



SHRADDHA'S FURRY FRIEND

On International Dog Day, Shraddha Kapoor takes to Instagram to share a special video of her furry friend Shyloh

LEISURE P2



GRAVE MISTAKE

US officials in Afghanistan naively handed Taliban a 'kill list' to target Afghans who aided American forces

INTERNATIONAL P10



PADDLER SCRIPTS HISTORY

Bhavinaben Patel becomes the first Indian table tennis player to secure a medal in the Paralympics

SPORTS P12

State's EV policy gets Cabinet nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: In a bid to promote electric vehicles (EVs) in the state, the Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday approved the Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021.

Briefing media about the decision taken by the Cabinet, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said the policy has been formulated with an objective to



achieve adoption of 20 per cent battery operated EVs in all vehicle registrations by 2025 and promote manufacture of EVs and their components including batteries in the

state. The policy will also promote innovation and facilitate R&D in areas relating to EVs and batteries, he said. In order to reduce the rapidly increasing global temperature, Mahapatra said, it is now necessary to reduce emissions caused by vehicles running on traditional fossil fuels.

The state government has decided to extend financial incentives for manufacturing industries, buyers, scrapping along with in-

terest subvention in loans, waiving of road tax and registration fees during the policy period (five years).

Under the policy, the government has given 100 per cent exemption of road tax and registration fees on EVs purchased within Odisha. The government will provide 15 per cent subsidy — a maximum of ₹5,000 for two-wheelers, ₹12,000 for three-wheelers, and ₹1 lakh for four-wheelers — on the base price, sources said.

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RAVAGED BY RAIN: A view of the collapsed Rani Pokhari bridge on the Dehradun-Rishikesh highway after heavy rain, near Dehradun, Friday

Why BJD joins caste census bandwagon

Caste-based politics was never a part of the political narrative in Odisha. The paradigm shift in the BJD's approach could be seen from the perspective of the ensuing panchayat elections and the likely threat from Opposition parties

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: A large number of regional parties have raised their demand for a caste-based census in their respective states. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has also recently joined this chorus and demanded a caste-based cen-



sus in Odisha. The party has also said that it wants the reservation ceiling in the state for Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) be increased above the 50% mark as prescribed by the Supreme Court. BJD supremo and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has taken the lead in this regard. Party MPs recently met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi to press for their demand for a caste-based cen-

sus. Reliable sources claimed that the Home Minister was not only cold to the BJD delegation but flatly refused to back their demand.

The regional party also came out with the slogan 'Palli to Delhi' at a recent press conference to give their demand a 'national' look.

Political analysts however, see this change of stance by the BJD as an effort to woo the OBC communities in the state. The party is also trying to counter its political adversaries who are trying to influence the OBC groups. Caste in the past has not been used for political battles in Odisha. However, the upcoming panchayat polls and the likely threat from Opposition parties could have triggered this paradigm shift in the BJD's approach.

Contd. P3

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Yes, I come daily only to return disappointed. But I don't come for IT portal, I come for job sites!

CM unveils region's largest ECMO facility

The expensive treatment required by a number of critically ill COVID patients post-recovery will be provided free of cost at SCB

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, August 27: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday inaugurated eastern India's largest ECMO facility in Cuttack for providing free treatment to critically ill COVID-19 patients.

The facility, having nine ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machines, was set up at the SCB Medical and College Hospital.

"The patients of Odisha now need not be airlifted to other states for ECMO treatment," Patnaik said, launching the facility as the state readies to fight the possible third wave of the pandemic.

"Though it is a costly treatment, the people of Odisha will get the service free of cost. The state government will bear all the expenses," he said. Patnaik said the ECMO facility in Cuttack is the largest such facility in eastern India as nowhere nine ECMO machines are available in one place.

"The second wave of the pandemic was very much painful. Even as the lockdown restrictions have been relaxed, the pandemic is not yet over. We have to remain more cautious for the impending third wave," he said.

In a video message, Patnaik said health experts have predicted that more children will be infected in the possible third wave.

"To protect our children, we need to strictly follow the COVID-19 norms. I appeal to people to wear masks, maintain a proper hand hygiene routine and practice social distancing. Stay safe and keep children protected," he said.



CM Naveen Patnaik inspects an ECMO machine at SCBMCCH, Friday

Biden vows revenge

The US media citing local officials says up to 170 dead in Kabul blasts, while Biden admin warns more attacks could come ahead of the Tuesday deadline for foreign troops' withdrawal

AGENCIES

Washington, August 27: US President Joe Biden has vowed to 'hunt' down the terrorists and make them 'pay' for the twin blasts at the Kabul airport in Afghanistan that killed 13 American soldiers and injured 18 others, and ordered his commanders to develop plans to strike back at them.

Two suicide bombers and gunmen attacked crowds of Afghans flocking to the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul airport Thursday, killing more than 100 people, including 13 US troops. The Islamic State's Afghanistan affiliate, dubbed Islamic State Khorasan or ISIS-K, claimed responsibility for the attack.

"To those who carried out this attack, as well as anyone who wishes America harm notice, we will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay. I will defend our interests and our people with every measure at my command," Biden said in his remarks at the White House Thursday.

An emotional president bowed



To those who carried out this attack...we will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay

JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

his head for a moment of silence for US service members killed in the attacks at the Kabul airport.

"These American service members who gave their lives — it's an overused word, but it's totally appropriate here — were heroes," said Biden, who appeared to be fighting back tears. He ordered US flags to half-staff across the country.

Biden said the ISIS-K was behind the gruesome attack at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul and at a hotel nearby

Thursday. "As you all know, the terrorist attacks that we've been talking about and worried about within the intelligence community, was an undertaking attack by a group known as ISIS-K," Biden said.

Biden said he has ordered his commanders to develop operational plans to strike ISIS-K assets, leadership and facilities. "We will respond with force and precision at our time at the place we choose in a moment of our choosing...These ISIS terrorists will not win," he said.

He asserted the US is determined to continue with its mission to evacuate American nationals from Kabul by August 31. "We can and we must complete this mission and we will. That's what I've ordered them to do. We will not be deterred by terrorists. We will not let them stop our mission. We will continue the evacuation," Biden said.

2 INFANTS DIE DUE TO COVID

33 people in 0-18 age group have died of COVID since August 15, while the infection rate among the group now stands at 12.99 %

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The state health department Friday said that two infants succumbed to COVID-19 as per the latest estimates. The deceased were a 12-day-old baby girl from Cuttack and a five-month-old baby. The department claimed that the two had comorbidities.

Since August 15, as many as 33 children and adolescents have died due to COVID-19 in the state, according to the health department, while a total of 1,496 people in the 0-18 age group have tested positive for the infection.

Odisha's COVID-19 caseload Friday surged to 10,04,875 as 816 more people tested positive for the infection while 69 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 7,697, an official said.

The new COVID-19 cases included 106 children and adolescents below 18 years of age whose infection rate stands at 12.99 per cent. However, the state's positivity rate now is 5.64 per cent.

A total of 1,496 people in the 0-18 age group have tested positive for COVID since August 15, when the government started mapping the paediatric population in the state.

At least 10 children with COVID-19 infections have been hospitalised in Balasore district, officials said. Of the 816 new cases, 475 were from the quarantine centres while the remaining 341 were local contact cases.

Khurda district of which the state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest 291 new cases followed by Cuttack (116). While four districts Boudh, Gajapati, Nabarangpur and Subarnapur did not report any new cases, 10 districts detected less than 10 new infections, the remaining 14 districts reported cases below 100.

The districts of Khurda and Cuttack comprise almost 50 per cent of the state's new infections. The state's daily test positivity rate stands at 1.17 per cent as 816 samples gave positive results of the total 69,585 samples tested Thursday.

DNA of girl who died 7,200 yrs ago reveals new human lineage

Research on the genome linked to a previously unknown divergent human lineage not found anywhere else in the world challenges previous theories about the arrival times of different groups of humans in the region

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Jakarta, August 27: Archaeologists have discovered the remains of a 7,200-year-old skeleton from a female hunter-gatherer in Indonesia that

has a "distinct human lineage" never found anywhere in the world, according to research published this week. The relatively intact fossil, which belonged to a teenager aged 17 or 18, was buried in the foetal position inside Leang Panninge, a limestone cave in South Sulawesi.

It was found among artefacts from the Toalean people, an early culture of hunter-gatherers in the region. The remains are the first known skeleton of a Toalean.

The study, which was published in the journal Nature Wednesday, was a collaboration between Indonesian and inter-

national researchers. Excavation began in 2015.

"This is the first time anyone has reported the discovery of ancient human DNA from the vast island region between mainland Asia and Australia," Adam Brumm, archaeologist at the Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution at Griffith University in Brisbane, who co-led the research, told AFP Friday.

Brumm was referring to an area stretching from Kalimantan and Lombok to the western tip of Papua that is known to scientists as Wallacea.

Researchers found the excavation



to be particularly challenging because DNA can be easily degraded in the tropical climate.

"It is very rare to find ancient human DNA in the humid tropics — that's why this is such a lucky discovery," Brumm said.

covery," Brumm said.

Analysis of the DNA revealed that the woman was part of a population group related to modern day Papuans and Indigenous Australians.

However, the genome is also linked to a previously unknown divergent human lineage not found anywhere else in the world.

The research challenges previous theories about the arrival times of different groups of humans in the region.

"This shows how little we understand about the early human story in the Wallacean islands of Indonesia," Brumm said.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Old, fond memories will define your mood today, which will show up in the manner in which you deal with work, where your mellow side will be visible to others. You are also circumspect with money and tend towards saving it. Ganesh says people dealing in cash and money-lenders will benefit.

TAURUS

You are likely to get into arguments today, predicts Ganesh. You should avoid any open confrontation. Legal disputes may bother you as well. Try your hand at meditation or resort to music of your preference to relax and unwind.

GEMINI

You are desirous of perfection in everything that you do, and you practice this philosophy in every aspect of your life. You make sure that all of your energies are concentrated on taking forward your efforts in the right direction. You need to replenish your energies and increase your awareness today, to be able to continue your efforts, says Ganesh.

CANCER

It is about time that you cultivated healthy eating habits. Today, you will be prone to doing everything in excess. You may overeat or get swept away by emotions. You must keep a check on your emotions, or it may lead to unwanted complications.

LEO

You sure love playing a team sport, but that does not diminish the fact that you are a tough player to compete with, says Ganesh. If only they had a rugby team at the local club! You derive a sense of completion from the fact that you have given your best effort to any endeavour.

VIRGO

Money matters will hit a major snag today, says Ganesh. Let your mind overrule your heart. Take extreme care of personal belongings, legal responsibilities and new ventures with long-term effects in mind.

LIBRA

It's a day of reaching new heights when it comes to finances. The cosmos favours moneylenders and stock marketeers. Call it the special touch that you give to all transactions monetary, but today you have the uncanny knack of raking in the moolah from all sources.

SCORPIO

Today, there are chances that you would be disturbed by continuous flow of negative thoughts in your mind. Try to divert your mind and look for positive people or friends who would cheer you up. Understanding needy people and living up to their expectations would bring some respite to your disrupted mind, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Lady luck is all smiles for you today, predicts Ganesh. Suddenly, you feel like multi-tasking and becoming a jack of all. This is likely to keep you busy, almost throughout the day. If need be, your colleagues and peers will lend a helping hand.

CAPRICORN

You are in hot water, but do not lose hope during these turbulent times. Maintain a calm head over your shoulders and deal with the problems, guides Ganesh. Also, do not jump to conclusions or be argumentative with the people around you, as you may end up being at the losing end.

AQUARIUS

You have already fulfilled your short-term objectives. But you are ambitious, and straightaway begin setting your long-term goals. But all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, says Ganesh. Leisure time with family will rejuvenate and prepare you for a better stint at work.

PISCES

While you like cooperating with your colleagues, there is nothing like a little competition to spice things up. You will nonchalantly take on the challenges coming your way, and thrive on the sweet smell of success today. Luck is in your favour as well. Make the most of it, says Ganesh.



KISS CONCERT CANCELLED AS PAUL STANLEY TESTS COVID +VE

American rock band Kiss' concert stands cancelled as its lead vocalist Paul Stanley tested positive for Covid-19. Kiss announced Thursday night that their concert scheduled just outside Pittsburgh had been cancelled after Paul tested positive for Covid.

SELENA GOMEZ, CAMILO TEAM UP FOR POP TRACK 999

Selena Gomez and Camilo have teamed up for pop track 999 which released Friday. The new Spanish song is produced by Edgar Barrera and has been penned by Colombian singer-songwriter Camilo.



International Dog Day

Shraddha Kapoor shares an adorable video with Shyloh

Mumbai: Shraddha Kapoor often shares pictures and videos of her furball, Shyloh. On International Dog Day, the actress took to her Instagram handle to share a special video of her furry friend.

With the video, she gave us glimpses of the quality time that she spent with Shyloh and it is too sweet for words. Her fans were all praise for her pet. She showered love in the comments section. The post was captioned as, "Fur all the love & memories. Happy Dogs Day."

In April, Shraddha celebrated Shyloh's 10th birthday. Her friends also joined the birthday bash. The actress had shared videos and pictures from the party. She wrote, "Happy 10th Bday to my Babu!!!"

Can't believe he is 10! To me he will always be my little babu Shyloh. He has brought so much joy to our lives. We are so blessed to have him as our sweetest family member. Grateful for him beyond words.

Thank you my gurizies for coming home & celebrating! @shraddha.naik @nikitamenoni @namdeepak @jinal.j For all the treats & the cake! He loves you guys so much Thank you my amazing fan clubs for your precious edits! I'm going through them since morning & they just fill me up with so much gratitude! You guys are the best! Your love for Shyloh is so wonderful, I'm sure he feels it!!! Thank you all for your wishes Thank you Paru for taking care of me while growing up & now Shyloh with so much love, since all these years."

On the work front, Shraddha is a part of Luv Ranjan's next starring Ranbir Kapoor: AGENCIES



SRK, Farah recreate Main Hoon Na moment

Mumbai: Superstar Shah Rukh Khan and filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan have treated their fans by performing on the title track of their film *Main Hoon Na*.

Farah posted a video on Instagram, where the two are seen swaying on the track. In the end of the clip, the filmmaker is seen giving a peck on Shah Rukh's cheek.

Alongside the video, Farah wrote: "With my Most favourite... one and only @iamsrk there's No1 like you."

#mainhoonna#farahkefundays."

The video, which currently has 81.8K views, made actor Ranveer Singh's 'heart melt' as he dropped several heart emojis.

He also wrote: "ohhhhhhhhhhhh heart Melt!!"

Actor Riteish Deshmukh said: "All time favourite."

Main Hoon Na marked the directorial debut of Farah in 2004. It also stars Zayed Khan, Sushmita Sen, Amrita Rao and Suniel Shetty.

After *Main Hoon Na*, Shah Rukh and Farah collaborated for films such as *Om Shanti Om* and *Happy New Year*. IANS



Shilpa shares cryptic posts on making 'mistakes'

Mumbai: Actor Shilpa Shetty Kundra, amid an ongoing controversy involving her businessman husband Raj Kundra, has posted a cryptic message on social media about making mistakes.

Raj Kundra has come under the radar for his reported connection to a pornography racket. He was recently remanded to judicial custody for several days.

Shilpa shared an excerpt from a book on her Instagram Stories.

It starts with a quote by Sophia Loren, which read: "Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life."

The note then read: "We can't make our lives interesting without making a few mistakes here and there. We hope that they won't be dangerous mistakes or mistakes that hurt other people. But there will be mistakes."

"We can see our mistakes as things we'd like to forget or as our most interesting, challenging and stimulating experiences. Not because of the mistakes themselves but because of what we learned from them."

The note concluded: "I'm going to make mis-

takes, I will forgive myself and learn from them."

The 46-year-old actress, who has two children Viaan and Samisha with Raj Kundra, added a sticker which read: "Made a mistake but it's okay."

However, what Shilpa was referring to was not mentioned in the Instagram story.

