



ACTOR TURNS AUTHOR

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia has launched her book 'Back To The Roots' which she has co-authored with Luke Coutinho

LEISURE P2



YOUTH KILLED OVER ROAD RAGE

Miscreants stab a youth to death following a dispute over rash driving at Raghunath Nagar in Dumduma area

DOWNTOWN P3



RENEWED N-ACTIVITIES

N Korea appears to have restarted a nuke reactor that is believed to have produced plutonium for nuclear weapons

INTERNATIONAL P10

HIS SERIES

- 66.95
- 68.08
- 65.27
- 66.71
- 68.55

FOUL



India harvested five medals including two golds in a single day in Paralympic Games Monday. Avani Lekhara created history as she became first Indian woman to win a gold at Paralympics while Sunil Antil smashed his own world record with a throw of 68.55 metres, ensuring India's second gold for the day

GOLD RUSH FOR INDIA IN TOKYO

emerged champions in the ICC World Cup. Now those will certainly pale in comparison to August 30.

Since the beginning of the Olympic and the Paralympic Games, there has not been one single occasion when Indian sportspersons have won two gold medals on a single day. In Olympics other than the hockey golds, only Abhinav Bindra (2008) and Neeraj Chopra (2021) have given us the chance to hear the national anthem. It has been a long wait, but finally Avani Lekhara and then Sunil Antil gave the country the opportunity to hear the national anthem twice in a single day... simply a day for posterity.

Avani created history Monday morning as she became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Paralympics. She shot her way to the top of the podium in the

R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event here.

Then it was Antil's turn to hog the limelight as the debutant smashed his own world record multiple times for the F64 class gold. His throw of 68.55 metres ensured India's second gold for the day.

Add to that Devendra Jhajharia's and Sundar Singh Gurjar's F46 category silver and bronze medals in javelin and Yogesh Kathuniya's F56 silver in the discus event and it truly makes it a 'Wow' day for Indian sports.

Avani, the 19-year-old from Jaipur, who sustained spinal cord injuries in a car accident in 2012, finished with a world record-equalling total of 249.6, which is also a new Paralympic record.

"I can't describe this feeling; I'm feeling like I'm on top of the world. It's unexplainable," an elated Lekhara said after the presentation ceremony. "I'm so happy I could be the one to contribute it. Hopefully there are a lot more medals to come," Lekhara added.

Antil on the other hand stated that he could have done better in spite of the world record. "During train-

ing, I always throw 71m, 72m. I don't know why I couldn't do it here. May be I was a tad nervous," he said.

Hailing from Sonapat in Haryana, Antil, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorcycle accident in 2015, bettered the previous world record of 62.88m, also set by him, five times on the day.

The F64 category is for athletes with a leg amputation, who compete with prosthetics in a standing position while the F46 classification is for athletes with arm deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in arms.

The Leaders' Choice

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Session set to be short, stormy

■ Oppn has lined up issues such as drought, Mahanga double murder, OSSC corruption and farmers' issue to corner the state govt

Mohapatra. Besides, the BJP will raise the law and order problem in the state, he said. Similarly, Congress leader Santhosh Singh Saluja said his party members will raise the Mahanga double murder case, drought situation and corruption in OSSC during the session.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: With only one day left for the beginning of the monsoon session of the State Assembly, Opposition BJP and Congress have planned to take up various issues to corner the state government while the ruling party has put together a counter-strategy.

The opposition parties have planned to raise issues including drought like situation in the state, Mahanga double murder, law & order problem, irregularities in Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) and farmers' issue during the nine-day session. The BJP has planned to raise OBC reservation issue, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and delay in release of paddy procurement dues to state.

"The JMFC court has directed to probe involvement of law minister Pratap Jena on Mahanga double murder case. It is a very big issue. We will raise this during the session," said BJP MLA Lalitendu Bidyadhar

BJD's Amar Prasad Satpathy said, "Our earlier experience says the opposition is giving too much emphasis on how to stall the house proceedings. I hope this time they will discuss the public issues on the floor of the house and the government will reply them." All three major political parties—BJD, BJP and Congress have called their legislature party meetings Tuesday to prepare a detailed blueprint for the session.

The monsoon session will commence from September 1 and conclude September 9 amid Covid restrictions. The session will have eight working days. September 3 has been reserved for private members' business while other days are kept for official business. The house will sit every day from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm in the pre-lunch session and from 4 pm to 6 pm in the post-lunch session. MLAs can attend the proceedings through video conferencing from OCAC building, Lok Seva Bhawan and other feasible places.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It's about rising prices. Since the minister would blame him only, I've come here directly!

State's TPR falls below 1%; kids' infection on rise

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The state's COVID-19 tally rose to 10,07,112 Monday as 609 more people, including 97 children, tested positive for the infection, while 67 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 7,901, a health official said. The detection of 609 fresh infections was the lowest daily spike since the beginning of the second wave of the pandemic in April this year.

Of the 64,991 samples tested Sunday, only 609 reports returned positive keeping the test positivity rate at 0.93 per cent. "The TPR has come down below 1 per cent for the first time in five months," he said. However, despite a sharp decline in fresh cases, the infection rate among children is on the rise. It was 15.92 per cent Monday, 14.01 per cent on Sunday, 13.47 per cent on Saturday, and 12.99 per cent on Friday.

As many as 354 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 255 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing. Khurda district recorded the highest number of new cases at 209, followed by Cuttack (71). Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Nuapada did not register any fresh case, while the remaining districts reported less than 100 infections each. Cuttack district recorded the highest number of fresh fatalities at 20, followed by Angul and Jagtsinghpur (nine each) and Khurda (six). Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, he said.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	56889.76	↑ 765.04
NIFTY	16931.00	↑ 225.80
DOLLAR	73.69	↓ ₹0.41
EURO	86.40	↓ ₹0.20
GOLD	₹47,200	↓ ₹338
SILVER	₹63,200	↓ ₹385

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.2°C	32.5°C
MIN	24.9°C	24.6°C
Humidity	84%	83%
Rainfall	2mm	0.7mm

Forecast: Light rains likely

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ARRIVES IN BHUBANESHWAR

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Honda BigWing —EXCITES THE WORLD—

leisure

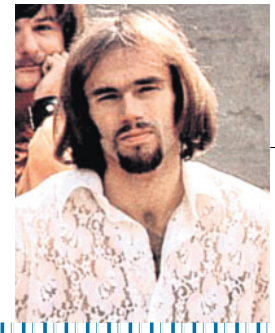


EVANS, JOHANSSON TO TEAM UP FOR GHOSTED

Avengers co-stars Chris Evans and Scarlett Johansson, who are popularly known for playing *Captain America* and *Black Widow*, respectively, are teaming up for an adventure movie titled *Ghosted*. Dexter Fletcher, who helmed *Rocketman*, is set to direct the project.

IRON BUTTERFLY DRUMMER RON BUSHY PASSES AWAY

Ron Bushy, the steadfast drummer for hard rock band *Iron Butterfly*, died Sunday at the age of 79. The drummer behind the 1968 rock classic *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida*, was the only member to appear on all six studio albums from the band.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You are uptight about what is yours and today, you are even less keen on sharing. This possessiveness may have to do with a certain 'someone'. Ganesh says matters regarding love are going forward intensely and your marital life will blossom.

TAURUS

Almost as if crafted by Cervantes himself, you might wake up today feeling passionate and quixotic. Make up and make overs may be on the cards as you will have the urge to be groomed. Once you are done without yourself, you will shower others with attention, says Ganesh.

GEMINI

Even though it is for your own benefit, you will spend the day safeguarding the sentiments of others. Not too uncharacteristic, but unusual nonetheless. For most part of the day, you will be away from your family, mostly on a trip for business or leisure purposes. Today, family takes a backseat and having a successful career will be the only thing on your mind.

CANCER

The workaholic Bull will have more on their plate than they can chew. They will be under so much work pressure that their otherwise robust shoulders may wilt under pressure. Ganesh advises you to take it easy, and learn to say no. Also, this is just a temporary phase and as long as you stay cool, nothing can defeat you.

LEO

Ever been surprised at your own abilities? Today you shall be, says Ganesh. With the perfect blend of amicable gestures and lack of inimical actions, you are poised to become the cynosure of all occasions. The day will bring to the fore your flexible nature, moderate views, and your mature mannerisms in a cocktail that is as heady as the best blend. With a mind set on communal harmony, you are assured to have success coming your way today, foresees Ganesh.

VIRGO

Children will ring in applause and praises - in the classroom and off it too! Processing logic and reasoning will improve too. Ganesh asks you to keep calm and enjoy the joy ride, irrespective of anything that happens during the day.

LIBRA

Some days are full of new ideas. Today is one such day as you radiate diligence and intelligence. Consider it an auspicious moment to begin new business schemes, especially if you happen to be self-employed. Today, you will be able to think at a level higher and clearer than the rest. But, as happens when you focus more on work, it comes at the cost of family time. Maintain a balance, advises Ganesh.

SCORPIO

Dig in deep and keep yourself in the hunt, says Ganesh. Karma matters, but don't give much thought to the outcome. In matters of joint ventures, adopt a wait-and-watch approach today.

SAGITTARIUS

Problems will push you in a corner today. But try resolving them as soon as possible. Expect delays in making final decisions. But as the day ends, expect fruitful results to come by, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

Good news for students! If you have been trying your luck for studies abroad, today is an opportune day, says Ganesh. Also, get your priorities straight and see that you achieve them one by one, for only a well-planned move can take you a step closer to your ambition. Those engaged in stock exchange and dealing with shares can expect a fruitful day ahead.

AQUARIUS

Ganesh advises you to make a simple change in your routine and things will work out superbly. You also get recognition and rewards for past achievements. But that does not mean you become complacent, says Ganesh. Get going, as hard work is still the surest way to salvation!

PISCES

Ferdinand the Bull would be the cartoon character that would most aptly describe you today. Calmness will be second nature to you, and wisdom will ooze from your pores. Communal harmony is something dear to your heart, and your amenability will see you achieve it, says Ganesh.

