HERE . NOW

### **BHUMI'S DESIRE**

Bhumi Pednekar says she wants to be remembered as an actor who never shied away from pushing boundaries **LEISURE** 

# TALIBAN FOR TIES WITH ALL

 Taliban's political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani

 Baradar Saturday said they intend to have ties

 with all countries

# **AMIT WINS SILVER**

Amit Khatri bags silver medal in men's 10,000m race walk at the World U-20 Athletics Championship

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### VOLUME 11, ISSUE 142 | www.orissapost.com

# BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 | 2021

# IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Give Pakistan a little rest. Instead, discuss Afghanistan!

# Jumbo attacks: 2 killed

KHURDA/HINDOL: At least two women died on the spot after they were attacked by elephants in separate incidents early Saturday morning. The first incident took place at Golabai village in Khurda district. The deceased was identified as Ranga, wife of Bharat Behera of Golabai village. In the second incident, another woman named Puni Sahu (55) of Tantichira village in ward number 13 under Hindol NAC limits of Dhenkanal district was killed by an elephant. **P5** 



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# Indians 'abducted' on way to Kabul airport

Of the 150 Indian citizens picked up by the Taliban Saturday morning, 78 have been released and allowed to leave war-torn Afghanistan

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi. August 21: Amid reports of the alleged abduction of around 150 Indians from outside the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul Saturday, local Afghan journalist Zaki Daryabi said that most of the kidnapped persons were released and they were on the way to the airport. "Two sources confirmed that the Indians were released by the Taliban and they are on the way to Kabul airport," Daryabi tweeted. He also said that these Indians were taken to the nearby Alokozai compound, a garage designated for US forces, from the Kabul airport, adding they were safe. These Indians were taken to the Alokozai compound as there was a huge rush at the airport and the Taliban allegedly inspected their documents before releasing them. The abductors later ushered them to the right place at the airport from where their evacuation flight would take off for India after getting the slot, the



US Marines stand guard at an Evacuee Control Checkpoint at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul REUTERS PHOTO

report added. Earlier in the day, the Afghan media reported that men affiliated with the Taliban have abducted over 150 people, mostly Indian citizens, from an area close to the airport. A local publication 'Kabul Now'

had also confirmed the development. "Over 150, mostly Indian citizens, abducted near Kabul airport Men affiliated with the Taliban have abducted over 150 people, mostly Indian citizens, from an area close to Hamid Karzai International Airport Saturday morning, a reliable source confirmed to 'Kabul Now'," Daryabi said in a different tweet.

# 72 Afghan Sikhs, Hindus forced to stay back

**NEW DELHI:** The Taliban are learnt to have stopped a batch of 72 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus, including two minority members of Afghanistan parliament, from boarding an Indian Air Force (IAF) plane Saturday. They were sent back from the Kabul airport. Seeking evacuation to India, this first batch of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus had been waiting outside the airport for over 12 hours since Friday, president of World Punjabi OrganisationVikramjit Singh Sahney said.

# COVID tally crosses 10–L mark in state

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 21:** COVID-19 caseload in the state surpassed the 10-lakh mark Saturday as 911 more people tested positive for the infection, while 66 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 7,289, a Health department official said. The fresh infections took the state's COVID tally to 10,00,084, he said.

At least 116 new cases were found among people below 18 years of age, the official said. The daily positivity rate stands at 1.27 per cent as the fresh cases were detected from 71,264 sample tests, he said, adding that the infection ratio among children and adolescents was at 12.73 per cent.

Of the fresh cases, 5<sup>5</sup>1 were reported from quarantine centres and 380 detected during contact tracing. Khurda, which comprises the state capital Bhubaneswar, recorded the highest number of new cases at 352, followed by Cuttack (88) and Balasore (51).

Boudh, Nuapada and Nabarangpur did not report any new COVID-19 case Friday, while the new patients were found from the remaining 27 districts of the state. Of the total COVID-19 cases in the state, Khurda recorded the highest number of infections at 1,57,657, followed by Cuttack at 89,642 and Sundargarh at 61,034.

Deogarh district reported a minimum of 6,271 infections since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. The Health and Family Welfare

department said 66 coronavirus patients succumbed to the infection in 12 districts in the last 24 hours.



# School transformation programme launched

1,070 schools across Odisha would be redeveloped under this programme in phase-I

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: As part of his 5T model of governance, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday rolled out an ambitious school transformation programme in his own constituency Hinjili.

Under the programme, state-of-the-art facilities like e-library, smart classrooms, computer rooms, science laboratories, sports facilities, reading rooms, laboratory, drinking water facilities, hygienic toilets and environment conducive for learning have been created have also been painted based on educational and interesting themes. Inaugurating the programme via video-conferencing, the Chief Minister said that every child is a symbol of eternal potential. School transformation

in the government schools.

The walls of these schools

symbol of eternal potential. School transformation has brought an opportunity for the students to realise their dreams. "The goal of a new Odisha will be fulfilled if the students' dreams come true," he said.

Describing the transformation as the foundation of a new Odisha, Patnaik said, "The school days are the best time of life for everyone. This transformation is for you. It will create many opportunities for your future and to make you excellent."





BORN A MAN WHO WANTED TO CREATE ODISHA'S GREATEST JEWELLERY BRAND. HE ENDED UP CREATING HISTORY.

Today we celebrate the common man's hero, who withstood the hardships of World War II, the Gold Control Act and created a brand that resides today in the hearts of people. A brand that is synonymous with trust, quality and honesty, which today is not only limited to Jewelry, but also Automobiles, Real Estate and many more to come. The world knows him as Khimji Dayabhai. We call him our founder

MBIKA

Cuttack Jharsuguda

Rourkela

KHIMJI FOUNDATION Care Unlimited

KHIMJI

Jewellers since 1936

Berhampur

KHIMJI HONDA

Bhubaneswar

# Khimji Dayabhai

Rakhi Purnima 1914 - Rakhi Purnima 1989



# eisure



### GAGA IS THE BEST PERFORMER **OF OUR GENERATION: RODRIGO**

Pop star Olivia Rodrigo says she will never forget Grammy Award-winner Lady Gaga's stage performance at the MTV Video Music Awards. "She always acts this whole thing out - it's incredible. I love Gaga. I think she's like the best performer of our generation,' says Rodrigo.

**BHUMI OPENS** 

**UP ABOUT** 

MUMBAI: Actress and environ-

mentalist Bhumi Pednekar has al-

ways signed up films that have sent

out a clear message to the audience

and have meaningful content. She

says always wanted to be part of

cinema that goes down in the history

Bhumi said: "I have been fortu-

nate that film-makers who have

tried to change the face of content

in India, have felt that I could be a

part of their vision." She added: "This gives me im-

mense joy and confidence because

I have always wanted to be part of

cinema that goes down in the his-

tory of Hindi films as path-break-

ema has just started and she says her

filmography comprises outstand-

ing gems that are among the gen-

eration defining films of my time. "I want to be called that actor who never shied away from push-

ing herself and experimented every

single time she came on screen,"

IANS

The 32-year-old's journey in cin-

of Hindi films as path breaking.

HER LEGACY

# **KYLIE JENNER EXPECTING HER** 2ND BABY WITH TRAVIS SCOTT

Reality TV personality and make-up mogul Kylie Jenner is expecting her second child with Travis Scott. Multiple sources exclusively confirmed the news to pagesix.com. The two already have threeyear-old daughter Stormi. Kylie has been open about wanting a sibling for her.



FORTUNE FORECAST

### GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy 🔹 reliability 🛛 trust 🎑 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

#### 

You love meeting people, says Ganesha, and you are going to have a wonderful time interacting with the most brilliant people today. You remain a perfectionist as ever, and may spend a fortune to buy that 'perfect' gift to please your sweetheart!

### TAURUS

Communication may be poignant with your loved ones today, says Ganesha. Your unpretentious character will seek to safeguard the feelings of othe ers from being hurt. You will learn that total agreement is sometimes twice as seductive in love's intimacies, feels Ganesha

### GEMINI

You need to understand and respect the feelings of others. You will be beset by financial worries and plaqued by financial insecurity. You will work with grim determination to achieve all your goals and will be successful in doing so, says Ganesha

### CANCER

You will give top priority to love today. Ganesha says that it is the best time to talk your mind to the beloved. Being happy with your colleagues, you will give them a treat in the evening. You will make everyone happy

### **LEO**

Your expectations from your partner or spouse are likely to be unmet, so keep them low. For traders and comission agents, this could be a tough day, and hence they should be wary of suffering from financial reversals Important documents should be signed only after careful

Ganesha says you will raise the bar today. You will set higher goals for yourself, and will want to crack the existing barriers. You will be deeply concerned in the afternoon about you finances. Petty matters will lower vour spirits. However, Ganesha advises you to climb the next rung in the ladder by spending the evening in spiritual pursuits



# MANOJ WINS Best Actor award at IFFM

0

MUMBAI: Manoj Bajpayee received the Best Actor award for his role in The Family Man 2 web series at the Indian

Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2021 Friday. Hearing the news, he said it was a 'proud moment' for the entire team and went on to explain why he chose to make his web debut with the show back in 2019.

Manoj said in

The

a conversation:

"It is a big win

not for me but

for the team

Family Man,

because be it

of

been loved by everyone and it is also one of the top shows in the world now. So, I am happy that the web series worked, it has got loved globally! That is fantastic. 'In 2018, when Raj and DK approached me with the nar-

> ration of my character, I saw so much potential for me to add to it as an actor. I thought, yes, I can take the character from paper to screen, and to a level higher."

The Family Man 2, streaming on Amazon Prime Video, bagged two

While excitement may run high at reuniting with friends and classmates after over a year, children must remember to socially distance as much as possible

she added.

ith children under 18 being one of the large vulnerable and unvaccinated groups, it is crucial to keep them extra protected from being exposed to the many variants of the Covid-19 virus

Here are a few tips to keep children protected in these times:

### No lunch, bottle sharing

As many Indian states reopen chools and invite children back to



MUMBAI: Afghani pop singer Aryana Sayeed has fled to the US amid fears following the fall of Kabul to the Taliban.

Sayeed has been updating her Instagram account with posts about leaving Afghanistan

to reach the US. The Afghani pop singer shared a photograph with her husband on the flight to the US to reveal that she has left her country and later made a post on reaching the country after four days of traveling

Along with the picture with her husband, she wrote a heartfelt note on the photo-sharing website.

"I had said in one of my recent interviews that I will be the Last Soldier to leave the

Motherland and interestingly enough, that is exactly what happened. I hope and pray as a result of the recent changes, at the very least my beautiful people will be able to start living a peaceful life without the fear of sui-

cide bombers and explosions.' Aryana Sayeed is a singer, songwriter, and TV personality. She sings mostly in Persian and Dari but also has many songs in Pashto.

Sayeed is one of Afghanistan's most famous musical artists, performing regularly in concerts and philan∙ thropic festivals

> within and outside the country. IANS

Back-to-school safety tips during pandemic



Put on face mask with antimicrobial coating

Masking is extremely important. It is important to mask up always,

and have a mask with a snug but

comfortable fit. Use masks with

combination of anti microbial coat-

ing which uses organic extracts.

As soon as vaccines become available for the population under 18, don't hesitate and sign up for a slot at the earliest. Meanwhile, it is always better for all adults in the family to vaccinate themselves. since children can be carriers of the virus as well, even if they are asymptomatic. It always helps to give children their regular flu shots and vaccines for other diseases on time. AGENCIES

provide a shield against the SARS-

CoV-2 by trapping these viruses on

Covid-19 has made sanitisation

awareness a universal thing.

Whether going out with friends to

play, or with family, or to school

or coaching, children must carry

individual sanitisers with them.

Remember to use it every 20-30

minutes if you are touching other

surfaces frequently.

**Regular flu shots for kids** 

the surface and killing it.

**Carry individual sanitiser** 

scrutiny, says Ganesha

VIRGO

prove beneficial to you today. Your relations with your siblings will improve. You maybe able to spend a happy time with your close friends.

### **SCORPIO**

Your day is equally divided between your near & dear ones and your responsibili ties towards the elderly people. As you are sensitive, you may go out of your way to help them. For all those who are eagerly waiting to begin the new chapter in life. a marriage proposal is due during the evening time. foresees Ganesha

# **SAGITTARIUS**

According to Ganesha, creative juices are likely to flow freely today. You are all geared up to meet new challenges in life and crack few business deals. Financial gains on the cards. However, make sure your health does not take a back-seat all this while.

# **CAPRICORN**

Love will be on your mind today. Going down the memory lane will make you cherish some golden moments spent with friends and family members. You will call up an old friends and share those memories. On the professional front, you will achieve major milestones predicts Ganesha. All in all, it is a good day for you today.

# 

If you are associated with law and legal matters, today is a favourable day for you. You will aim for the stars, because you know that even if you can't reach there, you will not end up being in the mud. Later on the day, you will receive some favourable

### **PISCES**

news, feels Ganesha.

You health and mood will be good today as you will begi to reap the fruits the seeds sown in the past. You will experience happiness and satisfaction from business and returns during the evening. Make the most of the perfect alignment of planets is what is Ganesha's advice



awards at the

film festival -- the second going to Samantha Akkineni IANS

the classroom, it is crucial to remember to behave in a Covid-appropriate manner at all times.

FUN

lowing all protocols. It is also important to not share lunch, water bottles and other edibles.

While excitement may run high

at reuniting with friends and class-

mates after over a year, children

must remember to socially dis-

tance as much as possible. If you

want to, simulate a classroom at

home, let your siblings or parents

be your classmates, and practice fol-

These components, when mixed in a controlled environment and further applied to the mask's surface,

# PEANUTS

STUPID BEAGLE!



# **CALVIN AND HOBBES**







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# SUDOKU

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

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

#### SOLUTIONS ORBITER CROSSWOR RH G Y P S U M D E F E N D LOC ISER Р EE R N T 0 8 9 2 6 3 8 5 3 4 6 5 6 2 1 7 9 8 1 7 4 5 2 9 SUDOKU 9 6 7 1 4 2 5 2 5 8 9 3 6 9 2 5 6 4 1 7

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





# downtown



# **BEAUTIFICATION PLAN**

Eviction drive underway for Srimandir heritage corridor work in Puri, Saturday



# **COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orid	21,18,28,977	18,95,70,73 <b>4</b>	44,32,529
dia	3,23,93,286	3,15,97,982	4,33,964
lisha	10,00,084	9,84,224	7,289

# **Passenger footfall at BPIA** inches towards normalcy

THE CITY AIRPORT HAS WITNESSED 52.4 PER CENT RISE IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC SINCE JULY THIS YEAR

#### AVIRAL MISHRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 21: The Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA), which was hit hard by Covid-induced lockdowns and travel restrictions, is slowly with nessing normalcy as passenger footfall has improved during the past two months.

As per sources, the BPIA saw 1,06,700 passengers during July this year. This includes 55,935 embarking and 50,765 disembarking passengers. This comes against a meagre 33,151 and 70,013 passenger footfall during May and June. Sources said the airport has witnessed 52.4 per cent improvement in passenger traffic since July. These two months (May and June) are also stated to have recoded the lowest flight and passenger move ments this year. The state had witnessed a surge in Covid cases and thus, lockdowns and shutdowns in these two months.

The figures also suggested that the airport reported a 69.9 per cent rise in flight movement in July 2021 as compared to the last year. The BPIA saw only 62,791 passengers in 2020. The officials explained that the reduced number was due to travel restrictions imposed by



he BPIA witnessed 1,06,700 passengers during July this year. This includes 55,935 embarking and 50,765 disembarking passengers

his comes against a meagre 33,151 and 70,013 passenger footfall during May and June

During pre-Covid period, the BPIA was handling about 30,000 flights and 40 lakh passengers per year

other states owing to the pandemic. even after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had suggested otherwise after two months of suspension of service. "Due to heavy caseloads, many

states such as Maharashtra, West

**AIRCRAFT & PASSENGER MOVEMENT AT BPIA** 



with 12,000 passengers used the BPIA services on a daily basis, it fell to about 30-33 flights and merely 6,500 passengers during Covid period.

8975

Transport Offices (RTOs) across the state to resume accepting ap plications for new Learner's Licences (LLs) from August 23. In deference to a directive is sued by the state government, the STA instructed the RTOs to receive applications in adherence to Covid protocol. Issuance of LLs was suspended in view of Covid

**RTOs to accept new LL** 

applications from Aug 23

Bhubaneswar, August 21: With improvement in Covid-19 situation, the State Transport Authority

(STA) Saturday asked the Regional

POST NEWS NETWORK

LL test for existing applicants has resumed August 11. The applicants can book slots from 7 am to 10 pm every day. The slot duration is of 15 minutes which includes 10 minutes of test time. A candidate has to answer at least 12 out of 20 questions correctly to pass

April 22. It can be mentioned that

### 'Potable water, internet for 50K schools in 2 yrs' POST NEWS NETWORK

the test.

Bhubaneswar, August 21: Around 50,000 government-run schools in the state will soon have drinking water, electricity, internet, toilets and ancillary facilities in two years as part of the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Odisha.

This was revealed at a review meeting chaired by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturdav.

It was decided at the meeting that a combination of vocational and skill development education will be imparted to students of 150 schools in the state as a pilot project.

