



BIG HONOUR

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been nominated chairperson of the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image film festival

LEISURE P2



BOB DYLAN SUED

Legendary singer Bob Dylan has been sued by a woman who claims he sexually abused her in 1965 when she was 12

INTERNATIONAL P10



PAK TEST 1ST AT WT20

India to take on arch rivals Pakistan in their campaign opener at the ICC T20 World Cup in Dubai, October 24

SPORTS P12



US EASES TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR INDIA

WASHINGTON: The US eased its travel advisory for India Monday, lowering it to Level 2: Moderate. The new travel advisory of Level 2 - which is considered as safe - came in the wake of the significant improvement in Covid situation in India. Early this year, the US had put India in Level 4, asking its citizens not to travel to India, which at that point of time was experiencing an unprecedented second wave of COVID-19. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has now issued a Level 2 Travel Health Notice for India due to COVID-19, indicating a moderate level of COVID-19 in the country.



INDIA EVACUATES STAFF FROM KABUL

NEW DELHI: India Tuesday brought back home the Indian ambassador and its staff at the embassy in Kabul in a military transport aircraft in view of the deteriorating security situation in the Afghan capital, two days after its takeover by the Taliban. The C-17 heavy-lift aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) landed at Jamnagar in Gujarat at around 11:15 am en route to the Hindon airbase near the national capital. Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Rudrendra Tandon said the situation in Kabul is complex and "quite fluid" now and that Indians stuck in the city will be brought back home when the commercial flight services resume.

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RENEWING COMMITMENT

State to sponsor Hockey India again

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has been credited for the revival of Indian hockey. Odisha became the first state in India to sponsor the men's and women's hockey teams in 2018 when it signed a deal for five years. Tuesday while felicitating the men's and women's team for their stellar show at the Tokyo Olympics, Patnaik announced that the govt is extending its ties with Hockey India by 10 more years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Tuesday that the state government will extend its association with Hockey India (both the men's and women's teams) by 10 more years till 2033. Naveen Patnaik announced the extension of sponsorship while felicitating the Indian men's and women's hockey teams here Tuesday.

The men ended India's medal-less run for 41 years at the Olympics with a bronze medal at Tokyo. The women, on the other hand missed out on a podium finish by a whisker losing to Great Britain in the third-fourth play-off match.

Men's team captain Manpreet Singh and women's team skipper Rani Rampal were both present at the programme. The Chief Minister announced cash award of ₹10 lakh for each member of both the teams while the support staff were rewarded with ₹5 lakh each. Among the support staff was Odia

doctor, Col (Dr) Bibhu Kalyan Nayak who was part of the team as medical officer.

Also present during the felicitation ceremony were IOA president Narinder Batra, Hockey India (HI) president Gyanendro Ningombam and other dignitaries.

"You made us all so proud with your spirited fight at the Tokyo Olympics. These are deeply emotional moments for the nation to witness the revival of Indian hockey. The country has been waiting for such a moment for more than four decades," Patnaik said.

"In the background of Covid pandemic, it is remarkable that our teams have worked so hard in spite of all challenges and emerged victorious. We should be thankful to our boys and girls for the smiles they brought on the Indian faces amid the Covid-19 crisis," added Patnaik.

The CM then announced that the partnership with Hockey India will continue till 2033. "I believe, Odisha and hockey are destined to become synonymous. We will continue our partnership with Hockey India and Odisha will support the Indian hockey teams for 10 more years. This will herald a new era of Indian hockey and bring back the glory to the nation," Patnaik said.

As a token of appreciation, the men's and women's teams presented Patnaik with a jersey signed by all members.

The state government also gave away individual prizes of ₹5 lakh each to certain players for their stellar performances. Among the recipients were Odisha players Amit Rohidas and Deep Grace Ekka.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and IOA president Narinder Dhruv Batra pose with Indian men's and women's hockey teams after their felicitation ceremony at Kalinga Stadium, Tuesday. OP PHOTO

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Give me fresh ideas... tell me how we can blame Opposition for govt's failures!