Tamannaah launches book on Indian wellness

MUMBAI: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia launched her book *Back To The Roots* which she has co-authored with celebrity lifestyle coach Luke Coutinho. The actress hopes that the readers enjoy the book which is based on intensive research and unearths India's ancient secrets of health and wellness. Speaking about the launch of *Back To The Roots*, new author Tamannaah says: "India is a library full of age-old knowledge on healthy living. It's about time that we revisited our traditional ways of wellness and put this knowledge to use. All the chapters in *Back To The Roots* are complete with tried-

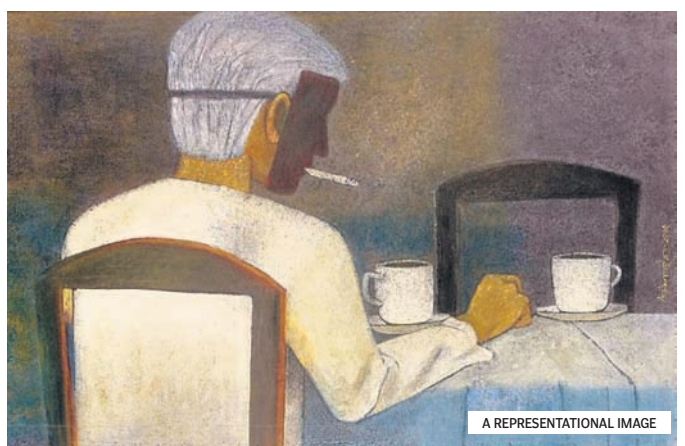


and-tested secrets that have served generations of this country." The *Baahubali* actress adds: "I have enjoyed the journey of delving deep into ancient Indian wisdom with Luke Coutinho. As we launch this book today, it's leaving me with a sense of fulfillment as we serve our purpose of documenting and passing the baton of this ancestral knowledge. I hope our readers enjoy the book as much as we enjoyed the process of putting it together for them." Tamannaah is gearing up for the release of *Maestro*, which is the Telugu remake of Hindi film *Andhadhun*. IANS

Landmark masterpieces by art stalwarts to debut at auction

The online auction will be held September 8-9, 2021 and it includes works by modern masters like MF Husain, SH Raza, Krishen Khanna, FN Souza, Anjolie Ela Menon, KK Hebbar and Jamini Roy

This September, a selection of iconic masterpieces by some of India's most distinguished artists will go under the hammer at AstaGuru's upcoming Modern Indian Art Online Auction. The online auction will be held September 8-9, 2021 and includes works by modern masters such as MF Husain, SH Raza, Krishen Khanna, Bhupen Khakhar, FN Souza, Anjolie Ela Menon, KK Hebbar, Ganesh Pyne, and Jamini Roy.



This well-curated collection includes several important works from prolific periods in the artists' careers, many of which come from significant collections within India and abroad. Speaking about the collection, Sneha Gautam, Vice President - Client Relations, AstaGuru, said, "The demand for modern Indian art has increased exponentially in the last year, with the Indian art auction market having its strongest year ever. The Indian auction mar-

ket witnessed the highest turnover till date with the demand for the Moderns increasing by over 65 per cent from the previous financial year." Making its auction debut and leading the sale, is MF Husain's oil on canvas work from the year 1972, a highly significant work,

originally from the Pitti family collection. Throughout his career, Husain formed strong relationships with several art connoisseurs and enjoyed the patronage of several collectors in India and abroad. In the presented offering, Husain creates an iconic, anti-war painting as a response to the Bangladesh

Liberation War of 1971, which resulted in the India-Pakistan conflict. The auction also features a rare Untitled, 1994, painted stoneware ceramic by acclaimed artist Bhupen Khakhar, who is considered an iconoclast for expressing his views on important subject matter from social sectarianism to his own homosexuality. Jamini Roy, Untitled, circa 1950, is a unique and rare work which will appear at auction for the first time. The auction will also feature an Untitled, circa 1930 portrait from the limited oeuvre of Hemendranath Mazumdar, who became one of the few Indian artists of the early 20th century to gain monetary as well as critical appreciation for this work. AGENCIES

Launch of Odia movie Jayveer amid fanfare



BHUBANESWAR: Mahurat of upcoming Odia film *Jayveer* was held with much fanfare here at the Jagannath temple of Tankapani Road area, Sunday. The entire cast and crew was present on the occasion. The Bibek Kumar directorial is written by

Rajaniranjan who also has penned the dialogues. The romantic flick has RK and Divya in the lead with veteran actors Bobby Mishra, Puspapa Panda and Asit Pati playing crucial roles. Japani Bhai scores the music of the movie, to be produced under the banner of Roopsona Creation. Actress Divya says, "The film is based on friendship. While the heroine thinks it is not friendship but love, the hero takes his time to realise it. The story has quite a few twists and turns to surprise the viewers." *Jayveer* is the second film for RK after *Prema Deewana*. He has already appeared in more than 30 music videos. PNN

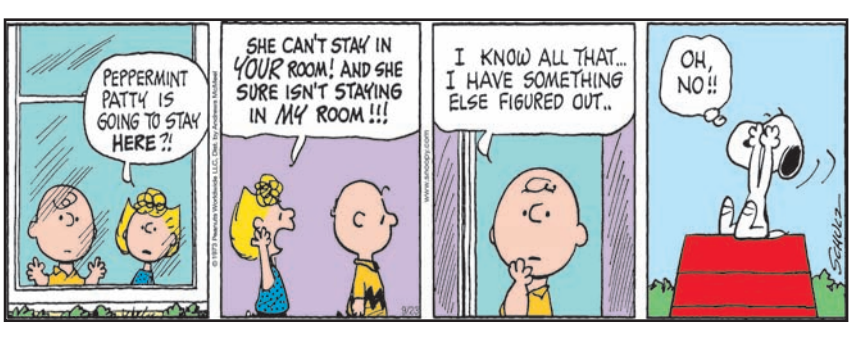


PC CALLS HERSELF A 'snack'

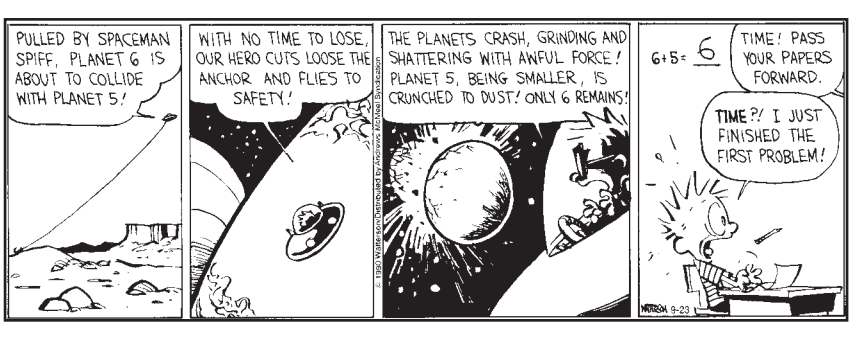
MUMBAI: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas has shared a cheeky picture with her American popstar husband Nick Jonas and called herself a 'snack'. Priyanka shared the picture on Instagram. In the image, the actress is seen wearing a black and red bikini. Nick is seen shirtless and wearing black swimming trunks. The Sucker hitmaker is seen using a fork and a knife on Priyanka's derriere as she smiles at the camera. "Snack," she wrote as the caption along with a fork and knife emoji. Priyanka has returned back to the US. She was in London shooting for her upcoming series, *Citadel*. Helmed by Avengers makers Joe and Anthony Russo, *Citadel* is a spy thriller series co-starring Richard Madden, and is billed as a global event for OTT. IANS

FUN post

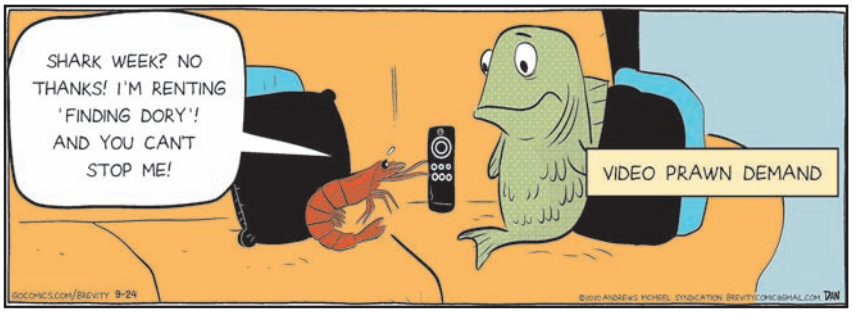
PEANUTS



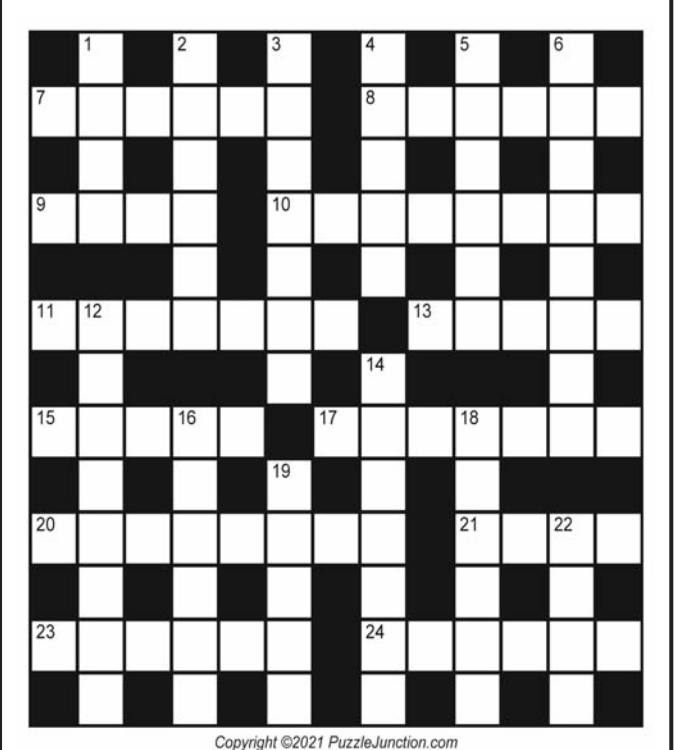
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



