



LEGACY LIVES ON

Actor Pranutan says it was surreal performing on her grandma Nutan's popular track *Gora Ang Leila* from *Bandini* of 1963

LEISURE P2



TALIBAN HAIL VICTORY

Celebratory gunfire resounded across the Afghan capital as the Taliban took control of the Kabul airport

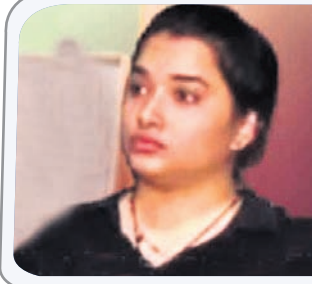
INTERNATIONAL P10



PARA ATHLETES SHINE

Mariyappan Thangavelu and Sharad Kumar win silver and bronze respectively in the men's high jump T42 event

SPORTS P12



CB TO GRILL BIDYA BHARATI TODAY

CUTTACK: The Crime Branch (CB), which has been probing the sensational death of Paralakhemundi ACF Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra, will interrogate the forest officer's wife Wednesday. According to additional director general of police (CB) Sanjeeb Panda, the probe agency has prepared a questionnaire for the purpose. "We (CB) will record the statements of the complainant (Soumya's father Abhiram Mohapatra) and his family before interrogating Bidya Bharati Panda. Two special women officials will assist the investigating team during the process."



Stampede at vax hub leaves 20 hurt

DHUPGURI: At least 20 people were injured in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district Tuesday after hundreds of local residents tried to enter a vaccination centre together, leading to a stampede-like situation, police said. Four of them were critically injured in the incident, and they are undergoing treatment at Jalpaiguri Sadar Hospital, a senior officer said. "As soon as the main gate of Dhupguri Health Centre was opened, several people tried to get inside the facility pushing each other. A stampede-like situation arose there. Several women were injured," he added.

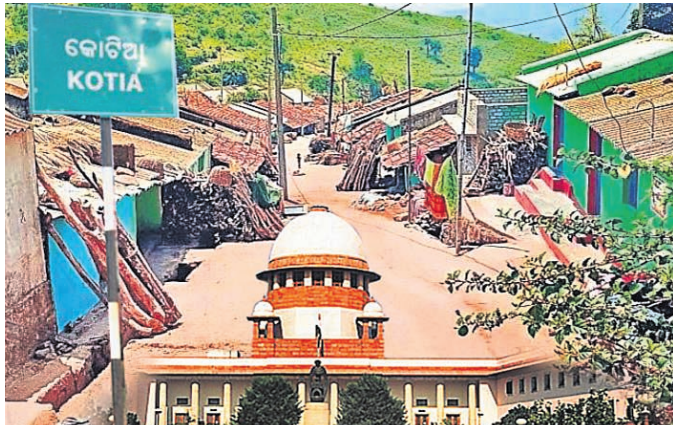
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ILL-FATED
A view of the 40-storey twin towers built by real estate company Supertech in Noida. The Supreme Court Tuesday directed demolition of the towers for violation of building by-laws

End Kotia row politically: SC

The apex court has asked both Odisha and Andhra govts to look for a political solution to the vexed border dispute between the two states around Kotia villages



New Delhi, August 31: The Supreme Court Tuesday asked both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh governments to look for a political solution to the border dispute related to Kotia group of villages in Koraput district. A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar, Sanjiv Khanna and JK Maheshwari posted the matter for next hearing after six weeks. Earlier, the state government had submitted in the court that its

claim over three disputed villages in Kotia panchayat was based on the national census of 2011 while Andhra Pradesh was relying on the self survey. It is to be mentioned here that Odisha, in the contempt petition filed through advocate Sibashankar Mishra, submitted that Andhra Pradesh wilfully and deliberately violated the Supreme Court order

dated December 2, 1968 and the judgment dated March 30, 2006 by transgressing into Odisha's territory. The apex court in its order of 1968 and 2006 judgment had asked both the states to maintain status quo on the boundary dispute with regard to Kotia group of villages with the consent of both states. Odisha contended in the peti-

tion that Andhra Pradesh March 5 last year issued a notification to conduct local body election in Vizianagaram district. "Salur is one of the Mandals where the panchayat election was notified to be conducted on the scheduled date. In the notification, Andhra Pradesh deliberately roped in three villages from the 'Kotia group of villages' falling under the territory of Koraput district of Orissa into Salur Mandal of Vizianagaram district," Odisha stated in the petition. The state also contended that Andhra Pradesh changed the name of the three villages of Kotia Gram Panchayat. The name of Ganjaipadar changed into Ganjaipadra, Phattusenary into Phattusenaru and Phagusenary into Phaguluchennuru. "Tactfully the contempters converted these three villages of one Gram Panchayat falling under the territory of Orissa to three different Gram Panchayats," Odisha stated in the petition.

Weekend shutdown goes, night curfew to continue

The state govt, on the expected line, has further eased the restrictions imposed in the aftermath of the outbreak of Covid-19 to help people with livelihood activities

Bhubaneswar, August 31: With the test positivity rate (TPR) coming down to below 1 per cent in the state, the government Tuesday lifted the weekend shutdown imposed in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri towns. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena has announced the unlock guidelines which will remain in effect from September 1 to October 1. In view of the drop in daily cases of Covid-19 infections, the state government has decided to relax restrictions to support the livelihood of people. Now, there will be no weekend shutdown in any place of the state, he said. However, the night curfew in all urban areas across the state will continue from 10 pm to 5 am everyday.

Jena said. During the night curfew, all emergency services will continue to operate as it is and home delivery of foods has also been allowed during the curfew time, the SRC said. The state government has given more relaxation for conduct of marriage like ceremonies and funerals. Now, 250 people can attend in marriages and funeral functions by adhering to Covid guidelines. Earlier, the limit was 25 for marriages and 20 for funerals. Jena said all puja ceremonies will be held by following the rules as laid down by the government in its August 9 guidelines. Besides, the curbs on social, religious and political gatherings will continue as they are in the state. As per the unlock order, auditoriums, assembly halls and similar facilities will remain open only for official meetings as per the seating capacity adhering to Covid safety protocols. No social, religious, cultural, political gatherings and meetings will be allowed in such facilities. Information centre-cum-reading rooms and libraries will remain open from September 1. No restrictions have been imposed for Covid testing, vaccination and movement of persons/vehicles for testing and vaccination. All government and private offices/establishments dealing with essential services/ utility providers like power, telecommunication, water supply, police, municipal services, railways, airport, port services and security will remain functional. Movement of private four and two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, cab aggregators such as Ola, Uber will also be allowed for dropping and picking up passengers to and from airports, railway stations and bus stands. Wearing of face cover/mask properly is compulsory in public places; in workplaces and in public transport. All individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet in public places. Spitting in public places will be punishable with a fine, as prescribed in accordance with laws, rules or regulations. Consumption of liquor, paan, gutka, tobacco, and similar products in public places is strictly prohibited. If required, concerned District Collectors, twin city police commissioner and municipal commissioners can impose additional restrictions in their respective areas as per the order.

US ends 20-yr-old war in Afghanistan



Keeping to its promise of a complete troops' withdrawal by August 31, the last US military plane flew out of Afghanistan Tuesday

Washington, August 31: The United States announced the end of its 20-year-old war in Afghanistan as the last American military flight flew out of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul shortly before the August 31 deadline. "I'm here to announce the completion of our withdrawal from Afghanistan and the end of the mission to evacuate American citizens, third country nationals and vulnerable Afghans," US Central Command Commander Marine Corps General Frank McKenzie told reporters through a virtual news conference. "Every single US service member is now out of Afghanistan," McKenzie said, announcing the formal end of America's longest war, less than a fortnight before the 20th anniversary of the September 9/11, in which Al Qaeda terrorists blew up the twin towers in New York. The terrorist strike forced the US to enter Afghanistan and overthrow the Taliban rule who then had provided safe havens to the Al Qaeda. The Taliban rule was overturned and replaced by US-backed Afghans, who ruled the country for 20 years, during which several general elections were held. That rule was overturned by the Taliban on August 15 when the president Ashraf Ghani suddenly fled the country and the 3,00,000 Afghan armed forces troops trained by the United States gave up without any fight. The Taliban, which now is the ruling power in Afghanistan, welcomed the departure of the US troops from the country.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

That is why I always say 'less talk, more action!' You shouldn't have said a word about breaking protesters' heads!

GDP grows 20% in Q1

New Delhi, Aug 31: The Indian economy grew by a record 20.1 per cent in the April-June quarter, helped by a very weak base of last year and a sharp rebound in the manufacturing and services sectors in spite of a devastating second wave of COVID-19 cases. India is now on track to achieving the world's fastest growth this year. While there was a sharp year-on-year expansion, sequentially the economy slowed down by 16.9 per cent over the January-March quarter and was 9.2 per cent short of pre-COVID levels of April-June 2019, according to the first quarter GDP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) Tuesday. The economy had contracted by a massive 24.4 per cent in April-June 2020 after one of the world's most stringent lockdowns was imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus infections, crippling economic activity. GDP had grown by 1.6 per cent in the January-March 2021 quarter. The sequential contraction in GDP in Q1 of the current fiscal came after three consecutive quarters of expansion. **More P11**

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	57552.39	↑ 662.63
NIFTY	17132.20	↑ 201.20
DOLLAR	73.38	↓ ₹0.33
EURO	86.12	↓ ₹0.32
GOLD	₹46,899	↓ ₹265
SILVER	₹63,010	↓ ₹15

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX TEMP	33.6°C	33.5°C
MIN TEMP	25.5°C	25.0°C
Humidity	98%	91%
Rainfall	0.6mm	1mm

Forecast: Generally Cloudy Sky

History made in SC, 9 judges take oath of office

New Delhi, August 31: History was created in the Supreme Court Tuesday as for the first time nine new judges took oath of office at one go, taking the working strength to 33. The new judges who were administered oath of office are Justices Abhay Shreenivas Oka, Vikram Nath, Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari, Hima Kohli and BV Nagarathna, CT Ravikumar, MM Sundresh, Bela M Trivedi and PS Narasimha. The strength of the SC judges has now risen to 33, including the CJI, out of the sanctioned strength of 34. **Justice Oka:** Born in May 1960, the senior-most of the nine judges, he was Chief Justice of the Karnataka HC before being elevated to the SC. Before that he was a judge of the Bombay High Court. **Justice Nath:** Born in September, 1962, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court September 10, 2019. He was elevated as judge of the Allahabad High Court in September 2004. **Justice Maheshwari:** Born in June, 1961, he was Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court before being elevated to the top court. He was made Madhya Pradesh High Court judge in November 2005. In October 2019, he was made Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. **Justice Kohli:** He was Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court before the elevation. Born September 2, 1959 in Delhi, Justice Kohli was a standing counsel and



legal advisor of the New Delhi Municipal Council at Delhi HC. **Justice BV Nagarathna:** In line to become the first woman CJI in September 2027, she was a judge of the Karnataka High Court before being elevated to the apex court. Born on October 30, 1962, she is the daughter of former CJI ES Venkataramiah. **Justice Ravikumar:** Sworn-in as additional judge of the Kerala

High Court in January 2009, he was appointed as a permanent judge there with effect from December 15, 2010. **Justice Sundresh:** He was judge of the Madras High Court before being elevated to the apex court. Born July 21, 1962, he was appointed additional judge of the Madras High Court March 31, 2009; made permanent judge in March 2011. **Justice Trivedi:** Born in June 1960, he was a judge of the Gujarat High Court before being elevated to the apex court. He was elevated as a judge of the Gujarat High Court in February 2011. **Justice Narasimha:** He was a former Additional Solicitor General and is in line to become the CJI, succeeding Justice Nagarathna.

leisure



JUNGLE CRUISE SEQUEL IN WORKS WITH ORIGINAL CAST

Hollywood stars Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt are set to return as wisecracking skipper Frank Wolff and intrepid researcher Dr Lily Houghton, respectively, for the sequel of their film *Jungle Cruise*. Expected to also come back are director Jaume Collet-Serra and the film's producing team, reports *hollywoodreporter.com*

HUDSON SAYS CATS WAS 'MISUNDERSTOOD'

Actress Jennifer Hudson, who starred in *Cats*, fantasy film based on the poetry collection Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by TS Eliot, feels that the 2019 movie was 'misunderstood'. "It's unfortunate that it was misunderstood. I think later, people will see it differently," she said.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Interactive sessions with people who think like you are on the cards. At last you may have an intimate talk with your beloved and you will get a chance to confide your commitment to the relationship, says Ganesh. You may even express your long-term dreams.

