



INHERITING A LEGACY

Actor-writer Tisca Chopra says she is proud of being from the family of celebrated author Khushwant Singh

LEISURE P2



N KOREA VOWS RETALIATION

The powerful sister of N Korean leader Kim Jong Un ripped S Korea for proceeding with military exercises with the US

INTERNATIONAL P10



HONOURING NEERAJ FEAT

AFI to celebrate August 7, the day Neeraj Chopra won gold in javelin throw, as National Javelin Day

SPORTS P12

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'NO DECISION ON NATIONWIDE NRC'

NEW DELHI: The government has not taken any decision on preparing a National Register of Indian Citizens (NRC) for the whole country, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said in Parliament Tuesday. He, however, said the government has decided to update the National Population Register under the Citizenship Act, 1955, along with the first phase of Census 2021. "Till now, the government has not taken any decision to prepare the National Register of Indian Citizens at national level," Rai said in a written reply in Lok Sabha.



PROJECT TIGER FUNDS SLASHED

BHUBANESWAR: The Centre has sanctioned over ₹40 crore to Odisha for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants in the state during the past three years, Union Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey said in Lok Sabha recently. However, the Centre has reduced allocation for Project Tiger by 50 per cent during the last fiscal. Under Project Tiger, the Centre had sanctioned ₹10.22 crore to the state in 2018-19 and ₹13.03 crore the next year. However, the allocation was reduced by 50 per cent to ₹6.80 crore during 2020-21, the minister said.

MORE P3

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why these leaders always meet on a breakfast, lunch or dinner? The way to Opposition unity is through their stomachs?

Only 2 from outside J&K bought property post 370 move: Govt

NEW DELHI: Only two persons have purchased as many properties in Jammu and Kashmir since August 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated ending the special status given to the erstwhile state, Lok Sabha was informed Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai's written reply came in response to a question on whether many people from other states of the country have purchased and are also interested to buy properties in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir after the removal of Article 370. "As per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, two persons from outside Jammu and Kashmir have purchased two properties in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since August, 2019," he said.

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX			VARIATION
SENSEX	54554.66	▲	151.81
NIFTY	16280.10	▲	21.80
DOLLAR	74.51	▲	₹0.09
EURO	87.23	▼	₹0.18
GOLD	₹45,840	▼	₹46
SILVER	₹62,650	▲	₹13

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	35.6°C	35.5°C
TEMP. MIN	25.7°C	25.6°C
Humidity	94%	97%
Rainfall	45.6mm	19.0mm
Forecast	Light rain very likely	



HOMECOMING OF STARS: Odisha hockey players (from L) Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas, Deep Grace Ekka and Namita Toppo, who were part of the historic national Olympic teams, arrive at the Biju Patnaik International Airport, Tuesday.

PHOTO: MAUSAM NANDA

SC fines parties over criminal candidates

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 10: Emphasising that criminalisation of the political system should not be permitted by lawmakers, the Supreme Court Tuesday ruled that political parties "refuse to wake up from deep slumber" and take steps to "weed out the malignancy of criminalisation in politics."

A bench of Justices RF Nariman and BR Gavai said: "We can only appeal to the conscience of the lawmakers and hope that they will wake up soon and carry out a major surgery for weeding out the malignancy of criminalisation in politics."

The top court held nine political parties guilty of contempt for not complying with directions issued in its February 2020 judgement, on making public criminal records of candidates selected for polls. These parties are: the Janata Dal-United, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Lok Janshakti Party, the Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Communist Party of India, the Nationalist Congress Party, the Communist Party of



India-Marxist, and the Rashtriya Lok Samta Party.

Six parties, including the BJP and the Congress, were fined ₹1 lakh each and two - the NCP and the CPI-M, were fined ₹5 lakh each.

The top court delivered the judgement on contempt petitions filed by Brajesh Singh and Manish Kumar, alleging that the court's earlier directions passed February 13, 2020, were not complied with by political parties during the Bihar Assembly polls, which were held in November last year.

The bench said: "Though we have held the Respondent Nos. 3 to 9, 11 and 12 guilty of having committed contempt of our order dated February 13, 2020, taking into con-

sideration that these were the first elections which were conducted after issuance of our directions, we are inclined to take a lenient view in the matter."

It warned the parties that they should be cautious in future and ensure that the directions issued by it as well as the Election Commission are followed in letter and spirit. "We direct the Respondent Nos. 3,4,5,6,7, and 11 to deposit an amount of ₹1 lakh each in the account created by the ECI as specified in this judgement in paragraph 73(iii) within a period of eight weeks from the date of this judgement," added the bench. The Congress, the BJP and four other parties have been fined ₹1 lakh each.

The bench added: "Insofar as Respondent Nos 8 (Communist Party of India-Marxist) and 9 (Nationalist Congress Party) are concerned, since they have not at all complied with the directions issued by this court, we direct them to deposit an amount of ₹5 lakh each in the aforesaid account within the aforesaid period."

Meet with Sibal apolitical: Pinaki

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, August 10: Following reports about his participation in a dinner meeting hosted by senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP from Puri Pinaki Misra termed the meet as 'entirely apolitical'.

Misra said Tuesday that he had visited Sibal's house to convey him birthday wishes along with Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik. The Puri MP further said that he didn't even have dinner at Sibal's residence. Misra refuted the media reports that claimed that he participated in a discussion on poll strategy for 2024 general elections. Misra said that he left Sibal's residence after wishing the latter on his birthday and didn't know what happened after that. He reiterated that the BJD will maintain its equidistance from the BJP and the Congress.

Significantly, the presence of BJD MPs in the dinner party, which, sources said, was convened to discuss poll strategies for 2024, triggered speculations about the regional party's stand as it is not part of the Opposition's grouping in the ongoing monsoon session. This episode has created a politi-

Misra refuted media reports that claimed he participated in a discussion on poll strategy for 2024 general elections

cal buzz across the country.

Apart from BJD, representatives of YSR Congress Party, Telugu Desham Party, Shiromani Akali Dal, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Trinamool Congress, Communist Party of India, Shiv Sena, National Conference and CPM were present in the meeting. Nationalist Congress Party's Sharad Pawar and Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav were also present at the meeting.

According to sources, the meeting was attended by the 'G-23' leaders of Congress who had written a letter to party chief Sonia Gandhi last year asking for an overhaul in the party's leadership.

Senior Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor, P Chidambaram and others were present in the dinner meeting.

RED ALERT AT CITY AIRPORT AHEAD OF I-DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Authorities of the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) have issued a red alert and bolstered security as part of measures ahead of Independence Day, officials said Tuesday. BPIA Director Pravat Ranjan Beuria said the red alert will remain in force from Tuesday till August 20.

Entry to the terminals at the airport on visitor pass will be prohibited during the period, and more armed personnel would be deployed at the airport, Beuria said.

"There will be a three-tier security cover at the airport. CISF personnel will track the movement of passengers through 67 CCTV cameras installed at the domestic terminal," he said.

Two armed jawans each will be posted in 13 watchtowers in 24-hour shifts to keep a strict vigil, the official said, adding, perimeter security will also be strengthened.

The airport authorities have included more CISF personnel in the quick response team (QRT), too.

As per the standard operating procedures, if any bag or object is found at any place in the airport lying unclaimed for 15 minutes, security personnel will immediately seize it, he said.

PLUS II SEATS UP BY 54,900

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The admission process for Plus II courses will commence from August 12 in the state. This year, the number of seats for admission has been increased by 54,900, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said Tuesday. This has been done keeping in mind the high pass percentage in HSC Examinations-2021.

The students have been asked to apply for admissions through the Students Academic Management System (SAMS) portal which will be functional from August 12



Dash said that the state government has decided to increase the seats in Arts stream by 38,000, in Science stream by 13,000 and in Commerce stream by 3,900. The department had received applications seeking a hike of 40,000 seats in Arts, 25,000 seats in Science, and 4,000 seats in Commerce stream, Dash added. Besides, there will be no hike in admission fees due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Minister said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed the officials not to hike admission fees in view of the hardships faced by the people due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Accordingly, there will be no hike in admission fees for any self-financing or other courses in any government college.

Over 6 lakh students had passed the matriculation examinations, the results of which were announced June 25 as per the evaluation criteria fixed by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE). The examinations had to be cancelled in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pass percentage was 97.89.

Prince Andrew sued by Epstein accuser for 'sexual abuse'

REUTERS

New York, August 10: Britain's Prince Andrew was sued in a New York court Monday by a woman who alleged that he sexually assaulted and battered her two decades ago when she was 17 years old.

Virginia Giuffre, who says she was trafficked for sex by the late financier Jeffrey Epstein, filed a civil complaint against Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's second son, in the US District Court in Manhattan.

A spokesperson for Andrew, Duke of York, declined comment.

"Prince Andrew forced Plaintiff, a child, to have sexual intercourse with Prince Andrew against her will," according to the complaint by Giuffre, who was previously

known as Virginia Roberts.

The prince said in a 2019 interview with the BBC that he had no recollection of meeting Giuffre, and denied her claim of sexual abuse. Andrew, 61, is one of the most prominent people linked to Epstein, who Manhattan federal prosecutors charged in July 2019 with sexually exploiting dozens of girls and women.

Epstein, a registered sex offender, killed himself at the age of 66 in a Manhattan jail August 10, 2019, while awaiting trial. Prosecutors later said Andrew had not cooperated with his probe.

"I am holding Prince Andrew accountable for what he did to me," Giuffre said in a statement. "The powerful and rich are not exempt



from being held responsible for their actions."

"Hope that other victims will see that it is possible not to live in silence and fear, but to reclaim one's life by speaking out and demanding justice," she said.

Spokespeople for Andrew's lawyers could not immediately be reached for comment.

THREATS ALLEGED

Giuffre has said she was a victim of Epstein's sex trafficking and abuse from 2000 to 2002, starting when she was 16.

In her complaint, Giuffre said Andrew forced her to have unwanted sexual intercourse at the London home of Epstein's long-time associate Ghislaine Maxwell, a British socialite.

I am holding Prince Andrew accountable for what he did to me... The powerful and rich are not exempt from being held responsible for their actions

VIRGINIA GIUFFRE

Giuffre said Andrew also abused her at Epstein's mansion on Manhattan's Upper East Side, and on a private island that Epstein owned in the US Virgin Islands.

The complaint said Giuffre "was compelled by express or implied threats" by Epstein, Maxwell or Andrew to engage in sexual acts with Andrew, fearing repercussions for disobedience.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You will make material progress today, says Ganesha. Naturally, you want to share this abundance with your family. Ganesha suggests you give them more quality time. You may also want to take time out to pray and meditate and thank the almighty for favours received.

TAURUS

Dark clouds may keep the sunshine from getting through to your window today, says Ganesha. Negative thoughts and apprehensions may cloud your judgement further. You will look to your family and friends to help you get past today.

GEMINI

You have excellent communication skills. Today, you will be at your communicative best, predicts Ganesha. At work, you will be given added responsibility. You may have to investigate a tricky matter and submit your report. Even in this, you will exhibit tremendous charm and efficiency.

CANCER

You will plan for a good future. You mobilise all resources. Be warned, before taking a step, counsels Ganesha. Beware of middlemen and agents to save yourself from a major financial loss.

LEO

You consider yourself better than others. You will experience pride in your capabilities today. You will put yourself first before others. You should hold onto your viewpoints strongly, but do not disregard good advice especially in matters related to business. You will be able to make substantial gains this way, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Family affairs will dominate and will take up most of your time today. Your persuasive skills and your charismatic personality will help you get a lot of work accomplished, says Ganesha. Emotional matters will demand your time, but you will take care of them rather easily.

LIBRA

Those of you who have friends and relatives abroad may get good news from them. Job interviews may not prove successful today even though you may have tried hard and put in your very best, success will not be with you today.

SCORPIO

Forget business, you are in a mood for some romantic developments in your life. You feel the passion within and would love to have someone special in your life, with whom you can live your dreams. Ganesha asks you to be patient and believe in yourself!

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees a profitable day in the calendar of all the businessmen. It's time to live your dream as the loan you were waiting for has been sanctioned now. Along with your near and dear ones, you will make your beloved feel special. Make memories and cherish the time you spent together.

CAPRICORN

In every situation, you will make sure that you hold the commanding position. You have a clear vision about your goals and how you want to go about them. But, you need to ensure that you don't get distracted from your path, advises Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

There are times when nothing goes as per you plans and all you get at the end is sheer disappointment. Be prepared, if today is one of those unfavourable days, warns Ganesha. Problems at work place can be solved with diligence, patience, and positive approach. Keep your chin up and deal with the difficult times.

PISCES

It is in your nature to love and care for others, and hence people will be extremely fond of you in return too. You will feel like helping others and forgetting and forgiving past wrongs. Post afternoon is a good time to sit down with your family and talk about important issues that need your attention, says Ganesha.



BRITNEY TAKES SMALL SOCIAL MEDIA BREAK

Pop star Britney Spears has revealed she is taking a small break from social media and will be posting on Instagram a little less from now on. The 39-year-old singer previously spoke out about her conservatorship, insisting she 'just wants her life back'.

CHRISTINA APPEGATE DIAGNOSED WITH MS

American actress Christina Applegate has revealed that she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She tweeted: "A few months ago I was diagnosed with MS. But I have been supported by people that I know who also have this condition."



'Proud to be related to Khushwant Singh'

New Delhi: Actress Tisca Chopra is also an author and an avid reader. The actor-author hails from the family of late celebrated author Khushwant Singh. Carrying forward the lineage, she has penned two books *Acting Smart* and *What's Up With Me?*

The actress recalls the time spent with the illustrious author for the last time at his home in Delhi. Tisca said: "When I met him for the last time many years ago, I remember we had gone to the Suján Singh Park house where he lived, there were mountains of books, like tall towers of books in his house. I asked him, 'Have you read all of these?' He said, '100 saal ka saamaan aur kal ki khabar nahi'. He meant the books but I think it applies to everything."

She added proudly: "I am very proud to be related to him and that I have in some very tiny miniscule way managed to continue writing."

Tisca reflects on her favourite books by the renowned Indian writer: "My favourite Khushwant Singh book is Delhi: A Novel because I love the relationship between Bhaagamati and the protagonist which I think is autobiographical."

She shared that her life is inspired by Khushwant Singh's writing in a major way. **IAN5**



Bhansali, Netflix join hands for *Heeramandi*

Mumbai: Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Netflix have teamed up for the mega-series *Heeramandi*. As Sanjay Leela Bhansali marks 25 years in the film industry as a filmmaker, he will be bringing to life his passion project.

Sharing his thoughts on *Heeramandi*, Bhansali said:

"*Heeramandi* is an important milestone in my journey as a filmmaker. This is an epic, first-of-its-kind series based on the courtisans of Lahore. It is an ambitious, grand, and all-encompassing series; therefore I am nervous yet excited about making it. I am looking forward to my partnership with Netflix and bringing *Heeramandi* to audiences all over the world."

The magnum opus series will explore stories of courtesans and the hidden cultural reality of *Heeramandi*, a district during pre-independent India. It's a series about love,

betrayal, succession, and politics in the 'kothas' which promises Sanjay Leela Bhansali's trademark larger-than-life sets, multifaceted characters, and soulful compositions.

Monika Shergill, VP, content, Netflix India said: "Sanjay Leela Bhansali has created a stunning brand of cinema which is uniquely his own, with emotionally charged storytelling, magnificent sets, and unforgettable characters. We congratulate him on completing 25 phenomenal years and giving masterpieces for generations to cherish." **IAN5**

Troll army targets Saifeena's second child

Mumbai: Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan's second child is not even two years old, but his name has been dragged into an unseemly Twitter troll attack.

So much so, riding on the hate campaign, the hashtags #saifalikhan and #aurangzeb are trending on the social media platform.

The world knew that the child had been named 'Jeh'. But then, reports started circulating that Kareena and Saif's second son was named Jehangir – and that made the troll army see red.

The couple had named their first son Taimur after he was born in 2014 and then, too, they were greeted with negativity.

Those circulating the information that Kareena and Saif's second child is named Jehangir quoted from Kareena's just-released book, *Pregnancy Bible: The Ultimate Manual for Moms-to-be*, where she's said to have captioned Jeh's pictures as 'Jehangir'.

One Twitter user wrote: "Taimur and Jehangir are not just a name it's a slap on the face of Hindus. They could also keep the name of their children as Kalam or Irfan ..."

Another wrote: "Taimur first & now Jehangir doesn't surprise me anymore. Remember after the box-office success of *Tanhaji* the actor said that *Tanhaji* story is a fictional story. It is shameful after insulting Maratha & Maharashtra pride he is still living & earning in Mumbai. #SaifAliKhan"

In a recent Instagram Live with filmmaker Karan Johar, when asked about the name of her son, Kareena announced it was 'Jeh Ali Khan'. **IAN5**



Masaba raises hotness quotient in brown attire

Mumbai: Masaba Gupta has oozed the oomph with her latest picture posted on social media. The designer-cum-actor posted a stunning picture dressed in a brown crop-top and beige skirt Tuesday.

The picture is from her latest photoshoot, where she is seen dressed in a nude palette - brown crop-top and beige skirt.

Masaba dazzles in the brown coordinated outfit, as her gold accessories and brown lip colour complete the look.

Minutes after Masaba posted the picture, her friends from the film industry started dropping comments.

Malaika Arora wrote, "Love" with a fire emoji.

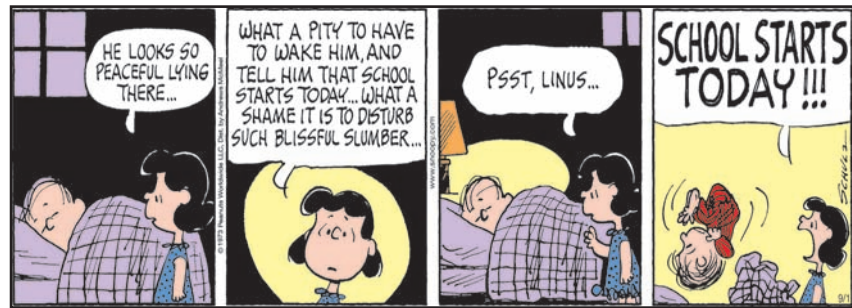
Celebrity stylist Anaita Shroff Adajania wrote, "Uff nude is you!"

Gul Panag commented, "Looking amazing Masaba."