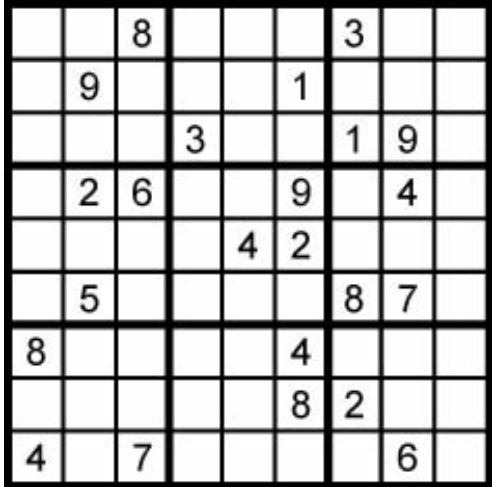
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Show up
 - 8 Film genre
 - 9 Pond duck
 - 10 Laboratory item (4,4)
 - 11 Remembrance inscription
 - 13 Salad oil holder
 - 15 Floor covering
 - 17 Ferency
 - 20 Processed, like food
 - 21 Soybean paste
 - 23 Run of luck (4,2)
 - 24 Contribute (4,2)
 - 4 Where the heart is
 - 5 Loud speaker
 - 6 Mexican chapeau
 - 12 High status
 - 14 Racehorse place
 - 16 Winner's cry
 - 18 Pinnacle
 - 19 Slow down
 - 22 Go yachting
- Down**
- 1 Genuine
 - 2 Cereal grass
 - 3 Bureaucratic stuff (3,4)

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



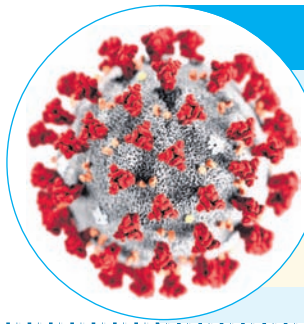
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



SWANKY LOOK

The rejuvenated Chandan pond and its surroundings at Samanta Sahi in Cuttack await inauguration on the occasion of Local Self-Government Day Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	21,74,15,551	19,43,29,776	45,18,600
India	3,27,37,939	3,19,23,405	4,38,210
Odisha	10,07,112	9,92,473	7,901

Youth killed over road rage in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: In a heart-rending incident, some miscreants stabbed a youth to death following a dispute over rash driving at Raghunath Nagar in Dumduma area on City outskirts here late Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Sanatan Routray, 21, a mobile shop owner at Dumduma market.

The Commissionerate Police swung into action and arrested six persons including two women in the case Monday. However, the main accused, Raja, has been on the run.

The accused were identified as Raja Pradhan alias Rabi, 19, his father Baya Pradhan alias Bideshi, 40, and mother Bala Pradhan, 38, Mithun Sahu, 25, and his mother Subhadra Sahu, 50 and Simanchal Pradhan alias Jati, 29. All the accused who hail from Ganjam have been staying at Raghunath Nagar



File photo of Sanatan Routray

in Dumduma under Khandagiri police limits for the past few years.

According to locals, Baya and other family members are involved in bootlegging and other criminal activities. Khandagiri police had also arrested them several times in the past.

Sources claimed that Sanatan was going to attend a feast near Shani Temple Sunday night when the prime accused, Raja, along

with one of his friends drove past him at a very high speed.

Subsequently, Sanatan accosted Raja for the rash driving. They indulged in a heated exchange which soon turned violent as both engaged in a fight.

Later, the other accused rushed to the spot and started thrashing Sanatan. Suddenly, Raja took out a knife and stabbed Sanatan in his chest, face and throat.

The accused fled the scene when they saw Sanatan's family members coming to his help. However, the villagers chased the accused persons and nabbed them except Raja.

Sanatan was rushed to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar where the doctors declared him 'brought dead'. Police arrested the six accused by registering a case (453/21) in this regard. Further investigation is in progress, said the police.

TURN OF EVENTS

SANATAN WAS ON HIS WAY TO ATTEND A FEAST NEAR SHANI TEMPLE SUNDAY NIGHT WHEN THE PRIME ACCUSED, RAJA, ALONG WITH ONE OF HIS FRIENDS DROVE PAST HIM AT A VERY HIGH SPEED

AN ANNOYED SANATAN ACCOSTED RAJA FOR THE RASH DRIVING. THEY INDULGED IN A HEATED EXCHANGE WHICH SOON TURNED VIOLENT AS BOTH ENGAGED IN A FIGHT

RAJA THEN TOOK OUT A KNIFE AND STABBED SANATAN IN HIS CHEST, FACE AND THROAT

Notification out for 6,720 TGT posts CM urged for early issuance of UG marksheets

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: State Directorate of Secondary Education has released a fresh advertisement for recruitment of Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs) in government-run secondary schools of the state.

A total of 6,720 TGT posts in Arts, Science and Telugu language will be filled through the recruitment drive.

The registration process for the intending eligible candidates will commence on the official website <https://dseodisha.in/> from September 4, 2021. The last date for online registration is September 30.

Candidates are required to apply online through the proper link on the website <https://dseodisha.in/> after thoroughly ensuring that



they are eligible for the post as per advertisement. Application through any other mode shall not be accepted.

As per the notification, 3,136 TGTs (Arts), 1,842 TGTs Science (PCM), 1,717 TGTs Science (CBZ) and 25 Telugu teachers will be appointed.

Selection will be made through

The notification says 3,136 TGTs (Arts), 1,842 TGTs Science (PCM), 1,717 TGTs Science (CBZ) and 25 Telugu teachers will be appointed

a computer-based competitive examination to be held at selected test centres in the state, tentatively in the second week of October 2021.

The application processing fee has been fixed at ₹600 for general category and ₹400 for SC, ST and PWD category candidates. Payment will have to be made online which is non-refundable.

UNION MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR FINAL OR PROVISIONAL MARKSHEETS FOR SEEKING POSTGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sought Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's intervention in issuance of provisional final semester results or marksheets to undergraduate students in the state.

In a letter to Patnaik, Pradhan said that the students who had appeared for the sixth semester examinations through online mode in the first and second week of August had not been provided with marksheets and the results were expected to be declared later in September.

"Despite repeated pleas to col-



leges and state education authorities, these students have not been provided with provisional marksheets. I am also in receipt of multiple grievances in this regard from the student community in Odisha," the letter read.

Pradhan underlined that the late publication of provisional results or non-issuance of mark-

sheets were causing great suffering and jeopardising the career prospects of the students.

The Union education minister pointed out that the students were required to submit their final or provisional marksheets for seeking postgraduate admission to various state and central universities outside Odisha where the procedure has already commenced.

Pradhan said he was 'distressed to learn' that many students had already missed the admission deadlines for Central University of Mizoram and Bharathiar University in Tamil Nadu, adding that they were under severe stress due to fast-approaching deadlines for other

varsities like Mumbai University. "In this context, it is also relevant to mention that these students will also be deprived of appearing in of-fine university entrance examinations being held outside the state," he said.

"Keeping in mind the welfare and career prospects of final semester undergraduate students in Odisha, I seek your urgent attention in undertaking necessary action for immediate issue of final marksheets or attested provisional marksheets to them so that they may be able to pursue postgraduate admissions into various state and central universities in India," Pradhan added.

RAIN AHEAD



Dark clouds hover over Jobra anicut in Cuttack, Monday

OP PHOTO

NINL likely to be disinvested by Dec

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The process for disinvestment of Odisha-based Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL), is likely to be completed by December 2021, officials said Monday.

"The disinvestment process for NINL is going on very fast. The government has received very good response. Many big bidders have come forward and they want to take over the company," said NINL managing director RK Jha. "We are at the advanced stage of disinvestment. Most probably by December, this company will be disinvested," Jha added.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance, had invited preliminary bids for the strategic sale of NINL in January this year. The



government has received multiple expressions of interest for the privatisation of the company, sources said. Meanwhile, Tata Power has snapped electricity supply to the Central PSU due to non-payment of long-pending dues, source said. The 1.1 million tonne-a-year integrated steel plant is located at Kalinganar in Jajpur district, which is treated as an industrial hub of Odisha.

NINL's equity shareholding consists of Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (49.78 per cent), National Mineral Development Corporation (10.10 per cent), MECON (0.68 per cent), Bharat Heavy Electricals (0.68 per cent), Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (12 per cent) and Odisha Mining Corporation (20.47 per cent).

Private hosp staffer nabbed for forgery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Commissionerate Police Monday arrested an employee of a private hospital in the Capital city on charges of attempt to misappropriate money under Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) through forged documents.

The accused was identified as Dillip Kumar Behera, 38, of Budhibar under Krushna Prasad police limits in Puri.

Behera works as an assistant manager at the MRD section of the private hospital in Bharatpur police station here. The incident came to the fore after an official of state Health and Family Welfare department lodged a complaint with Bharatpur police in this regard a few days back.

Sources claimed that Behera along with several other persons used to arrange patients from different parts of the state. The members of the racket would bring them to the City by assuring them quality treatment at the private hospital. Later, Behera would take the gen-

uine medical documents and other identity details of the patients.

He would then change the name and address of the original patient with a fake one. The accused used to pay a small amount of fund released from CMRF to the patients and keep the rest with them.

Behera collected the documents of three patients, Rabindra Kumar Barad, Parvati Sahoo and Dama Muduli, admitted at the private hospital recently. Subsequently, he applied for financial assistance of ₹5.43 lakh under CMRF by depositing the forged documents at the H&FW department. The hospital authorities informed the department during verification process that the documents submitted had been forged.

Police Monday arrested the accused by registering a case (286/21) in the matter. Behera was later sent to judicial custody by the court.

Police sources asserted that probe is on to arrest other members of the racket. The cops will also try to find out whether staffers from other major hospitals are involved in the racket or not.

Blue print soon for promotion of folk arts

The Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi has so far awarded more than 400 artistes and has also increased the cash prize for the awardees

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Artists from different fields and districts gathered Monday at Rabindra Mandap, one of Odisha's premier auditoriums, as they were felicitated with the prestigious Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Awards and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2019 and 2020.

Anant Mahapatra (acting & direction) and Kumkum Mohanty (Odissi dance) received Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Award for 2019 and 2020 respectively. This apart, a total of 32 artistes from different fields were felicitated with Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) awards for the year 2019 and 2020. For Kabisamrat Upendra Bhanja



Anant Mahapatra (acting & direction) and Kumkum Mohanty (Odissi dance) receive Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Award for 2019 & 2020 respectively OP PHOTOS

Award, the artists got ₹5 lakh cash rewards each, while for the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards, the amount was ₹2 lakh.