Drinking water, electricity, internet, toilets and ancillary facilities will be provided to 50,000 government-run schools in the state in next two years, Pradhan said. He advised the higher education officials to launch a campaign in September to ensure 100 per cent immunisation of teachers, students above the age of 18 years, and school and college staffers.

# **SMART JANPATH WORK**





Civic authorities removing sculptures from Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, to pave way for the Smart Janpath project. A sculpture got broken during its relocation triggering sharp reactions from various quarters

# **INTERNAL RIFT IN CONG**

Review poll debacle, my performance in Assembly: Bahinipati to AICC

#### 2020 2021 **Flight Movement Passenger Movement Passenger Movement** Aircraft Movement Month Jan 2.613 3.52.756 2.068 2.13.066 Feb 2.453 3,01,436 1.994 2.28.448 March 1,983 1,86,432 2,038 2,20,770 April 1,748 1,44,970 58 102

33.151

11,230	10,17,110	IUtai	0,500	5,10,522
11,258	10,17,118	Total	8,308	9,70,322
1,422	1,06,700	July	650	62,791
1,182	70,013	June	389	57,830

May

# Sensory Park in Capital city by Sept

162

POST NEWS NETWORK

Month

Jan

Feb

March

April

May

June

July

Total

Bhubaneswar, August 21: Children and adults, especially those with special needs, now have



ocated near Maharshi College road in Ward No-30, the facility has come up in an area of 16.117 square feet with an investment of ₹93 lakh by BSCL

lotment of Congress tickets to lead-

a reason to cheer as the Capital city will have its first-ever Sensory Park at Saheed Nagar by September.

Located near Maharshi College road in Ward No-30, the facility has been developed with an investment of ₹93 lakh by the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) over an area of 16.117 square feet. Apart from offering exclusive features meant for children and people with special needs, the park also has special open-air equipment ensuring adherence to the universal access guidelines.

'The project at Saheed Nagar will provide recreational facility for differently-abled people. The park with special features will help the children with special needs during early morning and evening hours.

in its progress. However, with works have now been finished, the park

in its Smart City Proposal sub-

he park will feature rides such as wheelchair swing, two-seater swing, bucket swing, multiline swing, single-seater spring rider, musical polls. sound play, drum track, musical panel and sound play table among others

mitted during the Smart City Challenge process the Temple city has presented a child-friendly theme-based proposal, which, with its ideas and challenging concept won the race. And, Bhubaneswar won the challenge by ranking No-1 among the 100 participating cities from across the nation.

Bhubaneswar, August 21: The internecine squabbles in the state unit of Congress party seems to have escalated Saturday as party leader and MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati fired fresh salvos at Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik.

Interacting with media, Bahinipati claimed that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) is well aware of the party affairs in the state. He further claimed that he had not uttered a single word against the party's central leadership.

Bahinipati said that he had only pleaded for debate on the poor condition of the party in Odisha and al-

for a longer time due to the lock-

downs and shutdowns while on-

line classes also came to the play. All

such factors contributed to the pae-

diatric population becoming the

new set of digital device consumers.

lockdowns really took a toll on the

eye health of people across age

brackets. Kids and youths were

hit hard primarily due to increased

screen time. Inflow of patients

with problems like fluctuations in

eye power, progression of eyes and

dryness of eyes has increased man-

Experts claimed that Covid and

ers who could not win elections.

"I have decided to share my thoughts in the upcoming Congress legislature party meeting. Doesn't the AICC know about the party affairs in Odisha? Why do I need to say this?" he quipped.

The Congress MLA also asked the party's central leadership to conduct an enquiry into his performance in the Assembly. "This time, the Congress has only nine MLAs. I had never seen such a debacle in the election. The AICC can examine my performance in the Assembly. Had I supported the BJD and BJP? Had I sold out myself to them? If the central leadership has any doubt in this regard, my explanation could be sought," Bahinipati said.

tion against people who failed to revive the party in Odisha. "Those who often get defeated in the elections are being given the responsibility of distributing party tickets. Two and a half years have elapsed since the last Assembly and General elections. Has the party undertaken any review of its performance?" he asked.

"I had never insulted Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party. People vote for me on the basis of my performance. People from all walks of life support me. The way Niranjan Patnaik is creating divisions in district units of Congress party, I don't know when the party can win the elections and come to the power." he said.

# BAMBOO CRAFTS



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: A study on progression of myopia (shortsightedness) among 5 to 15-yearold children claimed that the ailment saw a two-fold rise in the last two years

The analysis conducted by a private eye hospital attributed the spurt in such cases (myopia and squint eyes) to increased screen exposure during Covid-induced lockdowns and shutdowns.

"In the last two years, the number of myopia cases in this particular age group saw 100 per cent rise, while the cases of squint eyes also witnessed a five-fold increase," said Chandra Shekhar Sahoo, consultant ophthalmologist from Dr Agrawals Eye Hospital, Bhubaneswar which studied the paediatric patient database of all its branches

According to Sahoo, "There is an escalation of cases of kids coming with progression of myopia, onset of myopia and other eye ailments. This comes when schools remained suspended and kids stayed indoors



ifold, they maintained.

Cuttack-based ophthalmologist Anurag Mishra also said that there has been an increase in cases of eye disorders in kids and youths during the last two years.

"Dry eyes is now the most common issue which is often triggered by increased screen time. For, increased screen time reduces the potential of eyes from natural blinking which reduces the chances of eve secretion and thus prevents normal lubrication of eyes," he said.

xperts claimed that Covid and lockdowns really took a toll on the eye health of people across age brackets

ids and youths were hit hard Aprimarily due to increased screen time

nflow of patients with problems like fluctuations in eye power, progression of eyes and dryness of eyes has increased manifold

Doctors at LV Prasad Eye Institute. Bhubaneswar also told this reporter that eye disorders among kids and youths have become an emerging issue after the outbreak of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, experts suggested 🔫 safe practices of using digital devices like maintaining safe distance from computer; laptop and television sets unlike close devices like mobiles. Further, healthy lifestyle, exercise, balanced diet, exposureto sunlight could arrest development of eye disorders.

An elderly woman crafts bamboo baskets alongside Taladanda canal road in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO











# downtown

# State gets 4 lakh green LN MITTAL CALLS ON NAVEEN energy installations INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE Bhubaneswar, August 21: Lakshmi Niwas Mittal, Executive Chairman of ArcelorMittal, world's

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: The Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) has made significant strides in generation and use of renewable energy in the state with more than 4 lakh installations serving around 5.5 million people.

**OrissaPOST** 

SUNDAY | AUGUST 22 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAF

This was revealed at a high-level review meeting held on digital mode under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra recently.

OREDA chief executive Dhananjaya Swain said the agency was instrumental in making 4 lakh different types of renewable energy installations by July this year. The initiative has led to reduction in carbon dioxide emission by over 30 metric tonne (MT) per year.

OREDA's major installations include 1,163 rooftop solar projects having a capacity of generating 12.3 MW power. Besides, the agency has installed 2.44 lakh biogas plants, 13. 219 solar-powered drinking water projects, 1,687 solar irrigation pumps and 18,122 improved solar stoves for cooking, Swain said.

Besides, the agency has helped in the electrification of 2,903 villages with 84,858 households and distributed 82,033 solar lanterns, he added

During the meeting, Mahapatra directed the agency to come up with cost-effective proposals for promoting domestic and private use of solar power in the state.

He directed the officials to popularise devices like solar water heater, solar lights, solar fencing in farms and agricultural fields and

### **REDUCING CARBON** FOOTPRINT

OREDA's major installations include 1,163 rooftop solar projects having a capacity of generating 12.3 MW power. Besides, the agency has installed 2.44 lakh biogas plants, 13, 219 solar-powered drinking water projects, 1,687 solar irrigation pumps and 18,122 improved solar stoves for cooking

The initiative has led to reduction in carbon dioxide emission by over 30 MT per year

The Chief Secretary asked the OREDA to explore the possibility of incentivising domestic and private use of solar power

solar based agricultural equipment through awareness drive, demonstration and promotional activities.

The Chief Secretary further asked the OREDA to explore the pos-



Considering the potential of the new technologies in Odisha,

Mahapatra directed the officials to frame a plan for enhancing the use of solar-powered devices in domestic, private and government sectors. For this purpose, a committee

involving several departments was constituted under the chairmanship of Development Commissioner PK Jena.

Energy secretary NB Dhal appraised the meeting that the customer care service of OREDA has been automated for providing seamless service like creation of preliminary data prior to installation, technical support, maintenance of assets, follow up corrective measures and attending to the complaints through phones, mails and

messages The toll free number 1800-345-7135 and mobile numbers 9438016007/9438016008 were operating through the automated system.



Steel tycoon LN Mittal meets Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at his residence in Bhubaneswar, Saturday OP PHOTO

# ED to probe 5 big drug seizures of 2020

The ED sleuths will investigate the money trail to unearth the whole cartel behind the illegal trade

**TEENAGER DEATH IN FARMHOUSE** 

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has decided to probe the financial transactions in five high profile brown sugar cases busted by the Crime Branch in 2020.

Sources claimed that the central agency will soon send summons to the big drug peddlers to unearth their financial links.

The accused peddlers were arrested by the Special Task Force of CB in different cases last year.

The CB also seized huge amount of brown sugar worth over several crores from the accused persons

The accused persons procured the contraband from Murshidabad in West Bengal and later supplied it to local drug peddlers in Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and other parts of the state.

Sources claimed that the consignments are originally sourced from Bangladesh. The ED sleuths

will investigate the money trail to unearth the whole cartel behind the illegal trade.

The accused masterminds of drugs trade in the state who will be summoned are: Saikh Hashim (STF Ps 27/2020), Sk Nashim, Debashis Behera, Lokanath Behera and Sk Ashique.

The STF seized brown sugar weighing over 4.486 kg worth around ₹4.5 crore during a raid at Rasulgarh here June 19, 2020. Mastermind Debashis of Balasore

along with two others were arrested in the case.

largest steelmaking company, met

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

the Chief Minister's residence,

lasted for an hour. Though neither

the Chief Minister nor Mittal made

any official statement about the

meet, sources said that they dis-

cussed about the company's pro-

posed steel plant project at

Kendrapara. This was the second meeting between Patnaik and Mittal

in the past six months. Prior to

the meeting, Mittal visited the proposed plant site in Kendrapara dis-

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India

(AM/NS India) had signed an MoU

with the Odisha government for set-

ting up a 12 million tonne inte-

grated steel plant in the state, with

an investment of ₹50,000 crore.

trict and the Paradip port. On March 4 this year,

The meeting, which was held at

here Saturday.

Similarly, Lokanath was arrested by the CB for possessing brown sugar weighing 2.729 kg valued at ₹2.79 crore.

The STF arrested Sk Hasim Bux of Sheikhpal, Jhadeswarpur under the Jaleswar police limits of Balasore, from Baramunda Bus stand October 31.

The sleuths also seized brown sugar worth over ₹1 crore from his possession.

# **FIR OVER ALLEGED COW SLAUGHTER** –(

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 21: An FIR has been filed with the Cantonment police here in connection with alleged slaughtering of cows in Sutahata area of the city.

As per her complaint, Complainant Smita Santuka had found a herd of 25 cattle in a precarious condition in Sutahata area August 17. She had contacted a person from the minority community of the locality to shift the cattle herd to a cowshed in the city.

"The person concerned sought money to release the cattle. I had paid ₹7.000 as advance to him. But. I could find only seven cattle when I reached the locality with the remaining amount of money August 20. I had spotted a few packets of meat tooin the locality," she said in her complaint. She alleged that some anti-social elements misbehaved with her and snatched away her phone when she enquired about the cattle. Santuka urged police to take action as per the Odisha Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1960 and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

# **Skill training for SHGs** soon on waste mgmt

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 21: The state government Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with an Ahmedabad based organisation for technical support to launch a training programme for 'Mission Shakti self-help groups (SHGs) engaged in solid waste management.

The move aims at enhancing knowledge and imparting skill to the SHGs by creating a pool of trainers and strengthening the capacities of the functionaries involved in sanitation-related work in cities and towns, according to an official release

Housing and Urban Development department Principal Secretary G Mathivathanan signed the MoU with the Urban Management Centre (UMC), a not-for-profit organisation, it said. The step will help build capacities of around 2,000 functionaries along with 250 mentors and 500 master trainers, who will subsequently train as many as 5.000 SHG members and nurture 2,000 more for future requirements, the release said.



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: Congress spokesperson Satyaprakash Nayak Saturday lambasted the state government for implementing a drinking water project which could reportedly threaten the biodiversity of Bhitarkanika National Park

'The state government has planned a drinking water project at Kharasrota river to provide water from Kendrapara to Bhadrak. Several villagers recently vented their ire over the issue. In order to suppress people's voice, the state government has implicated several persons in false cases. The government should ideally listen to their concerns on why they have this fear that the project can result in water scarcity in the area," he said



sibility report of the project suggests that three vulnerable areas in Bhitarkanika National Park are in close proximity of the project

#### for diatom, viscera test POST NEWS NETWORK mother was, however, taken aback to find Kamini missing from her Bhubaneswar, August 21: The room around 3am Friday. The family members checked Commissionerate Police Saturday the footages of a few CCTVs in-

sent samples taken from the teenage girl's body, which was recovered from a pond inside a farm at Raghunathpur, to the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) here for diatom and viscera tests. The tests are expected to reveal the actual cause of the girl's death.

Speaking to Orissa POST, DCP Umashankar Dash said that the samples have been sent to the SFSL for various tests. Police can ascertain the cause of death and occurrence of any foul play in the case only after examining the test reports. Notably, the deceased, Kamini Privadarshini was the daughter of Ramesh Kumar Mallik, Mallik hails from Malisahi in Nayagarh district and is a professor at College of Engineering and Technology (CET) here.

Samples sent to SFSL

He also alleged that the project is in blatant violation of the Central norms for eco-sensitive zones like Bhitarkanika. "This is a new low for the state government. The fea-

area. When the history of Odisha will be written after 50 years, people will decide how the Odisha government tried to destroy the sensitive zone with such projects," he said.

Nayak also said, "I want to ask why the eco sensitive zone approval meeting was planned after 40 per cent of the works was already done. Union government has declared Environment department "I want to ask the government

what the Forest and Environment minister is doing in the state. A proper study is required on how the project can affect the zone. It needs to be known how the project could affect the local biodiversity of Bhitarkanika. However, the state government cannot bypass the Union government rules on eco sensitive zones," he said.

such area as eco sensitive zone

He also slammed the Forest and

through a gazette notification."

According to family sources, Kamini had gone to bed after dinner at around 12 in the night. Her

registered a case (4/21) of unnatural death and sent the body for autopsy

stalled at their neighbour's house,

only to find out that Kamini was

heading towards Nandankanan

The family called the cops, fol-

lowing which a team of

Nandankanan police launched a

search operation. The girl's body

was found floating in a pond in a

farmhouse situated around a kilo-

meter away from Malliks' resi-

dence. Later, Nandankanan police

Road at around 1:55am.

Mallik told the reporters that Kamini had secured 89 per cent in the Plus II examination. However, she was bit upset for not performing well in the OJEE (Mains).

Alleging some foul play, her father questioned as to how she could scale a 10-feet tall compound wall to enter the farmhouse.

"Find out who is responsible for

felling of trees in case the same

are felled illegally, and asses the en-

vironmental compensation and

loss of revenue to the exchequer,'

the tribunal told the committee.

has been filed by Tapan Kumar

Badal alleging that trees are being

felled illegally in Sukinda tehsil

Significantly, the application

# CURBING STING MENACE

Women participate in an awareness drive on dengue at Haripur in Cuttack. Saturday

# NGT team to probe 'deforestation' in Jajpur

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 21: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notice to Odisha taking into consideration an application that alleges illegal cutting of trees in about 377.83 acres of forest land in Jajpur district for horticulture purpose.

The tribunal's Eastern Zone Bench at Kolkata, comprising Judicial Member B Amit Sthalekar and Expert Member Saibal Dasgupta, observed that the matter requires consideration and asked the state government to file its response within four weeks.

The tribunal has also constituted a three-member team comprising an officer from Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bhubaneswar office, Jajpur district Collector, and Divisional Forest Officer Cuttack. The green body has asked the Jajpur Collector to provide all logistical support to the

OP PHOTO



team and submit their report within a month.

The NGT has asked the committee to ascertain whether it is a forest land or revenue forest land. The tribunal has also directed the committee to find if the conversion of the land is in violation of Forest Conservation Act, and the number of trees felled till date.

The tribunal has also constituted a three-member committee comprising an officer from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Bhubaneswar office, Jajpur district Collector, and Divisional Forest Officer Cuttack

The committee is to ascertain whether it is a forest land or revenue forest land. whether the conversion of the land is in violation of Forest Conservation Act. and the number of trees felled till date

The green body has asked the Jajpur Collector to provide all logistical support to the team and submit their report within a month

of Jajpur. It has been stated that the land is Patara Jungle and Sal Jungle Kisam and that heavy machinery is being used for clearing the forest land.