State's Covid-19 toll goes past 7K

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 17: State's Covid-19 tally rose to 9,96,153 Tuesday as 720 more people, including 96 children, tested positive for the infection - the lowest daily spike in four months - while 68 fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 7,021, a health official said.

The daily test positivity rate, however, witnessed a slight increase to 1.41 per cent from 1.39 per cent Monday, he said. As many as 421 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 299 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing, the official said.

Khurda district, under which state capital Bhubaneswar falls, recorded the highest number of new cases at 279, followed by Cuttack (91). Gajapati did not register any fresh infection, while 27 remaining districts reported less than 100 new cases each. Cuttack registered the highest number of fatalities at 14, followed by Angul and Jagatsinghpur (eight each) and Jajpur (seven). The state has 9,672 active cases, while 9,79,407 people have thus far recovered.

Odisha has tested over 1.71 crore samples for Covid-19 so far, including 50,727 Monday, he said, adding that the cumulative positivity rate stood at 5.81 per cent. The state has so far inoculated over 1.96 crore people, of whom 45.24 lakh have received both doses.

SPCB No-1 in transparency index

Industrial pollutions & slippages in monitoring have not covered the state's environment watchdog with glories. However, smart data-mining and presentation has enabled it to come on top of other Boards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has been rated No-1 in transparency index rating done by the Center for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi. SPCB Member Secretary K Murugesan has informed Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra

Mahapatra about this during a meeting, sources said Tuesday.

Congratulating the board, Mahapatra advised the officials to involve different stakeholders in environment management that would be helpful for the board in the enforcement of regulatory compliances for environmental governance.

Murugesan said CSE did the assessment as per the provisions made under the Water Act, Environment Protection Action Act and Waste Management Rules. The assessment focused on putting out data regarding continuous emission monitoring, consent to establish and operate,

public hearings for environmental clearance, show-cause notices, directions and closure notices, among others on public domain about 17 categories of industries, he said.

The rating was done on the basis of 18 parameters relating to these focus areas. The performance of all 31 State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees operating in the country from 2016-2021 was taken into the assessment process.

The outcome of the assessment placed OSPCB at the top with 67 percentage points. Telangana Board scored at par with Odisha followed by Tamil Nadu and MP.

Govt erects barricades in Kotia

Pesky highhandedness of Andhra in Kotia has brought govt and Oppn parties in the state on a common platform. A spirited state govt has vowed to fight back the nagging misadventures of AP in border villages of Koraput. Better late than never

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput/Vizianagaram, August 17: The state government has deployed police and erected barricades at disputed Kotia gram panchayat after the Andhra Pradesh administration attempted to launch



several schemes in the area claimed by both states. Andhra Pradesh said Odisha's action was in clear violation of the Supreme Court directive to both sides to maintain the status quo and said that the mat-

ter would be brought to the notice of the apex court.

The Koraput administration said Andhra Pradesh's Salur MLA Peedika Ranjan Dora had issued a press release stating that 500 peo-

ple from the southern state would enter Kotia to implement several programmes including laying the foundation for a few government buildings, distributing land patas (documents) and launching a plantation drive.

"These measures could have led to unrest in the area as MLAs of Koraput district were opposing those. So, the administration erected barricades and deployed adequate forces along the inter-state boundary on Monday to prevent the entry of officials and politicians from Andhra Pradesh," Koraput ADM Deben Kumar Pradhan said.

Woman hacks father-in-law to death in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 17: A woman hacked her father-in-law to death at Ranpal village under Panikoili police limits in Jajpur district late Monday night. The deceased has been identified as Pabana Hati and the accused as Rupa Hati.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Rupa attacked and killed her father-in-law over some family issues.

Sources said Rupa, her husband and her father-in-law were working on a farmland, Monday. Rupa and her husband had an argument over some family issues. When her father-in-law intervened Rupa picked up a quarrel with him.

In the evening, Rupa asked her husband to drop her at her parental home. When he refused, a bitter argument broke out between the two.

Oblivious to the latest development, Pabana was playing the 'mrindanga', sitting on the verandah of their house.