The actress had earlier shared an excerpt that highlighted the importance of not pausing due to adversities. IANS

Conviction of telling story sells film to actor: Neha

Mumbai: Actress Neha Sharma, whose latest release is *Vikalp*, a short film directed by Dheeraj Jindal, says it is the conviction of telling a story that sells a film to an actor.

"The conviction of telling a story is what sells a film to an actor. In his debut film itself, Dheeraj had that clarity of vision and a distinctive voice. I knew I had to work with him. I am so glad we did *Vikalp*, which is frankly a fantastic project," Neha said.

"*Vikalp*" is about a small town girl with many aspirations who has moved to a metro city to fulfill her dreams. The director, who has previously helmed short films

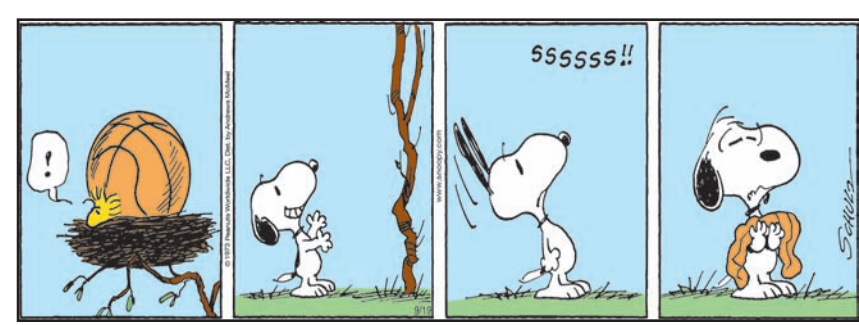
such as *The School Bag*, starring Rasika Duggal, finds runtime is irrelevant.

Jindal said: "I am of the belief that format, runtime are irrelevant and the power of a story is what eventually shines in a film. I love the short films I have made because they had to be punchy and potent at the same time. I am so grateful to Neha for trusting my vision. We had a ball of a time working together."

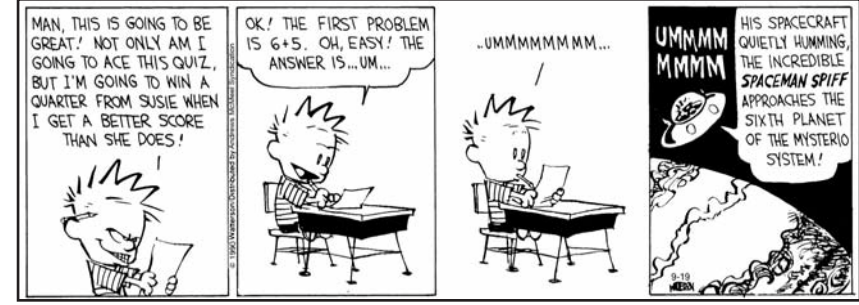
Vikalp starring Neha Sharma and Anshul Chauhan in lead roles, released on Large Short Films. IANS



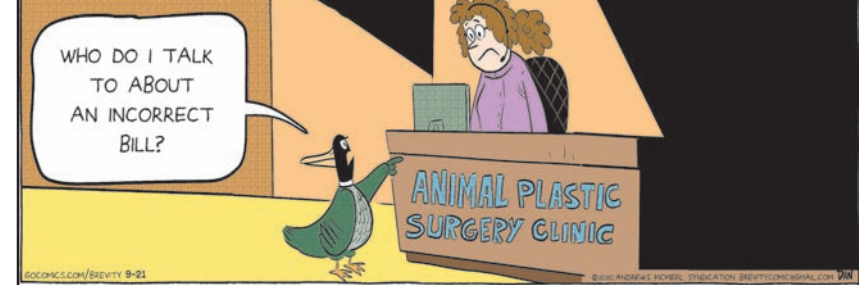
PEANUTS



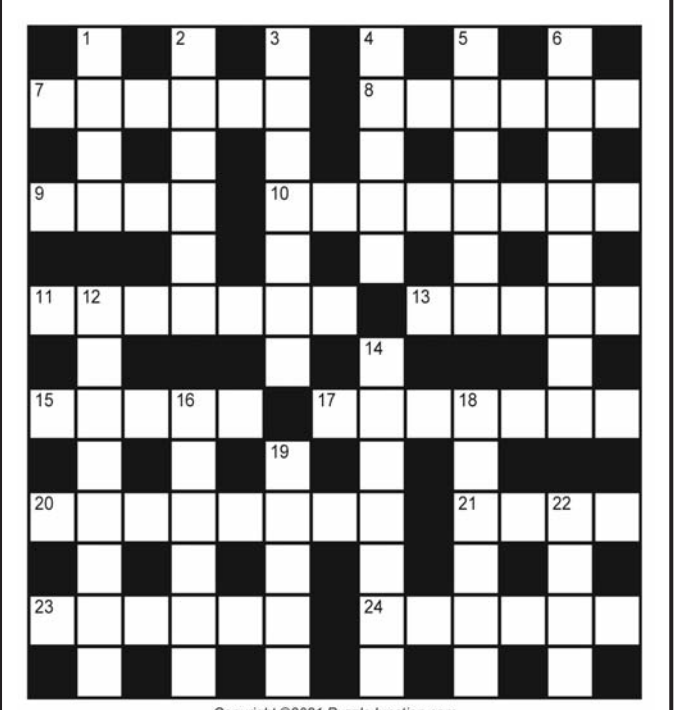
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



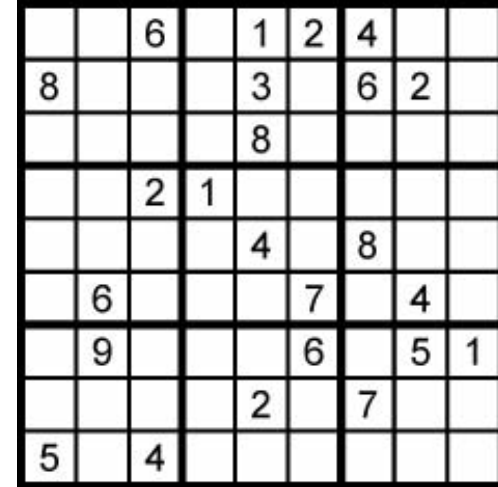
FUN post CROSSWORD



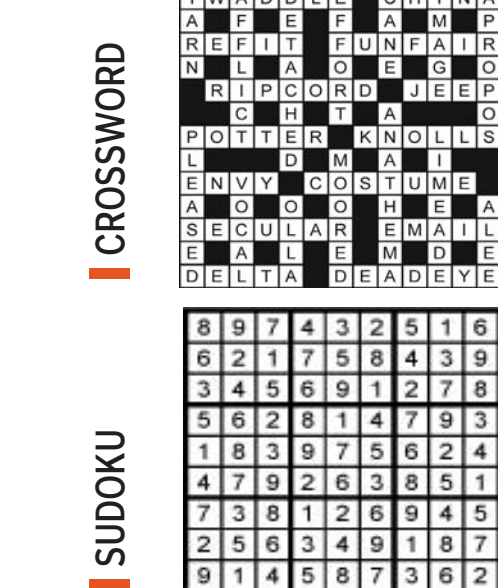
- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Capital of the Bahamas
 - 8 Modifier
 - 9 Relinquish
 - 10 Distaff
 - 11 Last course
 - 13 Award
 - 15 Persian Gulf emirate
 - 17 Job for a speech coach
 - 20 Coalition
 - 21 Porcelain clay
 - 23 Vivacity
 - 24 Force
 - 5 Get even
 - 6 Cut short
 - 12 Make uniform
 - 14 Exercise move
 - 16 Bird sanctuary
 - 18 Injury
 - 19 Makes a sweater
 - 22 Flower fanciers
- Down**
- 1 Have status
 - 2 Willow twigs
 - 3 Heard in a battle
 - 4 Coconut holders

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

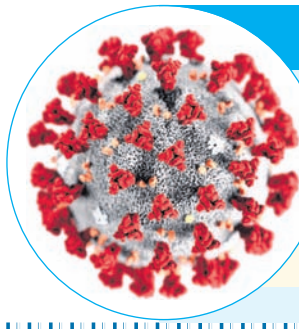


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



BUGLE FOR FESTIVALS

Women buying clay idols of Goddess Mangala from a stall at Unit-I market in Bhubaneswar for Khudurukuni puja, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	21,58,38,270	19,29,80,539	44,93,773
India	3,26,03,188	3,18,21,428	4,36,861
Odisha	10,04,875	9,89,840	7,697

Monsoon Session to have 8 biz days

All legislators to undergo RT-PCR and antibody tests before the session starts

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Assembly Speaker SN Patro Friday said all legislators will have to undergo RT-PCR and antibody tests ahead of the Monsoon Session of the Assembly scheduled to commence September 1.

Speaking to reporters after an all-party meeting here, Patro said both the tests of the House members will be held on the same day.

The session will have eight business days and continue till September 9, he said.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has been directed to sanitise the Assembly premises every day.

"The House will run for five



The all-party meeting underway in Bhubaneswar, Friday

hours every day with two sittings (from 10.30 am-1.30 pm and 4 pm-6 pm). It will function Saturdays too. However, the first day of the session September 1 will start at 11am," the Speaker said.

Starred questions will be taken up during the proceedings and ad-

jourment motions will also be allowed during the session, the Speaker said.

Opposition BJP will be allowed to bring four adjournment motions while Congress can move two adjournment motions, he said.

Leader of Opposition Pradipta

The BJP will raise the drought situation, measures taken by the state government to tackle the possible third wave of Covid-19 and the rising incidents of drug trafficking in this session

Cong will take up the issues of drought, hike in the prices of essential commodities, unemployment, law and order, healthcare services and education

Naik of the BJP who is under treatment for post Covid complications can attend the session through videoconferencing, he said.

The proceedings will be completely paperless, Patro said.

MLAs can attend the proceedings through videoconferencing

from Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) building, Lok Seva Bhawan, and other feasible places.

The seating arrangements for the MLAs in the House will be done by maintaining social distancing, Patro said. Meanwhile, BJP deputy leader in the Assembly Bishnu Charan Sethi said that the saffron party will raise the drought situation, measures taken by the state government to tackle the possible third wave of Covid-19 and the rising incidents of drug trafficking in this session.

Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said that his party will take up the issues of drought, hike in the prices of essential commodities, unemployment, law and order, healthcare services, and education.

Mishap in City claims life of Sonepur cop

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: A police constable died in a road mishap at Satsang Vihar in the Capital city here Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Ashit Kumar Mishra, 55, of Dhama area in Sambalpur.

Mishra was deployed at Ullunda police station in Subarnapur district. He had reportedly come to Bhubaneswar on his motorcycle to deposit viscera of a victim at State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) in the Capital city.

A speeding SUV hit Mishra's Bullet (motorcycle) from behind at Satsang Vihar while he was returning to Sonepur after depositing the viscera at SFSL. The SUV ran over Mishra when he fell off the bike, sources said.



The speeding vehicle also hit the iron dividers of the National Highway. Mishra was rushed to Capital hospital in a critical condition, but was later shifted to AIIMS, where the doctors declared him dead on arrival, sources added.

Police sources claimed that the persons travelling in the SUV were heavily drunk. The police managed to arrest one of them while three others managed to escape.

A case (335/2021) under various Sections of IPC related to rash driving has been registered in this regard with Saheed Nagar police.

BJD's caste census ploy sparks row

Continued from Page 1

Opposition BJP and Congress have criticised the ruling BJD over its pitch for caste-based census.

"BJD has a dark past when it comes to taking care of the interests of the OBC communities. This is evident from the fact that the State Commission for Backward Classes was dissolved in 2006. It took more than 13 years and intervention of the Orissa High Court to reinstate the panel exemplifying the apathy of the state government," Congress spokesperson Satyaprakash Nayak told Orissa POST.



He also pointed out that the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD has now understood the efforts of influential BJP leaders like Dharmendra Pradhan to woo the OBC. "Pradhan tried to polarise the OBC voters subtly by focusing on leaders of the 'Paika' community. He also demanded reservation for the OBC communities in Odisha. In these circumstances, the BJD realised that they will have to come forward with pro-OBC proposals to counter the BJP. So, it has launched this new narrative of caste-based census," pointed out Nayak.

Former Union Minister Srikant Jena is also in favour of a caste-based census. He said that BJD joined the bandwagon for a caste-based census only after other parties had raised it. Jena termed the BJD's policies as 'anti-Dalit' and 'anti-OBC'.

"There is provision of exceeding 50 per cent caste-based reservation limit under exceptional circumstances in states. Odisha, as compared to other states, has a larger SC/ST population than the national average. Had the Odisha government placed its case in the Supreme Court in a proper manner, it could easily have increased the reservation limit," Jena opined.

The BJP, on the other hand,

India Justice Report of 2020 says there is 27% deficiency of SC officers in the Odisha's Police department while it is 47% for STs and 23% for OBCs

claimed that the BJD government has raised the issue of caste-based census just to save its face after years of neglecting the OBC communities. "There are 210 OBC communities identified in Odisha. There is reservation of 11.25 per cent for the OBC communities in Odisha. However, this has never been implemented by the Odisha government. It is evident from the advertisements for government recruitments. Forget the OBC communities, even the SC/ST categories have been a deprived lot as far as employment is concerned," said Surath Biswal, president of the Odisha BJP OBC committee. "The non-functional State Commission for Backward Classes has been a bane for the welfare of OBC communities in Odisha," Biswal added.

About BJP's stand on caste-based census, Biswal said, "The decision will be taken at national level after listening to all the parties."

Data, however, proves that the Constitutional Right to Reservation had always been a matter of controversy in Odisha. The last 'India Justice Report' of 2020 amply proves this fact. It says that there is 27 per cent deficiency of SC officers in the state's police department while it is 47 per cent for ST and 23 per cent for OBC categories.

In response to these allegations, a senior BJD leader on condition of anonymity said, "Odisha's case is different as the state has a large SC/ST population as compared to other states. A caste-based census could help us in enumerating the status of different castes not only in Odisha but across India. The demand has been raised by different parties. We are also committed to see that the OBC communities are not deprived of their rights in Odisha."



Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Government of India

Central Government's Commitment All round Development of Odisha



Foundation Stone Laying of Common User Petroleum Facility at Sadashibpur, Dhenkanal, Odisha

Highlights

- Supply security of Petrol and Diesel to Central & North Odisha
- Districts of Angul, Keonjhar, Deogarh & Dhenkanal will be major beneficiaries
- 2 Lakh man days of employment during the project execution
- 42,000 kilolitre storage capacity
- Project cost of ₹ 394 crore
- Date of commissioning 31st August 2023
- More employment opportunities after project commissioning

by

Dharmendra Pradhan

Minister of Education & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
Govt. of India

Hardeep Singh Puri

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs
Govt. of India

In the august presence of

Rameswar Teli

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Labour and Employment
Govt. of India

Mahesh Sahoo

MP, Dhenkanal

Seemarani Nayak

MLA, Hindol

28th August, 2021, 12:00 Noon
Sadashibpur, Dhenkanal, Odisha



Nod to ₹21.96cr Mo School projects

Bhubaneswar: The 27th Executive Council meeting of 'Mo School Abhiyan' held in virtual mode Friday approved projects worth ₹21.96 crore for 29 districts. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of School and Mass Education department principal secretary Satyabrata Sahu. Altogether, 30,768 alumni have joined the Mo School Abhiyan within a month and have donated ₹7.32 crore for the development of their alma mater. The alumni have contributed ₹3 crore in Balasore, ₹38.44 lakh in Khurda, ₹35.67 lakh in Cuttack, ₹34.84 in Sambalpur, ₹31.43 lakh in Bhadrak and ₹29.88 lakh in Boudh. It has been decided to hand over the maintenance work of school infrastructure, gardens and assets created under Mo School Abhiyan to the local Mission Shakti self-help groups (SHGs). With the record number of alumni associating with Mo School, the total number is now nearing 6 lakh.

Man dies after taking vax

Cuttack: A 42-year-old man died after reportedly taking the second dose of Covid vaccine at SCB Medical College and Hospital here Friday. The deceased was identified as Sanjiv Haldar of Chauhiganj area of the Silver City here. Haldar developed certain complications soon after taking the Covishield vaccine in the morning. He was immediately admitted to the casualty ward of SCB. However, Haldar died while being treated, sources said. Haldar's family blamed side effects of the vaccine and medical negligence for his death. They also lodged a complaint in this regard with Mangalabag police. SCB emergency officer Bhubananand Maharana said they would be able to speak on the incident only after going through the autopsy report.