Masaba will be seen next in the web series *Masaba Masaba* Season 2. **IAN5**



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

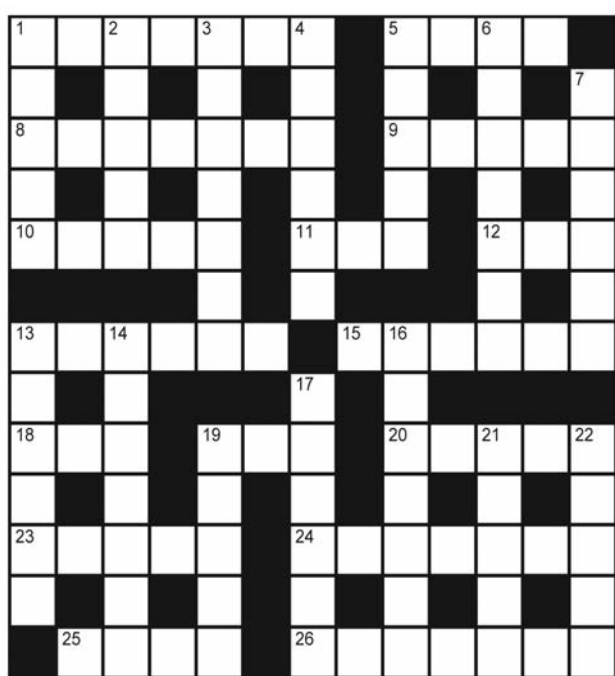


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- Grape variety
- Plumbing problem
- Arrest type
- Demolish
- European blackbird
- Bagel topper
- Tonic's partner
- Raspy
- Tough spot
- Slicker, briefly
- Samoan staple

- Vesuvius
- Wedding helper
- City in SW England
- Clever tactic
- Fencing words (2,5)

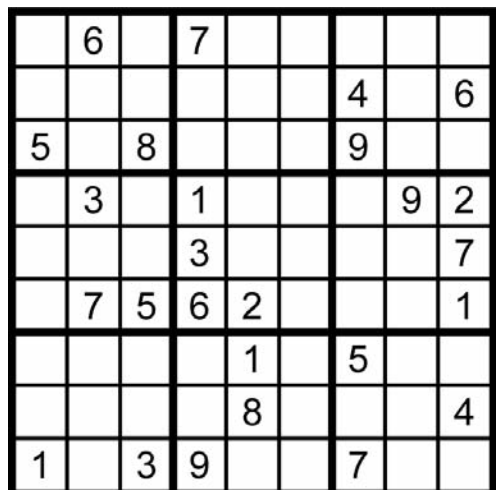
Down

- Chocolate source
- Standards
- Tropical songbirds

- Meek
- Paint ingredient
- One of the Leeward Islands
- Quick look
- Bah follower
- Spirits
- Summer activity
- Sound quality
- Shindig
- Express
- Gown fabric

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.

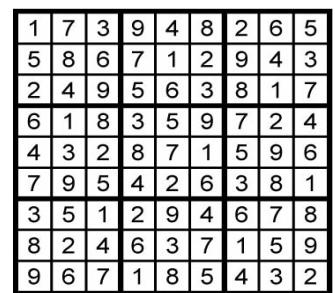


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Project Tiger sees 50% cut in central funds

Over ₹40 crore has been sanctioned by Union govt for tiger and elephant projects in three years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The Centre has sanctioned over Rs 40 crore to Odisha for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants in the state during past three years, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwinin Kumar Choubey said in Lok Sabha recently. However, the Centre has reduced allocation for Project Tiger scheme by 50 per cent during last fiscal.

In a written reply to Lok Sabha, Choubey said the Centre has released Rs 30.05 crore to the state government under Project Tiger and Rs 10.94 crore under Project Elephant schemes during the financial years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Under Project Tiger, the Centre has sanctioned Rs 10.22 crore to the state in the financial year 2018-19 and Rs 13.03 crore the next year. However, the allocation was reduced by 50 per cent to Rs 6.80 crore during the last financial year (2020-21), he said.

Similarly, the Centre has released financial assistance of Rs 1.97 crore in 2018-19, Rs 3.19 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 5.77 crore during 2020-21 for conservation and protection of elephants in Odisha.

Apart from the above, the Union Ministry has allocated Rs 18.94 crore to the state for development of wildlife habitats during the past three years.

The ministry provides financial assistance to states/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes



WILDLIFE PROTECTION

UNDER PROJECT TIGER, THE CENTRE HAS SANCTIONED ₹10.22 CRORE TO THE STATE IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-19 AND ₹13.03 CRORE THE NEXT YEAR

HOWEVER, THE ALLOCATION WAS REDUCED BY 50 PER CENT TO ₹6.80 CRORE DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR (2020-21)

THE CENTRE HAS RELEASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF ₹1.97 CRORE IN 2018-19, ₹3.19 CRORE IN 2019-20 AND ₹5.77 CRORE DURING 2020-21 FOR CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF ELEPHANTS IN ODISHA

of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and their habitat in the country.

As per his reply, the fund is being utilised for restoration of natural water bodies, creation of waterholes, augmentation of food/fodder sources in protected areas, construction/erection of barriers such as solar powered electric fences, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls, animal proof trenches and other infrastructure.

"Concerted efforts made for protection and conservation of wildlife, the population of several wildlife



NEW ENTRANTS

Over a hundred Congress and BJP workers from Khurda, Tangi and Jatni areas join Biju Janata Dal at the regional party's headquarters in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Internal assessment system for Classes IX, X



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 10: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha has planned a new system of assessment for Class IX and X students for the academic year 2021-22.

As per the new system, the academic year would be divided into two terms each for Class IX and X. The first term will start in July and continue till November while the second term will cover December to April period.

Each term will cover 50 per cent of the syllabi. The students' performances will be assessed at the end of each term. The BSE will directly conduct the assessment, sources said. There would be four internal assessments for both Class IX and X students. The marks of internal assessments will have 20 per cent weightage in the calculation of the final results. Similarly, 30 per cent weightage would be given to the results of first term assessment while the results of second term will have 50 per cent weightage.

"The BSE has planned the new assessment system by taking into account the pandemic situation. If there is any hurdle in holding the final exams, the new assessment system will help the board in publishing the final results," said a source.

species like tigers, elephants, Asiatic lion, rhino etc. in the country has increased," Choubey said.

Explaining the reasons behind rising human wildlife conflicts, the Union minister said the main causes of human wildlife conflict include habitat loss, growth of population of wild animals, changing cropping patterns that attract wild animals to farmlands, movement of wild animals from forests area to human dominated landscapes for food and fodder, movement of human beings to forests for illegal collection of forest produce, habitat degradation due to growth of invasive alien species, etc.

₹374cr spl assistance for Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The Centre has allocated Rs 374-crore special assistance to Odisha under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat for financial year 2021-22.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently informed the Lok Sabha while replying to a question of BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab.

"The Union government has allocated a sum of Rs 374 crore to the state under the scheme 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure for 2021-22'. However,

the state government is yet to submit a proposal under the scheme for 2021-22," Sitharaman said.

In October last year, the Finance minister had announced the scheme as a part of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat package. An amount of Rs 12,000 crore was earmarked for the scheme for the financial year 2020-21, and a sum of Rs 11,830.29 crore was released to the states. This helped to sustain state level capital expenditure in the pandemic year, sources said.

For the current financial year (2021-22), the Ministry of Finance

has decided to provide an additional amount of upto Rs 15,000 crore to states as interest free 50-year loan for spending on capital projects.

Out of the total allocation made under the scheme, Rs 2,600 crore has been earmarked for the North-East and hill states. An amount of Rs 7,400 crore is earmarked for other states.

This amount has been allocated amongst these states in proportion to their share of central taxes as per the award of the 15th Finance Commission for the year 2021-22, the source said.

Panchayat polls to be held on time: Law min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The state government Tuesday said that it is ready for panchayat elections and the polls are likely to be completed on time.

Law Minister Pratap Jena said, "We have already completed the process of delimitation for panchayat elections. Details have been submitted to the Election Commission. We will be submitting the same to the Election Commission soon."

"We have prepared the calendar of the schedule and will submit it to the Election Commission as soon as possible. The government is prepared for the elections and the local elections are likely to be held on time."

The law minister also said that for the by-elections the government had been getting ready and working on the obstacles existing on its path.

The panchayat elections in the state are expected to be held in February 2022 for which all the parties are working towards expanding their base.

While the BJP has planned to augment its membership in rural areas besides undertaking special initiatives to campaign for the works done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and exposing the irregularities by the state government, the BJD has planned to increase its base in the local areas before the local polls.



The BJP MPs submitting a memorandum to the Union Health Minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs from Odisha sought personal intervention of Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya for implementation of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the state.

A delegation of saffron party MPs, led by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, met Mandaviya in New Delhi Tuesday and submitted a memorandum in this regard.

"It greatly pains us to inform that even after 3 years of the launch of AB-PMJAY, Odisha remains one of the few states where the government has not implemented Ayushman Bharat, thereby depriving almost 60 lakh needy

beneficiaries from availing this pro-poor healthcare service," the MPs said in the memorandum.

The MPs said that the per capita spending by the Odisha government on healthcare is only Rs 1,501 in FY 2020-21 as compared to the national average of Rs 1,944. As per the recently released Niti Aayog SDG Index 3.0, Odisha ranked 18 when it comes to SDG 2 (Good Health and Wellbeing).

Further, as per the 15th Finance Commission, Odisha is the 12th poorest state in doctor-population ratio in the country at 1 doctor per 1,864 persons, in comparison with the national average of 1 doctor per 1,456 persons, the memorandum said.

Odisha's dismal medical infrastructure was most recently exposed

Per capita healthcare spending by Odisha govt is ₹1,501 as compared to national average of ₹1,944, said BJP MPs in the memo

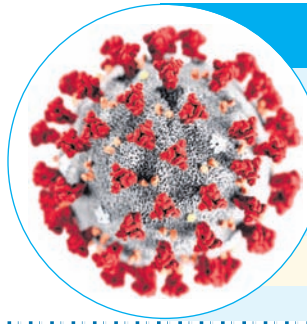
by utter failure of the state healthcare system during Covid-19, and especially during the second wave. There wasn't even a single state government hospital with a dedicated oxygen PSA plant, and Odisha underwent an acute shortage of tertiary healthcare infrastructure facilities, read the memorandum.

The state government is busy justifying this inexcusable travesty by claiming that its own healthcare programme Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) is sufficient to provide healthcare to the people of the state.

However, the BSKY is mostly restricted to facilities within the state, thereby restricting usage by migrant workers at their place of work as well as denying the choice of availing better healthcare options available to people of Odisha outside the state, they said.

The parliamentarians urged the health minister to direct the state government for implementation of Ayushman Bharat for the larger interests of people of Odisha, especially for the migrant workers.

Earlier, the Prime Minister had also urged the state government to implement the health insurance scheme for the welfare of people.



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	20,44,12,770	18,35,90,420	43,21,433
India	3,19,98,158	3,11,80,968	4,28,682
Odisha	9,88,997	9,72,710	6,565

Soumya Ranjan takes a dig at Naveen's style of functioning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) vice-president and Khandapada MLA Soumya Ranjan Patnaik has said rulers should have alternative sources of information instead of totally depending on a specific bureaucrat or politician, in what appeared to be a veiled attack on Chief Minister and party supremo Naveen Patnaik.

The lawmaker, while addressing a function in Cuttack Monday, named two persons – BJD's organising secretary Pranab Prakash Das (Bobby) and the Chief Minister's private secretary V K Pandian – as his (Patnaik's) eyes.

He also said the media should play the role of the state's 'third eye' for better governance and also democracy.

Soumya, who joined the ruling BJD in 2018, became a Rajya Sabha MP and later contested the assembly elections in 2019, said, "For the Odisha Chief Minister, they (eyes) are Bobby and VK Pandian, the 5T Secretary. Whatever he will see through these two eyes will be his world."

However, the senior BJD leader said things can go haywire if visions of these two persons get 'blurred' by selfish motives and the Chief Minister is convinced into believing what is not right."



Things can go haywire if visions of these two persons (Bobby and Pandian) get blurred by selfish motives and the Chief Minister is convinced into believing what is not right

SOUMYA RANJAN PATNAIK | BJD MLA

Explaining his statement, Soumya said, "If the Chief Minister starts calling a crow white because of how his 'two eyes' perceive it, then we are doomed."

Mentioning that there is no guarantee that these 'two eyes' will always see and tell the truth to the Chief Minister, he said, "To cross-check the veracity of the statement of their ministers, the erstwhile kings used to go on 'Andhari Bijie' (visit in disguise) to get feedback about the administration." He shot a question at the media whether it can play the role of a 'third eye'.

When contacted by PTI, the BJD vice president said, "One television channel is showing my statement in a different manner: I have also mentioned names of Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and others while speaking on rulers' dependence on specific leaders and officers.

"I'm told that a specific channel is showing me speaking only on the Odisha Chief Minister while the statement was made in general for the rulers and not specific to any

CM or PM."

Asked whether he took names of Bobby and Pandian, he said, "Yes, I have mentioned their names for the sake of example. There is nothing wrong in citing instances to drive home the point."

Earlier, in a write-up in his leading Odia daily July 1, the BJD MLA had criticised the state government and highlighted the alleged under-reporting of Covid-19 deaths in Odisha.

He had mentioned that "there would not be much damage to the government if the actual Covid-19 death toll was made public".

He had also triggered a row over the posters of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister at Covid vaccination centres.

When reporters tried to get the BJD's official version on his remarks in Cuttack, many leaders refused to make any statement.

"I have not seen what he (Soumya) said in the Cuttack function. Better ask him," said another BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra.

Man held for firearms as wife tips off cops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested a man for illegally possessing firearms after his wife tipped the police about this.

The accused was identified as Basudev Sahoo alias Baban, 34, a resident of Rajnagar in Kendrapara district. Sahoo is currently staying near Salia Sahi in Nayapalli police limits here.

According to sources, Sahoo, who worked as a contractor, used to assault his wife Subhashri under the influence of alcohol. Failed to bear with the torture, Subhashri lodged a complaint with Nayapalli police against her husband alleging domestic violence. The couple had tied knot in 2011 and has a girl child out of their wedlock.

She also informed police that Sahoo was in illegal possession of a pistol. Nayapalli police raided Sahoo's residence and seized the pistol. Subsequently, the police Tuesday arrested Sahoo after registering a case under various Sections of IPC and Arms Act.

इंडियन बैंक

Indian Bank

ALLAHABAD

Zone Office, Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East), Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Ph.: 0674-2543514

DECLARATION OF WILFUL DEFAULTER

It is hereby notified to the public at large that below mentioned Borrower had availed loan from Indian Bank, M.T. Marg Branch, Bhubaneswar and due to default in repayment the accounts have been classified as NPA. The said Borrower has been declared as Wilful Defaulter by the Bank as per RBI guidelines. The Bank has initiated recovery proceedings against her. Hence, the public is hereby cautioned not to deal with any of the properties of the said Borrower / Guarantor / Co-obligant / Mortgagee.

Name & Address of Borrower / Proprietor	A/c Nos. / NPA Date Balance Outstanding	Photograph of Wilful Defaulter
Borrower: M/s. Chandan Plastic, Prop.: Mrs. Trupti Nayak, W/o.: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Nayak, At: Plot No.: 282/487, Ogalapada, Janla, Jatni, Dist.: Khurda - 752054, Mrs. Trupti Nayak, W/o.: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Nayak, Address-1: Plot No.: 503, Near Narayani Club, Mahatab Road, Old Town, Bhubaneswar-751002, Address-2: Plot No.: 64, Mahatab Road, Old Town, Bhubaneswar-751002	A/c Nos.: 1) 6414963594, 2) 6417918822 & 3) 6504646335 31.05.2018 Amount Dues: As on 27.07.2021 ₹ 1,60,02,613/-	 Mrs. Trupti Nayak

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 10.08.2021 Zonal Manager, Zonal Office, Indian Bank

TATA STEEL

TATA

NOTICE

Vide MoEF&CC letter no: F.No. IA-J-11015/63/2018-IA-II (M) dated 05th August, 2021, Katamati Iron Mine of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. has been granted environmental clearance for its expansion in production of Iron Ore from 8.0 MTPA to 13.5 MTPA (Total Excavation : 15 MTPA) along with mineral beneficiation plant of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 403.3238 hectares at Deojhar Village & Thakurani RF, Keonjhar district, Odisha state. The copy of EC letter is available with Odisha State Pollution Control Board and also on website of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (www.parivesh.nic.in).

Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001, India
Tel.: 022 66658282 Fax: 022 66657724 (CIN) - L27100MH1907PLC000260
Website: www.tatasteel.com

CPET schedule out

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The Higher Education department Tuesday released the entrance exam schedule for Common PG Entrance Examination (CPET-2021) in state universities/colleges offering PG courses for the academic session 2021-22. More than 17,000 students have applied online for the examination in the last five days, sources said.

The examination will be conducted from August 23 to September 3. The test will be conducted in three sessions. The first session will be from 10am to 11:30am. Second and third sessions will be from 12:30pm to 2pm and from 3pm to 4:30pm respectively. The applicants can visit the SAMS website for the schedule. The last date for applying online is Aug 14.

Spl OJEE date extended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The last date for submission of online application forms for B. Tech Course (Special OJEE) has been extended to August 17 (11.59 PM) and last date for fee payment is August 18 (11.59 PM).

OJEE chairman SK Chand informed that candidates, who have already submitted their applications, can log-in to the online OJEE Application Portal using their id and password, make any correction in the information already filled in by them if required, and also modify their choice of examination centres as per their convenience.

Offline HSC exam: Evaluation begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 10: The evaluation of offline High School Certificate (HSC) examination answer-sheets is scheduled to begin Wednesday.

The answer-sheets of the offline HSC, Madhyama and state open school certificate examinations would be evaluated at nine centres in seven districts, said sources in the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha Tuesday. The evaluation of answer-sheets will continue for three days at the designated centres in Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Nayagarh and Puri, BSE sources added.

The chief examiners, deputy chief examiners and assistant examiners have started reporting to their respective evaluation centres, said BSE president Ramashish Hazra.

CLASSIFIED
AFFIDAVIT

Virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak dt.3.8.21, I Udayanath Bhanja, S/o- Rabinranath Bhanja, Vill- P.O.- Atto, PS- Sabarang, Dist.- Bhadrak- 756123 do hereby correction the spelling of my surname wrong recording in my HSC Certificate as 'BHANJA' instead of Bahanja for all purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before executive magistrate, paralakhemundi, I Borigi Akash(20), Son of- Borigi Ramesh here by affirm that my name is Borigi Akash as per Aadhaar card, Pan card and School Certificate. But in the passport issues by Govt. of India, My name is reflected as BORIGI AKAASH. Both the names are one and the same person. I am making this declaration on oath as required to file before the concerned authority.

