



## PUSHING BOUNDARIES

Odia film actor Mahima Das plays a woman of substance in her next *Prema Re Padili*  
Prathama Thara

LEISURE P2



## EVACUATION STUMBLES

Western allies will not be able to fly every Afghan before the United States' planned August 31 withdrawal deadline

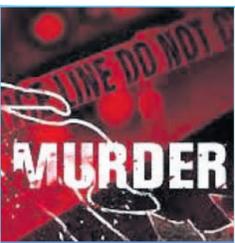
INTERNATIONAL P10



## PARALYMPICS KICKS OFF

The Tokyo Paralympics begins with the central theme of 'We Have Wings' in a colourful opening ceremony

SPORTS P12



## WOMAN HACKS SON TO DEATH

**Daspalla:** In a shocking incident, a woman hacked her son to death at Nahakpada village under this police limits in Nayagarh district, Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Basant Behera, 40, son of Sarojini and Panchua Behera. He was allegedly of unsound mind and was regularly assaulting and abusing his mother over trivial issues. The accused took the extreme step after she allegedly got fed up with the repeated assaults and abuses by her son. She made up her mind to get rid of Basant and hacked him to death. Police registered a case and picked up the accused for interrogation.



## 48 MINING LEASE TENDERS CANCELLED

**Malkangiri:** Malkangiri District Collector Vishal Singh Tuesday canceled tenders for 48 mining leases for minor minerals. Reports said, the cancellation was done following the recommendation of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner. It may be mentioned here that Singh's predecessor Yeddula Vijay had been accused of taking boxes containing tender papers to his house. Earlier, former MP and Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) working president Pradip Majhi had alleged that Vijay had received kickbacks worth crores of rupees and an SUV from CH Venugopal of Andhra Pradesh for awarding him the lease of seven stone quarries.

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## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



A travel advisory for your colleagues asking them to avoid Maharashtra. There people are being booked for foul language



**HEADED FOR SALE:** A Rajasthani camel trader with his camels at the Parbatsar cattle fair where animals like camels, cows, buffaloes, horses and bulls are sold or traded at Parbatsar in Nagaur district, Tuesday

## Narayan Rane granted bail

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, August 24:** In a big relief, a Raigad magistrate late Tuesday granted bail to arrested Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane in a case pertaining to his 'slap slur' against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The development came around 8 hours after Rane's dramatic arrest by police from his camp in Sangameshwar, Ratnagiri, from where he was whisked off to a Raigad court late in the evening. The central minister was nabbed - a first ever for the state - after multiple cases were filed against him in various districts for his 'slap slur' targeting Thackeray. Leader of Opposition Pravin Darekar and others welcomed the verdict, saying it was on expected lines as Rane's arrest was illegal and it was a politically motivated case. BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar termed it as a victory of democracy and a defeat of the 'Talibani mentality' of the government.

## Petrol and diesel prices cut again

AGENCIES/PNN

**New Delhi, August 24:** A day after keeping petrol and diesel prices unchanged, the oil marketing companies (OMC) Tuesday reduced fuel prices further in line with the downward movement of global oil and product prices.

## CITY FUEL PRICES

**Petrol: ₹102.37 (-0.19)**  
**Diesel: ₹96.97 (-0.15)**

The pump price of petrol and diesel was cut 15 paise per litre to ₹101.49 a litre and ₹88.92 a litre respectively in Delhi. Across the country, fuel prices were cut between 10-20 paise per litre but its retail rate varied depending on the level of local taxes. Petrol prices in Mumbai and Kolkata are now at ₹107.53 and ₹101.82 per litre respectively while in Chennai, petrol is priced at ₹99.20.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	55958.98 ↑ 403.19
NIFTY	16624.60 ↑ 128.10
DOLLAR	74.43 ↑ ₹0.01
EURO	87.09 ↑ ₹0.05
GOLD	₹47,650 ↑ ₹66
SILVER	₹63,488 ↑ ₹561

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.8°C	35.8°C
TEMP MIN	24.6°C	25.0°C
Humidity	98%	80%
Rainfall	48.6mm	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

## ₹5,899 cr loss by discoms in 6 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** The four power distribution companies (discoms) in Odisha have incurred a loss of ₹5899 crore between 2014-15 and 2019-20. Union minister of power and new & renewable energy RK Singh told this in Parliament recently.



The four discoms—Cesu, Nesco, Southco and Wesco have reported a loss to the tune of ₹882 crore in 2014-15, ₹931 crore in 2015-16, ₹913 crore in 2016-17, ₹792 crore in 2017-18 and ₹842 crore in 2018-19. Cesu suffered a loss of ₹2,323 crore in six years while Wesco reported a loss of ₹1,464 crore, Southco ₹1,284 crore and Nesco ₹827 crore. Tata Power has taken over all four discoms in the state. As per information made available by Power Finance Corporation (PFC), the financial losses of power distribution utilities in all states have dropped from ₹54,558 crore in 2014-15 to ₹32,898 crore in 2019-20.

## BJD demands law to scrap 50% quota cap

■ The BJD is backing the BJP on the issue of raising the 50 per cent quota cap set by the Supreme Court. The saffron party is doing this with an eye on UP elections while the BJD govt has failed to fill up a humungous number of vacancies that are reserved for SCs, STs & OBCs in the state

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** A day after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar demanded a caste-based census, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) demanded a central law to remove 50 per cent cap on reservation. Senior BJD leaders and state ministers Ranendra Pratap Swain and Arun Kumar Sahoo held a joint press conference here Tuesday on this issue. Swain demanded legislation of a central law to remove the 50 per cent cap on reservation and conducting of caste-based census for other backward castes (OBC) or socially and educationally back-



ward classes (SEBCs). "More than 50 per cent of Odisha's population belong to OBC and SEBC. However, reservation at the rate of half of their population, cannot be provided to them because the ceiling fixed by the Supreme Court," Swain said. To remove the cap set by the court, conduct of caste-based census is needed, he said. "Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had earlier raised the issue and today, we are reiterating the same. NDA's allies also have raised this issue. It will help to ascertain the actual population of backward classes and subsequently, their development can be initiated," the BJD leader demanded. Stating hike in reservation and caste census are two sides of a coin, Sahoo said, "Due to the capping by courts, OBC population of Odisha are deprived of getting the reservation benefits and facing difficulties." Various political parties with allegiance to the BJP have raised their voice in support of repealing the 50 per cent cap on the reservation. The silence of BJP leaders on this issue shows its apathy towards other backward classes, he said. However, the Odisha chief minister is committed to giving justice to OBCs in the state, he added. State BJP OBC Morcha president Surath Biswal said his party is not silent on this issue. The state has set up a commission to identify the OBC/SEBC people, following the intervention by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Instead, the BJD government has failed to protect the rights of OBCs.

## 81% students pass HSC offline exam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) Tuesday declared results of the offline matriculation exam 2021. As per the results, 80.83 per cent students passed the annual high school certificate (HSC) examination on the offline mode. The exams were conducted from July 30 to August 5 at 504 centres where more than 15,136 students appeared for the offline exam after they were not satisfied with the marks awarded to them through an alternative assessment method. Out of them, around 6,620 students applied for HSC examination while 8,493 students for state open school certificate examination and 66 for Madhyama examination.

In the HSC exams, 5,233 students cleared the tests while 141 failed. 3100 boys and 2133 girls passed the examination. According to BSE, 42 students secured A1 grade, 255 A2, 348 B1, 458 B2, 599 C, 846 D, 2685 E and 141 got grade F. The board said the grades of 271 students have improved in comparison to the grades they had received in the alternative assessment method. However, 459 students' grades have reduced as compared to the alternative marks. Meanwhile, in open school certificate examination, out of 8,493 students who applied for the exam, 6209 students passed the test with a pass percentage of 74.3 per cent.

## Ukrainian plane hijacked in Kabul

■ The Ukrainian plane that arrived in Afghanistan to evacuate Ukrainians was hijacked by armed miscreants and flown to Iran

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 24:** A Ukrainian plane that arrived in Afghanistan to evacuate Ukrainians has been hijacked by unidentified people who flew it into Iran, Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Yevgeny Yenin said Tuesday. Last Sunday, our plane was hijacked by other people. On Tuesday, the plane was practically stolen from us, it flew into Iran with an unidentified group of passengers onboard instead of airlifting Ukrainians. Our next three evacuation attempts were also not successful because our people could not get into the airport, he said, Tass reported. According to him, the hijackers were armed. However, the deputy minister did not report anything about what happened to the plane



or whether Kiev would seek to get it back or how the Ukrainian citizens got back from Kabul, onboard of this practically stolen plane or another one sent by Kiev. Yenin only underlined that the whole diplomatic service headed by Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba had been working in the crash test mode the whole week. On Sunday, a military transport plane with 83 people onboard, including 31 Ukrainians, arrived from Afghanistan to Kiev. The presidential office reported that 12 Ukrainian military personnel returned home, while foreign reporters and public figures who requested help were also evacuated. The office also added that around 100 Ukrainians are still expecting evacuating in Afghanistan.

## Not enough data in India to decide on booster dose

■ Many countries in the world are going full speed to deliver booster doses to people fully-vaccinated. However, India still doesn't have enough data to take a stand on this

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 24:** Not enough data has been generated locally to decide on the need for a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine for those fully inoculated, say experts amid the possibility of a third wave of the viral disease hitting the country between September and October. An expert panel set up by an-

stitute under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has predicted that the third wave of COVID-19 can hit the country anytime between September and October and suggested significantly ramping up the vaccination pace. The World Health Organisation has, however, sought a two-month halt on administering booster shots of COVID-19 vaccines in view of severely constrained vaccine availability around the globe. "India will decide on booster dose based on scientific evidence generated locally. Studies are already underway to determine the need and timing of booster for currently used vaccines in the country," said Dr N K Arora, chairman of



the COVID-19 working group of NTAGI. The need for booster doses will be determined by the epidemiology of the Covid infection in the country besides the durability of protection provided by the current dosage regime of the vaccines. "Any booster dose regime has also to ensure that adverse events are not associated with boosting," Arora

said. AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria said there is no definite evidence to suggest currently that there is a need to give booster shots to those who have been vaccinated in the past. "Current data suggests that the vaccines are effective in preventing severe disease and death in those who have been vaccinated, even against the Delta variant. "Also, we should vaccinate those who have not even received a single dose and are in the high risk category first so as to prevent severe disease and death in the upcoming wave. Currently, booster shots are not needed and as more data emerges it will be clear when and what type of booster shot is required," he said.

# leisure



## 'I AM ASHAMED AS AN AMERICAN'

Actress Angelina Jolie, who has completed humanitarian work as a Special Envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, says she is 'ashamed' of her country's manner of departure and feels the US has been 'diminished' by the events in Afghanistan, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*

## SOFIA VERGARA 'EDUCATED' HERSELF AFTER CANCER SCARE

Modern Family star Sofia Vergara was diagnosed with thyroid cancer at the age of 28 but handled the shock news by educating herself. "When you're young and you hear that word 'Cancer,' your mind goes to so many places but I tried not to panic and I decided to get educated," she said.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

You may be alone, but not necessarily lonely. You may want to listen to your inner voice, and express your true self creatively. Spend the evening with a loved one who can hear the music in your silence too, suggests Ganesh.

#### TAURUS

Today is a day of closure. You may find yourself on the winning side of things, says Ganesh. Pending projects will reach completion and you will achieve satisfaction and success in education. With a little extra effort, you can build a castle from stone. Ganesh wishes you a cheerful and colourful day.

#### GEMINI

Today, you are likely to remain transparent in all your dealings, forecasts Ganesh. You can be optimistic about your chances of success if you choose to propose to that special someone. The day will bring more pleasure than pain.

#### CANCER

There is something different about today. It is unlike any other day. Just when you will start believing that there is nothing great about the day, it will spring a surprise. There have been days where life has thrown carrots at you; then there have been days when it has hurled brickbats. Today, you will be on the receiving end of countless kisses.

#### LEO

The discomfort similar to the fish-out-of-water syndrome will be a thing of the past, as today you will be quite flexible and would want to remain on the move, says Ganesh. So much so that you may even begin to feel bound by the environment in your office.

#### VIRGO

Razor-sharp and aesthetic to the last cell in your body, entertain and enthrall people with your guile, especially at a social do, says Ganesh. But conserve that zest and save the time to pay due attention to matters of supreme importance, warns Ganesh.

#### LIBRA

Your instincts are at their peak today. Generally, this means a lot of good, but for you, it may also mean having to put up with the trouble of small things bothering you in a big way. So, it becomes highly important for you to remain balanced and focused.

#### SCORPIO

Investing in real estate could yield maximum profits today, says Ganesh. An unusual gain from speculative trade is also on the cards. But you may need to spend time in the waiting room, before a more profitable opportunity comes by. You may just reinvent yourself to a happier self and savour every moment of life, predicts Ganesh.

#### SAGITTARIUS

The winds of fortune will usher in your dreams and make them come true. Be careful not to go overboard with your foresightedness, lest they be marked delusions, warns Ganesh.

#### CAPRICORN

It may seem too far-fetched, but your boss will bank on your brilliance and unmatched abilities to get respite from the existing problems, says Ganesh. Moreover, much to the dismay of your rivals, you will have your way and gain popularity by winning the hearts of your clients.

#### AQUARIUS

Today, you will iron out any trouble with ease. But you may choose to play martyr and shoulder a bit of blame. That's quite a lot to do for others, even if it is done out of compassion. You may think you are setting standards for others to follow, says Ganesh, but that may not be the case.

#### PISCES

Some conflicts could crop up in the morning on the domestic front. However, they will cease to be a cause of annoyance as the day progresses. Come evening and you will be in as fine a mood as you ever were, ready to spend time basking in the affection of your near and dear ones, says Ganesh.

## Mahima plays woman of substance in her next

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** After winning hearts in movies like *Chal Tike Dusta Heba* and *Love You Priya*, Odia actress Mahima Das will be seen playing a woman of substance in her next *Prema Re Padili Prathama Thara*.

Sharing about her character, she says "I am playing Nandini who falls for Krishna (played by Chandan) after spending a few hours on social media. However, Krishna, doubting her integrity, deserts her when she gets pregnant. Though shat-

tered, Nandini vows to fight back, for her as well as her baby's rights. The graph of my character shoots from a helpless woman to a woman of substance and strength who stands for her rights, raises voice against injustice and fights for her self-respect."

Apart from Chandan and Mahima, the movie features Debi Barik, Manisha Mishra, Suhana Kar, Namita, Jitendra Ojha and Lipun in pivotal roles.

Directed by Muralidhar Mallick and produced by

Srikanta Samal, the movie has its music scored by Gyana Behera. IANS



## Anthologies are a 'snackable' format: Maanvi

**New Delhi:** Actress Maanvi Gargoo is often hailed as the 'web queen'. The OTT protegee rose to fame with web series *Pitchers* and *Tripling*.

Her latest short film *Marriage 2.0*, part of the anthology series *Kaali Peeli Tales*, is receiving good reviews.

She says, "Anthologies are an extremely snackable format. You can just watch one entire thing and you can get a sense of 'completeness' also."

Sharing about her character in *Marriage 2.0* Maanvi adds, "It's an urban take on marriage. Both the partners are working and very busy in their lives. Malini is worried that at some point their marriage will get boring. What if they get attracted to someone?"

She continues, "And then the husband gets attracted to someone. When she meets her husband's crush she gets jealous. It's a very fun and sweet take on relationships."

Maanvi has proven her mettle with her versatile acting skills in web series like *Four More Shots Please!* and *Made in Heaven* and more recently in films like *Ujda Chaman* and *Shubh Mangal Zyada Savdhaan*. IANS



## Akshay calls SRK to fulfil fan's wish

**Mumbai:** Top star Akshay Kumar brought a big smile to a fan's face while promoting his latest release *Bell Bottom* on *The Kapil Sharma Show*.

In a segment, when Kapil asked the audience members who is the one person they would like to get hijacked with, a fan quickly replied Shah Rukh Khan.

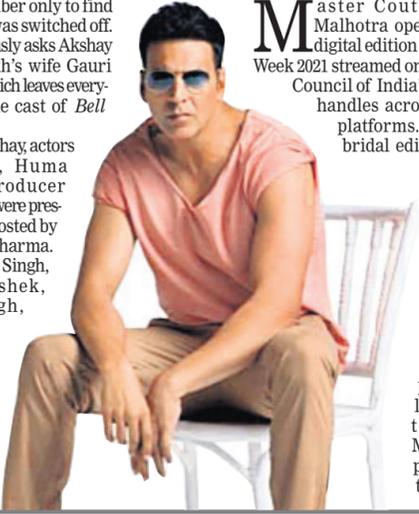
The female fan even professed that she wants to get married to a person like Shah Rukh. In order to fulfil her wish of speaking to Shah Rukh, Akshay dialled Shah Rukh's number only to find that his number was switched off.

The fan hilariously asks Akshay to dial Shah Rukh's wife Gauri Khan's number which leaves everyone including the cast of *Bell Bottom* in splits.

Along with Akshay, actors Vaani Kapoor, Huma Qureshi and producer Jacky Bhagani were present on the show, hosted by comedian Kapil Sharma.

Archana Puran Singh, Krushna Abhishek, Bharti Singh, Chandan

Prabhakar and Kiku Sharda among many others make a comeback on the show. IANS



## Manish Malhotra opens India Couture Week 2021

Hindi film star Kriti Sanon turned muse for the bridal collection, looking radiant in an elaborate lehenga, along with models styled impeccably with polki and floral jewellery

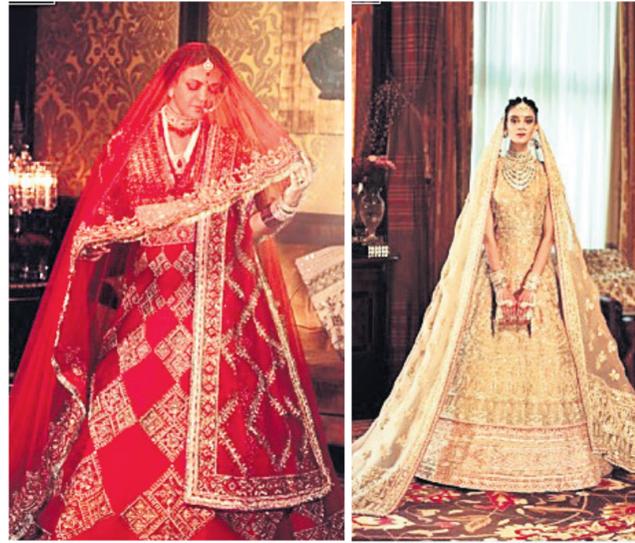
Master Couturier Manish Malhotra opened the second digital edition of India Couture Week 2021 streamed on Fashion Design Council of India's (FDCI) official handles across social media platforms. The designer's bridal edit *Nooraniyat*, is a representation of his signature style -- exquisite craftsmanship, larger-than-life glamour, and voluminous silhouettes.