He was caught unawares when Rupa attacked him with an axe. Rupa hit Pabana multiple times with the axe on his neck resulting in profuse bleeding. A severely wounded Pabana died on the spot, while Rupa fled the spot.

Panikoili police came to know about the incident Tuesday morning and reached the spot with a forensic team. They recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem.

Afghanistan's illegal drug trade a boon for Taliban

Afghanistan accounts for 80% of global opium and heroin supplies—a solid source of revenue for whoever controlled the country. The US spent big to choke this line, but failed. Now that Taliban is back in the saddle, it is likely to count on the country's opium and heroin trade

REUTERS

Washington, August 17: The United States spent more than \$8 billion over 15 years on efforts to deprive the Taliban of their profits from Afghanistan's opium and heroin trade, from poppy eradication to airstrikes and raids on suspected labs. That strategy failed.

As the United States wraps up its longest war, Afghanistan remains the world's biggest illicit opiate supplier and looks certain to remain

so as the Taliban is on the brink of taking power in Kabul, said current and former US and UN officials and experts.

Widespread destruction during the war, millions uprooted from their homes, foreign aid cuts, and losses of local spending by departed US-led foreign troops are fueling an economic and humanitarian crisis that is likely to leave many destitute Afghans dependent on the narcotics trade for survival. That dependence threatens to



bring more instability as the Taliban, other armed groups, ethnic warlords, and corrupt public officials vie for drug profits and power. Some UN and US officials worry Afghanistan's slide into chaos is creating conditions for

even higher illicit opiate production, a potential boon to the Taliban.

"The Taliban have counted on the Afghan opium trade as one of their main sources of income," Cesar Gudes, the head of the Kabul office of the UN Office of Drugs and

Crime (UNODC), told Reuters. "More production brings drugs with a cheaper and more attractive price, and therefore a wider accessibility."

With the insurgents entering Kabul Sunday, "these are the best moments in which these illicit groups tend to position themselves" to expand their business, Gudes said. The Taliban banned poppy growing in 2000 as they sought international legitimacy, but faced a popular backlash and later changed their stance, according to experts.

Despite the threats posed by Afghanistan's illicit drug business, experts noted, the United States and other nations rarely mention in public the need to address the

trade - estimated by the UNODC at more than 80% of global opium and heroin supplies.

"We've stood by on the sidelines and, unfortunately, allowed the Taliban to become probably the largest funded non-designated terrorist organization on the globe," said a US official with knowledge of Afghanistan's drug trade.

Afghan farmers weigh myriad factors in deciding how much poppy to plant. These range from annual precipitation and the price of wheat, the main alternative crop to poppy, to world opium and heroin prices.

Yet even during droughts and wheat shortages, when wheat prices rocket, Afghan farmers have grown poppy and extracted opium gum.

leisure



JACKMAN'S REMINISCENCE GETS RELEASE DATE IN INDIA

Hugh Jackman-starrer *Reminiscence* is all set to release in India August 27. Talking about the film, Jackman said: "The film explores the idea of memory and nostalgia as something that is potentially addictive, or just enticing to go back and live in the good old days, remember that time."

'MY MOM KNOWS ME BETTER THAN ANYBODY'

Kim Kardashian, and her mom Kris Jenner share a powerful bond not only as a family but as a team. Kim was introduced to Freddy DeMann, the man who managed Michael Jackson's career by Kris. "My mom knows me better than anybody," said Kim on being introduced to DeMann.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Decisions about career and finance will keep you preoccupied today. After a hectic day, all you may want to do is relax. In that case, Ganesh may send a short but pleasurable trip your way, which is sure to rejuvenate you. Group activity suggests you will make more friends, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
This day, Ganesh sees you brimming with pep and vigour. You'll be feeling playful and frisky and will want to amuse yourself, keep others amused. You are likely to hang out with old friends and cronies and will love very second of it. Long breezy drives on the wide open roads, jungle treks are distinctly in the cards.

GEMINI
You will receive unprecedented love and affection from all your friends and family members today. It is a good day to conduct important personal or professional meetings. A lot of joy and happiness awaits, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You may donate to a charity organisation, for your mental happiness. On the job front, stick to your routine, rather than taking a new bold step, says Ganesh. A good day on the financial front.

