luke Ayling equalized with a long-range strike in the 49th, played



Bruno Fernandes (R) and Paul Pogba celebrate one of the former's goal

in Mason Greenwood for a low, angled shot that regained the lead for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side.

Fernandes was the beneficiary of another through-ball from Pogba before cutting inside and driving

in a low effort that just went over the line before being cleared away by Ayling.

And after Fernandes completed his first hat-trick for United by running onto a long pass by Victor

Lindelof and rifling a shot high into the net, Pogba made it four assists for the match — one more than he managed in the whole of last season — by providing the cross that Fred swept home in the 68th.

Sancho was given the final 15 minutes as a substitute to soak in the Old Trafford atmosphere in front of 72,722 fans, who had earlier seen Varane walk onto the field holding a team jersey and take a selfie in the center circle before the match after finalizing his move from Real Madrid.

Leeds was blown away in an eight-minute spell from the 52nd when United scored three times in response to Ayling's fierce long-range strike.

Brentford, Friday, started their first topflight campaign since 1947 by stunning Arsenal 2-0 in the opening game of the EPL season. Sergi Canos put Brentford ahead in the 22nd minute and Christian Noergaard headed in the second in the 73rd.

## Unmukt Chand inks multi-year deal with MLC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 14: Former India U-19 World Cup-winning captain Unmukt Chand has signed a deal with Silicon Valley Strikers for the 2021 season of the Minor League Cricket (MLC) in USA.

The 28-year-old, who announced his retirement from all forms of cricket Friday, will make his debut for the Strikers against the Social Lashings at the Morgan Hill Outdoor Sports Complex in a Toyota MLC Championship Saturday.

Chand has relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area and signed a multi-year agreement with Major League Cricket to support the development of the game in the United States by playing with and mentoring the next generation of American cricketers, according to the league's website.

"I'm delighted to take the next step in my career by being part of the long-term growth of American cricket and the launch of MLC," said Chand.

## OPENER'S STRONG COMEBACK AFTER BEING DROPPED Rahul 'used axing as fuel'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 14: Being dropped from the Test team two years ago did hurt him but India opener KL Rahul says he used that as "fuel" to make a strong comeback in the ongoing tour of England.

"Getting dropped from Test was disappointing, it did hurt but I had nobody to blame but myself. I just waited for my opportunity the way it came to me, I think it was meant to be. I just enjoyed my batting, getting a 100 at Lord's makes it more special," he said.

"I do not carry the baggage, but it is the fuel, you need that hurt because that has pushed me extra mile, to work harder. I have got the opportunity now and I don't want to throw it away," said Rahul in a conversation with his opening partner Rohit Sharma.

Before the England tour, Rahul last played in a Test in August 2019, against the West Indies in Kingston. Asked what changes he has made during the two years in Test wilderness,

Rahul said he has overcome his earlier mindset of always going for runs.

"Before I got dropped, I played in different conditions, in South Africa, England, Australia and though I was touring these countries for the first time, there were a lot of takeaways. I realised my mind was very cluttered, I felt like I had two shots for every ball, I was always thinking runs, runs and runs.

"This time I was telling myself just play the ball and not go searching for runs. It's a conscious effort for me. It did not happen overnight. When I was doing practice in these two years, sitting and watching other guys play. The process remain the same how batsmen get runs and build innings. I am glad it has helped me."

He said Test cricket is something very close to his heart and he has always wanted to do well in the format. "It is very special. Not because it was a 100 at Lord's. That adds to the excitement and joy. I have grown up wanting to be a Test cricketer."

## Neeraj has fever but tested Covid negative: sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 14: Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has developed high fever over the past few days after returning to the country to a rousing welcome following his historic feat at the Tokyo Games, but he has tested negative for COVID-19.

The 23-year-old became the toast of the country after becoming only the second Indian to win an individual gold at the Games.

But a couple days after returning home Monday, he developed high fever and underwent a COVID-19 test on the advice of doctors. "He has tested negative for COVID-19. But we have put all his engagements on hold for the time being," a source privy to the development told this agency.

Chopra's uncle Bhim said through social media that the star athlete is reaching his home at Khandra village near Panipat Tuesday.

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