One can't expect anything less than perfection from a Manish Malhotra production, and the couture film

embodied everything the brand stands for: Lehengas in customary bridal reds dominated the collection, soft peaches and lustrous gold finished with Malhotra's preferred zardozi, badla and sequin embroideries added the glamour quotient. The couture film focused on brides across ages and regions sending an important message to his audience. The film captured many moods of a wholesome Indian wedding celebration and a bride who rather than playing demure, is seen enjoying her big day.

Hindi film star Kriti Sanon turned muse for the bridal edit looking radiant in an elaborate lehenga, along with models styled impeccably with polki and floral jewellery. The spectacular setting at the Leela Palace Hotel in New Delhi, old-school wedding music by Hari and Sukhmani, along with models like Noyonika Chatterjee and Sakshi Sindwani were the other highlights of his showcase.

"My bridal edit is an amalgamation of



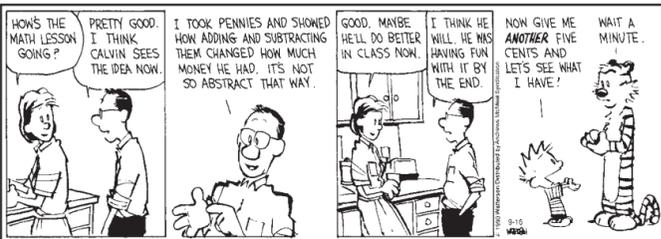
Models showcasing Manish's bridal collection

moods and emotions of the brides and over the years of creating their dream outfits and interacting with them, I inadvertently got drawn into those intriguing memories and decided to capture it all," said Malhotra.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

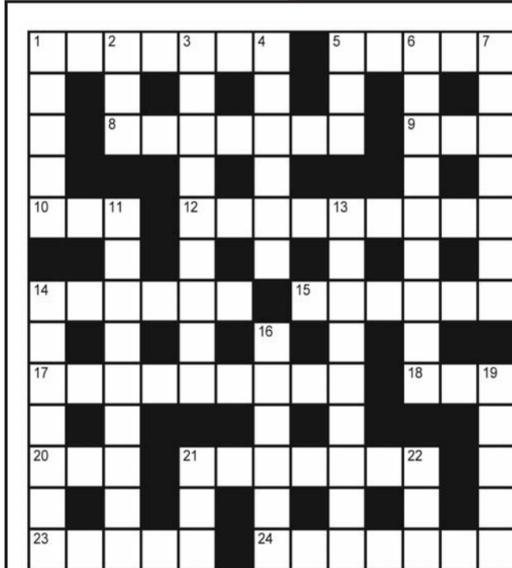


### BREVITY



### FUN post

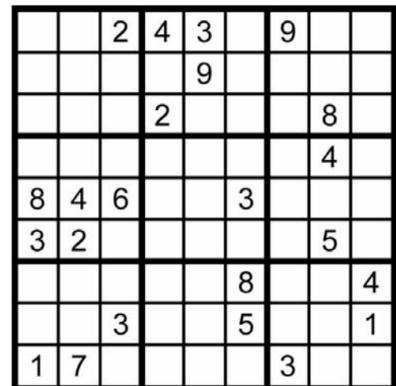
### CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Crisp flat tortilla
  - 5 Madcap comedy
  - 8 Remove, as a tooth
  - 9 Calendar abbr.
  - 10 Balloon filler
  - 12 Common law example
  - 14 Tame
  - 15 Rifle attachments
  - 17 Aberrant
  - 18 River inlet
  - 20 Seek damages
  - 21 Guise
  - 23 Out of gas
  - 24 Corrode (3,4)
  - 4 Flabbergasted
  - 5 Portly plus
  - 6 Cayenne (3,6)
  - 7 Energises
  - 11 Anecdotalist
  - 13 Top-drawer
  - 14 Gift for a musician (4,3)
  - 16 Gentle wind
  - 19 Test, as ore
  - 21 After lily or launch
  - 22 Wrecker's job

### SUDOKU

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

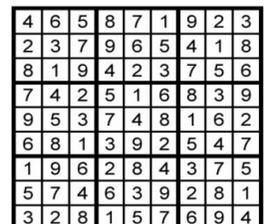


### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

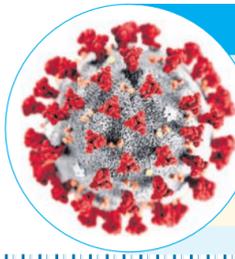


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	21,36,36,980	19,11,97,420	44,59,009
India	3,24,74,773	3,17,20,112	4,35,110
Odisha	10,02,323	9,87,369	7,493

**HOMAGE TO LAWYER**

Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi and other dignitaries unveil a portrait of senior lawyer Ganeswar Rath at Orissa High Court Bar Association Hall in Cuttack, Tuesday



# Dip in infections for 6th consecutive day

**ODISHA REPORTS 625 FRESH COVID-19 CASES, INCLUDING 80 CHILDREN, AND 67 FATALITIES; DAILY POSITIVITY RATE AT 1.16 PER CENT**

PNN/ AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** In what could be seen as a sign of relief, the state has been witnessing decline in Covid-19 cases for the last six consecutive days.

Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 10,02,323 Tuesday as 625 more people, including 80 children, tested positive for the infection, while 67 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 7,493, a Health department official said.

Odisha has been witnessing a decline in fresh cases for six consecutive days. The state reported 761 infections Monday, 853 Sunday, 911 Saturday, 986 Friday and 1,041 Thursday.

As many as 366 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while the remaining 259 infections were detected during contact tracing, he said, adding that the single-day positivity rate stood at 1.16 per cent.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of new cases at 214, followed by Cuttack (56) and Balasore (50). Cuttack recorded the highest number of fresh fatalities at 20, followed by Jagatsinghpur (14) and Dhenkanal (8). Fifty-three coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

Odisha now has 8,443 active cases, said the Health department sources. Khurda remains in red zone with 3,268 active cases, while Cuttack is in yellow zone with 1,084 infections. The remaining 28 districts fall under green zone, the official said.

A total of 9.86 lakh people have



**THE STATE REPORTED 761 INFECTIONS MONDAY, 853 SUNDAY, 911 SATURDAY, 986 FRIDAY AND 1,041 THURSDAY**

**KHURDA REMAINS IN RED ZONE WITH 3,268 ACTIVE CASES, WHILE CUTTACK IS IN YELLOW ZONE WITH 1,084 INFECTIONS**

**ODISHA HAS SO FAR INOCULATED OVER 2.07 CRORE PEOPLE, OF WHOM 48.96 LAKH HAVE RECEIVED BOTH DOSES**

recovered from the disease so far, including 1,072 Monday.

The state has thus far tested over 1.75 crore samples for Covid-19, including 53,527 Monday, he said, adding that the cumulative positivity rate stood at 5.69 per cent. Odisha has so far inoculated over 2.07 crore people, of whom 48.96 lakh have received both doses.

Meanwhile, a day after the

Odisha government opened the doors of the Puri Srimandir for devotees, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday made the production of fully vaccinated certificates mandatory for entering shrines in the state capital.

A notification issued by the BMC said that the decision was taken in view of the prevailing pandemic situation. "A person producing the hard copy or a soft copy (of the fully vaccinated certificate) will be enough for allowing him/her inside the institutions," it said.

The BMC enforcement team will conduct frequent checks to ensure strict adherence to the Covid norms.

Any institution found violating these provisions will not be allowed to function, the notification said. While many temples reopened Tuesday, the famed Lingaraj Temple and Iskcon Temple will open their doors for the devotees September 1.

## Child dies as utility pole falls on him

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Begunia, August 24:** A four-year-old boy died reportedly after a utility pole fell on him here Tuesday.

Sources said that the mishap occurred when the victim, Sai Ranjan, son of Manoranjan Behera of Kendupalli in Kantabada panchayat under Begunia police limits here, was playing near his home in the afternoon.

"A utility pole, though without overhead wires, fell on Sai, leaving the minor critically wounded. Neighbours rushed a profusely bleeding Sai to the district headquarters hospital in Khurda where he was declared 'dead on arrival,'" said one of his neighbours. Villagers have blamed the electricity authorities for the mishap and urged the state government for facilitating monetary compensation for the victim.

## POLITICKLE BY MANJUL



# Odia labourers murdered in AP prawn farm: Cong

post news network

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** The Congress party Tuesday alleged that six Odia migrants, who were found dead in a prawn farm at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh (AP) July 30, had been murdered and attempts were made to portray the incident as an accident.

Addressing a presser here, Congress leader Pradeep Majhi criticised the state government and shared the findings of a committee of the party that had visited the spot recently.

Majhi produced several photographs of the site and alleged that the migrant labourers had been murdered in the prawn farm. He sought a proper investigation into the incident by the Odisha government.

"The owner of the farm who had employed child labourers is



Congress leader Pradeep Majhi (2nd from L) addresses the media in Bhubaneswar

yet to be booked by police. We failed to understand what kind of investigation has been carried out in this regard. Our fact-finding team visited the site and tried to collect details of the incident. Chemicals and toxic materials had been stored in the room where the migrant labourers were sleeping at night. We want to know as to why they were allowed to spend night in such hazardous condition," Majhi said.

The Congress leader further said, "It is suspected that the migrants were trying to return to Odisha but they were forced to stay in the prawn farm by the managers and other employees. Our findings suggested that the migrants from Odisha were murdered. But, it was shown as an accident."

Majhi claimed that the state government has failed to arrest the agent who had taken child labourers to AP. "The governments have

## Memo to Governor

The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee leaders Tuesday met Governor Ganeshi Lal and submitted a memorandum on the agitation against the mega drinking water project in Kharasrota river. They demanded that the government must immediately hold a meeting with the protestors and members of Kharasrota Nadi Banchoo Sangram Samiti.

sat silent by announcing compensation for the deceased's kin. This is unfortunate. The owner of the farm and the governments of Andhra and Odisha have tried to downplay the incident," he said.

Majhi said Congress workers would gherao the sub-division office at Gunupur and approach the Supreme Court if the state government does not initiate a proper investigation into the incident.

## HC for social audit of NFSA ration

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, August 24:** The Orissa High Court has directed the state government to conduct social audit of the distribution of consumer goods for transparency in implementation of National Food Security Act.

The court also asked the state government to video record the distribution of consumer goods and upload the same on the website of the State Food Commission.

Similarly, the state government has been asked to prepare a detailed report on the activities of District Grievance Redressal Officers (DGROs) from June 1 to October 31 and submit an affidavit in this regard at least a week prior to the next hearing on the case scheduled for November 8.

A bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BP Routray pronounced the order case filed by the State Legal Services Authority.

## LIMPING BACK TO NORMALCY



Puri beach witnesses a crowd, Tuesday, days after the easing of Covid restrictions by the state government

OP PHOTO

# 81 got arms licence in City since 2017

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** As many as 81 persons have received arms licence from the Commissionerate Police during the last three years, revealed the data obtained through RTI Act which also indicated towards a rise in arms licence holders in 2020.

According to the information, the Commissionerate Police issued arms licences to 12 persons in the Capital city in 2017. Similarly, 17 citizens also received licences to possess arms in 2018. However, the issuance of licences came down to 15 in 2019.

It again rose to 35 during 2020 when the pandemic broke out. The Commissionerate Police has issued two licences till March 2021, said the RTI reply. Khandagiri police issued maximum arms licences at 12 during the period from 2017 till March 2021.

Likewise, Nayapalli,

Chandrasekharpur and Saheed Nagar police have issued nine, eight and six arms licences respectively during the aforesaid period.

Sources claimed that most of the licence holders are engaged in real estate business. Meanwhile, several incidents have come to the fore wherein the licence holders were found misusing the weapons.

Biswa Bhushan Pradhan, a doctor, who had an arms licence, shot a person from his weapon over a trivial issue July 16, 2016. Later, police arrested the doctor by registering a case under the Arms Act and other Sections of IPC. His licence was cancelled by the Commissionerate Police.

Similarly a realtor shot himself to death using his licensed gun at his residence under Capital police limits. A security guard, Krushna Chandra Dash at Ganganagar in Airport police limits had also committed suicide by shooting himself from his licensed gun August 3, 2021.

## 'NEP formulation example of cooperative federalism'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 24:** Formulation of the new National Education Policy (NEP) is a live example of cooperative federalism to achieve a common goal of making India a global knowledge hub, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Tuesday.

Pradhan was addressing the launch of a booklet detailing initiatives taken in one year since the rollout of the NEP.

"NEP is a guiding philosophy to transform the hopes and aspirations of millions of youth to reality and making India self-reliant. Formulation of NEP is also a live example of cooperative federalism to achieve a common goal of making India a global hub of knowledge. When we look back at the progress of NEP, we get more confident about the future of our students," he said.

"Education is not merely a competition to acquire degrees, but is



a transformative tool to leverage knowledge for character building and eventually nation building. The government is working to facilitate upgradation of infrastructure in schools, such as ensuring that internet reaches village schools across the country," he added.

Besides the booklet of achievements, the minister also launched initiatives such as NIPUN Bharat FLN tools and resources on DIKSHA; Virtual School of NIOS; alternate academic calendar of NCERT and released 'Priya', an accessibility booklet developed by the NCERT and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

# Shrine entry only for fully vaccinated: BMC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** A day after Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) allowed religious institutions to reopen for general public, it issued another order Tuesday saying only fully vaccinated people can have access to the shrines in the Capital city.

The civic body, following a three-month hiatus, had allowed all religious institutions to reopen Monday, with certain set of instructions. However, anticipating a rise in footfall due to upcoming festivals like Janmashtami, Ganesh Puja and Durja Puja, the BMC added an additional rider for the shrine visitors.

"Considering the current pandemic situation and vaccination coverage, it is hereby decided that those, who have been fully vaccinated, will only be allowed inside religious institutions like temples/mosques/church/gurdwaras etc," the BMC said in its notification.

"This condition is over and above all other stipulations mentioned



The Ram Mandir in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

in the aforementioned guideline. Authorities of all religious institutions have been asked to ensure this at their levels during the functioning of their institutions. A person producing the hard copy of the certificates received on his/her cellphone will be enough for allowing him/her inside the institutions," the notification added.

Furthermore, the BMC authorities also mentioned that its en-

Anticipating a rise in footfall in City's religious institutions owing to upcoming festivals like Janmashtami, Ganesh Puja and Durja Puja, the BMC added an additional rider for the visitors

BMC's enforcement teams will conduct frequent and surprise checks to ensure the compliance of the guidelines

The new set of instructions are also said to be applied for Lingaraj and Iskcon temples which are expected to reopen September 1

Iskcon at Nayapalli here is mega attraction for devotees during Sri Krishna Janmashtami.

Notably, the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has recently predicted outbreak of a third wave of the pandemic anytime between September and October in its high-level report to the PMO.

Following this, the state government is learnt to have asked the authorities to maintain utmost vigil at public places.

## Sahitya Akademi Award in Odia for Yashodhara Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 24:** Sahitya Akademi president Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar Tuesday approved Sahitya Akademi Award 2020 in Odia for 'Samudrakula Ghara' authored by Yashodhara Mishra.

The book was chosen on the basis of recommendations made by the jury comprising three members in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down by the Akademi.

According to Akademi sources, Mishra will get the award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 1,00,000 at a special function to be held later.

Significantly, a three-member jury comprising Dr Binapani Mohanty, Dr Pratibha Satpathy and Ramakanta Rath has recommended the Sahitya Akademi Award 2020 in Odia to the work of Mishra.

SAVING JUMBOS

# NGT seeks PCCF's reply on barbed wire fencing



The petitioner contended that barbed wire fences in reserve forests have been hindering free movement of elephants

in reserve forests – Dhama Range of Sambalpur, and Anantapur and Kandhara in Dhenkanal – have been hindering free movement of elephants, resulting in death of some animals.

The petitioner pleaded the tribunal to direct PCCF and Head of Forest Force, Odisha, to provide a list of existing barbed wire fences erected for all plantations carried out in a forest area including length, area of forest enclosed and location.

The applicant pleaded for dismantling and removal of all barbed wire fences in forests within three months and impose permanent ban on erection of such fences.

ber Saibal Dasgupta issued notice to the state government and others to file their response within four weeks. The matter has been posted to September 27.

“We direct that a report be called from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, in this regard,” the tribunal said. In the application, the Wildlife Society of Orissa contended that barbed wire fences



The road in front of Iskcon temple in Bhubaneswar witnesses severe waterlogging as heavy rain lashed the city, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

DELUGE ON ROAD

SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF UTP

## Family moves OHRC alleging custodial torture

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** A Dalit couple Tuesday lodged a petition before Odisha Human rights Commission (OHRC) accusing prison officials of Jajpur sub-jail of torturing their only son to death while he was an under trial prisoner (UTP). The OHRC has registered a case (2051/21) in this regard.

The complainant, Laxmidhar Patra, is a resident of Pataranga under Korei police limits in Jajpur and is a daily wage. According to the plea, Patra's son Sumanta, 20, allegedly eloped with a minor girl from a nearby village in December 2020. The couple was later traced and brought back by



the family members. Meanwhile, Korei police, having filed a case based on the complaint lodged by the girl's family, arrested Sumanta from his house during the wee hours March 22, 2021. Sumanta was later sent to judicial custody

after the rejection of his bail plea by a local court.

On August 8, 2021, the husband of village Sarpanch informed the complainant about the death of his son at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack. Patra al-

leged that the jail officials had neither informed him about the illness of his son nor about his admission in the hospital.

He alleged that some staffers of the sub-jail had physically assaulted and mentally harassed his son while in custody. Korei police also did not listen to Patra who along with villagers had gone there to file a complaint against the erring staffers.

Patra urged the commission to direct the competent authorities to initiate an impartial enquiry into the matter. He demanded stringent action against the officials of sub-jail. He also demanded compensation of Rs 10 lakh as the deceased was the sole bread earner for the family.

## XIM varsity holds 7th convocation virtually

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** XIM University, which underwent a change in name in May 2021, hosted its seventh convocation in virtual mode for its Doctoral, Post Graduate and Under Graduate programmes.

A total of 812 students were conferred with the degrees. The number of students receiving the degrees for the doctoral, post graduate and under graduate programmes was seven, 697 and 108 respectively. The top rank holders in the school were felicitated with gold medals by the Chairman of Board of Governors, XIM University for their academic excellence.

A total of 812 students were conferred with doctoral, post graduate and under graduate degrees in the virtual convocation

President of All India Management Association (AIMA) and Vice Chairman & Managing Director of JK Paper Ltd, Harsh Pati Singhania was the chief guest and the convocation speaker for the event. The university conferred Honorary Doctoral Degree on Singhania.

Singhania stated that the process of transformation into successful professionals brings challenges, but the learning imparted during one's time at the university will guide the graduating students ahead in life.

“The only way to stay forward is to constantly evolve and remain relevant in this rapidly changing world,” he added.