LEO
You are fond of travelling. You will make plans for a trip or a journey and will include your family and friends in your schemes. For those in artistic fields, you will receive critical acclaim. A progressive day awaits, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will pen down the things to be done today. However, Ganesh suggests that just making a note of them is not enough; you need to set practical goals according to priority. Moreover, Ganesh warns that items you mark on the top of the list will demand immediate action.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that your day today will be extremely busy and as a result you will be agitated today. Your happy nature will have to bear the brunt of the sad circumstances and situations that life will shower on you but you will be able to face the situation with your inner strength.

SCORPIO
Negative thoughts are likely to surround you today, try to avoid it. You may feel lonely and left-out when the day begins. However, a long list of activities and responsibilities will keep you occupied throughout the day. There are possibilities that you may land up in tricky situations, but you have the knack of handling things gracefully.

SAGITTARIUS
Beauty therapies or a new hair do, pick one; makeover and personal grooming is on your mind. Once you decide to shop, nothing in the world can stop you. You have decided to de-stress yourself with shopping. Clothes and jewellery is what your wardrobe is awaiting for, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Generally, it is difficult for you to maintain a cool head over your shoulders, especially during the stressful times. But, to everyone's surprise, you will display remarkable composure while dealing with challenges today, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
With no major highs or lows, you will have a balanced day today. You will handle everything with great efficiency and Ganesh gives you a pat on your back for that. Continue to work hard for the day as your efforts will get noticed and not only that, you will also understand the value of your hardships.

PISCES
Today will not find you in the best of spirits. You need to guard against being sad for the smallest of reasons. Pessimistic thoughts could creep in, owing to some external influences. You need to keep your will-power strong to remain positive.

PC nominated as head of MAMI film festival

Mumbai: Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas has come onboard Tuesday as the chairperson of The Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) film festival.

She was unanimously nominated by the MAMI's Board of Trustees comprising Nita M Ambani (CoChairperson), Anupama Chopra (Festival Director). The board also welcomed two new members to its fold, acclaimed filmmaker Anjali Menon and renowned filmmaker and archivist Shivendra Singh Dungarpur.

Speaking on the occasion, Priyanka said: "I'm so proud to be taking on the role of Chairperson of the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival. I'm really looking forward to working alongside these powerhouse women, Isha Ambani, Anupama Chopra, Smriti Kiran and the rest of the team, to take the festival to the next level.

"I've hit the road running... with ideas, thoughts and plans on reimagining the festival to find its rightful place in a world that has changed so much in such a short time."

Instead of a film festival that happens over a week, Jio MAMI is now going to pan out from October 2021 to March 2022.

IAN5

'American movies should stop showing Indian men as nerds'

Mumbai: Actor Abhay Deol says showcasing Indian men as nerds and women as 'exotic' is one of the stereotypes American mainstream cinema should stop, as there are more to explore. He said: "I think stereotyping people is a reality whether it is in Bollywood or Hollywood. Even in our cinema, we stereo-

type few communities. But if we look at mainstream American cinema and television, I would say, we Indians are shown in two extremes. On-screen, Indian men are usually shown as nerds and Indian women are shown as exotic, attractive and beautiful. This kind of stereotyping puts a community in a pigeonhole which I do not like."

"Having said that I do not want to look at the past anymore because we are changing the conversation with better roles, better representation and better storytelling. I see no reason on holding on to the past and sulk about it, we are storytellers, we rather should change it," added the *Socha Na Tha* actor.

IAN5

Sivani Sangita on a roll

Bhubaneswar: Popular Odia film actress Sivani Sangita is all set to enthrall her fans with back-to-back movies.

The Sister Sridevi actress says, "First, I will be seen playing Mithi, an innocent small town girl, in *Bidyarana*. She romances Babushan's Mahi, a spoiled brat in the movie. In fact, Mahi lures Mithi to fall for him hiding his true self. Mithi is heartbroken after learning everything and she ends the relationship. The rest of the movie revolves around how Mahi wins back the heart of his love."