EOW nabs TN man for ₹5.62cr fraud

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The Odisha police has arrested one person from Tamil Nadu on the allegation of fraud to the tune of Rs 5.62 crore, police said Tuesday.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Bhubaneswar, has arrested the accused S Kathiresan of Trichy from Trichinapalli district of Tamil Nadu in connection with a bank fraud case registered in 2015.

Since the registration of the case, the accused had absconded evading police arrest. The arrest was made on the basis of a complaint filed by K N Narasimha, the then chief manager of erstwhile Corporation Bank (now Union Bank of India), the EOW said in an official statement.

Kathiresan was produced before the Judicial Magistrate-IV, Trichinapalli Monday and will be produced before the court of SDJM, Bhubaneswar Wednesday, being brought on transit remand, the EOW said.

During the year 2009, the accused, in the capacity of managing director of Jagannatha Financial Services Ltd & CEO of KAS Foundation, had availed a loan of Rs 5 crore for the purpose of lending the same to the SHG Joint

TURN OF EVENTS

In 2009, S Kathiresan, in the capacity of MD of Jagannatha Financial Services Ltd & CEO of KAS Foundation, had availed a loan of Rs 5 crore from erstwhile Corporation Bank (now Union Bank of India) for lending it to SHGs

The company, however, failed to repay the loan and the account turned NPA in November 2011 with an outstanding balance of Rs 5.62 crore

In 2015, the bank's chief manager approached the EOW that registered a case and began probe

Since registration of the case, the accused was on the run

Liability Group, a police official said.

However, the company failed to pay the installments and finally the account turned NPA in November 2011 with an outstanding balance of about Rs 5.62 crore.

It was also found that Kathiresan had disbursed the loan to non-existent agriculturists and submitted fabricated & false documents to the bank with criminal intention to defraud the bank to the likely amount.

He misappropriated the huge amount for his own use, the official informed.

BJD seeks amendment to Forest Rights Act, 2006



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 10: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday supported the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill 2021, which amends the Constitution to allow states and Union territories to prepare their own lists of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), and also sought amendment to Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

Speaking on behalf of the party in the Lok Sabha on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill

It is mandatory under the Act to provide proof of three generations to get land rights. But since the tribal people do not have these proofs, they are getting neither the land rights nor the benefits of government schemes

RAMESH CHANDRA MAJHI | BJD MP

2021, BJD MP Ramesh Chandra Majhi said that the Odisha government has been running a number of schemes for backward classes. The state government has built more than 100 hostels for OBCs and taken several steps to provide better education to the children from backward classes.

The Nabarangpur MP sought amendment to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006. He said, "It is mandatory under the Act to provide proof of three generations to get land rights. But since the tribal people do not have these proofs, they are getting neither the land

Centre considering First War of Independence tag to Paika revolt

NEW DELHI: The Union government Tuesday informed the Rajya Sabha that a proposal to declare the Paika Bidroha (rebellion) of Odisha as the First War of Independence is currently under consideration of the Ministry of Education.

In response to a question by Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Prasanna Acharya, Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region G Kishan Reddy said a reference from the Chief Minister of Odisha requesting for declaration of Paika Bidroha as the First War

of Independence was received in the Ministry of Culture through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"The issue was examined in consultation with Indian Council of Historical Research, and is now under the consideration of Ministry of Education," the minister said.

On granting classical status to Odissi music (both vocal and instrumental), the Union minister said the Sangeet Natak Akademi under the Ministry of Culture being the national academy of music, dance and drama does not use the word 'Classical' as there are two main streams - Hindustani Music and Carnatic. Hence, it does not come under the mandate of the Ministry of Culture, the minister said.

"However, the Akademi had conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards on Gopal Chandra Panda (2011) and Bankim Sethi (2013) in the field of Odissi Music," the minister added.



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

rights nor the benefits of schemes like MGNREGA, Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana etc." The BJD MP also sought caste-wise census of OBCs to know their exact number. He said this would help the government formulate schemes for OBCs properly. Significantly, the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021

empowers the state governments and Union territories to prepare and maintain their own state lists/ Union territory lists of SEBCs with a view to maintaining the federal structure of this country. The Bill amends Article 342 A and makes consequential amendments in Articles 338 B and 366 of the Constitution of India.

State to focus on vaccinating rural popn fearing 3rd wave

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Odisha Tuesday logged 1,041 fresh cases of Covid-19, pushing the tally to 9,88,997. The death toll mounted to 6,565 with 64 more fatalities, a Health department official said. The state government has decided to focus on vaccinating the rural population before the third wave strikes.

The coastal state has 10,988 active cases currently, and 9,71,391 patients have so far recovered from the disease, including 1,475 since Monday, he said.

The state's case fatality rate stands at 0.66 per cent, which is "one of the lowest in the country", the official said.

Khurda district, comprising state capital Bhubaneswar, reported the highest number of 383 new infections, followed by Cuttack (132). Two districts - Jharsuguda and Subarnapur - did not report any fresh case.

Of the single-day fatalities, Khurda reported 20 deaths, followed by Sundargarh (8), Balasore (6) and Kandhamal (4), among other dis-



Training of those to be involved in treating children likely to be infected in the next wave will begin online from today. They will be divided into six batches

BIJAY PANIGRAHI | DIRECTOR, HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

tricts. The Health and Family Welfare Department (H&FW) said that the list of fresh fatalities also includes those who had died in the months of May and June due to Covid-19, as shown in an audit.

The state has thus far conducted over 1.66 crore sample tests, taking into account 56,859 clinical examinations Monday. The cumulative positivity rate stands at 5.92 per cent, the official said. Till Monday, Odisha inoculated 1,81,12,689 people, with 41,94,247 having received both doses of the vaccine, he added.

Meanwhile, Director of H&FW, Bijay Panigrahi said that the anticipated third wave of coronavirus could impact around 15 per cent children in the state.

"Training of those to be involved in providing treatment to children likely to be infected in the next wave will begin online from today. They will be divided into six batches," he said Tuesday.

"We plan to vaccinate as many people as possible before the third wave strikes. The focus is on inoculating people in rural areas," he added.

11,450 teachers' seats to be filled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The state government will fill up 11,450 vacant teachers' seats soon, said School and Mass Education department Tuesday.

As per the information, in the first phase, the School and Mass Education department will put up advertisement August 23 for

4,619 posts that includes 2,055 for Hindi, 1,304 for Sanskrit and 1,260 for Physical Education training teachers.

In the second phase, advertisement will be given for 6,068 Trained Graduate Teachers (TGT) and Telugu teachers post while in third phase 940 new TGT, classical and Hindi teachers will be recruited.

3 including 2 minors nabbed for bike lifting in Silver City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 10: The twin city Commissionerate Police Tuesday claimed to have nabbed three persons, including two minors, after recovering eight stolen two-wheelers from their possession.

The police crackdown came while probing a vehicle lifting case (143/21) of Nuapada under Madhupatna police limits here. According to additional commissioner of police (ACP) SN Muduli, Manoj Gupta of Nuapada area approached the Madhupatna police a few days back about the theft of

his scooter.

"During investigation, we found that the juvenile duo was behind the theft. Later, they confessed to have stolen eight two-wheelers from areas under Madhupatna, Badambadi and Sadar police limits and sold those to Krushna Kumar Nayak, 21, of Athgarh area," Muduli said.

While Nayak, who was nabbed from his rented accommodation at Khannagar area here, will be produced before the court, the minor duo has been produced before the Juvenile Justice Board, the ACP said.



Illegal parking along the Badambadi road in Cuttack narrows the road, creating traffic snarl, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

CMC launches bush cutting drive

CUTTACK: Amid rising dengue scare, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Tuesday started a drive to cut down bushes and intensify spraying mosquitoicides across the wards under its jurisdiction in a bid to curb spread of the vector-borne disease. Sources said that the civic body has deployed two workers at each of the wards for the cleanup drive. The workers would cut down bushes and creepers which are considered as safe haven for dengue-causing mosquitoes. They would also sprinkle mosquitoicides at drains to kill the larvae.

IMD: Lightning, thunderstorm likely today



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) today issued warning of thunderstorm and lightning for Wednesday.

The department said, "Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal, Kandhamal and Rayagada."

The department however said that light to moderate rain could be seen in different parts of the state Wednesday. However, heavy rain could be seen Thursday in some parts of the state.

"Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Bhadrak," said in its weather forecast for Wednesday. The department also claimed that light to moderate rain could be seen in different parts of the state this week. The met department meanwhile forecast that the state Capital might see light rain with maximum temperature upto 34°C.



The WODC was formed 23 years back with an objective to ensure development in these areas and reduce regional imbalance

a full-fledged autonomous permanent development council.

The BJD activists and leaders urged state Governor Geneshi Lal to personally intervene and make structural changes in the formation of WODC and make it a full-fledged permanent autonomous council.

The WODC was formed with Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Bolangir, Sonapur, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Boudh districts, and Athamallik region of Angul district 23 years back with an objective to ensure development in these areas and reduce regional imbalance.

stitute a full-fledged council by nominating the MPs and MLAs to the council as per the ratio along with the appointment of expert members.

They said the council should not be used as a centre for the rehabilitation of the ruling party members. Instead of confining the headquarters of the council to a sign board, an adequate number of officers, staff and infrastructure should be provided to help it function efficiently.

The BJD demanded an assistance of Rs 1,000 crore per annum to the council for undertaking developmental activities.

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2 ex-MLAs among 100 held during stir

KENDRAPARA DIST ADMIN HAS IMPOSED SEC 144 IN THREE PANCHAYATS AND PROJECT AREA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 10: Tension ran high as police arrested two former MLAs, hundreds of villagers and office bearers of Kharasrota Nadi Banchao Sangram Samiti. They were coming in a rally opposing the construction of a mega drinking water project near Kharasrota river at Barunadiha under Rajkanika block of Kendrapara district, Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the construction work of the drinking water project was started Tuesday under heavy police deployment. The arrested MLAs are Debendra Nath Sharma and Dolagobinda Nayak of Aul Assembly segment. The arrests were made during a face-off between the district administration and the agitators.

Police arrested hundreds of men, women and office bearers of Kharasrota Nadi Banchao Sangram Samiti (KNBSS) such as Duryodhan Mohanty and Bidhan Das. The outfit is spearheading agitation against the project. Tension was palpable in the area as police launched a crackdown to drive away the protesters and start construction of the project. The agitators were arrested while marching in a rally towards the project site at



Barunadiha violating the prohibitory orders. The protesters were housed in provisional custody at Kashananta High School under Pattamundai police limits. Later, it was learnt that SP Madkar Sandip Sampat visited the provisional jail and held discussions with the arrested leaders. The district administration has clamped Section 144 at the project site and at Balakati, Barunadiha and Bharigada panchayats under Rajkanika block to avoid law and order situation.

The restrictions imposed since 4 am will be in force for an indefinite period. Once completed, the project will provide drinking water to 91 panchayats in Bhadrak district. The residents of Aul and Rajkanika have been opposing the project since December 2019. The protesters alleged that if the project is implemented it will dry up the river, affect lives and livelihood in Aul and Rajkanika blocks. It will consequently give rise to drinking water issues, de-

stroy agriculture in the area and have a detrimental impact on Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP). The lifting of water from the river will also destroy agricultural activities in 10 panchayats and turn the river water saline, the protesters alleged. They have instead suggested that the state government construct an anicut in the river and provide drinking water to the nine panchayats in Bhadrak district. The mega drinking water is being executed under

Friend murdered by 4 to get Hanuman coin



POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, August 10: In a shocking incident, a Hanuman coin turned fatal for a person in Deogarh. Four people murdered their friend to get the Hanuman coin from his possession at Raital village in Deogarh police limits. Police have arrested four accused, Tuesday. It may be noted here that some rackets are dealing in Hanuman coins in parts of the country. They allegedly rake in moolah by selling these coins.

Addressing a presser here Tuesday at Deogarh Model police station, SP Rajkishore Paikray revealed that Krushna Kisan, a resident of Tipirisingha, had a Hanuman coin. His friends Chandalu Kisan, Surendra Majhi, Daitari Kisan and Pradip Majhi planned to get the coin from Krushna.

There was a meeting in the village at night of August 4. After the meeting, the four took Krushna to catch fish in nearby Raital village. That night, Krushna did not return home. His family members searched for him and found his body under a transformer August 5. Informed, Deogarh police seized the body for post mortem. It registered a case of unnatural death and started an investigation. As the body had multiple injuries, the SP had suspected foul play in the case. The SP and the Deogarh IIC took up the probe and detained four people. During interrogation, the four admitted that they had murdered Krushna to get the Hanuman coin. Police seized weapons used in the crime, apart from an Australian coin from the house of an accused.

Rape accused held after 7 yrs

AGENCIES

Kendrapara, August 10: A 31-year-old man who was on the run for seven years after allegedly raping a 16-year-old girl in Kendrapara district, has been arrested, police said.

The man had raped the teenager in 2014 and fled to Bangalore, where he earned his livelihood as a plumber, an officer said Monday.

He was apprehended in Bangalore. He was brought under transit remand Monday and remanded in judicial custody, Pattamundai police station inspector Rakesh Tripathy said.

"A team from Pattamundai police station arrested the principal accused in the heinous crime of gangrape of a minor girl after 7 years of absconding (sic)," the Kendrapara police tweeted.



Forest officials distribute free saplings to people as part of a programme on environment protection at Laxmi Talkies Road in Sambalpur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Tribals protest mining at Khandualmali hill

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, August 10: Thousands of tribal people formed a human chain protesting the mining project proposed at Khandualmali hill in Karlapat area of Kalahandi district. The Khandualmali hill surrounded by Karlapat wildlife sanctuary is considered the abode of

Kondh goddess, Khandual. It is a major bauxite deposit of the state after the Niyamgiri hills. The tribals in the area have been protesting the government's plan to mine bauxite from Khandualmali following the Supreme Court's restriction on bauxite mining from the Niyamgiri hills. Holding placards and banners, the tribals took out a rally from

Saisurni to Karlapat village. United under the banner of Khandualmali Surakhya Samiti, the tribal people demanded that the hill should be saved from mining. They claimed that the hill is their home and provides livelihood. They demanded that the government hold gram sabhas before making any decision as had been done in case of Niyamgiri hills.

Farmers take to streets over urea crunch



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dabugaon, August 10: Peeved over the short supply of urea, hundreds of farmers took to the streets blocking the State Highway-39 for hours in Dabugaon area of Nabarangpur district, Tuesday.

Traffic came to a standstill on the route for hours, a report said. According to the report, shortage of urea fertiliser has affected farming in the district even as farm-

ing activities are in full swing. Four days ago, scores of farmers from 12 panchayats, members of Dabugaon Krushak Sangh and Congress workers held talks with tehsildar Sandhya Samarth about the problems arising out of the urea short supply when farming activities are peaking up in the region. The tehsildar had assured the farmers that fertilisers would be supplied to them in two days. Farmers alleged that urea was not

available to them even after four days and they had to stage protests. Agitating farmers took out a rally from the tehsil office to SH-39. Raising banners of protest, farmers lay siege to the road from 10 am till 2.30 pm. They pointed out that in Dabugaon area, over 80 per cent people depend on agriculture. When the farming season is up, fertiliser shortage has been a major issue.

Agitating farmers took out a rally from Dabugaon tehsil office to SH-39. Raising banners of protest, they lay siege to the road from 10 am till 2.30 pm. When the farming season peaks, urea shortage has affected paddy cultivation, they lamented

"Since no action was taken despite assurance by the tehsildar, we resorted to protests amid heavy rains," they added. Adequate fertilisers at fair price has been a constant demand for the local farmers. A platoon of police was deployed at the agitation site. In the afternoon, Dabugaon tehsildar Sandhya Samarth, IIC Surendra Nath Behuria and assistant agriculture officer Duryodhan Jani convinced the farmers that they would supply fertiliser to farmers Wednesday. Then, the farmers relented.

Goods train gets derailed in Bhadrak

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, August 10: A goods train got derailed on Bhadrak-Dhamra railway line Tuesday. According to the reports, the train derailment has taken place near Dhamra Railway Bridge in Charampa in the afternoon. The train was going to Dhamra, but bogies were vacant. 13 of out 60 bogies have derailed.

A special technical team rushed to the mishap site and is taking stock of the situation on the privately owned railway line.



SSA technical aide under Vig scanner in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 10: Vigilance officials Tuesday conducted simultaneous raids at the residences and office of Kshetrabasi Mohanta, a technical assistant of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in Joda block under Keonjhar district on charge of accumulating assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Informing about the raids, Vigilance inspector Daitari Ghadei said simultaneous raids were conducted at four places. The places include his residence at Shree Vihar in Keonjhar town, ancestral house at Raghunathpur in Sadar block, younger brother's house at Jajaposi and his office in Joda.