TAURUS
This is one of those days when not goes well, warns Ganesh. No matter how hard you try you may not be able to keep problems and difficulties at bay. You may not be pleased or comfortable doing what has been assigned, or required, and could simply sit sullenly, doing nothing.

GEMINI
Your mind will be uneasy and anxious due to some reason today. You will be unable to express your anxieties. You will be able to secure the love of your partner by sharing your feelings. You need to let go of the past and strive to keep on moving forward with confidence, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Today is a day for taking things slowly, especially on the business front. This applies the most to the stockbrokers and also others who invest in stocks or shares on the side. Stars are not so bright today and haste will only worsen the matters. People involved in speculation, chance games and shifty markets may feel frustrated.

LEO
You will seek the opinion of others in a lot of matters today. You need to patiently listen to others and keep your lips sealed during the course of conversations today. Your self-confidence may take a beating today, hence do not take any important decisions. It is time for a major change in your work or field of work, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Professionalism will be overshadowed by personal preoccupations. Drill your way out of problems today by meeting them head-on. Don't get stuck up on the emotional front, especially in the evening, cautions Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that any pending legal issues will be sorted out today either in court or through an out of court settlement. Your workload will get eased today and you will be able to find your way out from certain problematic situations. Ganesh showers you with his blessings.

SCORPIO
You can be fondly called as 'the perfectionist' today. Right from being punctual to following a systematic method for your work, you do it all. All in all, you set an ideal example for the people around you, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesh predicts a day full of romantic developments today. Mushy talks and whispering sweet nothings in your beloved's ears may give you little joys of life. However, brace yourselves as there are times when relationships do not work out, and you may experience this soon.

CAPRICORN
It has become difficult for you to bear the heavy weight of responsibilities on your shoulders. But, be prepared for some more; the weight is about to get heavier as more responsibilities are going to be added. You will no longer enjoy the work, and it will bring down your efficiency level to an extent, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Academically, you have performed exceptionally well, and Ganesh congratulates you for that. You will inspire and motivate a number of people, and may create a fan following, too. This, however, doesn't mean that you throw your weight around. Keep a humane and humble approach towards others.

PISCES
Your planetary configuration not being favorable, you are advised not to start any new projects today. The benefits accrued by any project you take up today might not justify the risks associated with it. Businessmen need to be extra careful in all their dealings. Personal life should be peaceful with Ganesh's blessings.

Deepika to appear in cross-cultural romcom

Los Angeles: Deepika Padukone will be starring in an upcoming international yet-untitled cross-cultural romantic comedy.

STXfilms, a division of Eros STX Global Corporation, announced the company is developing a romantic comedy for Deepika, who will also produce the upcoming film through her Ka Productions banner.

Deepika, who was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World by Time magazine in 2018, said: "Ka Productions was founded with the aim to develop and produce purposeful content with global appeal. I'm thrilled to be partnering with STXfilms and Temple Hill Productions, who share Ka's ambition and cre-

ative vision and look forward to bringing impactful and dynamic cross-cultural stories to the world."

The announcement was made Tuesday by Adam Fogelson, chairman, STXfilms Motion Picture Group.

Fogelson said: "She is enormously talented with an infectious personality and her profile continues to grow as an international superstar. While she has been a phenomenal success in many Eros International films, we are thrilled to be building a romantic comedy with her and our friends at Temple Hill."

Deepika made her English language film debut as the female lead in *XXX: The Return of Xander Cage*, co-starring with Vin Diesel. IANS



'Never asked for help from Aamir'

Mumbai: Actor-director Faissal Khan, who is the brother of top star Aamir Khan, says despite all the struggles he has had in his life all these years, he never asked for help

from his famous brother because he wanted to chart his own journey.

Now, after staying away from the limelight for almost a decade, Faissal is coming out with a feature film titled *Faactory* as actor and director.

Asked if he asked for help from his brother Aamir to restore his career, Faissal said: "No, I did not ask help to build my career from Aamir. I wanted to do things by myself because

whatever it is, my success, my failure is mine. He is my brother, he wishes well for me but I had to go through a dark phase that is part of my journey. That is my life."

Faissal started his career as a junior actor and appeared in the films *Pyar Ka Mausam*, *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* and also worked as an assistant director with his father and uncle. Later though he acted in films like *Madhosh*, *Mela*, *Border Hindustan Ka* among others but he could not achieve as much success as his brother. IANS



PRANUTAN SHARES HER 'SURREAL' EXPERIENCE

Mumbai: Actress Pranutan surprised her fans Tuesday by uploading a video of her dancing on popular track *Gora Ang Leile*. Dancing on this track is special for her as it's from her grandmother Nutan's 1963 film

Bandini. The actress performs Kathak in the video uploaded on her Instagram.

Pranutan says: "It was very surreal performing on Dadi's song. It's just one of my favorite songs. I love Indian classical dance. I've been learning Bharatnatyam since I was 8 or 9. I still do my classes."

The actress, who will soon be seen in *Helmet* alongside Aparshakti Khurana, says that she has been planning to perform on this track.

"This time I tried a little bit of Kathak, so I was a little nervous. It was also very exciting. Of course living up to that kind of legacy makes you nervous but it's something that I really wanted to do because I love this song," says Pranutan. IANS

Nila Madhab returns to children's film genre

Helmed by Panda's long-time associate Anuj Tyagi, '*Bishwa*' will soon be screened at the prestigious Buster Film Festival, Copenhagen, Denmark and the DYTIATO children film festival, Ukraine

Bhubaneswar: Odisha-born internationally acclaimed filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda seems to be on a roll. While his first film in Odia language *Kalira Atita*, a thought-provoking project on climate change, is receiving rave reviews at several festivals across the globe, Panda is ready with his next. The *I Am*

Kalam director now presents yet another children's film *Bishwa*. This time he is donning the producer's hat with his long-time associate Anuj Tyagi directing the movie.

The movie is based on the life of a blind boy and how he emerges as a hero in a village near the mesmerising Chilika Lake. The film's ensemble cast includes

Vinay Pathak, Yagya Bhasin, Sharib Hashmi (Family Man fame) and national award-winning actress Usha Jadhav.

Shot entirely in Odisha including some stunning locales of Chilika Lake, Puri and Bhubaneswar, the film will soon be screened at the prestigious Buster Film Festival (Copenhagen, Denmark) and the DYTIATO children film festival, Ukraine, production house sources said.

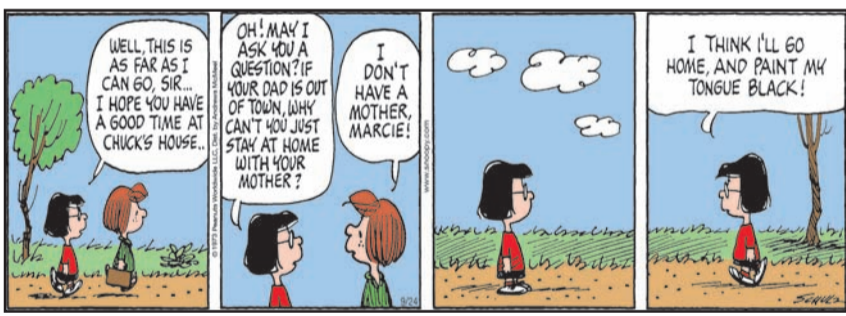
Panda says, "Cinema on children's issues has always been an important feature of my career as I started with *I Am Kalam*,

then *Jalpari* and *Halkaa*. *Bishwa* is a tale of a young boy who cannot see whereas the rest of the world can. No wonder, his father believes he is cursed with a disabled boy. But *Bishwa* has other ideas. He is determined to prove that despite his lack of sight he can do things which normal people can't even think of. For instance, he helps the villagers overcome their biggest fear which is unthinkable on the parts of other."

"However, the viewers have to come to the theatres to see *Bishwa*'s extraordinary feat," adds the Kadvi Hawa director. PNN



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

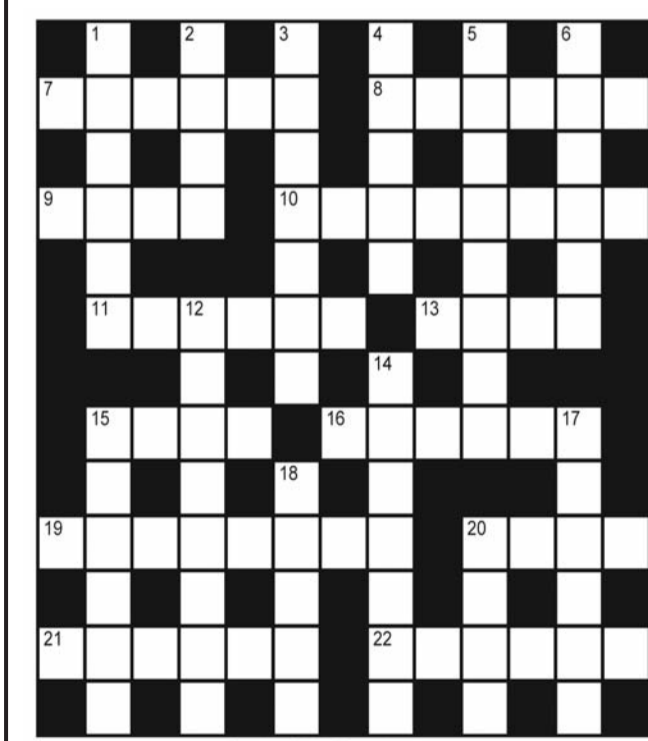


BREVITY



FUN post

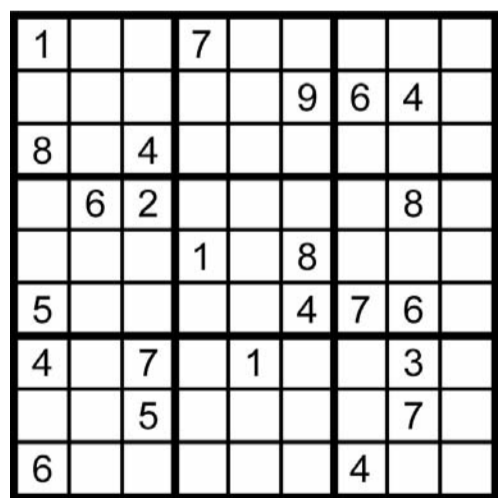
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Mutilate
 - 8 Ermine
 - 9 Style of poker
 - 10 Former squeeze (3,5)
 - 11 African antelopes
 - 13 Worry
 - 15 Hunt for
 - 16 Garden sight
 - 19 Purchases
 - 20 Austrian peaks
 - 21 Plug-uglies
 - 22 Paradise
 - 4 Stockholm native
 - 5 Aussie hopper
 - 6 Head protector
 - 12 Just enough
 - 14 Short and snippy
 - 15 Fasten
 - 17 Mend
 - 18 Garbage
 - 20 Soothing agent
- Down**
- 1 Royal home
 - 2 Like some cigars
 - 3 Duel participants

SUDOKU

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

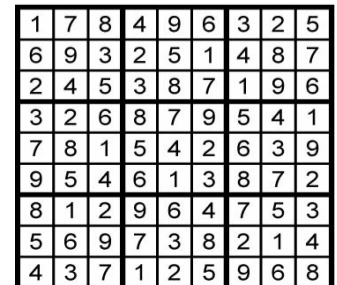


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



ON A PILGRIMAGE Hindi film actor Govinda returns from Srimandir after paying obeisance to Lord Jagannath, Tuesday

COVID-19 TRACKER table with columns: World, India, Odisha, and sub-columns: INFECTED, RECOVERED, DEAD.