Akademi secretary Prabodh Rath said, "The pandemic forced us to be restrictive in the celebration of the awards ceremony. As per the Odia Language, Literature and Culture department's instruction, we have started

the initiative of providing help to the artistes without any difficulties. We are requesting artists to apply online for grants."

Rath also said, "For the promotion of folk arts through Guru Shiswa Parampara, we have started 'Dikshyanta' programme, under which, we have trained students on different folk art forms such as Ghoda Nacha, Samprada,



Prahallada Natak, Dhabalpur, Banabadi, Duruha and others."

OSNA president Aruna Mohanty said that since 1992, the academy has been presenting award named after Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja. OSNA has so far awarded more than 400 artistes and has also increased the cash prize for the awardees. Odia Language, Literature and

Culture department Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi said that during Covid-19, the government gave monetary relief to the artistes. Also, more than 15,000 artistes of the state would be given monetary relief by the government. He also said that very soon, the department would launch a blue print for the promotion and safety of folk arts of the state.

NGT seeks info on recovery of penalty from illegal miner



New Delhi, August 30: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) to submit an affidavit stating the amount of fine recovered from M/s Corsan Corviam Construction for illegal mining of murrum and earth.

A penalty of ₹41,79,393 has been charged against M/s Corsan Corviam Construction for illegal mining of murrum and earth to the tune of 1,14,162 cubic metre but there is no indication whether the amount has been recovered.

OSPCB had submitted in a previous affidavit that about 114162 cubic metre of earth material/murrum has been used for road construction by the company without obtaining permission for mining of the material.

OSPCB had submitted in a previous affidavit that about 114162 cubic metre of earth material/murrum has been used for road construction by the company without obtaining permission for mining of the material.

DURGA PUJA PREP BEGINS



Soil collected for Durga Puja being consecrated at Kuakhai riverbed in Bhubaneswar, Monday

CM dedicates 10 more smart schools to Hinjili

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday inaugurated 10 more smart schools in Hinjilicut constituency in the fifth/final phase.



I have full confidence in you (students). We believe that one day you all will grow up and do good work and amplify the glory of the Odia community

Inaugurating the schools, Patnaik wished all the students every success in their lives. Naveen said he has spoken to students from various schools during the five-day event in Hinjili and Shergarh blocks and felt that the school transformation programme has created a lot of confidence among the children.

Patnaik said, "I have full confidence in you (students). We believe that one day you all will grow up and do good work and amplify the glory of the Odia community."

Patnaik said he would be happy if there is a competition among teachers to ensure 100 per cent results in their schools.

Special events have been organised in these 10 schools on the occasion. Ministers, legislators, sarpanchs, panchayat members, alumni of the schools and current students along with their parents and locals attended the events.

One dies, another hurt in mishap

Cuttack Sadar, August 30: A man died after a motorcycle and a car collided head-on near Fakirpada on Cuttack-Paradip State Highway Monday. While the biker died on the spot, the critically injured pillion rider, a woman, was sent to a hospital.

ATM looters' gang busted; 3 held

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Commissionerate Police Monday arrested three interstate burglars involved in a series of ATM loot incidents in the twin city.

They were caught through CCTV during a failed attempt to loot an SBI ATM kiosk at Badheibanka Square under Lingaraj police limits here August 25.

ZOO INFRA ASSESSMENT



A single-member team from the Central Zoo Authority on a two-day visit to Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Sero survey in City begins today

Bhubaneswar, August 30: In a bid to identify and compare prevalence of Covid antibodies among different age groups, the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) here has announced the beginning of the two-day Sero survey in state Capital August 31.

The survey is a part of the state-level serological surveillance being undertaken by the RMRC, Bhubaneswar, in 12 districts of Odisha from August 29 to Sept 20.

ing of educational institutions and targeting last mile immunisation need to be made in near future, it is crucial to generate evidence on the exposure of children and adolescents, and the unvaccinated group to the pandemic.

CM launches MGR system

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday inaugurated a Merry-Go-Round (MGR), a dedicated rail transportation system between the production and consumption points, for carrying coal from a mine to a power generation station of the state-run Odisha Power Generation Corporation Limited (OPGC) through virtual mode.

The MGR system required construction of as many as 123 major and minor bridges. This MGR line has five stations - ITPS, Chhara, Gidhaghara, Kechhobahal & OCPL-Manoharpur - two of which are end stations.

Staff crunch, infra woes dog Cuttack Energy PS

Cuttack, August 30: The Special Energy Police Station at Jobra here, the district's lone police station (PS) that deals with cases related to power pilferage, has been grappling with infrastructure woes and staff crunch for at least one and a half years now.



electricity theft cases. "Despite provision for two sub-inspectors (SIs), we have none. Similarly, there is only one assistant SI in place of two. Moreover, we have only four constables (two males and as many females) al-

though the sanctioned strength is 12," Mohanty said. The IIC also narrated about the broken washroom door for which the female colleagues have no option than to travel all the way to Malgodown police station, 300 metres away, owing to the broken washroom door

around 20 days back. Since then, we don't have any info on the vehicle's repair. Lack of vehicle has been creating hurdles in carrying out raids," the IIC said.

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Defunct paper mill employee dead, toll rises to 93 in 6 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 30: An employee of the defunct Nagaon Paper Mill of Hindustan Paper Corp died in Assam's Morigaon district, taking the total deaths since the closure of the PSU's two units to 93, a union leader said Monday.

Akshay Kumar Mazumder, 62, suffered from hypertension and cardiac ailments. He died Sunday without getting proper medical treatment, president of Joint Action Committee of Recognised Unions (JACRU) of Nagaon and Cachar mills Manabendra Chakraborty said. Mazumder is survived by his wife and a daughter.

This is the eighth death after the Himanta Biswa Sarma government assumed office, while during the tenure of former CM Sarbananda Sonowal, 85 people had died either due to starvation or lack of medical treatment, Chakraborty said.

"Most of our employees have died due to lack of proper treatment as they did not receive salaries or dues for the last 55 months. This is not any normal death but our people are dying due to the apathy of the authorities," he said.

Chakraborty appealed to the state government and the Centre to fulfil their commitments and



This is the eighth death after the Himanta Biswa Sarma government assumed office, while during the tenure of former CM Sarbananda Sonowal, 85 people had died either due to starvation or lack of medical treatment

MANABENDRA CHAKRABORTY | UNION LEADER

release all legal dues to save the lives of the remaining employees.

He also appealed to all citizens to "kindly raise their voice against the injustice faced by the employees of both the mills."

The Cachar Paper Mill at

Panchgram in Hailakandi district and Nagaon Paper Mill at Jagiroad in Morigaon district are non-functional since October 2015 and March 2017, respectively.

The BJP government had promised to revive the paper mills after Sonowal assumed power in 2016. Even during the campaigning for this year's assembly polls, the BJP had said that steps would be taken to revive the mills.

The National Company Law Tribunal, after several rounds of meetings between all stakeholders and a number of hearings, had ordered the liquidator April 26 to sell Hindustan Paper Corp as per the decision of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.

70% OF KAZIRANGA FLOODED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Golaghat, August 30: Flood waters have submerged 70 per cent of Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP) and the animals are taking shelter near the national highway that runs through the Park or are crossing it in search of dry land, prompting the park authorities to issue an advisory to heavy vehicles to avoid the stretch.

The carcass of a swamp deer, which is believed to have come out of the Park looking for dry land, was recovered near the boundary wall Monday morning, a forest department official said.

At least three hog deer have been killed by speeding vehicles in the Park in the current wave of floods, KNP authorities said. The forest official said a local youth spotted the dead animal and the preliminary suspicion of attempted hunting was confirmed during post-mortem.

"The female swamp deer was killed by using sharp spears while coming out of Park during night," the official said adding a case has been registered and investigation initiated. Animals have started coming near the NH 37 that passes through the Park in search of dry land with many crossing the road to reach higher land necessitating speed control of vehicles.

The Park authorities said 70 per cent of the Park's total approximately 430 sq km area in currently reeling due to the flood. Besides water from the swollen Brahmaputra and other river and



rivulets flowing through the park, rain water from the bordering Karbi Angong hills flood the area annually, Sunday evening KNP through its official Twitter handle advised heavy trucks to use the North Bank road to avoid traffic in the Kaziranga stretch of the national highway. It has already started issuing time cards to regulate traffic in the animal corridor.

The authorities said time cards are handed over to the drivers when their vehicles enter the national highways stretch passing through KNP and time is marked for how long it will take to cross the

patch at the permitted speed limit. The cards are collected at the other end by forest and district administration officials to ensure compliance with the speed limit and a penalty is imposed for any violation. The general speed limit is 40 km per hour through the Park, with approximately 37 kms of NH running through it.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted Monday appealing to drivers of truck and other vehicles to avoid Kaziranga.

"We all take pride in Kaziranga National Park. In wake of floods causing displacement of Kaziranga

animals & putting them on risk, may I appeal to truck / other vehicles to avoid NH 715 for commuting between lower & upper Assam & use NH 15 thru North Bank instead?" he tweeted.

Sarma also asked the police of the districts in and around Kaziranga as well as in the northern bank to redirect traffic accordingly.

Besides NH 37 (NH 715 now) connecting lower and upper Assam which passes through Kaziranga, NH 15 which runs along the northern bank of the Brahmaputra river also serves as a road link between the two parts of the state.

Displaced Santhals, Bodos, Muslims to be rehabilitated in Assam



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, August 30: Assam's Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) administration has decided to rehabilitate thousands of Santhals, Bodos and Bengali-speaking Muslims, displaced from their villages in ethnic riots and terrorism since 1996, BTC chief Pramod Bodo said Sunday.

Over 2.5 lakh people were displaced since 1996 in separate Bodo-Santhal conflicts and militants' violence in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), comprising the four western districts of Chirang, Baksa, Udalguri and Kokrajhar.

"The BTC has decided to take back the displaced Bodos, Santhals and others to their villages within the next three months. Some of the displaced people had been sheltered in relief camps for the past 25 years while others had relocated somewhere else," Pramod Bodo told the media.