Vax on Sunday too

Bhubaneswar: Observing long queues at vaccination centres here, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday decided to open the centres Sundays too. The BMC, in a tweet, said the vaccination drive will also continue Sundays in from August 29. Those who have not taken the 1st or 2nd dose of Covaxin can get it by visiting any government vaccination centre. All the vaccination centres in upper primary health centres and urban community health centres will remain open from 9am to 1pm and 3pm to 6pm Sunday. The vaccination drive now covers the people in the age group of 18-44 and above 45 years.

NHRC seeks status report from police on 'gangrape' in Capital

COPS POOH-POOH GANGRAPE ALLEGATION BY SAYING THAT THE WOMAN SUFFERS FROM BIPOLAR DISORDER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Friday directed the twin city police commissioner to submit an updated probe report regarding the alleged gangrape of a woman in Laxmisagar area of the Capital city March 17, 2021.

The NHRC, while hearing a plea filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak, asked the police commissioner to submit the aforesaid report along with the details of medical examination of the victim within four weeks.

It was alleged that the woman who had gone to her parents' house was returning to her in-laws residence at a city slum around 10pm February 26 when four miscreants abducted her and raped her by taking her to different places in the state capital.

The lady also accused the cops at Laxmisagar police station of not heading to her complaint.

She further alleged that three other persons also outraged her modesty in the wee hours of



It was alleged that the woman, who had gone to her parents' house, was returning to her in-laws residence at a city slum around 10pm February 26 when four miscreants abducted her and raped her by taking her to different places in the state capital

Police claim that the lady was suffering from mental disorder and there are contradictions and inconsistencies in the statements of the victim, her brother and sister

February 26. Meanwhile, District Magistrate of Khurda and Bhubaneswar DCP submitted their reports to the apex rights body June 16 and April 29, 2021 respectively.

The reports revealed that police registered a case (100/21) on the basis of a complaint lodged by the victim March 17, 2021 under Sections 376 (D), 506 of the IPC, and 25 & 27 of Arms Act. During investigation, the investigating officer recorded the audio and video statements of the victim.

Police claimed that the lady was suffering from mental disorder and there are contradictions and inconsistencies in the statements of the victim, her brother and sister.

"It came to light that the victim was suffering from mental disorder and was under treatment in the evening of February 26, 2021 and the attending physician in her examination stated that the complainant was suffering either bipolar disorder or schizorhphrenia and due to this, the complainant sometimes behaves aggressively and suffers hallucination," claims DCP report.

The police also came to know that the victim was well inside the house of her sister and undergoing treatment February 26 and 27, 2021.

SC junks bail of ex-jawan in Bhadrak triple murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 27: The Supreme Court Friday rejected the bail application of a former Border Security Force (BSF) jawan, who has been lodged in jail in connection with a sensational triple murder case of Bhadrak in 1999.

While rejecting the bail of Sangram Rout, a three-judge bench of the apex court, led by Chief Justice NV Ramana, took cognisance of the fact that the former BSF jawan was on the run for at least 18 years of the incident to evade the arrest.

"We see no reason to interfere with the impugned order passed by the Orissa High Court that rejected the regular bail application of the petitioner herein. The special leave petition is, accordingly, dismissed. However, taking into consideration the entirety of facts and circumstances of the instant case, we direct the trial court to expedite the proceedings," the bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose said, orally observing that the accused of such a heinous crime deserves capital punishment.

According to police sources, the sensational murder took place at Ganjeibadi village under Bhadrak rural police limits in June 1999.

Three people—Sunakar Malik, Dushmanta Jena and Prafulla

MOB LYNCHING

The triple murder took place at Ganjeibadi village under Bhadrak rural police limits in June 1999

Three people—Sunakar Malik, Dushmanta Jena and Prafulla Jena—were beaten to death by a mob of around 25 people, including Rout

Of the 25 accused, seven are facing life imprisonment, while eight are out on bail

The three-judge bench of SC orally observed that the accused of such a heinous crime deserves capital punishment

Jena—were beaten to death by a mob of around 25 people, including Rout, to avenge the murder of a relative of Rout.

Rout had committed the crime when he was on leave from duty. He did not report to the BSF after the incident. All through the years, he managed to hide in various localities of Delhi and Bangalore doing odd jobs, police said.

Of the 25 accused, seven are facing life imprisonment, while eight are out on bail.

Three of them were acquitted, while another seven, including Rout, remained absconding. Rout was arrested in August 2017, they added.

Two get 5-year RI for duping ex-servicemen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 27: The Special Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Court here Friday awarded five years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) to two persons after holding them guilty of duping several ex-servicemen of crores of rupees on the pretext of providing them plots in Bhubaneswar.

The court has also slapped a penalty of ₹1 lakh each on Rakesh Rana, chief of Sainik Welfare Organisation India in Delhi's Dwarka, and Purnachandra Panda, owner of Braxton Infrastructure Private Limited. Failing to pay the penalty would entail an additional year of RI, the court said, slapping ₹2 lakh fine on each of the entities as well.

Sources said Rana, a former jawan, along with Panda had collected around ₹29 crore from hundreds of former jawans by promising them to provide plots at Giringaput mouza in Bhubaneswar between 2010 and 2015. However, they could neither provide the promised plots, nor could return the deposited amount.

A few of the duped depositors, including Havildar Chandan Kumar, had approached the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in the national capital. Similarly, a case (535/15) was registered with the Dwarka police and with Bhubaneswar EOW (19/15).

Centre takes action in ₹2.44 crore postal fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 27: The Union Department of Posts has taken action in three fraud cases of Lachipeta, Malkangiri Colony and Bhejjangiwada post offices of Koraput Division involving fraud to the tune of ₹2.44 crore.

According to the Ministry of Communications, action has been initiated to obtain the claims from the affected people for which the CPMG of Odisha has already issued a press note. It has been informed that all genuine claims would be settled within 30 days.

"There will be no compromise on public trust in the Postal System and the system will be continuously strengthened to avert the cases of corruption and fraud,"

said Vineet Pandey, Secretary, Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, here.

During the visit to Koraput August 21, three fraud cases of Lachipeta, Malkangiri Colony and Bhejjangiwada Post Offices of Koraput Division were brought to the notice of Minister of Communications, Information Technology and Railways Ashwini Vaishnav by the people and the media.

The ministry said that all the concerned postmasters have already been placed under suspension.

"Departmental investigation has already been completed in the Lachipeta Post office. Preliminary investigations in other two cases have been completed by the department and detailed investigation is in progress and would be completed within one month..." the secretary informed.

BJP WANTS LAW MINISTER'S SCALP



Members of BJP Yuva Mochra stage a demonstration at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday, demanding resignation of Law Minister Pratap Jena over Mahanga double murder

BMC, ASI take stock of Lingaraj Temple renovation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: A joint team comprising officials of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday took stock of the Lingaraj Temple here and discussed the conservation and beautification work at the shrine.

As per sources, the officials discussed the reconstruction of Lions' Gate of the temple which reportedly suffered damage during Cyclone Fani. The officials dis-

The officials discussed the modalities for silver-cladding of the doors as per a decision at an earlier meeting between the BMC and ASI

cussed the modalities for silver-cladding the doors as per a decision at an earlier meeting between the BMC and ASI.

"We inspected the temple to find out how to prioritize the conservation and restoration work inside the temple. We will hold a discussion on the steps to be taken to ensure that the temple remains safe. This will be done in an expe-

ditious manner without causing any inconvenience to the devotees," said a BMC official.

The ASI, which is the custodian of the 180-ft tall shrine, earlier also held a meeting with the four Nijogs (servitor bodies). After the meeting, it was decided that both the doors which are presently brass coated will have silver cladding similar to that of Srimandir Singhadwar.

While the construction of the new doors has begun, funding for the silver cladding will be provided by the state government.

Meanwhile, the servitors also pointed out issues like leakage in temple walls and debilitating condition of some inside structures and sought the attention of the government and the ASI for their immediate repair.

"Many other structures have developed cracks which need immediate attention. Moreover, the temple kitchen also needs a makeover," a servitor said.

Nod for premature release of 23 lifers

Bhubaneswar: The state government has directed the Prisons department to release 23 convicts serving life imprisonment at various jails in the state. The officials of various jails have also been directed by the Prisons directorate to release the selected convicts forthwith. Sources revealed that three prisoners each from Baripada and Bhawanipatna jails, two each from Choudhwar, Rourkela, Kotpad and Berhampur jails will be released prematurely. Similarly, one each from Koraput, Ranapur, Bolangir, Jamujhari Open Air Ashram, Padmapur, Sundargarh, Sohela and Sambalpur will be released too. The convicts who have completed 14 years in jail can apply to the State Sentence Review Committee for premature release.

Heavy rain till Monday

Bhubaneswar: The regional office of India Meteorological Department Friday warned of heavy rainfall in different parts of the state till Monday. The department claimed that heavy rain is likely to lash 13 districts Saturday while thunderstorm and lightning could also occur during the day. "Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places of Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Angul, Deogarh, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri and Rayagada Saturday," it said. It added, "Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places including at Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Khurda."

Anant, Kumkum to get Upendra Bhanja awards

Altogether 32 artistes would be felicitated with the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi awards for 2019 and 2020

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi awards for the year 2019 and 2020 were announced Friday.

Artists who have achieved excellence in the fields of music, dance and drama would be felicitated with the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards at a ceremony at Rabindra Mandap August 30.

Anant Mahapatra (acting & direction) and Kumkum Mohanty (Odissi dance) will receive

Akademi's highest honour-Kabisamrat Upendra Bhanja Award for 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Mahapatra is a highly acclaimed theatre and film personality from Odisha who has written, directed and acted in over 100 plays. He has also worked in film, television and radio. Mahapatra has written, directed and produced short feature films for Doordarshan. He had directed Mamu — the first feature-length film on Doordarshan.

Mahapatra is the man behind Theatre in Motion, and the founder/director of SUJANI and Natya Shodh Sansthan. He founded the Utkal Rangamanch Trust to give a fillip to professional theatre in Odisha after the closure of old theatre companies in the 1970s.

Kumkum was one of the early disciples of Guru Kelucharan



Anant Mahapatra



Kumkum Mohanty

Mahapatra. She joined Indian Postal Service in 1970. While on deputation to Odisha, she established Odissi Research Centre. In collaboration with Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, Sanjukta Panigrahi and music and Sanskrit scholars, she brought out a manual for Odissi: The Odissi Dance Path Finder, which contains basic stances, move-

ments and mudras of Odissi. This apart, altogether 16 artistes would be felicitated with Akademi awards for the year 2019.

They are: Nabakishore Acharya of Puri and Mamata Mohanty of Bhubaneswar (acting), Sudhakar Nanda of Bhadrak (playwright), Harihar Mishra of Bargarh (direction), Prabhakar Chandra Mishra

of Bhawanipatna (theatre art), Radhashyam Sahusarma of Ganjam (folk music), Shankar Pradhan of Bolangir (folk Instrument), Kalucharan Sahu of Bhanjanagar (folk dance), Karna Gouda of Koraput (folk play), Jagannath Kuanr of Bhubaneswar (Instrumental music for Mardala), Kailash Ch. Patra of Cuttack (violin), Ratikanta Mohapatra of Bhubaneswar (Odissi dance), Chandramani Lenka of Puri (Odisha vocal music), Raghunath Sahu of Bhubaneswar (Hindusthani vocal music), Tansen Singh of Bhubaneswar (light classical music) and Binod Ku Pasayat (Gitikabita).

Similarly, another 16 artistes would be felicitated with the Akademi awards for the year 2020. The artistes are: Sushila Nayyar

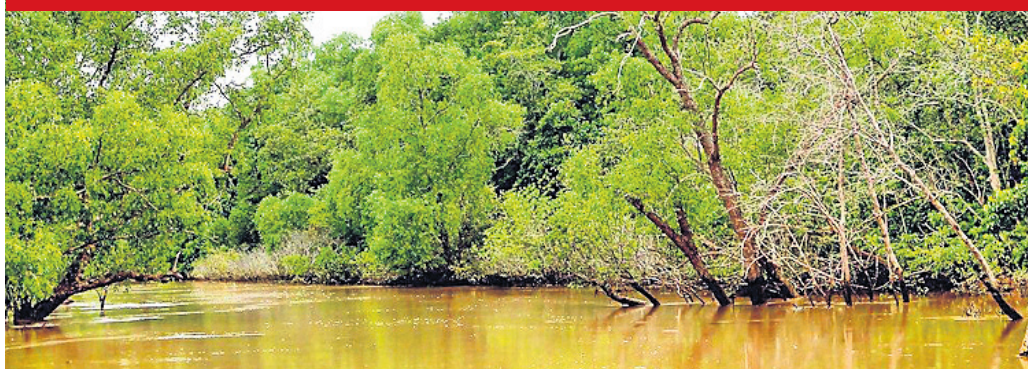
of Bargarh and Bijay Ku Pattnaik of Ganjam (acting), Bhaskar Ch. Mohapatra of Rourkela (playwright), Subodh Pattnaik of Bhubaneswar (direction), Prabbat Maharana of Bhubaneswar (stage art), Navin Kanhar of Bolangir (folk music), Kishore Ch. Pradhan of Puri (folk instrument), Narayan Maharana of Ganjam (folk dance), Nirmala Ch. Rout of Bhadrak (folk play), Sarat Ku. Pani of Bhubaneswar (tabla), Nityananda Mohapatra of Dhenkanal (flute), Gajendra Panda of Ganjam (Odissi dance), Raghunath Mohapatra of Gajapati (Odissi vocal music), Bandita Ray of Cuttack (Hindusthani vocal music), Bibhudhendra Das of Bhubaneswar (light classical music) and Alekh Ch. Padhiari of Bhubaneswar (Gitikabita).

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Bhitarkanika bio-diversity waning

IMPACT OF FALL IN FRESH WATER FLOW



A survey by IIT-Hyderabad which the district administration has been using to move ahead with the drinking water project, has been termed false by an environmentalist. He said the 173-page report is faulty while its last 15 pages are a straight lift from the web

The report is silent on the impact of the drinking water project on the bio-diversity of Bhitarkanika. The district administration is also unable to say when the IIT team visited Bhitarkanika and what expenses had been incurred on their visit. The report carries the photo signatures of the person who are not members of the eco-sensitive monitoring committee

Khitish Kumar Singh, an educationist, said a report of the Union Water Resources Ministry in 2015 said the water retaining capacity of Brahmani and Kharasrota rivers is declining by the day as the rivers are getting silted on the downstream due to formation of large islets. As a result, the flow of fresh water to Bhitarkanika has reduced drastically

toring committee, has said the inflow of fresh water to Bhitarkanika has reduced drastically. He demanded formation of a special technical committee to look into these aspects and suggest measures to save the Bhitarkanika.

This had been stated in a joint workshop on 'Integrated Management of Water and Environment' in Bhitarkanika, December 16, 2020, he said. The workshop had been jointly organised by Rajnagar forest di-

vision, Chilika Development Authority and GIZ India. Attending the workshop, scientists Gurdeep Rastogi, Khushwant Singh and others said 74.64 per cent of fresh water was flowing into Bhitarkanika wetland in 2001. This has come down to 46 per cent. During non-monsoon period, it is only 15 per cent.

A study of the model on availability of water shows the flow into the Brahmani river was 79 per cent in 2001 which will drop to 31 per cent in 2051. As a result, the fall in flow might destroy the bio-diversity of the wetland and harm cultivation in the district. Similarly, the demand for fresh water will increase due to the burgeoning population and urbanization. Moreover, farmlands on Brahmani river basin required 2000 million cubic meter of water in 2001 which will increase to 10,000 million cubic

meter in 2051.

Meanwhile, a survey by IIT Hyderabad which the district administration has been using to move ahead with the drinking water project, has been termed false by Nayak. He said the 173-page report is faulty while its last 15 pages are a straight lift from the web.