"The exact value of Mohanta's moveable and immovable assets is yet to be ascertained as the raids are underway," informed the official. Notably, separate teams of Vigilance sleuths had conducted simultaneous searches at the residence and office of Gaisilet primary agricultural cooperative society (PACS) assistant secretary Ghanashyam Sahu in Padmapur sub-division of Bargarh district August 9. Besides, Chief District Veterinary Officer (CDVO) of Nuapada Trilochan Dhal's properties were raided August 8. Vigilance sleuths had conducted simultaneous raids on the properties of Dhal after ₹2.77 lakh was recovered from his government vehicle.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, KEONJHAR
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
No. L- 2573 Dt.09.08.2021: Office of the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Keonjhar invited applications from interested NGOs/TRUSTs towards expression of Interest (EOI) to involve in the Promotion of Agriculture Production Cluster (APC) project in selective 8 Nos. of blocks in Keonjhar district i.e. Telkoi, Sahrapada, Ghatagaon, Champua, Joda, Anandapur, Hatadihi & Ghasipur from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26 (5 years) under DMF, Keonjhar. The EOI of the NGOs/TRUSTs should be submitted to the **OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, KEONJHAR - 758001** in prescribed form with necessary enclosures on or before 27th August 2021 by 5.30 PM through Registered Post/Speed Post and by no other means.
For application form & details please visit
www.keonjhar.nic.in, www.apcodisha.net, www.odishagov.in, www.odihort.nic.in
Sd./- Deputy Director of Horticulture, Keonjhar
OIPR-01405/11/0001/2122

NOTICE
No. MM-156:- It is for information of all concerned that the following vehicles have been seized for committing forest offence under Athmalik Forest Division as per details against each and are under trial for confiscation proceeding under Section-56 of Orissa Forest Act-1972.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: ST-SBP-TENDER-2021-09, Dt. 05.08.2021
Name of Work: TELECOM ZONAL WORK IN THE CONTROL SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/TELE/SAMBALPUR, SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/TELE/BALANGIR AND SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/TELE/RAIRAKHOL OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS.
Tender value: ₹65,72,735.80
Date & time of Tender Closing: 1500 hrs of 27.08.2021.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager(S&T) Sambalpur
PR-273/M/21-22

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 05-SBP-TRD OT-2021-22, Dt. 06.08.2021
Name of Work: ELECTRIFICATION OF MID SECTION SIDING FOR BHUSAN POWER AND STEEL LIMITED IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx. Cost : ₹60,10,867.50, Completion Period: 6 Months.
Date & time of Tender Closing: 1530 hrs of 30.08.2021.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note:- The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(TRD)/ Sambalpur
PR-277/M/21-22

MIS FALCON CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)			
Liquidator's Address: Poddar Court, Gate No. -2, 18, RabindraSarani Sui No.-372,3rd floor, Kolkata-700001. Contact:+91-9830285088, EmailID: falcon.liquidation@gmail.com			
Notice is hereby given to the public in general under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 and regulation thereunder, that the properties stated in Table below, will be sold by E-Auction through the service provider M/s 4CLOSURE, HYDERABAD - v i a website http://bankauctions.in			
Date and Time of Auction	Thursday, 23.08.2021 between 01:00 PM. to 03:00 PM.		
Last Date for Submission of EMD	18.08.2021 before 05:00 PM		
Inspection Date & Time	On 16.08.2021 between 12:00PM. to 05:00 PM.		
The person to be contacted for inspection is CA Sonu Jain, Contact No. 9830285088			
Lot No.	Particulars	Reserve Price (in Crores)	EMD (Rs.) (in Crores)
1	Khalna/Jagatpur/Tangi/Choudwar/Cuttack (Industrial Complex at Jagatpur, NEW)	1.008	0.0504
2	Natada/Angul/Angul, Banarpali/Angul	13.15	0.66
The EMD (Refundable) shall be payable by interested bidders through NEFT/RTGS on or before- 18.08.2021 in an account of "FALCON CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED (In Liquidation)" having Account No. 06210200002314 and IFSC Code IOBA0000621 OR by DD/Pay order favouring "FALCON CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED (In Liquidation)". For detailed terms & conditions of E-auction sale, refer TENDER DOCUMENTS available on http://bankauctions.in/ For any query regarding E- Auction, contact Mr. sayyaskshi (M./7008535596) or Liquidator on her e-mail at casonu@jain@gmail.com .			
Place :Kolkata		Liquidator for Falcon Consultancy Private Limited (In Liquidation)	
Date :10/08/2021		IP Reg. No. IBB/IIPA-001/IPP/00575/2017-18/11016	

NOTICE			
No. MM-156:- It is for information of all concerned that the following vehicles have been seized for committing forest offence under Athmalik Forest Division as per details against each and are under trial for confiscation proceeding under Section-56 of Orissa Forest Act-1972.			
Sl. No.	Vehicle No.	C.P. case No. of Athmalik Division	UD / OR case No. of Range
1	2	3	4
1	TATA ACE- OR-27-3037	13 of 2014-15	115 H of 2014-15
2	Mahindra Maxximo-Truck OR-19-M-2343	03 of 2015-16	108 H of 2015-16
3	Bolero Pick-UP-Van OR-19-K-4390	08 of 2013-14	UD No. 15 H of 2013-14
4	Ten Wheeler Truck- OR-02F-5738	07 of 2007-08	UD No. 13 H of 2007-08
5	TREKAR OR-06-8777	08 of 2008-09	UD No. 28 H of 2008-09
6	Silk Silver Bolero Plus- OR-19-N-9440	01 of 2014-15	UD No. 05H of 2014-15
7	TATA-SUMO GOLD OD-19-9886	04 of 2014-15	UD No. 10 H of 2014-15
8	INDICA CAR OR-19-0177	11 of 2014-15	UD No. 12 H of 2014-15
9	Maxx. Pick-UP-Van OR-19-C-9470	06 of 2016-17	UD No. 08 H of 2016-17
10	Mahindra Xylo OR-19-P-6776	07 of 2015-16	153 H of 2015-16
11	ATUL PASSENGER TEMPO - OR-19-C-2014	05 of 2014-15	52 H of 2014-15
12	Marshall Royal Delux-DI - TN-07-P-1123	08 of 2014-15	69 H of 2014-15
13	Silk Silver Bolero OR-02-AG-0152	09 of 2014-15	76 H of 2014-15
14	Silk Silver TATA SUMO - OR-05-S-4472	10 of 2014-15	70 H of 2014-15
15	C.D. Delux Motor Cycle OR-19-A-9849	02 of 2014-15	39 H of 2014-15
16	MARUTI-800 OR-14-B-0071	01 of 2016-17	07 H of 2016-17
17	407-Mini-Truck (TATA)- OR-05-B-2021	16 of 2010-11	205 H of 2010-11
18	TATA-SUMO- OR-05-M-8669	05 of 2012-13	43 H of 2012-13
19	TVS Star Motorcycle OR-15-H-6289	09 of 2012-13	93 H of 2012-13
20	Bike CDIS COVER OR-19-J-4880	07 of 2012-13	94 H of 2012-13
21	Tractor & Trolley No. OR-19-F-2497	18 of 2017-18	183 M of 2017-18
22	TATA-608 Truck WB-29-0872	09 of 2009-10	57 B of 2009-10
23	Tractor OD-19-A-2340 & Trolley No. OD-19-A (Swaraj)-FE-735	11 of 2015-16	242 H of 2015-16
24	Bolero-XL - OR-19-C-7152	02 of 2007-08	58 B of 2007-08
25	TANKER No. NL-02-N-1936	03 of 2017-18	59 H of 2017-18
The so called owner of the vehicles as per our information gathered are not responding after issue of notices several times. So anybody claiming the ownership of the after said vehicles should file representation/ claim petition with proof or appear with relevant records before the Authorised Officer-Cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Athmalik (T) Division within one month of publication of this notice failing which decision will be taken for confiscation of the seized vehicles alongwith seized forest produce under Section-56 of Orissa Forest Act-1972 (Amended up to date) and no further claim in this regard will be entertained. Sd./- Authorised Officer-Cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Athmalik Division OIPR-08125/11/0016/2122			

This is faithfulness, to admit and to manifest no other movements but only the movements prompted and guided by the Divine.

THE MOTHER

Planet In Peril

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released August 9 sounds the gravest warning bell ever against the disaster that is waiting in store for the whole world in the coming few decades. The fight against global warming and consequential changes on planet earth is no longer an idle academic exercise or something that may take place in remote future. It's a stark reality dissected by scientists across the world. The biggest emitters of greenhouse gases must make sure that they have clear plans to cut their carbon output drastically. For, there is now only a small chance of escaping the worst ravages of climate breakdown. The recent unprecedented heat waves experienced in Europe, the USA and elsewhere in the northern hemisphere and torrential rains, more frequent and fiercer storms and cloudbursts in different parts of India and other countries are tell-tale evidence of the impact of the damage done to the climate by human actions. The main targeted countries which have to tighten the belt are the US, most countries of western Europe, China, India and Brazil.

Over 750 scientists have contributed to the Working Group-I report of the IPCC. They studied over 14,000 scientific publications before coming to their conclusions.

The assessment reports are the most widely-accepted scientific opinion about climate change. They form the basis for government policies to address problems arising out of climate change.

Among the scariest findings of the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC is the effect of climate change on glaciers and the snow cover in the mountains. The scientists have arrived at the consensus that global warming will have a serious impact on mountain ranges across the world, including the Himalayas. The consequences are deadly. However, people in Orissa probably would not need any prodding to believe that there is a great change constantly happening in the climate. They simply have to look at the number of deaths of people in the state due to lightning strikes which have increased manifold in the last decade.

Set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the IPCC does not itself conduct scientific research. It asks scientists across the world to study all relevant scientific data and literature on climate change and deduce from them their conclusions. Five assessment reports have been produced since 1990.

Among the disconcerting facts revealed in the latest report is that the atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have reached "unprecedented levels." Rise in global temperatures by 2100 could be as high as 4.8 degree Celsius from pre-industrial times. It is virtually certain that there will be more frequent and longer heat waves, while a large fraction of species face extinction. Food security would be undermined. Greenhouse gas emissions increased by 70 per cent between 1970 and 2004.

The Paris climate agreement of 2015 fixed the threshold of temperature rise at 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels. But this could be surpassed this decade. Sharp and immediate cuts in greenhouse gases in the next few years alone can stabilise the climate system. But, experts fear the target may remain only on paper as things are increasingly spinning out of control. The G20 countries have to play a crucial role in this as G20 governments comprise the world's biggest economies including developed and developing countries. They are responsible for about 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The recent Corona virus situation brought about a complete standstill of all activities due to lockdowns across the world. This should have taught a lesson to mankind that would be worth remembering. Admittedly, there is a vociferous group that is shedding tears on the subject of increased poverty across the world. It cannot be said that the poor have not suffered due to the stoppage of economic activities. Yet, it is astonishing to note that a few individuals, families and select corporates have shown incredible growth in their wealth during this period. These two opposing factors prove that governments across the world have utilized this period to push their favourite corporates while dumping the large mass of humanity into abject poverty. Therefore, if a balance could be brought in, lowered economic activity with equitable distribution of resources may help create a more balanced atmosphere that would impact the environment. It need not be back to the roots but can be a more reasonable and sustainable existence for all. The rich, too, cannot survive if the world becomes inhospitable to human existence.

WISDOM CORNER

- We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far.
- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
- For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone.
- AUDREY HEPBURN
- The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.
- WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

WORDSWORTH

A cadge

If you trace that verb back, it starts its recorded life about 1600 in reference to men named cadgers in Northern England and Scotland, a noun which is known slightly earlier, from the late fifteenth century. They were itinerant hawkers and peddlers with a horse and cart or a packhorse, who collected butter, eggs, poultry and other farm produce for sale in the local market and who in return took out small items to farms from the local shops. They did not enjoy a high reputation: often hard bargainers and hard swearers ("to curse like a cadger" was once a Scots simile), they were at the bottom of the social order. An old Scots proverb says "the king's errand may come to the cadger's gate yet", meaning that even the highest in the land may sometimes need the help of the most humble. In the nineteenth century the word went even further downhill, if that were possible, when it started to be applied in England to men who pretended to be hawkers or street traders but who were actually beggars or tramps. An early example, of 1860, is in The Roman Question, by Edmond About: "Pray give something to yonder sham cripple; give to that cadger who pretends to have lost an arm; and be sure you don't forget that blind young man leaning on his father's arm!" This led a little later to the modern — mainly British — slang sense of a cadger as a man (it seems always to have been a man) who "borrows" small sums or favours from acquaintances and friends but conveniently forgets to return the cash or reciprocate — you might hear it as "he cadged a tenner off me yesterday", or "See if you can cadge a lift to the pub". R Austin Freeman (an almost forgotten crime writer, well-known in his day) acutely observed the type in For The Defence, Dr Thorndyke of 1934: "Ronald Barton was an inveterate cadger, a confirmed borrower; and, as is the way of the habitual borrower, as soon as the loan had been obtained, the transaction was finished and the incident closed so far as he was concerned."

LOL

CAPITAL OF NEVADA

There was a blonde who just got sick and tired of all the blonde jokes. One evening, she went home and memorized all the state capitals. Back in the office the next day, some guy started telling a dumb blonde joke. She interrupted him with a shrill announcement, "I've had it up to here



with these blonde jokes. I want you to know that this blonde went home last night and did something probably none of you could do. I memorized all the state capitals." One of the guys, of course, said, "I don't believe you. What is the capital of Nevada?" "N," she answered.

FOCUS IPCC REPORT 2021

INEVITABILITY OF DEGROWTH



Dhanada K Mishra

THE IPCC REPORT 2021 PREDICTS THAT THE PLANET IS LIKELY TO EXCEED 2°C HEATING ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL AGE BY MID-CENTURY RATHER THAN THE END OF THE CENTURY AS HOPED EARLIER

The just-released 'IPCC Report 2021' has been called 'code red' for humanity. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, short for IPCC, has been issuing these warnings for over three decades now based on the near-unanimous scientific consensus that anthropogenic emissions are causing global heating leading to the climate crisis. The current report was authored by 233 scientists who have studied thousands of recent publications since the last report. It has been predicted that the planet is likely to exceed 2°C heating above pre-industrial age by mid-century rather than the end of the century as hoped earlier. This also implies that the 1.5°C threshold will be exceeded by 2040 with dire consequences in terms of disrupted weather patterns and catastrophic natural disasters, the scale of which is difficult to imagine! As I write this article, thousand-year events (meaning those events that have a probability of occurring once in a thousand years) are taking place worldwide, starting from unprecedented floods in China and Europe and wildfires in Greece and California in the United States. Most disturbingly, scientists have only recently observed the signs of disruptions of the polar jet stream, leading to significant changes in rainfall patterns and crop loss in large parts of the world. It's one of the climate tipping points that would be almost impossible to recover from!

None of the climate pathways simulated by scenario building climate models considered 'a constant or declining GDP growth' by IPCC in its Special Report SR 1.5 published in 2018. On the other hand, all of the scenarios included assumptions of Negative Emission Technologies (NETs) such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) that are yet to be proven at scale, having a high risk of feasibility. KeyBer & Lenzen, in their recent paper in Nature, have pointed out this major lacuna and suggested that considering 'degrowth' is the only way to avoid 2°C heating while ensuring social and economic equality focused on delivering minimum quality of life or all.

The modern-day idea of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) introduced in 1934 by American economist Simon Kuznets was a



The modern-day idea of the Gross Domestic Product introduced in 1934 by American economist Simon Kuznets was a construct that has clearly outlived its utility. It only accounted for the benefits neglecting the costs such as environmental degradation. Even the efforts to supplement it with the so-called Gross Eco Services Products can only partially address this glaring weakness

construct that has clearly outlived its utility. It only accounted for the benefits neglecting the costs such as environmental degradation. Even the efforts to supplement it with the so-called Gross Eco Services Products (GEP) can only partially address this glaring weakness. On the other hand, the substitution of consumerism led economic growth with so-called 'green growth' seems to have been utterly inadequate in the face of the imminent existential threat faced by humanity.

The French philosopher Andre Gorz first introduced the term 'Decroissance' (French for degrowth) and asked whether capitalism is compatible with a state of the earth in balance with human need, which would require no growth or even degrowth? Shortly afterwards, the Club of Rome, a think tank, published the famous report titled 'Limits to Growth'. It questioned the idea of limitless growth in a planet of limited natural resources. A recent KPMG study reveals that the 1972 prediction of social collapse, based on an MIT computer simulation model, is on track by 2040. Such a collapse would mean an abrupt decline in quality of life, food production, industrial output and ultimately, the human population.

As opposed to an economic recession, degrowth is a controlled

contraction of the economy while ensuring that socio-economic equality is enhanced both within and among countries. To that extent, degrowth policy would reject economic growth at any cost per se while placing quality of life at the centre of policy making. It would consist of programmes such as job guarantees, universal minimum basic income and shorter workweeks. High-income, developed countries would be expected to follow the degrowth principles to bring down their unsustainable environmental footprints rapidly. The lower-income developing and under-developed countries would be encouraged to implement green growth policies to ensure growth and employment generation without damaging the environment. Such policies would encourage investment in healthcare, education, public transport, women's empowerment, environmental protection, renewable energy, etc.

Even the original proposers of economic growth based models never imagined it to be enforced in perpetuity. Instead, they had proposed a temporary growth-based model until a given society was prosperous enough to ensure basic minimum living standards akin to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One estimate shows that the earth can

sustain a population of 10 billion in 2050, three times as large as the 1960's population if we were to live sustainably. In other words, all the basic human needs such as shelter, mobility, food and hygiene are met while also having access to modern, high-quality healthcare, education and information technology for everyone!

To reconcile the ideas of macro-accountability with micro-responsibility, or more simply - the role the individual must envisage for themselves as they hold accountable the state structures and mega-corporations. However, in terms of what they might have the state responsible for, the study of degrowth strategies becomes relevant. Mega-corporations, especially the fossil fuel industry, spend vast amounts on blaming the climate crisis on individual choices and promoting concepts like 'personal carbon footprint' as a way of deflecting their culpability. It is clear that no matter how well-intentioned and practical at the micro-scale, particular action would hardly make a dent. The time for 'be the change you want to see' is long past. Urgent action in scale requires that individuals devote all of their energy to making sure their voice is heard loud and clear. The 'Friday for Future (FFF)' and 'Extinction Rebellion (XR)' movements have been the most compelling examples in this direction.

Economic output will decline due to either the impact of runaway global heating and climate disruption or stringent climate mitigation to avoid it. This should be given more weight in crafting policies to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It would appear that degrowth strategies have been ignored in favour of pro-growth strategies that rely on unproven, forward-looking technological solutions. Like an obese person shedding extra weight in the form of stored fat to regain health, the time has come for humanity to shape up by fasting in the form of degrowth to shed the excess baggage and avoid climate catastrophe.

The author is a civil engineer, academician and technologist with a strong interest in the sustainability of the built environment. He is currently working in Hong Kong. He can be reached at dhanadam@gmail.com

IN JEST THIS

Everyone wants to be Neeraj Chopra



Melvin Durai

INSPIRED BY THE GOLD MEDAL WON BY NEERAJ CHOPRA AT THE TOKYO OLYMPICS, THROWING JAVELIN SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME EVERYONE'S PASSION

It was early evening on August 7 and officials at the National Centre of Seismology were concerned about several tremors they had detected in Delhi, Haryana and other parts of India.

They were about to issue an earthquake warning when they found themselves contributing to the tremors themselves, jumping up and down as the exciting news flashed across a TV screen in their office: "Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold in Javelin."

A young woman named Megha jumped into the arms of a young man named Raj. She didn't follow sports closely, but after seeing everyone in the office hugging each other and cheering, she thought this would be a good opportunity to hug Raj.

"Gold medal!" Raj shouted. "I love gold!" Megha yelled, remembering all the hours she had spent at jewelry shops.

Imagining himself a football announcer screaming after a goal, Raj hollered: "Gold! Gold! Gold! It's a gold! Neeraj Chopra has scored a gold for India!"

"Yes!" Megha said. "We have the best javelin player in the world."

"Thrower; not player!"

"But it's sports," Megha said.

"Don't you play sports?"

"Yes, but you don't play javelin – you throw javelin," Raj said, making a throwing motion with his arm.

"Have you ever thrown it?"

Megha asked, trying to distract Raj from her mistake.

Raj had never thrown a javelin, but he saw an opportunity to impress Megha. "Yes, many times," he said. "In fact, I am a member of the Delhi Javelin Club."

"Can you show me?"

"Yes, okay," Raj said, thinking quickly. "Let's go outside and I'll show you."

"You have your javelin here?"

"No, but I have my umbrella. When it's closed, it's just like a javelin, with a sharp point and all."