He said that the Bodoland areas witnessed many ethnic riots and militant violence with major incidents in 1996, 2008, 1998, and 2012. Bodo, the President of the United Peoples' Party Liberal (UPPL), said that the BTC is keen to rehabilitate the affected people in their original villages and create a harmonious and peaceful BTR.

He said that houses for the returnees would be built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and other area development plans would also be undertaken simultaneously.

"The riot and militancy-affected people did not return to their areas all these years due to security reasons. The BTC has decided to set up police posts in their villages," he said.

The Santhals were also affected in December 2014 when the National Democratic Front of

Assam Cong decides to break ties with Ajmal's AIUDF, BPF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 30: The Opposition 'Grand Alliance' in Assam is set to collapse with the state Congress Monday announcing that it has decided to break ties with Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF and the Bodoland Peoples Front (BPF).

A core committee meeting, chaired by state Congress president Bhupen Bora, observed that the AIUDF's "behaviour and attitude in relation with the BJP has baffled the members of the Congress," party spokesperson Bobbeeta Sharma told reporters.

"The continuous and mysterious praise of the BJP and the chief minister by AIUDF leadership and senior members have affected the public perception of the Congress party," she said.

Sharma said that after a long discussion, the core committee members of the state Congress unanimously decided that AIUDF can no longer remain a partner in the 'Mahajot' and the AICC will be informed accordingly.

A discussion was also held on the alliance with BPF as its leadership has been expressing their unwillingness to remain a part of the 'Grand Alliance' on various platforms, she said.



The state Congress president was given full authority to make a decision on the matter and it was decided to inform the high-command the decision to break ties with the party, Sharma said.

The meeting also endorsed the earlier decision of giving full authority to the state president, working presidents and chairman of the legislative assembly committees constituted for the forthcoming bypolls to take decisions on election strategy and candidate selections, she said.

The 10-party 'Grand Alliance' or 'Mahajot', led by the Congress, was formed ahead of this year's Assembly elections in the state.

Besides the Congress, AIUDF and BPF, it comprised the Jimochoyan (Deori) People's Party (JDPP), Adivasi National Party (ANP), CPI(M), CPI, CPI(ML), Anchalik Gana Morcha, and the RJD.

The alliance had won 50 seats in the Assembly polls with Congress securing 29 seats, AIUDF 16, BPF four and the CPI(M) one.

Water, instead of woes, may soon flow in Queen of Hills

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, August 30: Water, instead of woes, may soon flow out of the taps in the 'Queen of Hills', once the favourite summer retreat of British India, with the pumping of the Satluj river water from its catchment with the World Bank help.

As per the project with an outlay of \$250 million (Rs 1,813 crore), it will cater to the demand of Shimla Planning Area, comprising suburbs Kufri, Ghannatti and Shoghi, for an estimated population of 4.13 lakh by 2050.

As per records of the state Urban Development, Shimla, planned for a maximum population of 16,000 during the British Raj, is now home to 2.47 lakh people with a floating population of 75,000 as per Census of 2011.

For over a decade this tourist town has been getting water supply once in two or three days, largely during the peak summer. In some localities, the water supply is once a week. Still the pleasant weather remains one of its prime attractions as it is known for wooded deodars and Raj-style structures. It supports more than 450 hotels, restaurants and guesthouses.

For Urban Development Minister and four-time local legislator Suresh Bhardwaj, the 24-hour water sup-



ply to Shimla residents is his dream project and a major promise. The timeline of the project by laying a 23.65-km-long pipeline from Sunni tehsil is June 18, 2024.

"As a pilot project five wards of Shimla town will be provided 24 hours water supply by December this year," Bhardwaj told IANS.

A total of 107.63 million litres per day (MLD) is estimated for Shimla by 2050. Currently, the town is getting 40 MLD from two major sources - Giri and Gumma streams.

He said the Sutlej Water Supply Scheme will add 67 MLD to the total capacity. "This will be sufficient to meet water demand in the Shimla Planning Area by 2050. The existing water source will continue to remain the primary source of water. The Sutlej supply will supplement the existing sources."

Shimla has been ranked the best city among below one million population in the Ease of Living Index of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.



some people were left out of the vaccination count, it will be investigated and everyone will be vaccinated soon.

Himachal Pradesh reported 123 positive cases and a single Covid fatality in 24 hours Sunday. There are 1,750 active cases in the state as on August 29. Sunday, 186 patients recovered from Covid-19.

As of Sunday, India has administered a total of 63,09,17,927 vaccine doses. Out of these, 48,60,28,702 are first doses and 14,48,89,225 are second doses.

So far, 51.45 per cent of India's adult population has been vaccinated with at least one dose and 15.34 per cent of the eligible population has been fully vaccinated.

The minister has assured that if

The cabinet last week approved the draft package negotiated by the Urban Development department with the World Bank and the Department of Economic Affairs of the Centre for funding the Shimla Water Supply and Sewerage Services Delivery Programme in the Greater Shimla area.

Of the Rs 1,813 crore, the World Bank will provide an assistance of Rs 1,160.32 crore and the state government will bear Rs 652.68 crore.

The main components of the project include augmentation of water supply from the Satluj river with additional 67 MLD to meet the water demand till 2050 and bulk water supply of special area development authorities of Kufri, Shoghi and Ghanahatti.

The project envisages lifting water from the river near the Shakrodi village in Shimla district involving lifting to a height of 1.6 km and pipe laying of 22 km to augment 67 MLD water at Sanjauli near here. The project also seeks to replace the distribution pipe network across the Shimla Municipal Corporation to upgrade it to a 24x7 water supply system.

national

of the day quote

Not having the picture of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the poster of 'Amrit Mahotsav' issued by the ICHR is not only condemnable but also shows the narrow mindset of the central government

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

My government is pro-farmers and we are aware of the woes of the ryots particularly in the context of damage to crops during the recent rains and squally weather

N RANGASAMY | PONDICHERY CHIEF MINISTER

Congress's Gram Sabha President will be made in 58,000 gram sabhas in the state in 20 days. Workers and officials should go to every village and every household during this period and talk about the party's mission

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONG GENERAL SECY IN-CHARGE UP

SHORT TAKES

ED questions Jacqueline

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) recorded the statement of actor Jacqueline Fernandez Monday in connection with a money laundering investigation linked to alleged conman Suresh Chandrasekhar, officials said. They said the 36-year-old actor was examined for four hours here as a witness in the case and her statement was recorded under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Two UP Cong leaders resign

Ballaia (UP): In a blow to the Congress just months before the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, two senior All India Congress Committee (AICC) members from the state have resigned from the party's primary membership, alleging that old and loyal leaders are being neglected. Shailendra Singh and Rajesh Singh sent their resignation letters to the party's Uttar Pradesh unit president Ajay Kumar Lallu Sunday.

2 Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF

New Delhi: The BSF has lodged a "strong protest" with its Bangladesh counterpart BGB after smugglers from that country attacked an Indian patrol, which fired in self-defence leading to the death of two miscreants along the border, officials said. The incident took place in the early hours (around 3:35 AM) of Sunday near the Changrabandha border post in the Cooch Behar district of West Bengal.

Writer Buddhadeb Guha dies at 85

Kolkata: Eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha, author of many notable works such as 'Madhukari' (Honey Gatherer), has died. He was 85. Guha died of post-Covid complications at a private hospital here at 11.25 pm Sunday after a massive cardiac arrest, family members said.

Rain havoc in Telangana

Hyderabad: Four persons, including a newly married woman died, and a boy and woman were reported missing in separate rain-related incidents in Telangana over the past 24 hours, police said Monday. Two women including a bride died in Vikarabad district after their car with four other occupants, including the groom, was swept away Sunday night.



Lord Krishna's eternal message, as expounded in the Bhagwad Gita, to discharge our duties with sincerity and without attachment to the outcomes, has been a source of inspiration for all of mankind

M VENKAIKHA NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

ALERT IN MATHURA

Twenty-nine cases of mite-borne rickettsiosis, known as 'scrub typhus', have surfaced during primary investigation in Mathura, a first for the district



'C.1.2 VARIANT MORE INFECTIOUS'

THIS VARIANT MAY EVADE THE PROTECTION PROVIDED BY VACCINES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: A new variant of S-CoV2, the virus which cause COVID-19, has been detected in South Africa and many other countries globally which could be more transmissible and evade protection provided by vaccines, according to study.

Scientists from National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (KRISP) in South Africa said the potential variant of interest, C.1.2, was first detected in the country in May this year.

According to the yet-to-be peer-reviewed study posted on the preprint repository MedRxiv August 24, C.1.2 has mutated substantially compared to C.1, one of the lineages which dominated the S-CoV-2 infections in the first wave in South Africa.

They noted that the number of available sequences of C.1.2 may be an under representation of the spread and frequency of the variant in South Africa and around the world.

The study found consistent increases in the number of C.1.2 genomes in South Africa each



COVID'S FRESH THREAT

C.1.2 has more mutations than other variants of concern or variants of interest detected worldwide so far

THE POTENTIAL VARIANT OF INTEREST, C.1.2, WAS FIRST DETECTED IN MAY THIS YEAR

THE NEW VARIANT HAS SINCE BEEN FOUND IN CHINA, MAURITIUS, ENGLAND AND NEW ZEALAND

month, rising from 0.2 per cent of genomes sequenced in May to 1.6 per cent in June and then to 2 per cent in July.

"This is similar to the increases seen with the Beta and Delta variants in the country during early detection," the authors of the study said.

According to the study, C.1.2 lin-

age has a mutation rate of about 41.8 mutations per year, which is about twice as fast as the current global mutation rate of the other variants.

Virologist Upasana Ray noted that the variant is a result of numerous mutations accumulated in C.1.2 line in the spike protein which makes it a lot different than

3rd wave could peak between Oct-Nov

India may see a third wave of Covid-19 peaking between October and November if a more virulent mutant than the existing ones emerge by September, but its intensity is expected to be much lower than the second wave, a scientist involved in the mathematical modelling of the pandemic said Monday. Meanwhile, India saw a single-day rise of 42,909 new COVID-19 infections, which took the total tally of cases to 3,27,37,939, while active cases registered an increase for the sixth consecutive day, according to Union health ministry data updated Monday

the original virus that was identified in Wuhan, China in 2019.