## ECoR to train 2,500 youths under PMKVY

**Bhubaneswar:** The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Tuesday launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). Under this scheme, about 2,500 youths within the age bracket of 18 to 35 years and with matriculation as minimum qualification will be given free training for three years under ECoR. The training will be imparted in welder, electrician and fitter trades at Diesel Loco Shed at Visakhapatnam, Electric Loco Shed at Angul and Visakhapatnam, and Carriage Repair Workshop at Mancheswar, with 20 slots for each location. The training will consist of 100 hours in 3 weeks. Classes and practical training will be given from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 1pm Saturdays. The application form for the said training is available on ECoR website as well as at the respective training centres. Willing candidates may also download application form from the link <https://eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in/ticker/1629100216984Training%20R KVY.pdf> Closing date for submission of application for Electrical Loco Sheds at Visakhapatnam and Angul is August 31 and for Diesel Loco Shed at Visakhapatnam and Carriage Repair Workshop at Mancheswar is September 3.

## STUDENTS' PLEA



Bachelor of physical education students hold a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, urging the state government to consider them eligible for PET posts

OP PHOTO

## Surada MLA finally clears HSC exams

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** Odisha MLA Purna Chandra Swain has finally cleared Class X board exams, at the age of 49. Swain, the member of the ruling party Biju Janata Dal (BJD) from Surada, passed the examination with B2 grade, securing 340 out of 500 marks in the State Open School Certificate Examination. He had appeared at the exam at the SB High School in Surada in Ganjam district.

As per his scorecard, the three-time MLA secured the highest marks (85) in painting, and obtained the lowest (44) in English. He got 83 in home science, 61 in social science, and 67 in Odia. The maximum mark for each subject is 100.

The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha announced the results of the offline matriculation exams held last month. Out of total 15,155 students, 6,596 have applied for HSC examination, 8,493 for State Open School Certificate Examination, and 66 for the Madhyama examination.

## Internal squabble in Cong escalates

It would be wrong to do politics by giving raw deal to the tribal communities, says Cong leader Pradeep Majhi

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** Fighting in Odisha Congress Tuesday escalated further with party leader Pradeep Majhi firing salvos at agitated Jeypore MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati.

While answering the questions on Bahinipati, who had criticised Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik and others, Majhi, at a presser here, said that such acts would not be entertained by the state leadership.

He said, “One cannot do politics by neglecting the tribal communities. It would be wrong to do politics by giving raw deal to the tribal communities. The party will decide who will be there in the party and who won't.”

He also took a dig at Bahinipati for criticizing Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka. “He is the only Congress MP who won the previous election. Opposing him openly would not be tolerated by the state leadership. Bahinipati was never neglected in the party,” he said.

Bahinipati, in his response, slammed Majhi for his dismal performance in elections. “I want to ask him if he is working for the tribal communities why he lost the election. He should be asked whether I had helped him in the elections or not,” he said.

The Jeypore MLA also said, “I want to ask if the observer of the party as appointed by Niranjan Patnaik has ever worked for the party seriously. Whatever quarrel is happening in the party in Koraput is because of him.”

## Thunderstorm, lightning warned for next 3 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday issued warning of thunderstorm and lightning for the next three days in different parts of the state.

The met department, however, did not issue any warning of heavy rain for the next two days but said that light to moderate rain could be seen in different parts of the state.

In its weather warning for Wednesday, the department said, “Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Khurda, Cuttack, Angul, Dhenkanal,

Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore.”

It also said in its routine weather forecast that light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over some districts of Odisha Wednesday.

The department claimed that while thunderstorm and lightning could be seen in different parts of the state Thursday too, heavy rain could be observed from Friday consistently for the coming three to four days with little chances of change in two days after that.

The weathermen also hinted that the state capital might see one or two spells of rain or thundershower while the maximum temperature in the city could go upto 34°C. Special warning has been given to the fishermen for the next few days.

## ‘Empower farmers technologically for hunger-free India’

The university produced about 29,000 professionals in the field of agriculture during last 59 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** Department of Biotechnology Secretary at the Centre Renu Swarup Tuesday emphasised on helping farmers become technologically empowered, so as to make India free from hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

She was addressing the 60th foundation day of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar through virtual mode.

Attending the foundation day event, Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo appreciated the series of activities and events planned ahead for the diamond jubilee year of the university. He also sought co-

operation and support from the alumni for further development of the university which has been initiated through ‘Mo College’ programme of the state government. “Our efforts and resources are essential for linking us to our own colleges and strengthen the institutions to make those ready for better delivery,” said Sahoo.

OUAT Vice-Chancellor Pawan Kumar Agrawal said, “This university has produced about 29,000 professionals during last 59 years and countless number of research outputs in the field of agriculture. The university, through its unique activities, has drawn attention of the state government to get requisite funding for strengthening its academy, research and extension eco-system.”



Agrawal also said that the university has developed ‘Krishi Kalinga Innovation Council’ for commercialisation of OUAT developed technology. “In future, through skilling and incubation

activities, we will be developing a sizeable number of ‘agripreneurs’ in the state,” he added.

Renu Swarup, Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology, Union Ministry of Science &

Technology, joined the event through virtual mode and appreciated the strong research foundation and extension eco-system in the university. She spoke about new technological revolution in the field of agriculture and emphasised on helping farmers become technologically empowered, so as to make India free from hunger and malnutrition by 2030. She also said there needs to be a mantra of converging researchers to entrepreneurs and industries with a new model of partnership.

The university felicitated three successful farmers, three agri-entrepreneurs, the best research scientist, the best woman scientist, the best extension scientist and the best Krishi Vigyan Kendra during the event.

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# 48 mining leases cancelled

FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER (SOUTH), THE MALKANGIRI ADMIN HAS ANNULLED LEASES OF QUARRIES



Former MP and Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) working president Pradipt Majhi had alleged that former collector had received kickback worth crores of rupees and an SUV from CH Venugopal of Andhra Pradesh for awarding him the lease of seven stone quarries

All the officials, including the District Collector, present during the sealing of the tender box had to sign on a paper, but the paper had only the signature of the District Collector and not of the other officials, Majhi claimed

The former Collector had, however, refuted the allegations against him. He had said that he had taken the box with tender applications to his home for security reasons

licants had signed on the tender box. However, the tender box was not kept in the strong room of district Treasury

Moreover, all the officials, including the District Collector, present during the sealing of the tender box had to sign on a paper but the paper had only the signature of the District Collector and not of

the other officials. Later, the tender box was unlocked and the tender was manipulated in favour of a contractor CH Venugopal before being dispatched to the Treasury strong room, Majhi had alleged. This apart, Venugopal was illegally given a solvency certificate and the lease of seven stone quarries in the district was assigned in his name.

Majhi had warned of resorting to agitation and paralysing the work of the district administration if stringent action is not taken against the concerned officials and the District Collector. Later, the then Collector was transferred.

Incidentally, Venugopal is the proprietor of 'VG Granites' located at Peta village under Motu tehsil. The allegations were probed by the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (South). After the completion of an investigation, he had recommended for the cancellation of tenders and leases for minor minerals given to various companies.

The district administration will soon issue a notification for fresh tender, sources in the know of things said.

# Door-to-door health screening of kids rolled out in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, August 24: As it is being predicted that the third wave of Covid may hit the state in September, the Ganjam district administration has started health screening of children from Tuesday. This is said to be the first of its kind drive in the state.

It is feared that more children and youths are likely to be affected by the deadly coronavirus in the third wave. Hence, such a drive has been rolled out, said Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange.

During the second wave of the pandemic, the district administration had launched health screening of children June 9. Health officials, common people and the authorities are now a worried lot as there is no provision for vaccinating children below 18 years of age.

In order to prevent the severity of the third wave, Collector Kulange had issued an SOP a couple of days ago following a directive from the state government.

ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi assistants made door-to-door visits in various panchayats under Chhatrapur block and conducted health screening of children, said CDPO Krishnakumari Nanda.

The reports of health screening will be given to the ANMs. On the basis of these reports, swabs of sick children will be collected. If any kid is found Covid positive, he/she will be treated either at home or hospital de-



Anganwadi and ASHA workers visiting homes in Chhatrapur

Health screening reports will be given to the ANMs. On the basis of the reports, swabs of sick children will be collected. If any kid is found Covid positive, he/she will be treated either at home or hospital

and municipal corporation levels. BDOs head the taskforces at the block level while the municipal commissioner heads the taskforce committee at the municipal corporation level.

These committees comprise child specialists, pediatricians, Ayush medical officer, block education officers, CDPOs and other medical officers. Arrangements for isolation beds have been made at all community health centres, sub-divisional hospitals and the district headquarters hospital (DHH).

As per a decision, 50 per cent of the beds in SNCUs and NBSUs will be reserved for the Covid patients in the district.

pending on the decision of the RRT. Following a directive from the Collector, taskforce committees have been formed at the block

## 'KHARASROTA BANCHAHO' MOVEMENT

### We are against privatisation of river water: Rajendra Singh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 24: Magsaysay award-winning environmentalist Rajendra Singh, known as the 'Waterman of India', has urged the people to intensify the agitation to save Kharasrota river and extended his support to the 'Kharasrota Banchao' movement launched against the mega drinking water project at Barunadiha under Rajkanika block in Kendrapara district, Tuesday.

Addressing a public rally against the drinking water project at Achyutpur village under Rajkanika block, Singh said that everyone has right on water and the Kharasrota Banchao Sangram Samiti aims to preserve the Bhadrak residents' right to drinking water.

However, handing over the fresh water of Kharasrota to companies on the pretext of providing drinking water to Bhadrak residents can never be tolerated, he warned.

Targeting the state government, Singh said that the government's move violates the common man's 'Right to Live'. "We do not want privatisation of river water. Rather we want communalisation," he asserted.



Fruit saplings being distributed to people during a green drive at Mukulusi panchayat in Balasore Tuesday

## Leopards spotted in Dhenkanal reserve forests

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, August 24: Leopards have been found roaming in reserve forests in this district.

The matter came to the fore after a leopard was photographed by a trap camera August 15 and Divisional Forest Officer Prakash Chand Gogineni confirmed this via his Twitter handle.

The Dhenkanal Divisional Forest Officer tweeted, "Here is our leopard in Dhenkanal Forests. It was August 15th as we pledged our commitment to conservation."

However, as per government rules, the name of the reserve forest where the animal was spotted moving will

### CAUGHT ON TRAP CAMERAS



not be disclosed to the public, Forest officials said.

Around seven to eight leopards have been captured by the trap cameras that have been installed in the forests by the Forest department. Sixty-two trap cameras have been in-

stalled in various forests in Dhenkanal district during the last one year. In the coming days, it will be clear how many leopards are there in the jungles.

The DFO said that the actual number of animals can be ascertained when more trap cameras are installed in the other reserve forests of the state.

## ICDS supervisor, cop in Vig net

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak/Bargaon, August 24: Vigilance sleuths raided the house of an ICDS supervisor on charges of amassing assets disproportionate to her known sources of income in Bhadrak district, while an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police at Bargaon police station in Sundargarh district was arrested red-handed while taking bribe of ₹5,000, reports said.

In the first incident, three Vigilance teams separately raided the house of Mallilata Das, a supervisor in the office of Child Development Project Officer in Bhadrak. The raid took place after a complaint alleging her involvement in various irregularities and amassing assets disproportionate to her known sources of income was lodged with the SP, Vigilance, Balasore.

Accordingly, three Vigilance teams led by DSP Durga Charan Murmu raided her residence at Aradi Square, the CDPO office and her parental house at Ambaroli. While details are yet to



A search operation underway at ICDS supervisor's residence

be made available, as per an initial estimate a five-storied building, a four-storied market complex, a house in her parental village, two housing plots, a four wheeler and a two-wheeler were found registered in her name.

In the second case, Kailash Naik, an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police at Badagaon police station, was arrested by a

Vigilance team after he was caught red-handed taking bribe of ₹5,000 to strike off rigorous Sections of IPC from a chargesheet.

Rourkela Vigilance has registered a case in this connection and an investigation into the matter is in progress, said an official.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri Nityananda Sahu (52 years), S/o- Bansi Sahu, R/o- Paruabhadi, P.O.- Uttam, PS/Tah- Ambabhona, Dist.- Bargarh, Odisha, declare that both the name Nityananda Sahu and Jadumani Sahu is the name of same and single person for all purposes.

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BELPAHAR**  
 Phone: 06645-250458, FAX: 06645-250236,  
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**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**BID REFERENCE NO. EO/BPHM/02/2021-2022**  
**BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 2021\_ORULB\_70547**  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 2027\_DT.24.08.2021**

No. C-808:- Bid documents consisting of specification, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in the Govt. website i.e. <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a>	Name of the Work	Construction of Boundary wall at proposed Crematorium near Shiv Mahima Chowk, Belpahar in W.No.3.
No. of Works	Bid Value	01 Nos. Rs.62,31,000.00
Period of Completion	Date & Time of availability of the bid documents in the portal	4 Calendar Months From dt.26.08.2021 at 10.00 A.M. to dt.09.09.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
Submission of original Financial documents (Bid Cost & EMD) by Regd. Post/Speed Post only	Bid received online shall be opened on	11.00 A.M. on dt.17.09.2021
Name and address of the officer inviting bid	Executive Officer, Belpahar Municipality	

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in). If any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender shall be published in the above website only.  
 OIPR-13050/11/0004/2122 Sd/- Executive Officer, Belpahar Municipality

## Drought staring at Bolangir dist

FARMERS HAVE LOST HOPES OF CROPS IN AS MANY AS 14 BLOCKS, AS THE DISTRICT HAS RECEIVED 78 PER CENT LESS RAINFALL TILL AUGUST 22, ACCORDING TO AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 24: Most areas of this district are reeling under a drought-like situation owing to very scant rainfall in June, July and August. Till August 22, the district has received 78 per cent less rain than normal and the situation may worsen if immediate steps are not taken to check the water scarcity problem.

According to reports, 29.1 per cent rainfall was recorded in the district in June while it was only 22.2 per cent of the normal in July.

Following an assessment of the situation, the Agriculture department said that the district has received 78 per cent less rainfall than the normal affecting paddy farming severely. Farmers have abandoned all hopes for a good paddy harvest this Kharif season.

Thousands of hectares of farmlands have cracked open due to aridity while paddy saplings meant for transplantation have wilted. Post seeding-sowing activities have remained a non-starter.

Such a sorry state of affairs in the farm sector was visible in 14 blocks



of the district, reports said. Farmers of Bidighat under Sadar block said that drought has already made its foothold in most areas.

Describing the situation, Bishnu Bisi, a farmer from Janakpur, said, "For want of rainfall, paddy transplantation could not be done this year. Saplings have started wilting and turned yellow. Seventy

days have passed since seeds were sown. There is no chance of the survival of saplings even it rains now. Paddy farming has been badly affected this year."

Shibankar Dharua, a farmer from Janakpur, said, "I have raised saplings in 12 acres for transplantation. However, transplantation could not be carried out in farmlands

For want of rainfall, paddy transplantation could not be done this year. Saplings have started wilting. Seventy days have passed since seeds were sown. There is no chance of survival of the saplings even if it rains now, says a farmer

owing to severe aridity." There is no water in the dams and canals while no alternative exists in the area to channelise water to the farmlands, he added.

District Agriculture Officer Baikuntha Charan Sahu said that Bolangir has received deficient rain. "The government is now planning for alternative crops to save the farmers. But in upland areas, there is no alternative crop. Cash crops like cotton can only be grown in certain lands. Even deciding on the choice of land will be a problem."

FOCUS AFGHANISTAN

# WHY NATION-BUILDING FAILED



Although the United States clearly could have done a better job of managing its departure from Afghanistan, the tragedy playing out this month has been 20 years in the making. From the outset, America and its allies embraced – and never reconsidered – a top-down state-building strategy that was always destined to fail

The United States invaded Afghanistan 20 years ago with the hope of rebuilding a country that had become a scourge to the world and its own people. As General Stanley McChrystal explained in the run-up to the 2009 surge of US troops, the objective was that the "government of Afghanistan sufficiently control its territory to support regional stability and prevent its use for international terrorism."

Now, with more than 100,000 lives lost and some \$2 trillion spent, all America has to show for its effort are this month's scenes of a desperate scramble out of the country – a humiliating collapse reminiscent of the fall of Saigon in 1975. What went wrong? Pretty much everything, but not in the way that most people think. While poor planning and a lack of accurate intelligence certainly contributed to the disaster, the problem has in fact been 20 years in the making.

The US understood early on that the only way to create a stable country with some semblance of law and order was to establish robust state institutions. Encouraged by many experts and now-defunct theories, the US military framed this challenge as an engineering problem: Afghanistan lacked state institutions, a functioning security force, courts, and knowledgeable bureaucrats, so the solution was to pour in resources and transfer expertise from foreigners. NGOs and the broader Western foreign-aid complex were there to help in their own way (whether the locals wanted them to or not). And because their work required some degree of stability, foreign soldiers – mainly NATO forces, but also private contractors – were deployed to maintain security.

In viewing nation-building as a top-down, 'state-first' process, US policymakers were following a venerable tradition in political science. The assumption is that if you can establish overwhelming military dominance over a territory and subdue all other sources of power, you can then impose your will. Yet in most places, this theory is only half right, at best; and in Afghanistan, it was dead wrong.

Of course, Afghanistan needed a functioning state. But the presumption that one could be imposed from above by foreign forces was misplaced. As James Robinson

and I argue in our 2019 book, *The Narrow Corridor*, this approach makes no sense when your starting point is a deeply heterogeneous society organised around local customs and norms, where state institutions have long been absent or impaired.

True, the top-down approach to state-building has worked in some cases (such as the Qin dynasty in China or the Ottoman Empire). But most states have been constructed not by force but by compromise and cooperation. The successful centralisation of power under state institutions more commonly involves the assent and cooperation of the people subject to it. In this model, the state is not imposed on a society against its wishes; rather, state institutions build legitimacy by securing a modicum of popular support.

This does not mean that the US should have worked with the Taliban. But it does mean that it should have worked more closely with different local groups, rather than pouring resources into the corrupt, non-representative regime of Afghanistan's first post-Taliban president, Hamid Karzai (and his brothers). Ashraf Ghani, the US-backed Afghan president who fled to the United Arab Emirates this week, co-authored a book in 2009 documenting how this strategy had fueled corruption and failed to achieve its stated purpose. Once in power, however, Ghani contin-

ued down the same road. The situation that the US confronted in Afghanistan was even worse than is typical for aspiring nation builders. From the very beginning, the Afghan population perceived the US presence as a foreign operation intended to weaken their society. That was not a bargain they wanted.

What happens when top-down state-building efforts are proceeding against a society's wishes? In many places, the only attractive option is to withdraw. Sometimes, this takes the form of a physical exodus, as James C. Scott shows in *The Art of Not Being Governed*, his study of the Zomia people in Southeast Asia. Or it could mean co-habitation without cooperation, as in the case of Scots in Britain or Catalans in Spain. But in a fiercely independent, well-armed society with a long tradition of blood feuds and a recent history of civil war, the more likely response is violent conflict.