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Khitish Kumar Singh, an educationist, said a report of the Union Water Resources Ministry in 2015 said the water retaining capacity of Brahmani and Kharasrota rivers is declining by the day as the rivers are getting buried on the downstream due to formation of large islets. As a result, the flow of fresh water to Bhitarkanika has reduced drastically.

Duryodhan Mohanty, president of Kharasrota Sangram Samiti, claimed construction of barrages at Jokadia and Tantighai to supply water to industrial units in Kalinganagar has resulted in decline in the water flow.

2 workers trapped under marble slabs, die in Boudh



POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, August 27: In a tragic incident, two labourers were killed after they were trapped under marble slabs at a godown at Rajanpali Chowk by Butupali road side in Boudh district Friday. The mishap occurred while they were unloading the slabs from a truck.

The deceased were identified as Biswamitra Dehury of Athamallik's Mahendrapur and Panchanan Naik of Bapujinagar.

According to sources, Dehury and Naik were engaged to unload marble slabs from the truck at a godown at Rajanpali Chowk. As they were bringing down the slabs, the slabs fell on them.

It is alleged that they died because they remained under the slabs for a long time. "Had they been rescued

Biswamitra and Panchanan were unloading marble slabs from a truck at Rajanpali Chowk when the tragic mishap took place

immediately, they would have been saved," locals alleged.

On being informed, police and fire personnel rushed the spot, but they failed to retrieve the bodies from under the slabs.

Thereafter, a crane was roped in to lift the slabs and then only the bodies were recovered. Registering an unnatural death case, the police sent the bodies for post mortem.

A detailed investigation is underway, it was learnt.

Brown sugar worth ₹15 lakh seized, 2 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, August 27: In a major breakthrough, excise officials seized brown sugar worth ₹15 lakh and arrested two persons including a woman in Balasure Friday.

Acting on intelligence inputs about drug trafficking, a 10-member team of excise officials intercepted a van at Chhalani Chhak on NH-60. On checking the van, the officials found 150 gram of brown sugar worth ₹15 lakh.

Officials came to know that the van belongs to a person in Jajpur and the contraband was being supplied from Jaleswar area. The excise officials arrested the driver and a woman. The van was seized.

AWARENESS DRIVE



With the third wave of Covid-19 round the corner, social activists teaching Bonda women on hand sanitisation in Malkangiri, Friday

OP PHOTO

COP ARRESTED FOR SEXUAL ADVANCES TOWARDS WOMAN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, August 27: A policeman has been arrested on a charge of making sexual advances towards a woman at Mahadev Vihar under Talcher police limits in Angul district.

According to reports, the accused identified as Nilamani Mohanty was on patrolling duty August 23. He visited the house of the woman in the wee hours. When Mohanty knocked on the door of the house, the woman saw through the window that it is a policeman and opened the door.

Immediately, Mohanty barged into the house and hugged her inappropriately. She managed to escape from his clutches and asked him the reason behind his visit. The woman somehow man-

The policeman was on patrolling duty August 23 when he barged into woman's house and tried to misbehave with her

aged to record their conversation. The recording revealed that Mohanty demanded sexual favour from the woman.

As Mohanty did not leave even after the woman denied her advances, she dialled the Talcher police station. Later, the cop left the house. The woman lodged a complaint in this regard at Talcher police station. Based on the complaint, Mohanty was booked under various sections of IPC and arrested.

Sanitation funds in Sambalpur misappropriated



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 27: Funds of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) have allegedly been misappropriated on the pretext of maintaining cleanliness in all the wards of the town, a report said.

The civic body allegedly uses the services of the same consultancy agency engaged in maintenance of sanitation and cleanliness over last two years without floating any fresh tender on the pretext of Covid restrictions. The civic body is showing that all 30 wards in the town are

being cleaned on a regular basis, but the reality is something else. This has sparked resentment in various quarters.

Sources said, a private agency was awarded the contract to look after cleanliness and sanitation in all the 30 wards of the town through a tender process. The contract expired in 2019. However, the SMC authorities instead of inviting a fresh tender renewed the contract and went on availing the services of the private agency on the alibi of Covid restrictions.

Residents have questioned the re-

newal of the contract. They questioned whether the Covid restrictions came in the way of hiring a new agency or the SMC is showing undue favour to the same old firm.

They asked when the SMC could float fresh tenders for other projects during the Covid wave, then why they avoided hiring a new agency for maintaining sanitation in the town.

They have alleged that SMC clears a bill of ₹1.5 crore towards sanitation every month which if taken in total will be ₹30 crore per year. However, a reality check speaks otherwise. The wards are not properly cleaned as the agency has allegedly not used adequate number of sanitary workers and waste collection vehicles for the purpose.

However, the SMC posted photographs of cleanliness drive in the wards in official WhatsApp group.

The irregularities are not only committed in the wards under the jurisdiction of the private agency; they

have also been reported from the wards where the civic body itself is in charge of maintenance and sanitation.

It is alleged that the embezzled funds are being deposited in the accounts of specific persons in every ward of the town. These persons are regularly paid even though they do not do the actual work. A major share of the money is then passed onto the officials. When contacted, Subhankar Mohanty, enforcement officer of SMC, said the tender process for hiring a new agency has been delayed due to Covid restrictions. However, every effort is being made to keep the town clean.

Recently a fresh tender has been invited while the wards have been divided into five zones to facilitate transparency and effective implementation of the cleanliness drive. Moreover, teams have been formed to supervise the cleanliness drive and very soon it will be streamlined, he added.

Once a betel trader, now a cultivator

POST NEWS NETWORK

Raigarh, August 27: Scores of farmers in Malkangiri have been growing paddy to eke out their living, but Sadashib Samantray explored betel farming as a better means to augment his earnings. He has focused more on betel farming than on paddy. Indeed, his efforts in betel leaf farming have paid off.

Betel leaf farming has made him self-sufficient as it has become more lucrative, he claimed. Years ago, he was dealing in betel leaves in parts of Raigarh block by getting supplies from Berhampur, Bhubaneswar and Chhattisgarh. "For forty years, I did betel trading. I would bring betel leaves from various parts of Berhampur, Bhubaneswar and Chhattisgarh," he added.

At that time, bus services to Raigarh were not available. Sadashib



had to go to Umerkote. Betel leaves were being sent through buses from the above said areas to Umerkote. It was a daunting task for him to bring betel leaves daily from Umerkote.

Despite all odds, he continued to

do this small business for decades. But he plumbed for betel leaf farming. His two sons came forward to help him in doing the farming. With betel business, he managed to save some money with which he has purchased land. "Earlier, I used to raise paddy

and vegetables on the land. With income from betel leaf trading, I brought up my four children. A daughter has been married off," he added.

After his elder son grew up, Sadashib mustered courage to expand the betel leaf business and farming. Initially, all family members helped him in the venture and taking care of betel vines for three years.

"Now, I am harvesting betel leaves from my own land. If I get support from the government, I can take a step further," he observed. His betel leaves are sold in the local market. But Chhattisgarh has a good market. "I want to explore the market in the neighbouring state for my betel leaves," he said, adding that betel farming financially promises more than the paddy farming. Some other local farmers inspired by Sadashib are keen to take up this farming.

PUBLIC NOTICE
M/s. JMG Lifestyle Private Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance for Residential Project at Village - Bidyadharpur, District - Cuttack, Odisha vide Letter F. No.: 2213/SEIAA Dated 12.08.2021. The copy of clearance along with the conditions to be complied which is available at <https://parivesh.nic.in> and at registered office of the company at JMG House, Bakhrabad, Dist.- Cuttack - 753002, Odisha and also on website of the company.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. MCSW-FIAT/Bogie-21-22-10
NAME OF WORK : SHOT BLASTING AND PAINTING OF FIAT BOGIES INCLUDING BOGIE COMPONENTS DURING SS-II & SS-III OF LHB COACHES, ERECTION OF A COVERED STRUCTURE AND POINT TO POINT TRANSPORTATION OF BOGIES BEFORE & AFTER SHOT BLASTING ALONG WITH CLEANING & PU PAINTING OF FIAT BOGIES DURING SS-I OF LHB COACHES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.
Advised Value : ₹ 1,45,23,871.68,
Period of Completion : 36 Months.
Bidding Start Date : 30.08.2021.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 13.09.2021.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website <http://www.treps.gov.in>
By, Chief Mechanical Engineer (P), PR-312/M/21 CRW/Mancheswar

NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(An Enterprise of DSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
20-22, Zamroodpur Community Centre, Kailash Colony Extn., New Delhi-48
Tel: 011-29240401-07 Fax: 011-29240409-10
Website: www.nrdcindia.com email: sanjeev@nrdci.in

Expression of Interest for Empanelment of Intellectual Property (IP) Firms
NRDC invites expression of interest in a two bid system from the IP Firms dealing in filing and prosecution of all forms of Intellectual Property for a period of five years. Proposals can be submitted within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. For more details please visit our website: www.nrdcindia.com davp 36206/11/0005/2122

M/S FALCON CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
Liquidator's Address: Poddar Court, Gate No. - 2, 18, Rabindra Sarani Sult No.-372,3rd floor, Kolkata-700001.
Contact:-91-9830285088, Email: insolvency.liquidation@gmail.com

Notice is hereby given to the public in general under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 and regulation thereunder, that the properties stated in Table below, will be sold by E-Auction through the service provider M/s 4CLOSURE, HYDERABAD - via website <http://bankauctions.in>

Date and Time of Auction	Thursday, 10.09.2021 between 01:00 PM. to 03:00 PM.
Last Date for Submission of EMD	06.09.2021 before 05:00 PM
Inspection Date & Time	On 03.09.2021 between 12.00 PM. to 05.00 PM.

The person to be contacted for inspection is CA Sonu Jain, Contact No. 9830285088

Lot No.	Particulars	Reserve Price (In Crores)	EMD (Rs.) (In Crores)
1	Natada/ Anguli/ Angul, Banarpali/ Angul	11.84	0.60

The EMD (Refundable) shall be payable by interested bidders through NEFT/ RTGS on or before -06.09.2021 in an account of "FALCON CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED (In Liquidation)" having Account No. 062102000022314 and IFSC Code ICBAD000621 OR by DD/Pay order favouring "FALCON CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED (In Liquidation)". For detailed terms & conditions of E-auction sale, refer TENDER DOCUMENTS available on <http://bankauctions.in/> For any query regarding E- Auction, contact (M.7008535596) or Liquidator on her e-mail at casonu.jain@gmail.com.
CA Sonu Jain
Liquidator for Falcon Consultancy Private Limited (In Liquidation)
Place: Kolkata Date: 28/08/2021
IP Reg. No. IBB/PPA-001/PP005/2017-18/11016

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION No.-II, KEONJHAR
"e" Procurement Notice for Road & Building Works
Identification No. Online NCB-05/2021-22
No.O-618:- 1. Name of the work: 1 No. Building work, 1 No. Road work. 2. Total Number of work: 02 Nos. 3. Estimated cost : Rs.27.30 lakhs to 30.94 lakhs. 4. Class of contractor: As per Annexure. 5. Period of completion: As per Annexure. 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Date & time of opening of tender
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division No.-II, Keonjhar	Road & Building Works Online N.C.B. 05/2021-22	Dt.01.09.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.14.09.2021 at 5.00 P.M.	Dt.15.09.21 at 11.30 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in.
OIPR-25093/11/0006/2122
Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.W. Divn. No.-II, Keonjhar



I am on earth because it is on earth that the divine work must be done, and for no other reason.

THE MOTHER



Another one bites the dust

The new Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie, Katikithala Srinivas has a new and rather important task. In a first, non-IAS officers will receive mid-career training along with IAS officers in October this year, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Mission Karmayogi" plan. Inspired by the changes brought in *babudom* by the government, the new plan will see non-IAS officers rub shoulders with their IAS counterparts at this formerly exclusive Mussoorie venue.

The recent empanelment of 26 officers of the IRS, IRTS and IRPS cadres into joint secretary or equivalent posts is another sign of the gradual equation of the "heaven-born" with other all-India cadres. Some nay sayers, predict the end of exclusivity is near.

The inaugural programme will bring together IAS and non-IAS officers from two batches of the civil service. So far only IAS officers routinely went to Mussoorie for a mid-career session at three stages of their service. IPS officers, similarly, went to the Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad, for their mid-career training.

These changes have been underway for some time now. Two years ago, the Foundation Course at the Mussoorie academy, solely intended for the IAS cadre, was opened up to include other Central Group A services. So, the current decision further strengthens the government's common pool of *babu* talent idea, rather than the silos that exist today.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Faulty smartphones spark a stir

A *mobile wapasi* andolan is underway in Maharashtra, where Anganwadi workers are protesting the "substandard and faulty" cellphones provided to them by the state government. Many have returned the phones to their respective panchayat samiti officers. They are also demanding better smartphones.

From what DKB hears, the Maharashtra Minister of Women and Child Development Yashomati Chandrakant Thakur and the department Secretary IA Kundan are in touch with the Centre for instructions. Babus in several states too are alerting the government about similar complaints. It is still an incipient movement, but the agitation has clearly sent the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) babus into a huddle. Secretary Indevan Pandey has ordered his babus to investigate who ordered the phones and why the Poshan tracker app being used by the Anganwadi workers to enter crucial nutrition data has snags.

Apparently, the protesting Anganwadi workers have written directly to WCD Minister Smriti Irani about the issue though it isn't clear whether the issue has been brought to her attention. However, it is quite likely that officials in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) may pick on this because it has the potential to become a major issue. There are around 1.4 million Anganwadi workers in the country, and all are mandatorily using the app under instructions from the ministry.

Extension dashes hopes of aspirants

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, who was slated to retire at the end of the month, has been granted an extension of service for one year. This seems to be in line with the recent precedent of the government giving extensions to Cabinet Secretaries. Gauba's predecessor PK Sinha held the post well beyond his two-year tenure thanks to several extensions. Shortly after, the government announced that Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla has also been given a year's extension.

Some senior bureaucrats in New Delhi are stung but silent that their hopes of reaching the pinnacle of their career have been dashed by the announcements. Very often bureaucrats aim to finish off their 30-35-year career at the top. After all, these are among the two most powerful positions and there are usually several people waiting in the wings to step up.

However, hopes couldn't have been too high because normally there is a period in which an understudy is placed under the incumbent before being formally appointed to make for a smooth transition. But this time no one of that sort was sighted. Perhaps this is how things are done now.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@diliptheherian](https://twitter.com/diliptheherian) on twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much. **JIM ROHN**

There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self. **ALDOUS HUXLEY**

Decide what you want, decide what you are willing to exchange for it. Establish your priorities and go to work. **H. L. HUNT**

WORDSWORTH

Caitiff

A caitiff is a contemptible or cowardly person. It's archaic, so if you say it with a straight face you might even get away with the insult. It's also a word that — like many in the lexicon — has come down in the world. It started out, sometime before 1300, to mean a captive. It came through French from Latin *captivum*, with the same sense (captive comes from the same Latin word by a later re-borrowing, again through French, so it and caitiff make a doublet). As captives were not in the best of circumstances, caitiff began to mean a wretched or miserable person. Chaucer uses it several times in the *Canterbury Tales*, as in the Knight's Tale: "And now I am so caitiff and so thrall / That he that is my mortal enemy / I serve him as his squier poorly". The sense then shifted further towards contempt, implying a mixture of misery and wickedness, and then to the sense of cowardly.

LOL

Catholics in heaven

One day, 3 men died and went to heaven. "Religion?" God's secretary asked the first man. "Jewish," the man replied. "Okay, go to room 23, but be very quiet when you go past room 8," the secretary said. "Religion?" he asked the second man. "Muslim." "Go to room 10, but be very quiet when you go past room 8."



"Religion?" he asked the third man.

"Agnostic."

"Go to room 71, but be very quiet when you go past room 8."

"Why must I be quiet when I go past room 8?" the man asked.

The secretary replied, "Oh, the Catholics are in room 8, and they think that they are the only ones here."