Sec 144 clamped near Assembly

There will be three-tier security arrangement to ensure smooth conduct of the Monsoon Session

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, August 31: The Monsoon Session of the Assembly is all set to commence Wednesday in adherence to Covid-19 protocol even as security has been beefed up and Section 144 has been imposed near the House.



Security stepped up at Odisha Assembly ahead of the Monsoon Session, Tuesday

Govt to table 12 Bills

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government in state would move 12 Bills during the Monsoon Session beginning Wednesday. This was revealed at a meeting of party MLAs Tuesday.

DROUGHT LOOMS Activate LI points, CM tells officials

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, August 31: Amid prevailing drought-like situation in many parts of the state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday asked the officials concerned to implement contingency crop plan for the farmers.

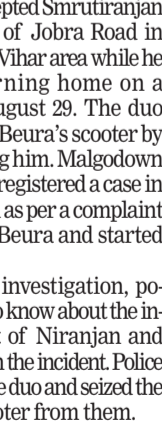


ponds for the cultivable land of more than half an acre. Water Resources department was directed to ensure irrigation water for the farmers in the downstream areas of the canal systems and recharge groundwater.

KVB Karur Vysya Bank THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD., Cuttack Branch. POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Inter-district bike lifters' gang busted; 8 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK Cuttack, August 31: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday claimed to have busted an inter-district bike lifters' gang and arrested eight persons in this regard.



had intercepted Smrutiranjana Beura, 35, of Jobra Road in Mahanadi Vihar area while he was returning home on a scooter August 29. The duo took away Beura's scooter by threatening him. Malgondwani police had registered a case in this regard as per a complaint lodged by Beura and started a probe.

KVB Karur Vysya Bank THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD., Cuttack Branch. POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Crackdown on fake journos soon

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, August 31: Commissionerate Police will soon launch a crackdown on fake journalists who have recently turned out to be a menace in the twin city.

Speaking to the media, twin city Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi Tuesday asserted that police would intensify checking and surveillance to rein in the rising number of fake journalists in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. He also sought the help and cooperation of media persons in the drive to weed out such pseudo journalists.

The twin city police has sought the cooperation of media in the drive to weed out pseudo journalists

KVB Karur Vysya Bank THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD., Aska Branch. POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Issued under [Rule 8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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110 more children contract nCoV



The rate of infection among children stands at 17.24% as against 15.92% Monday Covid-19 toll to 7,969

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 31: In the last 24 hours, Odisha detected 638 new Covid-19 cases and 68 deaths, a Health department official said.

crucial to generate evidence on the exposure of children and adolescents, the unvaccinated group, to the virus," a senior member of the survey team told PTI.

BOOST TO GARBAGE DISPOSAL



Dignitaries including MPs Bhartruhari Mahtab and Subhas Singh, MLA Mohammed Moquim and CMC Commissioner Ananya Das at the inauguration of a bio-compost plant at CDA Sector-7 in Cuttack on the occasion of Local Self Government Day, Tuesday

Kharasrota pipeline project riles environmentalists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: Several environmentalists staged a protest at Lower PMG here Tuesday opposing the state government's mega pipeline project which aims at diverting water from Kharasrota river in Kendrapara to Bhadrak.



water project," said environmentalist Kanhu Charan Behura. Earlier, a delegation of Congress party had met Governor Ganeshi Lal and sought the immediate release of protestors who were arrested by the police.

issue, has said the inflow of fresh water to Bhitarkanika has come down drastically over the years. He has pleaded for the formation of a special technical committee to look into this aspect.

Heavy rain likely from Friday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its evening bulletin Tuesday that heavy rain is likely to resume from Friday this week.

State creates 271 posts for Sundargarh MCH

BHUBANESWAR: The state government has created 271 posts for the proposed medical college and hospital (MCH) in Sundargarh. The H&FW department has created 160 teaching posts, 85 non-teaching posts, 10 posts for the office of the Dean and Principal, and 16 posts for the office of superintendent.

Submit pending UC for further funds, Sambalpur varsity told

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: The Higher Education department Tuesday directed Sambalpur University to submit the due utilisation certificate (UC) to get infrastructure development grant.

the university is directed to submit the UC immediately against the fund released earlier. As per rule, the institute gets 50 per cent of the total government assistance in the first installment.

ATM loots in City rerun in Ch'garh

BHUBANESWAR: The Commissionerate Police is likely to contact Chhatisgarh police in connection with ATM burglaries in a similar fashion as it happened in the City. The twin city police Monday arrested three miscreants from Haryana who were using steel plates to execute the crime.

OAS officer's house burgled in City

BHUBANESWAR: Unknown miscreants stole valuables worth around ₹5 lakh by breaking into the residence of a lady OAS officer in Nayapalli police station area twice in the last 15 days.

PLEA FOR GRAND PUJA



Members of various social outfits hold a demonstration at Badambadi in Cuttack, Tuesday, urging the administration to ease the curbs imposed on public celebration of Durga Puja in the Silver City

Family court rejects Varsha's writ petition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 31: A family court in Cuttack Tuesday rejected a writ petition of actress Varsha Priyadarshini seeking to quash the divorce petition filed by her actor-turned-politician husband Anubhav Mohanty.

Electronics & IT sectors unlock opportunities for MSMEs: IT Secy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: Electronics and IT sectors unlock many opportunities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of the state to work on innovation, said state Electronics and IT Secretary Manoj Kumar Mishra at the e-conference on 'Information Technology'.

derived industries for innovations." "MSMEs have to innovate products and services to solve new problems of these sectors. As 95 per cent of our data is consumed through mobile, there is opportunity for our MSME to design products which will cater to various segments through mobile," Mishra said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary Public, Junagarh, I, Nihar Ranjan Panda, S/o. Jagdish Panda, R/o. Vill.: Junagarh, Dist.-Kalahandi declare that the Khata No. 148 of Mouza: Bhainiriguda is recorded in the name of my father: In which my father's name is wrongly mentioned as Jagannath Panda instead of Jagdish Panda. That Jagannath Panda and Jagdish Panda is one and same person.

6 families live in jungle fearing atrocities of 'godman'

SINCE THE SELF-PROCLAIMED GODMAN IS AGAINST SANATAN CULTURE, HIS FOLLOWERS WOULD THROW GOAT BLOOD AND FILTHY WATER ON OUR VILLAGE DEITY, THE VICTIMS ALLEGED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, August 31: The complaints from six families of Dalatola village of Khurda district have added more to the notoriety of Manas Das, the chief of 'Manavaad Sangathan' and infamous for his alleged Taliban style of ruling.

and have been living in a cashew orchard in deplorable conditions for seven years now. Their children have stopped going to school fearing disturbance. "In 2014, some of our family members were framed with false cases and were sent to jail. Then the activists of the Sangathan not only attacked us but also threw us out from our houses and damaged our properties.

settle scores. All these things were carried out at the behest of Manas Das," an elderly man from one of the six families alleged. "Those affiliated with the organisation would have to follow some strict rules. Women are not allowed to put vermilion or wear bangles. Last rites for parents are banned too. We cannot have basil altars at our houses; neither can we worship gods and goddesses. Since the self-proclaimed godman is against Sanatan culture, his followers would throw goat blood and filthy water on our village deity," they added.



"After the Satyabrata Nayak murder case and the video showing Maguni Nayak and his son getting beaten surfaced, journalists are visiting us, asking more about the self-proclaimed godman. For some days now, followers of Manas Das have been visiting us too, intimidating us to refrain from telling anything about him before anyone," they stated. On the other hand, a follower said there is not even an iota of truth in whatever the media is showing about Manas. "The media is disseminating false information about our Guruji," he alleged.

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

The flame of the aspiration must be so straight and so ardent that no obstacle can dissolve it.

THE MOTHER



Cultural Vandalism

It is a pity that when the aim of educational institutions is to create a congenial atmosphere so that truth, the spirit of inquiry and free thinking can flourish through an exposure to ideas from all quarters, a premier centre of learning in the country - the Delhi University (DU) - has sought to close the windows of knowledge in its undergraduate English literature department.

The DU is in the eye of a storm for removing pieces of feminist Dalit literature from its BA (Honours) English syllabus. It has dropped winner of Sahitya Akademi and Padma Vibhushan award winner Mahasweta Devi's short story, 'Drapadi,' a story about the rape of a tribal woman with alleged Naxalite connections in police custody, along with the writings of two Dalit authors Bama Faustina Soosairaj, a Tamil Dalit feminist, teacher, and novelist and Sukirtharani, a feminist poet known for her contribution to contemporary Dalit and Tamil literature.

Deliberations at the Academic Council meeting held after the pieces had been dropped indicated the anger of the academics at the 'arbitrary change of the texts' in the fifth semester syllabus bypassing statutory bodies such as faculties, committees of courses and standing committee. The meeting even termed the decision 'maximum vandalism.'

There is hardly any room for doubt about the sinister design of the Oversight Committee's decisions which reek of bias against intellectual and artistic freedom, respected for centuries, to question accepted beliefs and traditions. For, it has also instructed the department to replace Chandrabati Ramayana with Tulsidas. This sixteenth century interpretation of the Ramayana by a woman poet of now Bangladesh is an extraordinary example of looking at the epic from the standpoint of Sita.

The DU would do well to reverse the decisions and uphold, as cogently argued by the apex court judge, the liberal pursuit of truth blowing away the cobweb of lies as a cornerstone of democracy. Only when the mind is without fear, one can walk with the head held high. Academic institutions are the cradle of free thought and democratic minds which alone can help the growth of democracy.

Truth comes out only when questions are asked. A race that is not taught to put up questions, without bothering about whether the questions are reasonable or not, shall be doomed to live in ignorance and darkness.

WISDOM CORNER

Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success. PABLO PICASSO

An arrogant person considers himself perfect. This is the chief harm of arrogance. It interferes with a person's main task in life - becoming a better person. LEO TOLSTOY

Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes. CARL JUNG

WORDSWORTH

Panic

When an American president tells people not to panic, everybody sits up and takes notice. Some even turn to their dictionaries. They will find that the word comes from that most earthy of Greek gods, Pan, he of the human upper and goat lower half, or sometimes the other way round. A goat he certainly was, being both priapic and fertile.

FOCUS IDEAS CAN ECONOMICS KEEP UP?