Produced by Pradeepta Prakash Acharya and Niranjana Nayak, *Bidyarana* is directed by Jyotee Das.

On her next untitled project, she adds, "It will be too early to divulge details. But all I can say is that I have a challenging role in the movie and I will be seen only in western outfits for which I have rejoined the gym sessions."

PNN



Amar Chitra Katha comic books to be turned into animated content

As the nation's favourite storyteller, ACK's mission has always been to provide Indian kids a route to their roots, says CEO Preeti Vyas

The best-selling *Amar Chitra Katha* (ACK)'s 400 comic books pegged on Indian history, literature and mythology are to be adapted into animation content by Applause Entertainment.

Speaking about the partnership, Sameer Nair, CEO, Applause Entertainment, said, "*Amar Chitra Katha* is a household name in India with a diverse and celebrated library which deserves to be



retold."

The venture marks Applause's foray into animation. The production house is best-known for its web series *Scam 1992* and *City*

of Dreams, which is now in its second season.

ACK was founded in 1967 by the legendary Anant Pai and the combined sales of its comic books are said to add up to more than 1.5 million copies in 20+ languages.

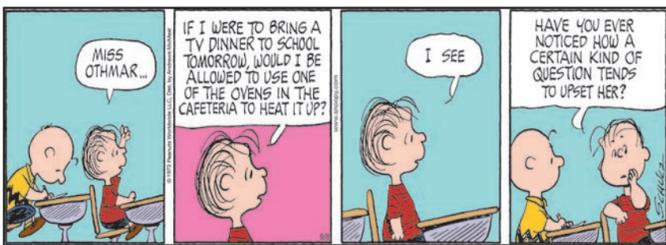
President and CEO of ACK Preeti Vyas said, "As the nation's favourite storyteller, our mission has always been to provide Indian children a route to their roots and inspire in them a great sense of pride about India and being Indian."

Striking a personal note, Nair said, "Like millions of other people, I have grown up reading these iconic comics and as a child, imagined them with dynamic visuals and dramatic sound and action. This is our opportunity to realise that dream."

Explaining his vision, he added: "This partnership is a small step towards helping export Indian culture by taking a unique and deep-rooted cultural brand like *Amar Chitra Katha* to screens across the globe."

IAN5

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

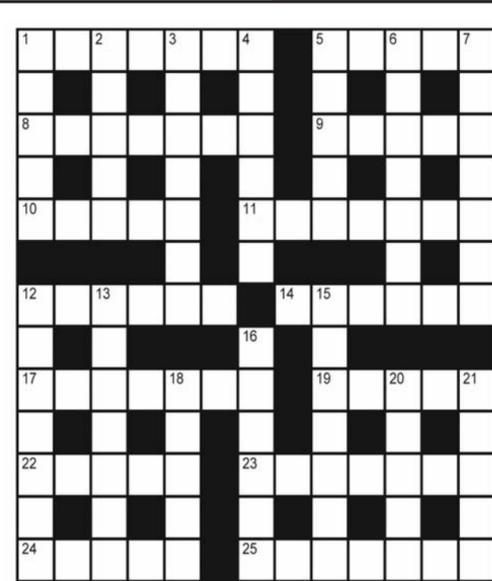


BREVITY



FUN post

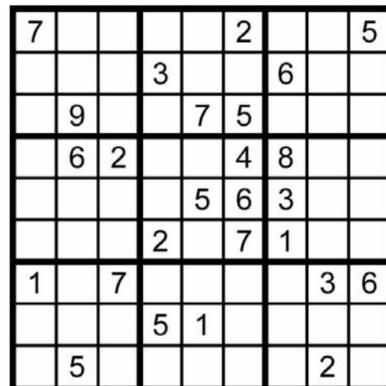
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Kinship
 - 5 Boxing venue
 - 8 Enmity (3,4)
 - 9 Workload holder (2-3)
 - 10 Rain forest ruminant
 - 11 Copy
 - 12 Organism type
 - 14 It comes in stalks
 - 17 Singing voice
 - 19 Movable castles
 - 22 Come to pass
 - 23 Lead
 - 24 Figure out
 - 25 Entourage
 - 6 A big hug
 - 7 The jitters
 - 12 Team cheerleaders
 - 13 Normal
 - 15 Heartfelt
 - 16 Metallic element
 - 18 See eye to eye
 - 20 Ancient Greek theatre
 - 21 Public spat
- Down**
- 1 Safari sight
 - 2 Bohemian dance
 - 3 View
 - 4 Bank clerk
 - 5 Parting word