"It could be more transmissible and has potential to spread fast. Since there are so many mutations in the spike protein, it could result in immune escape and thus a challenge for the vaccination drive worldwide if allowed to spread," Ms Ray from Kolkata's CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, told PTI.

Vax supply jumps, raising export hopes

After donating or selling 66 mn doses to nearly 100 countries, India barred exports in the middle of April

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: India's rising output of COVID-19 vaccines and the inoculation of more than half its adult population with at least one dose are raising hopes the country will return as an exporter within months, ramping up from early next year.

After donating or selling 66 million doses to nearly 100 countries, India barred exports in the middle of April to focus on domestic immunisation as infections exploded, upsetting the inoculation plans of many African and South Asian countries. India's daily vaccinations surpassed 10 million doses on Friday, with national vaccine production more than doubling since April and set to rise again in the coming weeks. New production lines have been set up, a vaccine developed by Cadila Healthcare won recent approval, and commercial production of Russia's Sputnik V is starting in India. The Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's biggest vaccine maker, is now pro-



ducing about 150 million doses a month of its version of the AstraZeneca shot, more than twice its April output of about 65 million, a source with knowledge of the matter said. "No fixed timeline on exports but the company hopes to restart in a few months," said the source, who declined to be named without approval to talk on the matter.

SII, which has previously indicated exports could resume by year-end, did not respond to a request for comment. Global vaccine sharing platform COVAX hopes India will restart foreign sales sooner than later. With Covid-19 cases on the rise in Vietnam, Indian Naval Ship Airavat arrived at Ho Chi Minh City port with Covid-19 relief material Monday.

India won't allow PLA's unilateral action: Rajnath



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 30: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Monday that India wants a solution to the border dispute with China through dialogue and asserted that the government would never allow the sanctity of borders to be violated.

The Modi government has made it clear to the forces that any unilateral action on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) should not be ignored, he said.

Singh was delivering virtually the third Balramji Dass Tandon Memorial Lecture organised by Panjab University on the issue of national security.

The defence minister said that there have been "perception differences" on the border with China. "Despite this, there are some agreements, protocols which the armies of both countries follow to conduct patrols."

Referring to the clashes in eastern Ladakh last year, Singh said Chinese forces had ignored the "agreed protocols."

"We cannot allow the Chinese Army PLA to act on the LAC in a unilateral manner under any circumstances. That is what the Indian Army did that day in Galwan and bravely confronted the PLA soldiers and forced them to re-

treat," he said while terming it as a "historic" incident.

India wants a solution to the border dispute with China through dialogue, the defence minister said and asserted that the government will never compromise on issues of the "country's borders, its honour and self-respect".

"We will never allow the sanctity of borders to be violated," he said.

Recalling the Galwan incident, he said the bravery, valour and restraint shown by the Indian Army are incomparable and unparalleled.

In the first deadly clash in the border area in nearly five decades, 20 Indian soldiers were killed on June 15 last year in the Galwan Valley in fierce hand-to-hand combat with Chinese troops, triggering a large deployment of troops and heavy weaponry by both armies at the friction points in eastern Ladakh.

In February, China officially acknowledged that five Chinese military officers and soldiers were killed in

the clashes with the Indian Army though it is widely believed that the death toll was higher.

In a significant forward movement towards the restoration of peace and tranquility in the region, the Indian and Chinese armies completed the disengagement process and restored the pre-standoff ground position in Gogra in eastern Ladakh after 15 months.

The development came after the 12th round of military talks between the two sides July 31 at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point in eastern Ladakh.

Earlier, the Indian and Chinese frontline troops had conducted the first synchronised disengagement at the south and north banks of the Pangong lake in February.



Children dress up as Lord Krishna on the occasion of the Janmashtami festival, at Durgiana temple in Amritsar

PTI PHOTO

33 KIDS, 7 ADULTS DIE IN UP

Health teams have tested the patients but they have all tested negative for Corona

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, August 30: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday confirmed that 32 children and seven adults had died in Firozabad, owing to a mysterious dengue-like fever in the district.

Adityanath visited the families of those who lost their members and assured them of help. The Chief Minister also visited the 100-bed district hospital at Firozabad where

children showing symptoms of the disease are being treated.

At least 30 children recently lost their lives in this hospital, reportedly to the mysterious fever.

MYSTERIOUS FEVER

"The dedicated Covid-19 ward at the district hospital of Firozabad is reserved for patients suffering from this fever," the Chief Minister told reporters. Some of the districts in western Uttar Pradesh,

including Mathura, Firozabad and Mainpuri, have witnessed a spike in cases of 'viral fever' which has made the government press the panic button.

BJP MLA from Firozabad, Manish Asija, had claimed on Sunday that 40 children died last week from the disease.

The claim was refuted by UP Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh who termed Asija's claims "wrong" and said that he received no such reports.

Khattar, Amarinder exchange words over farmers' protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 30: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Monday accused the Congress government in Punjab of fuelling farmers' unrest in his state, provoking a sharp response from his Punjab counterpart.

The exchange took place two days after farmers protesting over laws enacted at the Centre several months back clashed with the Haryana Police in Karnal.

Addressing a press conference on the completion of 2,500 days of a BJP-led government in Haryana, Khattar blamed Punjab for the farmers' picking his state for their protests. "There is a clear hand of the Punjab government in it," the CM charged. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh hit back a little later, accusing the BJP, including the Haryana CM, of taking refuge in "shameful lies" over the "horrendous attacks" on protesting farmers.

"Repeal the farm laws instead of blaming Punjab for the mess your party has put the farming sector in," Singh said in a statement. Also Monday, a "kisan mahapanchayat" at Gharaunda in Karnal issued an "ultimatum" to the Haryana government. The meeting demanded the registration of cases by September 6 against those responsible for Saturday's lathi-charge. Otherwise, September 7, farmers will lay siege at the secretariat in Karnal, a farm leader warned.

Terror challenge in Kashmir amid Afghan crisis

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: Global media reports supported by security experts indicate that the Taliban 2.0 now ensconced in Afghanistan has come to control \$85 billion military equipment, including 600,000 small arms, 200 planes/choppers, black hawks, night vision devices, body armours and medical supplies. Those who worked for Afghanistans defences till last month testify to these biometric details.

Most of it has come overnight, much of it for the first time and most of it from the United States that will evacuate by this month-end.

No banned organisation had this much ever in human history. The question is: Besides the opponents, among them the ethnic minorities, who will be the targets



of this newly-acquired military might - notwithstanding dodgy assurances by the new rulers?

As one struggles to gaze beyond the horizon from 'new' Kabul ruled by 'new' Taliban with whom the governments will have to do business, sooner than later, the first point of call for the new regime, nurtured, supported and diplomati-

cally cushioned by eastern neighbour Pakistan, is bound to be India-ruled Jammu and Kashmir. The key point to note here is that India anticipated this - if not fully, then substantially. It had urged the US all through the recent years not to quit in haste. India had warned the Obama, Trump and Biden administrations to base all

American planning and action on one cardinal point: Islamabad's support to the Taliban. This was ignored, whatever the American compulsions.

Now that it has happened, it is, perhaps, easier to explain why India acted in August 2019 to end Jammu and Kashmir's "special status", annulled its political and constitutional autonomy and dissolved the state (province) itself by carving out two "union territories", directly ruled from New Delhi. Whether or not it was a 'correct' step, in keeping with the popular aspirations, or whether it was popular with the people of the erstwhile

The current happenings in Afghanistan have raised new security questions

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

international



A third dose of vaccine is not a luxury booster that is taken away from someone who is still waiting for a first jab. It's basically a way to keep the most vulnerable safe

B'DESH'S FIRST METRO RAIL MAKES TRIAL RUN

Bangladesh's first metro rail in capital Dhaka made a trial run on a section of the 20.1-km project, known as Mass Rapid Transit Line-6 (MRT 6). The test run was flagged off by Road Transport Minister Obaidul Quader in Dhaka



of the day quote

suffer, and our economy will be permanently damaged

We are moving forward in our commitment to criminalise enforced disappearances. There can never be any place for enforced disappearances in a democracy

ting economic problems (of the country) from the nuclear talks and its results should always be considered by all members of the government, particularly by the Economic Coordination Headquarters

SHORT TAKES

New nuke chief appointed in Iran

Tehran: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has appointed Mohammad Eslami as the new chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI). Eslami, the former minister of Transport and Urban Development, replaces Ali Akbar Salehi who has served as the AEOI chief since August 2013.

11 dead, 6 hurt in boat collision

Lima: At least 11 people died and 6 others were injured after two boats collided on the Huallaga River in the Peruvian district of Yurimaguas, authorities said.

Af militant attack kills 2 Pak soldiers

Islamabad: Two Pakistani soldiers were killed in a cross-border attack by militants from Afghanistan into Pakistan's northwest Bajaur district, an army statement said Sunday.

12 Houthi rebels killed in airstrike

Sanaa: At least 12 Houthi rebels were killed when Saudi-led coalition airstrikes hit two pick-up vehicles in Rahabah district in Yemen's central province of Marib, a military source at the scene said.

US flies out evacuees amid rocket strikes

AGENCIES

Kabul, August 30: Islamic State militants fired a volley of rockets at Kabul's rapidly emptying international airport Monday, with just hours left before a deadline for US forces to withdraw at the end of America's longest war.

The Pentagon is tight-lipped about final operations and has not specified when the withdrawal will be completed ahead of Tuesday's deadline. But spokesman John Kirby told reporters "there is still time" for Americans to join a massive airlift that has allowed more than 116,000 people to leave since the Taliban swept back into power two weeks ago.

All day Monday, US military cargo jets came and went despite the rocket attack, which did not



hurt anyone. The Taliban released a video shot from the airport's grounds, saying the Americans had removed or destroyed most of their equipment and that troop numbers were far lower.

Qatar emerges as key player

DUBAI: Qatar played an outsized role in US efforts to evacuate tens of thousands of people from Afghanistan. Now the tiny Gulf Arab state is being asked to help shape what is next for Afghanistan because of its ties with both Washington and the Taliban, who are in charge in Kabul.