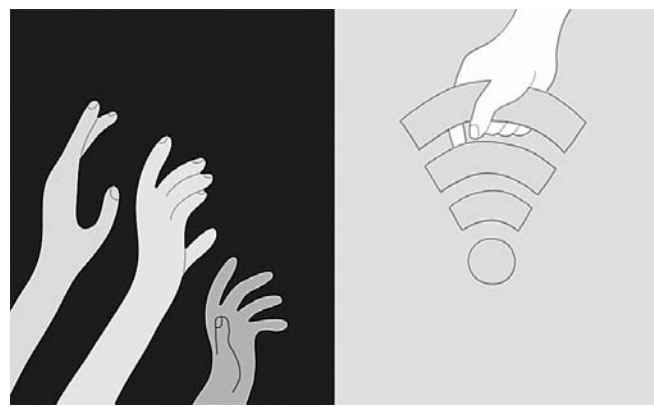
FOCUS DIGITAL DIVIDE

A TALE OF TWO INDIAS

In India, over the past few years, availing basic utilities has become increasingly reliant on access to the Internet. The pandemic has aggravated this dependency drastically. Citizens look to the Internet to meet their every need, ranging from groceries to medicines. Online platforms like Instagram and Twitter have been used to gather information about lifesaving drugs, oxygen cylinders and hospital beds. While offline options are available for most services, albeit being the riskier alternative considering the highly infectious and aberrant nature of the virus, leading the public to opt for the online options. Arguably the most urgent service for Indian citizens between 18 and 45 years of age today is availing the COVID-19 vaccines and it has become incumbent entirely upon smartphones, electricity and Internet access.

As things stand today, the only effective mechanism for the people aged 18 to 45 to book vaccination slots is through prior registration on the online CoWin portal or the AarogyaSetu app. While the Ministry of Health recently noted that it would enable walk-in vaccine registrations at government-run vaccination centres, this has still been made out to be the exception and not the norm. Resultantly, Indians are being forced to play a game of fastest-clicker-first while registering for the limited slots on the online platforms. These woes are compounded by the lack of vaccination slots, which are exhausted in seconds, due to larger issues of vaccine availability. However, the bigger picture being overlooked amidst all the glitches and chaos surrounding online registration is that making the vaccine available to citizens through the Internet deprives equitable access to a majority of India.

Let us look at this more in detail. India has the cheapest Internet service in the world, in spite of which, a majority of the population either does not have access to it or cannot afford it. Unfortunately, people who fall in this category are most often from the economically



India, just like the rest of the world, is still finding its feet in rolling out a vaccine policy that is inclusive, widely accessible and effective. However, for a country that has carried out various successful vaccine campaigns in the past, the mandatory use of technology for COVID vaccination is turning out to be more of an obstacle than an enabler

weaker sections of the society - people who undertake lower-paying jobs in urban areas for sustenance, and people in rural India. The lack of space for proper social distancing, the unaffordability of medical resources, if infected, and the urgency of migration in order to continue meeting basic sustenance needs make this section of the society more vulnerable to the virus. In addition to being at high risk, their situation is more precarious as they are deprived of equitable vaccine access due to unaffordability of a smartphone and Internet.

Alongside the economic inaccessibility, another important factor making online vaccine registration problematic is the lack of Internet infrastructure in India. Large swathes of India remain without telecommunication facilities and an even larger portion is without regular electricity. Expecting people in such areas to book the occasionally available slots, through the non-existent Internet connection in their region, on electronic devices (which they

may not have) seems like a big ask.

The landmark case of Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India in January 2020 witnessed the Supreme Court reading access to the Internet within the ambit of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression. The Apex Court also noted that Internet access cannot be denied to citizens indefinitely and disproportionately. Even so, the government has called for over 180 Internet shutdowns over the last year, which is more than any other country in the world. While there are various socio-economic and human rights implications of this common practice, it also has a heavy impact on the ability of citizens between 18 and 45 years of age to register online for receiving COVID vaccinations, particularly parts of India such as Jammu and Kashmir which have witnessed repeated Internet shutdowns. This coupled with Internet infrastructural issues in various rural and remote parts of the country that toughen various citizens' ability

to 'get online' have led to various inaccessibility concerns.

This digital divide has been highlighted several times by the Supreme Court, most recently by Justice Chandrachud in the case of Manisha Chauhan vs Government of Delhi NCT. Justice Chandrachud, who is also the Chairman of the e-committee of the Supreme Court, flagged other issues with the mandatory online registration such as lack of digital literacy. He asked the vaccination policy-makers to keep their ear to the ground and noted that the improvements in digital literacy fall short of penetrating a vast majority of India. With this in mind, a vaccination policy exclusively relying on an online application for vaccinating a significant population of India would be 'unable to meet its target of universal immunisation' and leave the marginalised sectors to bear the brunt of this accessibility barrier.

India, just like the rest of the world, is still finding its feet in rolling out a vaccine policy that is inclusive, widely accessible and effective. However, for a country that has carried out various successful vaccine campaigns in the past, including the much-lauded polio vaccination scheme, the mandatory use of technology for COVID vaccination is turning out to be more of an obstacle than an enabler. It may be beneficial to put such a tech-reliant policy on hold until there is the requisite infrastructure in place, physically, socially, economically and politically, that allows for such heavy reliance to be placed on the Internet for access to vital and lifesaving services like COVID vaccination. Continued flexibility in India's vaccine policy is warranted and will be beneficial when considering the strategy best suited to make the vaccines accessible to all citizens, regardless of economic background and geographical placement.

Shreya Tewari is a Research Fellow at Berkman Klein Center at Harvard Law School. Ashirbad Nayak is a Legal Researcher and incoming LLM candidate at the University of Cambridge.

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

A world of heat and headwinds

As recently as three months ago, the global economy seemed to be on track for a relatively robust recovery. The supply of COVID-19 vaccines had expanded in the developed countries, raising hopes that it would spill over to developing countries in the second half of 2021 and into 2022. Many economies were posting impressive growth numbers as pandemic-suppressed sectors reopened. While clogged supply chains had produced a host of shortages and high prices for key inputs, these were seen as merely transitory problems.

The world looks very different now. The Delta variant is spreading rapidly, including in developed countries and among cohorts who were hitherto less vulnerable to the virus. The unvaccinated parts of the world — mostly lower-middle and lower-income countries — are now more vulnerable than ever.

Moreover, the vaccine supply chain is failing. The principal reason is that developed countries have option contracts to buy many more vaccine doses than they need. This lengthens the vaccine queue, thereby delaying the arrival of vaccines in much of the developing world.

The rich world's "excess orders" need to be released and made available for purchase by other countries. A programme to fund such purchases

would not be very costly in global terms, and would yield immediate and long-term benefits in controlling the virus and preventing the emergence of dangerous new variants.

Another problem is that global supply chains have been more severely disrupted than previously thought. It is now apparent that the resulting shortages — in labour, semiconductors, construction materials, containers, and shipping capacity — are not going away anytime soon. Surveys indicate that the inflationary effects are widespread across sectors and countries, and are likely to act as a persistent headwind to recovery and growth.

Adding to the uncertainty, there have been pandemic-induced shifts in domestic and global supply chains that are not yet well understood and will most likely be difficult to reverse. Indeed, the disruptions coming out of the pandemic are broader and appear to be exerting a stronger drag on the economy than did the recent trade war between the United States and China.

But the most eye-opening development of the past three months has been the dramatic increase in the frequency, severity, and global scope of extreme weather: storms, droughts, heat waves, higher average temperatures, fires, and floods. Earlier

this month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change delivered a new report that has been bluntly characterized as announcing "code red for humanity." The collective judgment of the scientific community suggests that this year's brutal experience is not an outlier; it is the new climate normal.

We, therefore, can expect more of the same (and probably much worse) for the next 20-30 years. The window for preventing the kinds of events we have seen this summer is closed. The challenge now is to accelerate the pace of reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions to avoid even more serious — and potentially life-threatening — climate-driven outcomes in the coming decades.

Given the economic and climatic headwinds confronting the world, and that they will blow over a longer time horizon, future growth and development are in peril. In addition to being an obvious drag on growth, today's supply-chain disruptions may contribute to inflationary pressures that will demand a monetary-policy response.

Similarly, a constantly morphing virus that becomes a semi-permanent feature of life will retard global growth and specialisation. International travel will continue to struggle to recover. And while digital platforms can serve as partial

substitutes, the impediments to mobility eventually will hit all the global economic and financial ecosystems that support innovation. In the past, extreme weather events were infrequent and local enough that the risks did not really affect the global macroeconomic outlook. But the new pattern already seems different. It is hard to think of a region that is not subject to elevated weather-related risks.

The bottom line is that climate change is quickly becoming a noticeable factor in macroeconomic performance. Though we lack precise measures of economic fragility, it is hard not to conclude that the global economy, and especially some of its more vulnerable parts, is becoming more fragile. Lower-income developing countries already face significant challenges when it comes to demographic trends, adapting growth models to the digital era, and solving localised governance problems. Add fiscal constraints, climate-related volatility and pressure, and the long queue for vaccines, and you have the makings for a perfect storm.

The writer, a Nobel laureate in economics, is Professor of Economics Emeritus and a former dean of the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Michael Spence

THE OUTLOOK FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMY HAS GONE FROM HOPEFUL TO BLEAK IN THE SPACE OF JUST A FEW MONTHS OWING TO THE RISE OF THE DELTA VARIANT AND CLIMATE-DRIVEN DISASTERS

Positive step

Sir, More than three decades ago, a group of scientists assembled by the United Nations first warned that humans were fueling a dangerous greenhouse effect and that if the world did not act collectively and deliberately to slow Earth's warming, there could be profound consequences for people and nature alike. These scientists were right. Few days back, the same body described how humans have altered the environment at an unprecedented pace and detailed how catastrophic impacts lie ahead unless the world rapidly and dramatically cuts greenhouse gas emissions. NASA also reported that the effects of global warming could be devastating and the melting of the glacier will raise the sea level and drown 12 coastal areas, including Paradip. After this information, the Government of Odisha has taken positive steps to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Carbon and carbon dioxide are usually released into the atmosphere via the smoke coming from cars, which is emitted from fossil fuels and increases the amount of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. To avoid this danger, the state government has focused on electric vehicles. The government will encourage the purchase of electric vehicles. People will get discounts when buying electric vehicles. The e-vehicle policy was approved in the Cabinet meeting Friday. Road tax and registration fees can also be waived if e-vehicle is used. The state government will develop the entire infrastructure for this facility. This step is welcome. At the same time, people need to understand that if the amount of carbon is not reduced, the entire living world, including human society, will be destroyed.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Caretakers of democracy

Sir, Political leaders and the common man seldom meet on a personal level. No matter how welcoming the government wants to project itself, its doors are just partially open for the common man. In such a scenario letters to editors of newspapers are the only medium through which the common man voices his opinions and criticism of the government. Many scribble with their digital ink everyday in the hope that it would reach the concerned authorities. There was a popular letter writer from Assam, Ram Raja Singha, who through his numerous letters to the editors of newspapers, was able to draw the attention of the government to change the name of the town "Sibsagar" to "Sivasagar". I wonder if the caretakers of democracy today even listen to these voices.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sambalpur farmers up in arms over urea crunch

THEY ALSO DEMANDED, GOVT DECLARE DIST AS DROUGHT AFFECTED



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 27: Even as a shortage of urea has hit farming in Sambalpur, the spectre of drought has panicked farmers in parts of the district. Alleging irregularities in urea supply and demanding drought declaration in the district, hundreds of farmers Friday staged protests in front of the collectorate here.

As cooperative societies do not have adequate stocks of urea, farmers have to go through a tough time at the peak of farming season. Black-marketing of urea has made things difficult for them, they lamented.

Farmers alleged that a packet of urea is officially priced at ₹267 but

them. The officials and dealers have forged a nexus to create a shortage in the open market," they said.

Farmer leaders demanded that the agriculture department and the administration give them accounts of the urea supplied to the district.

Murari Purohit, president of Zilla Krushak Sangathan, slammed the state government, saying it is not really thinking of farmers' welfare when the state is heading towards a drought situation.

"Rain has vanished. Farmlands are dry while saplings are dying. Seeding, sowing and transplantation works have already been affected. Despite this, what steps the government has taken to alleviate the sufferings of farmers," farmers asked.

"The government should declare the district drought-affected and steps should be taken to remove short supply of urea. Only two packets of urea are provided to a farmer per acre," he added.

Primary agriculture cooperative societies and large area primary agriculture cooperative societies give not more than 20 packets of urea to a farmer.

Ashok Pradhan, convener of Paschima Odisha Krushak Sangathan, among others, warned of agitation and meetings at the panchayat level.

As cooperative societies do not have adequate stocks of urea, farmers in the district have to go through a tough time at the peak of farming season

some traders and dealers sell it for ₹600 to ₹700 in the market while the administration is taking no action.

"We had alerted the administration and the agriculture department about the shortage of urea in August and September when urea is highly required by

WOMEN POWER FOR EDUCATION



Women of Sathi village stage a sit-in protest in front of Bahanaga block in Balasore, demanding an Odisha Adarsha Vidyalay in their village, Friday. OP PHOTO

Bhadrak: Over 1 lakh trees felled in 20 years



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, August 27: Over one lakh trees have been felled in Bhadrak district over last 20 years to facilitate a number of infra-

structure and development works.

According to sources, massive tree cutting was carried out before four-laning work of NH-16 started on a 40-km long stretch from Akhuapada to Ranital in the district. Around 11,240 large trees were cut down for NH-16 expansion work. On the contrary to which, a private source claimed that over 50,000 large trees were cut for the road work.

Similarly, around 7,411 large trees were cut for the Salandi river sanjhar yojana. Nearly, 45 km-long stretch of the riverbed was targeted for the project and the trees alongside Salandi river and its distributary Nalia river were chopped off.

During restoration work of Reba and Kapali rivers was taken up in 2009, about 169 trees were cut down. It is said that thousands of trees were felled for the 152 PMGSY road laying work carried out in seven blocks.

Likewise, 15,640 large trees were felled for Bhadrak-Anandpur state highway expansion project.

When contacted, Bhadrak forest official Sadhana Behera said, "Massive plantation drive was taken up in 2020-21 on an area spanning over 104 km. Block administrations in the district have also planted trees on 26 hectare. However, forestation to restore lost cover has not been conducted so far."

Subarnapur to get better healthcare at new DHH building



POST NEWS NETWORK

Subarnapur, August 27: The much awaited new district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Subarnapur district will be a reality soon as the contractor firm has already started ground levelling and foundation laying work.

Residents are hopeful that once the construction work completes, they would get better healthcare facilities at their doorsteps. The new DHH is coming up near Mother and Child Hospital (MCH) building on the bank of the Mahanadi river at Jhupudipada in the town.

After getting approval, a detailed project report was prepared and the estimated cost of the project was ₹87,85,30,000. Subsequently the works department floated a tender and a Gurgaon-based contractor firm M/S Som Project Private Limited was awarded the tender and it signed an MoU with the works department to construct the DHH at ₹82,14,26,000.

The DHH will be a seven-storey building and it will have 300 beds with

₹50-cr power grid unit in legal short-circuit

HIGH COURT DIRECTS DISTRICT ADMIN TO HOLD HEARING BY OCT 25

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandikhol, August 27: Work on a ₹50-crore power grid project in Barchana block of Jajpur has been in a limbo over years due to opposition from locals and legal issues.

Meanwhile, the High Court has directed the district administration to hold a hearing involving two sides – the complainants and the project supporters – by October 25.

A two-member division bench of the HC gave the ruling August 23 and asked the Collector to issue a

notification for hearing to sort out the issue. The Collector has been asked to submit a report to it by November 1. "If the complainants are not happy over the hearing, the next course of action can be taken to resolve the issue," the court said.

Notably, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has laid the foundation stone for a 220/33 grid station at Palei in March, 2019. The grid project was estimated at ₹50 crore.

29 months after the foundation-laying ceremony, the administration took up steps for its construction. However, local people strongly opposed the project and



staged a dharna. The project has been proposed at Barabari Padia, sprawling over 43 acres at Palei. Paradip-

The locals alleged before handing over the land to the OPTCL, local people were not taken into confidence.