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



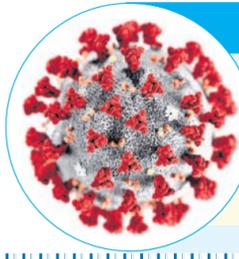
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



EVICTON IN CITY

Civic authorities remove illegal shops in Kalinga Nagar area of Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	20,90,08,441	18,73,68,960	43,89,012
India	3,22,50,679	3,14,48,754	4,32,079
Odisha	9,96,153	9,79,407	7,021

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



JHARKHAND JUDGE MURDER AFTERMATH

SC warns states of penalty for failure to file affidavit

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 17: While hearing a suo motu case on safety of judges, the Supreme Court (SC) Tuesday warned the state governments that it would impose Rs 1 lakh penalty if the latter fail to file counter affidavits detailing measures taken for the protection of judges.

A three-judge bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana granted 10 days' time to the state governments and Bar Council of India to file counter affidavits in the matter. The apex court said that chief secretaries of the states would remain present during the hearing in case affidavits are not submitted.

"Costs of Rs 1 lakh to be imposed on states who fail to file a counter affidavit within 10 days," the bench said.

During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that the Union Home Ministry issued guidelines for the safety of judges in 2007. According to the guidelines, the state governments have to create special units for safety of judges.

The Solicitor General also argued that a national-level security force for protection of judges is not possible. Instead of creating a specialised police force, there is a need to ensure fuller implementation of guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the states.



SAFETY OF JUDGES

THE SC SAID THAT CHIEF SECRETARIES OF THE STATES WOULD REMAIN PRESENT DURING THE HEARING IN CASE AFFIDAVITS ARE NOT SUBMITTED WITHIN 10 DAYS

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL INFORMED THE SC THAT A NATIONAL-LEVEL SECURITY FORCE FOR PROTECTION OF JUDGES IS NOT POSSIBLE

THE SC JULY 30 REGISTERED A SUO MOTU CASE ON SAFEGUARDING COURTS AND ENSURING PROTECTION OF JUDGES AFTER THE KILLING OF JUDGE UTTAM ANAND IN JHARKHAND'S DHANBAD

The bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose observed that it is the responsibility of the Union government to ensure the implementation of these guidelines. "Question is whether these guidelines are followed or not for protection of judges, courts etc. Burden of implementing the guidelines is on the Supreme Court now. You are the Central government. You can call DGPs. You are the best person to get this done. States are now saying

they don't have funds for CCTVs etc. These issues you have to resolve," the bench observed.

Significantly, the SC July 30 registered a suo motu case on safeguarding courts and ensuring protection and security of judges after the killing of District and Sessions Judge-8 of Dhanbad court in Jharkhand Uttam Anand.

Anand was out on morning walk July 28 when he was mowed down by an auto-rickshaw at Randhir Verma Chowk near the district court in Sadar police station area.

Pari case: SC tags SLP with writ petition

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 17: The Supreme Court (SC) Tuesday tagged a special leave petition filed by the father of a 5-year-old girl, who was allegedly kidnapped, raped and killed in July last year at Jadupur in Nayagarh, along with the writ petition filed by her mother seeking CBI enquiry into the matter.

The apex court posted the matter for hearing to Monday.

Earlier, the SC had asked the petitioner, the mother of the victim, to file a petition under Article 136 of the Constitution challenging the High Court order.

A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna had observed that the matter doesn't lie under Article 32 and asked the petitioner to file a special leave petition challenging the order of the Orissa High Court.