Paris shrinks speed limit to save climate

AGENCIES

Paris, August 30: No more zipping past the Eiffel Tower or through the Latin Quarter without slowing down to soak in the sights Starting Monday, the speed limit on nearly all streets of Paris is just 30 kph (less than 19 mph).

It's the latest initiative by a city trying to burnish its climate credentials and transform people's relationship to their vehicles. City



officials say it's also aimed at reducing accidents and making Paris more pedestrian-friendly.

Car owners are fuming. Delivery drivers say it will create longer wait times for customers. Taxi drivers say it will drive up rates and hurt business.

But polls suggest most Parisians support the idea, notably in hopes that it makes the streets safer and quieter.

Already, cyclists often move faster than cars in the densely populated French capital. And only action stars like Tom Cruise in "Mission Impossible" can realistically pick up speed on winding, medieval Parisian streets that are barely more than one car wide.

The new rule includes exceptions for a handful of wide avenues including the famed Champs-Elysees and the bypass circling the historical capital.

Under Socialist Mayor Anne Hidalgo, the Paris city government has already restricted or banned vehicle traffic on several streets and multiplied the number of bike lanes. Some other French cities and towns have also limited speeds to 30 kph.

of the unidentified fighters said. With the departure of the last of its troops, the US is ending its 20-year war with the Taliban back in power. Many Afghans remain fearful of them or further instability, and there have been sporadic reports of killings and other abuses in areas under Taliban control despite pledges to restore peace and security.

In the last 24 hours, the American military evacuated about 1,200 people on 26 C-17 flights, while two coalition flights flew out 50 others, the White House said. The two-week airlift has brought scenes of desperation and horror: In the early days, people desperate to flee Taliban rule flooded onto the tarmac and some fell to their deaths after clinging to a departing aircraft.

Reggae icon, dub pioneer Lee 'Scratch' Perry rests

AGENCIES

Kingston, August 30: Lee "Scratch" Perry, the eccentric, revolutionary Jamaican producer, songwriter and performer whose influence extended far beyond his historic role in the development of reggae music, died Sunday at a hospital in Lucea, Jamaica at age 88.

Perry is known for his pioneering experiments in dub, which revolutionised not only reggae, but also hip hop, dance and other genres. He earned his "Scratch" nickname from an early recording, The Chicken Scratch, in 1965.

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness called him "un-



forgettable" and praised his "sterling contribution" to music.

The loping tempos of Perry's work established the roots reggae sound that Bob Marley made world

ISRAEL OKAYS GESTURES TO PALESTINIANS AFTER MEET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, August 30: Israel's defense minister Monday announced a series of gestures aimed at strengthening the Palestinian Authority, including plans to loan USD150 million to the cash-strapped



autonomy government in the occupied West Bank. The announcement came a day after Defense Minister Benny Gantz met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the first high-level meeting between the two sides in years.

The stepped-up contacts and Israeli gestures mark a shift in di-

rection after the complete breakdown of communication between Abbas and Israeli leaders in recent years. Israel's new government has said it is interested in bolstering Abbas in his rivalry against Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group.

"The stronger the Palestinian Authority is, the weaker Hamas will be," Gantz was quoted as telling Israeli military correspondents Monday. "And the greater its ability to govern is, the more security we'll have and the less we'll have to do."

The Israeli moves come two days after President Joe Biden urged Israel's new prime minister during a White House meeting to take steps toward improving the lives of Palestinians. Gantz's office said he told Abbas that Israel will take new measures to strengthen the Palestinian economy. It said they also discussed security issues and agreed to remain in touch.

Fresh activity at N Korea reactor troubling: IAEA



In this satellite photo released by Planet Labs Inc, North Korea's main nuclear complex is seen in Yongbyon, just north of the capital, Pyongyang

REUTERS

Seoul, August 30: North Korea appears to have restarted a nuclear reactor that is widely believed to have produced plutonium for nuclear weapons, the UN atomic watchdog said in an annual report, highlighting the isolated nation's efforts to expand its arsenal.

The signs of operation at the 5-megawatt (MW) reactor, which is seen as capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium, were the first to be spotted since late 2018, the International Atomic Energy Agency said in its report dated Friday.

Since early July 2021, there have been indications, including the discharge of cooling water, consistent with the operation, the IAEA report said of the reactor at Yongbyon, a nuclear complex at the heart of North Korea's nuclear programme.

More plutonium could help North Korea make smaller nuclear weapons to fit on its ballistic missiles, said David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security.

The bottom line is North Korea wants to improve the number and quality of its nuclear weapons, he

added. While intelligence on North Korean nuclear weapons is limited, making it impossible to know their number, Albright estimated the country had the capacity to produce material for four to six bombs a year.

The IAEA has had no access to North Korea since Pyongyang expelled its inspectors in 2009. The country subsequently pressed ahead with its nuclear weapons programme and soon resumed nuclear testing. Its last nuclear test was in 2017.

The IAEA now monitors North Korea from afar, largely through satellite imagery.

Commercial satellite imagery shows water discharge, supporting the conclusion that the reactor is running again, said Jenny Town, director of the US-based 38 North project, which monitors North Korea.

No way to know why the reactor wasn't operating previously - although work has been ongoing on the water reservoir over the past year to ensure sufficient water for the cooling systems, she said.

The timing seems a little strange to me, given the tendency for flooding in coming weeks or months that could affect reactor operations.

WORSHIPPER'S WAIL



A Jewish worshipper attends a prayer at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest prayer site ahead of the Jewish New Year, in Jerusalem's Old City

REUTERS

China bans exams for 6-yr-olds to allay pressure

CHINA'S EXAM-ORIENTED SYSTEM PREVIOUSLY REQUIRED STUDENTS TO TAKE EXAMS FROM FIRST GRADE ONWARDS, CULMINATING IN THE FEARED UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM AT AGE 18 KNOWN AS THE GAOKAO, WHERE A SINGLE SCORE CAN DETERMINE A CHILD'S LIFE TRAJECTORY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing, August 30: Beijing Monday banned written exams for six- and seven-year-olds, as part of sweeping education reforms aimed at relieving pressure on pupils and parents in China's hyper-competitive school system.

China's exam-oriented system previously required students to take exams from first grade onwards, culminating in the feared university entrance exam at age 18 known as the gaokao, where a single score can determine a child's life trajectory.

"Too frequent exams ... which cause students to be overburdened

and under huge exam pressure," have been axed by the Ministry of Education, according to new guidelines released Monday.

The ministry said the pressure on pupils from a young age "harms their mental and physical health."

The regulations also limit exams in other years of compulsory education to once a term, with mid-term and mock examinations allowed in junior high school.

The measures are part of wider government reforms of China's education sector, which include a crackdown on cram schools - seen by parents as a way to inflate their children's educational fortunes.

In late July, China ordered all pri-



vate tutoring firms to turn non-profit, and barred tutoring agencies from giving lessons in core sub-

jects at weekends and holidays, effectively crippling a \$100 billion sector.

The aim is to reduce China's education inequality, where some middle-class parents willingly fork out 100,000 yuan (\$15,400) or more per year on private tutoring to get their children into top schools.

Many also snag property in schools' catchment areas, driving up house prices.

"There is no other country that has such a strong tutoring culture as China," said Claudia Wang, partner and Asia education lead at Shanghai-based consulting firm Oliver Wyman.

With population growth at its slowest in decades, Chinese authorities lifted a two-child birth limit earlier this year and wish to

increase incentives for parents to have more children.

Beijing city authorities last week announced that teachers must rotate schools every six years, to prevent a concentration of top talent at some schools. Education officials on Monday reiterated a ban on schools setting up 'priority' classes for gifted students.

The Ministry of Education also banned written homework for first- and second-graders earlier this year, and limited homework for junior high students to no more than 1.5 hours per night.

However, many Chinese parents still regard education as a path to social mobility.

business

of the day quote

Last fiscal did see a demand uptick during the festival season, but it did not sustain. Two-wheeler dealers were the most impacted. This fiscal, too, sales across segments are yet to reach pre-pandemic levels
BHUSHAN PAREKH | DIRECTOR, CRISIL

Here in India, the needs of 70 million persons living with some form of disability have remained under-versed despite a vibrant startup ecosystem. We believe that there can be a thriving market for assistive technologies
SEHRAJ SINGH | MANAGING DIRECTOR, PROSUS INDIA

Rising commodity prices, especially those of steel, copper, rhodium and palladium amongst others have left us with no choice but to raise prices across models
SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARKETING AND SALES, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Go Airlines gets Sebi nod

New Delhi: Budget carrier Go Airlines, which has rebranded itself as 'Go First', has received market regulator Sebi's go-ahead for an initial public offer (IPO) worth ₹3,600 crore. The airline plans to garner up to ₹3,600 crore through sale of shares, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). It also plans to raise up to ₹1,500 crore by way of a pre-IPO placement. The carrier, which filed its preliminary papers for the IPO in May, received its observations August 26.

Tomato prices crash to ₹4/kg

New Delhi: Tomato prices in wholesale markets in most producing states have crashed to as low as ₹4 per kg amid supply glut, government data showed. In fact, the wholesale prices of tomato in 23 growing centres out of 31 monitored by the government were down by 50 per cent from the year-ago period or below three-year seasonal average. Currently, tomato crop of the early kharif (summer) season of the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) is being harvested.

Sensex zooms 765 points

Mumbai: Equity benchmark Sensex skyrocketed 765 points to scale a fresh lifetime high Monday, driven by gains in index heavyweights Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank amid a positive trend in global markets. After touching a lifetime high of 56,958.27 during the day, the 30-share index ended 765.04 points or 1.36 per cent higher at 56,889.76. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 225.85 points or 1.35 per cent to its record closing of 16,931.05. It touched an all-time intra-day high of 16,951.50.

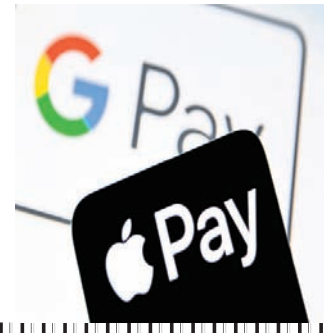
Former SBI chief joins HSBC board

New Delhi: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC) has appointed Rajnish Kumar as an Independent Non-Executive Director on the board of its Asian entity. Kumar had retired as Chairman of SBI in October 2020. "In addition to his extensive background with regulatory authorities, investors and businesses in India, Kumar has strong experience of global business and financial markets from his work with the SBI in the UK and Canada," said an HSBC statement.