Perhaps things could have turned out differently if Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency had not supported the Taliban when it was militarily defeated, if NATO drone attacks had not further alienated the population, and if US-backed Afghan elites had not been extravagantly corrupt. But the cards were stacked against America's state-first strategy.

And the fact is, US leaders should have known better. As Melissa

Dell and Pablo Querubin document, America adopted a similar top-down strategy in Vietnam, and it backfired spectacularly. Places that were bombed to subdue the Viet Cong became even more supportive of the anti-American insurgency.

Even more telling is the US military's own recent experience in Iraq. As research by Eli Berman, Jacob Shapiro, and Joseph Felter shows, the 'surge' there worked much better when Americans tried to win hearts and minds by cultivating the support of local groups. Similarly, my own work with Ali Cheema, Asim Khwaja, and James Robinson finds that in rural Pakistan, people turn to non-state actors precisely when they think state institutions are ineffective and foreign to them.

None of this means that the withdrawal could not have been managed better. But after 20 years of misguided efforts, the US was destined to fail in its twin objectives of withdrawing from Afghanistan and leaving behind a stable, law-based society.

The result is an immense human tragedy. Even if the Taliban do not revert to their worst practices, Afghan men and especially women will pay a high price for America's failures in the years and decades ahead.

*The writer is Professor of Economics at MIT.*  
PROJECT SYNDICATE



Daron Acemoglu

**OF COURSE, AFGHANISTAN NEEDED A FUNCTIONING STATE. BUT THE PRESUMPTION THAT ONE COULD BE IMPOSED FROM ABOVE BY FOREIGN FORCES WAS MISPLACED**

## No Af In Cornwall

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's remark that the Taliban are terrorists and that he would discuss with his G-7 partners in a meeting August 24 the possibility of imposing tougher sanctions on Afghanistan may sound to be an extreme reaction to the humanitarian crisis overtaking that country. But, the situation is turning messier by the hour with US President Joe Biden hinting at not extending the deadline of withdrawal of all US troops by August 31. The exodus of Afghans to other countries and the tales of horror they are telling the world make the Taliban's narrative unacceptable. Taliban's claim that they have changed and there won't be any repetition of the ruthless repression and denial of rights to women as seen during their regime 20 years back is now highly suspect.

G-7 leaders of Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States are scheduled to meet virtually and discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

The British government has stopped short of taking a strong position as suggested by Trudeau, but it has made it clear the behaviour of the Taliban will decide the relief on existing sanctions.

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who will chair the virtual meeting, has promised "to use every humanitarian and diplomatic lever" to protect human rights in Afghanistan. The G-7 meeting is expected to draw up a plan for a unified approach to the Afghanistan crisis exacerbated by the mad rush of thousands of Afghans towards the airport in Kabul to flee the country fearing reprisals by the Taliban for having worked with the USA and its allies during the war on terror over the past two decades. The leaders of the G-7 countries are expected to reaffirm their commitment to preserving the gains made in Afghanistan over the last 20 years, including girls' education and the rights of women and minorities.

This G-7 meet will be high in contrast to the last one held at Cornwall in June earlier this year. Joe Biden, upbeat after his election win, along with other leaders, only talked about overcoming the pandemic and reviving their economies. No one mentioned or even publicly remembered the longest war ever of the US and its NATO allies that was being fought at that very moment by them in Afghanistan. Little did the world suspect at that time that barely two months later those same leaders would take a step that would put a huge question mark on the relevance of those successful economies in the 21st century. While there is no doubt that the prestige of the US and its strong allies has taken a massive beating with the manner in which the terrible withdrawal of western forces has taken place from Afghanistan yet there is truth in what Joe Biden has said about the two decades old war. The American President has stated that unless the people of Afghanistan want to fight for their own security and freedom, no one else can deliver these to them forever.

Now, it is only India which will have to suffer for its lack of far sighted foreign policies. India just sat in the US bandwagon and expected to reap rich dividends without thinking and planning for the future. It completely relied on the Americans to deliver all that was required to be present in Afghani soil, never even dreaming that the situation could change so very dramatically. Pakistan, on the other hand, had always kept a strong link with the Taliban and encouraged certain bad elements amongst them for maintaining a strong grip on the extremists. The promotion of the Haqqani Network by the Pakistani intelligence agencies is one such notable example. India, on the other hand, has invested billions of dollars in almost all provinces but is now simply cut out and thrown aside. It cannot reenter Afghanistan unless the Pakistani establishment so desires, which seems extremely unlikely. China has played a smart game of piggy back riding on Pakistan to safeguard its western Moslem dominated provinces from being disturbed by Taliban extremism. It has also ensured its total grip on all the precious mines that Afghanistan has to offer. Notable amongst them is lithium apart from incredible deposits of gold, coal and other extremely valuable minerals.

After being jolted out of its slumber, the Indian government has called an all-party meet recently to assess the Afghan situation. Now the effort is to take everyone on board so that when the fallout commences, it would not be just the BJP-led government that will be held responsible. Rather every political party will be roped in together under the call of national unity in the hour of external threat. This glaringly demonstrates how, if internal political opportunism and biases are not kept aside while dealing with external policies and threats, greater national interest is hampered.



To be free from all egoistic motive, careful of truth in speech and action, void of self-will and self-assertion, watchful in all things, is the condition for being a flawless servant. SRI AUROBINDO

### WISDOM CORNER

- There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you. **MAYA ANGELOU**
- Whoever loves becomes humble. Those who love have, so to speak, pawned a part of their narcissism. **SIGMUND FREUD**
- The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision. **HELEN KELLER**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Palimpsest

When writing materials like parchment were scarce and expensive, you didn't throw them out because they had been used. Instead, you washed them with a dilute alkaline solution to weaken the hold of the ink on the paper, rubbed them down with pumice stone to clean them, and used them again (medieval monkish writing rooms sometimes had people who specialised in doing this). The result was a palimpsest. This meaning is explicit in the original Greek word palimpsestos, which is a compound of palin, "again" and psestos, "rubbed smooth". Often the erasing wasn't altogether successful and the original writing showed through. This is why the word also has the meaning of something that has been changed but which still shows traces of its earlier form, perhaps a building which has been altered but whose original structure is still recognisable. In modern times, historically important documents have been recovered from the half-obliterated writing in palimpsests. David Carvalho wrote in *Forty Centuries of Ink*: "Manuscripts of the Gospels, of the Iliad, and of works of the highest merit, often of great beauty and accuracy, are dimly seen underneath stupid sermons, and theological writings of a nature so paltry that no man living cares to read them." A palimpsest was found in Constantinople in 1906, which contained underneath a collection of prayers the complete Greek text of several of Archimedes' most famous mathematical writings, one of them previously believed lost.

### LOL

#### HOLMES & WATSON

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine they laid down for the night, and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and

potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?" Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "It tells me that someone has stolen our tent."

### IN JEST THIS

# Ride a bicycle & help the environment



Melvin Durai

**HUBER IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE HUSBAND AND UBER**

My wife, Malathi, does not like to drive. Her car remains parked on our driveway 99 per cent of the time. Malathi drives it only on weekends, usually to go shopping and to ensure that snakes and other creatures do not start living inside the engine compartment.

Malathi has two preferred modes of transportation: cycling and walking. Only if she's unable to use one of these modes does she resort to a third mode: Huber.

Huber is what you get when you combine husband and Uber. Yes, if Malathi is unable to bike or walk, she usually gets me to drive her. Did I mention that her car sits idle 99 per cent of the time? Our house, thankfully, isn't far from the university where Malathi works. It's one of the main reasons we bought the house. Malathi can pedal to work in just 12 minutes. It's mostly a downhill ride, but uphill when she returns home, so she praises gravity in the morning,

curses it in the evening.

By riding her bicycle, she gets a little exercise, fresh air and the ability to ride on pavements, often passing motorists stuck at traffic lights. She also saves money on petrol and does her small part in reducing air pollution and helping the environment. She doesn't have to worry about parking—there is plenty of space on the bike rack outside her building, and no risk of anyone accidentally backing up into her bike.

Many people around the world ride bicycles out of necessity—they can't afford to buy cars, motorbikes or scooters. But even in wealthy countries, bicycles are increasingly popular, not just for recreation but also transportation. In Denmark, for example, more than 90 per cent of the people own bikes, compared with about 60 per cent who own cars. The country has promoted biking by building a vast network of bike lanes and bike highways, and by imposing heavy

taxes on petrol and automobiles. Heading home from the office at rush hour, you might find yourself stuck behind dozens of bicycles. You'll feel like you're in the Tour de France, but with no steroids.

Most people do not live close enough to their workplaces to use bicycles. But short errands within their neighbourhoods can easily be done on pedal power. More towns and cities need to create bike lanes to encourage people to ride bicycles and to keep them safer. Too many cyclists, unfortunately, have been struck by cars while riding on the side of busy roads.

Many accidents are also caused by cyclists who don't take enough precautions, whether it's riding too fast, forgetting to apply the brakes, or failing to wear helmets. I always wear a helmet these days, partly because I've fallen off bikes many times. The worst fall occurred in my college days. I fractured a bone in my right hand, but

the sympathy I received while wearing a plaster cast almost made it worth it. That's what's great about being young—nobody faults you for being reckless. But if you hurt yourself when you're older, your wife will shake her head and say, "What an idiot you are."

My most recent fall occurred a few years ago, when I was riding a little too fast as I approached an intersection. My rear brakes weren't working well, so I squeezed my front brakes, which caused the bike to throw me off like an angry horse. I injured one of my fingers and scraped my knee. It took me more than a month to recover from the fall. To this day, my finger still hurts and the word 'idiot' still rings in my ears.

Despite my falls, I'm a big fan of the bicycle. It's one of the greatest inventions in history. Not only does it give us cheap transportation, it also gives us enjoyment and exercise – all without polluting the earth.

### Too late, too little

Sir, This is in reference to "Petrol, diesel rates cut by 20 paise each," *Orissa POST*, August 23. The reduction in fuel prices came as international oil prices have tumbled. The cut in petrol price came after 36 days of no change. The freeze in prices coincided with the Parliament session, where the Opposition parties tried to corner the Centre on various issues including the hike in fuel prices. International oil rates have fallen to \$66 a barrel from \$75 per barrel they touched last month. According to experts, every \$1 change in crude normally affects retail price of petrol and diesel roughly by 45-50 paise a litre if there's no major change in rupee-dollar exchange rate. Indian oil companies take the trailing 15-day average of international rates to determine the prices. So, the retail price of petrol and diesel should have started falling this week and should have come down by Rs 1.5 to Rs 2 a litre. But that's not how it works in India. The average price of Indian basket of crude went up by around \$6.5 a barrel between May and July. So, fuel prices in India should have increased by about Rs 3.50 per litre during the period. But fuel became expensive by more than Rs 7 per litre. The same math works when it comes to bringing down the price. This flawed deregulation mechanism in India is fleecing the consumers. No amount of defence deployed by the Centre to justify the fuel price hike holds good.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Pleasant surprise

Sir, It is a pleasant surprise that senior Congress leader Manish Tewari has slammed Navjot Sidhu's aides Pyare Lal Garg and Malwinder Singh Mali questioning Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh's criticism of Pakistan. The aides of Sidhu are not willing to accept Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India. The stand of the duo is very well in consonance with the mind of Sidhu who had extended a hand of friendship towards the Pakistan Prime Minister when the nation was vehemently against the western neighbour. It may be recalled that PM Narendra Modi had done everything possible in his control to normalise relations with Pakistan. Subsequent events proved that it was business as usual for Islamabad to indulge in provocative acts and ceasefire violations against India. Congress is already a sinking ship. Comments from people like Garg and Mali are doing their best to write the party's epitaph. KV Seetharamaiah, HASSAN

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## DALPAHAR IRON & MN MINES OF SRI D. C. JAIN, DALPAHAR, JODA, KEONJHAR, ODISHA

It is informed to all concerned that DALPAHAR IRON & MN MINES OF SRI D. C. JAIN located in village(s) Dalpahar, Barbil, Keonjhar, Odisha has obtained the Environmental Clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha under Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India vide letter No. 2260/SEIAA dt. 19.08.2021 for enhanced iron ore production capacity of iron ore from 708 TPA to 0.31 Million TPA and Manganese ore 0.094 MTPA over a mining lease area of 89.961 Ha in Village- Dalpahar, Tahasil-Barbil, Dist.-Keonjhar, Odisha. The details of the above related to Environmental Clearance are available at the State Pollution Control Board, Odisha and the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change ([www.environmentclearance.nic.in](http://www.environmentclearance.nic.in)).



Sd/- Authorised Signatory  
Dalpahar Iron & Mn Mines

## STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

(Constituted under the EP Act, 1986 and ETA Notification, 2006 by the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India)

5RF-2/1. Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar-751022. Tel : 0674 -2541029. E-mail-seiaaorissa@gmail.com

Letter No. 2260/SEIAA  
SEIAA File No: 55644/46-NCMB1/02-2021

Dt.19.08.2021

To  
Sri Samarendra Mohanty, (GM),  
M/s. Dalpahar Iron and Manganese Ore Mines of Sri D.C. Jain,  
Dharam Villa, 12-A, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, (Ring Road),  
Dist - Keonjhar, Pin-758035

Sub: Proposal of Environmental Clearance for Dalpahar Iron and Manganese Ore Mines for Enhancement in Production Capacity of Iron Ore from 708 TPA to 0.31 MTPA and Manganese Ore 0.094 MTPA over a mining lease area of 89.961 Ha. in Village - Dalpahar, Tahasil- Barbil, District- Keonjhar of M/s. Dalpahar Iron and Manganese Ore Mines of Sri D.C. Jain - Environmental Clearance reg.

### Stipulated Conditions:

#### Part 'A' : Specific Conditions of Clearance:

- This Environmental Clearance is granted with a Condition that "the Mining activity shall be restricted to 10.594 Ha (diverted land) for which forest clearance has been obtained. Mining activity over the rest of the lease area shall be taken only after obtaining forest clearance for the same.
- Additional air quality monitoring station shall be installed at entry and exit of mines and haulage road, buffer zone and schools and habitations.
- The mine shall implement the Pollution Control Measures and safeguards as proposed in the Environment Management Plan (EMP) of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report.
- The proponent shall install STP of adequate capacity for treatment of domestic waste water and treated water shall be reused.
- The proponent shall obtain permission from appropriate authority including WR Dept., Govt. of Odisha for draw of ground water.
- Adequate mitigation measures shall be taken for dust suppression, environment protection in catchment area.
- The proponent shall carry out periodical health check-up of employees due to Occupational Health Hazards by occupational health expert, at least once in six months, both for employees as well as people of neighbouring habitation.
- The transportation of mineral shall be carried out through the covered trucks. Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. The vehicles carrying the mineral shall not be overloaded.
- Mineral handling area shall be provided with adequate number of high efficiency dust extraction system. Loading and unloading areas including all the transfer points should also have efficient dust control arrangements. These should be properly maintained and operated.
- Garland drains with appropriate size, gradient and length shall be constructed to arrest silt and sediment flows from ore dumps and directly into the water bodies. The water so collected shall be utilized for watering the roads, green belt development etc. The drains shall be regularly desilted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly.
- Public Hearing for the project was conducted on 26th August 2011. The proponent shall comply with all the commitments made to the issues raised by the Public during the public hearing.
- The proponent shall comply to the NEERI recommendations.
- The mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.

#### Part 'B' : Standard Conditions:

- Statutory compliance:**
  - This Environmental Clearance (EC) is subject to orders/judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble High Court, Hon'ble NGT and any other Court of Law, Common Cause Conditions as may be applicable.
  - The Project proponent complies with all the statutory requirements and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2nd August, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in matter of Common Cause versus Union of India & Ors before commencing the mining operations.
  - The State Government concerned shall ensure that mining operation shall not be commenced till the entire compensation levied, if any, for illegal mining paid by the Project Proponent through their respective Department of Mining & Geology in strict compliance of Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2nd August, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in matter of Common Cause versus Union of India & Ors.
  - This Environmental Clearance shall become operational only after receiving formal NBWL Clearance from MoEF & CC subsequent to the recommendations of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife, if applicable to the Project.
  - This Environmental Clearance shall become operational only after receiving formal Forest Clearance (FC) under the provision of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and subsequent amendments thereto, as applicable for the project.
  - Project Proponent (PP) shall obtain Consent to Operate after grant of EC and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein. The mining activity shall not commence prior to obtaining Consent to Establish/Consent to operate from the concerned State Pollution Control Board.
  - The PP shall adhere to the provision of the Mines Act, 1952, Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation), Act, 2015 and rules & regulations made there under. PP shall adhere to various circulars issued by Directorate General Mines Safety (DGMS) and Indian Bureau of Mines from time to time.
  - The Project Proponent shall obtain consents from all the concerned land owners, before start of mining operations, as per the provisions of MMDR Act, 1957 and rules made there under in respect of lands which are not owned by it.
  - The Project Proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in MoEF & CC's Office Memorandum No. Z-11013/57/2014-IA.II (M), dated 29th October, 2014, titled "Impact of mining activities on Habitations-Issues related to the mining Projects wherein Habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area".
  - The Project Proponent shall obtain necessary prior permission of the competent authorities for draw of requisite quantity of surface water and from CGWA for withdrawal of groundwater for the project.
  - A copy of EC letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat/local NGO etc. if any, from whom suggestion/representation has been received while processing the proposal.
  - State Pollution Control Board shall be responsible for display of this EC letter at its Regional Office, District Industries Centre and Collector's office/Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
  - The Project Authorities should widely advertise about the grant of this EC letter by printing the same in at least two local newspapers, one of which shall be in vernacular language of the concerned area. The advertisement shall be done within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter mentioning that the instant project has been accorded EC and copy of the EC letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ([www.environmentclearance.nic.in](http://www.environmentclearance.nic.in)). A copy of the advertisement may be forwarded to the concerned MoEF & CC Regional Office for compliance and record.
  - The Project Proponent shall inform the MoEF & CC/SEIAA, Odisha for any change in ownership of the mining lease. In case there is any change in ownership or mining lease is transferred than mining operation shall only be carried out after transfer of EC as per provisions of the para 11 of EIA Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time.