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









# state

# Ministers, MLAs visit Tara Tarini temple despite ban

#### OST NEWS NETWORK

Purussotampur, August 21: Even as the state government is yet to lift restrictions on visits of common people to Tara Tarini temple in Ganjam district, two ministers accompanied by 17 MLAs visited the temple and conducted a review of the developmental projects despite the ban, Saturday.

Goddess Tara Tarini, the presiding deity of Ganjam district, is revered by devotees in and outside of the state.

Two ministers Dibyashankar Mishra and Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, accompanied by 17 MLAs including Pranab Prakash Das, Bikram Kumar Panda, Prafulla Samal, Pratap Keshari Dev, **Bvomokesh Routray**, Suryamani Baidya and Basanti Hembram visited the shrine to have darshan of the deity. The ministers and the legislators also conducted a review



of the ongoing developmental projects.

The ministers and legislators after their arrival were welcomed by Khallikote MLA Suryamani Baidya with mementoes. The temple has remained out of bounds

for devotees after the district administration clamped restrictions on public visits due to rising cases of Covid-19. The temple is yet to reopen for the common people. As a result, the main gate lead-

ing to the hill shrine has remained

THE SHRINE HAS REMAINED OUT OF BOUNDS FOR DEVOTEES AFTER THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CLAMPED RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC VISITS DUE TO RISING CASES OF COVID-**19.THE TEMPLE IS YET TO** REOPEN FOR THE COMMON PUBLIC

RECENTLY, MEMBERS OF A FAMILY FROM NEIGHBOURING ANDHRA PRADESH VISITED THE SHRINE BUT HAD TO RETURN DISAPPOINTED AFTER THEY WERE REFUSED ENTRY INSIDE

closed for ten devotees. Police officials have been deployed at the gate and refuse entry to the devotees wanting to visit the shrine. As a result, people visiting the hill shrine for darshan of the deities are disappointed. Recently, members of a family from Andhra Pradesh visited the shrine but had to return disappointed after they were refused entry inside. This sparked sharp resentment among devotees who are longing to have a glimpse of the deities.

Locals alleged that all those who are framing rules are also breaking the rules. They questioned how could the administration open the gate of the temple for ministers and legislators when it has banned visits of public to the shrine.

Priva Ranian Prusty, Chhatrapur sub-collector Nitish Kumar Tripathy, Purusottampur tehsildar Bijay Kumar Behera, BDO Snehalata Panda, vice-chairperson, Zilla Parishad, Ashok Kumar Mahakur, general secretary, district unit of BJD, Bausdev Mohapatra, former chairman of the civic body and a host of party leaders were present during the visit.

# 11 more multi-purpose cyclone hubs for Jajpur

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur Town, August 21: Most parts of Jajpur district are affected by floods and cyclones every year and to deal with natural disasters, the administration has decided to set up 11 more multi-purpose cyclone shelters in the district. According to reports, there are

26 multi-purpose cyclone shelters. The state government has approved the new projects, said Collector in-charge Akshay Kumar Mallick.

The administration has decided to set up new multi-purpose cyclone shelters at Kalyanpur, Tina and Jari under Binjharpur block, Kayan under Dashrathpur block, Patapur, Antia and Jenapur under Dharmashla block Bhubaneswarpur, Nathasahi, Bhuinpur and Jafarpur under Jajpur sadar block.



As per the decision of the administration, committees will be formed for maintenance and management of the cyclone shelters. Local sarpanchs will be chairpersons of the committees while volunteers will be its secretaries. The administration has emphasised on activating the disaster management system in the floodprone areas in the district.

# BJD leaders start distributing smart health cards in Malkangiri

Mission Shakti Lopamunda Buxipatra, chairperson of Odisha

State Seeds Corporation Iswar

Chandra Panigrahi and chairper-

son of special development coun-

Another programme was or-

ganized at BLPur panchayat and

Ganjeibahal Saturday. 150 cards

were distributed to beneficiaries in

Forest and Environment Minister

Beneficiaries and people's rep-

resentatives expressed happiness

over the scheme as the cards will

help them meeting huge expense

It may be noted here that around

Bikram Keshari Arukha also dis-

tributed smart health cards in

Andarabahal panchayat.

of medical treatment.

cil Manas Madkami.

each centre



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, August 21: A day after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched smart health cards under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana in Malkangiri, several BJD leaders have started distributing the cards to beneficiaries in different parts of the district Saturday.

The scheme aims at enabling around 3.5 crore people to get cashless healthcare services in 200 hospitals in the state and other parts of the country.

A health card distribution ceremony was organized at Talasahi primary school in Malkangiri municipality. The programme was attended by Mines Minister Padmanabh Behera, advisor of

A programme was organized at BLPur panchayat and Ganjeibahal Saturday where 300 cards were distributed to beneficiaries

Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha took part in a programme at Andarabahal panchayat and distributed smart health cards

Beneficiaries and people's representatives expressed happiness over the scheme as the cards will help them in meeting huge expense of medical treatment

Around 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families will be covered under the new healthcare initiative. Women can avail cashless treatment up to ₹10 lakh per year while other family members will get the benefit up to ₹5 lakh each

3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families will be covered under new healthcare initiative. Women are entitled to avail of cashless treatment up to ₹10 lakh per year and other family members will get the benefit up to ₹5 lakh each. The smart health cards will be effective from September 1.

At least 1.55 lakh families will benefit from the initiative in Malkangiri district

# **FORGING A BOND**



Women members of a Vana Surakshya Samiti tying rakhis to a tree pledging for its protection on the eve of Rakhi Purnima in Sambalpur, Saturday

**ACF SOUMYA'S DEATH CB** questions Gajapati DFO Sangram Behera

# 2 women killed in jumbo attacks

# Diarrhoea spreads in Rupsa; 22 affected –

Rupsa: Diarrhoea is reportedly spreading in Rupsa area of Balasore. As many as 22 people were affected by the water borne disease over last 22 days in Routapada panchayat. As the disease is spreading in Charpal village, locals were panicked. The is yet to send medical teams to the affect According to reports, 22 affected people including eight children are undergoing treatment at different hospitals. Condition of three patients is stated to be critical. They were shifted to the district headquarters hospital while two are in Basta community health centre. It was alleged that the disease has broken out due to consumption of contaminated water.

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, August 21: A three-member team of Odisha Crime Branch started questioning Gajapati Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sangram Keshari Behera Saturday in connection with the death of Paralakhemundi Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra.

According to a source, the probing team led by DSP Gyana Ranjan Mishra is guizzing all suspects in the death case that took place July 12, 2021.

It is pertinent to mention, Soumya's postmortem carried out by the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (FM&T) at SCB Medical College and



Hospital (SCBMCH) reported that he died after sustaining 95 per cent burn injuries on the intervening night

Former Gajapati Superintendent of Police Tapan Kumar Patnaik had previously granted DFO Behera a clean chit

The committee had recom-

mended an estimated ₹62.34 crore

for the project in the initial phase.

started a survey for the spur and

the sluice gate eight years after

prepared for construction of eight

sluice gates at the confluence of

Sources said, a report has been

Phailin, locals said.

The irrigation department has

in relation to the case. However, in the alleged murder case, the DFO is a key suspect. The team members had also interrogated accused cook Manmath Kumbha August 16 in connection with the alleged murder of the ACF.

Four others who were also grilled included two ACFs and two forest guards.

The Crime Branch officials interrogated them at a special cell in Paralakhemundi police station to ascertain as to how a fire mishap, if any, took place at the government residence of Soumya. The investigating officialsare

likely to interrogate deceased ACF's wife Bidyabharati Panda who is a key accused in the alleged murder case.

### Khurda/Hindol, August 21: At least two women died on the spot after they

were attacked by elephants in separate incidents early Saturday morning. The first incident took place at Golabai village under Jankia police limits in

Khurda district. The deceased was identified as Ranga. She is the wife of Bharat Behera of Golabai village. The woman had gone to the backyard of her house to pluck flowers in the morning when she was attacked by an elephant. She was critically injured. Ranga's family members rescued and rushed her Khurda hospital where she succumbed while undergoing treatment.

Forest department officials reached Golabai village after getting information about the incident.

'We have assured deceased Ranga Behera's kin to give ₹40,000 as immediate compensation and an additional amount of ₹3.60 lakh within next 15 days as per government norms," ACF Govind Biswal said.

In the second incident, a woman identified as Puni Sahu (55) of Tantichira village in ward number 13 under Hindol NAC limits of Dhenkanal district was trampled by an elephant.

all all	OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DEOGARH (R&B) DIVISION, DEOGARH					
	E-mail ID : eepwddeogarh@gmail.com					
	INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)					
	Lr. No 2835		Dtd. 19.08.2021			
No	No.B-317:- Invitation for Bids					
Bi	Bid Identification No. EE PWD DGR No. 05 of 2021-22					
1.	The Executive Engineer, Deogarh (R&B) Division, Deogarh, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single/ double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building as detailed below.					
2.	Nature of work	:	Building works			
3.	No. of works	:	Building 17 Nos.			
4.	Bid Cost.	:	Rs. 6,000/-			
5.	Class of Contractor	1	"D" ,"C" & "B" Class			
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	1 C 2	From dt. 24.08.2021 to 17.00 hours of dt.02.09.2021			
7.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	:	Dt 03.09.2021 at 11.30 AM.			
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <u>https://tendersodisha.</u> gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.					
	Sd./- Executive Engineer, Deogarh (R&B) Division OIPR-34061/11/0003/2122					

### FLOOD DETERRENCE PROJECT FOR BUDHABALANGA

# Survey for ring road in Baripada begins

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, August 21: A dream project for people of Baripada town and its outskirts in Mayurbhanj district is going to be realized. Local residents have been facing the flood fury from Budhbalanga river every year.

A ring road project along with a spur and automated sluice gates will be built to control floods in the town. Meanwhile, the irrigation department has initiated a survey for the project

During Phailin, Baripada town was massively flooded. All streets were under water for days together. Floodwater even entered the district headquarters hospital and remained stagnant as high as 10 ft. Patients had a harrowing time.

The flood had inflicted huge damage on properties. Floodwater breaks the economic backbone of denizens every year. To mitigate the annual flood fury, they have



been demanding construction of a ring road and a spur.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. while visiting Baripada to address a rally in 2019, had announced setting up of a ring road. Days after the announcement, a technical advisory committee in its 117th meeting decided to construct a spur from Damodarpur to Sunamuhin ghat in three phases. Budhabalanga, Sarali, Jarali,

A ring road project along with a spur and automated sluice gates will be built to save people in the town from flooding. Meanwhile, the irrigation department has initiated a survey for the project

During Phailin, Baripada town was massively flooded. All streets were under water for days together. Floodwater even entered the district headquarters hospital and remained stagnant as high as 10 ft. Patients had a harrowing time

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, while visiting Baripada to address a rally in 2019, had announced setting up of a ring road

Sukajodi rivers. The ring road will be 7-km long which will protect thousands of people of the town from flood fury. People of low-lying areas have

blamed apathy of the administration for delay in the project.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER No.O-654-RURAL WORKS DIVISION, MOHANA e-mail: rwdmohana@gmail.com NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No. Online Tender 02/MOHANA/2021-22 Building work Name of the work Total No. work 36 (Thirty Six) Nos Varies from Rs.1.33 lakhs to Rs.26.09 lakhs Estimated cost Class of contractor As per Annexure Period of completion As per Annexure Cost of tender paper As per Annexure EMD required EMD not required as per Office Memorandum No.8943 Dt.18.03.2021 of Finance Department, Govt. of Odisha. But bid security declaration should be furnished by the bidders as mentioned in the DTCN Other details Procurement Officer Bid Availability of tender Last date & time Date & time No. of works of seeking tender Identification online for bidding of opening No From clarification of tender (Thirty 23.08.2021 03.09.2021 upto 07.09.2021 Executive Engineer, Online Tender 36 06.09.202 **Rural Works** 02/MOHANA/ Six) Nos. of from 10.00 5.00 P.M. upto at 2021-22 Building work Division, Mohana A.M. 5.00 P.M 11.30 A.M Further details can be seen from the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in OIPR-25148/11/0002/2122 Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Mohana





# power post

### FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

Whatsoever has courage can give courage to others just as the flame of the candle can light up another. THE MOTHER



# Everything's Fine

had written a couple of weeks ago about how India's middle class has stopped growing in recent years. The leading indicators of our economy — the sales of residential properties, cars, two wheelers, consumer durables (fridges, washing machines, televisions) - have been flat. The borrowing by businesses from banks has been at less than a third of what it was a decade ago. The government's periodic labour force survey released a few weeks ago showed that, for the first time, more people were employed in agriculture than in the previous period. Meaning people had left their jobs in manufacturing or services, or they had been fired, and had gone to work on the farm.

Manufacturing jobs in the formal sector have reduced rather than increased in the last few years. Perhaps in a parallel development, tens of thousands of dollar millionaire Indians, meaning those worth ₹7 crore or more, have left India in the last four years. I have examined the things above in my next book and have written about this in this column also.

The other interesting aspect of recent years is the introduction of new laws that have taken India in a particular direction. The Gujarat High Court criticised some parts of a so called 'love jihad' law a few days ago. But similar laws have been enacted in several states since 2014. The laws are aimed at making marriage difficult if not impossible between Hindus and Muslims by criminalising conversion, which is ostensibly a fundamental right of Indians.

These are Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018; Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2019; Uttar Pradesh Vidhi Viruddh Dharma Samparivartan Pratishedh Adhyadesh, 2020 (Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance); Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantreya Adhyadesh, 2020; and the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021. All the laws have come in Bharatiya Janata Party states, all of them have

come in the last three years and none of them has been justified by any data. Before this, the BJP states were passing laws against beef possession. The laws were the Maharashtra Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act, 2015 (passed

by the Devendra Fadnavis government): the Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Act, 2015; the Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Bill, 2017; and the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Ordinance, 2020.

In Gujarat, the punishment for cow slaughter is life imprisonment. No other economic crime attracts this sentence, and Indian law says cow slaughter is not a religious crime but an economic one. Once again, all these laws came after 2014 and in this instance began a spate of lynchings of Muslims that the world noticed.

Readers may have heard of the UAPA law under which Stan Swamy was jailed and died in custody. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 allows the government to categorise any individual as a 'terrorist', on suspicion. Such an individual need not have any affiliation with any terrorist organisation to be called a terrorist and jailed. The amendment defines a 'terrorist act' as one which causes 'injuries to any person, damage to any property, an attempt to overawe any

public functionary by means of criminal force and any act to compel the government or any person to do or abstain from doing any act.' It also includes any act that is 'likely to threaten'

or 'likely to strike terror in people', giving absolute power to the gover nment to brand any citizen or activist a terrorist without these acts being actually committed.

The Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act, 2019 is a law that keeps Gujarati Muslims segregated and ghettoised. People are required by law to reveal their religion while selling and purchasing property. In areas that were declared 'disturbed' by the State, Hindus cannot sell property to Muslims and vice versa without government permission. The amendment that was cleared in 2019 gave the Collector authority to determine if the sale of a property would lead to 'improper clustering' of Muslims. It also gave the government further power to review the deci-

Aakar Patel

It is assumed to be fine that since 2014, India has left its moorings as a pluralist, modern, secular state because that is how the BJP wants it to be



our burqa-clad Afghan women auctioned at a street corner and a Taliban elder forcibly dragging away a small Afghan girl in full view of her parents who turn their back and walk away on the wailing child. At the Kabul International Airport there were scenes of mayhem and chaos with incessant gunfire and 12 people dead at the last count, babies passed over the high-rise wall by parents to American soldiers manning the airport with nary a thought about their future. The medieval savagery and brutality of the Taliban play out to the world in gory detail in their second coming to power.

I was serving in our Embassy in Tehran during Taliban 1.0 which had a different dynamics and was upended as much by the US attack as with the confluence of regional forces on the ground. It was possible then for India to be part of a broad-based understanding with Iran, Russia and the US and enlist the support of local warlords to get rid of the theocratic Sharia-based regime. India has no such advantage this time. It has missed the bus because of its hide-and-seek policy with regard to confabulations with the Taliban. That's the reason it has been left behind in the primary talks with the Taliban which had Russia, China, Pakistan, Qatar and Turkey at the table with the US being the principal negotiator (since its infamous Doha deal of February 2020) and relegated to the second rung.

By now it is well evident that the Taliban will not change their stripes despite their public show of moderation and promise of an all-inclusive government. Their promise of amnesty for all workers serving foreign forces and compassion for women and children have been belied by facts on the ground. The unity government for which the Afghan Interim Council under former President Hamid Karzai (and including former peace negotiator Abdullah Abdullah) has been negotiating with the Anas Haqqani-led Taliban team is held back as the Taliban are likely to take a decision until the scheduled American with-



Geographically much closer to the theatre of conflict where the 'Great Game' of recent times is played out, India could be a target of Taliban-fomented excesses. It is time for India to calculate its present strategic options without being dictated by Western exigencies

infrastructure, human resources

development and governance, it has

been forced to close down its mis-

sion and evacuate its diplomatic

and security staff. However, thou-

sands of Indian nationals and

Afghan minority groups wait to be

evacuated and that is the govern-

ment's top-most priority though

with all commercial flights closed

due to closure of the Afghan air

space this is a matter of great con-

On the 20th anniversary of 9/11

the Taliban white flag will most

likely fly all over Afghanistan sig-

nalling a mighty drubbing of a

world power by a ragtag bunch of

Wahabi Sunni fighters of Pashtun

origin numbering hardly 50-60,000.