Raj grabbed his long black umbrella and opened the door for Megha. To his surprise, there were already dozens of people throwing umbrellas, sticks and other objects outside. Most of them were youngsters, but Raj even spotted an

old man hurling his walking stick as far as he could. "Do they have over-80 javelin competition?" he asked his wife, as she went to fetch his stick. "I can win gold, too."

Two teenaged girls were throwing a hockey stick around.

"I'm Neeraj Chopra," one girl said. "The best javelin thrower in the world."

"No, I'm Neeraj Chopra," the other girl said. "The best-looking javelin thrower in the world."

The first girl laughed. "He is handsome. I wonder who is going to play him in the movie?"

Hearing the conversation, Raj and Megha smiled at each other. They walked down the street to find a safe area where Raj could throw the umbrella. They stopped about 20 meters from a roadside stand where a man was selling live chickens in a cage. Raj put all his strength into the umbrella throw, almost falling over as he released it.

"Wow," Megha said, as the umbrella soared through the air. A gust of wind caught it, carrying it farther than Raj had expected.

"Oh no," he shouted. "I'm going

to kill the chickens!"

Luckily, the umbrella fell a yard short of the cage. Even so, Raj had to face the wrath of the roadside seller: "Who do you think you are, throwing like that?" the man shouted. "Neeraj Chopra?"

The next day, Megha received a call from her father, Ravi. "I have some good news," he said. "I've been appointed the chairman of a new commission."

"What commission, Papa?"

"The Special Commission to Build One Thousand Neeraj Chopra Statues."

"Only one thousand, Papa?"

"This is for Haryana only. Other states will build more."

Megha told her father about the javelin thrower she had met.

"He throws like Neeraj?" Ravi asked.

"Yes, like Neeraj. But no gold medal yet."

"When can you bring him home?"

"You want to meet him already?"

"Why not? Please tell him to bring his javelin. He can show me how to throw it."

Attack on democracy

Sir, Israel's NSO Company claims their technologies are being used only to prevent crime and terror acts. In reality their technology is a dictator's toy. Admit it or not but technology by NSO can be easily used to attack democracy. If journalists, Opposition and judiciary are being hacked, it is actually an attack on the Constitution as well. Phone tapping is done in limited capacity, but Pegasus allows the hacker complete hold of every little detail about the hacked individual. Pegasus is dangerous as a nuclear weapon if in the wrong hands. Press Club of India released a statement on Twitter, saying: "This is the first time in our history that all the pillars of democracy have been spied upon. That is why answers will be demanded in the Parliament." For democracy to thrive companies like NSO should be shut down via international agreement. Spying is common place in the UK and USA as well. But their agencies are accountable to the people. Here it seems that hacking and spying is being done on whims. It is interesting that Israel is prepared for investigation but India denying. So in our country we are experiencing autocracy in the name of democracy.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

India in Tokyo 2020

Sir, The Tokyo Olympic Games were held under the Covid-19 conditions. The Olympic Games were to be held in 2020 but had to be postponed due to the pandemic but the authorities were able to host the Games without any major incidents. Even though the players put up brilliant performance, the events had to be held in front of empty stands. India participated in the Tokyo Olympics with its biggest contingent and finished with their biggest-ever medal tally. In spite of the disappointments in sports like shooting and boxing, there were plenty of positives for India. Tokyo Olympics witnessed India's hockey renaissance. Both men and women's hockey teams reached the semi-finals. India's 41-year old wait for an Olympic medal ended when the men's team won a bronze. In golf, rowing and race walking the players put up brilliant performance. India's campaign started with a silver medal from weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and ended with a long-awaited gold medal. When Neeraj Chopra won the Men's gold, it became India's first gold in track and field. However, India cannot be complacent about its total medal tally of 7 and its 48th position on the tally.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

₹22cr allocated for indoor stadium, market complex

MAJOR INFRA BOOST IN BHANJANAGAR



Bhanjanagar, August 10: Bhanjanagar area in Ganjam is going to see a number of development projects in coming days. ₹22crore has been allocated for avrious infrastructure development works in its Old Jail area. The old jail here will be pulled down to make space for an indoor stadium, a four storied-market complex and some other projects. This was revealed during a review meeting chaired by Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha here Tuesday. Like in metro cities, a modern four storied market building will be constructed at a cost of ₹15 crore. The market complex will have three

lifts with arrangements of recreation. The complex will also have shopping malls, open market place for small traders, small cinema halls, hotels and parking lots. The project is expected to help create scope of employment for hundreds of people directly and indirectly in the area. Officials at the meeting were directed to take expeditious steps for the project which will spread over 1 acre of land. An indoor stadium will also be built near the market complex at a cost of ₹7 crore. The indoor stadium will be used by sportspersons while the facility will be used as hospital during pandemic and as a shelter during natural disasters. The facility will be designed in such a way that it will come

The old jail will be pulled down to make space for an indoor stadium, a four storied-market complex and some other projects. Like in metro cities, a modern four storied market complex will be constructed at a cost of ₹15 crore. The market complex will have three lifts with arrangements of recreation, shopping malls, open market place for small traders, small cinema halls, hotels and parking lots. An indoor stadium will be built near the market complex at a cost of ₹7 crore. The indoor stadium will be used by sportspersons while the facility will be used as hospital during pandemic and as a shelter during natural disasters

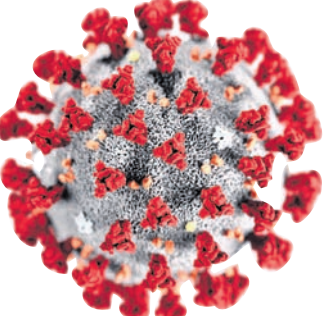
handy for three above-said purposes, the minister said. One acre of land was allotted for indoor stadium while the remaining land will be used for some other projects. It was learnt that blueprints of these projects are being drawn up. Sub-Collector Rajendra Minj, tehsildar Alok Pradhan and executive engineer of the works department Ramesh Prasad Swain among others were present at the meeting.

FEAR OF THIRD WAVE LOOMS LARGE

32 kids infected in 9 days in Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 10: Even as experts have predicted a third wave of Covid-19 in September, its impact is already being felt in Kendrapara, a report said. Reports said that 32 children in the age-group of one to 17 have tested positive for Covid-19 within the first nine days of this month. This has sparked panic among the residents even as the Covid graph is witnessing a downward trend in the district. According to a report of the district administration, a total of three children have tested positive for Covid-19 from August 1 to August 9 in villages under Rajkanika block. Similarly, seven children in Derabish, five in Mahakalapara, nine in Kendrapara and two each in Pattamundai, Marshaghai, Aul and Garadpur blocks have tested positive for Covid-19. Among them, an infant from Kendrapara Municipal limits and a two-year-old from Derabish block have been detected with the virus. Among the 32 affected children, 20 are boys. No infection has been reported from Rajnagar block during this period. The total number of persons affected during this period is 316. Meanwhile, 23,685 persons have tested positive for Covid-19 so far while 23,234 persons have recovered in the district. Among them, 299 persons are undergoing treatment while 151 persons have succumbed to the disease. Observers said that the pre-



ADMO Sachidananda Mishra said condition of the affected kids is monitored everyday and medicines are given to them. Most of the kids are showing mild symptoms

diction of experts about the rise in infections among children in August has come true in the district. Contacted, Dr Sachhidananda Mishra, additional district medical officer (ADMO) and nodal officer for Covid-19 said most of the affected children are showing mild symptoms but they are provided with proper treatment. He said so far no child has been admitted to any Covid hospital. The condition of the affected children is monitored everyday and medicines are given to them. He urged the parents not to panic and take care of their children based on Covid guidelines.

Hostel tagged as CZ after girl tests +ve

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, August 10: Days after schools and hostels in the state reopened for offline classes, a Class 10 student of the Government Girls High School hostel here in Kandhamal district tested positive for Covid-19, a report said. After the girl tested positive, the school hostel was declared a containment zone for a week following an order by the district administration. The girl was reportedly found positive during a Covid-19 test drive conducted by the health department officials, Monday. The drive was organised for all 65 inmates of the girls' hostel.

Problems galore at Jugpura rly passenger halt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baisinga, August 10: Jugpura passenger halt (PH) on Rupsa-Bangiriposi railway line under East Coast Railways near Baisinga town in Mayurbhanj district has no end to its problems. Despite being one of the oldest PHs in the region, the halt is yet to be upgraded to a station. It also does not have a platform. As a result, patients, children and women often face issues while getting into trains. Accidents often take place during ingress and egress. There are no toilet and drinking water facilities at the PH. Passengers experience trouble for booking tickets as the ticket counter at the PH remains closed since March 20. Covid-19 is said to be the reason. While some passengers buy tickets online, some others are forced to travel

without tickets. Around 30,000 people of nearby six panchayats and the businessmen of Badasahi block depend on this PH. Realising the issues, a BJP delegation had been to Delhi July 25, 2019 and discussed the problems of Jugpura PH with the then Railway Minister Piyush Goyal. They had also submitted a memorandum to the minister. Two years have since passed but nothing has changed at the PH. Locals hold political leaders responsible for the deplorable condition of an important PH like Jugpura. Senior Congress leader Raghunath Rout said his party will make the problems at the PH an election issues during the coming panchayat polls. When contacted, local MLA Sanatan Bijuli said the railway di-



visional manager has informed him about the Ministry of Railways having given a green signal for a platform at Jugpura PH and made a budgetary allocation for the same last year. "I don't have any knowledge as to why the work has not been started as yet. I will discuss with the higher officials to find out the reasons behind it and take

Minor carries father's body on bullock cart to crematorium

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 10: In a heart-wrenching incident, a minor boy had to carry father's body on a bullock cart to village cremation ground at Padhel village of Maruan gram panchayat under Patnagarh block in Bolangir district Monday. The deceased has been identified as Kalyan Suna (45). According to sources, Kalyan, a resident of Chhattisgarh, was living in Padhel village. He worked as a daily labourer. Later, he met Seeta Saraf and both decided to marry. Since both were from two different castes, the villagers opposed their marriage. As a result they had to leave the village. After spending long 10 years in other states, they with four children including two daughters returned to Padhel village just few days ago. They were living in a cowshed. Kalyan breathed his last Saturday night due to illness. Since he had married in another caste and fear of an unknown disease was also there, none of the villagers or



Seeta's relatives came forward to participate in the rituals. With no options left, Kalyan's minor son borrowed a bullock cart from a neighbour and carried his father's body to the cremation ground. His body was buried there with the help of the members of Seva Charitable Trust of Patnagarh, it was learnt.

GHATAGAON TARINI TEMPLE REOPENS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 10: After a gap of three months, the doors of Maa Tarini temple in Ghatagaon town of Keonjhar district reopened for devotees Tuesday. The move came following the district administration's decision in favour of the temple's reopening. For darshan, the shrine will open in two phases. The first phase is from 7.30 am to 12.30 pm and the second phase is from 4 pm to 7 pm. At any given time, only 50 people will be allowed inside the temple. The devotees will follow Covid-19 guidelines such as mask wearing and maintaining social distancing while entering the temple and inside the temple premises. The temple trust has erected barricades for smooth darshan of devotees. The devotees can only have darshan of the deity. They can't offer 'bhog' and light lamps. Similarly rituals such as tonsuring heads of children have also been suspended temporality for safety reasons. Those above 64 years and below ten years have been debarred from entering the temple.

GONE HAYWIRE



Waste management in Bolangir town has come to a naught with stray cattle feeding on polythene and other waste dumped on the roadside

OP PHOTO

AGAINST SCHOOL MERGER



Residents and students of Badakhandi village under Hinjilicut block in Ganjam district staging demonstration outside the office of the block education officer in Hinjilicut over closure of two schools and their merger with the nearest high school

OP PHOTO

Streets dark as 5k lights out of order

RESIDENTS FUME AS 216 CCMS BOXES HAVE ALSO CONKED OUT IN BARIPADA MUNICIPALITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, August 10: Crores of rupees have been spent for street lighting facility in Baripada municipality and NAC areas in Mayurbhanj district. But the illumination drive is gradually becoming paralysed for lack of maintenance in the civic body areas, a report said.

According to the report, over 5000 street lights have become defunct, leaving the street dark at night. Such situation has allegedly given rise to various criminal activities in some areas. Denizens alleged that they had to pay holding tax for various facilities, but dark streets have led to multiple problems at night. Over 2 lakh people reside in 28 wards under the Baripada municipality. Under a central sponsored scheme, a private agency identified as Energy Efficiency Service Limited (EESL) was awarded street lighting work in Baripada civic body area in 2014-15. The project entailed installation



of 8,500 street lights. LED lights ranging between 35 watts to 110 watts have been fixed along the main roads in all the wards. However, thousands of streets lights are out of order as the agency looking after maintenance of street lights has engaged a technician who finds it difficult to manage such a huge task, it was alleged. There are 216 CCMS boxes in the Baripada civic body area to control the lighting system. However, over 100 of them are

out of order. "Over 5000 street lights are not working in the municipality area," lamented residents of ward-7 like Prakash Nayak and Harapriya Sethi. Many residents have expressed their unhappiness over dark streets at night, seeking their immediate repair. Sources in the civic body said that a year ago 1300 street lights were installed under greenfield scheme while 200 more lights will be installed. Manoranjan Panigrahi,

It was said that a year ago 1300 street lights were installed under a greenfield scheme while 200 more lights will be installed. Municipality executive officer Anya Das said funds have been allocated and streetlights will be repaired soon

who looks after streetlights in Baripada, said Astha Electricals has been assigned the maintenance of the streetlights while only one technician has been engaged for it. The same technician also looks after streetlights in Rairangpur municipality, Karanjia and Udala NACs. Contacted, executive officer of the municipality Anya Das said streetlights will be repaired soon and funds have been allocated.

Assembly adjourned sine die

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, August 10: The four-day monsoon session of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly was adjourned sine die during its second sitting Tuesday.

On the second day of the session, there was a fierce argument between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress party, following which the Speaker Girish Gautam adjourned the session indefinitely.

During the Question Hour on the second day of the session, a question on prices of petrol and diesel was asked, after which the Leader of Opposition, Kamal Nath raised the issue of tribals and backwaters between leaders of both the parties. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan accused the Congress of trying to spread confusion and dividing the society. He claimed that the opposition party on Monday attempted to spread confusion about tribals and today (Tuesday) it is trying to confuse the backward classes.

Referring to the then Congress government, the CM said, March 8, 2019, the then government had promised to implement 14 to 27 per cent reservation. A petition was

MONSOON SESSION



PROTESTING FLOOD RESPONSE, CONG MLA TAKES OFF KURTA

A Congress MLA protesting against the flood situation in Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh as well as the BJP government's alleged apathetic response to people's suffering took off his kurta after the state Assembly was adjourned Tuesday. Sheopur Congress legislator Babu Jandel, who took off his kurta in the Assembly complex, told PTI he did so because people in his flood-hit constituency were suffering and help had not reached many even now. The meteorological department issued an alert about heavy rains in advance but the local administration did not act. The floods hit during daytime. The entire area would have vanished if it (flooding) had happened during the night. It was like the Uttarakhand (flash floods) tragedy, Jandel claimed. Jandel said he wanted to narrate the woes of the people in Sheopur, some 375 kilometres from here, in the Assembly but he was not allowed to speak.

government, the CM said, March 8, 2019, the then government had

promised to implement 14 to 27 per cent reservation. A petition was

filed March 10 and the stay came March 19. From 10th to 19th, the then Kamal Nath government did not even present its Advocate General in the court. The then government did not even make any effort during its rule. Kamal Nath has stabbed the backward class in the back. Congress is doing hypocrisy and backward classes have been betrayed by Congress.

Further slamming Kamal Nath, Chouhan said, He should answer what the Congress did to maintain the 27 percent reservation. We will not allow the hypocrisy of Congress, we will leave no stone unturned in giving reservation to the backward classes.

'MAN-MADE FLOOD'

MAMATA SLAMS CENTRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ghatal (WB), August 10: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday visited the flood-hit areas of Paschim Medinipur district and alleged that dilly-dallying in sanctioning the Ghatal Master Plan by the Centre has led to the inundation of the region every year.

As per the Ghatal Master Plan announced in 2009, several projects would be undertaken to desilt the rivers in the area, repair canals and build a dam on the Shilabati river, among others.

Banerjee, who waded through the floodwaters in areas under the Ghatal Municipality, said that she would be sending a team of ministers, MPs and MLAs to New Delhi to pursue the Centre in approving the matter. The Centre is not paying heed to our requests for the Ghatal Master Plan. Repeated requests are falling on deaf ears, she said.

As Ghatal is a low-lying area, it cannot be saved without the master plan, said Banerjee who also distributed relief materials to some of the affected people.

I have conducted a survey of the area. I will prepare a report on this. I think the administration has to work more and plan extensively, the chief minister said.

Banerjee who also took an aerial survey of the area said that she found that houses, shops and market places are under water.

The administrative meeting, which was scheduled to be held at



an auditorium in the area, was cancelled because it was inundated in floodwater, officials said.

Banerjee said, A team comprising (Water Resources Investigation and development Minister) Manas Bhuniya, (Irrigation Minister) Soumen Mahapatra, (two other ministers) Seuli Saha and Srikanth Mahato, (Ghatal's actor-MP) Dev and (Medinipur MLA) June Malia will go to Delhi during the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament and meet the irrigation minister to place their demand (for the Ghatal Master Plan).

These man-made floods are occurring every year after water is released from dams, she said.

At least 23 persons have lost their lives and several lakhs of people have been displaced in seven districts of south Bengal in the flood which Banerjee has described

as man-made. She has held DVC responsible for the flood situation, claiming it has released excessive water from its dams.

The DVC, however, rejected the allegation saying it discharges water after taking consent of the state government and blaming it for the deluge is not justified.

Several south Bengal districts had witnessed heavy monsoon rainfall last week.

The chief minister said that her government would be sending proposals to the Centre on how to save the Sunderbans and the sea-side town of Digha from similar inundations which are occurring annually.

She said that the state government has spent ₹700 crore for the Kapaleswar-Keleghai project and the people of Paschim Medinipur district have been benefited from it.

Virangana: A project to empower women



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, August 10: In an effort to empower women and equip them with self-defence techniques, Rotary Club of Calcutta South Circle with the support of 'Notun Jibon', an NGO working with such girls of Red Light area organised a workshop named 'Virangana', where 23 hapless daughters of destitute single mothers from the Kalighat Red Light area were given training to defend themselves.

As women empowerment is one of the most focus area of the current rotary year adopted by Rotary International District 3291, it was felt that every woman in our society should have basic awareness about their own defence - this reckons to be at par with their literacy, economic development and health improvement - sum-total of which results into empowerment, a senior member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta South Circle said.