#### (ii) Air quality monitoring and preservation:

- The Project Proponent shall install a minimum of 3 (three) online Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations with 1 (One) in upwind and 2 (Two) in downwind direction based on long term climatological data about wind direction such that an angle of 120° is made between the monitoring locations to monitor critical parameters, relevant for mining operations, of air pollution viz. PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO and SO<sub>2</sub> etc. as per the methodology mentioned in NAAQS Notification No. B-29016/20/90/PCI/II, dated 18.11.2009 covering the aspects of transportation and use of heavy machinery in the impact zone. The ambient air quality shall also be monitored at prominent places like office building, canteen etc. as per the site condition to ascertain the exposure characteristics at specific places. The above data shall be digitally displayed within 03 months in front of the main Gate of the mine site.
- Effective safeguard measures for prevention of dust generation and subsequent suppression (like regular water sprinkling, metalled road construction etc.) shall be carried out in areas prone to air pollution wherein high levels of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> are evident such as haul road, loading and unloading point and transfer points. The fugitive dust emissions from all sources shall be regularly controlled by installation of required equipments/machineries and preventive maintenance. Use of suitable water-soluble chemical dust suppressing agents may be explored for better effectiveness of dust control system. It shall be ensured that air pollution level conform to the standards prescribed by the MoEF&CC/Central Pollution Control Board.
- Water quality monitoring and preservation:**
  - In case, immediate mining scheme envisages intersection of ground water table, then Environmental Clearance shall become operational only after receiving formal clearance from CGWA. In case, mining operation involves intersection of ground water table at a later stage, then PP shall ensure that prior approval from CGWA and MoEF&CC is in place before such mining operations. The permission for intersection of ground water table shall essentially be based on detailed hydro-geological study of the area.
  - Regular monitoring of the flow rate of the springs and perennial nallahs flowing in and around the mine lease shall be carried out and records maintain. The natural water bodies and or streams which are flowing in an around the village, should not be disturbed. The Water Table should be nurtured so as not to go down below the premining period. In case of any water scarcity in the area, the Project Proponent has to provide water to the villagers for their use. A provision for regular monitoring of water table in open dug well located in village should be incorporated to ascertain the impact of mining over ground water table. The Report on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted on six-monthly basis to the Regional Office of the Ministry, CGWA and State Groundwater Department/State Pollution Control Board.
  - Project Proponent shall regularly monitor and maintain records w.r.t. ground water level and quality in and around the mine lease by establishing a network of existing wells as well as new piezo-meter installations during the mining operation in consultation with Central Ground Water Authority/State Ground Water Department. The Report on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted on six-monthly basis to the Regional Office of the Ministry, CGWA and State Groundwater Department/State Pollution Control Board.
  - The Project Proponent shall undertake regular monitoring of natural water course/water resources/springs and perennial nallahs existing/flowing in and around the mine lease and maintain its records. The project proponent shall undertake regular monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of water bodies passing within and nearby/adjacent to the mine lease and maintain its records. Sufficient number of gullies shall be provided at appropriate places within the lease for management of water. PP shall carry out regular monitoring w.r.t. pH and included the same in monitoring plan. The parameters to be monitored shall include their water quality vis-a-vis suitability for usage as per CPCB criteria and flow rate. It shall be ensured that no obstruction and/or alteration be made to water bodies during mining operations without justification and prior approval of MoEF&CC/SEIAA, Odisha. The monitoring of water courses/bodies existing in lease area shall be carried out four times in a year viz. pre- monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) and the record of monitored data be sent regularly to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office, SEIAA, Odisha, Central Ground Water Authority and Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, State Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board. Clearly showing the trend analysis on six-monthly basis.
  - Quality of polluted water generated from mining operations which include Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) in mines run-off, acid mine drainage and metal contamination in runoff shall be monitored along with Total Suspended Solids (TDS), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), pH and Total Suspended Solids (TSS). The monitored data shall be uploaded on the website of the company as well as displayed at the project site in public domain, on a display board, at a suitable location near the main gate of the Company. The circular No. J- 20012/1 /2006-IA.II (M) dated 27.05.2009 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may also be referred in this regard.
  - The project proponent shall construct retaining wall and settling pond within the lease area. Further, check dams shall be constructed at strategic locations in which rain water passes in rainy season. Finally, the excess superannuated after sedimentation shall be allowed to spill away through stone pitch structure to the nearby valley.
  - De-silting of agricultural lands in buffer zone and beyond including nearby Nalas/rivers perennially periodically and perpetually caused due to wash up of minerals/Ob/dumps shall be done as per SOP submitted . A legal affidavit shall be submitted within 6 months from the date of issue of Environmental Clearance to this effect with periodicity of de-silting.
  - Detail design of the existing retaining wall and the proposed for the expansion from a chartered Civil Engineer shall be submitted within 6 months from the date of issue of Environmental Clearance to ensure that no silt after wash up is escaped from the core / buffer zone of the mines.
  - Project Proponent shall plan, develop and implement rainwater harvesting measures on long term basis to augment ground water resources in the area in consultation with Central Ground Water Board/ State Groundwater Department. A report on amount of water recharged needs to be submitted to Regional Office, MoEF&CC annually.
  - Industrial waste water (Workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected and treated in an ETP as proposed so as to conform to the notified standards prescribed from time to time. The standards shall be prescribed through Consent to Operate (CTO) issued by concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB). The workshop effluent shall be treated after its initial passage through Oil and grease trap.
  - The water balance/water auditing shall be carried out and measure for reducing the consumption of water shall be taken up and reported to the Regional Office of the MoEF & CC and State Pollution Control Board.

#### (IV) Noise and vibration monitoring and prevention:

- The peak particle velocity at 500m distance or within the nearest habitation, whichever is closer shall be monitored periodically as per applicable DGMS guidelines.
- The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. PPs must ensure that the biological clock of the villages is not disturbed; by orienting the floodlights/masks away from the villagers and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day/night hours.
- The Project Proponent shall take measures for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. The worker engaged in operations of HEMM, etc. shall be provided with ear plugs/muffs. All personnel including laborers working in dusty areas shall be provided with protective respiratory devices along with adequate training, awareness and information on safety and health aspects. The PP shall be held responsible in case it has been found that workers/ personals/ laborers are working without personal protective equipment.
- Mining Plan:**
  - The Project Proponent shall adhere to the working parameters of mining plan which was submitted at the time of EC appraisal wherein year-wise plan was mentioned for total excavation i.e. quantum of mineral, waste, over burden, inter burden and top soil etc. No change in basic mining proposal like mining technology, total excavation, mineral & waste production, lease area and scope of working (viz. method of mining, overburden & dump management, O.B & dump mining, mineral transportation mode, ultimate depth of mining etc.) shall not be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, which entail adverse environmental impacts,

- even if it is a part of approved mining plan modified after grant of EC or granted by State Govt. in the form to Short Term Permit (STP), Query license or any other name.
- The Project Proponent shall get the Final Mine Closure Plan along with Financial Assurance approved from Indian Bureau of Mines/ Department of Mining & Geology as required under the Provision of the MMDR Act, 1957 and Rules/ Guidelines made there under. A copy of approved final mine closure plan shall be submitted within 2 months of the approval of the same from the competent authority to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for record and verification.
- The land-use of the mine lease area at various stages of mining scheme as well as at the end-of-life shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan. The excavation vis-a-vis backfilling in the mine lease area and corresponding afforestation to be raised in the reclaimed area shall be governed as per approved mining plan. PP shall ensure the monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. The compliance status shall be submitted half-yearly to the MoEF & CC and its concerned Regional Office / SEIAA, Odisha.
- Land reclamation:**
  - The Overburden (O.B.) generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked OB dump site(s) only and it should not be kept active for a long period of time. The physical parameters of the OB dumps like height, width and angle of slope shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan as per the guidelines/circulars issued by D.G.M.S w.r.t. safety in mining operations shall be strictly adhered to maintain the stability of top soil/OB dumps. The topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation.
  - The reject/waste generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked waste dump site(s) only. The physical parameters of the waste dumps like height, width and angle of slope shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan as per the guidelines/circulars issued by DGMS w.r.t. safety in mining operations shall be strictly adhered to maintain the stability of waste dumps.
  - The reclamation of waste dump sites shall be done in scientific manner as per the Approved Mining Plan cum Progressive Mine Closure Plan.
  - The slope of dumps shall be vegetated in scientific manner with suitable native species to maintain the slope stability, prevent erosion and surface run off. The selection of local species regulates local climatic parameters and help in adaptation of plant species to the microclimate. The gullies formed on slopes should be adequately taken care of as it impacts the overall stability of dumps. The dump mass should be consolidated with the help of dozer/ compactors thereby ensuring proper filling/leveling of dump mass. In critical areas, use of geo textiles/ geo-membranes / clay liners / Bentonite etc. shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dump.
  - The Project Proponent shall carry out slope stability study in case the dump height is more than 30 meters. The slope stability report shall be submitted to concerned regional office of MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, Bhubaneswar as well as SEIAA, Odisha.
  - Catch drains, settling tanks and siltation ponds of appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, mineral yards and topsoil / OB / waste dumps to prevent runoff of water and flow of sediments directly into the water bodies (Nallah/River/ Pond etc.). The collected water should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development, plantation etc. The drains/ sedimentation sumps etc. shall be de-silted regularly, particularly after monsoon season, and maintained properly.
  - Check dams of appropriate size, gradient and length shall be constructed around mine pit and OB dumps to prevent storm run-off and sediment flow into adjoining water bodies. A safety margin of 50% shall be kept for designing of sump structures over and above peak rainfall (based on 50 years data) and maximum discharge in the mine and its adjoining area which shall also help in providing adequate retention time period thereby allowing proper settling of sediments/ silt material. The sedimentation pits/ sumps shall be constructed at the corners of the gullies.
  - The top soil, if any, shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) within the mine lease only and should not be kept unutilized for long. The physical parameters of the top soil dumps like height, width and angle of slope shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan and as per the guidelines framed by DGMS w.r.t. safety in mining operations shall be strictly adhered to maintain the stability of dumps. The topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation purpose.
  - The mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.

#### (VII) Transportation:

- No Transportation of the minerals shall be allowed in case of roads passing through transportation of the minerals leaving an adequate gap (say at least 200 meters) so that the adverse impact of sound and dust along with chances of accidents could be mitigated. All costs resulting from widening and strengthening of existing public road network shall be borne by the PP in consultation with nodal State Govt. Department. Transportation of minerals through road movement in case of existing village/rural roads shall be allowed in consultation with nodal State Govt. Department only after required strengthening such that the carrying capacity of roads is increased to handle the traffic load. The pollution due to transportation load on the environment will be effectively controlled and water sprinkling will also be done regularly. Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Project should obtain Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate for all the vehicles from authorized pollution testing centers.
- The Main haulage road within the mine lease should be provided with a permanent water arrangement for dust suppression. Other roads within the mine lease should be wetted regularly with tanker-mounted water sprinkling system. The other areas of dust generation like crushing zone, material transfer points, material yards etc. should invariably be provided with dust suppression arrangements. The air pollution control equipments like bag filters, vacuum suction hoods, dry fogging system etc. shall be installed at Crushers, belt-conveyors and other areas prone to air pollution. The belt conveyor should be fully covered to avoid generation of dust while transportation. PP shall take necessary measures to avoid generation of fugitive dust emissions.
- Traffic management shall be done as per recommendation of Traffic Management Study Report.
- The Project Proponent shall provide parking plaza for the heavy vehicles within the lease area as recommendation of NEERI.

#### (VIII) Green Belt Development:

- The Project Proponent shall develop greenbelt in 7.5m wide safety zone all along the mine lease boundary as per the guidelines of CPCB in order to arrest pollution emanating from mining operations within the lease. The whole Green belt shall be developed within first 5 years starting from windward side of the active mining area. The development of greenbelt shall be governed as per the EC granted by the Ministry irrespective of the stipulation made in approved mine plan.
- The Project Proponent shall carry out plantation/afforestation in backfilled and reclaimed area of mining lease, around water body, along the roadsides, in community areas etc. by planting the native species in consultation with the State Forest Department/ Agriculture Department/ Rural development department/ Tribal Welfare Department/Gram Panchayat such that only those species be selected which are of use to the local people. The CPCB guidelines in this respect shall also be adhered. The density of the trees should be around 2500 saplings per Hectare. Adequate budgetary provision shall be made for protection and care of trees.
- The Project Proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements for livestock feed by developing grazing land with a view to compensate those areas which are coming within the mine lease. The development of such grazing land shall be done in consultation with the State Government. In this regard, Project Proponent should essentially implement the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquisition of grazing land. The sparse trees on such grazing ground, which provide mid-day shelter from the scorching sun, should be scrupulously guarded/ protected against felling and plantation of such trees should be promoted.
- The Project Proponent shall undertake all precautionary measures for conservation and protection of endangered flora and fauna and Schedule-I species during mining operation. A Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared for the same clearly delineating action to be taken for conservation of flora and fauna. The Plan shall be approved by Chief Wild Life Warden of the State Govt. (v) And implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. A copy of Wildlife Conservation Plan and its implementation status (annual) shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry.

#### (IX) Public hearing and human health issues:

- The Project Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular as well as Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the mining activities, as per the DGMS guidelines. The records shall be maintained properly. PP shall also carry out Occupational health check-ups in respect of workers which are having ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smoking, etc. The check-ups shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/ preventive measures be taken. A status report on the same may be sent to MoEF&CC Regional Office and DGMS on half-yearly basis.
- A commitment in form of an undertaking for periodical occupational health checkup of the employee and the local people shall be done through an occupational health expert as per the detailed action plan submitted with the proposal within 6 months from the date of issue of Environmental Clearance.
- The Project Proponent must demonstrate commitment to work towards 'Zero Harm' from their mining activities and carry out Health Risk Assessment (HRA) for identification workplace hazards and assess their potential risks to health and determine appropriate control measures to protect the health and wellbeing of workers and nearby community. The proponent shall maintain accurate and systematic records of the HRA. The HRA for neighborhood has to focus on Public Health Problems like Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV, Anaemia, Diarrhoea in children under five, respiratory infections due to bio mass cooking. The proponent shall also create awareness and educate the nearby community and workers for Sanitation, Personal Hygiene, Hand washing, not to defecate in open, Women Health and Hygiene (Providing Sanitary Napkins), hazard of tobacco and alcohol use. The Proponent shall carry out base line HRA for all the category of workers and thereafter every five years.
- The proponent shall carry out occupational health surveillance which be a part of HRA and include Biological Monitoring where practical and feasible, and the tests and investigations relevant to the exposure (e.g. for Dust a X-Ray Chest; For Noise Audiometric; for Lead Exposure Blood Lead, For Welders Full Ophthalmological Assessment; for Manganese Miners a complete Neurological Assessment by a Certified Neurologist, and Manganese (Mn) estimation in Blood; For Inorganic Chromium- Fortnightly skin inspection of hands and forearms by a responsible person. Except routine tests all tests would be carried out in a Lab accredited by NABH. Records of Health Surveillance must be kept for 30 years, including the results of and the records of Physical examination and tests. The record of exposure due to materials like Asbestos, Hard Rock Mining, Silica, Gold, Kaolin, Aluminium, Iron, Manganese, Chromium, Lead, Uranium need to be handed over to the Mining Department of the State in case the life of the mine is less than 30 years. It would be obligatory for the State Mines Departments to make arrangements for the safe and secure storage of the records including X-Ray. Only conventional X-Ray will be accepted for record purposes and not the digital one. X-Ray must meet ILO criteria (17 x 14 inches and of good quality).
- The proponent shall maintained a record of performance indicators for workers which includes (a) there should not be a significant decline in their Body Mass Index and it should stay between 18.5 -24.9, (b) the Final Chest X-Ray compared with the base line X-Ray should not show any capacities, (c) At the end of their leaving job there should be no Diminution in their Lung Functions Forced Expiratory Volume in one second (FEV1), Forced Vital Capacity (FVC), and the ratio) unless they are smokers which has to be adjusted, and the effect of age, (d) their hearing should not be affected. As a proof an Audiogram (first and last need to be presented), (e) they should not have developed any Persistent Back Pain, Neck Pain, and the movement of their Hip, Knee and other joints should have normal range of movement, (f) they should not have suffered loss of any body part. The record of the same should be submitted to the Regional Office, MoEF&CC annually along with details of the relief and compensation paid to workers having above indications.
- The project proponent shall ensure that personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and they should also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.
- Project Proponent shall make provision for the housing for workers/laborers or shall construct labor camps within/outside (company owned land) with necessary basic infrastructure/ facilities like fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, creche for kids etc. The housing may be provided in the form of temporary structures which can be removed after the completion of the project related infrastructure. The domestic waste water should be treated with STP in order to avoid contamination of underground water.
- The activities proposed in Action plan prepared for addressing the issues raised during the Public Hearing shall be completed as per the budgetary provisions mentioned in the Action Plan and within the stipulated time frame. The Status Report on implementation of Action Plan shall be submitted to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry along with District Administration.
- Issues raised and recorded in proceedings of public hearing w.r.t. environment / pollution / CER shall be complied by the Mining Authority as per OM F.No.22-65/2017-IA.III, dated 30.09.2020 of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India.

#### (X) Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER):

- The activities and budget earmarked for Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) as per Ministry's O.M dated 30.09.2020 or as proposed by SEAC should be kept in a separate bank account. The activities proposed for CER shall be implemented in a time bound manner and annual report of implementation of the same along with documentary proof viz. photographs, purchase documents, latitude & longitude of infrastructure developed & road constructed needs to be submitted to Regional Office MoEF&CC annually along with audited statement.
- Project Proponent shall keep the funds earmarked for environmental protection measures in a separate account and refrain from diverting the same for other purposes. The Year wise expenditure of such funds should be reported to the MoEF & CC and its concerned Regional Office / SEIAA, Odisha.
- Miscellaneous:**
  - The Project Proponent shall prepare digital map (land use & land cover) of the entire lease area once in five years purpose of monitoring land use pattern and submit a report to concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.
  - The Project Authorities should inform to the Regional Office regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
  - The project proponent shall establish a solar power plant with 30KVA capacity within the lease area as proposed.
  - The Project Proponent shall submit six monthly compliance reports on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards to the MoEF&CC & its concerned Regional Office, SEIAA, Odisha, Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board.
  - A separate 'Environmental Management Cell' with suitable qualified manpower should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive. The Senior Executive shall directly report to Head of the Organization. Adequate number of qualified Environmental Scientists and Mining Engineers shall be appointed and submit a report to RO, MoEF&CC.
  - The proponent shall comply all the specific conditions as recommended by CSIR-NEERI on carrying capacity study (as applicable) in time bound manner as proposed.
  - The mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.
  - The project proponent shall augment infrastructure on drinking water, health care and education in nearby villages as per time bound action plan submitted.
  - The project proponent shall obtain permission from DGMS under 106(2b) to carry out blasting operation within the lease area.
  - The concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC shall randomly monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the MoEF&CC officer(s) by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
  - Any appeal against this Environmental Clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

Memo No. 2261/SEIAA / Dt.19.08.2021

#### Copy to

- Joint Secretary (Environment), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003 for information.
- Additional Chief Secretary, Forests & Environment Dept., Government of Odisha for information.
- Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, Odisha, Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar for information.
- Additional Principal Conservator of Forests, Regional Office (EZ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, A-31, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information.
- Member Secretary, CGWA, 18/11, Jamnagar House, ManSingh Road, New Delhi-110011 for information.
- Collector, District Magistrate, Keonjhar, for kind information and necessary action.
- Secretary, SEAC, Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar for kind information.
- Guard file for record.