They said the area to be used for the power grid has five crematorium grounds, playgrounds, pasture land. The project will deprive them of their facilities. Locals and people's representatives had taken up the issue with the administration, but the latter allegedly did nothing to resolve the issue.

Dillip Samal, a former samiti member of Bikrantiran panchayat, had then moved the High Court against the administration. The locals argued that the project should be built up in one side of the Barabati Padia so that cremation and sports activities would not be hampered in future.

Land acquisition starts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, August 27: Land acquisition for the 130-kilometre-long Jeypore-Malkangiri railway track has finally started. The acquisition is being carried out in Jeypore, Baipariguda, Khairapat, Mathili and Malkangiri tehsils.

Residents of these localities are excited as they are hopeful of utilising railway services that will provide them accessibility to various parts of Odisha.

Under the supervision of

Khairapat tehsildar Ram Krishna Nayak, supervisor Kameswar Pandit, RI Minati Behera, amins Sushant Maharana, Lachin Kirsani and Ishwar Chalan the process to acquire 22 kilometres of land from Lunakhari to Khemaguda villages for the track has been initiated.

The villages coming under this 22-km stretch are Bahadurguda, Nuaaguda, Kusumpu, Chapalpada, Paruguda and Lunakhari. Tehsildar Nayak, when contacted, said the process is going on smoothly and will be completed soon.

JEYPORE-MALKANGIRI RAILWAY LINE

An entrepreneur who sets an example for others

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, August 27: Instead of running after jobs, he started his own firm to make himself self-reliant. What started with just a cow and a calf has grown to have 64 cattle heads. His firm, Dhabalashree Go Ashram, has provided employment to local people.

While his four brothers work at the farm, three villagers also earn their livelihood from it.

Meet Kali Prasanna Behera, a hardworking dairy entrepreneur whose entrepreneurship was once appreciated by then Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Kali Prasanna Behera, a hardworking dairy entrepreneur whose entrepreneurship was once appreciated by then Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A native of Jagatsinghpur district, he came to Phulbani town in 1992 to stay with his aunt, a teacher

In 1997, he founded Dhabalashree Go Ashram. Now his farm has cows and calves numbering 64. He supplies milk most houses in the town

The monthly income of Kali and four brothers is something around ₹2 lakh per month. Kali's income alone is more than ₹30,000

he helped his uncle and aunt in household chores. They had a cow and a calf. He would also take care of them.

A desire to start milk business grew from his association with cows. Meanwhile, his aunt was transferred. But Kali decided to stay back. Before leaving the place, his uncle and aunt gifted the cattle to him. From here his milk business started taking shape. In 1997, he founded Dhabalashree Go Ashram. Now his farm has cows and calves numbering 64. As of now, milk from his farm is supplied to more than 50 per cent of houses.

"Around 200 litres of milk is produced daily in my farm. And I also procure milk from other small time cattle rearers. I have a shop in the town where milk, paneer, curd, among others, are sold. This apart, I supply milk to houses in the town. They are my permanent customers.

The milk products sold at my shop are prepared by me," said Kali, in a voice reflecting a sense of satisfaction.

Kali's four brothers are working at the firm and maintaining their respective families. He has also married off his three sisters with the earnings from his firm. If the monthly income of the five brothers is put together, it will be something around ₹2 lakh per month. Kali's per month income alone is more than ₹30,000. He has owned two cars. All the five families live under one roof. Moreover, he has also employed three villagers who maintain their families with their salaries. He has installed a bio-gas plant

in his house. It not only takes care of the entire cooking but also illuminates the house. In addition to it, he uses the cow dung generated from his farm in growing vegetables in his backyard. This way, they also have organic vegetables in their daily diets at a time when organically grown vegetables are hard to come by.

It is his 'never-say-die' attitude and honesty that has earned him success. "I was awarded by then Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2013. I had received an award of ₹51,000 from him. If I get any encouragement from the government, I can expand my firm and give employment to more people," added Kali.

'NO' TO LIQUOR ON BEACH



Social activists staging protests in Berhampur against the government's plan to open liquor outlets on Gopalpur beach, Friday. OP PHOTO

Demand for contempt proceedings against Jharkhand AG, Addl AG

An interlocutory application demanding contempt of court proceedings against AG of Jharkhand and Addl AG for "conduct against dignity" was filed with the Jharkhand High Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, August 27: An interlocutory application demanding contempt of court proceedings against Advocate General of Jharkhand and Additional Advocate General for "conduct against dignity" was filed with the Jharkhand High Court during hearing of the death case of Rupa Tirkey, a sub-inspector of police, on behalf of the applicant.

It has been said in the application that the behaviour of Advocate General Rajiv Kumar and Additional Advocate General Sachin Kumar during the last



hearing was contrary to the dignity of the court and, therefore, a case of contempt of court should be initiated against them.

After this, the bench Thursday, while issuing notices to the Advocate General and Additional Advocate General, has fixed the matter for hearing August 31.

During the last hearing of Rupa Tirkey's case, Advocate General Rajeev Ranjan told Justice SK Dwivedi that he should not hear the matter now.

The Advocate General had told the court that after the hearing of

the case was over August 11, the microphone of the petitioner's advocate had remained on. He was telling his client that the decision of the matter was bound to come in his favour and two hundred per cent CBI inquiry is fixed in this case. When the counsel for the applicant is making such a claim, the bench is urged not to hear the matter.

The court asked the Advocate General to present what he was saying in the court through an affidavit. But the Advocate General refused to file the affidavit and said that his oral statement was

sufficient. After this, the bench, recording the statement of the Advocate General, referred the matter to the Chief Justice. During this, the bench said that even if a common man raises questions in court, then it is not in accordance with the dignity of the judiciary.

The bench said that when this question has arisen, the Chief Justice should decide which bench will hear the matter. But Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan has again sent the matter to the bench of Justice SK Dwivedi for hearing.

Rupa Tirkey's father Devanand Oraon has filed a petition in the High Court demanding a CBI inquiry into the matter. The petitioner claimed that Rupa Tirkey has not committed suicide, but has been murdered and the police is giving it the colour of suicide by calling it a case of love affair.

The circumstances in which the body was found after his daughter's death suggest that it was not a suicide. The court was told that there is a person with political clout named Pankaj Mishra in Sahibganj and that person is under suspicion.

Yogi govt to withdraw cases of stubble burning against farmers

The move aims to placate farmers ahead of elections next year to the state Assembly

REUTERS

Lucknow, August 27: India's most populous state will drop legal proceedings against farmers accused of burning crop waste, a major source of pollution, as the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) tries to placate growers ahead of elections next year to the state Assembly.

The action comes at a time when some states have stepped up punishments for crop residue burning to avert an expected spike in air pollution that brings smog every year during the low temperatures of winter.

The predominantly agricultural northern state of Uttar Pradesh, which is home to more people than Brazil, is also considering waiving fines imposed on farmers, an influential voting bloc, for burning crop stubble.

"The idea was not to punish farmers but to spread awareness about crop stubble burning and its effect on the environment," Navneet Sehgal, the top official in the state's Information department, said.

Shiv Kant Dixit, chief of the

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, or Indian Farmers' Federation affiliated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP, said it had urged the state to withdraw legal cases against farmers for crop residue burning.

"About 10,000 farmers have been slapped with cases for stubble burning, and a fine of about 1 billion rupees was imposed," Dixit said, referring to a total figure equivalent to \$13 million.

The Uttar Pradesh government is looking to mollify angry farmers ahead of the state Assembly

election, said Sudhir Panwar, the chief of a farmers' group, Kisan Jagriti Manch.

For more than eight months, tens of thousands of farmers have camped on major highways to the capital, New Delhi to oppose new farm laws, in the longest-running growers' protest against Modi's government. The election in Uttar Pradesh, which sends 80 lawmakers, or more than any other state, to Parliament in New Delhi, is often seen as a barometer of the popularity of the federal government.

Modi's BJP is expected to pull out all the stops to hold on to the state, which has a population of 240 million.



A farmer burns paddy waste stubble in a field near Jewar in Uttar Pradesh

Court rejects UP govt's plea to drop case against BJP MLA

Umesh Malik, an MLA from Budhana, was booked along with others under IPC Sections 147, 148 and 149, following a demonstration outside a meat factory in Muzaffarnagar in 2006



AGENCIES

Lucknow, August 27: A special court in Muzaffarnagar has rejected the Uttar Pradesh government's plea to withdraw two cases against BJP MLA Umesh Malik, citing the Supreme Court's direction that no prosecution against MPs and MLAs could be withdrawn without the consent of the respective state High Court.

Malik, an MLA from Budhana, was booked along with others under IPC Sections 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon) and 149 (unlawful assembly), following a demonstration outside a meat factory in Muzaffarnagar in 2006.

"Special Judge Gopal Upadhyaya Tuesday rejected the government's application to withdraw two cases

of Umesh Malik. The court rejected the government's plea citing Supreme Court's directive that cases against MPs and MLAs could not be withdrawn without the permission of state High Courts," said Narendra Sharma, the district government counsel, adding that the two cases against Malik - filed at Shahpur and Sikhera police stations in 2001 and 2006, respectively - were related.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had stated that cases against MPs and MLAs cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the state High Court.

While hearing a PIL, the Supreme Court asked the High Court's "to examine the withdrawals, whether pending or disposed of since September 16, 2020, in light of the guidelines laid down by this court."

The Supreme Court had then also asked Chief Justices of the High Courts to constitute Special Benches to monitor the progress of criminal cases against sitting and former legislators.

The court passed the order after accepting a request by senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, who was appointed amicus curiae. Hansaria pointed to instances of state withdrawing cases against legislators, under Section 321 of the CrPC, 1973. Hansaria had told the Supreme Court that withdrawal of cases under Section 321 of the CrPC is permissible in the public interest and cannot be done for political consideration.

THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND



Beneficiaries not adhering to social distancing norms, wait to receive COVID-19 vaccine dose, at a vaccination centre in Ghaziabad, Friday

PTI PHOTO

Former IPS officer held for 'abetting' suicide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 27: Within hours of announcing his plans to float a political outfit ahead of the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur was arrested from his residence in Lucknow Friday on serious charges, including abetment of suicide of a rape victim and her friend in Delhi recently.

The 24-year-old woman, who had accused Bahujan Samaj Party MP Atul Rai of rape in May 2019, died August 24 after she and her friend Satyam Rai set themselves afire outside the Supreme Court complex August 16.

Before the suicide, both had shared their pain on social media with the people.

A special investigation team



(SIT) was formed to probe into the matter and it submitted its report Friday. On the basis of the report, Amitabh Thakur was arrested from his residence and taken to the Hazratganj kotwali, a senior official said.

The SIT, in its report, alleged that a total of seven cases were registered by the accused party senior sub-inspector Dayashankar Dwivedi in Hazratganj Kotwali on the instructions of the SIT.

for fabricating false evidence against the rape victim and maligned her image, inciting the woman to commit suicide.

Lucknow Police Commissioner DK Thakur Friday said the former IPS has been arrested in a case registered after the death of the rape victim.

According to police sources, the case has been registered under Sections 120-B (conspiracy), 195-A (intimidation to produce false evidence), 218 (preparation of false record by public servant to save any person from punishment), 306 (abetment to suicide), 504 (breach of public peace) and 506 (intimidation) against MP Atul Rai and Amitabh Thakur on a complaint of senior sub-inspector Dayashankar Dwivedi in Hazratganj Kotwali on the instructions of the SIT.

Only a Dalit will succeed me as BSP chief: Mayawati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 27: BSP president Mayawati Friday said it is too early to announce her successor but when the time comes, another Dalit will lead the party.

Attacking the Congress, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said despite losing mass support, the party was allegedly spreading canards and maligning the BSP's image.

"There is no need to speculate on my successor as I am fit and fine at present. I will make the announcement only when I am not fit to lead the party," the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president said.

"My successor will be another Dalit who has stood by me and the party with all honesty and dedication even during the most trying times. The party has seen many ups and downs," she added.

She said BSP founder Kanshi Ram too had declared her as his successor only when he was not keeping well.

Reacting to a promotional booklet prepared by the Uttar Pradesh Congress in the run-up to the Assembly elections in the state, the BSP chief alleged that the party was using money and food to attract crowds at its rallies.

The 24-page booklet, which is meant for distribution among Congress workers during the party's ongoing training programmes, highlights the alleged misinformation campaign against it and the wrongdoings of opposition parties including the BSP.

"The Congress party is pained as it is now well known that even for bringing people to its rallies and public meetings it has to woo them with money and food. This is the culture of the Congress party for attracting crowds," Mayawati claimed.

This also reflects that the Congress has lost mass support, she alleged.



There is no need to speculate on my successor as I am fit and fine at present. I will make the announcement only when I am not fit to lead the party

MAYAWATI | BJP CHIEF

The Congress needed to mention its own shortcomings in the booklet instead of commenting on Opposition parties and should first set its own house in order, she said.

The BSP chief also claimed that the Congress is finding it difficult to persuade people in Uttar Pradesh to fight elections on its ticket and has to seek financial help from industrialists to fund the campaigning of its candidates.

Whereas, the BSP gives tickets to even those who are not financially strong and donations are collected for such candidates, Mayawati said. Unlike the Congress and others, the BSP is not a party of capitalists but of the poor and the wrongdoings of opposition parties including the BSP.

"It seems that the Congress is desperate to return to power but the party's wrong policies, work culture, double speak are responsible for its present dismal state. For hiding their shortcomings, they are resorting to different tactics but the people of the state are aware of it. They can release as many booklets as they want but it will not be of any help," she said.

Custodial deaths a cause of concern: Allahabad HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), August 27: The Allahabad High Court has said that violence, torture and deaths in custody have always been a concern for the civilized society.

The court made this observation while denying bail to a policeman booked for custodial death of a man in 1997.

Rejecting the bail application of the policeman Sher Ali, Justice Samit Gopal observed, "Custodial violence, custodial torture and custodial deaths have always been a concern for civilized society. Time and again the judicial verdicts of the apex court and other courts have shown their concern and anguish in such matters."

The court also quoted the judicial verdicts of the apex court

in the case of DK Basu Vs State of West Bengal, where the apex court, while expressing its anguish over custodial deaths, had issued guidelines for arrest in order to check such incidents.

The complainant, Sanjay Kumar Gupta alleged that December 28, 1997 some policemen came to his house and took away his father Gorakh Nath aka Om Prakash Gupta.

Later, he was informed that his father had died due to a heart attack. The complainant alleged that his father was mercilessly assaulted due to which he died in the police station itself. An FIR was registered against the applicant under Sections 364 (kidnaping or abducting in order to murder), 304 (culpable homicide) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC.

20 yrs on, underground fire continues to haunt Jharia

An underground fire in India's largest coal reserve, raging since 1916, has caused the Earth to sink and render buildings unsafe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dhanbad, August 27: Nearly one lakh families in the 280-square-kilometre Jharia coalfield region of Jharkhand continue to live dangerously. An underground fire in India's largest coal reserve, raging since 1916, has caused the earth to sink and render buildings unsafe. Even the air is hazardous as cracks in the sunken Earth emit heat, fire and poisonous gases.

Rehabilitation, the lone solution to the miseries of these families, has been faulty; large families which lived in five-room houses have been provided two-room flats. The situation has been exacerbated by large-scale encroachments and a miscalculation in the number of households in the mining zone. All this has led to sons and

their families living in the old, dangerous homes, while the parents live in the new rehabilitation quarters in nearby Belgaria.

Vikram Pandey (30), his wife and three children are among the people whose families have been divided by the rehabilitation. A resident of Liloripathra, one of the underground fire-affected sites at Jharia, Pandey fears a cave-in at his house, like what happened at his neighbour Surendra Pandey's home June 13.

"There is now a 30-foot-deep, 10-foot-wide crater there," he said.

Vikram's 70-year-old father, Alakhdeo Pandey, lives in a two-room quarter at Belgaria with his wife and two bachelor sons, Sanjay Pandey and Chhotelal Pandey. "My father, initially, waited for a separate quarter to be allotted to my



family, but he shifted when nothing happened," said Vikram, who could not move with his father's family as the quarter has only two rooms. The coalfield region comprises 1.04 lakh families, according to the last survey by Coal India Limited subsidiary, CMPDIL.