All the 23 girls with three of

their seniors, who look after them, have undergone training in AIKIDO, a modern Japanese Martial Art, under Internationally acclaimed trainer Sensei Avijit Mitra, who is also instrumental in Calcutta Police Project - Tejaswini, and his team - Sensei Utpal Chakroborty and Sensei Deepatani Roy.

The workshop included Diet camp and nutrition supervised by two doctors, including Ananya Bhowmick, and psychological counselling by Samapika Das Biswas to make it holistic towards empowering girls to create their own identity.

It is the aim of the club to train these women and girls with self-defence techniques so that they fight back any kind of eventuality. We have other programmes also to make them self-sufficient, another member added. A tribute to women empowerment, 'Virangana' project has changed the lives of many women across the country and we hope this happens in Kolkata as well as in West Bengal, he said.

53% eligible population administered first dose

AGENCIES

Bhopal, August 10: At least 53 per cent of the eligible population in Madhya Pradesh has been administered the first dose of Covid-19 vaccines, while 10 per cent have also taken the second dose, a senior official said Tuesday.

The figures were presented in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Monday to review the Covid-19 situation, the official said.

A total of 2.93 crore people have taken the first dose of vaccines so far, while 57 lakh have been administered both doses, he said.

During the meeting, the chief minister directed officials to ensure that 100 per cent of the targeted population is vaccinated at the earliest and urged people to take the second dose compulsorily to get complete protection from the viral infection, the official said.

Chouhan also directed to speed-up vaccination work, which was disrupted due to heavy rains in the state and asked officials to plan mega campaigns for this purpose, he said.

The chief minister further stressed that Covid-19 testing should not be brought down in any district to prevent the third wave, the official added.

As per an official release, 3,54,12,763 Covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the state



MP sets up O2 plants to tackle third wave

The Madhya Pradesh government has made necessary preparations to deal with the expected third wave of Covid-19 infection in the state. As many as 189 oxygen plants are being set up which will likely be functional by September this year. Madhya Pradesh Public Health and Family Welfare Minister, Prabhuram Choudhary said a total of 189 pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants are being set up in the state to ensure adequate availability of oxygen in the treatment of people. As

so far, The Covid-19 tally in Madhya Pradesh rose to 7,91,970 Monday

many as 57 oxygen plants have been set up which are already operational while the remaining plants will be functional by the end of September. PSA oxygen plants are being set up in all medical colleges and district hospitals across the state. Of these, 11 such plants have been set up in medical colleges while 83 were installed in district hospitals. As many as 48 PSA oxygen plants are being set up in civil hospitals, 41 in community institutions and six in other government health institutions, the Minister added.

with the addition of 10 fresh cases, while the toll stood at 10,514, as no new casualties were reported.

Bill passed on death penalty, life sentence in hooch cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, August 10: The Madhya Pradesh Assembly Tuesday passed a bill prescribing the capital punishment and life imprisonment in cases related to deaths caused by consumption of spurious liquor.

The bill amending the state Excise Act to enhance punishment in spurious liquor cases was presented by Finance and Excise Minister Jagdish Devda, and the legislation comes in the wake of death of a dozen people recently.

Assembly speaker Girish Gautam declared it passed without any discussion amid sloganeering by Congress legislators who were demanding the implementation of the 27 per cent quota for OBCs in jobs and education announced by the erstwhile Kamal Nath government. The Madhya Pradesh Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2021, was proposed by the state government in the backdrop of death of at least seven people after drinking spurious liquor in Mandsaur last month.

Later, five persons died following liquor consumption in Indore. Under the bill, provisions of life imprisonment and the death penalty have been made in cases related to deaths due to spurious liquor besides imposing a fine of ₹20 lakh on culprits, a Public Relations Department official said. Earlier, there was a provision of imprisonment up to 10 years in such cases.

Earlier this month, Home Minister Narottam Mishra had



The legislation comes in the wake of death of a dozen people recently

said that punishment has been increased, ranging from 10 years to maximum 14 years from the present one year to six years, in addition to fine up to ₹10 lakh, in cases of physical damage caused to victims after drinking poisonous alcohol. He had said in case of seizure of spurious liquor, the jail term for culprits has been increased to six to ten years from the present six months to maximum four years.

The amendment in the bill also proposed that people who attack police and excise department teams while they are seizing illicit liquor will be arrested without a warrant. The scope of punishment has been increased in several other provisions also.

FREEDOM ON STRINGS



A kite maker prepares tricoloured kites at his workshop ahead of Independence Day celebrations in Kolkata, Tuesday

'KHELA HOBE DIVAS'

Hindu outfits express reservations over date

August 16 is horrifically remembered as Direct Action Day or Great Calcutta Killings which led to the brutal killings of thousands of Bengalis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 10: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar Tuesday said representatives of various Hindu organisations met him and expressed reservations over the TMC government's decision to observe August 16 as 'Khela Hobe divas', stating that the Muslim League had proclaimed Direct Action Day on this date in 1946, which led to large-scale violence and bloodshed.

'Khela hobe' had been the rallying cry of the TMC in the assembly polls held earlier this year.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said her government would want



to promote sports on 'Khela Hobe Divas' in the memory of football fans who were killed in a stampede during a match some 40 years ago.

Taking to Twitter, the governor said, Representatives of Sanatan organisations called on Governor WB today to seek change in the date of 'Khela Hobe Divas' as it reminds the horrendous memories of Direct Action Day and the week of long knives' in 1946 that led to killings of thousands.

Dhankhar also said that he would convey their message to the government.

"Their (Hindu leaders') only objection was to the date of 'Khela Hobe Divas'... Governor assured them that their feelings would be conveyed to the government," he wrote on the microblogging site.

Leader of the Opposition in Assembly and BJP MLA Suwendu Adhikari, who led the group of monks to Raj Bhavan, said any

'Khela hobe' had been the rallying cry of the TMC in the assembly polls held earlier this year

celebration on August 16 would bring back painful memories of a gory past.

Accompanied by revered monks, pleaded the Honourable Governor Shri Dhankarji to persuade the WB Govt to change the day of the proposed Khela Hobe divas, as any celebration on this day would only make the Bengalis relive the pain of the gory past, the saffron party leader said.

August 16 is a blot on Bengal's history, he maintained.

The day is horrifically remembered as Direct Action Day or Great Calcutta Killings which led to the brutal killings of thousands of Bengalis. Many dead bodies kept lying on road for days to be fed by dogs and vultures, Adhikari added.

of the day quote

We cannot fight with the bordering states for small villages. We do not want anybody to leave their land

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

The central government has not yet asked Delhi whether there have been deaths due to lack of oxygen in Delhi or not, but in Delhi we have decided that the Delhi government will send the complete information about the deaths due to lack of oxygen in the form of a report, to the Central government

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

The prolonged farm agitation is not only impacting economic activities in Punjab but also has the potential to affect its social fabric, especially when political parties and groups take strong positions

AMARINDER SINGH | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

CBI arrests 9 in bank fraud case

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested nine people for alleged swindling of over ₹100 crore term deposits of Chennai Port Trust (CPT) in Indian Bank by foreclosing them, officials said Tuesday. The agency had started the probe July 31, 2020, against officials of the bank, private persons and other unidentified people on the allegations that term deposits of CPT worth over ₹100.57 crore maintained at the bank were foreclosed as part of the conspiracy and the amount was withdrawn and transferred to different accounts, they said. After over a year of exhaustive probe, the CBI Monday night arrested nine people, identified as Ganesh Natarajan, V Manimozhi, J Selvakumar, K Zakir Hussain, M Vijay Herallid, M Rajesh Singh, S Siyadh, S Afsar and V Sudalaimuthu.

Girl strangles mother with belt

Thane: A 15-year-old girl allegedly strangled her mother to death with a karate belt after being scolded over her studies in Navi Mumbai, police said Tuesday. The girl later tried to pass it off as a case of accidental death, they said. The incident took place at their home in Airoli area of Navi Mumbai township July 30. The girl's parents wanted her to become a doctor and had enrolled her for the NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) classes.

Bomb blast in Shillong

Shillong: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma Tuesday condemned the improvised bomb attack by an outlawed organisation behind a busy market area in the state capital here injuring two persons including a woman. The 1kg remotely timed improvised explosive device (IED), triggered by the outlawed Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC), went off at around 1:30 pm behind a busy market area in Laitumkhrah injuring a shopkeeper and a passer-by.

Grenade attack in Srinagar, 10 injured

Srinagar: Ten civilians were injured Tuesday in a grenade attack in J&K's Srinagar, police said. Police said militants hurled a grenade at the security forces in the busy Hari Singh High Street market in Amira Kadal area of the city, but it missed the target and exploded on the road, injuring 10 civilians.



In the last seven years, the Modi government has doubled the price of the LPG cylinder by eliminating the subsidy on gas cylinders, making LPG completely out of the reach of the common people and the poor

RANDEEP SURJEWALA | CONGRESS' CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

WAKE-UP CALL

With the latest IPCC report warning about increase in monsoon precipitation extremities, scientists have pointed at increasing instances of drought across India and South Asia



High 'R' value cause for concern: Govt

The 'R' factor, or 'R' value, is a measure of how many people are being infected by one infected person; an 'R' of 1 means one person will, on average, infect one other person

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 10: The central government Tuesday said that 37 districts across nine states, including 11 districts in Kerala and seven in Tamil Nadu, are showing a rising trend in the average daily new Covid-19 cases over the last two weeks even as the corresponding nationwide figure continues to register a decline.

At a press briefing on the pandemic, officials said the reproduction number or R number that indicates the speed at which Covid-19 is spreading is more than 1 in five states - Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh - which remains a cause for concern.

Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Nagaland have their reproduction number at 1, Joint Secretary in



the Union Health Ministry Lav Agarwal said. For India, it is around 1, he said.

He said, "37 districts across nine states - Kerala (11 districts), Tamil Nadu (7), Himachal Pradesh (6), Karnataka (5), Andhra Pradesh (2), Maharashtra (2), West Bengal (2), Meghalaya (1) and Mizoram (1) - are still showing rising trend in daily new Covid-19 cases during the last two weeks." The increasing trend of reproduction number in some states is cause for concern, although there is stabilisation in Covid-19 cases in the country, NITI Aayog member (Health) V K Paul said, adding there are significant reasons to enforce pandemic control measures.

"If we look at the overall picture, we are hovering with a reproduction number of around 1 and it is more than 1 in some states. An in-

creasing trend is a cause for concern. So a profound word of caution: Himachal has R number of 1.3 and for Punjab it has been recorded at 1.3 and showing an increasing trend. "Though there is a stabilisation in the overall number of cases we still have significant reasons to be concerned, reasons to be vigilant and significant reasons for us to enforce pandemic control measures in every possible way," he said. Agarwal further said 44 districts across 11 states and union territories, including Kerala (10), Manipur (10), Mizoram (6) and Arunachal Pradesh (5), reported a weekly positivity rate of more than 10 per cent in the week ending August 9. However, districts with more than 100 daily cases have declined from 279 in week ending on June 1 to 48 in week ending August 8, 2021, Agarwal informed.

PEGASUS ROW

Have faith in system, SC says to petitioners

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 10: Taking exception over "parallel proceedings and debates" on social media by some petitioners who have sought independent probe into the alleged Pegasus snooping issue, the Supreme Court Tuesday said there must be some discipline and they must have "some faith in the system".

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, which said it would take a call August 16 on whether to issue notice to the Centre on pleas seeking probe into the Pegasus row, said it is not against debate but when the matter is pending in the apex court it should be deliberated upon here.

The bench, also comprising justices Vineet Saran and Surya Kant, said it expects that petitioners who are interested in the matter would answer whatever queries the court would put to them by way of proper debate "in the court and not outside".

"See, once you come to this court, we expect that debate is taking place here and we expect that they will answer the questions," the bench told the counsel appearing for the petitioners, adding, "They must have some faith in the system".

It observed that instead of hav-

ing a "parallel proceeding or parallel debate", whatever the petitioners want to say, they can file affidavit in the court and the bench would go through its each and every content. The CJT told senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing veteran journalists N Ram and Sashi Kumar who have filed one of the petitions, that "there must be some discipline".

Sibal said, "Absolutely, I entirely agree with you. When the matter is in court, there should not be public statements of any nature. I entirely agree with you."

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that he has received copies of the petitions, except the one possibly filed by former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha. "It is not a grievance, they can serve it. I may need some instructions," Mehta told the bench, adding, "I am in the process of going through the matter. I need instructions from the government. Subject to your lordships convenience, if I can get time till Friday. I need two working days to get instructions".

The CJT said the matter would be taken up for hearing August 16 as he has some personal inconvenience Friday.



Pachyderms feast ahead of World Elephant Day

World Elephant Day is observed every year August 12 to highlight the importance of elephants and also to spread awareness about the critical threats they are facing and to share knowledge on positive management of captive and wild elephants

AGENCIES

Mathura, August 10: After an evening walk under overcast skies with rains not far away, elephants rescued from circuses and temples in India are treated to a feast of their favourite fruits and vegetables to celebrate World Elephant Day.

A lavish spread of watermelons, bananas, papayas and pumpkins is laid out for the Asian elephants at a sanctuary near the banks of the Yamuna River, on the outskirts of the ancient holy city of Mathura.

The centre observes a week of events surrounding World Elephant Day, which falls August 12.

Most of the 28 elephants at the centre suffer from chronic illness and various ailments ranging from



abscesses, cataracts, blindness and joint pain, the result of years of abuse in captivity, said conservationists with Wildlife SOS, which operates the sanctuary.

"World Elephant Day is there to promote awareness about the plight of elephants in India and around the world, and what they actually go through and why their population

LS passes Bill to restore states' power on OBC lists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Lok Sabha Tuesday passed a Constitution amendment bill to restore the power of states to make their own OBC lists after a thaw in the logjam as Opposition parties backed the legislation but demanded the removal of the 50 per cent cap on reservation and many of them also called for a caste-based census.

With the Opposition seeking to corner the ruling BJP over the sensitive issue of quota, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar said there is a need for careful examination of the demand made by several Lok Sabha members for increasing the cap of reservation beyond 50 per cent as constitutional issues are involved. For the first time since the Monsoon session of Parliament began July 19, Lok Sabha witnessed a debate in an orderly manner as the Opposition put its protests demanding a debate over the Pegasus snooping allegations on hold for The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 which was passed with 385 members voting in support and

no member opposing it. The bill was passed as the 105th Constitution Amendment bill after being renumbered. Due to Covid protocols, some members of the House were seated in visitors galleries and therefore the division on amendments and the passage of the bill was conducted manually using slips. Moving the bill for consideration and passage, Kumar described the bill as a historic legislation as 671 castes in the country would benefit from it. The 102nd Constitution Amendment Act of 2018 inserted articles 338B, which deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes, and 342A that deals with the powers of the president to notify a particular caste as Socially and Educationally Backward Communities (SEBCs) and the power of Parliament to change the list. Article 366 (26C) defines SEBCs. The Supreme Court had dismissed the Centre's plea seeking a review of its May 5 majority verdict that held that the 102nd Constitution amendment took away the states' power to notify SEBCs for the grant of quota in jobs and admissions.

GEARING UP



Girls sell Indian flags ahead of the 75th Independence Day celebration in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Amarinder meets Sonia Gandhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Tuesday met Congress president Sonia Gandhi here, who said the government and the party must work together.

This was the first time that Singh met the party president after the appointment of Navjot Singh Sidhu as Punjab Congress chief, despite his opposition.

The meeting comes amid talk of a possible Cabinet reshuffle in the state where assembly polls are scheduled to be held early next year. All India Congress Committee general secretary in-charge of Punjab affairs Harish Rawat was present at the meeting. "Met Congress president Sonia Gandhi

ji in Delhi this evening to discuss various state-related issues. Spent an extremely satisfying one hour with her," Singh was quoted as saying after the meeting by his media adviser Raveen Thukral.

Rawat said, "The Congress president has advised that both the state government and the Congress unit in Punjab have to work together." Both Singh and Sidhu have to work together within their limits and should cooperate with each other, he said, adding that the Punjab Chief Minister is not "upset" with Sidhu and has not stated so.

Sources said Amarinder Singh gave an account of the action taken by the state government on the 18 issues raised by the AICC panel headed by senior Congress leader

Mallikarjun Kharge. These issues include taking action against the drug mafia and transport mafia and those involved in the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in the state. Sources add that Singh reportedly raised the issue of Navjot Singh Sidhu's continued attacks on the Congress government in the state. He also discussed the political situation in Punjab and also a possible cabinet expansion, sources said.

Later in the day, the Punjab chief minister met Prashant Kishor who recently resigned as his political advisor. Singh also hosted a dinner for some Punjab leaders including Rana Sodhi, Manish Tewari, Mohd Sadique, Preneet Kaur and former law minister Ashwani Kumar among others.

PM launches Ujjwala 2.0

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said it was unfortunate that people had to wait decades for basics like hospitals, roads and electricity, indirectly targeting the previous governments as he launched the second phase of the Ujjwala cooking gas scheme.

"As we celebrate the 75th year of Independence this year and look at the progress in the past seven-and-a-half decades, we feel that some situations and conditions should have changed decades ago," he said through video conference.

Modi launched the second phase of the nationwide Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), or Ujjwala 2.0, by virtually presenting cooking free LPG connections to some beneficiaries in Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh, where assembly elections are scheduled early next year.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who was present at the Mahoba event, handed over the documents to the women on his behalf.

"For many fundamental needs such as roads, power, hospitals, cooking gas, schools, water and homes, the people of the country had to wait for decades. This is unfortunate and women suffered the most due to this," the Prime Minister said.

The LPG gas coverage in India is now "very close" to becoming 100 per cent, he said, claiming that more connections have been given in the last seven years than the total up to 2014.

Under Ujjwala 2.0, migrant workers can get a free gas connection on the basis of a self-declaration without any need of documents like an address proof.

of the day quote

When we look back, it's going to come down to leadership and what leadership was demonstrated, or not by Afghans. It's their country to defend now. It's their struggle

JOHN KIRBY | PENTAGON SPOKESMAN, US

These last few days have been among the hardest for our country in decades. We are dealing with a natural disaster of unprecedented dimensions

KYRIAKOS MITSOTAKIS | PM, GREECE

We've delayed COP by one year already, and climate change, unfortunately, didn't take time off during that period. Last year was the hottest year on record, and the last decade was the hottest on record as well

ALOK SHARMA | PRESIDENT FOR COP26, UK

SHORT TAKES

B'desh vaccinating Rohingya refugees

Dhaka: Bangladesh began vaccinating thousands of Rohingya Muslims Tuesday in the world's largest refugee settlement amid a surge in Covid-19 infections in the country, officials said. Aid workers have long warned of a potential humanitarian disaster if there is a significant outbreak in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, the border district where over a million Rohingya fled a brutal military crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar have found sanctuary. Around 48,000 Rohingya, aged 55 and above, will be inoculated between Tuesday and Thursday with the help of the UN agencies.