Yours faithfully,  
Sd/- Member Secretary

Sd/- Member Secretary

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

# TN coast on high alert over LTTE drug syndicates

**Chennai, August 24:** The central agencies are on high alert after the arrest of Sri Lankan national Suresh Raj or Chinna Suresh and Soundararajan from Kochi and Chennai in the last week of July. The National Investigating Agency (NIA) sleuths who are probing the seizure of five AK 47 rifles and ₹3000 crore worth of drugs from a Sri Lanka boat off the Kerala coast March 25, 2021, have found that the arrested were handled by a Pakistani national and that the two were involved in smuggling the drugs for garnering funds to the now-defunct Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Suresh, according to NIA



sleuths is a Sri Lankan national and has been staying illegally in India for the past several months without any Visa or Passport. He has a PAN card, Aadhaar Card, Driving license, voter ID card, and Indian passport. The NIA revealed that he had got all these using forged

documents to prove his credentials. According to Central intelligence agencies that are tracking the seizure and the arrest of the Sri Lankan nationals, the drugs, and weapons from Pakistan were headed towards Hambantota port in Sri Lanka

and from there to other international destinations. Sources in the agencies told IANS that the drugs and weapons from Pakistan are being smuggled using networks in Tamil Nadu and Kerala for scouting funds to the operational activities of the now-defunct LTTE. The arrested Suresh Raj and Soundararajan have told the investigating officers that the LTTE network is active in certain pockets of Tamil Nadu. After the arrest of the duo, the 'Q' branch of the Tamil Nadu police have conducted combing operations in several parts of the state and have taken into custody certain people. However, sources in the police said that no arrests have been recorded so far.

## KASHMIR REMARKS

# Legislators call to act against Sidhu's aides



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, August 24:** Taking strong exception to the patently anti-national and pro-Pak comments of two of Navjot Singh Sidhu's aides, a group of Punjab Congress ministers and MLA Tuesday called for strong action under the law against Malwinder Mali and Pyare Lal Garg.

The statements of both these newly appointed advisors of Punjab Congress president Sidhu were clearly against India's interests, and detrimental to national security, said ministers Brahm Mohindra, Vijay Inder Singla, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Balbir Singh Sidhu and Sadhu Singh Dharamot, along with MLA Raj Kumar Verka.

Besides stringent legal action against them, they also urged the Congress national leadership to direct Sidhu to immediately rein in his aides in the interest of the party as well as the country.

The Congress has made many sacrifices for the protection of the nation's security and peace, as have our soldiers at the borders. Nobody can or should be allowed to undermine these sacrifices and jeopardise the safety of our country and its people, they emphasised, citing, in particular, the grave implications such statements could have for the border state of Punjab.

The Congress leaders also questioned Sidhu's failure to put his foot down on such an anti-national and pro-Pak diatribe by his close aides, despite the uproar it has triggered across party lines.

They said Sidhu's omission in this regard had given ammunition

to the Opposition parties, who were quick to recall the PPCC president's own bonhomie with the Pakistan Prime Minister and Army chief, warning against the damage this could cause to the Congress in the run-up to the 2022 Punjab Assembly polls, which are due in less than six months.

In a statement, the Congress leaders termed Mali's statement on Kashmir a dangerous and unacceptable deviation from India's stated position on Jammu and Kashmir. By questioning the unanimous 1994 resolution of the Parliament of India declaring Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India (which was reiterated in 2012), Mali had blatantly toed the line of Pakistan, which had been trying to stake claim to the region and was in illegal occupation of certain areas, such as PoK, they added.

Drones from Pakistan are dumping arms and drugs into Punjab almost every day. Our soldiers are dying at the border. Such comments, if not punished, had the potential of becoming a deadly precursor to more anti-national statements, promoted by forces inimical to the interests of India, they warned, citing the continuous threat from across the border to India's peace and integrity.

## CONG CRISIS SNOWBALLS

# Demand to 'replace' CM gains momentum within Cong again

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, August 24:** The demand to 'replace' Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh just months ahead of the Assembly polls once again gained momentum with Congress' 34 'sulking' legislators, comprising four Cabinet ministers, Tuesday decided to apprise the high command over the widespread dissidence among the party ranks.

They were categorically clear in saying after the closed door meeting that it was high time for the party to opt for a change of the guard ahead of the polls.

Changing the CM is the prerogative of the party high command. But we have lost faith in him, Technical Education Minister Charanjit Singh Channi told the media here.

He said the legislators unanimously authorised a five-member committee to apprise the party President Sonia Gandhi at the earliest about the dissent of the party workers over non-fulfillment of poll promises by the government.

The five-member committee are Cabinet ministers Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who backed state unit chief Navjot Singh Sidhu in the recent power struggle, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa and Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Channi



and Pargat Singh, considered close to Sidhu.

Channi slammed the Chief Minister and his aides over unfulfilled poll promises, particularly the delay in action in the 2015 sacrilege and police firing cases.

He said the panel would seek time from the Congress high command to listen to grievances of legislators and ministers, otherwise it will be difficult for the party to get a repeat in Punjab.

He said the MLAs have raised a number of issues, including the existence of sand, drug, cable and transport mafias.

Moreover, the issue of sacrileges and subsequent police firing cases has not only annoyed the party

cadres, but also hurt the religious sentiments of the common man. Also the government has failed to deliver the promised action against drug dealers, they said.

Joining the chorus, Randhawa said they have the best portfolios with them. But we are not bothered over losing the portfolios. Our concern is that the poll promises like justice in Bargari and scrapping the faulty power purchase agreements have not been fulfilled so far.

Interestingly, the bickering within the party came to fore just a day ahead of state affairs in-charge Harish Rawat's visit to Chandigarh over the growing 'war of words' between Amarinder Singh and state president Sidhu.

## BRIDGING GAPS



Construction of a new Pamban Railway Bridge in Rameswaram, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 24:** A ₹39-crore memorial for late DMK president and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi will be constructed at the Marina on Kamarajar Salai here in recognition of his efforts to create a modern Tamil Nadu, chief minister MK Stalin announced Tuesday.

The Kalaighar Memorial on the famous beach, where he has been laid to rest after his demise August 7, 2018, will come up on 2.21 acres of land, Stalin informed the state Assembly. Karunanidhi is fondly addressed as Kalaighar.

Leaders cutting across party lines, including main opposition party and DMK's rival, AIADMK, welcomed the government's announcement. Recalling the contributions of the late DMK stalwart in various spheres such as social welfare, transport, literature, education, urbanisation and infrastructure development, Stalin hailed his father as the sculptor of a modern Tamil Nadu.

After being in the headlines permanently for about half a century, he went into permanent rest August 7, 2018, Stalin said on the demise of Karunanidhi, adding, he did a lot for the Tamil community before his death. In recognition of his great work for mother Tamil Nadu and to highlight his achievements and thought to the future generations, a memorial at a cost of ₹39 crore will be built for him at the premises of the Anna memorial (DMK founder and late CM CN Annadurai) at Kamarajar Salai on 2.21 acres, Stalin said.

It will have modern pictorial illustrations about the late leader, the CM added. The Tamil Nadu we see today is created by Kalaighar. Some create city of dreams. Kalaighar is the sculptor who created a dream state, Stalin added.



*Karunanidhi, the Dravidian stalwart fought and won elections 13 times, from 1957 to 2016 and remained untouched by defeat and first became CM in 1969*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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# Centre urged to intervene in Lankan attack on fishermen

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 24:** Former Union Shipping Minister and Tamil Maanila Congress chief, GK Vasana has expressed unhappiness over the repeated attacks on the fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy and said that he will press upon the Centre to take up the matter with Sri Lanka.

Vasana, in a statement Tuesday, said that the recent stone-pelting on the Tamil fishing boats at Katchatheevu by the Sri Lankan Navy damaging 60 boats and injuring a few fishermen is highly deplorable.

The former Union minister said that when fishermen went to sea in 536 boats Saturday, the Sri Lankan



navy conducted heavy stone-pelting on them damaging the boats and the fishing nets causing huge liabilities to the already deprived fishermen. He said that the fishermen narrowly escaped death when the Sri Lankan naval boats hit

their boats and six fishermen got minor injuries.

The former Union minister said that he will take the matter up with the Centre on the insecure feeling of the fishermen ever since the attack. Vasana said that the Sri Lankan Navy has made such attacks on the Indian fishermen a regular practice and called upon the authorities to take up this matter.

The former Union minister said that these regular attacks are affecting the lives in the coastal areas of the state and that the Union government must immediately intervene and take the matter up with the highest officials in the Sri Lankan Navy.

# 'Hoping Diwali does not bring doom if not boom'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 24:** With uncertainty continuing to loom over the sale and use of firecrackers during Diwali, the Indian fireworks industry production has come down drastically by 60 per cent at Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu, said industry officials.

Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu accounts for nearly 90 per cent of the country's firecracker production, and has 1,070 firecracker units located in and around the city. About 300,000 workers are directly employed whereas another 500,000 workers are in the allied sectors.

The demand from North India has come down drastically as there is uncertainty about sales of firecrackers during Diwali. Further the huge left over stock of last year with the wholesalers and retailers is also impacting the production this year, Rajendra Raja, Vice-President, Indian Fireworks Manufacturers' Association, told IANS.



Dealers in seven states have left over stocks. Hence the demand has come down. As per the market reports, people want to celebrate Diwali with firecrackers and dealers are willing to buy. But uncertainty on being allowed to burst the firecrackers and the fear of

Covid-19 third wave are preventing them from placing orders, Tamil Nadu Fireworks and Amorcees Manufacturers Association (TANFAMA) President Ganesan Panjurajan told IANS. According to him, the industry players are making products that are not less than 30 per cent less polluting as

**Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu accounts for nearly 90 per cent of the country's firecracker production**

compared to their old products. Even though the bulk of the industry's production is consumed during Diwali, seasonal demand during Holi, Raakhi, Patang festivals which used to be there has gone down this time around, industry officials told IANS.

The NCR, Punjab, Rajasthan and other North Indian areas are major markets for firecrackers accounting for not less than 40 per cent of the industry's sales.

Normally after Diwali, the wedding season would kick in where novelty items would be sold. Then sales of firecrackers during New Year, mainly hotels being the buyers and Holi will happen.

Fireworks units have not only scaled down their production but also stopped making some items. The units are not making all the products they used to make, Raja added.

While sales have gone down, the prices of raw materials have gone up by about 30 per cent, he added.

The lack of demand woes of the industry is due to the order passed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) last year linking sale and use of firecrackers during Diwali in NCR and in any other city or town across the country to the average ambient air quality.

Nowhere around the world has any country banned fireworks during Covid situation during their festival celebrations, industry officials said.

According to Raja, sales in Tamil Nadu normally pick up around this time, but it has not happened. Though it may not be a 'boom' Diwali this year, industry officials are hopeful that it would not be a doom Diwali.

# FARMERS END STIR AS CM HIKES SUGARCANE PRICES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, August 24:** Punjab's sugarcane farmers Tuesday withdrew their agitation in response to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's announcement of a ₹35 per quintal hike in the state agreed price (SAP) for cane crushing season 2021-22, taking the price to ₹360 per quintal, ₹2 higher than in neighbouring Haryana.

The matter was resolved during a meeting of farmers union leaders with the Chief Minister here, during which Amarinder Singh, while agreeing to the SAP hike, said the state's fiscal situation had prevented adequate increase in the SAP for the past three-four years.

The farmers union leaders had earlier pointed out that Punjab had failed to hike sugarcane SAP in proportion to Haryana over this period, causing fiscal losses to them. The Chief Minister said the

farmers were not to blame for the problem, which was caused by Punjab's poor finances. While he was always with the farmers and wanted to do his best for their welfare, the state's fiscal crisis had prevented him for increasing SAP earlier, he said, adding balancing the needs of the farmers with those of the cooperative and private sugar mill owners was tough, given the prevailing fiscal situation.

The farmers' union leaders, representing the Sanjha Kisan Morcha which has been spearheading the sugarcane farmers' agitation for the past several days, thanked the Chief Minister for addressing their problem and announcing the SAP hike.

They also expressed their appreciation for the ₹5 lakh compensation and jobs to one family member each of the Punjab farmers who have lost their lives in the ongoing protest against the farm Laws at the Delhi border.

# national

of the day quote

The arrest of Union Minister Narayan Rane ji by the Maharashtra government is a violation of constitutional values

J.P. NADDA | BJP CHIEF

I want to tell the youths, your employment has been snatched, for farmers, three special farm laws have been made. And today I want to say what Prime Minister plans to give to his industrialist friends

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Strict action will be taken against hospitals, which will be found negligent. The state government ensured adequate oxygen supply during the second wave

ANIL VUJ | HARYANA HEALTH MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Five teachers attempt suicide

Kolkata: In a shocking incident, five contract teachers of Sishu Siksha Kendra, a primary school in West Bengal, tried to commit suicide in protest against their transfer to places far from their homes, in front of the Bikash Bhavan, which houses the state's education department, here Tuesday. The teachers -- all women -- were rushed to a government hospital, where the condition of two of them are reportedly serious.

### Baghel, Deo meet Rahul

New Delhi: Amid rift in Chhattisgarh Congress, former Congress President Rahul Gandhi Tuesday met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Health Minister TS Singh Deo, but no discussion took place on change of leadership in the state. The meeting lasted for over two and a half hours at the residence of Rahul Gandhi here. After the meeting, Chhattisgarh Congress in-charge P.L. Punia speaking to the media said, "There was no discussion on change of leadership in Chhattisgarh."

### Liquor kills 3 in Agra village

Agra: Three persons in a village near Dauki police station in Agra, died of consuming alcohol, early Tuesday. One person in critical condition has been admitted to the district hospital, according to Fatahabad SDM. Officials said, three persons from village Kaulara Kalan, under Dauki police station, died after consuming alcohol from a local outlet. Investigations are on. Samples have been taken from two 'Thekas' which have been sealed.

### 2 Naxals killed

Raipur: Two Naxals were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Tuesday, a police official said. The gunfight took place at around 8 am in a forest near Gompad and Kanhaiguda villages under Kanta police station limits, over 450 km from the state capital Raipur, when a joint team of security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma told PTI. Personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG), the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite unit Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) were involved in the operation, that was launched based on the movement of Naxals in the interiors of Kanta, he said.



Equity and climate justice should be the touchstone of any global climate response, and only then can it be held that strategies that are just and in reverence to Mother Earth have been formulated

BHUPENDRA YADAV | ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE MINISTER

## ISRO SEEKS PROPOSALS TO STUDY CHANDRAYAAN-2 DATA

The Indian Space Research Organisation has come out with an 'Announcement of Opportunity' (AO), seeking proposals towards scientific analysis and utilisation of data from all experiments of the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter



# 'India may be entering endemic stage of Covid'

THE CUMULATIVE VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN THE COUNTRY HAS CROSSED 59.47 CRORE SO FAR

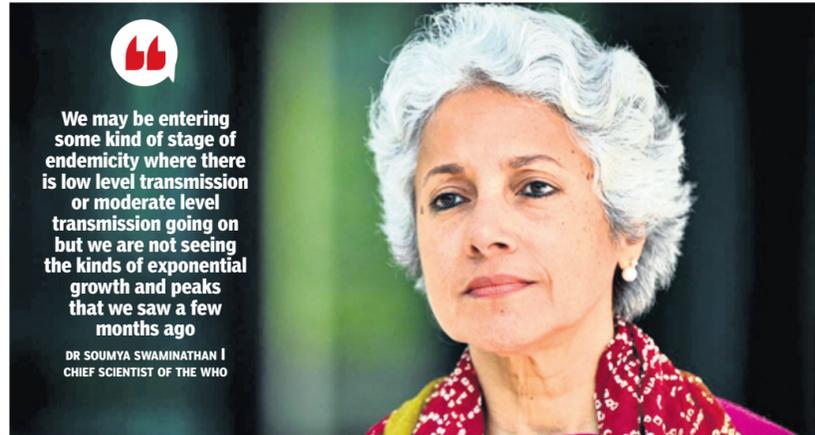
AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 24: Covid-19 in India may be entering some kind of stage of endemicity where there is low or moderate level of transmission going on, Chief

country, it is "very very feasible" that the situation may continue like this with ups and downs in various parts of the nation.

"As far as India is concerned that seems to be what is happening and because of size of India and het-

country, particularly where there are more susceptible population, so those groups who were perhaps less affected by first and second waves or those areas with low levels of vaccine coverage we could see peaks and troughs for the next sev-



We may be entering some kind of stage of endemicity where there is low level transmission or moderate level transmission going on but we are not seeing the kinds of exponential growth and peaks that we saw a few months ago

DR SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN | CHIEF SCIENTIST OF THE WHO

Scientist of the World Health Organisation Dr Soumya Swaminathan said.

The endemic stage is when a population learns to live with a virus. It's very different from the epidemic stage when the virus overwhelms a population.

On clearance to Covaxin, she said she is fairly confident that the WHO's technical group will be satisfied to give Covaxin clearance to be one of its authorised vaccines and that could happen by mid-September.

In an interview to journalist Karan Thapar for news website The Wire, Swaminathan said given the size of India and heterogeneity of population and immunity status in different parts of the

erogeneity of population and immunity status in different parts of country in different pockets, it is very very feasible that the situation may continue like this with ups and downs in different parts of the

## mRNA Covid shot safe in early trial

The Covid-19 vaccine of Indian pharmaceutical firm Genovva Biopharmaceuticals, the first homegrown mRNA-based shot, was found to be safe and effective in an early-stage study, the government said. Government authorities have also approved further studies to test the vaccine's efficacy in a larger population. Genovva plans to conduct a mid-stage study at about 10 to 15 sites and a late-stage trial at 22 to 27 sites in India. The company's vaccine development, partly funded by the government, will utilise the clinical trial network under the biotechnology department of the ministry of science and technology. Genovva is also investing in scaling up its vaccine manufacturing capacity, the government statement added.

eral months," she said. She said she hopes that by the end of 2022 "we would be in that position that we have achieved vaccine coverage, say 70 per cent, and then countries can get back to normal".

# Pak objects to Kiru hydro plant design

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: Pakistan has raised objections to the design of India's Kiru hydroelectric plant, a mega 624 MW project over the Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir, but New Delhi asserts that the project is fully compliant with the Indus Water Treaty, officials said Tuesday.

Confirming this development, India's Indus Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena told PTI that his Pakistani counterpart Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah raised the objections last week. Saxena, however, asserted that the design of the project is fully compliant with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). It has been certified by the Central Water Commission, an apex organisation of the country in the field of water resources. This run-of-river project is being implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited, a joint venture of the

National Hydropower Company and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).

"As a responsible upper riparian state, India is committed for full utilisation of its rights and believes in an amicable resolution of the issues raised by Pakistan side in letter and spirit of the treaty."