When the sitar maestro Ravi Shankar and Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen received the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, a journalist is said to have asked them, "Between the two of you, who is the more talented?" Comparing musical and economic talent is in many ways meaningless.



As technology advances and the environment changes, some of the key assumptions underpinning mainstream economic thinking will become obsolete. To reverse the public's loss of confidence in the discipline, economists must get back to doing what made the field so valuable in the first place

does so is a travesty. One does not have to read more theory to understand this; Franz Kafka's The Trial offers chilling depictions of how evil can be perpetrated without a perpetrator.

Another reason to return to theory now is that the ground is shifting beneath our feet. Mainstream economics has always relied on both explicit and implicit assumptions. For example, textbooks tell us that the efficiency of trade and exchange depends on individual preferences satisfying diminishing marginal utility, technology being convex, and so on.

But as technology advances and the environment changes, some implicit norms and assumptions will evolve, sometimes with devastating effects on the economy. In our world of social media and public pronouncements, the meaning of what we say is beginning to change. With globalisation, we also have people with different norms operating in the same economy and market.

The risk economists face now is that the ground is shifting faster than our understanding. We must call on economics' scientific imagination to rise to the challenge and examine not just the state of the world but the state of the discipline.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Kaushik Basu

THE RISK ECONOMISTS FACE NOW IS THAT THE GROUND IS SHIFTING FASTER THAN OUR UNDERSTANDING

The story is probably apocryphal. Nonetheless, it highlights a distinctive feature of economics. In many academic disciplines, it is difficult for someone who lacks a reasonable command of the subject to give a lecture without embarrassment, even to a lay audience.

Economics has the virtue of accommodating those immersed in abstruse mathematics and axiomatic methods (Leon Walras, John Nash, and Kenneth Arrow) alongside those who delve into the world's problems without recourse to symbols (Adam Smith, Thomas Schelling, and Gunnar Myrdal). But such a vast canvas tends to leave room for erroneous brushstrokes. And in deeply uncertain times like the present, when the world is being convulsed by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and the digital revolution, it is easy to understand why many lay readers would grow exasperated with pronouncements from 'economists.'

This sense of disquiet should prompt introspection within the discipline. Even if the criticism is unjustified, a little self-examination cannot hurt. Indeed, I would argue that many mainstream economists fail to appreciate that apprehending reality and crafting sound policy cannot be purely a matter of data and empiricism. However carefully we collect, or-

errors can quickly pile up. Beyond these philosophical matters, economic theory also demands a fresh look. To be sure, the rise of data-based scholarship (through big data or randomised control trials) is hugely important. We need data to help spot hidden patterns if for no other reason than to bolster our intuition. Still, the growing propensity to treat these findings as universally dispositive is worrying.

By the same token, someone who views his own forecasts as expressions of pure science is as dangerous as someone who is guided by superstition. There is no way to predict with certainty what will happen tomorrow. When speaking about the future, we have no other choice but to use our intuition to decide when we can extrapolate from past data and when we cannot. We hope that we as a species have evolved an intuition that is at least somewhat reliable.

An additional problem is that the necessary mix of hard science and intuition or judgement tends to differ across economic specialties. In some branches, such as auction design, economics is close to engineering, whereas in the areas of monetary and fiscal policy, it is heavily reliant on perception and judgment. When outsiders extrapolate from one branch's performance to make inferences about another branch,

the valuable and exciting discipline that it is today were it not for big theoretical insights like Smith's seminal insight that order can emerge organically without the need for direction from prime ministers or the state (Leviathan). "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest," Smith famously observed.

But a caveat is in order here. While Smith's seminal observation was that the 'invisible hand' can deliver order, the neoliberal view that the invisible hand always

IN JEST THIS

Good health boosts professional performance



Melvin Durai

YOU JUST CANNOT PUT A PRICE ON YOUR HEALTH, EVEN IF YOU WORK FOR A FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY

Zerodha, the Bangalore-based financial services company, may have some of the healthiest employees in the world—and I'm not just talking about financial health.

The employees are healthy because of an incentive programme that rewards them for meeting their fitness goals. If they meet their goals, Zerodha's CEO Nithin Kamath allows them to use his parking space for a month.

Actually the reward is even better than that, as Kamath revealed in a series of tweets.

"On our internal forum, we asked everyone to set a 12-month get healthy goal and update the progress every month, to create accountability," he wrote. "To increase participation, we said everyone who reaches the goal will get a 1-month salary as a bonus and I lucky draw for ₹10 lakhs."

One-month salary and a chance to win ₹10 lakhs? Where do I sign up? For these kinds of rewards, I'm willing to set some lofty fitness goals and work hard toward

achieving them. Here are just three goals that I will achieve:

1. I will run regularly—and not just when the neighbour's dog chases me. I will run to catch the bus, run to the bathroom and even run for the sake of running.

2. I will lift weights regularly—and not just after watching Mirabai Chanu win a silver medal at the Olympics. I will lift barbells, dumbbells and even cow bells.

3. I will become 'yog-fit' by doing lots of yoga and eating lots of yogurt.

Here is my tweet to Kamath: "Dear Sir, I have set some lofty fitness goals. If I achieve them, will you give me one-month salary?"

Here is his response: "Dear Melvin, yes, of course. Since you don't work for us, your monthly salary is zero. We will be happy to give it to you."

This is so unfair: Apparently you have to be an employee of Zerodha to participate in their incentive programme. Even so, it's a great programme that owes its existence partly to the first lockdown of 2020.

"Post the first lockdown, like everywhere, our team at Zerodha as a whole was probably the unhealthiest ever, due to the lack of physical activity, work-life imbalance, bad diet, and more," Kamath tweeted.

Usually you might find the 'unhealthiest ever' in a hospital, but the lockdown meant that many unhealthy people could be found providing financial services at Zerodha. Thankfully someone thought of the incentive programme and the results have been 'phenomenal,' according to Kamath.

"The transformation stories are super inspiring and pushing others to take action as well," he tweeted. "We also have proof that getting healthy improves professional performance as well. Our Get Healthy programme will now run permanently."

Yes, it's true: getting healthy improves professional performance, and you may be surprised to learn that it improves amateur performance, too! Whether you're a professional or an amateur, you can im-

prove your performance merely by getting healthy.

You just cannot put a price on your health, even if you work for a financial services company. Rewarding employees with a month's salary is a wise investment for Zerodha, and Kamath hopes other companies will follow suit.

Zerodha isn't the first company to offer health incentives to its employees, of course. But the rewards offered by most companies are not that enticing. One company, for example, rewards employees who complete an annual medical checkup with an all-expense paid trip to the dentist of their choice. (No, you cannot pick a dentist in Bali.)

Another company rewards employees who participate in an annual wellness programme with a free week. They have a choice of what's free. They can work for free for one week; or they can have a week that's free of work (and free of pay); or they can have a work week that's free of harassment from the boss.

Engage with Taliban

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Sir, This refers to the editorial, "Taliban overtures," Orissa POST, August 31, 2021. India was able to take advantage of the US security umbrella in Afghanistan for the past two decades. At the same time, India has done well in cementing people-to-people ties, investing in symbols of democracy, providing development aid, expanding its diplomatic presence, and staying away from establishing a military presence which could have antagonised the civilian population.

Talk with farmers

Sir, The farmers' agitation is going out of control. The ruling BJP alleges that behind the demonstration of farmers there is the tacit support of the Congress. The blame game continues unabated. A farmer doesn't belong to any party. His party is his motherland. He feeds us, nourishes us, and enriches us. The recent attack on innocent farmers in Manesar, Haryana speaks volumes about police brutality and administrative arrogance. Such monstrous cruelty inflicted on innocent farmers does not augur well for a vibrant democracy. This is a blatant display of the misuse of official power. The government of India can talk with G8 countries, SAARC, BRICS and United Nations, but not with farmers. The farmers are protesting against the new farm laws. Farmers are not terrorists with whom no dialogue, debate or discussion can be held. Against all odds, our farmers are demanding justice. Is it a crime to air one's grievances in a democracy? It is high time the Union government takes a sympathetic and lenient approach toward the farmer's demands.

Orissa POST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Tribals observe 12-hr bandh in Mayurbhanj



During the bandh, activists of the PESA Sangathan picketed in various parts of Baripada and Udala. They laid siege to the NH-18 at Murgabadi and Palbani in Baripada town leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded for hours

Hundreds of people staged protests in front of the District Collector's office. A delegation of agitators held talks with the Sub-Collector regarding their demands

NOTABLY, SOME PEOPLE HAD ENTERED JAHIRA, A SHRINE OF THE SANTHALI COMMUNITY AT SIRIPUR UNDER UDLA BLOCK MAY 9. THE MISCREANTS DESECRATED THE SANCTITY OF THE PLACE AND VANDALISED THE DEITIES

Baripada, August 31: The 12-hour bandh called by PESA Gram Sabha Santathan, an outfit of tribal communities, over a 10-chapter of demands under Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 was peaceful across Baripada Tuesday

During the bandh, activists of the PESA Sangathan picketed in various parts of Baripada and Udala. They laid siege to the NH-18 at Murgabadi and Palbani in Baripada town leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded for hours.

However, shops and business establishments were open during the bandh.

Hundreds of people staged protests in front of the District

Collector's office. A delegation of agitators held talks with the Sub-Collector regarding their demands.

Notably, some people had entered *Jahira*, a shrine of the Santthali community at Siripur under Udla block May 9. The miscreants desecrated the sanctity of the place and vandalised the deities.

The PESA Gram Sabha Sangathan activists had apprised the Chief Minister, the District Collector, Kaptipada Sub-Collector and the police about the issue. However, no action was taken against the miscreants in this connection.

This caused resentment among the tribals as the outfit alleged that

constitutional rights of the tribals were violated.

Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996, came into existence to ensure tribal self-rule for people living in the Scheduled areas of the country.

The PESA has conferred the absolute powers to Gram Sabhas, whereas state legislature has given it an advisory role to ensure the proper functioning of Panchayats and Gram Sabhas, the tribals leaders pointed out, adding that PESA recognises the traditional system of the decision-making process and stands for peoples' self-governance.

Scribe held for ganja smuggling

Contraband worth over ₹1 cr seized in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, August 31: Police arrested a journalist on charges of smuggling ganja during a raid in Khairiput block under the district, Tuesday. The police also seized around 15 quintals of ganja and arrested 5 persons, including the scribe, in this connection.

The scribe was identified as Web channel in Koraput Baipariguda area. He was nabbed red-handed by the police with the smuggled contraband.

A special team led by Mudulipada OIC was stationed at Jhariaguda checkpoint for vehicle inspection. They intercepted a pick-up van and a four-wheeler speeding towards Jeypore. The cops tried to stop the vehicles, but they didn't stop at the checkpoint.

The on-duty cops at the checkpoint chased the vehicles and successfully nabbed them. The police found the vehicles loaded with a huge cache of ganja. Seizing the vehicles, police took five persons to Mudulipada police station for interrogation.

"Our team was stationed at Jhariaguda for vehicle checking. Meanwhile, a speeding car followed by a pick-up van stopped after seeing the police team. When they tried to escape the spot, we chased the vehicles and nabbed them," informed Anshuman Dwibedi, SDPO, Chittrakonda.

The SDPO added, "We have arrested five accused and seized the haul of ganja which worth over ₹1 crore in the market. The investigation process is underway and we will try to collect more information."

During the interrogation, the culprits confessed to smuggling ganja to other states from Chittrakonda.