NY Guv Andrew Cuomo resigns

New York: New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced his resignation Tuesday, a week after independent investigators said he had sexually harassed multiple women, including former and current state employees. In a televised message, the 63-year-old Democrat said his resignation will be effective in 14 days. "That is how the political wind is blowing. It will consume government. It will cost taxpayers millions of dollars, it will brutalize people," he said referring to the sexual harassment allegations and case against him.

4 Marburg virus cases in W Africa

Geneva: At least four people have turned up as contacts of a man who died in Guinea from the Ebola-like Marburg virus, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, as staffers deployed in the West African country to help authorities prevent an outbreak. WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib said the case, first reported late Monday, amounts to the first in West Africa. The case emerged in Gueckedou, near Guinea's borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia, a region hit by an Ebola outbreak between 2014 and 2016 that killed at least 11,325 people.

Thai protesters to hold car mob rally

Bangkok: Thousands of Thai anti-government protesters drove a convoy of cars and motorcycles through the capital of Bangkok Tuesday, amid rising anger over the handling of the Coronavirus pandemic by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's administration. The protesters stopped outside buildings linked to cabinet members or supporters of Prayuth to make speeches and call for resignations, accusing the government of mismanaging the pandemic.



Hong Kong will do its utmost to fulfill its constitutional responsibility, including safeguarding the country's autonomy, safety and interest for its development. We support this nationwide law - the anti-sanctions law

CARRIE LAM | LEADER, HONG KONG

TEMPLE RESTORED IN PAK

The Pakistan government has completed the restoration work of the Hindu temple badly damaged by a mob last week in Punjab province and arrested around 90 people. The attack drew strong condemnation from India and the minority community leaders in the country



N Korea vows firm attack capabilities



NORTH NOT ANSWERING ROUTINE CALLS, SOUTH SAYS

SISTER OF KIM JONG UN CALLS DRILLS "SELF-DESTRUCTIVE"

DRILLS BEGIN DESPITE NORTH'S WARNINGS - SOURCES

PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAYS EXERCISES ARE BILATERAL DECISION

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, August 10: The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ripped South Korea for proceeding with military exercises with the United States she claimed are an invasion rehearsal and warned Tuesday that the North will work faster to strengthen its preemptive strike capabilities.

Kim Yo Jong's statement came after South Korean media reported the allied militaries will begin four days of preliminary training Tuesday before holding computer-simulated drills Aug 16-26.

Kim said she was delegated authority to release the statement, implying the message came directly from her brother.

She described the South's decision to hold joint exercises despite earlier warnings by the North as "perfidious behavior" that will push the allies into facing a "more serious security threat."

She said continuing the drills exposed the hypocrisy of the Biden administration's offers to resume dialogue over the North's nuclear weapons program. She said there won't be stabilized peace on the Korean Peninsula unless the United States withdraws its troops and weapons in the South.

Kim said the North will "put

more spur to further increasing the deterrent of absolute capacity to cope with the ever-growing military threats from the US," including its capabilities for national defense and "powerful" preemptive strikes for "rapidly countering any military actions against us."

"(The drills) are the most vivid expression of the US hostile policy towards the DPRK, designed to stifle our state by force, and an unwelcome act of self-destruction for which a dear price should be paid as they threaten the safety of our people and further imperil the situation on the Korean Peninsula," Kim said, using the initials of the country's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"For peace to settle on the peninsula, it is imperative for the U.S. To withdraw its aggression troops and war hardware deployed in (South) Korea. As long as the US forces stay in (South) Korea, the root cause for the periodic aggravation of the situation on the Korean Peninsula will never vanish."

North Korea's angry reaction to the drills further diminishes South Korean hopes for improving bilateral ties, which rose after the North agreed to reopen long-stalled communication channels with the South in late July.

POST UNSC SESSION

Pak warns continued militarisation

Pakistan has adopted a line of ad hominem attacks on India by attaching "Hindutva" to its statements

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

United Nations, August 10: Pakistan has threatened to continue militarising citing what it claimed was a "geo-strategic competition and the pursuit of military dominance by some states", while mentioning India.

After Monday's high-level meeting on maritime security at the UN Security Council, Pakistan's Permanent Representative Munir Akram sent a written statement to the Indian Mission to be included in the record of the session. India is the current President of the Council and the meeting was presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Akram asserted that "India has nuclearised the Indian Ocean and continues to induct advanced weapons systems and naval delivery platforms" with "hegemonistic designs". "In light of these developments, Pakistan will continue to take all necessary measures to maintain full spectrum deterrence and ensure its national security on land, in the air and at the sea," he wrote.

Moving beyond the ambit of the meeting's agenda of a holistic approach to maritime security, the constitutionally Islamic republic's representative accused India's poli-



cies of being "currently driven by an extremist 'Hindutva ideology'"

which "pose an immediate and pervasive threat to international

Japan, naming them directly, and India indirectly.

and regional peace and security". Pakistan was not at the maritime security meeting as the participation was limited to members of the Council, UN officials and African Union President Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo.

But External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who chaired the final segment of the meeting invited members states to send in written statements.

Pakistan's attack on India mirrored similar attacks by its all-weather patron China at the meeting when it tore into the US and

US, China clash at UN over SCS disputes

United Nations: The United States and China clashed over Beijing's actions in the South China Sea at a high-level UN Security Council meeting on maritime security Monday that also put a spotlight on attacks on ships in the Persian Gulf, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, and drug and human trafficking in the Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken responded to China's increasingly assertive claims to parts of the South China Sea, despite the ruling of an international tribunal five years ago rejecting its claims, by warning that conflict there or in any ocean "would have serious global consequences for security and for commerce."

"In the South China Sea, we've seen dangerous encounters between vessels at sea and provocative actions to advance unlawful maritime claims," he said. "The United States has been clear its concerns regarding actions to intimidate and bully other states lawfully accessing their maritime resources." China's deputy ambassador, Dai Bing, shot back by accusing the United States of becoming "the biggest threat to peace and stability in the South China Sea" and calling its "hype" in the Security Council "entirely politically motivated."

Dai also said the US "has no credibility on maritime issues" because it isn't a party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans.

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which "pose an immediate and pervasive threat to international

Japan, naming them directly, and India indirectly.

India evacuating staff from Mazar-e-Sharif

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: India is evacuating its staff from its consulate in Afghanistan's Mazar-e-Sharif in view of the rapidly escalating violence by the Taliban around the capital city of Balkh province, people familiar with the development said Tuesday.

The Indian-based staff of the consulate and a number of Indians residing in Mazar-e-Sharif are being evacuated due to the deteriorating security scenario in the city as well as areas around it, they said.

It is learnt that a special aircraft



of the Indian Air Force will evacuate the staff as well as the Indian citizens from the fourth-largest city of Afghanistan.

"A special flight is leaving from Mazar-e-Sharif to New Delhi. Any Indian nationals in and around Mazar-e-Sharif are requested to leave for India in the special flight scheduled to depart late today

US SENATE PASSES \$ 1T BIPARTISAN INFRA BILL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, August 10: With a robust vote after weeks of fits and starts, the Senate approved a USD 1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure plan Tuesday, a rare coalition of Democrats and Republicans joining to overcome skeptics and deliver a cornerstone of President Joe Biden's agenda.

A sizable number of lawmakers showed they were willing to set aside partisan pressures, eager to send billions to their states for rebuilding roads, broadband internet, water pipes and the public works systems that underpin much of American life.

Infrastructure was once a mainstay of lawmaking, but the weeks-long slog to strike a compromise showed how hard it has become for Congress to tackle routine

The 69-30 tally provides momentum for this first phase of Biden's "Build Back Better" priorities, now headed to the House

legislating, even on shared priorities.

"There's been detours and everything else, but this will do a whole lot of good for America," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. The outline for Biden's bigger USD3.5 trillion package is next up for the Senate — a more liberal undertaking of child care, elder care and other programs that is much more partisan and expected to draw only Democratic support. That debate is expected to extend into the fall.

WORLD LION DAY



Arya, the Asiatic lioness is seen during a photo-opportunity at ZSL London Zoo in London, Britain

REUTERS

India ranks 122nd on new Global Youth Development Index

THE TRIENNIAL RANKINGS OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUND INDIA AMONG THE TOP FIVE RISERS ON THE INDEX BETWEEN 2010 AND 2018

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 10: India is ranked 122nd on a new Global Youth Development Index measuring the condition of young people across 181 countries, released by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London Tuesday.

"The top five risers from 2010 to 2018 were Afghanistan, India, Russia, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso," says the "2020 Global Youth Development Index".

Singapore ranked topmost followed by Slovenia, Norway, Malta and Denmark. Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Niger came last respectively.

"Young people are indispensable to delivering a future that is more

just, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. By measuring their contributions and needs with hard data, our advocacy for their development becomes more powerful, and we are then able incrementally to increase the positive impact and benefits youth are able to add towards building a better future for us all," said Commonwealth Secretary-General Baroness Patricia Scotland.

The index ranks countries between 0.00 (lowest) and 1.00 (highest) according to the developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation. It looks at 27 indicators including literacy and voting to showcase the state of the world's 1.8 billion people be-



tween the age of 15 and 29.

The 2020 Global Youth

Development Index reveals that the conditions of young people

have improved around the world by 3.1 per cent between 2010 and 2018. Overall, the index shows advances in youth's participation in peace processes and their education, employment, inclusion and health care since 2010.

Health made the largest gains of 4.39 per cent driven by a 1.6 per cent decline in global youth mortality rates and a 2 per cent drop in HIV, self-harm, alcohol abuse and tobacco use. Sub-Saharan Africa made the greatest strides in improving the health of young people.

Levels of underemployed youth and those not in school, training or work remained constant. Advances in equality and inclusion are led by improved gender parity in literacy as well as fewer child marriage cases and pregnancies in girls under

20. Yet, the index found no progress occurred in women's safety.

The global education score increased by 3 per cent, with South Asia making the largest improvement of 16 per cent. Peace and security improved by 3.41 per cent, resulting from fewer young people dying from direct violence. Somalia recorded the largest gains in the peace and security of young people, followed by Colombia, Sri Lanka, Eritrea and Russia.

The index, which draws on multiple data sources, was to be released at the now-postponed Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2020. However, with CHOGM being postponed again until 2022, it was decided to release the index this year.

of the day quote

India needs at least \$100 billion of foreign direct investment every year to reach its target of a \$5 trillion economy from the current \$2.7 trillion

MUKESH AGHI | PRESIDENT OF US INDIA STRATEGIC AND PARTNERSHIP FORUM

In recent years Congress has addressed the debt limit through regular order, with broad bipartisan support. In fact, during the last administration, Democrats and Republicans came together to do their duty three times

JANET YELLEN | US TREASURY SECRETARY

The Tata group is looking to make a foray into semiconductor manufacturing and it has set up a business to seize the opportunity

N CHANDRASEKHARAN | TATA SONS CHAIRMAN

SHORT TAKES

Fuel prices remain unchanged

New Delhi: Oil marketing companies continued to pause fuel price revision for the 24th consecutive day Tuesday as wait and watch continue amid the fluctuating global crude prices. Global crude prices have swung in all directions in July starting with a low of \$70 a barrel to quickly rise to over \$77 a barrel, only to fall soon below \$70 a barrel and crossing \$75 a barrel later in the month. The oil prices have softened again to under \$70 a barrel on the concerns of growing Covid cases, lockdowns in China, slowing industrial recovery globally and rising US oil inventory.

Adani to take over Guwahati airport

Guwahati/Itanagar: The Adani Group Monday began its "Observation Period" at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) airport in Guwahati as part of its mandate to develop and modernise northeast India's main airport, officials said. An Airport Authority of India (AAI) official said that a nine-member team of the Adani Airport Holding Ltd (AAHL) led by Chief Airport Officer Utpal Baruah, an aviation industry expert who also hails from Assam, Monday formally started its "Observation Period" and is likely to take over charge in October.

Bharat ATM to add 20L outlets

New Delhi: Bharat ATM, a rural banking platform that offers banking services to small merchants and customers through its assisted banking app, Tuesday said it plans to bring around 20 lakh outlets in its fold by the end of the next year. Currently, it has on-boarded 4.5 lakh small merchants covering 14,645 PIN codes. The company has served over 20 lakh retail customers with their banking needs. The app offers banking services, including account opening, deposits, remittances and cash withdrawals to rural masses in tie-up with local kirana stores.

4.39cr ration cards cancelled

New Delhi: States and Union Territories have cancelled 4.39 crore ineligible, duplicate and fake ration cards since 2013, the Union government said Tuesday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs Sadhvi Narayan Jyoti said the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA) is operated with joint responsibilities for the Central and state/UT governments.



Companies should not rely on governments to reach agreement at a global summit on climate change this year, but rather take more action themselves

BILL WINTERS | STANDARD CHARTERED CEO

B'DESH ANNOUNCES DISCOVERY OF NEW GAS FIELD

The Bangladeshi government has announced the discovery of a new gas field in the country's Sylhet region, some 240 km northeast of capital Dhaka



22 Indian startups in Forbes Asia's '100 to Watch' list

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 10: As many as 22 Indian firms in industries as diverse as healthcare, education and ecommerce have been included in Forbes Asia's inaugural '100 to Watch' list, the business magazine said Tuesday.

The list highlights small companies and startups "on the rise across" the Asia-Pacific region. Agriculture startup Aquaconnect, Beato (biotech and healthcare), Bellatrix Aerospace (logistics and transportation), Betterplace (education and recruitment), and Captain Fresh (ecommerce and retail) are among Indian companies



in the list. The list represents 17 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region, and also includes

startup communities in Singapore and Hong Kong producing 19 and 10 companies, respectively. Indonesia has eight companies on the list.

"Companies on the 100 to Watch list are making remarkable progress and impact in spite of the challenging climate brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Their inclusion on the list comes in part from addressing significant problems with innovative solutions," said Justin Doebele, Editor, Forbes Asia.

For the selection of the '100 to Watch' list, Forbes Asia solicited on-line submissions, and invited accelerators, incubators, SME advocacy organisations, universities,

venture capitalists and others to nominate companies as well. The final 100 was selected from over 900 submissions. To qualify for consideration, companies had to be headquartered in the Asia-Pacific region, be at least one year old, privately owned, for profit, and have no more than \$20 million in its latest annual revenue or total funding through August 1.

Forbes Asia editors evaluated each submission, looking at metrics such as a positive impact on the region or industry, a track record of strong revenue growth or ability to attract funding, promising business models or markets, and a persuasive story.

FinMin releases ₹9,871cr to 17 states as grant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The Finance Ministry Tuesday said it has released the fifth monthly installment of revenue deficit grant of ₹9,871 crore to 17 states.

The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant is provided to the states under Article 275 of the Constitution.

The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant is provided to the states under Article 275 of the Constitution. The grants are released as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission in monthly installments to meet the gap in revenue accounts of the states post-devolution

The grants are released as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission in monthly installments to meet the gap in revenue accounts of the states post-devolution.

The commission has recommended this grant to the 17 states during 2021-22.

The Department of Expenditure has released the fifth monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) grant of ₹9,871 crore to the states on August 9, 2021, the ministry said in a statement.

With the release of this installment, a total amount of ₹49,355 crore has been released to eligible states in the current financial year.

The states recommended for PDRD Grant by the Fifteenth Finance Commission are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total PDRD Grant of ₹1,18,452 crore to the 17 states in the financial year 2021-22. Out of this, an amount of ₹49,355 crore (41.67 per cent) has been released so far.

Amazon, Indian seller Cloutail to end relationship amid regulatory heat

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 10: Amazon.com Inc and one of its biggest sellers in India, Cloutail, have decided to end their relationship, they said Monday, following years of allegations from brick-and-mortar retailers that the seller received preferential treatment.

A joint venture between Amazon and India's Catamaran that controlled Cloutail was coming up for renewal May 19, 2022, and the two sides said in a joint statement they had mutually decided not to extend it beyond that date.

The decision comes after a Reuters investigation in February based on Amazon documents showed the US company had given preferential treatment for years to a small group of sellers, including Cloutail, and used them to bypass Indian laws.

Amazon has said it does not give preferential treatment to any seller and that it complies with the law.

In their joint statement, Amazon and Catamaran did not say why they had decided to end their joint venture, but said the partnership ran successfully for seven years and made "tremendous strides."

Cloutail had been controversial, with Indian brick-and-mortar retailers for years accusing Amazon of giving it preferential treatment which hurt smaller retailers.

It was formed when Amazon entered a joint venture with an entity formed by one of India's most fa-



A joint venture between Amazon and India's Catamaran that controlled Cloutail was coming up for renewal May 19, 2022, and the two sides said they had mutually decided not to extend it

The decision comes after Amazon documents showed the US company had given preferential treatment for years to a small group of sellers, including Cloutail, and used them to bypass Indian laws

mous tech moguls, NR Narayana Murthy, which was then used to create Cloutail, which began offering goods on Amazon.in after it was set up in August 2014.

The Reuters investigation in February found Amazon publicly called Cloutail an independent seller offering goods on its marketplace website, but internal company documents revealed the US company was deeply involved in expanding it and used it, among other sellers, to circumvent the country's foreign investment laws.

The story had triggered calls for a ban and an investigation of Amazon, and the financial crime

fighting agency was looking into its findings. The antitrust watchdog had said the story corroborated evidence it had against Amazon.

Arvind Singhal, chairman of retail consultancy Technopak Advisors, told Reuters that Amazon and Catamaran's decision appeared aimed at defending against any possible future scrutiny of their business models.

"Before it comes under more scrutiny, they are basically disengaging themselves. But given the relationship has been there for years, this will still hang as a sword on their heads," said Singhal.

India is a key growth market for Amazon, where it has committed investment of \$6.5 billion. But it's one where it has faced several regulatory challenges, including stricter laws that apply to foreign e-commerce giants.

The Reuters investigation in February found Amazon gave Cloutail, and another seller named Appario, discounted fees.

Amazon is also in talks with the parent of Appario to determine whether it wants to renew its joint venture next year; a source with direct knowledge told Reuters on Monday. Appario did not respond to a request for comment.

The source added that multiple sellers in India were likely to take over Cloutail's share on Amazon.in over time.

"There will be challenges, but the company is fairly confident it will manage," the source added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNE SL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has started off the group's new energy plans with an acquisition. Along with Paulson & Co. Inc and Bill Gates, and a few other investors, it has announced an investment of \$144 million in Ambri Inc, an energy storage company based in Massachusetts, US.