With strong recovery post lockdown and a shift in consumer preference away from public transportation, we are well-positioned to capitalise on the various urban mobility needs of our customers
BHAVISH AGGARWAL | CO-FOUNDER, OLA

OZ CONSIDERING NEW LAWS
The Australian government is considering new laws that would tighten the regulation of digital payment services by tech giants like Apple and Google. Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said he would consider that and other recommendations from a government-commissioned report



‘Biz activity continues to rise, reaches new high’

Mumbai, August 30: Business resumption activity continued its northward journey and reached a new high, much above the pre-pandemic levels for the week ended August 29, a Japanese brokerage said Monday. The Nomura India Business Resumption Index rose to 102.7 for the week ending August 29 from 101.3 in the prior week, as per the brokerage.



ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS
GDP GROWTH WILL SEQUENTIALLY REBOUND IN THE SEPTEMBER QUARTER, THE BROKERAGE SAID, MAINTAINING ITS ABOVE-CONSENSUS GDP GROWTH FORECAST OF 10.4 PER CENT IN FY22

The Nomura India Business Resumption Index rose to 102.7 for the week ending August 29 from 101.3 in the prior week, as per the brokerage. For the week ended August 29, Google retail and recreation and Apple driving indices rose by 0.6 pp and 10 pp, respectively, although workplace mobility surprisingly fell by 3.7 pp. Power demand rose by 0.1 per cent as compared to the previous

M-cap of BSE-listed firms zooms to record ₹247.30L cr

New Delhi, August 30: Driven by bullish sentiment in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped to an all-time high of ₹2,47,30,108.97 crore Monday. Extending its winning momentum for the third session, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex ended 765.04 points or 1.36 per cent higher at 56,889.76, its new closing peak. During the day, it jumped 833.55 points to its lifetime high of 56,958.27.



Investors have become richer by ₹5,76,600.66 crore in three days of market rally. The 30-share BSE index had closed above the 56,000-mark for the first time Friday

TOP GAINERS 30 AUG

POINTS	Bharti Airtel	%
765.04	Bharti Airtel	4.44%
783.75	Axis Bank	4.15%
1439.50	Tata Steel	4.00%
1885.50	Titan	3.46%
7165.65	Bajaj Finance	2.91%
6797.10	Maruti Suzuki	2.90%
422.70	SBI	2.51%
3106.70	Asian Paints	2.29%
16551.65	Bajaj Finserv	2.18%
791.95	M&M	2.17%

‘Time for tariffs to move up, levies on industry needs to be lowered’

New Delhi, August 30: A day after announcing capital-raise of ₹21,000 crore via a rights issue, telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal Monday made a passionate pitch for hike in tariffs and a cut in government levies to save the industry. Mittal, the chairman of India's second largest telecom company Bharti Airtel, said while 35 per cent of industry's revenue goes to the government in taxes and levies, telcos are loaded with an extraordinary debt of AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) dues and spectrum payments.



“People are consuming average 16GB of data per user per month. It is time that tariffs do take a tick up to make the industry viable and, more importantly, have decent and appropriate returns on capital to grow into more technology areas, to roll out more networks, and become more viable model of sustainability in the future,” Mittal said.

BIZ BUZZ

OSL lauds state government's efforts

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of National Sports Day, Odisha Stevedores Limited (OSL) lauded Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as well as the Odisha government for the judicious decision to further extend the official sponsorship of both the Indian men's and women's hockey teams for another 10 years till 2033. Odisha, as the prime sponsor, has been supporting Indian hockey for the past three years. Patnaik deserves all credit for his vision and immaculate love for hockey as India (men's team) ended its 41-year wait, winning a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics; while the women's team achieved its best-ever fourth place finish at any Olympics.

Exports from SEZs up 41.5 pc

New Delhi: Exports from special economic zones (SEZs) grew by about 41.5 per cent to ₹2.15 lakh crore during the April-June quarter of the current fiscal on account of healthy growth in pharmaceuticals, engineering, and gems and jewellery sectors, as per official data. SEZs are key export hubs which contribute about one-fourth of the country's total outward shipments. According to commerce ministry data, exports from these zones dipped to ₹7.56 lakh crore in 2020-21 as against ₹7.97 lakh crore in 2019-20. In the first quarter of the current financial year, SEZ exports rose about 41.5 per cent to ₹2.15 lakh crore.

Aluminium industry stares at critical coal shortage

The aluminium industry CPPs have signed FSA with CIL and its subsidiaries for assured long term coal supply. Any abrupt stoppage of this secured coal supply brings the industry to a grinding halt and has a severe impact on the SMEs

New Delhi, August 30: The highly power-dependent aluminium industry is in for a tough time. This is because of Coal India Ltd's (CIL) recent move to significantly reduce coal supplies and railway rakes for Captive Power Plants (CPPs), resulting in coal crunch for the Indian Aluminium Industry. Aluminium is a metal of strategic importance and an essential commodity for diversified sectors, crucial for the nation's economy. Aluminium smelting requires uninterrupted and high-quality power supply for production which can be met only through in-house CPPs. Hence, such drastic curtailment



of coal supplies, without any advance notice, will bring the industry to a standstill as it has been left with no time to devise any mitigation plan to continue sustainable opera-

subsidiaries for assured long term coal supply. Any abrupt stoppage of this secured coal supply brings the industry to a grinding halt and has a severe impact on the SMEs in downstream sector resulting in increased prices of finished products and burdening end consumers. Aluminium is a continuous process based highly power intensive industry wherein coal accounts for 40 per cent of aluminium production cost. Huge investments of ₹1.2 lakh crore (\$20 billion) have been made to double the domestic production capacity to 4.1 mtpa to cater to the country's increasing aluminium demand. The Indian aluminium industry has set up 9,000 MW CPP capacity to meet its power

NTPC gears up to meet rising power demand



New Delhi, August 30: State-run power giant NTPC Monday said that it has geared up to meet rising power demand and recorded electricity generation growth of 23 per cent over the previous year. The country is witnessing a sharp increase in power demand, and NTPC is making all efforts for meeting demand as per the grid requirement, it said in a statement.

NTPC has geared up to meet the increasing demand, and the generation from NTPC group stations have registered a 23 per cent growth compared to the previous year, it stated. Under flexible utilisation of coal policy, NTPC is arranging coal at the stations where the stock position is critical. The company also said that it is continuously coordinating with Coal India and Railways for augmenting coal supply at critical stations and diverting rakes wherever required. It is also augmenting 2.7 Lakh MT import coal left out from the contracts placed earlier. Darlipalli Unit 2 (800 MW) was put in operation, and commercial operation of the unit is being done with effect from September 1, 2021. The plant is a pit-head station, and coal is being fed from the captive mine of NTPC (Dulanga), it said. It is increasing coal production from all captive mines of NTPC, it added. During peak hours, approximately 7 GW of gas capacity is on the bar against 3 GW last week.

Amazon launches Karigar Mela in p'ship with Tribes India

New Delhi, August 30: Amazon India Monday announced the launch of Karigar Mela in partnership with Tribes India, wherein the e-commerce platform will feature a dedicated storefront for traditional tribal and local Indian handicrafts. As part of the initiative, customers will be able to access and shop from a selection of over 1.2 lakh unique traditional tribal and local Indian handicrafts and handloom selections, a statement said. Some of the unique art forms that will be available in products listed for purchase as part of Karigar Mela include Bidri, Dhokra, Ikkat, Patachitra, blue art pottery, etc. it added. As part of the Karigar Mela initiative, Karigar sellers will also benefit from a 100% Selling on Amazon (SoA) fee waiver for two weeks from August 30-September 12. “The tribal artisan and weaver community are at the nucleus of the Indian economy. It is also one of the segments that have been most severely hit due to the ongoing pandemic. The launch of Karigar Mela will play an important role in helping artisans and weavers revive their livelihoods and accelerate their growth,” Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda, said.

State telcos' AGR rises by 4.6% to ₹1,228cr in Q1 FY'22: TRAI

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The telecom service providers operating in Odisha recorded only 4.60 per cent rise in their total revenue at ₹1,228 crore in the quarter ended of June, 2021, according to data published by sector regulator TRAI. The gross revenue of the telecom service providers was ₹1,174 crore in the same quarter a year ago. The TRAI's report says that the total revenue of the sector in Odisha stood at ₹1,228 crore

in the April-June quarter, 2021 where Reliance Jio registered the highest share of ₹642.7 crore in the same quarter. Jio was followed by Bharti Airtel with ₹467.2 crore, Vodafone Idea with ₹58.6 crore. State-owned BSNL posted ₹54.7 crore of gross revenue in the first quarter of current fiscal. In the same quarter of a year ago, Jio was also the highest market share holder followed by Airtel, Vodafone and BSNL. Jio had achieved ₹594.3 crore gross revenue followed by Airtel with ₹434 crore,

Vodafone with ₹84.2 crore and BSNL with ₹58.8 crore. Jio further extended its leadership position with 52.3% gross revenue market share in the sector, as per the financial report published by TRAI for the April-June quarter, 2021. As per the report, overall gross revenue in the sector in Odisha in Q1 has remained flat versus the previous quarter, wherein Reliance Jio achieved nearly 4.9% growth in gross revenue followed by nearly 3.7% growth that was witnessed by Airtel.

State telcos' AGR rises by 4.6% to ₹1,228cr in Q1 FY'22: TRAI

POST NEWS NETWORK

He argued that tariff changes effected by Airtel over the last few months are a “testimony” that the company has indeed “run out of patience”. In a rare move, the Bharti Airtel Ltd chairman attended about an hour-long investor call, answering queries related to the rights issue as well as those pertaining to the telecom sector. Asked if Airtel will take a lead in raising tariffs in future, Mittal said that the company has already been doing it in a limited manner by pushing up base tariffs to ₹79. “Can this go to ₹99 eventually, my answer is yes, the question is when” Mittal observed.