Woman dies, husband critical after LPG cylinder explosion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, August 31: In a tragic incident, a 22-year-old woman was burnt to death and her husband sustained critical burn injuries after a LPG cylinder exploded at Biridih village under Khandapada police limits in Nayagarh district Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Minja Jena, wife of Silu Jena, whose condition is learnt to be critical.

According to sources, like any other day, Minja was preparing food Tuesday morning. Suddenly, the LPG cylinder caught fire and exploded, leaving no time for Minja to escape. Hearing the explosion, Silu rushed to the kitchen to res-



cue his wife and he too sustained burn injuries. Family members with the help of neighbours rushed Silu to Khandapada community health centre (CHC). He was later shifted to Nayagarh district headquarters hospital (DHH) as his condition deteriorated.

Fire personnel and a team from Khandapada police station reached the spot. After the flame was extinguished, the Minja's body was retrieved and sent for post-mortem.

DISCHARGE OF EFFLUENTS INTO DAMSALA NULLAH

CPCB shies away from Vedanta pollution issue

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 31: Though the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has sought a reply from the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) on its clean chit to Vedanta-owned Facor Ostapal chromite mines in Sukinda over discharge of toxic effluents into Damsala nullah, the latter continues to maintain its silence on the issue and is yet file a reply, a report said.

The Facor Ostapal chromite mines are being operated by the Vedanta group in Sukinda. It is alleged that the industrial and mining giant is discharging toxic effluents from the mines into Damsala nullah and polluting the water body, which is a natural stream in the area.

The effluents containing various harmful chemicals and minerals have been posing a major health risk to the people in the area. A case regarding the alleged



discharge of toxic effluents into the Damsala nullah is sub-judice before the CPCB.

Proof regarding the allegations was confirmed from a WhatsApp chat between the Vedanta mining staff. Despite the serious allegations, the regional officer of SPCB at Kalinganagar has given a clean chit to Vedanta. A report in this regard has been submitted by the member secretary of SPCB before the CPCB, June 21.

However, MK Choudhury of DH-PR division of CPCB shot off a let-

ter (CB/PR/PG/2021-22) to the member secretary of SPCB seeking his reply after the petitioner RK Singh raised objections to the clean chit given to Vedanta. SPCB is yet to file its response on the issue while the CPCB too has fallen silent.

According to the complaint, around 15 lakh cubic metres of toxic water and effluents were discharged into the Damsala nullah over a month instead of sending it to the effluent treatment plant of the mining major. Peeved over the development, the complainant RK Singh as well as the residents had lodged complaints with the Union government's Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System as well as with Jajpur District Collector and SPCB.

As directed by the CPCB, the SPCB conducted a probe into the charges but submitted a report giving a clean chit to Vedanta. The SPCB ruled out any discharge of effluents into Damsala nullah

by Vedanta.

Later, the complainant RK Singh lodged a complaint before the CPCB July 6, 2021 alleging that the discharge of effluents into Damsala nullah has been proved. He alleged that either the official of the SPCB conducting the investigation is ignorant of the matter or has submitted a favourable report yielding to pressures from Vedanta. He urged the CPCB to conduct a fair and impartial probe into the charges.

Accordingly, the CPCB has sought a reply from SPCB asking the latter to clarify the charges made by the complainant. Meanwhile, the complainant Singh has filed several reminders before the CPCB through e-mails but the former is yet to respond to his queries.

Repeated attempts to contact the SPCB regional officer Pramod Kumar Behera on his phone failed to yield any result as he did not pick up the calls.

NCB seizes 850 kg ganja, two held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 31: A team of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) seized 850 kg of ganja concealed in an oil tanker and arrested two persons in this connection at Bhalupalli on National Highway-53 at Ainthapali in this district, late Sunday night.

The accused have been identified as Ram Sagar Singh (60) and Santosh Ray (26) of Daulatpur village in West Bengal. A case has been registered in this connection and further investigations on.

Reports said that the contraband was being smuggled from Saluru in Vizianagaram to Rourkela. Acting on a tip-off, the NCB officials intercepted the vehicle and seized the contraband.

TOTAL PROHIBITION



Women of self-help groups and voluntary outfits taking out a rally at Markapalli in Malkangiri demanding total prohibition and ban on other intoxicants, Tuesday

Farmers threaten stir in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 31: Reeling under stress due to Covid-related problems, hundreds of farmers in four panchayats under Jujumara block in Sambalpur were left fuming over delay in payment of claims under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. They have warned of agitation, if immediate steps are not taken to clear the payments.

The farmers discussed the issue at a meeting here. It was learnt that the insurance claim for 2020-21 has not been paid to scores of farmers in the region. They pointed out that farmers in other panchayats have received their insurance money, while those in Kayakuda, Lipinda, Gadalusung and Kesapalli panchayats are still waiting for their dues to be cleared.

The Revenue and Statistics departments had conducted a joint survey of the area affected by crop losses in 2020. "Even though we have taken up the issue with the Agriculture department, the district administration and the insurance company concerned, no step has been taken to clear out claims despite the fact that we are facing difficulties during this pandemic," a farmer said.

Hirakud dam: NHRC seeks report on rehab of displaced families

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the state Chief Secretary to submit an updated report in connection with the identification and payment of compensation to the victims displaced due to the construction of Hirakud Dam in 1952-53. The Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh has also been asked to submit a report regarding the non-payment of ex-gratia compensation to several displaced families in Raigarh and Sarguja districts of the state.

In addition, the NHRC has also asked its Special Rapporteur BB Misra to investigate all affected areas and the ground realities and submit the final report to the commission within eight weeks.

The commission delivered the order while hearing a plea filed by Supreme Court lawyer and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy in April 2017. In his petition, Tripathy had alleged that as many as 26,561 families who were displaced for the construction of the



Hirakud Dam are yet get proper compensation despite the lapse of more than 60 years.

"The government takes steps to trace and count tigers, Olive Ridley turtles etc every year, but forgets to identify the displaced families," Tripathy said.

He had sought the intervention of the commission demanding rehabilitation of these displaced families.

The Odisha government in its

submission has claimed that the displaced persons have been duly compensated and rehabilitated. Meanwhile it also "admitted that certain service groups of people, including kanhar/chowkidar/nariha/dhoba/Bhandari, were not awarded full compensation and are yet to be rehabilitated. The issue with regard to treating the DC land patta as revenue land is also yet to be sorted out".

Pisciculture gets a boost in Sonepur

FISH FINGERLINGS RELEASED INTO MAHANADI



POST NEWS NETWORK

Binka, August 31: Concerned over the depleting fish population in Mahanadi river and the livelihood crisis faced by the fishermen due to illegal blasting of explosives as well as discharge of industrial effluents, the state Fisheries department has launched a programme of releasing fish fingerlings in Mahanadi river, a report said.

The matter came to the fore during the release of fish fingerlings in Mahanadi by the officials of the department here in Subarnapur district, Saturday. Local fishermen and other villagers have welcomed the efforts of the state Fisheries department to increase the fish population in the river.

The release of the fish fingerlings has been undertaken by the state Fisheries department with assistance of the National Fish Development Board. As a part of this programme, fingerlings of rohu, bhakur, mirkali, grass carp and kalbaini were released in the river at Papakhayaghat in Binka town. At the outset, four lakh fingerlings will be released into the river at Binka and Sonepur, district Fisheries officer Prasanna

The illegal blasting of dynamites to catch fish from the Mahanadi river has taken a toll on the fish population in the river. Releasing fingerlings will increase the fish population in the river

Kumar Patnaik said. This will help in increasing the fish population and fish catch from the river, he said. The illegal blasting of dynamites to catch fish from the river has taken a toll on the fish population in the river. The depleting fish catch has also affected the lives and livelihood of fishermen and people living in the riparian villages. Keeping these issues in mind, the state government has launched a programme to increase the fish population in the river. Among others, Snigdharani Kanhar, Assistant Fisheries Officer, Binka, Sudhir Kumar Pradhan of fingerlings production centre and the local fishermen were present on the occasion.

VOICING THEIR DEMANDS



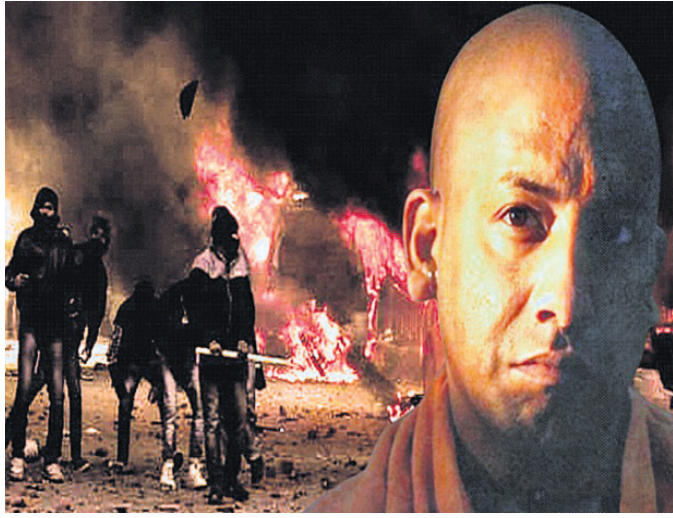
Members of Paradip-Erasama Silpanchal Shramik Sangha taking out a rally in support of their various demands before staging a demonstration outside the IOCL refinery in Paradip, Tuesday

'Riot took place every third day' We still face militancy: Abdullah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 31: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Tuesday alleged that a big riot took place almost every third day under the previous regime, hindering the state's development and pushing it backwards.

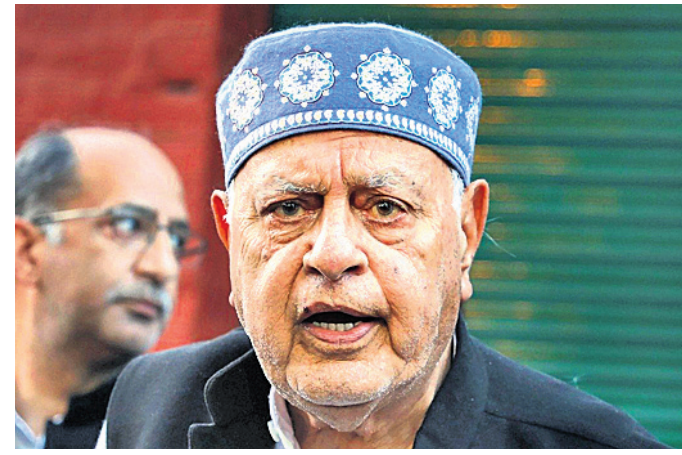
The UP CM further accused the previous governments of lack of vision for progress and failing to provide the common man a platform for business and employment.



Yogi bans liquor, meat in Mathura

MATHURA: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has imposed a complete ban on the sale of liquor and meat in Mathura. The officers concerned are directed to make plans for the ban as well as for the engagement of people involved in such activities in some other trade, he said. The Chief Minister was speaking at the Krishnotsava 2021 programme in Mathura, late Monday evening. He had earlier also said that meat and liquor sale would be banned in city of religious importance. He suggested that those engaged in liquor and meat trade could take up selling milk in order to revive the glory of Mathura, which was known for producing huge quantity of milk. Every effort will be made to develop Brij Bhumi and there will be no dearth of funds for this. We are looking at a blend of modern technology and the cultural and spiritual heritage for the development of the region, he said. The chief minister complimented Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving a new direction to the country. He said places of faith neglected since long are being revived now.

Abdullah requested the Lt Governor to strengthen security of panchayat leaders who continue to face threat to their lives and said militancy still exists in the Kashmir Valley



Kashmir Valley

"These panchayat members are the targets of militants and they need to be protected. Don't live in a cuckoo world and think everything is hunky-dory. We still face militancy and God knows what will happen in future," he said in an apparent suggestion to the government.