The capitulation of the regular

Afghan forces numbering 300,000

(though bulk of them were 'ghost

soldiers' and the actual fighting

forces could be anywhere near one

fifth of that number) owes much to

corruption, demoralisation and de-

sertion. While President Biden is

not off the mark in blaming the

Afghan leadership for surrender-

ing without a fight (former president

Ashraf Ghani left with his close

aides on the day of Kabul's cap-

ture and is currently sheltered in

the UAE on 'humanitarian grounds')

the botched withdrawal of US forces

would come to haunt his adminis-

tration for years to come

cern.

drawal August 31.

The Taliban have by now well realised that governing the country against a nationwide opposition, mostly led by young educated tech-savvy millennials, would not be as easy as accomplishing a blitzkrieg military victory. Besides with the US government freezing all Taliban assets in the US Federal Reserve and the IMF stopping its quarterly tranche of aid, the Taliban could have financial difficulties in running the country. However, with their total control over production of opium, heroin and methamphetamine and sitting over \$1 trillion worth of rare earth minerals, tin, copper and gold, the Taliban would not be in much disarray. Besides China has had a quid pro quo to buy peace from the group on the Uyghur and Turkestan Islamist Movement in return of financial help and freedom to use their territory for the Belt and Road Initiative. The Russian government has openly come out in support of the Taliban while Pakistan, the single biggest factor for Taliban's stupendous victory, could very likely follow suit.

India is caught in a cleft. While it has acquired tremendous goodwill among the Afghan people over the last 20 years for its \$3 billion worth investments in high-valued

EAM Jaishankar in his address while chairing a UNSC briefing on "threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts" August 19 raised a strong voice against global terrorism and singled out terrorist organisations like LeT, JeM and the Haqqani network operating (from Pakistani soil against India) with "impunity and encouragement" though nowhere did he mention the Taliban. India has to be doubly careful as scores of hardcore terrorists belonging to al-Qaeda, IS and other groups have been released by the Taliban from the Bagram high-security prison and other places. There are good chances of all terrorist groups, Afghan-bred as well as ISI-encouraged, to regroup and these could be utilised by Pakistan against India despite the Taliban's promise of not allowing their soil to launch attacks

against foreign countries. The silver lining has been the rise of a resistance movement in the Panjshir Valley, some 120 km north-east of Kabul, the only hide out not yet fallen to the Taliban. The resistance is led by former vice president Amrullah Saleh, a bitter critic of the deposed president who now calls himself the acting president, with the support of Ahmad Massoud's forces joined by disgruntled soldiers of the Afghan national army. Ahmad's father, Ahmad Shah Massoud, the legendary Tajik fighter, was close to India during the Northern Alliance and remained a formidable force until he was eliminated by al-Qaeda two days before 9/11.

Would it help India to anymore adopt a 'wait and watch' approach? Geographically much closer to the theatre of conflict where the 'Great Game' of recent times is played out, India could be a target of Taliban-fomented excesses. It is time for India to calculate its present strategic options without being dictated by Western exigencies. At the cost of sounding clichéd, India has to take its decision keeping its national interests in view, and do that soon before the situation veers out of hand

> The writer is a retired ambassador.

# SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Malay Mishra

**MISSED THE BUS** 

**BECAUSE OF ITS** 

**HIDE-AND-SEEK** 

**CONFABULATIONS** 

**POLICY WITH** 

**REGARD TO** 

WITH THE

**TALIBAN** 

**INDIA HAS** 

# Why aviation should embrace carbon taxation $\overline{\phantom{a}}$

r ecent catastrophic floods in tion will make consumers better off. may enable shorter flights that are shipping costs account for very

sion of the Collector, even if the buyer and seller made no appeal. In effect, even foreigners can lease and buy property in those parts of Gujarat's cities where Indian Muslims cannot.

These laws are used by India quite freely, and there is no real restriction or curb on the government because misuse is not punished and there is no accountability even for deaths in custody. I do not know how many readers are familiar with these laws, and if they are whether they are surprised by these changes that have come to India since 2014. The curious thing for me as a writer is that there is no real debate on what these laws have done to India. There is not even any comment on them in our newspapers. This is similar to the facts and data on the economy.

These numbers quoted above are not disputed by the government or anyone who supports it. They are merely not commented on and it is assumed to be fine that India's middle class has stopped growing. Similarly, it is assumed to be fine that since 2014. India has left its moorings as a pluralist, modern, secular state because that is how the BJP wants it to be.

### WISDOM CORNER

- It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends. JK ROWLING
- What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from TS ELIOT
- Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to
- avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart. STEVE JOBS

### WORDS**WORTH**

### Oxter

This is still to be heard in Northern England, Scotland and Ireland, and most of the works in which it is to be found are by authors from those regions. Writers from those countries sometimes export it to a wider audience: There are no smiles, only expressions of naked hostility aimed at the Leinster players as they retreat behind their line for the conversion: John O'Neill, with clenched jaw and jutting chin, and Foley, ball under his right oxter, shoulders back as he releases a triumphant roar (Sunday Times, 23 April 2006). It means the armpit, though it can be used more widely to refer to the underside of the upper arm or the fold of the arm when bent against the body, or even the armhole of a jacket. To judge from the way Robert Louis Stevenson used it in Catriona in 1893, it can have a wider figurative sense: "I'll confess I would be blythe [happy] to have you at my oxter, and I think you would be none the worse of having me at yours." George Macdonald Fraser almost made it sound rude in his Flashman and the Mountain of Light of 1990: "A lackey serving the folk in the gallery put a beaker in my hand. What with brandy and funk I was parched as a camel's oxter, so I drank it straight off". The word is from Old English oxta, which has related forms in some modern Germanic languages. It appears to be linked to Latin axilla in the same sense. a diminutive of ala, the wing of a bird, and so is a distant cousin of aisle.



THE AVIATION INDUSTRY, **ALONGSIDE OTHER SECTORS, SHOULD EMBRACE CARBON PRICING AS A POWERFUL TOOL TO ACHIEVE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS AT** 

**LEAST COST** 

Germany and China have once again made clear the terrible global threat posed by climate change. In response, we must invest in strengthening our resilience to extreme weather events. and accelerate reductions in carbon dioxide emissions to limit how much worse that threat will become in the future.

A day before the floods hit Germany last month, the European Union outlined policies to cut emissions by 55 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030. Those measures include a significant role for carbon pricing, with a tighter cap on emissions within the EU's trading scheme, as well as the elimination of free emissions allowances for heavy industry and a tax on conventional aviation jet fuel for intra-European flights.

The latter proposal has provoked industry opposition, with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) arguing that "tax is not the answer to aviation sustainability." In fact, the aviation industry, alongside other sectors, should embrace carbon pricing as a powerful tool to achieve emissions reductions at least cost. In some sectors, decarbonisa-

Within 10 years, for example, European drivers will spend significantly less to own and run their automobiles, because electric vehicles are much more efficient than gasoline- or diesel-powered cars.

But in some 'harder-to-abate' industries, decarbonisation will carry a cost. Maritime freight rates could increase 50 per cent or more when container ships burn ammonia or methanol rather than heavy fuel oil. Likewise, wholesale steel prices could rise by around 30 per cent if producers use hydrogen as the reduction agent rather than coking coal, or add carbon capture and storage to existing processes.

Carbon pricing is therefore needed to allow zero-carbon producers to compete effectively against the old high-emissions technology, but the effect on end consumers will be very small. If a tonne of steel costs 30 per cent more, the price of an automobile will rise less than 1 per cent. And even a 100 per cent increase in maritime freight rates will have an impact of less than 1 per cent on the price of a pair of jeans made in Bangladesh and bought in Berlin or New York.

As for aviation – another harderto-abate sector, electric engines

carbon-free, guilt-free, and cheaper than today. But because batteries are far too heavy to power longdistance electric flight, decarbonisation will require sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) to replace today's conventional jet fuel. And whether those SAFs are biofuels or synthetic fuels (made by using electricity to combine hydrogen and CO2), they will almost certainly carry a cost premium, which innovation and scale can reduce over time but never eliminate.

Free markets, voluntary action, and innovation will therefore not be sufficient to decarbonise aviation; public policy is also needed. One option is to make biofuels or synthetic fuels less expensive, and there is a strong case for public financial support for technology development. But a permanent subsidy that allows the aviation industry to avoid the costs of its carbon pollution would be unacceptable. Closing the cost gap will thus require either a carbon tax on conventional jet fuel, or fuel-use mandates requiring airlines to use a steadily rising percentage of SAFs.

For aviation, moreover, the consumer cost effect of a carbon tax will be non-trivial. Steel, cement, and

small proportions of the price of end-consumer products. But fuel constitutes about 20 per cent of total aviation prices. So, if its cost rises by 50 per cent, ticket prices could increase by around 10 per cent.

But if that is the cost of decarbonising aviation, we must tell consumers openly while placing higher prices in context. More expensive tickets will not significantly reduce consumer living standards, because air travel accounts for only about 3 per cent of total consumer expenditure in the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, many people will gain more from cheaper road transport than they lose from more expensive aviation. Nor will increased flying costs have a regressive distributive effect.

Some green advocacy groups hope to cut aviation emissions by restricting air travel. The airline industry rightly argues that low-carbon flights are feasible. To make that a reality as soon as possible, the sector should welcome carbon pricing, and argue for its application not just in Europe but around the world.

> The writer is Chair of the **Energy Transitions** Commission. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### Worries for India

etters

#### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are (0) 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

### rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, With the Taliban having now taken over Afghanistan, India's foreign policy faces an extraordinarily difficult time. If the situation in Afghanistan deteriorates, India will have to devise plans to deal with the situation. India must be on alert and watch carefully how the Taliban run the government in Afghanistan. Even though the Taliban leaders have assured that they would moderate their harsh religious principles, they have failed to walk the talk. They have been perpetrating atrocities against the civilian population since they took over. It is a fact that if the new Taliban regime in Afghanistan functions against the interests of the people of that country, it will be difficult for it to continue for a long time. The governance and the new regime's policies will be under scrutiny by the Afghan people. It remains to be seen whether the people will stage more protests and rebellion against Taliban rule in Afghanistan. In eastern and south-eastern Afghanistan hundreds of people staged protests. Against this backdrop, India needs to adopt a pragmatic approach rather than an ideological one. US President Joe Biden's rhetoric about the withdrawal of US forces is an attempt to cover up his blunder of taking a hasty decision. Biden said that the US would continue to push for regional diplomacy and arrangements to prevent violence and instability. The interests of the US and India in Afghanistan are different. India must take into account different aspects of the situation and devise plans to deal with it. There are a few elements in India that celebrate the Talibanisation of Afghanistan. If the pro-Taliban elements in India begin to think that the Taliban could provide a template for their future plans in India, then it could cause worries to India

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

### Vaccine for 12+

Sir, Zydus Cadila's three-dose Covid vaccine getting the regulator's emergency use authorisation (EUA) has brought much cheer. The homegrown ZyCoV-D is the world's first DNA-based vaccine against Covid-19 and the first in India for those 12 years and above. Zydus Cadila's vaccine showed a primary efficacy of 66.6 per cent for symptomatic RT-PCR positive cases in Phase-III clinical trials. The vaccine becomes the sixth to get the EUA in India after Serum Institute of India's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Russia's Sputnik V, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's vaccines

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE

# state

# STUDENT UNREST

CASH COUNTER ODISHA STATE

### FEARS OF THIRD WAVE OF COVID

# **Health screening of kids** to start from August 24



# Preventive **Measures**

IN ORDER TO PREVENT SEVERITY OF THE THIRD WAVE, COLLECTOR VIJAY

WHILF THE COMMISSIONER WILL per the HEAD THE MUNICIPAL ision, 50 pe CORPORATION LEVEL TASKFORCE cent of the beds in AMRUTA COMMITTEE KULANGE SNCUs and NBSUs will be reserved HAS ISSUED THE COLLECTOR HAS ORDERED THE OFFICIALS TO MAKE

while nodal AN SOP SATURDAY. THIS FOLLOWED A

DIRECTIVE FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatraur, August 21: As the third wave of Covid-19 is expected to hit the state in September, the district administration of Ganiam has geared up to deal with the pandemic. In the third wave, more children and youths are feared to be affected by the deadly virus while the second wave is yet to be over.

CENTRES, SUB-DIVISIONAL HOSPITALS AND THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS HOSPITAL It has become a cause of con-

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ISOLATION

BEDS AT ALL COMMUNITY HEALTH

vears of age.

state government.

THE COLLECTOR HAS ORDERED FORMATION OF

TASKFORCE COMMITTEES, BDOS WILL HEAD THE TASKFORCE AT THE BLOCK LEVEL

administration. door-to-door health screening of children and teenagers will be started from August 24.

On the basis of the health screening report, a next course of action will be taken. The Collector has ordered formation of taskforce committees. BDOs will head the taskforce at the block level while the commissioner will head the municipal corporation level taskforce committee.

These committees will comprise child specialists, pediatricians, Ayush medical officers, block education officer, CDPOs and medical officers.

The Collector has ordered the officials to make arrangements for isolation beds at all community health centres, sub-divisional hospitals and the district headquarters hospital. The officials have been told to make everything ready by August 25.

As per the decision, 50 per cent of the beds in SNCUs and NBSUs will be reserved while nodal medical officers will train doctors of hospitals about Covid cases. Asha workers and Anganwadi

workers will visit houses to conduct cern for all -- both health officials, health secreening of children. Their people and the administration at a reports will be given to ANMs. On the basis of these reports, swabs of time where there is no provision for vaccination of children below 18 sick children will be collected.

If any kid is found Covid pos-In order to prevent severity of the itive, he/she will be treated eithird wave, Collector Vijay Amruta ther at home or hospital. It will Kulange has issued an SOP Saturday. be decided by RRT. The Collector This followed a directive from the has advised people to be more careful, wear masks and main-As per a decision of the district tain social distance.

Saturday

Earlier, people of Kodama panchayat had appealed to MLAs of the district to lay a road from Fatusineri to Kodma panchayat. With the help of five MLAs of Koraput, the road was started. Each MLA contributed Rs 1 lakh from their kitty.

But the forest department of the Andhra Pradesh stopped the project, saying the area is reserve forest. Local people were infuriated over the development.

When project officer of



Parbatipuram ITDA P Kurmanath visited Fatusineri area to lay foundation stones for various projects, people of the Kodama panchayat and forest officials opposed him as the Andhra Pradesh had stopped their road project.

The ITDA officer assured the villagers that he would talk to AP

forest department about the road project.

A few days ago, Andhra Pradesh officials sparked a dispute by entering Fatusineri and Phagunsineri villages of Kotia panchayat and identifying land for developmental projects to be implemented in the area. Thursday. The officials and

trol over the land. Salur MLA Rajana Dora and senior officials of Andhra Pradesh visited the Fatusineri village in

an MLA also planted saplings on

this occasion to establish their con-

Kotia panchayat and identified land for establishment of developmental projects at a programme August 18. The MLA and officials visited the village and identified land for developmental projects worth Rs 5 crore.

It was learnt that the Andhra government has executed various developmental projects in the panchayat and has decided to take up more such projects.

Notably, Andhra has declared Fatusineri and Phagunsineri villages in Kotia panchayat as two separate panchayats and conducted elections there despite stiff opposition from the Odisha government.

# Grand welcome to hockey stars in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, August 21: Four

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Kuchinda, August 21: A youth was electrocuted when he came in con-



knowing it has been plugged to

the switch board. Family members rushed him to Kuchinda hospital where doctors pronounced him brought dead. Kuchinda police registered a case and handed over the body to his family members after post-mortem.

# Youth electrocuted in Sambalpur

tact with an air-cooler overflowing with electric current at Khadiapali village under Kuchinda police lim-





As drought looms, farmers cry for restoration of defunct LI points

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira. August 21: Drought situation loomed large in most parts of Khaira block in Balasore district due to poor rainfall. Scores of lift irrigation projects in the area are left defunct. Though farmers have been demanding their renovation for a long time, the authorities concerned have turned a blind eye to the plight of farmers. Locals said had the lift irrigation points been ready by this time, they would have been coming handy at this time. At least, farmers could have saved their crops from drought. Farmlands are dry while thousands of farmers are sitting idle worrying for the extensive crop loss



In the last two years, 53 lift irrigation points have become defunct while 27 shallow points are not

> members of the Indian men's and women's hockey teams- Amit Rohidas, Birendra Lakra, Deepgrace Ekka and Sunita Toppo, who have made the country and the state proud for their stellar performance at the Tokyo Olympics, were given a rousing welcome at their hometown here on arrival.



# **KOTIA CONTROVERSY**

# Locals gherao Andhra babu in Kodama

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 21: Even as Andhra Pradesh has been trying every possible trick in the book to grab parts of Kotia panchayat under Pottangi block in Koraput district, people of Kodama panchayat gheraoed an Andhra official while he was in Fatusineri to lay foundation stones of some projects

Guests garlanding the martyrs' memorial at Mathili in Malkangiri district on the occasion of 79th Mathili firing day, Saturday. The firing by police led to the killing of several freedom fighters during a demonstration for independence of the country, August 21, 1942

According to reports, paddy is cultivated in 19400 hectares in this block. Only 9000 hectares are irri-

e-Waste collection drive launched in Sambalpur

gated while remaining farmlands are solely fed by rain.