The investment will help the company commercialise and grow its long-duration energy storage systems' business globally, RIL said in an early morning statement. RNE SL will invest \$50 million to acquire 42.3 million shares of preferred stock in Ambri.

Based on patented technology and designed to last between 4-24 hours, Ambri's long-duration energy storage systems will break through the cost, longevity and safety barriers associated with lithium-ion batteries used in grid-scale stationary storage applications. "They will enable a crucial energy storage solution capable of supporting the increasing amounts of renewable energy being integrated into electric power grids. RNE SL and Ambri are also in discussions for an exclusive collaboration to set up a large-scale battery manufacturing facility in



India, which could add scale and further bring down costs for Reliance's green energy initiative," said the statement.

Addressing shareholders in June this year, Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani had announced plans to build a Giga Factory in Jamnagar for the storage of intermittent energy, as part of the Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex project. "We are exploring new and advanced electro-chemical technologies that can be used for such large-scale grid batteries to store the energy that we will create. We will collaborate with global leaders in battery technology to achieve the highest reliability for round-the-clock power availability through a combination of generation, storage, and grid connectivity," Ambani had said.

CoinDCX becomes India's first crypto unicorn

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 10: Cryptocurrency exchange CoinDCX said Tuesday that it has raised \$90 million led by Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin's fund B Capital, valuing it at \$1.1 billion.

The deal makes it India's first crypto unicorn - private startups valued at over a billion dollars - even as the sector faces regulatory uncertainty and a cooled-down market after an investing frenzy in the first five months of 2021.

Existing investors such as Coinbase Ventures, Polychain Capital, Block.one, Jump Capital and others also invested. CoinDCX says it has 3.5 million users cur-

rently, and will use the money raised for customer awareness campaigns and increasing its reach.

"We will be joining hands or enter into partnerships with key fintech players to expand crypto investor base, set up a Research & Development (R&D) facility, strengthen policy conversations through public discourse, work with the government to introduce favourable regulations, education, and amp up hiring initiatives," Sumit Gupta, co-founder and CEO, said.

Besides its main exchange catering to retail investors, CoinDCX also provides trading and lending services for enterprise customers, traders, has a global trading platform and blockchain academy for education.

"India is experiencing a dramatic growth in demand for cryptocurrencies and digital assets, yet only few platforms provide the efficiency, security and compliance that investors have come to expect," the company said.

Crypto exchanges generally run profitable business models, making it attractive for investors, but CoinDCX did not disclose its revenue or profit numbers.

Both CoinDCX and Block.one, a crypto platform and investor in CoinDCX, are also angel investments of Sanjay Mehta, who now runs 100x VC, a micro venture fund spun off from his family office. He says he introduced the two companies to each other.

India Inc seals 181 deals worth \$13.2bn in July

THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT Y-O-Y RISE IN DEAL VOLUMES AT 66% AND 3% INCREASE IN THE DEAL VALUES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 10: India Inc recorded 181 deals amounting to \$13.2 billion in July 2021, according to Grant Thornton Bharat's 'Dealtracker'.

There has been a significant year-on-year rise in deal volumes at 66 per cent and 3 per cent increase in the deal values. This is also the highest record volumes for any given month since 2005.

"This surge in deal activity was primarily due to companies continuing to borrow economically and spending their cash reserves on transformative deals to reposition themselves for the post-Covid-19 world. Corporate India has pre-

viously demonstrated agility and adaptability in the face of crisis," said Shanthi Vijetha, Partner, Growth, Grant Thornton Bharat.

"Government reforms and demographic advantage further reiterate India's potential as key investment destination. We hope the deal trend will remain positive in the coming months too," Vijetha said.

The deal activity in mergers and acquisition saw 36 deals worth \$5.6 billion in July 2021. While volumes were up by 13 per cent, deal values declined by 37 per cent compared with July 2020. This was mainly due to the shortfall in big-ticket transactions. There were 145 deals valued at \$7.5 billion in the PE/VC investments segment. The record



high deals have been accelerated by surge in equities, higher liquidity, and most importantly the increased interest across sectors.

Businesses across the country are on the rebound trajectory resulting

in improved lending appetite that has led to record high PE deals. Online business models have greatly been accelerated by the pandemic with monumental growth in their valuation compared to 2019-20.

Start-ups topped both the M&A and PE segment in the volumes chart in July 2021 with 109 deals amounting to \$1.6 billion. The month also witnessed several start-ups announcing their plans to go public with their initial public offering. Zomato, Paytm, Nykaa and Ola are some of the biggest names that signalled their plans for IPOs.

Zomato had a blockbuster stint as it received applications close to worth ₹3.5 lakh crore through IPO. Byju's acquisition of ed-tech company USA's Epic for \$500 million which was followed by Great Learning for \$600 million and Flipkart raising \$3.6 billion in fresh funds from global investors have been the main highlights of the month.

NEERAJ EYES WAC TITLE

AUGUST 7 TO BE NAT'L JAVELIN DAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: A history-making Olympic gold in his pocket and having won the 2018 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games titles, star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is now targeting a top podium finish in the World Athletics Championships to be held in USA next year. The World Championships was to be held this year in Eugene, Oregon, in US but was pushed to 2022 after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics was postponed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will now be held from July 15-24, 2022. "I have already won gold in Asian Games and Commonwealth Games and now an Olympic gold. So my next target is winning gold in World Championships," Chopra said during a press conference arranged by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to felicitate him. Chopra scripted history on Saturday when he clinched India's elusive Olympic medal in athletics to become only the second Indian to win the yellow metal in an individual event with a best throw of 87.58m in the final. "World Championships is big a competition and sometimes tougher than the Olympics. I am not going to be content with this Olympic gold and sit on this laurel. I would like to do even better and win gold again in Asian Games, CWG and again in Olympics. "That is the medal which is with Anju madam and I want to win it," said Chopra with legendary Anju Bobby George, who won a bronze in the 2003 World Championships in Paris in women's long jump, at his side. The 23-year-old superstar also felt that his inclusion in the national camp by AFI in 2015 despite finishing fifth during the National Games in Kerala was a turning point in his career. Before joining the national camp in early 2015, he was training at Tau Devi Lal Stadium at Panchkula after being shifted from Shivaji Stadium at Panipat. "We did good training but the facilities, equipment, diet were not that good (at Panchkula) but once I joined the national camp (at NIS Patiala) everything changed. "I got better facilities, better diet and equipment only after joining national camp. And the most important thing is the feeling that I am training along with the best javelin throwers of this country. That is a different feeling. So, joining the national camp changed my career and I want to thank the AFI for that." After joining the national camp, Chopra was first with late Australian coach Gary Calvert. After that, he was under former world record holder Uwe Hohn before switching to train under biomechanics expert Klaus Bertonietz who accompanied Chopra to Tokyo. "I respect Hohn sir, I won gold in 2018 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games under him. But his technical approach and style of training was different. I told him that I want to work with Klaus sir. "His (Klaus') training plans were good and suited me. He plans training according to the body of the athlete, he has also worked with a lot of athletes in different countries." Asked if he now realises the magnitude of his feat, Chopra said, "I wasn't believing that I have won gold. I was asking myself whether this is a dream but I realised that the gold medal is with me. So this is not a dream." Asked about strict COVID-19 protocols and dope testing in Tokyo, he said, "Regarding dope test, when we are in camps, we have to give samples any time of the day. In my case, they (dope testers) woke me up early in the morning thrice. "When I reached Tokyo from Sweden (where he was training before Olympics), there was a big time difference, so it was difficult for me to adjust my sleeping time. "Regarding COVID protocols, there was a bit of difficulty but not much and everybody faced it. It was not a difficult test, it was not RT PCR test but we had to give sample by spitting," Chopra said he will have to make changes in the angle of release of the javelin to be able to cross the 90m mark. "90m mark is my dream and I will have to work with my coach to achieve that. I wanted to do it this year but Olympic gold is there, the most important thing." Talking about German superstar Johannes Vetter, who came to Tokyo as the gold medal favourite but failed to make the last eight in the final, Chopra said, "He is my good friend. He couldn't do well in the Olympics but he is still a very good javelin thrower. "He has six-seven 90m plus throws this year and his best was near the world record of Jan Zelezny. I respect him a lot and I asked my countrymen to respect him." Before the Tokyo Games, Vetter had said that it will be tough for Chopra to beat him in the Olympics. Day and from next year onwards our affiliated units will hold javelin competitions in their respective states," AFI's Planning Commission chairman Lalit Bhanot said during a felicitation function of the athletes, including Chopra. "After that we will have inter-district competitions and we will provide javelins (because there will be lot many required). We will enlarge the competitions in the coming years to become a national event." The AFI started National Open Javelin Throw Championships in 2018 and its third edition is scheduled in October this year. "I am feeling good that the AFI is making my achievement to be remembered in the days to come. I will be happy if my achievement becomes a reason to inspire the youngsters of this country to take athletics, especially javelin," Chopra said. "If the children are getting javelin and other facilities, I hope they will come and take up the sport and I will be happy to cheer for them and they can be the future medal winners." Chopra's father Satish, mother Saroj Devi and uncle Bhim were also present at the felicitation. Asked about stories of mischievous activities of Chopra in his childhood days, Satish said, "Woh sahi hey magar Neeraj jo bhi kam karta hey, man laga ke karta hey (That is correct but when Neeraj does something he does with dedication). "Humko kya jane woh ek din aisa karega, desh ko roshan karega (How do we know that one day he will light up the country)." India's lone World Championships medallist Anju Bobby George described Chopra's gold winning feat as the best achievement in Indian athletics. "It is the proudest moment in the history of Indian athletics, a gold medal in Olympics, nothing is better than this. I hope Neeraj's gold inspires the children of this country to take up athletics," said the senior vice-president of AFI, Anju, who won a long jump bronze in 2003 World Championships.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The day Neeraj Chopra scripted history by winning Olympic gold medal at Tokyo Olympics, August 7, will be celebrated as National Javelin Day by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). The 23-year-old Chopra became only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold in Tokyo Saturday when he clinched the yellow metal in javelin throw with a best effort of 87.58m. "To encourage javelin throw pan-India, we will celebrate August 7 as National Javelin Day and from next year onwards our affiliated units will hold javelin competitions in their respective states," AFI's Planning Commission chairman Lalit Bhanot said during a felicitation function of the athletes, including Chopra. "After that we will have inter-district competitions and we will provide javelins (because there will be lot many required). We will enlarge the competitions in the coming years to become a national event." The AFI started National Open Javelin Throw Championships in 2018 and its third edition is scheduled in October this year. "I am feeling good that the AFI is making my achievement to be remembered in the days to come. I will be happy if my achievement becomes a reason to inspire the youngsters of this country to take athletics, especially javelin," Chopra said. "If the children are getting javelin and other facilities, I hope they will come and take up the sport and I will be happy to cheer for them and they can be the future medal winners." Chopra's father Satish, mother Saroj Devi and uncle Bhim were also present at the felicitation. Asked about stories of mischievous activities of Chopra in his childhood days, Satish said, "Woh sahi hey magar Neeraj jo bhi kam karta hey, man laga ke karta hey (That is correct but when Neeraj does something he does with dedication). "Humko kya jane woh ek din aisa karega, desh ko roshan karega (How do we know that one day he will light up the country)." India's lone World Championships medallist Anju Bobby George described Chopra's gold winning feat as the best achievement in Indian athletics. "It is the proudest moment in the history of Indian athletics, a gold medal in Olympics, nothing is better than this. I hope Neeraj's gold inspires the children of this country to take up athletics," said the senior vice-president of AFI, Anju, who won a long jump bronze in 2003 World Championships.

MESSI REACHES PARIS

Vinesh 'temporarily suspended'

AGENCIES

Paris, August 10: Lionel Messi arrived in the France capital Tuesday to complete his once-in-a-generation move to Paris Saint-Germain after his 17-year tenure ended with Barcelona last week. He arrived here with his wife Antonella and children – Thiago, Mateo and Ciro – along with his father Jorge for his medical with PSG where he will sign a 1million pound-a-week, two-year deal after leaving cash-strapped Barcelona. The Argentine star, who was wearing a t-shirt that said 'Ici c'est Paris' (This is Paris), touched down later in the afternoon and was pictured waving to the supporters who had gathered to see Messi's arrival at Paris-Le Bourget Airport. PSG have posted a teasing clip to their Twitter account, showing six Ballon d'Ors – the amount Messi has won – in front of the Eiffel Tower and a space in the dressing room between Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, who the Argentine is likely to play alongside in attack.

Lionel Messi's poster was taken off the side of Barcelona's Camp Nou

'BACK TOGETHER'
PARIS: Neymar appeared to confirm Lionel Messi's sensational transfer to Paris Saint-Germain as he posted a photo of them together alongside the caption 'back together'. Messi and Neymar have remained close friends ever since the latter left for PSG in 2017. The Brazilian star has spoken frequently about his desire to play with the Argentine again one day. Neymar and Messi spent four years together at the Nou Camp. They formed a deadly partnership with Luis Suarez but the 'MSN' trio was broken up when the Brazilian decided to join PSG in the summer of 2017 for a record 222 million euro fee.

HIGHEST SPORTS BILL
PARIS: Lionel Messi is reportedly set to earn 25mn pound-a-year after tax as he is set to sign a two-year deal at the Parc des Princes. With seemingly no end to PSG's expenditure this summer, the Ligue 1 giants now have an astronomical high wage bill which is way out in front on a global scale, according to 'Salary Sport'. PSG have splashed out on free agents Georginio Wijnaldum, Gianluigi Donnarumma and Ramos for a reported combined annual salary outlay of 29.2mn pound. It means the Ligue 1 club – backed by Qatari investment – now by some distance have the highest wage bill of any sports team on the planet, at around 256mn pound. A huge renewal of Kylian Mbappe's contract will see that figure increase this summer too. Real Madrid (212mn pound), Manchester United (201mn pound), Barcelona (195mn pound) and MLB (baseball) franchise Los Angeles Dodgers (193mn pound) complete the top five.

From Paris Saint-Germain

New Delhi, August 10: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Tuesday "temporarily suspended" star grappler Vinesh Phogat for indiscipline during her forgettable Tokyo Olympics campaign and also issued notice to young Sonam Malik for misconduct. It has been learnt that Vinesh, who crashed out of the Tokyo Games in the quarterfinals after a crushing defeat by 'fall', has been given time till August 16 to reply to the notice that mentioned indiscipline on three counts. Vinesh, who had travelled to Tokyo from Hungary where he had trained with coach Woller Akos, had refused to stay at the Games Village and train with the other Indian team members. She also did not wear the name of the official sponsors of the Indian contingent, Shiv Naresh, and chose to wear a Nike singlet during her bouts. "This is gross indiscipline. She has been suspended temporarily and barred from all wrestling activities. She can't compete in any national or other domestic event until she files a reply and WFI takes a final decision," a WFI source told this agency. "WFI was pulled up by IOA why can't they control their athletes. IOA is issuing a notice to WFI in this regard," the source added. The officials who were in Tokyo told PTI that Vinesh had created ruckus when she was allotted a room near those of her Indian team-mates – Sonam, Anshu Malik and Seema Bisla – arguing that she might contract coronavirus since these wrestlers travelled to Tokyo from India. "She did not train with any of the Indian wrestlers. It appeared as if she had come with the Hungary team and had nothing to do with the Indian contingent. "One day her timing clashed with the training timings of the Indian girls and she chose not to train at the same arena with them," the official added. "This is not acceptable. This is not how senior

wrestlers are supposed to behave." Vinesh had entered the Games as a top medal contender but ended up suffering defeat by fall against Belarus' Vanesa. Sonam also returned without a medal from her debut Olympics. The 19-year old Sonam has been given a notice for misconduct. "These kids think, they have become star wrestlers and are entitled to do anything. Before leaving for Tokyo either Sonam or her family are supposed to collect their passport from the WFI office. "But she ordered SAI officials to collect on her behalf. This is not acceptable. They have achieved nothing and are showing attitude. This will not be accepted," the official added.

ICC pushes for cricket at Los Angeles Games

Dubai, August 10: The International Cricket Council (ICC) Tuesday confirmed its intention to bid for cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The ICC has been making the case for cricket's inclusion for a while and the bid will also have the backing from the world's richest board BCCI as made clear by secretary Jay Shah recently. Fearing loss of its autonomy and interference from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), the BCCI was not very enthusiastic about cricket's inclusion in the Summer Games earlier but now Shah has assured India's participation at the world's biggest sporting extravaganza if the ICC manages to secure its entry. The ICC has also formed an

Olympic Working Group which will work on making the game part of the Olympics starting from 2028. "Our sport is united behind this bid, and we see the Olympics as a part of cricket's long-term future. We have more than a billion fans globally and almost 90 percent of them want to see cricket at the Olympics," ICC chairman Greg Barclay said in a statement. "Clearly cricket has a strong

and passionate fanbase, particularly in South Asia where 92 per cent of our fans come from, whilst there are also 30 million cricket fans in the USA. The opportunity for those fans to see their heroes competing for an Olympic medal is tantalising." The game will be making a return to the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 1998 with women's cricket set to be introduced in the

Dhoni joins CSK camp in Chennai

Chennai, August 10: Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni landed in the city Tuesday ahead of the departure of a group of players to the UAE, which will host the remainder of the Indian Premier League next month. A bunch of Indian players will travel to the UAE most likely August 13, a top CSK official said. "Indian players in the team, whoever is available, will travel to UAE August 13 in all likelihood," CSK CEO KS Viswanathan told this agency. Fans celebrated Dhoni's arrival in Chennai on social media. "Lion Day Entry," CSK posted with a photo of Dhoni on its twitter handle about the captain reaching the city. There will be no camp in Chennai before the CSK players fly out to the UAE, Viswanathan said. The second half of the IPL 2021 will be held in UAE from September 19 after the tournament was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in its bubble. The BCCI then decided to conduct the remaining matches in the UAE, which successfully hosted IPL 2020. CSK resumes its IPL campaign September 19 with a match against Mumbai Indians. The Dhoni-led side were in second spot with 10 points after seven games before the league was postponed

2022 Birmingham edition. Barclay also congratulated the organisers of the recently concluded Tokyo Games which were held under the dark shadow of COVID-19 pandemic. As per the Los Angeles Games website, the IOC will determine the core Olympic sport program for the 2028 edition in 2024. England and Wales Cricket Board chairman Ian Watmore will chair the ICC Olympic Working Group and he will be joined by the ICC Independent Director Indra Nooyi. Also part of the Group will be chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket Tavengwa Mukuhllani, ICC Associate Member Director and vice-president of the Asian Cricket Council Mahinda Vallipuram and chairman of USA Cricket Paraag Marathe "who believes the time is ripe for an Olympic bid".

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