Laying emphasis on the need to protect the country's diversity, Abdullah said there is nothing similar between those who live in Srinagar and Chennai. "The binding factor is only the resolve that we come together to create this country. India is a diverse nation and it cannot prosper if we don't protect its diversity."

He further said if the authorities don't protect the diversity, then one cannot protect the nation.

"India cannot be run on the basis of one religion. And there is more threat from the enemy within. We know about the enemy which is outside," Abdullah said.

He further said there is nothing wrong with any religion and that no religion teaches us to hate people from different faiths.

Abdullah mentioned that panchayat elections were held under the governments led by him and his son Omar Abdullah.

Reacting to Abdullah, the Lt Governor said, "I want to assure (you) that appropriate arrangements have been made for the security of panchayat leaders. The administration is committed to provide them security and will extend them all possible help to fulfil their duty."

We will fulfill the dream of making the state a trillion dollar economy

YOGI ADITYANATH I CM, UTTAR PRADESH

Between 2003 and 2017, no festival was held peacefully, lacking security from the government, he claimed.

"UP was hit by anarchy, hooliganism and mismanagement. An identity crisis rose before the youth of the state," the CM said addressing an event organised to launch developmental projects here.

In UP, from 2012-17, there was on an average a big riot every third day. People of not only one side

died but loss of life and money was faced by both sides. Ultimately, it was a national loss, which pushed the state backwards and hindered its development, he said without mentioning the name of the Samajwadi Party that ruled UP for the five years.

Adityanath also claimed that the state has improved in ease of doing business, jumping from the 14th place in the previous government to the second spot under the BJP rule.

The state is now among the top three choices for foreign investors when it comes to investing in the country, he claimed.

In coronavirus period, when China was losing on investments, ₹66,000 crore was invested in the state, he said, claiming that the economy of UP is headed for becoming number two in the country. The work on infrastructure development, including interstate connectivity from Nepal, Bihar, Uttarakhand, MP, Chhattisgarh and Delhi, has been initiated, he said.

"We are constructing a network of expressways that will become a backbone of the state's economy, he said.

We will fulfill the dream of making the state a trillion dollar economy, he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 31: Laying emphasis on providing enough security to panchayat leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah Tuesday said militancy still exists and the government should not live in "cuckoo world and think everything is hunky-dory".

Abdullah, a former chief minister, made these remarks in the presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at an official event here, organised as part of the parliamentary outreach programme for strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Abdullah requested the Lt Governor to strengthen security of panchayat leaders who continue to face threat to their lives and said militancy still exists in the

Hindu outfit threatens to lock up Taj Mahal



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, August 31: Members of a fringe outfit called Rashtriya Hindu Parishad (Bharat) staged a protest at the west gate of the Taj Mahal and threatened to lock the monument if action against an ASI staff member who denied entry to a visitor dressed as Lord Krishna is not taken.

The outfit gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials to take action against their staff members who "insulted" the visitor.

The incident happened Saturday. The security personnel at the 17th century monument of love, the Taj Mahal, denied entry to a visitor who was costumed in full regal splendour as Lord Sri Krishna, to celebrate the Janmashtami fervour. Even as the security per-

sonnel shooed him away, a big crowd cheered and admired the character after he played the flute.

Superintending Archaeologist (Agra circle) Vasant K Swarnkar said that no promotional activities are allowed at any protected monument without prior permission. The entry was denied as per rules and regulations.

The ASI officials said it was normal to deny entry to people carrying flags, banners or posters or making attempts at self promotion.

According to officials, there have been several occasions in the past when groups of people donning Ram dupatta were stopped from entering the historical monument leading to controversies.

The incident, according to reports took place Saturday and the outfit staged a protest Monday.

Film City construction to kick-off in January



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, August 31: The construction of the world-class Film City project which will provide employment to 15,000 people, is likely to start in Sector-21 of Yamuna Expressway Development Authority (YEIDA) area of Gautam Buddh Nagar district in January next year.

The preparations for the construction of the Film City at YEIDA city are in full swing with the approval of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted to the state government recently by the consultant company CBRE South Asia Private Limited.

The DPR was prepared by the CBRE South Asia Private Limited after surveying the world's famous

film cities and keeping in mind the proposal of big filmmakers and the film policy of the State Government. Spread over an area of 1,000 acres, the sprawling Film City will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹6,000 crore.

The Film City will be built on PPP (public-private partnership) model in three phases. In the first phase, studios, open areas, amusement parks and villas will be built.

The first Film City in UP will boast of the latest technologies in the cinematic medium, including digital among others and will be called 'Infotainment City' also, according to officials.

It will have dedicated studios for shooting of films, TV serials, animation, web series, cartoon films, documentaries etc.

Army meets kin of militants, urges bringing wards home

This is for the first time that the senior most army officer in the valley has met in person the families whose children have picked up guns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shopian (J&K), August 31: In a first, the top army commander in the Kashmir Valley Tuesday met members of around 80 families whose children have joined various terrorist groups in Jammu and Kashmir and urged them to bring their wards back in whatever way possible.

I request you to pull out your children from the swamp called terrorism. I leave it up to you how you pull them out but please do it, General-Officer-Commanding of the Srinagar-based Chinara Corps Lt Gen DP Pandey told the families at a function held at a stadium in this highly-volatile district of south Kashmir. This is for the first time that the senior most army officer in the valley has met in person the families whose children have picked up guns.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Range) Vijay Kumar told the parents that police and security forces have been providing opportunities (to local terrorists) to surrender during live encounters since last year. Families are requested to convince their children (newly recruited terrorists) to come back.

The army commander cautioned the families against the white-collar terrorists roaming among the general masses and said while the children of these white-collar terrorists are enjoying and studying in the rest of the country, your children are targeted by these people. Beware of them.

I have come to you and I want to share that there are two aspects when a youth picks up guns. The first could be that he wants to impress girls or for drugs or is not good at education or even if he is good at education, he has fascination



How do you do that, I don't know. It depends on you, he is your son. But during the operation, if any boy drops the weapons, we take bullets, injuries and casualties to save my children. This is my promise

LT GEN DP PANDEY I GOC, CHINARA CORPS

for guns.

The second and dangerous aspect is, whom I call, white-collar terrorist. He is one among us whose children are studying or employed only to ensure that his children are not sucked into the gun culture. However, this white-collar terrorist ensures that children of other families pick up guns, Lt Gen Pandey said at the function, 'Jashn-e-Janoob' (Festival of South).

I had requested for a one-to-one meeting with you all to appeal to you to pull out your children quietly from terror groups. And let me tell you that even during operation, if some boy is ready to sur-



render, I assure you that the army will do whatever possible, even at the cost of suffering injury, to get your child back, he said drawing applause from the families.

Among the families of terrorists present during the interaction were Abdul Hamid Najar, father of active militant Sumair Ahmad Najar; Mohammad Saleem Malik, brother of active militant Umar Ishfaq Malik; Mohammad Hussain Wani, father of active militant Naseer Ahmad Wani; Bashir Ahmad Wani, father of active militant Adil Ahmad Wani; Mohammad Khalil Wani, father of active militant Adil Hussain Wani; Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh, father of active militant Abid Ramzan Sheikh; and Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, father of active militant Sameer Ahmad Sheikh.

The rest of the family members did not wish to be identified.

The function was also attended by Victor Force GOC Maj Gen Rashim Bali and Commanding Officer of 44-Rashtriya Rifles Col AK Singh.

500 NIT scholars await stipend for over four months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 31: Over 500 research scholars at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) here have been awaiting their stipend for over four months as the Ministry of Education is yet to release funds, officials said Tuesday.

The NIT's management has sent letters to the ministry, informing it about the non-payment of due stipend to students pursuing PhD and Master of Technology (MTech), but has not got any positive response so far, they said.

The officials said there are 350 PhD scholars and 180 others pursuing MTech at the institution.

We have not got fellowship grant for the last four months. We have been protesting, and demanding disbursement of grants to us for the last 10 days but there is no help. Non-grant of fellowship is creating a lot of problems for students who are mainly outsiders and stay in rented accommodations. Students are unable to pay their rent," said Tarun Jandyal, a PhD scholar.

He said landlords have been demanding rent. If students do not pay they will be forced to leave their rented accommodations, Jandyal said. Non-disbursement of fellowship grants is causing a lot of problems to students from economically-

weak backgrounds, especially as they are facing difficulty in fulfilling their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, he said.

Jandyal said a group of students Tuesday protested at the institute's main gate demanding early release of grants to them.

PhD scholars have not got fellowship or stipend for over four months. We solely depend on it for our financial needs. It is creating a lot of problems for us. We have already approached the NIT management but they say they cannot do anything for it as the grant is released by the Ministry of Education, another scholar said, requesting anonymity.

He said senior officials at the institute say that the grant will only be released once it is sent to them by the Ministry of Education.

When contacted, NIT Director Rakesh Sehgal told PTI, "We have informed the Ministry of Education about it. We have been writing letters to them seeking the grant."

He confirmed that students have not got their stipend or fellowship for the past four months. It has happened for the first time that students have not got the grant for over four months. The Ministry of Education has been informed about it. Even today, I am going to write a letter to the ministry on it, Sehgal said.



Crime web series 'inspires' youths to rob jewellery store

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, August 31: Three youths, inspired by a crime web series, robbed a jewellery store in the Gomti Nagar area here.

They were 'inspired' by crime web series 'Money Heist' that is streaming on an OTT platform and committed the crime Saturday, said the police.

Within 24 hours, the police cracked the case and tracked down the kingpin, who was none other than the salesman at the counter, Pradeep, who feigned victim after his aide thrust a gun on his head and tied up his hands.

The whole crime scene was set up by Pradeep, whose burqa-clad accomplice, Imran, spoke in a soft dulcet tone before enacting the heist



and slipping away into the bylanes. The third accomplice, Sandeep Gupta, who provided the getaway

car was also nabbed with Imran and Pradeep. Assistant commissioner of po-

Within 24 hours, the police cracked the case and tracked down the kingpin, who was none other than the salesman at the counter

lice (ACP), Gomti Nagar, Shweta Srivastava, who led the operation said, the three were arrested after interrogation, non-stop surveillance and CCTV footage that provided clinching evidence.

Police also recovered ornaments worth ₹15 lakh, the gateway car and burqa and sneakers worn by Imran. They were arrested from neighbouring Gangotri Vihar.

We waited for the heat to die down and interrogated Pradeep after conducting a thorough investigation. During sustained grilling, Pradeep broke down and owned up to the crime after which his aides were arrested, said the ACP.

The three youths are school dropouts and wanted to make a fast buck for luxury living.

A day before the robbery, the accused hammed out the plan, but in haste, Imran forgot to change his shoes while stepping out of the car. The accused also failed to notice a functional CCTV just next to the jewellery shop, said the police officer.

They had all watched web series like 'Money Heist' on OTT platforms.