Besides, 2000 hectares are irrigated by shallow wells and bore wells.

As per information available from the lift irrigation department, there were 98 lift irrigation projects in the area in 2019. They used to supply water to 2000 hectares alone.

erationalised 45 lift irrigation points in the current year, but in fact only 8 have been in use form farming.

Locals said the department has

laimed in records that it has op-

working.

It was alleged that lakhs of rupees were spent for repair of two lift irrigation points near Mirzapur village in Sardang panchayat two years ago, but they are not useful for farmers.

Similarly, a lift irrigation point in Goliha panchayat has been defunct for a long time.

Contacted, Suresh Chandra Dey, assistant engineer of the lift irrigation department said that some points are repaired every year, but most of them get defunct due to electrical problem.

They were accompanied by former captain of the Indian hockey team Padmashri Dilip Tirkey.

The players were given a grand welcome by the district administration and the people of Sundargarh.



Upon their arrival at the Jharsuguda Veer Surendra Sai Airport here Saturday, officials of the district administration. and the sports department after welcoming them at the airport took them home to Sundargarh a distance of 22 km in a special carcade.

On their arrival at the Parijat Park here, the stars of the Indian hockey team were taken on a tour of the town in an open SUV accompanied by bikers on a procession to the sound of dulduli (a typical set of huge drums played particularly in the western part of Odisha).

Large crowds welcomed the players with great enthusiasm apart from felicitating them at Sundargarh Public School and at different squares on the route.

After the tour of the town, the players were taken to the Circuit House. The hockey stars were fe-licitated by the district administration at Bikash Bhawan.

# **Container runs** over scooter, one dies

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, August 21: In a road mishap, a scooter rider was killed on the spot Friday night after being hit by a container truck on NH-60 near Madhuban Dhaba under Jaleswar police limits in Balasore. The container truck caught fire following the accident.

According to an eyewitness, the truck loaded with cartons of snacks was on its way from Kolkata to Balasore when it rear-ended the scooter and dragged the rider up to 100 metres.

The deceased has been identified as Laxmidhar Patra of Nuabazar area in Jaleswar. Initially, the scooter caught fire which spread to the container truck. A number of cartons were reduced to ashes in the inferno.

On being informed, a team of fire services personnel from Jaleswar and Basta rushed to the accident site and doused the flames. Jaleswar police have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe. Laxmidhar's body was sent for postmortem.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 21: In its bid to make the town clean, the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation has launched a plan to collect e-waste from every household in the town.

Civic body workers will go around in the town and collect ewaste from various households only Saturdays. At the outset, a team of civic body staff comprising ward officers, Swachha Sathis, Swachh supervisors and sanitary workers will move around in various wards and conduct awareness drives among residents. An awareness vehicle is also engaged in the drive, Subhankar Mohanty, enforcement officer of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, said.

Speaking to mediapersons, Mohanty said sanitary workers will visit the households in the town and collect e-waste comprising electric bulbs, computers and accessories, mobile phones, laptops, television and remote sets, air-coolers, printer machine and fans. He sought the cooperation of residents to make the plan a success. As a result, people will not dump



these e-waste here and there that will help in keeping the town clean. Earlier, people used to mix these e-wastes and dump it along with common wastes for which the sanitary workers were finding it hard to segregate the wastes, he said. The e-wastes will be collected only Saturdays and taken to ma-

terial recovery stations (MRF) in the town. There these e-wastes will be handed over to scrap dealers approved by the state pollution control board (SPCB). Earlier, the

scrap collectors used to collect the e-waste from households, he said.

They keep only those e-wastes which they think necessary for re-use and dump the rest elsewhere. Many of these wastes without getting decomposed are causing pollution. At many places these wastes were also leading to clogging of the drains. This results in water-logging in the town during rainy season due to obstruction in water flow in the drains, he said.

The sanitary workers were finding it difficult to clean the drains due to this reason. Keeping these problems in mind, the civic body has taken the steps to collect the e-wastes from households, Mohanty added.

Earlier, in its bid to contain pollution and adopt austerity measures the civic body launched battery driven auto rickshaws to collect wastes in the town. Moreover. women have been given the charge to drive the autos as part of a

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lines of Mission Shakti programme of the state government. Notably, Bhubaneswar is the first city in the state to launch a

women empowerment drive on the

drive to collect e-wastes from

households in the city.







# Maha CM urges 'BJP frantic to patch up with Thackeray' **Oppn parties to** win people's trust



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai. August 21: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has urged the Opposition parties to win people's trust and also called upon them to stay united and strong.

He made this appeal during a virtual meeting of Opposition leaders convened by Congress president Sonia Gandhi Friday Talking to reporters, Shiv Sena

leader Sanjay Raut Saturday said, "During the meeting, Thackeray stressed that the parties must win people's trust.

"As of today, there is no lust for power among the Opposition parties, but even when the chair of power is in sight, people should be able to trust the Opposition parties with the belief that they will remain strong and united," Raut quoted Thackeray as saying during the meeting.

The Sena's Rajya Sabha member said that Sonia Gandhi had personally called up the leaders of all parties and requested them to join the meeting.

The meeting was attended by leaders of 19 Opposition parties, including NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and four non-Congress

**RS member targets MVA** 

govt over Maratha guota

#### Chief Ministers - TMC's Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), DMK's MK Stalin (Tamil Nadu) and JMM's Hemant Soren (Jharkhand) and Uddhav Thackeray

During the meeting, Gandhi urged the leaders to rise above political compulsions to take on the BJP in the interest of the nation and start planning 'systematically' to realise the 'ultimate goal' of winning the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to provide a government that believes in the values of the freedom movement and provisions of the Constitution.

Raut said that apart from discussion on how to prepare for the next general elections by staying united, several issues like alleged Pegasus snooping, issues concerning farmers, price rise and 'attack on democracy' figured at the virtual meeting, he said. When asked about the developments in Afghanistan, Raut said. India faces the threat of Taliban since it has the support of Pakistan and China, which are India's enemies.

"If there are voices of support for Taliban in India, the government should crush them immediately." he said.

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 21: Making a startling claim, senior Shiv Sena leader Kishore Tiwari has said that the state Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party is 'frantically trying' to patch up with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

The BJP is also willing to concede all demands of Sena -- its former partner for over two decades -- which has now allied with the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress to head the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state.

More so since Thackeray could emerge as a major national Opposition contender in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, which has spooked the BJP, he pointed out, in comments to a private local TV channel.

Tiwari -- accorded MoS status, added: "Every two weeks or so, the BJP leaders call up the CM, requesting to bury the past and



start afresh.'

"In fact, people like Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis, even want me to mediate between the Sena and the BJP and hammer out an understanding between the two parties," Tiwari later elaborated to IANS.

He contended that since the past over six months, Fadnavis and other BJP bigwigs are seeking ap-

Nagpur metro, passing through

pointments with Thackeray Saab 'to clinch a settlement' comprising Thackeray remaining CM for full five years with their support, with choice of ministries and smoothening all other irritants.

However, the CM has given a 'thumbs down' sign -- even publicly as recently as last June - to all BJP's overtures, while making it clear that -- "I have given my word to the

NCP-Congress and will not betray them." Top Sena leaders, including Thackeray, have repeatedly accused the BJP leadership of "treachery and breaking its promise of equal power-share arrange ment," made in February 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Later, the BJP allegedly reneged on it, virtually calling Thackeray a 'liar', which ultimately resulted in the unprecedented MVA government taking power in November 2019. At one point in November 2019, worried BJP leaders from New Delhi had woken up Thackeray at 3 am, begging to forgive-and-forget, bury the hatchet and start on a clean slate, Tiwari said.

Still not succeeding, Tiwari said the BJP resorted to 'wrecking the brand-new MVA' with Fadnavis suddenly becoming CM of a two-man government in an unprecedented dawn ceremony at Raj Bhavan.

"It was only the determination of the NCP President Sharad Pawar,

Sena MP Sanjay Raut and other Congress leaders that the bloodless coup on democracy was exposed...Fadnavis' so-called secondterm lasted barely 80 hours," a grim Tiwari recalled.

After that mega-failure, he said the BJP leaders kept targeting the CM and his family members personally, and attempted to drag them into the Sushant Singh Rajput death case.

"Till date, the BJP is constantly harassing the MVA, misusing central agencies, filing fake cases against Sena, NCP leaders or ministers and their families, not spar ing even ex-BJP leaders who joined MVA...All these gimmicks are intended to force a break-up of the 3party alliance," Tiwari declared.

The strong reactions of the Sena's 'farmer-face' came after questions on the renewed attacks on Shiv Sena launched by Union Industry Minister Narayan Rane

# since Thursday during his 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra'. Country's highest herbal park opens in U'khand



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, August 21: India's highest altitude herbal park situated at a height of 11,000 feet was inaugurated Saturday at Mana village close to the Indo-China border in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.

Mana is the last Indian village in Chamoli bordering China and is adjacent to the famous Himalayan temple of Badrinath. The research wing of Uttarakhand's forest department has developed the park over three acres of land given by Mana Van panchayat, under the central government's CAMPA, or Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, scheme. The herbal park has around 40 species found in high altitude alpine areas in the Himalayan region. Chief Conservator of Forest

scientifically named as Origanum Vulgare, is found in this area and forms important part of offering to lord Badrinath. Various researches have established its multiple medicinal benefits. Badri Ber, which is scientifically known as Hippophae Salicifolia, and locally called as Amaesh, is another nutrition-rich fruit and used widely, Chaturvedi said.

The second section is dedicated to Ashtavarga species which is a group of eight herbs found in the Himalayan region namely Riddhi (Habenaria Intermedia), Vriddhi (Habenaria Edgeworthii), Jeevak (Malaxis Acuminata), Rishbhak (Malaxis Muscifera), Kakoli (Fritillaria Rovlei), Ksheer Kakoli (Lilium Polyphyllum). Maida (Ploygonatum Cirrhifolium), and Maha Maida (Polygonatum Verticillatum), which are the most important ingredients of Chyawanprash, he said. The third section consists of Saussurea species and includes Brahmakamal (Saussurea Obvallata) which also happens to be the state flower of Uttarakhand. The fourth section consists of assorted alpine species including Ateesh, Meethavish, Vankakdi, and Choru, all of which are important medicinal herbs and are in great demand, he said.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nagpur, August 21: The Nagpur Metro's unique section -- with a metro train zipping through the fourth floor of a 20-storeyed commercial building, a first in India became operational Friday. running 1.6 km between

Sitabuldi-Zero Mile-Kasturchand Park. The iconic corridor, incorporating unique architecture and design, has been constructed by the Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MahaMetro) and was inaugurated by Chief

of such metro train passing through commercial or residential structures in the world, said a MahaMetro official.

Flagging off the inaugural train along with Gadkari and Puri, Thackeray affirmed that development work would not be hindered anywhere in the state.

"While development should take place, we must ensure that there are no shortcomings in it. We shall do a good job in the 75th year of Indian Independence and it will last for another 75 years," said Thackeray.

Gadkari urged the g

of its energy needs met from solar power, it will recycle 100 percent water used by it, plus harvest rainwater, bio-digesters are provided at all stations, making it a clean and sustainable proj-

Puri added that a traditional Rajput-style architecture has been used in designing the Kasturchand Park station including its facade, umbrellas, arcs, nets etc, making it a unique structure in the city.

Nagpur Guardian Minister and Congress leader Nitin Raut expressed confidence that the Nagpur Metro would prove a big boon in the infrastructure development of the state's second capital.

Bharatiya Janata Party's Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis said that the 'Zero Mile' has an immense historic significance with the Great Trigonometry Survey launched by the British here in 1907 from Zero Mile, Nagpur, the country's geographical centre-point.

The new corridor links the Vidhan Bhavan, Reserve Bank of India, Central Museum, Sanvidhan Chowk and Morris College in Nagpur.

Simultaneously, the 40,000square feet 'Freedom Park' flanking the Zero Mile Freedom Park

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 21: Rajya Sabha MP Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati Friday said a 15-page letter sent to him by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray detailing the state government's efforts to benefit the Maratha community was far from reality.

Speaking at a rally in Nanded Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati, an RS member from the President's quota, also said Congress minister Ashok

Chavan, who heads the state cabinet's sub committee on Maratha quota, was ineffective. He said the Maharashtra government and Centre were blaming each other after the Supreme Court struck down a law that gave reservations in jobs and education to the Maratha community. The MVA government must inform the people about the follow up of the review petition filed by it in the SC,

the RS MP added.

Minister Uddhav Thackeray along with Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Singh Puri in the presence of top officials. The 1.6 km corridor in the Zero Mile Freedom Park station and 20-floor tall commercial tower is part of the upcoming 19

that will be ready by the year-end. It is part of the total 38-km long Nagpur Metro with another 19 km coming up in the east-west directions, with barely a handful

Cotton Market to avoid road traffic hassles and promised all financial assistance for it. Puri said that the project foundation stone was laid exactly 7 km long north-south metro rail years ago August 21, 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and it is one of the fastest moving metros in the country. He said that Nagpur Metro is a green metro with two-thirds

ment to construct a tunnel to station was also inaugurated to mark the 75th anniversary of give access to the Zero Mile Freedom Park station from the Independence

The Freedom Park has unique concepts like a Public Plaza and a long History Wall depicting major moments of the Indian Freedom Movement. An Indian Army's battle-weary T-55 tank which saw action in war is displayed on a pedestal, plus an amphitheatre, adequate seating and moving spaces for the people of the city and tourists.

(research) Sanjiv Chaturvedi said.

Many of these species are endangered and threatened as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list as well as the State Biodiversity Board. It includes many important medicinal herbs also, he said. The park is divided into four sections. The first section contains species associated with Badrinath (Lord Vishnu), which includes Badri Tulsi, Badri Ber, Badri Tree, and sacred tree of Bhojpatra. Badri Tulsi, which is

# 'Seed bombing' forests to protect crops from animals

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dehradun, August 21: The farms in the hilly villages of Uttarakhand have been under regular attacks from wild animals over the last few years. These constant attacks have left several people dead, cattle injured, crops and buildings damaged and farmlands barren.

Recently, the plantation technique of seed bombing has been mooted as a solution to this problem. Seed bombs, or balls of seed covered in soil, are being thrown in the forests to ensure food for wild animals is available in the forest itself, thus negating the need for them to attack the farms. The campaign, which started in 2017, has now spread to the entire state, including Dehradun, Tehri and Nainital.

Since 2017, when the seed bombing initiative began, the number of hectares of crops damaged has dropped (though it rose again last year). Similarly, the number of injuries to humans, cattle and buildings has been fluctuating. So while the data suggests the results of the campaign are inconclusive still, it has continued to receive support from the community, civil society and government.

The seed bomb campaign was started in the state by Dwarka Prasad Semwal, Secretary,



Himalayan Paryavaran Jadi Booti Agro Sansthan (JADDI), Uttarkashi, a non-governmental organisation focused on environmental conservation. Explaining the idea behind the campaign, Semwal said, "We planted bare seeds in the forest in 2017 but most of the seeds were lost, eaten by birds and trampled by animals. We did not even achieve one per cent success. To protect the

seed, we made a ball of soil, manure and water and put two seeds in it. We named them beej (seed) bombs. We started this campaign on a small scale in a few villages and then took it to the entire state."

Today, the campaign is active in many villages of Uttarkashi, where women and youth together make seed bombs and scatter them in the forests. Seed bombs are prepared in the month of June-July just before the onset of rains as the seeds are most likely to germinate in wet soil. The clay balls are dried in the shade for three to four days until they are neither too hard nor too soft before being taken into

the forest. Tulsi Devi, the former village head of Nathuakhan village of the

Ramgarh block in Nainital is optimistic about these seed bombs. "We made seed bombs with seeds of pumpkin, gourd, zucchini, cucumber, corn and pulses. Just before the rains, some seed bombs were thrown towards the forest. If we grow these vegetables and fruits near the forest, then our agriculture will survive. This is our third year of making seed bombs," she said.

The seeds are chosen carefully, in accordance with altitude and soil, said Dwarika Prasad. His NGO consulted with several experts like the Vice-Chancellor of

HNB Garhwal University, Dr Annapurna Nautiyal; NK Singh, Assistant Horticulture Officer at Uttarkashi; Dr Pankaj Nautiyal, Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Chinyalisaur, and few others to pick the seeds.

This year, seed donations are also being sought from the community. Semwal explained, "There is a feeling of conservation attached to seed donation. Many people have donated seeds; some give two, some give 10."

Akash Nautiyal, a member of the Mangal Youth Foundation of Uttarkashi, said that they have been asking for seed donations from every house they go to. "Farmers keep traditional seeds in their homes even today, which they sometimes give to us," he said.

In addition to enthusiastic support from the forest department, many important people like Governor Baby Rani Maurya and former Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat have been endorsing the campaign, especially during the Harela festival (a folk festival in Uttarakhand). So while the jury is still out on whether seed bombs are enough to meet the stated objective of reducing man-animal conflict in Uttarakhand, the community is determined to keep trying.