"Pakistan's objections on this project may come up for discussions in the next meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission scheduled this year in Pakistan. In the forthcoming meeting, the Indian side will explain its position and hope that Pakistan will appreciate the same and its apprehensions will be addressed through discussions," Saxena said. The treaty provides Pakistan the right to raise objection on Indian design within three month of the receipt of the information. India has supplied the information on this project in June to Pakistan.

# 121 cases pending against MPs/MLAs in CBI courts, SC told

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 24: The Supreme Court has been informed that a total of 121 cases are pending trial against sitting and former MPs/MLAs in special CBI courts across the country, and as many as 58 of them are punishable with life imprisonment. However, in over a third of the cases, the trial is moving at snail's pace - charges have not been framed, though offences were committed several years back.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appointed amicus curiae in a 2016 petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking direction to fast-tracking of criminal trials against sitting and former MPs/MLAs, has filed the report in the top court. He has been assisted by advocate Sneha Kalita in the matter.

Earlier, it was reported that there were a total of 151 cases, but that was caused by a typo in the report, which was subsequently corrected. The fourteenth report, in the matter, said: "It may be noted that out of 121 cases pending trial before the Special Courts, CBI, as many as 58 cases are punishable with life imprisonment. In 45 cases, even the charges have not been framed, though the offences alleged to have been committed several years back."

The CBI has furnished a status report dated August 19, to the amicus mentioning the details of the cases pending trial before different CBI courts and those under investigation. The CBI cases pending investigation against MPs/MLAs are 37. The oldest pending case is in Patna, where the accused was charge-sheeted June 12, 2000. The report highlighted inordinate delay in several cases pending trial before CBI courts in different parts of the country.

# Compulsory 14-day quarantine for Afghan evacuees

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 24: The Union health ministry has issued a memorandum mandating compulsory minimum 14 days institutional quarantine for those being evacuated from Afghanistan, at the ITBP Chhawla Camp here, amid Covid-19 pandemic outbreak.

The ministry said the Centre is undertaking emergency evacuation of people from Afghanistan to India and considering the nature of crisis, it has already allowed exemption from mandatory pre-boarding RT-PCTR testing (presently mandated for international travellers) for people who have been evacuated from the war-torn country.

"Coronavirus transmission (including circulation of variants) in Afghanistan is unclear at present, as a matter of abundant precaution, it has been decided that the arriving persons shall undergo a mandatory minimum 14 days institutional quarantine at Sector Headquarters Logistic and Communications, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Chhawla Camp, Najafgarh Road, New Delhi," the office memorandum dated August 23 said.

"The Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Civil Aviation shall intimate ITBP adequately in advance about the exact date and timing of these incoming flights along with the passenger manifest. The said information may also be provided to the Government of NCT of Delhi," it said.

Meanwhile, India Tuesday brought back 78 people, including 25 of its nationals and a number of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus from Dushanbe, a day after they were evacuated from Taliban-besieged Kabul to the Tajik city.

# PM MODI SPEAKS TO PUTIN OVER AFGHAN SITUATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan amid mounting global concerns over the deteriorating security situation and uncertainty in the war-ravaged country after its capital Kabul fell to the Taliban last week.

After the conversation, the Russian embassy in India said the two leaders expressed the intention to enhance cooperation to counter the dissemination of "terrorist ideology" and the drug threat emanating from Afghanistan and agreed to form a permanent bilateral channel for consultations on the issue.

In a tweet, Modi said, "had a detailed and useful exchange of views with my friend President Putin on recent developments in Afghanistan."

We also discussed issues on the bilateral agenda, including India-Russia cooperation against Covid-19. We agreed to continue close consultations on important issues".

## EDUCATION FIRST



A slum child attends a class conducted by the police personnel of South West Traffic Guard, at an open space beside the Majerhat railway station in Kolkata

# Bombay HC's 'skin-to-skin contact' order outrageous: AG to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

THE COUNTRY'S TOP LAW OFFICER ALSO SAID THAT GOING BY THE APPROACH OF THE HIGH COURT, ANYBODY CAN GET AWAY WITH A SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENCE BY WEARING SURGICAL GLOVES

New Delhi, August 24: Attorney General K K Venugopal Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to reverse the Bombay High Court verdict which held that no offence of sexual assault under the POCSO Act is said to be committed if there is no direct "skin-to-skin" contact between the accused and the child victim, calling the controversial judgement "outrageous" that would set a dangerous precedent.

The apex court, which was hearing separate appeals of the Attorney General and the National Commission for Women (NCW), had January 27 stayed the high court order which acquitted a man under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act saying "groping a minor's breast without 'skin to skin contact' cannot be termed as sexual as-



sault". The verdict had come under attack from legal experts and child rights activists.

Seeking to set aside the verdict during his arguments before a bench of Justices U U Lalit and Ajay Rastogi, Venugopal contended that "touching of the breast of a minor even without removing the top amounted to commission of offence of sexual assault under

he said. "The judgement is outrageous and would set a dangerous precedent."

Venugopal also referred to the definition of sexual assault under section 7 of the POCSO Act, and said this provides for a jail term of three years and is akin to the offence of outraging the modesty of a woman under section 354A of the IPC. He referred to the facts of the case as well and said the minor, who was stalked and groped by the accused, raised an alarm at the top of her voice and an FIR was lodged without any delay.

Letting go an accused, who also attempted to pull down the 'salwar' of the minor, will be against the definition of the POCSO Act, the law officer said. Maharashtra and the NCW concurred with the views of the Attorney General.

As nobody appeared on behalf of the accused despite the service

of the show cause notice, the bench directed the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) "to make available the services of senior advocate or advocates along with the Advocate-on-Record (AoR) to appear on behalf of the accused." "We have already appointed senior advocate Siddharth Dave as an amicus curiae. Let the paper be submitted to the SCLSC today. List all the matters for disposal September 14," it said.

Justice Pushpa Ganeswara of the Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench) had delivered two controversial judgements in sexual assault cases including the one which has come to be known as the 'skin-to-skin' contact verdict.

Earlier, while staying the judgements, the top court had also issued notice to the Maharashtra government and permitted the AG to file an appeal against the verdict.

# international



The onus is now fully on the Taliban to translate these commitments into reality. I strongly urge the Taliban to adopt norms of responsive governance and human rights. A fundamental red line will be the Taliban's treatment of women and girls

MICHELLE BACHELET | UN RIGHTS CHIEF

## SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB ARRIVES FROM KABUL

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Tuesday received and carried one of the three 'swaroops' of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib that were brought from Kabul amid chaos in Afghanistan



### of the day quote

Ukraine is a country that dreams ambitiously and acts decisively. Such a country becomes NATO's Enhanced Opportunities Partner; such a country is officially supported by others when it applies to join the European Union



VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

From Sept 13 until March 31, all private and public sector workers without a certificate proving vaccination or recovery from Covid-19 within the last six months will have to undergo one rapid test per week



VASSILIS KILIADIS | HEALTH MINISTER, GREECE

We look forward to working together with other BRICS members for a fruitful meeting with the guidance of leaders of the five countries to further deepen BRICS strategic mutual trust and cooperation in political security



WANG WENBIN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, CHINA

### SHORT TAKES

#### Kathy Hochul, NY's first female Guv

Albany: Kathy Hochul became the first female governor of New York Tuesday, inheriting immense challenges as she takes over an administration facing criticism for inaction during Andrew Cuomo's distracted final months in office. Hochul, a Democrat and former member of Congress from Western New York, took the oath of office just after midnight in a brief, private event overseen by the state's chief judge, Janet DiFiore.

#### SL ex-Foreign Min dies of Covid-19

Colombo: Sri Lanka's former Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera passed away Tuesday at a private hospital here due to Covid-19 related complications. Samaraweera, 65, contracted the virus earlier this month and was admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) of the Lanka Hospital. Samaraweera, who was Sri Lanka's foreign minister twice between 2005 and 2007 and from 2015-2017, was the second highest ranking Sri Lankan politician to succumb to Coronavirus.

#### Papua New Guinea bans India flights

Papua New Guinea: Papua New Guinea banned flights from India indefinitely Tuesday and accused the country's diplomats of "deception" over apparent breaches to Covid-19 travel rules. The Melanesian nation's top Covid-19 official said in an act of deliberate "deception" India's High Commission helped dozens of unauthorised travellers -- some Covid-positive -- to arrive in Papua New Guinea. A repatriation charter flight from India arrived in Papua New Guinea via Indonesia early Tuesday with 111 people on board, 30 more than the original number approved, according to officials.

#### Israel's Covid case tally surpasses 1M

Jerusalem: The number of Covid-19 cases in Israel has reached 1,005,511, almost a year and a half since the first case was detected in the country, the Israeli Ministry of Health said Tuesday. According to the WHO, Israel thus became the 35th country with more than 1 million infections, reports Xinhua news agency. Over 5.9 million people in Israel, or 63.2 percent of its total population, have received their first dose.

## No change in evacuation deadline

AFGHANISTAN'S NEW TALIBAN RULERS SAID TUESDAY THEY WANTED ALL FOREIGN EVACUATIONS FROM THE COUNTRY COMPLETED BY THE AUGUST 31 DEADLINE

AGENCIES

Washington, August 24: The Pentagon said Tuesday there had been no change so far in its plan to meet President Joe Biden's evacuation deadline for Afghanistan by the end of the month and that it intends to withdraw US troops by then. "We're absolutely still aiming towards the end of the month," Kirby said, while adding that the Pentagon may need additional bases to house evacuees from Afghanistan. "The president's direction has been to complete this withdrawal, this evacuation and withdrawal, by the 31st of August. That is the direction that we are operating under and therefore, that is driving a lot



Groups of people wait on the tarmac at Kabul's airport

REUTERS

of our plans," Kirby said. "You heard the national security

adviser say yesterday that he believes that we can accomplish this

## CIA director met Taliban: Report

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington: America's top spy held a secret meeting with the Taliban's de facto leader Abdul Ghani Baradar in Kabul Monday in the highest-level face-to-face encounter between the two sides since the militant group seized the Afghan capital, a media report said Tuesday. CIA Director William J Burns held a secret meeting in Kabul Monday with Baradar in the highest-level face-to-face encounter between the Taliban and the Biden administration since the militants seized the Afghan capital, the

Washington Post reported, citing unnamed US officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

President Joe Biden's decision to dispatch his top spy a veteran of the foreign service, comes amid a frantic effort to evacuate people from Kabul international airport in what the president has called one of the largest, most difficult airlifts in history, the paper said.

The CIA declined to comment on the Taliban meeting but the discussions likely involved the impending August 31 deadline for the US military to conclude its airlift of US citizens and Afghan allies, it added.

## 'Not all will make it out of Af'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Berlin, August 24: Western allies will not be able to fly every Afghan who needs protection out of Kabul before the United States' planned August 31 withdrawal deadline, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Tuesday.

"Even if (the evacuation) goes on until August 31 or even a few days longer, it will not be enough to allow those who we, or the United States, want to fly out," Maas told Bild TV.

Allies must therefore plot out how they can keep getting people out of Afghanistan even if the mil-

itary operation ends as scheduled. If the August 31 deadline is kept, then the Americans "will certainly need two days to fly out their own military alone," said Maas, thereby possibly bringing forward the last day for the civilian evacuation flights.

An emergency meeting of the G7 leaders on Tuesday agreed that the Taliban will be held accountable for its actions in Afghanistan on protecting women's rights and preventing terrorism.

"We reaffirm that the Taliban will be held accountable for their actions on preventing terrorism, on human rights in particular those of women, girls and minorities and on pursuing an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan," said a statement issued by Downing Street after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson convened the meeting.



People sitting on the ground, possibly waiting for evacuation.

## China intimidates to back SCS claims: US VP

In a speech in Singapore, Harris laid out the US vision for the region built on human rights and a rules based international order

AGENCIES

Singapore, August 24: US Vice President Kamala Harris Tuesday accused Beijing of coercion and intimidation to back unlawful claims in the South China Sea, her most pointed comments on China during a visit to Southeast Asia, which she said was critical to US security.

Harris's seven-day trip to Singapore and Vietnam, only her second foray internationally, is aimed at standing up to China's growing security and economic influence, addressing concerns about China's claims to disputed parts of the South China Sea and showing Washington can lead the way.

She said the United States had put itself forward to host a 2023 meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific trade group APEC, which includes the United States, China and Russia.

We know that Beijing continues to coerce, to intimidate and to make claims to the vast majority of the South China Sea, Harris said in her speech. These unlawful claims have been rejected by the 2016 arbitral tribunal decision, and Beijing's actions continue to undermine the rules-based order and threaten the sovereignty of nations, she said, referring to an international tribunal's ruling over China's claims in The Hague.

China has established military outposts on artificial islands in the waters, which are crossed by vital



## China hits back with Afghan dig

Beijing: China Tuesday held up America's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan as an example of Washington's "selfish" foreign policy, hitting back at Vice President Kamala Harris's accusations of intimidation in Asian waters. China's foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin snapped back, accusing the US of hiding behind rhetoric of a rules-based global order to defend its own "bullying, hegemonic behavior". "The current events in Afghanistan clearly tell us what the rules and order the US speaks of are," he told a regular press briefing. "In order to defend 'America first', the US can arbitrarily smear, oppress, coerce and bully other countries without paying any price," he added. "This is the order the US wants... but who will believe them now?"

shipping lanes and also contain gas fields and rich fishing grounds.

## PAKISTAN WANTS TO TAKE TALIBAN HELP IN KASHMIR

AGENCIES

Islamabad, August 24: Unabashedly admitting Pakistan military's close ties with Taliban and its anti-India agenda, a leader of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has talked about taking help of the Taliban in Kashmir during an on-air television show.

During a TV news debate, PTI leader Neelum Irshad Sheikh said the Taliban have announced that they will join hands with Pakistan in Kashmir. "The Taliban are saying that they are with us and they will help us in Kashmir," Sheikh said during the show. However, earlier the Taliban had stated that Kashmir is India's "internal and bilateral" issue. Alarmed by the statement of the PTI leader, the news anchor said, "Madam, do you realise what you have said? You have no idea what you have said. For God's sake ma'am, this show will air around the world. This will be viewed in India."

However, an unaffected and unconcerned Irshad Sheikh continued saying that "Taliban will

## Indigenous rocket system launched

Islamabad: Pakistan Tuesday successfully test launched an indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system, Fatah-1, capable of precisely delivering conventional warheads deep into enemy territory. The weapon system will give Pakistan Army the capability of precision target engagement deep in enemy territory, the Army said in a statement. The Army said the rocket is capable of delivering conventional warheads. This was the second flight of Fatah-1, after its first launch in January. At the time, Director General of Pakistan Army, Media Wing, Major General Babar Iftikhar, said Fatah-1 weapon system can hit targets up to a range of 140 km.

help us because they have been mistreated."

Earlier, the Afghan government had accused Pakistan and its intelligence service of playing a key role in fostering the Taliban.



## THE QUEEN'S GUARD



Crowd gathers to watch the Changing of the Guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London, which is taking place for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic

PTI PHOTO

## Israel PM to present Iran plan on maiden US visit

AGENCIES

Jerusalem, August 24: New Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett plans to push for a new Iran strategy during his first White House visit, saying he will urge US President Joe Biden not to revive the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran. The visit gives the US administration an opportunity to demonstrate business as usual with its closest Middle East ally while it contends with the chaotic situation in Afghanistan, Biden's biggest foreign policy crisis since taking office.



"Iran is advancing rapidly with uranium enrichment and has already significantly shortened the time it would take to accumulate the material required for a single

## The IAEA said Iran had accelerated uranium enrichment to near weapons-grade

nuclear bomb," he said. Bennett said he would tell Biden: "This is the time to stop the Iranians, not to give them a lifeline in the form of re-entering an expired nuclear deal." A US official said Bennett's expected entreaties for the Biden administration to drop its efforts to revive the agreement are not likely

to bear fruit. Bennett told his cabinet he would present Biden with "an orderly plan that we have formulated in the past two months to curb the Iranians, both in the nuclear sphere and vis-à-vis regional aggression". He gave no further details.

Asked Monday about any new Iran strategy proposal from Bennett, US State Department spokesman Ned Price said: "I will leave it to the Israeli prime minister to describe to the American president any thoughts that the Israeli government may have when it comes to Iran."

## US review of Covid origin unlikely to give answers

COVID-19 HAS KILLED 4.6 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE, BUT ITS PRECISE ORIGINS REMAIN SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

AGENCIES

Washington, August 24: President Joe Biden is set to be briefed on the US intelligence community's investigation into how Covid-19 started, with the report likely to disappoint in delivering clear answers about the deadly pandemic's origin in China.

Biden in May ordered aides to work to resolve disputes among intelligence agencies examining rival theories about how the novel Coronavirus started, including a once-dismissed theory about the possibility of a laboratory accident in China.

A 90-day intelligence review the president ordered is due Tuesday, according to White House press secretary Jen Psaki, with the release of unclassified portions likely to take a few days longer.

Yet three US government officials and a fourth person familiar with the scope of the investigation said they did not expect the review to lead to firm conclusions after China stymied earlier international efforts to gather key information on the ground.

Instead, one official said the report would likely point to additional lines of inquiry that officials could pursue, including



demands of China that are likely to further ratchet up tensions with Beijing at a time when the country's

ties with Washington are at their lowest point in decades. People familiar with intelligence

It's basically impossible to have a proper investigation if one of the main parties doesn't want to cooperate. We need to proceed as if both hypotheses are true

THOMAS WRIGHT | BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

reporting have said that there has been little corroboration over recent months that the virus had spread widely and naturally amongst wild animals.

Meanwhile, China has refused to give US researchers the kind of

access to the Wuhan lab and officials there that the US believes it would need to definitively try to determine the virus's origins.

The WHO's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has said the group has not ruled out any hypothesis. The Geneva-based organization is set to impanel a new group to further examine the origins of the virus causing Covid-19.

For its part, China has ridiculed a theory that Covid-19 escaped from the state virology lab in Wuhan and pushed fringe theories including that the virus slipped out of a lab in Fort Detrick, Maryland, in 2019.

# business

## of the day quote

Maruti will be in the electric vehicle sector. We will introduce electric vehicles, but we will do that at an appropriate time when it will be feasible to sell these electric vehicles in reasonable numbers and when it will be feasible to sell them without making a loss on the whole operation

RC BHARGAVA | MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA CHAIRMAN

Our applied tariffs are way below the bound rate of 50.8 per cent (permissible limit under the WTO), and with a positive momentum, India is working in mission mode to achieve the target of \$400 billion merchandise exports in 2021-22

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

I would like to give advice as well as request the auto industry to support electric vehicles...This sector is emerging and is a big opportunity for us...Dealers, OEMs and auto component manufacturers are important part of this

MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY | HEAVY INDUSTRIES MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### HP brings new Envy portfolio

**New Delhi:** HP announced the new Envy portfolio to cater to the evolving demands of today's content creators. The new portfolio, comprising Envy 14 and Envy 15 notebooks, fulfils the growing demand among creative professionals. The HP Envy portfolio is equipped with optimum power upto 16.5 hours of battery life and is optimised with creative software programmes and tools typically used by creators including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Lightroom, and more. The HP Envy 14 is available at a starting price of ₹1, 04,999 and HP Envy 15 is available at a starting price of ₹1, 54,999.