However, when the rehabilitation had initially been planned in 1999, only 54,159 households were counted. This is because the initial figure was reached on the basis of the number of employees with Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCL) that year, and the new fig-

ure was reached after the Supreme Court ordered a fresh survey, which was carried out between 2006 and 2020. The Supreme Court had intervened on the basis of a petition filed by Asansol legislator Haradhan Roy.

About 78,000 of the 1.04 lakh families come under the 'encroachers' category. This means the homes in which they are living do not belong to them; rather they have constructed their houses illegally on BCL land or other unoccupied government lands. The government has decided to provide rehabilitation to only those 'encroacher' families which could prove they had been living in the coalfield region before 2004. The compensation package and rehabilitation plan for legal titleholders have not yet been decided.

of the day quote

The new (Drone Rules, 2021) policy will promote research and development, manufacturing, service delivery in the country. There are already 200 startups in the country even before the announcement of this policy. We expect generation of thousands of jobs via this policy

As a key stakeholder, we are committed to nurture and promote a culture of innovation in this dynamic industry. In last 2 years, we have had an encouraging experience through the Mobility and Automobile Innovation Lab initiative. Already 25 startups are engaged with us

India's food processing sector is one of the largest in the world and its output is expected to reach USD 535 billion by 2025-26



Before IBC, there used to be feudalism where the corporate debtor took it to be his or her divine right to be in control. There is a very clear recognition that those days are gone; that feudalism actually is something that is not coming back. In a capitalistic system I think, it is possibly the worst

TELECOM INDUSTRY AGR UP 2 pc SEQUENTIALLY
Telecom industry's Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) rose two per cent on a sequential basis to ₹48,587Cr in the quarter ended March 2021, data released Friday by sector regulator TRAI showed

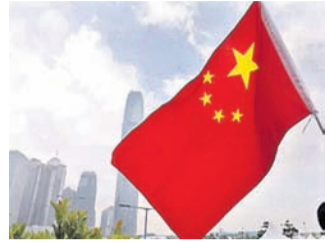


China plans to ban overseas IPOs for tech firms

ALL INTERNET FIRMS WOULD BE ASKED TO VOLUNTARILY APPLY FOR REVIEWS WITH THE POWERFUL CYBERSECURITY ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA IF THEY AIM TO LIST THEIR SHARES OUTSIDE CHINA

Beijing, August 27: China is framing rules to ban internet companies, whose data poses potential security risks from listing outside the country, including in the United States, according to a person familiar with the matter. The ban is also expected to be imposed on companies involved in ideology issues, said the person, declining to be identified as the matter is private.

Under the planned rules, the Chinese securities regulator would tighten scrutiny of overseas IPO-bound firms and ban those that collect vast amount of users data or create content that could pose possible security risks, said the person. All internet firms would be asked to voluntarily apply for reviews with the powerful Cybersecurity Administration of China (CAC) if they aim to list their shares outside China, said the person.



regulator. The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) and CAC didn't immediately respond to Reuters request for comment. The plan is one of several proposals under consideration by Chinese regulators as Beijing has tightened its grip on the country's internet platforms in recent months,

including looking to sharpen scrutiny of overseas listings. The crackdown, which has smashed stocks and badly dented investor sentiment, has particularly targeted unfair competition and internet companies' handling of an enormous cache of consumer data, after years of a more laissez-faire approach. The Wall Street Journal newspaper first reported the new rules that would prohibit internet firms holding a swathe of user-related data from listing abroad.

overseas listings and require a more thorough disclosure of shareholding for those with so-called variable interest entities (VIE) structure. The VIE structure was created two decades ago to circumvent rules restricting foreign investment in sensitive industries such as media and telecommunications, enabling Chinese companies to raise funds overseas via offshore listings. It has been widely adopted by China's new economy companies, mainly internet firms, that are generally incorporated in the Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands and therefore fall outside Beijing's legal jurisdiction.

'Domestic traffic expected to reach pre-Covid levels'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 27: National capitals IGI Airport operator DIAL expects domestic traffic to reach pre-Covid levels by the end of FY23. Accordingly, DIAL, expects the gradual rise on the back of improvement in Covid situation and the high level of vaccinations being achieved. "We may expect the domestic traffic to reach pre-Covid level by the end of FY23," DIAL said in a whitepaper. "However, given the situation, we do not see International traffic reaching pre-Covid levels, until FY24." Besides, it expects the increase in vaccination pick up across the globe and lower number of Covid cases in India to allow for relaxation in international travel, which will increase more flights and add new destinations. "We may see adoption of common travel pass based on vaccination and testing status for International travel in coming months."

US court sets timelines for Cairn-India legal case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: A federal court in Washington has set timelines for responses to be filed to an Indian government petition seeking dismissal of a suit by Britain's Cairn Energy that sought enforcement of a USD 1.2 billion arbitral award.



Judge Richard J Leon of the US District Court for the District of Columbia has given Cairn time till September 10 to file a response to the government's 'Motion to Dismiss' petition

Judge Richard J Leon of the US District Court for the District of Columbia has given Cairn time till September 10 to file a response to the government's 'Motion to Dismiss' petition. Thereafter, the Indian government can file a reply in support of its motion by October 1. This can be countered by Cairn by October 20 and a further two months have been granted to the Indian government to file its reply in support of its motion, according to an August 25 order of the court. The British firm had in May asked the US federal court to force Air India to pay the USD 1.26 billion arbitration award the firm had won in December.

days of the government enacting a legislation to scrap a tax rule that gave the tax department power to go 50 years back and slap capital gains levies wherever ownership had changed hands overseas but business assets were in India. That rule had been used to levy a cumulative of ₹1.10 lakh crore of taxes on 17 entities, including ₹10,247 crore on Cairn. Officials said rules for withdrawal of such tax demands are in the process of being framed. "One of the requirements for

the dropping of the retrospective tax demands is that the parties concerned have to give an undertaking for withdrawal all cases against the government/tax department. "So, while all this is in process, the government is obligated to respond in any legal matter where there is a time bar for doing so," an official explained. Cairn had challenged the ₹10,247 crore tax demand before an international arbitration tribunal, which in December last year overturned the same.

States' fiscal deficit to moderate to 4.1 pc of GDP in FY'22: Ind Ra

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 27: India Ratings and Research Friday said it expects the aggregate fiscal deficit of states in the country to moderate to 4.1 per cent of GDP in the current financial year from its earlier expectation of 4.3 per cent. In line with the slight moderation in its forecast for fiscal deficit in FY22, the agency expects the aggregate debt/GDP ratio to come in lower at 32.4 per cent in FY22 as against the previous estimate of 34 per cent. "We expect the aggregate fiscal deficit of Indian states to moderate to 4.1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP)," the agency said in a report.



AFTER ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION OF 14 STATES FOR Q1 FY22, THE AGENCY FOUND THAT THE AGGREGATE REVENUE RECEIPTS OF THESE STATES GREW 30.8% TO ₹3,95L CR DURING THE PERIOD. THE AGENCY SAID THE AGGREGATE OWN TAX AND NON-TAX REVENUE RECEIPT OF 14 STATES GREW 77% Y-O-Y AND 46% Y-O-Y, RESPECTIVELY

The revenue receipts of state governments are expected to improve, backed by an economic recovery, resulting from a large section of the populace receiving vaccinations, it said. This would lead to states further easing restrictions on business and commercial activity, the agency said. "We now expect the aggregate revenue deficit of states to come in marginally lower at 1.3 per cent of GDP in FY22 than the earlier forecast of 1.5 per cent of GDP," it said. After analysis of information

of 14 states for Q1 FY22, the agency found that the aggregate revenue receipts of these states grew 30.8 per cent to ₹3.95 lakh crore during the period. Although the considerable improvement is due to a low base, revenue receipts grew 1.5 per cent in Q1 FY22 over the pre-COVID 19 period of Q1 FY20, it said. The agency further said the aggregate own tax and non-tax revenue receipt of 14 states grew 77 per cent Y-o-Y and 46 per cent y-o-y, respectively, in Q1 FY22.

SHORT TAKES

Indiagold to raise \$12mn in funding

New Delhi: Indiagold - a gold-focused digital alternative credit platform, Friday said it will raise USD 12 million (about ₹89 crore) in funding. "Indiagold has agreed to raise USD 12 million funding, PayU and Alpha Wave Incubation (AWI) fund will lead the investment round with participation from Better Tomorrow Ventures, 3one4 Capital, RainmatterCapital, and existing investor Leo Capital," a statement said.

Power Min urges CMs to switch to EVs

New Delhi: In a bid to promote EVs, Power Minister RK Singh has urged all union ministers and chief ministers to switch over to EVs for all official purposes. According to power ministry, Singh has shot off letters to his union cabinet colleagues and all CMs in this regard. The Power Minister has written to all the Union Ministers including the MoS (Independent Charge) and CMs of all the States/UTs to join the government's initiative on transformative mobility.

Aurobindo Pharma gets USFDA's nod

New Delhi: Drug firm Aurobindo Pharma Friday said its arm Eugia Pharma Specialities has received approval from the US health regulator for Cyclophosphamide injection, used in the treatment of several types of cancer. The company's subsidiary "Eugia Pharma Specialities Ltd has received a 505(b)(2) NDA approval from the US Food & Drug Administration (USFDA) for its Cyclophosphamide Injection 500 mg/2.5 mL and 1 g/5 mL vial," Aurobindo Pharma said in a regulatory filing.

SpiceJet shares jump over 4 pc

New Delhi: Shares of SpiceJet Friday jumped over 4 per cent after aviation regulator DGCA lifted the ban on Boeing 737 Max planes' commercial flight operations after almost two-and-half years. The stock gained 4.36 per cent to ₹74.15 on the BSE. India's aviation regulator DGCA Thursday lifted the ban on Boeing 737 Max planes' commercial flight operations after almost two-and-half years. On March 13, 2019, all Boeing 737 Max planes were grounded in India by the DGCA after the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines 737 Max plane March 10.

2nd edition of Odisha Skills 2021 concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The second edition of State level Odisha Skills Competition-2021 concluded at World Skill Centre, Bhubaneswar Friday. A total number of 397 candidates were selected throughout the state for the state level competition for 41 skills. Out of them, 133 winners received their certificate and award from the dignitaries Friday. The state level skill competition was held in 15 different institutes of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack due to the Covid situation. There were around 50 juries invited from across the country in different skills to evaluate the com-

petition in a smoother manner. The Odisha Skills winners will participate in national level, followed by Regional Skill Competition. The national champions will represent India in the global World Skills competition in Shanghai next year. "Odisha Skills 2021 is a platform for our youth to hone their talent and display their skills, to be the world's best," said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulating the winners of Odisha Skills 2021. He added, "This is the time to upgrade our aim to Mission 2-3-4 for Shanghai 2022 i.e. 2 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze from our previous Mission 1-2-3 set for World Skill Competition Kazan-2019.

India, Australia to speed up negotiations for trade pact

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 27: India and Australia are aiming to reach an early harvest announcement by December 2021 to further enhance trade ties between the two countries, according to a joint statement released Friday. This was agreed upon in a meeting held between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his Australian counterpart Dan Tehan MP Thursday. The two ministers have directed their officials to speed up the negotiations. They discussed the way forward for an early conclusion of a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).



"In this regard, the ministers directed officials to speed up the negotiations and to meet as often as required to achieve an early harvest announcement by December 2021 on an interim agreement to liberalise and deepen bilateral trade in goods and services, and pave the way for a comprehensive agreement," the statement said. They also decided to start consultations on the potential opportunities and impacts of an interim agreement

as a pathway to a full CECA. "The ministers look forward to a balanced trade agreement that encourages expanded trade and investment flows to the benefit of both of our economies and people, and that reflects their shared commitment to the rules-based international trading system," it added. The bilateral trade between the countries stood at USD 12.3 billion in 2020-21 as compared to USD 12.64 billion in 2019-20. Under an early harvest pact, two trading partners reduce or eliminate customs duties on a limited number of goods traded between them, while in a CECA the reduction and elimination happen on a maximum number of items.

NHAI to be flag-bearer of Centre's asset monetisation plan

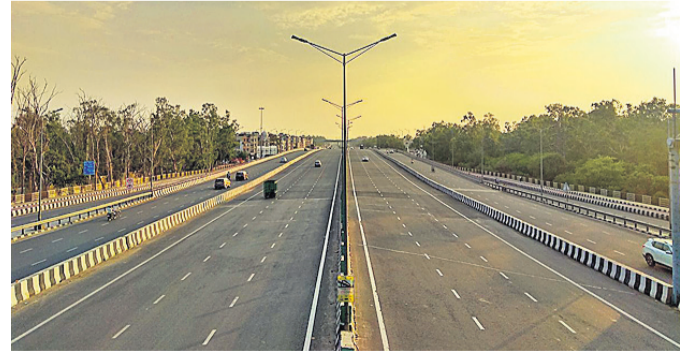
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 27: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will be the flag-bearer of the government's asset monetisation programme with a plan to raise about ₹30-40,000 crore through monetisation of its operational stretches over the next two years. The company officials indicated that the disruptions in wake of pandemic delayed some of its asset monetisation plan, but with traffic fast returning to near normal levels now, about ₹10,000 crore of road assets would be monetised by NHAI in the current year (FY 22) and the exercise would kick up pace next year with doubling or tripling of the numbers in the next few years. With the country in firm grip of

the second wave of Covid pandemic in the months of April and May, and subsequent restrictions on mobility and partial lockdown, tolling at national highways nosedived. In a report released earlier, rating agency ICRA had estimated that sequentially tolling had fallen by about 10 per cent in April and close to 30 per cent in May. Thereafter, there has been marked improvement in traffic on highways reaching 90 per cent of pre-Covid levels and has crossed that level too now. An NHAI official said that the entity is in touch with a clutch of investors and soon bids would be invited for taking the operational NHAI project under the toll-operation-transfer (TOT) model. Under the TOT model, highway projects which have been opera-

The NMP announced by the government has identified the road sector having the maximum potential for such exercise (TOT model) at ₹1,60,000Cr over the next four financial years. This would be achievable given the tested model already available in the sector

ROAD SECTOR EXPERT (UNNAMED)



recovers investment through tolls collected for a stretch over a period of concession spreading over 20-30 years. Once the cost with agreed return is achieved, the road returns back to NHAI. "The national monetisation pipeline announced by the government has identified the road

sector having the maximum potential for such exercise at ₹1,60,000 crore over the next four financial years. This would be achievable given the tested model already available in the sector. Besides, InvIT model would also be used to pool resources and monetise projects," said a road sector expert ask-

ing not to be named. NHAI has planned an InvIT, the second one promoted by a public sector entity after power transmission utility PGCIL, but it has seen multiple deferrals over the Covid disruptions. But a ₹5,100 crore InvIT is now likely next month. The InvIT trust will acquire 100 per cent of the equity shares of the project SPV from the sponsor NHAI. It is expected that NHAI may raise further funds, around ₹5,000 crore, by transferring more assets to the InvIT later in the year. But TOT may remain the most active model for monetisation. So far NHAI has raised around ₹17,000 crore through the TOT model by granting on long-term lease three road bundles out of the five attempted so far.