# Locals attempt self-immolation in protest against hydel project



#### AGENCIES

Gopeshwar (U'khand), August 21: Villagers affected by the Vishnugad-Pipalkoti hydel project of THDC India Friday allegedly attempted to immolate themselves in protest against the forcible demolition of their homes near the

project site, the police said. However, timely intervention by police averted any untoward incident, they said.

The run-of-the-river hydel project is being built on the Alaknanda river by acquiring the land and homes of residents of Haat village near Pipalkoti in Uttarakhand's Chamoli under an agreement.

Trouble began when a team sent by the local administration at the request of THDC India tried to demolish the homes of residents of Haat village.

As the team moved to raze their homes, a group of young men and women of the village poured some combustible material over themselves and attempted to set themselves on fire, the Chamoli Police said. However, the police intervened well on time and averted any untoward incident, they said.

Efforts are being made to solve the problem through talks between the villagers and officials of the  $\rightarrow$ firm, police said.

The villagers whose land and homes have been acquired by THDC India for the project are refusing to vacate their homes on the plea that the company has not expandedbasic facilities in the area that it had promised as part of the agreement.











# national



The festival of Raksha Bandhan strengthens the spirit of harmony and fraternity in our society. On this special occasion, we should dedicate ourselves towards ensuring safety of women by increasing their participation in nation-building RAM NATH KOVIND PRESIDENT OF INDIA

# **DELHI GETS HIGHEST RAINFALL SINCE 2009**

Delhi received the highest rainfall in a month since 2009, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Saturday, leading to waterlogging and traffic snarls across the national capital. The last highest rainfall of 110 mm was recorded August 10, 2010





# '15 names given by PM to file fake cases against'

DURING AN ONLINE BRIEFING. SISODIA CLAIMED THAT MANY NAMES ON THE LIST ARE FROM THE AAM AADMI PARTY

trolls will ridicule the show of unity, but they should remember the famous words of the

Bhakts and

German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoller. Cynics will scoff at the effort, but they will realise one day that we are fighting for the liberty of all people, including the cynics P CHIDAMBARAM SENIOR CONG LEADER

We have

decided to look for new talented players under a campaign and train them in 18 sports academies of Madhya Pradesh. We will churn out not one but many such players, who will bring laurels to the country and

the state in the Olympics besides in national and international competitions SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

CM, MADHYA PRADESH

We need to understand that the victory in Afghanistan is being seen by terror groups as a Pakistani victory and an Indian

defeat .... We have to organise ourselves for a renewed offensive by elements like the JeM

SHANKAR ROYCHOWDHURY FORMER ARMY CHIEF

# SHORT **TAKES**

# **3 JeM terrorists** killed in encounter

Srinagar: Three Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district Saturday, officials said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the upper reaches of forest area of Nagbaeran Tral in the south Kashmir district following inputs about the presence of militants there, the officials said.

# Earthquake hits **Gujarat's Kutch**

Ahmedabad: An earthquake of 4.1 magnitude was

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Saturday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shared the names of 15 people with Delhi Police, CBI and ED and asked them to conduct raids and file fake FIRs against those on the list and ruin them before the next elections.

During an online briefing, Sisodia claimed that many names on the list are from the Aam Aadmi Party. Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta rejected the allegations as "unfounded and baseless" and accused the Arvind Keiriwal government of resorting to issuing "concocted statements" to make AAP relevant in the upcoming elections in few states.



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal echoed similar sentiments and said nothing had come out of the earlier raids or fake case

# **₹935cr embezzled** in MGNREGA over last 4 years: Cong



The party also

demanded that the

differently-abled

government restore the

persons in police forces

12.5 crore, which is 1.34 per cent of

four per cent quota for

New Delhi, August 21: The Congress Saturday alleged that Rs 935 crore had been misappropriated in MGNREGA schemes over the last four years and said the government must be held accountable for failing to check corruption.

The party also demanded that the government restore the four per cent quota for differently-abled persons in police forces.

the misappropriated amount, stands Congress spokesperson Pawan recovered. The very fact that mis-Khera said a media report, which appropriations have been hapassessed publicly available inforpening is a testament to the lack of mation of the Rural Development accountability and due diligence by Ministry, revealed that Rs 935 crore was misappropriated in schemes under the Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act (MGN-REGA) over the last four years. These numbers are the outcome of audits done by social audit units under the Rural Development Department of the Ministry of Rural Development, he told a press conference. Khera said the significant outcome of the social audit unit was that the primary type of misappropriation in most cases was financial misappropriation which includes and is not limited to bribery, payments to non-existent persons and to vendors at inflated

We have learnt from reliable sources that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has handed over a list of 15 people to the CBI, the ED

# 14 held for pro-Taliban posts on social media

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Hailakandi, August 21: Fourteen people were arrested from across Assam for social media posts allegedly supporting the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, police said Saturday.

The arrests were made since Fridav night and they have been booked under different sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, IT Act and CrPC. "@assampolice has arrested 14 persons for social media posts regarding Taliban activities that have attracted provisions of law of the land," special director general of police GP Singh tweeted.

careful about inflammatory social media posts, including retweeting them, liking them, as their actions could invite penal action.

Deputy Inspector General Violet Baruah also urged people to help law enforcing agencies keep tab on such social media posts. Baruah tweeted "we're registering criminal cases against such persons.'



Do politics of votes and win the trust of people. There were so many fake cases filed against us and raids conducted but you got nothing. You want to file more fake cases and carry out raids. You are welcome ARVIND KEJRIWAL

CHIEF MINISTER OF DELHI

and the Delhi Police, asking them to conduct raids and file fake FIRs against them (people on the list) in order to ruin them before the next elections, Sisodia claimed. He claimed that Delhi Police

Commissioner Rakesh Asthana has promised to get the job done. Rakesh Asthana is Modiji's 'brahmastra'. He has promised that come what may, he will get the job done, he claimed.

Sisodia said the AAP does politics of truth and honesty. You can send the CBI and the ED.

we will welcome them, he said. Sisodia said there had been previous instances where AAP leaders were 'targeted' but nothing came out of it.

The deputy chief minister also claimed that AAP is gaining popularity in other states like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and had even won 27 seats in the municipal corporation polls in Gujarat, which is the stronghold of the BJP.

# FORMER UP CM **KALYAN SINGH** PASSES AWAY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, August 21: Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh (89) passed away here Saturday due to sepsis and multi-organ failure.

Singh was admitted to the ICU of Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) July 4 in a critical condition. On Saturday, his condition worsened due to kidney infection. He breathed his last at 9.15 pm.

Singh's body has been brought to his Mall Avenue residence where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Cabinet colleagues paid tribuites to the departed soul. Earleir, Adityanath had tweeted the news of the veteran leader's demise

The state Cabinet is meeting later Saturday night to mourn the death of Singh.

A three-day state mourning has been announced in Uttar Pradesh and a holiday will be observed Monday as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

Deputy Chief Ministers Dinesh Sharma and Keshav Maurya have expressed their grief over the passing away of Singh, while senior leaders across the political spectrum have termed his demise as a loss to Indian politics.

Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad chief Mahant Narendra Giri said that Indian politics has lost one of its tallest leaders

# Danve's dig at Rahul leaves party fuming PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Maharashtra and some other parts of the country to dedicate a newly-

Mumbai, August 21: Union minister Raosaheb Danve has criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying that he was of no

use to anyone, and also likened him to a stray bull. The Congress objected to his indecent and shocking remarks and demanded his removal from the

Union cabinet Danve made the remarks while speaking at a public rally in Jalna district of Maharashtra as part of the 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' taken out by newly-inducted Minister of

State for Finance Bhagwat Karad. Giving his speech in Marathi, Danve said, "Rahul Gandhi is of no use to anybody. He is like a 'saand' (bull) dedicated to god. He roams everywhere, but is of no use to anyone. I have been in the Lok Sabha

for 20 years and have seen his work. It is a practice in rural

born male calf to a local deity. That bull is not used for any agriculture or transportation purposes. The Union Minister of State for Railway further said, Even if such a bull enters a farm and eats the crop, the farmer forgives the animal saying it needs food.

One should look at the great work being done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi...The government is spending money from its coffers as Railways does not generate enough revenue from various sources, including through the sale of tickets, he said.

Reacting to his remarks, Congress's state unit chief Nana Patole sought Danve's resignation. He has crossed all the boundaries.

His remarks are indecent and shocking. We demand his removal from Union cabinet for using such a foul language against Gandhi, he said.

MAN, MUD, MISERY





recorded in Gujarat's Kutch district Saturday with its epicentre located near Dholavira, the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said. No damage to property or casualty was reported due to the moderate-intensity earthquake, officials of the district administration said. "A 4.1-magnitude earthquake was recorded at 12.08 pm Saturday with its epicentre 23 km East-Southeast (ESE) of Dholavira in Kutch. It was recorded at a depth of 6.1 km," the Gandhinagar-based institute said.

### 2 Russian women found dead in Goa

Panaji: In separate incidents, two Russian women were found dead at their residences at a beach village in North Goa on two consecutive days, police said Saturday. While Alexandra Diavi, 24, was found hanging from a ceiling fan at her rented place late Thursday, the body of her 34-year-old compatriot · Ekaterina Titova - was recovered from her apartment Friday, a senior police official told PTI.

### Jawan dies due to severe weather

New Delhi: One Army jawan died and a few others were injured during a supervised training activity at Mamun military station near Pathankot in Punjab Saturday as the weather conditions were "severe", said senior officials. The senior Army officials said that the affected jawans have been admitted at the military hospital in Pathankot and are being provided with required medical care.

procurement prices. He said of the whopping Rs 935 crore misappropriated, only Rs

the Narendra Modi government, the Congress leader alleged.

The Congress party demands that the government of India is held accountable for the misappropriations in the MNREGA scheme and ensures that social audit is undertaken as per the provisions of the MGNREGA, Khera said.

We also demand that the government of India recovers the misappropriated amount at the earliest and ensures that the recovered money is used to compensate the poor and marginalised who have suffered a lot due to Covid-19 mismanagement, he said. The Congress leader claimed that

Tamil Nadu had the highest misappropriation of Rs 245 crore between 2017-18 and 2020-21, and in Bihar, Rs 12.34 crore was misappropriated.



A farmer ploughs his paddy field at a village near Balurghat in South Dinajpur district, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

# **CLIMATE CHANGE**

# South Asian children at extremely high risk: Unicef

SOUTH ASIA IS HOME TO OVER 600 MILLION CHILDREN AND HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE GLOBALLY

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 21: Young people living in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are among those most at risk of the impacts of climate change, threatening their health, education, and protection, pointed a new Unicef report released Saturday. In addition, Nepal and Sri Lanka

are among the top 65 countries most impacted globally.

The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index' (CCRI) is Unicef's first child-focused climate risk index. It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based

on their access to essential services. Pakistan, Bangladesh Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, with a ranking of 14, 15, 15 and 26, respectively. While Nepal is ranked 51, Sri Lanka is at 61st place. Bhutan is ranked 111, with children at relatively lower risk.

Approximately 1 billion children live in one of the 33 countries classified as extremely highrisk, including the four South Asian countries.

For the first time, we have clear evidence of the impact of climate change on millions of children in South Asia. Droughts, floods, air pollution and river erosion across the region have left millions of children homeless and hungry, and with-



out any healthcare and water, said George Laryea-Adjei, Unicef Regional Director for South Asia. Together, climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic have cre-

ated an alarming crisis for South Asian children. The time to act is now - if we invest in water. healthcare and education, we can protect their futures from the impacts of a changing climate and degrading environment, he said further.

The report found that these South Asian children are in constant danger from riverine floods and air pollution, but also that investments in child health, nutrition, and education can make a significant difference to protect children from climate change.

South Asia is home to over 600 million children and has the highest number of young people globally. South Asian countries are among the most vulnerable globally to the impacts of climate change. Extreme climaterelated events - heatwaves, storms, floods, fires and droughts - affect more than half of the region's population every year and continue to burden South Asian countries' economies.

Rising global temperatures and changing weather patterns have put the futures of millions of children living in climate-vulnerable areas in South Asia at constant risk. Worse, before they can recover from one disaster, another one strikes, reversing any progress made.

The report also reveals disconnect between where greenhouse gas emissions are generated, and where children are enduring the most significant climate-driven impacts. The 33 extremely highrisk countries, including four from South Asia, collectively emit just 9 per cent of global CO2 emissions. Conversely, the 10 highest emitting countries collectively accountfor nearly 70 per cent of global emissions.





international 



The ongoing evacuation of US citizens and Afghan nationals who supported Americans over the last 20 years is one of the largest and most difficult airlifts in history JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

# **ISMAIL SABRI TO BE NEW MALAYSIA PM**

Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah has appointed former Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob as new Prime Minister of the country, the national palace announced. His appointment comes as Malaysia is mired in a political turmoil



uote

It's necessary to stop the irresponsible police of enforcing its own values on others and attempts to build

democracy in other countries based on outside models without taking into account historic ethnic and religious issues and fully ignoring other people's traditions

VLADIMIR PUTIN PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

The US-India strategic partnership is now even more critical in containing the Taliban and preventing terrorism

RO KHANNA INDIAN AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN

On Instagram, we're rolling out pop-up alerts in Afghanistan with specific steps on how to protect your account. We also

temporarily removed the ability to view and search the 'Friends' list for FB accounts in Afghanistan to help protect people from being targeted NATHANIEL GLEICHER HEAD OF SECURITY POLICY, FACEBOOK

# SHORT TAKES

### 10K rapes recorded in SA in April-June

Johannesburg: South Africa registered 10,006 rape cases between April and June this year, according to official statistics. "This is an increase of 4,201 cases, amounting to a 72.4 per cent increase, compared to the skewed previous reporting period," Xinhua news agency quoted Police Minister Bheki Cele as saying Friday. He said that comparing the two periods would leave the statistics distorted because of the hard lockdown in 2020, which severely restricted freedoms and movement, resulting in less crime.

### **Portugal to ease** Covid lockdown

Lisbon: The Portuguese government has announced

Kabul, August 21: Taliban's political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Saturday said the insurgent group intends to have economic and trade ties with all countries around the world, including the US. "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan wants diplomatic and trade ties with all countries, particularly with the United States of

AGENCIES

America." Baradar said in a tweet. Baradar denied media reports that the Taliban has not intended to have diplomatic and trade ties with Washington, reports Xinhua news agency.

"We never talk about cut of trade ties with any countries. Rumor about this news has been a propaganda. It is not true," he said.

KABUL: Afghan women are being

shipped into neighbouring coun-

tries in coffins and used as sex

slaves, according to a former

judge. Najla Ayoubi, who lives

in the US after "fleeing for my

life" from the Taliban, said she has

heard horrific examples of vio-

lence against women since the

militants took control of her

homeland August 15, reports

on fire because she was accused

of bad cooking for Taliban fight-

ers" in the north of the country.

Other young women are being

forced into marriage and sexually

She said one woman was "put



The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan wants diplomatic and trade ties with all countries, particularly with the US

MULLAH ABDUL GHANI BARADAR POLITICAL CHIEF, TALIBAN

Earlier in the day, unconfirmed reports said Baradar has arrived in Kabul from southern Kandahar to conduct consultation with Afghan leaders about the creation of a new government. He returned to Kandahar from Doha on Tuesday. On Tuesday, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said they in-

tended to form an inclusive government and does not want to have any internal or external enemies.



'Taliban want ties with all countries, including US'

In a three-hour meeting between university lecturers, owners of private institutions, and the Taliban officials, the latter said that there is no alternative and justification for continuing co-education and must be ended.

Afghanistan has a mixed system of both co-education and separate classes with schools functioning separate classes while co-education is applied both in government and private universities and institutes around the country.

Lecturers in Herat province have reasoned that the government universities and institutes can manage separate classes but because of the limited number of female students in private institutions, the latter cannot afford to create separate classrooms

Mullah Farid, head of higher education of Afghanistan Islamic



Emirate who was representing the Taliban in the meeting in Herat has said that co-education should be ended because the system is the root of all evils in society.

Farid as an alternative suggested that female lecturers or elderly male ones who are virtuous are allowed to teach female students and for the co-education, there is neither an alternative nor any justi-

fication to be continued. Lecturers in Herat said, since private institutions cannot afford separate classes, thousands of girls may remain deprived of higher education.

There are reportedly around 40.000 students and 2.000 lecturers in private and government universities and institutions in the province.

Marceline, August 21: Tensions in Haiti were rising Saturday over a lack of aid to remote areas of the impoverished country hardest hit by last week's devastating earthquake that killed over 2,000 people. Many Haitians whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed by the magnitude 7.2 quake that struck on Aug. 14 said they were unsure how to even start rebuilding.

Haiti faces anger and despair a

week after guake

REUTERS

Exasperation over the time it was taking for aid to come through began to boil over on Friday, with residents attacking aid trucks in several towns across the south of the Caribbean nation



A confrontation also erupted after former President Michel Martelly visited a local hospital in the city of Les Cayes, where one of his staff left behind an envelope of money that set of a violent scramble.

"We are concerned about the deteriorating security situation that may disrupt our assistance to vulnerable Haitians. We are talking to the authorities and all actors to try and prevent this." said Pierre Honnorat, head of the United Nations' World Food Program in Haiti.