Spoke to Assam CM Shri @himantabiswa and took stock of the flood situation in parts of the state. Assured all possible support from the Centre to help mitigate the situation. I pray for the safety and well-being of those living in the affected areas

HORRIFIC INCIDENT

Refusing tea to cops of Patna turned ugly for a minor boy Monday night when the formers threw a utensil of hot milk on him



of the day quote

Nobody will be allowed to disturb the hard-earned peace of Punjab and again plunge our people into the dark abyss of the terrorism days, which took thousands of innocent lives

It is a matter of pride for the Indian health system to deliver one crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines in one day. So far no country has administered so many vaccines in a day

Yamuna cleaning is our priority, many say it's not possible but with our devotion, we will definitely make it happen

INDIA HOLDS TALKS WITH TALIBAN

THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE EMBASSY OF INDIA, DOHA, ON THE REQUEST OF THE TALIBAN

New Delhi, August 31: In the first formal and publicly acknowledged contact, Indian Ambassador to Qatar Deepak Mittal met senior Taliban leader Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai Tuesday and conveyed India's concerns that Afghanistan's soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities and terrorism.



meeting between Mittal and Stanekzai took place hours after the US completed the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, ending its 20-year-long military campaign in the country.

The last American aircraft left the Kabul airport in the early hours of Tuesday. On Saturday, Stanekzai, in a clear overture, described India as an important country in the region and said the Taliban wants to maintain Afghanistan's trade, economic and political relations with it.

siding in Qatar for years. In September last year, an Indian delegation attended the inaugural ceremony of the intra-Afghan negotiations featuring various stakeholders including the Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha. Jaishankar had joined it through a video conference.

Meanwhile, a high-level group comprising Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval and a number of other senior officials is focusing on India's immediate priorities in Afghanistan following the drawdown of American forces from the country. Official sources said on Tuesday that the group has been meeting regularly over the last few days following a direction from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India's immediate priorities include the safe return of its nationals still in Afghanistan, bringing back the Afghan nationals who stood by New Delhi and ensuring that Afghan soil is not used for terrorism directed at it.

India has been a key stakeholder in Afghanistan and it has invested nearly USD 3 billion in carrying out nearly 500 projects across Afghanistan.

The Embassy of India, Doha, on the request of the Taliban side," the MEA said in a statement. It said the discussions focused on safety, security and early return of Indian nationals stranded in Afghanistan and the travel of Afghan nationals, especially minorities, who wish to visit India also came up. "Ambassador Mittal raised India's concern that Afghanistan's soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities and terrorism in any manner. People familiar with India's ties

in Afghanistan said it was the first publicly acknowledged contact between the two sides in over at least two decades. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, replying to questions during his weekly briefing in the last few months on whether India has reached out to the Taliban, has been maintaining that New Delhi is in touch with all stakeholders.

It was learnt that India had opened a channel of communication with the Taliban but it was never acknowledged officially. The

The meeting took place at the Indian embassy in Doha at the request of the Taliban side and came two weeks after the outfit seized control of Kabul. The MEA said the Taliban representative assured the ambassador that "these issues" would be positively addressed. "Today, Ambassador of India to Qatar, Deepak Mittal, met Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, the head of Taliban's Political Office in Doha. The meeting took place at

SHORT TAKES

Mumbai gets heavy rains

Mumbai: After a lull of two weeks, heavy rains hit the financial capital of Mumbai and the coastal North Konkan belt since the wee hours of Tuesday, officials said here Tuesday. While one boy was washed away in a flooded river in Jalgaon, there has been no impact on the road, rail traffic or air services. The IMD Regional Meteorological Centre has cautioned fishermen against venturing into the Arabian Sea at least for the next 72 hours till September 3 due to rough sea conditions.

SC rejects Asaram's plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday declined to entertain a plea by self-styled godman Asaram Bapu, who sought suspension of his sentence, in the rape case of a minor girl, to avail ayurvedic treatment. A bench of Justices Indira Banerjee, V Ramasubramanian, and Bela MTrivedi observed that Asaram was convicted in a crime, which is "no ordinary crime at all".

Drones to monitor mining in TN

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government will use drones to check the quantum of minerals mined from its leased quarries at an outlay of ₹25 crore, said Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan. He also said the unused quarries in the state will be used for water harvesting and storage.

12 killed in road mishap

Jaipur: Twelve pilgrims were killed and six others injured in a collision between a multi utility vehicle and a truck in Rajasthan's Nagaur district Tuesday, police said. The accident occurred near the Shri Balaji temple on the Bikaner-Jodhpur Highway, they said, adding eight women and two minors were among those killed.

Growing NCDs in NE region

Guwahati: Over 26 per cent people in the northeast are suffering from Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like hypertension, neurological and heart problems, according to a survey conducted by an industry body. As part of its "Illness to Wellness" campaign Tuesday, the Assocham unveiled its findings on the northeastern states, based on a primary healthcare survey on the rising burden of non-communicable diseases in the country.

3mn WhatsApp accounts banned



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 31: Instant messaging platform WhatsApp Tuesday announced that it has banned over 3 million Indian accounts in the 46-day period from June 16 to July 31.

It received 137 reports for account support, of which one was acted on, and 316 requests to ban accounts, the messaging giant said in its second compliance report under the new Information Technology Rules, 2021. "Indian accounts actioned through our prevention and detection methods, for violating the laws of India or WhatsApp's Terms of Service

and user-reports or grievances received, through 2 channels e-mail grievance_officer_wa@support.whatsapp.com regarding violations of WhatsApp's terms of service, or questions about accounts on WhatsApp, published in the help center or, mails received by the India Grievance Officer via post," the company said in a statement. All grievances received from users in India via the grievance mechanisms are evaluated and responded to. Overall, more than 95 per cent of such bans in India are due to the unauthorised use of automated or bulk messaging (Spam). These number have also increased significantly since 2019 because our systems have increased in sophistication, the firm said.

In its first compliance report, which covered the time between May 15 and June 15, WhatsApp had said it banned 2 million Indian users.

In July, search engine giant Google said that it removed over 1.5 lakh pieces of content based on complaints received in May and June, and over 98 per cent of these were related to copyright.

India records highest vaccinations in a day

NEW DELHI: The daily Covid-19 vaccinations crossed the one crore mark Tuesday for the second time in five days, taking the cumulative doses administered in the country to over 65 crore, the Union Health Ministry said. A record high of over 1.28 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses were given Tuesday, according to the CoWIN portal data. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the highest one-day record of 1.09 crore vaccine doses has been achieved till 6 PM. Mandaviya lauded the entire country for the achievement of more than one crore doses being administered for the second day within a span of five days. He also praised the hard work of Covid warriors and the diligence of citizens in helping achieve the momentous feat of more than 50 crore cumulative administrations of the first dose of the vaccine. "Another milestone achieved in the world's largest vaccination drive under PM @NarendraModi ji. 50 crore people received their first #COVID19 vaccine dose. "I applaud the hard work of COVID warriors and diligence of citizens in helping achieve this momentous feat," Mandaviya tweeted.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 31: A little more than 25 per cent of healthcare workers were infected with coronavirus despite getting fully jabbed, a recent study has revealed, giving an insight on the breakthrough infections due to the Delta variant.

The study, jointly conducted by the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) and Max hospitals in Delhi-NCR, found that vaccination breakthroughs were far more common during the Delta-outbreak in Delhi than previously reported.

However, the severity of the infection was low and vaccination is crucial to avoid severe illnesses, said Shantanu Sengupta, senior

scientist with the IGIB and one of the lead researchers of the study. He also cautioned that of the 25 per cent who were infected, a large number were asymptomatic, so masking is also very important to arrest the spread of infection.

Sengupta said nearly 95 healthcare workers who had taken the two doses were studied. They were assessed from 45-90 days after their inoculation. Of the 95, more than 25 per cent saw breakthrough infections.

"Immunisation is expected to confer protection against infection and severe disease for vaccines, while reducing risks to non-immunised population by inhibiting transmission. Here, based on serial serological studies, we show that

SEEKING SHELTER



People cross the city street during rain in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

DALIT TEEN RAPED, KILLED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, August 31: A 13-year-old Dalit girl from Delhis Narela area was allegedly raped and killed in Gurugram. The incident occurred on August 23 and after the incident, her body was taken to the Narela area for cremation. However, her father got suspicious following which he made a call to the Police Control Room (PCR).

The father alleged in a FIR that his landlord's brother Praveen Verma, along with others, killed his daughter.

A case was registered under sections 302 (murder) and 120B (punishment of criminal conspiracy)



of the Indian Penal Code and SC/ST Act at the Sector-10A police station in Gurugram, the police said, adding that Verma has been arrested. The police have got the post-mortem report where the sexual assault was confirmed and added further sections in the FIR, they said. According to the FIR, the father

of the victim said, "On July 17, my landlord's wife said that her sister-in-law gave birth to a child and she was taking my daughter as caretaker along with her to her brother's home in Gurugram."

On August 23 around 3 p.m., the father was informed by his landlord that his daughter has died. Around 7 p.m., they brought the body of the victim in a private ambulance to his residence for the cremation, according to the FIR.

When the father got suspicious, he made a PCR call and the police reached the spot. Police took the body of the victim for an autopsy which confirmed sexual assault, it stated.

COVID CRISIS

25% of fully jabbed healthcare staff got infected: Study

INFECTIONS HAVE STARTED RISING AGAIN AND EXPERTS WARN OF ANOTHER BIG JUMP AROUND OCTOBER, INDIA'S PEAK FESTIVAL SEASON

AGENCIES

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"Immunisation is expected to confer protection against infection and severe disease for vaccines, while reducing risks to non-immunised population by inhibiting transmission. Here, based on serial serological studies, we show that



during a severe SARS-CoV2 Delta-variant outbreak in Delhi, 25.3 per cent of previously uninfected, ChAdOx1-nCoV19 (Covishield) double vaccinated, healthcare-workers (HCW) were infected within a period of less than two months, based on serology," the study said.

Most infections were unrecognised. The Delta-variant thus causes frequent unrecognised breakthrough infections in adequately immunised subjects, reducing any herd-effect of immunity and requiring reinstatement of preventive measures such as masking, the paper said.

There is a need to have a variant-specific high throughput neutralisation assay to truly assess population immunity and predict outbreak risk, it said.

DMK MLA's son among 7 killed in car mishap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 31: Seven people, including a Tamil Nadu DMK MLA's son, were killed when the high-end SUV they were travelling in crashed into a boundary wall and turned turtle at Koramangala here early Tuesday.

"The accident occurred at about 2am. Seven people, including three women, were killed," Deputy Commissioner of Police of Bengaluru East Division (Traffic) K M Shantharaju told PTI. Police sources confirmed that Hosur MLA Y Prakaash's only son Y Karunaa Sagar died. They also said none of the people sitting inside the car were wearing seat belts. "Had they worn seat belts, the airbags would have opened and minimised the impact," a police officer said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M K Stalin consoled the death of his party legislator's son in the mishap. He expressed shock and anguish over the incident. "I don't know how to console Prakaash, who has lost his dear son," Stalin said in a statement in Chennai.

He extended his sympathies to the family and friends of the deceased. The DCP said the speeding car ran over the footpath and crashed into a boundary wall before it turned turtle.

Six people died on the spot, while one succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital, sources added. The SUV was allegedly being driven in a reckless manner, they said, adding that CCTV footage showed the vehicle going at great speed moments before crashing.

BJP MLA Biswajit Das joins TMC

AGENCIES

Kolkata, August 31: BJP MLA from Bagda, Biswajit Das, Tuesday joined the TMC, the third saffron party legislator to do so since the assembly poll results were declared in May.

Das, a two-time MLA from the TMC, had switched over to the BJP in 2019. He won from Bagda on a BJP ticket in the 2021 assembly polls. "I never felt very comfortable in the BJP. I wanted to return to the TMC long ago. The BJP has done nothing for Bengal. It is a party of outsiders and an never understand the pulse of the people of the state," he said after joining the party in presence of TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee. Das said he had left the TMC in 2019 due to a misunderstanding. "There was some misunderstanding with the party (TMC) then. It would have been better if I had not left the party. But now it is like coming home for me," he said.