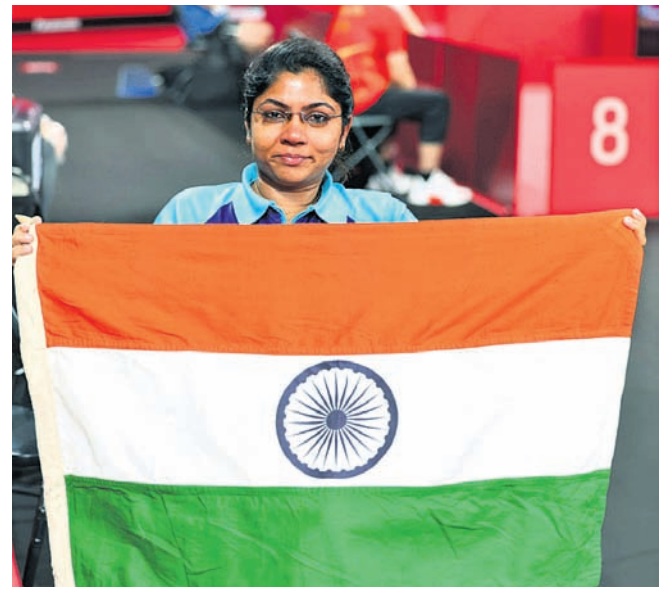
BHAVINABEN 1ST INDIAN PADDLER TO SEAL MEDAL IN PARALYMPICS

Press Trust of India. Tokyo, August 27: Bhavinaben Patel Friday scripted history by becoming the first Indian table tennis player to secure a medal in the Paralympics after she entered the semifinals with a stunning straight-game win over World No.5 Borislava Peric Rankovic of Serbia in the women's singles Class 4 event here. The 34-year-old Indian beat her Serbian opponent 11-5, 11-6, 11-7 in a quarterfinal match that lasted 18 minutes. She takes

on Zhang Miao of China in the semifinals Saturday but she is guaranteed of at least a bronze. There is no bronze-medal play-off in Tokyo Paralympics table tennis, and both losing semifinalists are guaranteed of a bronze medal. "It is sure that we can see a medal from her: Tomorrow morning's match (semifinal) is a huge decider what colour of the medal she will win," Paralympic Committee of India president Deepa Malik said in a video footage on her Twitter handle. In 2017, the International Paralympic

Committee (IPC) Governing Board had approved the International Table Tennis Federation's request to remove the third-place play-off in all the medal events and award bronze to both the losing semi-finalists. Earlier in the day, she had beaten Joyce de Oliveira of Brazil 12-10, 13-11, 11-6 in Round of 16 to become the first Indian table tennis player to reach the quarterfinals in the Paralympics. Athletes in Class 4 category have fair sitting balance and fully functional arms

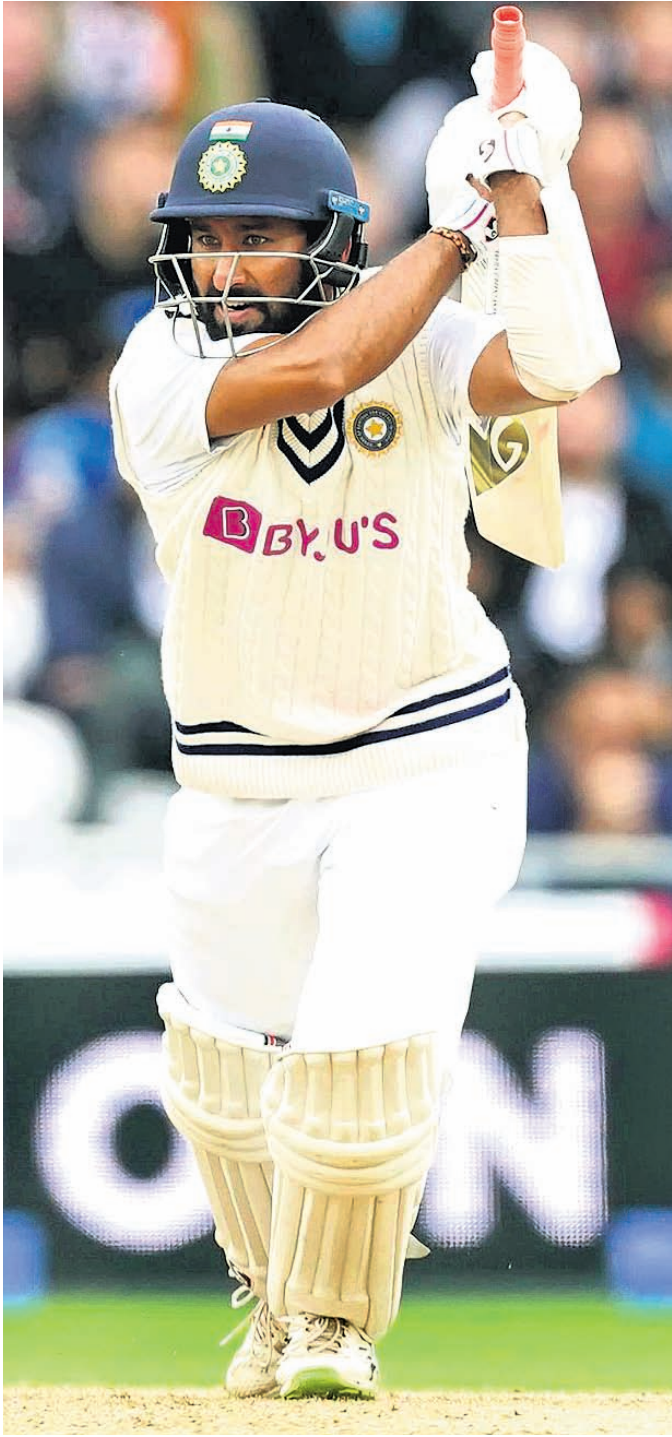
and hands. Their impairment may be due to a lower spinal-cord lesion or cerebral palsy. "I could win my semifinal match due to the support of the people of India. Please keep supporting me so that I can win my semifinal match," Patel said after the quarterfinal match. She had entered the knock-out round after winning one match and losing the other group game. Compatriot Sonaben Manubhai Patel had lost both her group matches Thursday to bow out of the competition.



Gritty India fight back

'Attacking' Pujara sets tone with helps from Rohit and Kohli as visitors reach 215/2, 139 runs behind England's first innings lead, at stumps on the third day of the third Test at Headingley

Press Trust of India. Leeds, August 27: An under-fire Cheteshwar Pujara (91 batting, 180b, 16x4) played one of his most aggressive knocks as the Indian top order showed plenty of resolve to reach 215/2 and keep the third Test against England alive with two more days remaining. Pujara has been pilloried of late for his ultra-defensive approach and castigated for not showing enough 'intent'. With this knock, he overshadowed the two megastars in skipper Virat Kohli (45 batting, 94b, 6x4) and the supremely-talented Rohit Sharma (59, 156b, 7x4, 1x6). It's a rarity but Friday was one of those days when the cricketing gods sided with Pujara. Pujara has already done enough to give his career a new lease of life. With two days left in the game, England remain favourites despite the pitch being good for batting as India still need 139 runs to avoid innings defeat, after the hosts scored 432 in their first innings to gain a mammoth 354-run lead. If Rohit's near-impregnable defence during the first hour in all games has been a revelation in this series, Pujara's array of attacking strokes will certainly leave his critics and fans amazed. In fact, during the pair's 82-run stand after KL Rahul's dismissal at the stroke of lunch, it was Pujara who looked the more aggressive of two with strokes, which helped Rohit play as per his own strategy. It did help that the normally accurate James Anderson fed him with freebies on his pads to give him a head start but very rarely would one find the man from Saurashtra playing a pull shot off Ollie Robinson (1/40) to complete a half-century, which was a big statement for his detractors. A generous applause from his skipper Kohli was an indication what Pujara's return to form



meant for the team in general. The typical Pujara square cut, which had gone extinct, was brought out of the closet and there was also the cover drive that can enhance the confidence of any player. The best part was Pujara's 'intent' of running the singles and doubles to keep the scoreboard moving. It seemed that there was a lot of pent-up anger in him about always being the 'fall guy' whose place is questioned in the side despite the fact that others also go through poor run of form. This innings will not only shut the critics but also raise his confidence level which is so important for this Indian batting line-up. An innings of this quality against a good England seam bowling line-up on a day when the red Dukes swung more would certainly be among one of his top knocks. Rahul Dravid's 148 on a first day track at Headingley in 2002 remains immortal but Pujara has done enough already for his innings to be discussed in times to come. It was a classic example of how one can change his mindset when pushed back to the wall. His partnership of 99 with skipper Kohli is raising visions that India might not give up without a proper fight in the next two days. Ajinkya Rahane and Rishabh Pant's role in the next two days will be equally important if India comes anywhere near to saving this Test match. If India can manage 500 and a tricky 150-odd target in the fourth innings might inject doubts in English minds.

BRIEF SCORES INDIA 78 & 215/2 (Cheteshwar Pujara 91 batting, Rohit Sharma 59, Virat Kohli 45 batting; Craig Overton 1/35, Ollie Robinson 1/40). ENGLAND 432 (Mohammed Shami 4/95). Match to continue.

PSG draw Man City in CL

Table showing Champions League group stage fixtures for various teams including Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain, Bayern Munich, etc.

REUTERS. Istanbul, August 27: Lionel Messi's new club Paris St Germain will play Manchester City, managed by the Argentine's former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola, after being drawn together in Champion's League Group A Thursday. Barcelona were drawn in Group E with Bayern Munich, Benfica and Dynamo Kyiv. Barca had a tragic memory in recent past against the German giants, when they lost to the Bavarians 2-8 in the 2019-20 Champions League knock-outs. Messi joined Qatari-owned PSG, who will also face Bundesliga side RB Leipzig and Belgium's Brugge, from Barcelona this month after the Spanish side were unable to afford a new contract for the forward. The draw pits two of European soccer's wealthiest teams against each other once again as they both seek a first Champions League title, with City beating the French side 4-1 on aggregate in last season's semis. Abu Dhabi-owned City went on to lose the final to Premier League rivals Chelsea, who were drawn in Group H against Juventus, Zenit St Petersburg and Malmo. City have yet to lose to PSG in the Champions League but Messi has also scored more goals against them - six in six games - than any other side in the competition. Spanish champions Atletico Madrid and Liverpool were drawn in a tricky Group B with former winners Porto and AC Milan, while Real Madrid play Inter Milan, Shakhtar Donetsk and Moldovan debutants Sheriff Tiraspol in Group D.

JORGINHO, PUTELLAS TAKE TOP HONOURS. UEFA said Jorginho had won 175 points in the voting by coaches and journalists, to De Bruyne's 167 and Kanté's 160. Argentine Lionel Messi, a six times Ballon d'Or winner, was fourth with 148. Spain midfielder and Barcelona captain Putellas, who beat club teammates Jenni Hermoso and Lieke Martens to the trophy, won the women's Champions League in May. Six-time winners Liverpool and manager Jurgen Klopp will at least have fond memories of Atletico's Metropolitan stadium after winning the 2019 title there against Tottenham Hotspur. AC Milan coach Stefano Pioli, whose club beat Liverpool in the 2007 final after losing memorably in 2005, said it was certainly a 'stimulating' group. Inter, Shakhtar and Real were also in the same group last time around with the Italian side finishing last. Manchester United will have another meeting with Spain's Villarreal, a repeat of this year's Europa League final, in Group F along with Atalanta and Swiss side Young Boys. Sporting Lisbon drew Borussia Dortmund, Ajax and Besiktas in Group C with Lille, Sevilla, Salzburg and VfL Wolfsburg together in Group G. The first group games will be September 14 and 15 with the final played in St Petersburg May 28 next year.



No need to feel low: Shami



Press Trust of India. Leeds, August 26: India pacer Mohammed Shami Thursday said that the team's performance so far in the third Test has not affected the players' morale as there is a lot of time left in the five-match series. "No, my friend, mentally (it does not affect), we have finished matches in three days, many matches we have finished in two days. Sometimes when we have a bad day or we get out early in a Test match in the first innings and we have to field for long. "It happens sometimes, but there is no need to feel low, because still there are two Tests left," Shami

'Indians didn't get help from wicket' LEEDS: Indian bowlers worked really hard and asked a lot of questions but didn't get much help from the wicket, which has changed massively since the opening day of the third Test, said England batsman Dawid Malan Thursday. "The wicket changed massively from the first day the first hour when they were batting," the 33-year-old Malan said in a virtual press conference after the end of second day's play. "I would not say they were flat with their bowling. They absolutely ran in and tried their socks off. They asked a lot of questions probably didn't get that much help from the wicket," the left-hander said. said at the virtual post-day press conference after the second day's play, when asked how such a day affects the team mentally in the middle of the series. "And we are 1-0 up, so there is no need to think (negative), just one thing, believe in your skill, and back yourself," added Shami. According to the Bengal speedster, who returned with figures of 3/87, it is the responsibility of the bowlers to take wickets. "It is your responsibility when there is a long partnership from the opposition. It is your job, to take wickets, you have to plan in your mind on how to get the (batsman) out," Shami said.

Most unpredictable transfer window!

With the deadline day of the summer transfer window approaching, Orissa POST takes a look at some major switches that could change the scenario of the European football...

MBAPPE TO REAL MADRID Real Madrid and PSG are nearing a deal for Kylian Mbappe, who could be the new galactico for La Liga after the Spanish club made an offer worth 180 million euro for the player's transfer, multiple sources told 'ESPN'. The La Liga side's proposal worth 170mn euro plus 10mn euro in add-ons was submitted Thursday, with optimism so strong at Madrid that some sources said that an agreement will be reached within a matter of hours. PSG executives have not rejected this second offer, which was raised from an original 160mn euro bid from Tuesday, with wishes that Mbappe would remain and form a potent attack alongside Neymar and newly arrived Lionel Messi. PSG hoped that World Cup winner Mbappe, who is out of contract in June 2022, would extend his deal at club. However, that now appears to not be the case and PSG will look to cash in on the player's transfer instead of risk losing him as a free agent.

PSG TARGET HAALAND Paris Saint-Germain are lining up an extraordinary last-gasp move for Erling Haaland to replace Real Madrid-bound Kylian Mbappe. Mbappe is on the cusp of clinching his dream move to the Spanish giants, prompting PSG boss Mauricio Pochettino to turn to Haaland at Borussia Dortmund. According to 'The Telegraph', the French giants are preparing to bid 150million pound for the Norway forward. Dortmund have been steadfast in insisting Haaland is going nowhere this year. Yet Haaland has a 64mn pound release clause in his deal that kicks in next summer, which means Dortmund could not claim anything like the 150mn pound transfer fee that is being mooted for him here. Yet the prospect of lining up alongside Lionel Messi and Neymar could prove too good to turn down for the 21-year-old. Haaland is represented by super agent Mino Raiola, who PSG have contacted over the prospect of a late move in the window that closes August 31.

RONALDO'S RETURN TO MANCHESTER UNITED CONFIRMED Cristiano Ronaldo has made a sensational return to Manchester United, the club confirmed Thursday evening. Ronaldo was pictured touching down in Lisbon where he will soon be undertaking a medical to seal a sensational return to his former club Manchester United. With a surge of fans and photographers eager to get a glimpse of Ronaldo at the airport, the Portuguese superstar had given a cryptic clue while getting into a car and told broadcasters TV124 when asked of his next club: "You'll know in one hour". Not long after, United informed supporters via social media and their official website that a deal had been agreed and Ronaldo would be returning to the club ahead of transfer deadline day. Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes was in talks with United's bitter rivals City after the Portugal star decided to leave Juventus, but it emerged Friday afternoon that Pep Guardiola's side were set to pull out of the race to sign him. Reports suggest United will pay Juve the fee they wanted from City, which equates to 19.4mn pound, with a two-year contract on the table for Ronaldo of around 480,000 pound per week.

3 Indians enter finals of Asian junior boxing

Press Trust of India. New Delhi, August 27: Three Indian boxers stormed into the finals of the Asian Junior Championships in Dubai with dominating victories in their last-four stage bouts. Tanu (52kg), Nikita Chand (60kg) and Vishu Rathee (48kg) were the ones to make the final, Thursday. Tanu defeated Nepal's Swostika 5-0, while Nikita got the better of Uzbekistan's Mukhosa Tokhhirova by a similar margin. Rathee, on the other hand, took less than two minutes to wind up the proceedings, outclassing Mongolia's Otgonbat Yesunkhuslen in her semifinal bout. However, Ashis (54kg) and Anshul (57kg) ended with bronze medals. Ashis lost to Uzbekistan's Norkosmov Mironshokh 1-4. Anshul was beaten 0-5 by another Uzbek in Dalerjon Bozorov. The tournament, which is being held simultaneously for junior and youth boxers (both men and women) offers the gold medalists in the youth category a prize money of USD 6,000 while silver and bronze medalists will claim USD 3,000 and USD 1,500 respectively. The junior champions will be awarded with USD 4,000 for gold and USD 2,000 and 1,000 for silver and bronze medalists respectively.