The official death toll from the earthquake stands at 2,189 people, with an estimated 332 people still missing. But residents in towns across the southern rural countryside are still digging for bodies believed to lie underneath the rubble.

# Woman set on fire for 'bad cooking' as sex slaves.

"They also force families to marry their young daughters to Taliban fighters. I don't see where is the promise that they think women should be going to work, when we are seeing all of these atrocities.

The Taliban have said they will respect women's rights and allow them to work and be educated

She said there was "no way to believe" assurances that the Taliban wanted to form inclusive government, saying she knew of one female TV anchor who was told to go home.

# Taliban seize American weapons

has laid down its weapons, and the Taliban have wasted little time in collecting them, raising concerns about how easily troves of US-made arms, military aircraft and armoured vehicles have fallen into enemy hands and the new capabilities they bring, The Wall Street Journal reported.

of Taliban fighters rejoicing near abandoned American helicopters, carrying US-supplied M24 sniper rifles and M18 assault weapons, stacking other small arms and materiel in unending piles and driving Humvees and other USmade military trucks.

The Taliban have seized air-

# China condemns suicide attack on its nationals

abused.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

metro.co.uk.

were playing nearby were killed while one Chinese national was

# 250 arrested at Australia anti-lockdown protests

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sydney, August 21: Authorities in av more than 250 people

KABUL: Afghanistans military

Scores of videos have emerged

planes, tanks and artillery from Afghan outposts and from evacuating US personnel, revealing one of the heavier costs of a troop withdrawal amid a collapse of

Afghanistan's government and army. "We obviously don't want to see our equipment in the hands of those who would act against our interests, or the interests of the Afghan people," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said at a press briefing this week.

The US sent nearly 600,000 small arms, 76,000 vehicles and 208 airplanes to Afghanistan's military and police from 2003 to 2016, according to a 2017 Government Accountability Office report, one of the few such compilations.

TO THE RESCUE

that the country will move from the "state of calamity", its highest response to a national emergency, to the 'state of contingency' beginning August 23. At a press conference, Minister of State for the Presidency Mariana Vieira da Silva highlighted the positive development in the control of the Covid-19 pandemic and announced that the Council of Ministers decided to anticipate the easing of the lockdown measures to reopen the country, Xinhua news agency reported Saturday.

### 53 suspected militants held

Jakarta: The Indonesian National Police said that its counterterrorism squad, known as Densus 88, has arrested 53 suspected militants, who were planning attacks during the country's independence day across 11 provinces. Of the 53 suspected terrorists, 50 belong to the outlawed Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) group and the other three are from the banned Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), police's spokesman Inspector General Argo Yuwono said Monday.

### **Turkey floods** toll rises to 81

Ankara: The death toll from Turkey's flash floods along the Black Sea coast has increased to 81, the country's disaster agency said. Seventy people died as a result of floods in Kastamonu province. Another 10 people died in Sinop and one in Bartin, Xinhua news agency quoted the Disaster and **Emergency Management** Directorate (AFAD) as saying Friday. Rescue and relief efforts are continuing as some 30 people that are still reportedly missing in the flood-hit areas.

Islamabad, August 21: China Saturday asked Pakistan to take effective measures and overhaul the security mechanism to forestall attacks on its nationals working on various infrastructure projects after a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of Chinese nationals in the restive Balochistan province, in the second such attack in over a month.



The Chinese embassy here in a statement strongly condemned Friday's suicide attack on the convoy of Chinese nationals comprising four vehicles in Gwadar, the port city of strategic importance due to the presence of Chinese workers and investment.

In the attack, two children who

among several others who sustained injuries.

The lawyer told Sky News:

"They are forcing people to give

them food and cook them food.

Also there are so many young

women in the past few weeks

being shipped into neighbour-

ing countries in coffins to be used

The embassy said that it launched the emergency plan immediately, "demanding Pakistan to properly treat the wounded, conduct a thorough investigation on the attack, and severely punish the perpetrators.

"At the same time, relevant departments at all levels in Pakistan must take practical and effective measures to accelerate to implement strengthened whole-process security measures and upgraded security cooperation mechanisms to ensure that similar incidents will not happen again," it said.

The embassy further said that recently the security situation in Pakistan has been severe and there have been several terrorist attacks in succession, resulting in the casualties of several Chinese citizens.

The Chinese embassy in Pakistan asked its citizens in Pakistan to be vigilant, strengthen safety precautions, reduce unnecessary outings, and take effective security protection.

have been arrested while protesting coronavirus lockdowns in the country. Many faced fines for defying health orders. The protests took place Saturday in several cities nationwide, with the largest and most violent protest in Melbourne.

At least seven police officers were treated for injuries after skirmishes broke out at some of the protests

Sydney has been in lockdown for two months, while Melbourne and Australia's capital. Canberra. went into lockdown earlier this month. Under the rules of the lock down, people are mostly confined to their homes and have limits placed on their social interactions.

Protestors say the lockdowns should end, but authorities say they are necessary to suppress the spread of the virus and save lives.

Despite the restrictions, Sydney's New South Wales state reported a record 825 new daily community infections on Saturday. Several cities are battling outbreaks of the highly contagious delta variant.



A firefighting helicopter flies by the sun as a wildfire burns in the village of Vilia, Greece. More than 500 wildfires have broken out in recent weeks across the country, ravaging swathes of forest and forcing the evacuation of thousands of people

# Rain falls at Greenland ice summit for first time on record

#### REUTERS

New York, August 21: Rain fell at the highest point on the Greenland ice sheet last week for the first time on record, another worrying sign of warming for the ice sheet already melting at an increasing rate, scientists said Friday.

'That's not a healthy sign for an ice sheet," said Indrani Das, a glaciologist with Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. "Water on ice is bad. It makes the ice sheet more prone to surface melt." Not only is water warmer than the usual snow, it's also darker - so it absorbs more sunlight

rather than reflecting it away. That meltwater is streaming into the ocean, causing sea levels

to rise. Already, melting from Greenland's ice sheet -- the world's second-largest after Antarctica's -- has caused around 25% of global sea level rise seen over the last few decades, scientists estimate. That share is expected to grow, as global temperatures increase

The rain fell for several hours at the ice sheet's 3,216-metre summit August 14, where temperatures remained above freezing for around nine hours, scientists at the US National Snow and Ice Data Center said. Temperatures at the ice cap almost never lift above freezing, but have now done so three times in less than a decade.

In total, 7 billion tonnes of rain fell across Greenland over three days, from Aug. 14 through August



16 -- the largest amount since records began in 1950.

The rain and high temperatures triggered extensive melting across the island, which suffered a surface ice mass loss August 15 that was seven times above the average for mid-August. The record-breaking

That's not a healthy sign for an ice sheet. Water on ice is bad. It makes the ice sheet more prone to surface melt

INDRANI DAS I GLACIOLOGIST, LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

rain is the latest in a string of warning signs about how climate change is affecting Greenland's ice sheet.

Greenland experienced a massive melting event in late July, when enough ice melted in a single day need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, she said. 'We really have to stay laser-focused on adapting, as well as re-ducing the potential for those to become truly devastating.'

to cover the US state of Florida in

That melting event and last

week's rain were both caused by air

circulation patterns which meant

warm, moist air temporarily cov-

mit of Greenland is not an isolated

event," said Twila Moon, deputy lead

scientist with the US National

and other extremes, it is one of

many "alarm bells" signalling the

Snow and Ice Data Center.

'This alarming rain at the sum-

Along with rising floods, fires,

2 inches (5 cm) of water.

ered the island.





# business

AGENCIES

restrictions.

New Delhi, August 21: Continued

sequential recovery has been seen

in the auto sector in July 2021, ac-

cording to India Ratings and

Research (Ind-Ra). Ind-Ra believes

that the 18 per cent sequential and

4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in-

crease in the domestic auto sales

volumes in July 2021 was led by

the continued easing of lockdown

reopened in almost all parts of the

country and consumer sentiments

have improved on a steady decline

in daily Covid cases. July 2021 vol-

umes remained below pre-Covid

levels (16 per cent below July 2019),"

According to Ind-Ra, the pas-

the rating agency said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

sector its rightful place.

to it, and it will be improved."

"In the last two years, the Centre

has done a number of different

things. The government has

changed the definition of MSME

in a very flexible manner. Recently,

a bill was tabled in the Parliament

cialised products, she said while

they are scattered across the coun-

try, in Uttar Pradesh, Banaras and

"Automotive dealerships have



Mexico has identified a divergent position between our governments on the interpretation of ... provisions on rules of origin for the automotive sector TATIANA CLOUTHIER ECONOMY MINISTER, MEXICO

# WALL STREET RALLIES **AS FED JITTERS EASE**

Wall Street rallied to close sharply higher at the close of a tumultuous week on waning concerns over whether the US Federal Reserve could begin tightening its dovish monetary policy sooner than expected



its shift towards utility vehicles

(UVs) with 74 per cent YoY increase

in volumes: the segment accounted

for 47 per cent of the domestic PV

sales in July 2021. "The passenger

car segment grew 26 per cent YoY

in line with the combined YoY

growth in compact and mini seg-

The rating agency feels that the

ments," Ind-Ra said.

# day uote Continued sequential recovery seen in July: Ind-Ra

AUTO SECTOR

Once the proposed listing of LIC happens, about 60 per cent of the insurance industry business would be with listed entities. The sector as a

whole has been growing at a pace significantly higher than that of the overall economy AMIT AGARWAL

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, FINANCE MINISTRY



contract or gig workers, it is pertinent for the organisations to realign their POSH policy to ensure prevention as well as swift action SAMIR PARANJPE PARTNER AND FORENSICS

LEADER, GRANT THORNTON BHARAT

Industries department is planning to develop 9,010 acres of land for industrial development in the coming days in Kolar,

Ramanagara, Mandya, Tumakuru, Vijayapura and Haveri districts. Over 81,864 acres of land in 188 industrial areas have been acquired so far and allotted for industrial units across the state

MURUGESH R NIRANI INDUSTRIES MINISTER. KARNATAKA

# SHORT TAKES

# **Guardians reaches** 1mn downloads

committed to personal safety owned and developed by True Software Scandinavia AB, the creators of Truecaller announced that it has achived a significant milestone of 1 million downloads worldwide. The app is available on both the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. Among the million downloads India accounts for 60% of the total. After a successful launch in March this year and an encouraging response from users across the globe, Guardians now supports multiple languages including Hindi, Arabic, French, Spanish,

# New Delhi: Guardians, an app

through which the MSME sector will directly benefit," she added. Sitharaman further said MSME businessmen will not have to undertake an audit for submission of their accounts. "The government has faith in them, and they can self-attest their accounts and certify them," she said. Speaking about the geographical indication (GI) tags for spe-

Portuguese, and Indonesian.



In the last two years, the Centre has

senger vehicle (PV) segment con-

tinued to benefit from the increasing

preference for personal mobility,

pent-up demand and new launches,

leading to 45 per cent YoY growth

than July 2019, indicating a re-

**Govt has created supportive** 

Besides, the volumes were higher

"Domestic PV demand continued

in domestic sales volumes.

covery to pre-Covid levels.

was tabled in the the MSME sector will directly benefit

# UNION FINANCE MINISTER

boast of eight GIs. Sitharaman urged the state's MSME Minister Sidharth Nath Singh to establish an MSME chamber in every district, and hold awareness programmes about the Ubharte Sitaare Fund' so that entrepreneurs

One Product (ODOP) scheme can know about its benefits.

Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of MSMEs and has effectively implemented the One District One Product programme, which provides the ideal ecosystem for success of an initiative like the Ubharte Sitaare Fund. The fund will go a long way in making India a major exporting hub, she said.

Meanwhile, a tweet by Sitharaman's office said MSMEs have been at the forefront of the Modi government's economic policy through policies like change in definition of MSMEs to ensure adequate flexibility, effective implementation of ECLGS and Factoring Bill increasing the number of designated NBFCs to 9,000.

According to Ind-Ra, the passenger vehicle (PV) segment continued to benefit from the increasing preference for personal mobility, pent-up demand and new launches

change in sales mix has been impacted to an extent by OEMs prioritising production of their UV models amid the global shortage of semiconductor chips.

Additionally, while consumer demand for two-wheelers remained tepid, with a 2 per cent YoY decline, the segment recorded 19 per

repurchase its own shares. The

company would commence a stock

repurchase programme beginning

of the Company's ordinary shares

have been authorised by the

Company's general meeting of share-

holders, and the Board of Directors

approved such repurchases up to the

amount of \$1.0 billion. The autho-

risation to repurchase will expire

on April 21, 2026," it said in a state-

The timing and actual number

of shares repurchased will depend

on a variety of factors, including

price, general business and market

conditions, and alternative in-

vestment opportunities. "The re-

purchase programme will be exe-

cuted consistent with the Company's

capital allocation strategy, which

will continue to prioritise aggres-

sive investments to grow the busi-

"This announcement demon-

strates our confidence in Spotify's

business and the growth opportu-

ness." the company added.

ment late Friday.

"Repurchases of up to 10,000,000

in the third quarter of 2021.

cent sequential growth and the highest monthly sales YTD FY22. indicating some recovery in consumer sentiments. "Scooter sales increased by 10 per cent YoY, while motorcycle sales fell by 6 per cent YoY. The recovery in two-wheeler demand has remained sluggish, impacted by the increased cost of ownership amid price hikes by OEMs, coupled with increasing fuel prices," Ind-Ra said. In addition, the rating agency ex-

tinue in August 2021, driven by improving consumer sentiments and the onset of the festive season. However, the agency believes that the semiconductor shortage could pose supply-side challenges to OEM production, and thereby

pects the volume growth to con-

also moderate sales growth.

Spotify to spend \$1bn

monthly active users





POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: In an epoch-making development, heavy lift mining equipments comprising Haulpak dumpers and excavators, exported abroad through Paradip Port. It is for the first time in the history of the premier sea port of Odisha and pertinent to note that it was handled by Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL).

While the exporting firm is Thriveni Earth Movers Private Limited, it is exporting 128 numbers of heavy as well as small equipments comprising 37 Haulpak dumpers and excavators of about 4,500 metric tonnes (MT) to Taboneo Port in Indonesia. The cargo is to be used for mining activities there.

**TP Rov Choudhury Private** Limited and Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) are the stevedores and exporters handling agents respectively. Though due to the low pressure loading is being affected, the exporters and ship are taking all precautionary measures while loading the cargo. According to sources, similar exports will be conducted in future.

**Investors should** be like Rahul **Dravid: Book** 

'We believe this is an attractive use of capital, and based on the strength of our balance sheet, we continue to see ample opportunity to invest and grow our business. Several tech companies like Apple. Alphabet (Google) and Microsoft, have active share repurchase pro-

grammes. In its June quarter, Spotify announced that it now has 165 million premium subscribers and 365 million monthly active users. It's a year-over-year increase of 20 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively, and up from the 158 million subscribers and 356 million MAUs reported in the last quarter.

'Q2 was a strong quarter for

Spotify overall, with the majority

of our major metrics performing

better than expected," Daniel Ek,

Spotify CEO and founder said.

nities we see over the long term,

Officer at Spotify.

said Paul Vogel, Chief Financial



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: Investing is like Test cricket and investors should aim to be like the tenacious Rahul Dravid - combine technical abilities with behavioural skills to achieve outsized success, savs a new book. Test cricket and investing in Indian equities have interesting parallels, an appreciation of which can help newcomers understand the process of investing and the toolkits required to build a durably successful investment portfolio, it says.

#### buying its own stock ecosystem for MSMEs: FM In its June quarter, Spotify announced that it now has 165 million premium subscribers and 365 million Lucknow, August 21: Union Finance Minister Nirmala AGENCIES Sitharaman Saturday said the New York, August 21: Swedish micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone music streaming giant Spotify has of the economy, and the Narendra announced to spend up to \$1 billion Modi government has given the between now and April 21, 2026 to

MSME in a very flexible manner. Recently, a Bill **Parliament through which** 

working under the One District.



changed the definition of

# NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

its immediate surroundings alone

### V-guard opens new store

Bhubaneswar: V-guard industries Ltd opened a new exclusive showroom at Khurda town with help of Vijaya Laxmi Electricals, Khurda, August 20. The showroom will offer all Vguard electrical and home appliances products. Sumanta Kumar Pradhan, Branch Head, inaugurated showroom in the presence of distributor Bijay Kumar sahoo, dealers, staffs and customers of the town.

# Adani Total Gas acquires gas JV

New Delhi: Adani Total Gas Ltd - the city gas joint venture of Adani Group and TotalEnergies of France - has acquired 50 per cent stake in a company that manufactures gas meters to aid its gas retailing business. The firm bought 50 per cent in Smartmeters Technologies Pvt Ltd (SMTPL) for ₹1 crore, according to a company's filing to stock exchanges. Smartmeters, which had a turnover of ₹4.83 crore in the year up to March 31, 2021, manufactures gas meters.

### 'URJA' enhances digital experience

New Delhi: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has developed an AI-enabled chatbot, Urja - the first in the country's oil and gas industry to provide its customers an interface for a seamless selfservice experience and faster resolution of queries/issues. The chatbot is "an intelligent virtual assistant with AI/NLP (Natural Language Processing) capabilities and trained on more than 600 use cases," the company said in a statement.