Welcoming Ghosh to the party fold, Chatterjee, who is also state industry minister, said the BJP has been "trying to take post-poll revenge" against the TMC as it failed miserably in the assembly polls. "We will fight the BJP politically. It is trying to belittle the people of West Bengal. But the people of the state will not tolerate this," he said.

VAX MUST FOR TEACHERS

The Ministry of Education (MoE) on Tuesday asked all the states and Union Territories to get first dose of vaccination completed for all teaching and non-teaching staff during September. In a meeting with education secretaries from states and UTs, School Education Secretary Anita Karwal asked the officials to come up with a roadmap for vaccinating the teachers on priority. The schools have to update data about vaccination of teachers twice a week on a Google tracker.

international



Never in history has a withdrawal from war been handled so badly or incompetently as the Biden administration's withdrawal from Afghanistan. All equipment should be demanded to be immediately returned
DONALD TRUMP | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

TOWER BRIDGE BLOCKED

Eleven people were arrested Monday after Extinction Rebellion protesters descended on London, blocking Tower Bridge for several hours. The fifth wave of mass disruption by the group is expected to last all this week and is geared towards demanding the government divests from fossil fuels



of the day quote

Today we reached an important milestone in our vaccination campaign. Seventy percent of adults in the EU are now fully vaccinated and that means 250 million people are fully immunized
URSULA VON DER LEYEN | EU CHIEF

The successful enforcement of the ban on leaded petrol is a huge milestone for global health and our environment. The cost of environmental degradation is real
INGER ANDERSEN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNEP

If we let him continue his leadership, it will lead to more people being infected and losing their lives. There won't be enough crematoriums in service and there will be no way to stop the spread of the disease
SOMPONG AMORNWIVAT | OPPN PARTY LEADER, THAILAND

Taliban celebrate American withdrawal

AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR TOOK THE LIVES OF NEARLY 2,500 US TROOPS AND AN ESTIMATED 240,000 AFGHANS, AND COST SOME \$2 TRILLION



Kabul, August 31: Celebratory gunfire resounded across the Afghan capital Tuesday as the Taliban took control of the airport following the withdrawal of the last US troops, marking the end of a 20-year war that left the Islamist group stronger than it was in 2001. Shaky video footage distributed by the Taliban showed fighters entering the airport after the last US troops flew out on a C-17 aircraft a minute before midnight, ending a hasty and humiliating exit for

Washington and its NATO allies. "It is a historical day and a historical moment," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told a news conference at the airport after the departure. "We are proud of these moments, that we liberated our country from a great power." Long lines formed in Kabul Tuesday outside banks shuttered since the fall of the capital as people tried to get money to pay for increasingly expensive food. There was a mixture of triumph and elation on the one side as the

Last US troops leave Kabul airport
Celebratory gunfire erupts over Afghan capital
Scores of American civilians left behind
More than 123,000 people were evacuated from Kabul

Taliban celebrated their victory, and fear on the other. The departing US troops destroyed more than 70 aircraft and

US MILITARY BIOMETRIC DEVICES TO AID TALIBAN

Washington: In yet another disturbing development, the Taliban have captured US military biometrics devices used to collect data such as iris scans, fingerprints, and facial images. The devices, known as HIIDE, for Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment, were seized while the Taliban were making advances last week, a report said. According to the report, the military used HIIDE to keep track of locals working for the Pentagon, leading to fears that the Taliban could use the data to identify and apprehend individuals that it might consider traitors. The program was also used to keep track of potential terrorists or criminals. According to experts speaking to MIT Technology Review, however, these devices actually provide only limited access to biometric data, which is held remotely on secure servers. But there is a greater threat from Afghan government databases containing sensitive personal information that could be used to identify millions of people around the country. In addition to biometric data, the system includes biographic and contextual data such as criminal

and terrorist watchlist records, enabling users to determine if an individual is flagged in the system as a suspect. Intelligence analysts can also use the system to monitor people's movements and activities by tracking biometric data recorded by troops in the field. For years following 9/11,



researchers, activists and policymakers raised concerns that the mass collection, storage and analysis of sensitive biometric data posed dangers to privacy rights and human rights. Reports of the Taliban potentially accessing US biometric data stored by the military show that those concerns were not unfounded. They reveal potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the US military's biometric systems. In particular, the situation raises questions about the security of the mobile biometric data collection devices used in Afghanistan.

The resolution said it strongly demands that Afghan territory not be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists

UNSC adopts resolution on Af

adhere to commitments made by it regarding the safe, secure, and orderly departure from Afghanistan of Afghans and foreign nationals. The Council adopted the resolution proposed by France, the UK and the US with 13 Council members voting in favour and Russia and China abstaining. This was the first resolution adopted by the Council on the situation in Afghanistan following the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban and came on the penultimate day of India's Presidency of the Security Council for the month of August. Reaffirming its strong commit-

ment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, the resolution "condemns in the strongest terms the deplorable attacks" of August 26 near the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul for which the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, an entity affiliated with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), claimed responsibility and which resulted in deaths and injuries of over 300 civilians and 28 military personnel. The UNSC resolution took note of the Taliban's condemnation of the attack.

SHORT TAKES

EU takes US off safe travel list

Brussels: The European Union recommended Monday that its 27 nations reinstate restrictions on tourists from the US because of rising coronavirus infections there, but member countries will keep the option of allowing fully vaccinated US travellers in. The decision by the European Council to remove the US from a safe list of countries for nonessential travel reverses the advice that it gave in June, when the bloc recommended lifting restrictions on all US travellers before the summer tourism season.

Drone attack on Saudi airport

Riyadh: A drone attack on Saudi Arabia's Abha airport wounded eight people Tuesday, said the Saudi-led coalition battling Huthi rebels in neighbouring Yemen. Following an earlier reported attack, "a second drone attempting to attack Abha International Airport was intercepted and shot down", the coalition said in a statement carried by the kingdom's official Al-Ekhabriya television channel. "Eight people were wounded and a civilian aircraft was damaged, according to initial information," it added.

11 IS ultras killed in Balochistan

Karachi: Pakistan's counter-terrorism officials Tuesday claimed to have killed 11 militants of the Islamic State terror group in the country's restive Balochistan province. The ISIS militants were killed in an exchange of fire at a compound in the province's Mastung district Monday night following a tip-off, according to the Counter Terrorism Department of the Balochistan police. An official said that the militants were asked to surrender but they opened fire on the raiding party.

Death penalty to six in Bangladesh

Dhaka: A Bangladeshi anti-terrorism tribunal Tuesday sentenced six Islamist militants, including a fugitive ex-army major, to death in the brutal murder of a gay rights activist and his friend in 2016. "They will be hanged by neck until their death," said Judge Md Majibur Rahman of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal. In April 2016, Islamist militants hacked to death Xulhaz Mannan, an editor of Bangladesh's first gay rights magazine who had worked for the US Agency for International Development.

China culture crackdown a sign of profound political change



AGENCIES

Shanghai, August 31: China's crackdown on celebrity culture and its moves to rein in giant internet firms are a sign of "profound" political changes under way in the country, a prominent blogger said in a post widely circulated across state media. The Chinese government has recently taken action against what it has described as "chaotic" online fan club culture, and has also punished celebrities for tax evasion and other offences. In a wide-ranging series of interventions in the economy, it has also promised to tackle inequality, "excessively high" incomes, soaring property prices and profit-seeking education institutions. "This is a transformation from the capital at the centre to people at the centre," nationalist author

China curbs kids online gaming

Beijing: Hugely popular online games and celebrity culture in China are the latest targets in the ruling Communist Party's campaign to encourage the public to fall in line with its vision for a powerful, more wholesome country. Rules that take effect Wednesday cut the amount of game time children are allowed by more than two-thirds to three hours a week. That coincides with a campaign to curb what the party sees as unhealthy attention to celebrities online. "Adolescents are the future of the motherland," the Press and Publications Administration said in a statement Monday accompanying the game rules. "This appears to be part of China's push to ensure that the government is front and center in all aspects of its citizens' lives," said Paul Haswell, who heads law firm Pinsent Masons' technology, media and communications practice for the Asia-Pacific region.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has sought to enhance the role of the ruling Communist Party in all areas of society, including its businesses, schools and cultural institutions.

RAVAGED BY IDA



Damage to properties is seen from a US Coast Guard post-storm overflight after Hurricane Ida passed through Galliano, Louisiana

S Korea bans Google, Apple payment monopolies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, August 31: South Korea's National Assembly approved legislation Tuesday that bans app store operators such as Google and Apple from forcing developers to use their in-app payment systems. The tech giants have faced widespread criticism over their practice of requiring app developers to use in-app purchasing systems, for which the companies receive commissions of up to 30 per cent. They say the commissions help pay for the cost of maintaining the app markets. The legislation prohibits the app market operators from using their monopolies to require such payment systems, which means they

South Korea is reportedly the first country in the world to pass such a bill, which becomes law when it is signed by the president

cover disputes and prevent actions that undermine fair competition. Regulators in Europe, China and some other markets worry about the dominance of Apple, Google and other industry leaders in payments, online advertising and other fields. Chinese regulators have fined some companies for antimonopoly violations, while other governments are wrestling with how best to keep markets competitive. The Korea Internet Corporations Association, an industry lobby group that includes South Korea's largest internet companies including search and online shopping giant Naver, welcomed the passage of the bill, which it said would create healthier competition.

India completes one month as UN Security Council head

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, August 31: India presided over the unanimous adoption of three important mandate extensions of UN Security Council resolutions on the penultimate day of its Presidency of the powerful organ of the world body. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla Monday presided over the Council's deliberations on the Middle East peace process, in particular the Palestinian issue. India also "steered" discussions and the adoption of three other important mandate extensions of the UN Security Council on Mali sanctions, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and UNSOM (Somalia).



India's month-long Presidency of the 15-member Council ends Tuesday. During the month, the United Nations Security Council, under the presidency of India, suc-

cessfully steered the discussions on various peace and security issues that are on its agenda. These included Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Yemen, and the Middle East

With today's meetings, India's Presidency of the Security Council now reaches a successful closure. Each of our initiatives were designed to produce, to the extent possible, consensus-based substantive and forward-looking Council outcomes
HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA | FOREIGN SECRETARY, INDIA

Peace Process. The resolution on the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) extended the mandate of the peacekeeping mission for a period of one more year.

India is one of the largest troop-contributing countries to UNIFIL and has been contributing forces to UNIFIL for the past 21 years. Since October 2018, a Kazakhstan Contingent is co-deployed with the Indian Battalion in UNIFIL. Currently, 862 Indian peacekeepers are serving in UNIFIL. India has also shown readiness to strengthen the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force (MTF), including through the deployment of a maritime contingent. The Council renewed until August 31, 2022, the travel ban and asset freeze imposed through resolution 2374 (2017) against individuals and entities obstructing the implementation of the 2015 Agreement on Peace and

Reconciliation in Mali. The resolution on UNSOM extends the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia till May 31, 2022. UNSOM has been playing an important role in supporting the Federal Government of Somalia's peace and reconciliation process and extending support to the government, and AMISOM as appropriate, by providing strategic policy advice on peacebuilding and State-building since its inception in 2014. Somalia is currently witnessing a crucial phase. A peaceful, free, and fair democratic election is extremely important for the future of Somalia. UNSOM, along with the African Union Mission in Somalia