### Samsung aims to train 50K youths

**Bhubaneswar:** Samsung India announced the launch of 'Samsung DOST' (Digital & Offline Skills Training) aiming to make 50,000 youths job-ready for the electronics retail sector over the next few years. Samsung has partnered with India's premier skill development organisation, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), to execute the programme through its nationwide skills training centres. The company has signed an MoU with NSDC for the programme under which the youths will receive 200 hours of blended classroom and online training, followed by five months of on-the-job training at Samsung retail stores, along with a monthly stipend at par with industry standards.

### Damodara Nanda felicitated in city

**Bhubaneswar:** After resigning from All India Bank Officers' Federation, Odisha, Damodara Nanda received a farewell by State Executive Committee held at SBI Main branch. For the past two decades Nanda has been lauded for his leading role. President Bhabani Sankar Mishra and Joint Secretary of All India Bank Officers' Federation Sabyasachi Swain congratulated him. Pramod Mekap, former employee and Purnachandra Ganda were also honoured. Bhabani Shankar was also felicitated by the State Committee for being elected as the All India president of the IOB Officers' Federation and All India Senior Vice-president of AIBOC.



The displacement and resettlement of Afghan refugees in the US and elsewhere is one of the biggest humanitarian crises of our time. We feel a responsibility to step up

BRIAN CHESKY | AIRBNB CEO

## Optiemus joins Wistron in boost for manufacturing

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 24:** Electronics manufacturing services company Optiemus Electronics Tuesday announced a strategic partnership with Apple's contract manufacturer Wistron to boost production.

Optiemus Electronics Ltd (OEL) Managing Director A Gururaj said Wistron will invest ₹1,350 crore over the next 3-5 years under an agreement signed between the two companies.

OEL expects to generate revenue of ₹38,000 crore in the next 3-5 years and create 11,000 jobs.

"Demand for electronics has been growing. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has started a new chapter in the Indian electronics manufacturing sector. With partnership with Wistron, Optiemus will focus on manufacturing of mobile devices, personal computers, electric vehicles etc. Optiemus and Wistron Corporation will jointly explore the possibilities of catering to both domestic and overseas customers through OEL's manufacturing facilities," Gururaj said.

OEL has two manufacturing



plants in Noida, Uttar Pradesh with a total combined manufacturing capacity of 20 lakh devices per month.

OEL has worked with Blackberry, LG, HTC, Jio etc. It is a subsidiary of listed firm Optiemus Infracom. Wistron was earlier a joint venture partner of Optiemus.

Gururaj said both the firms have come again together to address the boom in the electronics manufacturing sector.

Wistron is making the entire investment of ₹1,350 crore under the agreement, Gururaj said.

"These (₹38,000 crore revenue) projections are based on a PLI scheme drafted by the government in which a target has been set. The investment of ₹1,350 crore will be invested in mobile phones and telecom products over a period of 3-5 years," Optiemus Infracom Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta said.

## 'The Ashok' to be leased out to pvt cos

Hotel Nilachal in Puri among ITDC hotels to be monetised in 4 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 24:** The sprawling 'The Ashok' 5-star hotel in the heart of the national capital is planned to be leased out to private operators as part of the government's ambitious target of monetising 'under-utilised' public sector assets.

The Ashok and the adjacent Hotel Samrat are among the eight ITDC properties that have been listed in the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) released by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), a PSU under the Tourism Ministry, runs hotels,



restaurants at various places for tourists, besides providing transport facilities.

The present network of ITDC consists of four Ashok Group of Hotels, four Joint Venture Hotels, seven transport units part of the travel and tourism infrastructure, 14 Duty-Free Shops at Seaports,

one sound and light show, and four catering outlets.

As per the monetisation plan, ITDC would divest Hotel Ranchi Ashok in Ranchi and Hotel Nilachal in Puri.

Strategically located New Delhi's Hotel Ashok would be monetised by way of a sub-lease, while Hotel Samrat would be given to private players under O&M (Operation & Maintenance) agreement.

Hotel Pondicherry Ashok in Puducherry would be monetised through joint leasing, while for Hotel Kalinga Ashok in Bhubaneswar and Hotel Jammu Ashok in Jammu O&M contract model will be followed.

## Indian Bank's ED visits Odisha



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** Executive Director of Indian Bank VV Shenoy made his visit to Odisha for the first time after the amalgamation of the bank.

During his visit, Shenoy attended Mega Retail and MSME Camp organised at Field General Manager Office in Bhubaneswar. The Zonal Managers from seven zones of Odisha and borrowers also participated in the programme.

The bank always focused on boosting retail and MSME sectors by extending credits to them. During

the Mega Retail and MSME Camp, the Executive Director handed over spot loan sanction tickets to some borrowers. The bank authorities stated that a total of ₹143 crore was handed over to 407 borrowers during the camp.

Shenoy also attended a review meeting. He addressed the people and encouraged them. The programme was coordinated by Field General Manager SSP Roy. DGM Manoranjan Dash, Zonal Manager R Srinivasan, AGM Manoranjan Sahoo, Sanjiv Dua, Rupesh Agrawal were also present on this occasion.

## INDIA'S CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION DIPS

India's crude oil production continued its declining trend, falling by over 3% in July as state-owned ONGC produced less than the target. The country's crude oil production declined by 3.2% in July to 2.5 million tonnes when compared with previous year, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.



## State yet to reach 100% mobile network access

OVER 3.13 LAKH NEW SUBSCRIBERS WERE ADDED IN ODISHA IN JUNE, 2021: TRAI

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 24:** The mobile subscriber base in Odisha has now reached about 3.48 crore as on June 30, 2021, as per the latest telecom subscriber data released by TRAI.

According to the TRAI report, over 3.13 lakh new subscribers were added in the state in June, 2021. Total net mobile subscription stood at 3.48 crore in the same month.

Odisha is in a lower position compared to other states in tele-density in India as on June 30, 2021. According to TRAI's report, Odisha still figures among the bottom five states/telecom circles with tele-density far below the national average. Over 20% people in the state still have no access to mobile network. The state's tele-density is 79.49% at the end of June, 2021.

TRAI also stated that private telecom operators like Reliance Jio and Airtel and state-owned BSNL have added new subscribers in the same month.

As per the latest the telecom subscriber data for the month of



June 2021, Reliance Jio added highest 2,52,878 mobile subscribers in Odisha, followed by Airtel which added 1,13,342 subscribers. BSNL added just 12,090 subscribers in the month in the state, while Vodafone Idea lost 64,293 subscribers in the month, revealed the report.

Now Jio subscribers in Odisha reached nearly 1.5 crore (1, 49, 94,892), the highest ever by any single operator in the state, with over 43% market share. Also, as per wireline subscriber details released by TRAI for June 2021, Jio has over 63,645 JioFiber subscribers in the state as on June 30, 2021.

## Global investors wary about India, intrigued by retail buying: UBS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 24:** Global investors are cautious on India because of expensive valuations, but intrigued by domestic households buying stocks, Swiss brokerage UBS said Tuesday.

They are also questioning the near-term sustainability of the bets being taken by the retail investors, it said in a report, adding that the net outflows by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) are indicative of the same views.

It said in the ongoing September quarter, FIIs have so far pulled out USD 1.1 billion on a net basis as against inflows of USD 0.8 billion

and USD 7.3 billion in the preceding two quarters. Even as the FIIs are pulling out money, households have been 'investing heavily' in the market and net purchased USD 5 billion in equities in the June 2021 quarter. Retail direct ownership is at a 12-year high, UBS noted.

Flows from domestic mutual funds have also turned positive after four quarters, and risk of a COVID-19 third wave, ramp-up in vaccinations and earnings momentum are keys to market sentiment, it said.

There is little room for re-rating given the expensive valuations, it said, adding that if low absolute returns continue, that could lead to fatigue in retail flows.



## 'More disruption as transport, digital tech become one industry'

If autonomous electric vehicles can become practical, that will cause a huge change in the way people use vehicles, says battery pioneer Akira Yoshino

REUTERS

**Tokyo, August 24:** Akira Yoshino, a co-winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work on lithium-ion batteries, can take credit for the upheaval in both the automotive and technology industries.

Lithium-ion batteries have provided the first serious competition in a century to fossil fuels and combustion engines for transportation. Now an honorary fellow at Asahi Kasei, the Japanese chemical firm where he has worked for nearly 50 years, Yoshino sees more disruption ahead as transportation and digital technology become one industry, shar-

ing lithium battery technology.

Speaking to Reuters, Yoshino said: "There are two major areas of innovation that would be the key. One would be new cathode materials and anode materials. The second one would be the system where the EV is used. In other words, how people will be using the EVs, and how they charge them and discharge them."

If autonomous electric vehicles can become practical, that will cause a huge change in the way people use vehicles, he added.

On wireless charging of electric vehicle batteries, he said: "The basic technology for wireless charging is not a problem. The problem is how to apply this in a prac-



2019 Nobel Prize winner Akira Yoshino

tical system. There are two possibilities. One is cars that are

parked in a certain place where wireless charging is available. The

second one is while the car is moving. It's probably not going to be on every road, but on certain roads where this is available, that could be possible."

"If you think of autonomous electric vehicles, the vehicles will know when they need to charge and on their own just go to the charging station. That kind of situation can be practical sooner than you think."

On fuel cell vehicle batteries Yoshino said: "With the fuel cell vehicle, there are challenges on the technology and the costs, but you can overcome them. If you think about the longer term, 2030 to 2050, autonomous shared vehicles are going to come about. Hypothetically

an autonomous vehicle could be run by a gasoline engine, it could be electric, it could be a fuel cell. It doesn't matter what the power source is. But it needs to replenish its energy somehow. If the vehicle can't do that automatically without a human intervention, the system is kind of meaningless. The same thing would be true for gasoline or hydrogen."

"In that sense, the electric vehicle is the one that can replace its energy automatically. If you think of the Roomba vacuum cleaner, this goes around the room and it goes and recharges itself. If the Roomba needed a person to come and fill up the tank, nobody would want to buy the Roomba."

# VIRAT & CO EYE SERIES LEAD



Jasprit Bumrah shares a laugh with James Anderson during the second Test at Lord's

## Bumrah wasn't trying to dismiss, feels Jimmy

**LEEDS:** Senior England pacer James Anderson has hinted that Jasprit Bumrah was not trying to get him out during the Lord's Test in which the Indian fast bowler rattled him with a barrage of bouncers. Bumrah bowled a 10-ball over mostly comprising bouncers and one of them hit Anderson on the helmet. Words were exchanged following that incident and Anderson was not pleased about the Indian's tactics. "I got caught off guard a little bit because all the batters coming in were saying how slow the pitch was. Banged in short; it was really slow. When I came out to bat, Joe Root said Bumrah was not bowling as quick as he normally does," Anderson said on the BBC Testers Podcast. "And then, the first ball was 90 miles an hour and on the money, wasn't it? And it felt like, I haven't

scripted a famous win. The performance of openers Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul has been the biggest plus for India in the batting department. Both have showed remarkable temperament and technique in testing conditions to give the team a solid start. Rahul, who was drafted into the team in place of injured Mayank Agarwal, has grown in confidence with each innings and seem to be sure about which balls to play and which ones to leave, which is critical for success in English conditions. Rohit too has looked in sublime touch and only needs to figure when to play his trademark pull shot, having fallen to that stroke twice in the series so far. Rishabh Pant will play the way he plays and Ravindra Jadeja has also done a decent job at No.7. It can be said that he is playing in the team more as a batsman than as a left-arm spinner. With conditions expected to be cold and favourable for the pacers at Headingley, India are expected

to retain the four-prong pace attack, leaving no space for R Ashwin once again. Shardul Thakur is fully fit but it is unlikely that Kohli will make any changes in the pace attack which won India the game on day five at Lord's. Ishant Sharma, who had not played the opening Test, was really impressive at Lord's and the hugely experienced pacer is likely to be preferred over Thakur, who is the lesser bowler compared to Ishant but the better batsman. The potency of the world-class attack has been increased by Mohammad Siraj, who was sensational on day five and has impressed many with his relentless accuracy. India last played here in 2002 when they registered a famous win by an innings and 46 runs. None of the current players have the experience of playing on this ground and it will be interesting to see how they adapt to the challenge. England, on the other hand, will be hoping their batting woes will subside with the inclusion

of white-ball specialist Dawid Malan. Malan last played a Test three years ago but is expected to deliver considering his rich first-class experience. The southpaw will bat at No.3, moving Haseeb Hameed up the order to open alongside Rory Burns. England batsmen have to find a way to score and help skipper Root, who has made of the bulk of the team's runs so far. Mark Wood, who troubled the Indian batsmen with his extra pace, is injured and that puts Saqib Mahmood in good position to make his Test debut Wednesday.

**QUOTES**  
**JOE ROOT:** There's the theatre and everything else surrounding the game. We've got to make sure that we play the game how we want to play and we look after that as best as we can. Virat's team will play how they play, I just want us to go out and be the best version of ourselves

**AJINKYA RAHANE:** When you are playing in the UK, your line and lengths are very important and that's a challenge as a bowling unit. When you get the rhythm (both with bat and ball), it's about maintaining it and just being confident about yourself. I don't see any difficulty playing at Headingley. It's all in the mind, mentally we are strong. All the players are in good space

**VIRAT KOHLI:** You can never say in England that now you are set (on pitch). You have to put your ego in your pocket. You have to bat the same way you bat for your first 30 runs and then repeat the same template till it is possible. If you are not patient in England you can get out at any time, no matter how experienced you are or how many runs you have under your belt. You need good decision making because, conditions in England are toughest in the world, in my opinion

### SHORT TAKES

#### Ex India footballer Chandrasekhar dies

**KOCHI:** Former India footballer and Olympian O Chandrasekhar, who was part of the gold medal-winning Indian team at the 1962 Asian Games, died Tuesday at his residence here, family sources said. He was 85, and survived by three children. Chandrasekhar, a defender in his playing days, was suffering from age-related ailments for some time, a source associated with the family told PTI. He was a member of the Travancore-Cochin Santosh Trophy team and had captained the Indian team in a few tournaments. Most notably, he was a member of the 1960 Rome Olympics Indian team besides being part of the 1962 Jakarta Asian Games.

#### 4 in semifinals of Asian Youth boxing

**NEW DELHI:** Four Indian boxers entered the semifinals of the Asian Youth boxing championships being held in Dubai after a day of mixed results for the country. Jaydeep Rawat (71kg) defeated UAE's Mohammed Eissa in the most dominating show by an Indian, outclassing his rival in the second round. Vanshaj (63.5kg) won 5-0 against Tajikistan's Makhkamov Dovud, while Daksh Singh (67kg) defeated Kyrgyzstan's Eldar Turdubaev 4-1. Suresh Vishvanath (48kg) was up against Kyrgyzstan's Amantur Zholborosov and prevailed 5-0. However, Victor Saikhom Singh (54kg) lost to Kyrgyzstan's Derbek Tilvaldiev 2-3, while Vijay Singh (57kg) was beaten 0-3 by Tajikistan's Morodov Abubakr. Rabindra Singh lost 2-3 to Tajikistan's Yoqubov Abdurrahim.

#### ATKMB advance

**MALE (MALDIVES):** ATK Mohun Bagan qualified for the knockout stages of the AFC Cup following a 1-1 stalemate with Bangladesh champions Bashundhara Kings in a Group D match here Tuesday. The Indian club made the inter-zonal semifinal of the second tier continental tournament as South Asian Zone champions. Jonathan Fernandes (28th minute) put the Bangladeshi side ahead in the first half before teammate Sushanto Tripura was sent off at the stroke of halftime. David Williams (62nd) scored the equaliser.

# GLITTERING START TO PARALYMPICS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Tokyo, August 24:** In manner most fitting, the Tokyo Paralympics began here Tuesday with the central theme of 'We Have Wings' in a colourful opening ceremony depicting the para athletes' endeavour to fly high in the face of unimaginable adversities. At times tugging at the heart-strings, the otherwise joyous and colourful opening ceremony – the main character of which was a 'little one-winged plane' – encapsulated the idea that every human being has its own wings, and by mustering courage and spreading them wide, it can go anywhere irrespective of which way the wind blows. Emperor Naruhito declared the Games open in front of a near-empty stadium before the Paralympic flag was carried into the National Stadium. International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons said the organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics can deliver a 'safe' event. Prior to that, the ceremony paid homage to the resilience of para athletes while giving the message of moving forward amid the unrelenting devastation being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Paralympics have returned to Tokyo for the first time in 57 years, making the Japanese capital the first ever city to host the

**SHOT PUTTER TEK CHAND LED THE INDIAN CONTINGENT OUT DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY AFTER REPLACING HIGH-JUMPER MARIYAPPAN THANGAVELU, CAME IN CLOSE CONTACT OF A COVID POSITIVE PERSON DURING HIS FLIGHT TO TOKYO, AS THE FLAG BEARER AT THE LAST MINUTE**  
**THIS EDITION OF THE SHOWPIECE WILL FEATURE AN UNPRECEDENTED 4403 ATHLETES (2550 MALE AND 1853 FEMALE), ECLIPSING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 4328 AT THE RIO 2016**  
**INDIA IS BEING REPRESENTED BY ITS LARGEST EVER DELEGATION OF 54 ATHLETES**

Games twice. The ceremony was set in a 'Para Airport' – a symbol of diversity and inclusion – and began with a video that depicted the strength of para athletes. In the video, a gentle breeze turned into a huge gust of wind that reached the stadium and swept through the field of play. Following this, a group of crew members, who work at the airport, began a countdown at the end of which fireworks lit up the night sky to celebrate the start of the Games. IPC chief Parsons and Naruhito were welcomed to the stadium following which the Japanese flag was carried to the stage by six individuals including Kaori Icho, four-times Olympic freestyle wrestling champion and Takumi Astani, a rescue worker. Sombre music played in the background. After introducing the 22 sports and events at Tokyo 2020, a colourful line of light appeared at the end of the first video, which then transformed into the runway of the Para Airport. Giant propellers and balloons surrounded the outer stage, forming the Agitos symbol of the Paralympics. After the Parade of Nations came the 'little one-winged plane' – performed by young 13-year-old wheelchair-bound Yui Wago, who had never acted before. The little one-winged plane does not believe she can fly. But inspired



- 1 Artists take centrestage entertaining the spectators during the glittering ceremony
- 2 A torchbearer waves to the attendees after lighting the Paralympic cauldron
- 3 Fireworks at the Olympic Stadium gives a colourful sight to the venue
- 4 The 13-year-old wheelchair-bound Yui Wago performs the 'little one-winged plane'
- 5 A guide dog catches attention while leading the Israeli team out during the parade of nations
- 6 Ellie Simmonds and John Stubbs, Great Britain flag-bearers, take a selfie before the parade