# **BIZ BUZZ**

# **Big offers on Samsung Galaxy Z Series**

New Delhi: Samsung India launched great offers for consumers planning to buy the premium Galaxy Z Series foldable smartphones - Galaxy Z Fold3 5G and Galaxy Z Flip3 5G. From August 24, consumers can pre-book the Z Fold3 at ₹1, 42,999 and the Z Flip3 at ₹77,999 with introductory offers. Consumers for prebooking Galaxy Fold3 5G and Galaxy Z Flip3 5G will be eligible for either an upgrade voucher of up to ₹7000

or HDFC Bank cashback of up to ₹7,000 using credit and debit card.

# Motorola launches new Edge phones

New Delhi: Motorola launched Made-in-India Edge 20 and Edge 20 fusion. The Motorola edge20 is slimmest (6.99mm) and lightest (163gms) 5G smartphone. It comes with the fastest smartphone refresh rate of 144Hz on a 10-bit HDR10+ AMOLED display, 108MP

Camera system with 30X Super Zoom and packs India's first Qualcomm Snapdragon 778G processor for powerhouse performance! The motorola Edge 20 fusion is equipped with a 108MP Quad function camera system, 10bit AMOLED 90Hz display, True 5G with support for 13 global 5G bands, and exceptional performance with Mediatek Dimensity 800U chipset.



# NTPC commissions largest floating solar PV project

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 21: State-run NTPC has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project in India of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018.

The floating solar installation, which has a unique anchoring design, is spread over 75 acres in an RW reservoir. The project has the potential to generate electricity from more than 1 lakh solar PV modules. This would not only help light around 7,000 households, but



also ensure that at least 46,000 tonnes of CO2e are kept at arm's length every year during the lifespan of this project

The project would also save 1,364 million litres of water per annum, which would be adequate to meet the yearly water requirement of 6,700 households. The 2000MW coalbased Simhadri station is the first power project to implement an open sea intake from the Bay of Bengal, which has been functional for more than 20 years.

NTPC is also planning to set up a hydrogen-based micro-grid system on a pilot basis at Simhadri. With a total installed capacity of 66,900 MW, the NTPC group has 71 power stations, including 29 renewable projects.

NTPC has set a target to install 60 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2032. It is also India's first energy company to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE). The group has over 17 GW of capacity under construction, including 5 GW of renewable energy projects.

In "Diamonds in the Dust: Consistent Compounding for Extraordinary Wealth Creation", Saurabh Mukherjea, Rakshit Ranjan, Salil Desai offer Indian savers a simple yet effective investment technique to identify clean, well-managed Indian companies that have consistently generated outsized returns for investors

Based on research conducted by the award-winning team at Marcellus Investment Managers, the book, published by Penguin Random House's Penguin Business imprint, uses case studies and charts to help readers learn the art and science of investing in the USD 3 trillion Indian stock market.

# Crude falls but no relief to consumers, petrol remains static

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 21: Fuel consumers could have got over ₹2 per litre relief while filling up their vehicle's tank with petrol and diesel but due to the reluctance of oil marketing companies to trust the current softening of global oil

prices, it is not happening. Even though global crude oil priced have fallen in last couple of weeks to reach a level close to \$65 a barrel from a high of \$77 reached early last month, there has been no commensurate cut in petrol and diesel rates in India.

While petrol prices are static for past 35 days, diesel prices have been cut only by 60 paise per litre over last three days. Even on Saturday petrol remained at the

same level (Rs 101.84 per litre) that was reached on July 17. Diesel prices (now at ₹89.27 a litre) also remained unchanged Saturday after three consecutive days of price cut of 20 paise per litre each.

In the month of July, Indian basket crude has remained on an average at \$73.54 a barrel. But in August, based on global benchmark prices, crude has averaged around \$70.58 a barrel and the average is expected to fall further in coming days as global oil softens on pandemic related demand concerns.

As per oil industry experts, every \$1 change in crude normally affects retail price of petrol and diesel roughly by 45-50 paise a litre with no major change in rupee-dollar exchange rate. If this calculation is



applied, retail price of petrol and diesel should have started falling from this week in India with OMCs requiring to bring down rates by over ₹1.5-2 per litre in few days or at one go.

Under daily price revision, OMCs revise petrol and diesel prices every morning benchmarking retail fuel prices to a 15-day rolling average of global refined products' prices and dollar exchange rate.

EVEN THOUGH GLOBAL CRUDE OIL PRICES HAVE FALLEN IN LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENSURATE CUT IN PETROL AND DIESEL RATES IN INDIA

AS PER OIL INDUSTRY EXPERTS, EVERY \$1 CHANGE IN CRUDE NORMALLY AFFECTS RETAIL PRICE OF PETROL AND DIESEL ROUGHLY BY 45-50 PAISE A LITRE

"The previous fortnight provided opportunity to OMCs to cut retail fuel rates. However, they have chosen to wait and watch as crude is still swinging on daily basis rising and falling consistently. Things would get clearer when more crude starts entering the market from next month by OPEC countries. This could soften oil prices if there is no big pickup in demand and US inventory levels remains stable," said an oil sector expert not willing to be named.

If we see average price of Indian basket of crude for past three months things become clearer on retail pricing of auto fuels. Crude averaged around \$66.95 in May, \$71.98 in June and \$73.54 in July. So the crude increased by around \$6.5 a barrel in the last two months.

This as per calculations should have pushed up petrol and diesel prices by about ₹3.50 per litre during the period. But, fuel prices during the period has gone by more than ₹7 per litre giving the-OMCs all the more reason to cut prices at least now.













Hesson named new head coach of Virat Kohli-led side after Katich steps down

# Hasaranga joins RCB



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: Sri Lanka leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who played a pivotal role in his team's T20 series win against a depleted Indian side, has been picked by Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), which maintained its trend of picking players who do well

against 'Men In Blue' Along with the world number two T20 bowler Hasaranga, who replaced Adam Zampa, RCB also picked Sri Lankan pacer Dushmantha Chameera who replaced Daniel Sams of Australia. Big Bash Sensation Tim David will come in as replacement of New Zealand's Finn Allen.

The franchise also informed that their head coach Simon Katich has stepped down from his post due to "personal reasons" and Director of Cricket Mike Hesson

have come at a better time during the replacement window, as we aim to continue with the momentum, building on our performance from earlier this year," he added.

When asked, if Hasaranga's series winning-seven wickets in three T20 Internationals against India including best figures of 4/9, prompted RCB to select the leg-break bowler, Hesson said it's one of the reason but not the only reason.

"It's certainly not a recency factor and we certainly not surprised by his success in recent times. We like his skill-set. We like the fact that he is multi-skilled cricketer and offers to bat deep as well if we plan to play an overseas spinner along with Chahal.

"That gives us an exciting option. The fact that he performed against India is great but not surprising at all," the former Black Caps coach said about Hasaranga, who has picked 33 wickets in 24 T20I games at an economy rate of 6.56.

"We have a scouting programme that has been in place for at least last two years. We know every player is playing cricket at a decent level. We have an extensive scouting programme and Wanindu has

MIKE HESSON

coach as well. The Indian players, support staff and the team management will be assembling in Bangalore August 21 following which the team will undergo a seven-day quarantine.

They will also undergo Covid tests thrice days during the period. The team will then depart via a chartered flight from Bangalore August 29. The other international players and staff will assemble in the UAE starting August 29 onwards. There will be another six days of quarantine in the UAE.

'We have made some changes to the squad pertaining to the situation. We have come a long way and have shown steady progress as a team," Hesson said.

"The addition of Wanindu Hasaranga, Tim David and Dushmantha Chameera couldn't

Tim David set to make IPL history NEW DELHI: The second phase of the

14th edition of IPL will feature a Singapore cricketer for the first time as Royal Challengers Bangalore have roped in freelance T20 sensation Tim David, who has made a name for himself across leagues in the world. While he is of Australian descent, the 6 feet 5 inch tall David currently plays international cricket for Singapore and he brings with him a novelty factor in Virat Kohli's team. Since ICC has accorded T20I status to all its 106 member nations, David has played 14 T20I with 558 runs in his kitty at a strike rate of 158 plus. Overall, he has played 49 T20 games, factoring in his appearances in the BBL and PSL with a tally of 1171 runs at a strike rate of 155 plus.

been on our radar for a long time. "If we needed a replacement

last time, Wanindu would have been the person, we would have called upon," he explained.

The RCB media person deflected questions on star Indian players, which were not sent across to Hesson



**INDIAN ATHLETE FINISHES** 

**SECOND IN 10,000M RACE** WALK AT WORLD U-20 **ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS** 

MAKING A MARK: Amit Khatri in action during the men's 10,000m race walk event in Nairobi

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nairobi, August 21: Amit Khatri won a silver in men's 10,000m race walk event to clinch India's second medal at the World U-20 Athletics Championship here Saturday.

The 17-year-old Khatri, the national record holder and world U-20 season leader, clocked 42 minute 17.94 seconds to finish second behind Kenya's Heristone Wanyoni (42:10.84) on the fourth and penultimate day of the championships. The mixed 4x400m relay team had

won a bronze on the first day of competitions Wednesday.

Khatri was leading after the 9000m mark but the local athlete Wanyoni pulled ahead with less than two laps left in the race to win gold with a personal best time. Paul McGrath of Spain won the bronze with a timing

of 42:26.11 minutes. The Rohtak lad rued that he could not produce his personal best of 40:40.97 which he had recorded while winning gold during the Federation Cup Junior National Championships in

SILVER LINING FOR AMIT

January The high altitude conditions in the Kenyan capital had affected Khatri's performance as he struggled for breath during the race. Nairobi is at an altitude of around 1800m from sea level.

"It is not the result I expected but I am happy with the silver medal. Even though I came here five days before the event to acclimatise, the high altitude affected me," Khatri said after his race. "At some point in the race, I would not breath properly but I am happy with the silver medal," he added.

It was also the youngster's first international competition. His coach Chandan Singh said Khatri's Kenyan rival had the advantage as he knows the local high altitude conditions.

"I feel Amit could have won the gold but the high altitude conditions had affected him. The Kenyan was training in those home conditions and it was advantageous to him.

"Amit was leading for most part of the race but the Kenyan took a sudden lead around one and half laps to go. Amit could not anticipate that and could not catch up him up," Chandan told this agency from Army Sports Institute in Pune.

Chandan, who has been with Khatri since 2018, said he had put his ward for high altitude training for five months last year in Nainital and Mukteshwar in Uttarakhand after it became known that Nairobi will host the World U-20 Championships.

# India chess bodies end feud; announce merger

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

an end to internal fighting, the

chess players in the country," press release.

development of chess and all the too, with two different bodies – UP Chess Association and UP Lucknow, August 21: Putting Kapoor was quoted as saying in a Chess Sports Association - at loggerheads in the state.

# Raja in contention to become PCB chairman

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, August 21: Former Pakistan Test captain and renowned commentator Rameez Raja's name is doing rounds to replace Ehsan Mani as chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Raja didn't respond to calls and nessages but media reports said that Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is also patron-in-chief of the board has decided against giving him extension after his term ends in August. "In the next few days, the PM will send two names to the PCB's governing board for the chairman's election and the members will elect one of them as the chairman," a source in the PCB confirmed.



"Rameez appears to be the ideal candidate as he is well educated, well-versed, and has international contacts due to his long years as a commentator. He has also remained CEO of the board in the past and only left due to his time pressing commitments," the source noted. Apparently Imran Khan, himself

former captain under whom

All-India Chess Federation and the breakaway Chess Association of India Saturday announced that they have merged into one single entity to administer the sport in the country.

AICF president of Sanjay Kapoor said that the warring factions, not only at the national level but also in various states, have now come together under the umbrella of the federation.

"I have personally had several rounds of talks with all the stakeholders and have brought everybody on the same platform for the

"Like other federations, we too are struggling to organise our annual events and championships due to the Covid pandemic and could not afford to let our internal differences derail the sport even more," he added.

AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan said, "Once we formed the new body, one of our first goals was to address all the concerns of every member and bring everybody together for the sake of the sport.' Apart from the wrangling at

the national level, chess has suffered a great deal in Uttar Pradesh

"This has been a long-running feud and as I myself am from Kanpur, I believed it was my duty to resolve this problem on a priority. Today, I am happy to announce that both the groups are

here," Kapoor said. UP Chess Association president PC Chaturvedi (IAS Retd), Sr Vice President of Chess Association of India SL Harsh, and Secretary General of Chess Association of India and Secretary, UP Chess Association SK Tewari were all present at the press conference

He said while they were hearing the name of Rameez as one of the

Icardi's injury

two candidates for the prestigious position but nothing was confirmed as vet.

The source said initially the names of Mani and Asad Ali Khan,

a senior bureaucrat had been mentioned as the two candidates for the chairmanship but now apparently the PM had decided to go for a former captain.

City, Liverpool script victories

Rameez played and was part of the 1992 World Cup, feels it is time a former player ran the cricket affairs in the country.

Another source said Ehan Mani had also expressed reluctance to continue for another term due to health issues. The government and board have already appointed a retired judge, Azmat Sheikh as the election commissioner to conduct the election process for the chairman's post.

# Di Maria helps PSG seal win

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brest (France), August 21: Paris Saint-Germain survived a scare without Neymar and Lionel Messi before beating Brest 4-2 and extending their winning start in the French league to three games.

Substitute Angel Di Maria Friday sealed the victory on a counterattack in injury time just when it looked like Brest might score an equaliser to claim a point against the star-studded visitors.

Though Neymar and Messi weren't ready for the game, PSG still had the likes of Kylian Mbappé, Achraf Hakimi and Netherlands midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum in its starting line-up.

Ander Herrera opened the scoring in the 23rd minute when Brest's defense could only half-clear Mbappe's cross. Herrera returned the ball from the edge of the penalty area with a volley that flew in off the left post.

Mbappe capitalised on some more poor defending to head the visitors' second goal in the 36th. But Franck Honorat pulled one back for Brest in the 42nd after Romain Faivre found him in space with his heel, and the home team pushed for an equaliser in the second half.



Angel Di Maria reacts after scoring against Brest; (inset) Ander Herrera celebrates his goal. Friday

Brest forward Irvin Cardona should have scored shortly before Idrissa Gueye got the visitors' third goal with a long-range effort inside the left post in the 72nd. Steve Mounie set up a frenetic fi-

nale with Brest's second goal in

the 85th. Di Maria quashed the home fans' hopes of a surprise result with his late goal. Pochettino will be concerned about conceding two goals, however.

PSG have now conceded five in three games for the first time since 2004.

# could impact Messi's debut ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 21: Paris Saint-Germain forward Mauro Icardi was due for a scan Saturday after injuring his right shoulder in a French league game against Brest.

The Argentina international was substituted late in PSG's 4-2 victory Friday night after landing on his shoulder. He was grimacing as he left the field for the locker room. PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino told French media he hoped it's just a scare but "it doesn't look good."

If Icardi is ruled out for next week, it could accelerate the timetable for Lionel Messi's debut. Messi hasn't played since joining from Barcelona. He missed a month of training after leading Argentina to the Copa America title July 10. He trained with the team last week but isn't yet match fit.





Jack Grealish wheels away in celebration after scoring his first goal for Man City against Norwich; (inset) Diogo Joto (R) congratulates fellow scorer Sadio Mane after the latter's goal against Burnley at the Anfield

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, August 21: Jack Grealish scored his first goal since a British-record USD 139 million move to Manchester City in a 5-0 win over Norwich helping the champions earn the first points of their Premier League title defense, Saturday – on a day that saw Liverpool beat Burnley 2-0.

The ball deflected in off the inside of the England midfielder's left leg from close range after a driven

cross by Gabriel Jesus flew across the face of the six-yard box.

That 22nd-minute goal made it 2-0 for City, which went ahead via an own-goal by Tim Krul when an attempted clearance by Norwich defender Grant Hanley smashed unwittingly into the goalkeeper following a cross by Jesus.

Aymeric Laporte and substitutes Raheem Sterling and Riyad Mahrez added further goals after halftime, continuing Norwich's tough start to their return to the top flight after a 0-3 loss to Liverpool last weekend.

Earlier in the day, Liverpool marked their first game in front of a capacity crowd at Anfield in nearly 18 months by beating Burnley, with goals by Diogo Jota and Sadio Mane earning their team a second straight win to open the season.

Jota, who scored the first goal in Liverpool's 3-0 victory at Norwich last weekend, glanced in a header off a cross by left back Konstantinos Tsimikas in the 18th minute in front of The Kop. Mane struck home a powerful, low shot from a central position from Trent Alexander-Arnold's deft pass in the 69th.

City bounced back from a 0-1 loss at Tottenham in the opening round of the league season and Grealish is already looking like an integral member of Pep Guardiola's team.

Gabriel Jesus was impressive, albeit against modest opposition, and he set up the first two goals. Norwich labored in the second half as City showed off its strength in depth.

After Laporte turned in a shot in the 64th following a ricochet from a corner he initially flicked on, Sterling scored the fourth goal seven minutes later by tapping in a right-wing cross by Kyle Walker. Mahrez completed the rout when he was played through on goal by -( Ruben Dias' lofted pass and finished off the post.

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