Significantly, Pari's mother Saudamini Sahoo had filed a writ petition under Article 32 seeking directions to the CBI to investigate the death of her daughter at Jadupur in Nayagarh.

The petitioner submitted that the preliminary investigation undertaken by the state police, the Crime Branch and SIT illustrates that all of them have made attempts to sabotage the investigation into the alleged incident and attempted all kinds of subversion tactics to influence the complainant and her relatives to discard the aforesaid allegations as false and frivolous.

The petitioner also contended that the SIT has not investigated the role of local IIC, who was hand in glove with the accused and was shielding the real culprit.

Schedule for Plus III admissions out

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The Higher Education (HE) department Tuesday released the timeline for admissions to Plus III courses for 2021-22 academic session.

As per the timeline and official notification, online common application form (CAF) would be made available in Higher Education department's websites www.dhe.odisha.gov.in and www.samsodisha.gov.in from 11am of August 20.

The last date for applying online through the websites is September 4 (11:45pm). The first merit list would be published September 9.

As per the timeline, students would deposit admission fees online through SAMS portal between

▶ THE ONLINE COMMON APPLICATION FORM WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN HIGHER EDUCATION DEPT'S WEBSITES WWW.DHE.ODISHA.GOV.IN AND WWW.SAMSODISHA.GOV.IN FROM 11AM OF AUGUST 20

▶ THE LAST DATE FOR APPLYING ONLINE IS SEPTEMBER 4 (11:45PM). THE FIRST MERIT LIST WOULD BE PUBLISHED SEPT 9

▶ STUDENTS WOULD DEPOSIT THE ADMISSION FEES ONLINE THROUGH SAMS PORTAL BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 9 AND 14

September 9 and 14.

The applicants have to report to the allotted institutions for taking admission for the first merit list

from September 11 to 15, except for September 12.

The slide-up option for the applicants would be active on the portal during the first round of admission from September 11 to September 16.

The second merit list would be published September 21 and online despot of admission fees would be done within September 21 and 24.

The applicants have to report to the allotted institutions for taking admission for the second merit list from September 22 to 25.

As per official notification, HE department would subsequently release guidelines for admissions into vacant seats. Students can dial toll-free helpline number 155335/1800-345-6770 for their queries.

Promotion for 63.5K teachers by Sept 30

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: School and Mass Education (S&ME) department principal secretary Satyabrata Sahu Tuesday said more than 63,500 primary teachers of various levels will be promoted by September 30.

Sahu said this while holding a review meeting with district education officers (DEOs) and district project coordinators (DPCs) here Tuesday. Sahu said that from now onwards the DEOs will look after the problems at Odisha Adarsh Vidyalayas in their respective districts and will act as per the department's direction.

Sahu informed the meeting that more than 32,447 schools have been included under Mo School Abhiyan and more than 1,233 schools have undergone transformation. Under this initiative, the schools have smart classrooms, e-Library, laboratory and other modern infrastructure facilities.

He said that by September 30 more than 63,500 primary teachers will be promoted in different categories. Sahu also directed the officers to prepare for the Odisha Secondary School Teacher Eligibility Test examination to be held September 1.

Two arrested for duping realtor of ₹20 lakh in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday claimed to have arrested two persons for duping a realtor of Rs 20 lakh on the pretext to help the latter to buy a plot in the city.

The accused were identified as Ranjit Parida, 41, of Matha Sahi and Rasa Bihari Barik of Patna Sahi at Janla on the city outskirts, police said.

According to sources, the accused duo had assured complainant Dharendra Kumar Patra of helping him

in arranging a large piece of land in the Capital city. They told Patra that one Arati Mishra was the owner of a plot at Nuagaon village on the outskirts of the city.

They further told Patra that Mishra had legally authorised them to sell her plot valued at Rs 1.76 crore. Subsequently, Patra had signed an agreement with the duo November 11 last year. Patra had paid Rs 5 lakh as advance to the duo and requested them to provide the details of the land for verification. The duo pro-

vided some documents to the realtor and told him to pay another Rs 15 lakh which would be adjusted during the execution of the sale deed.

However, the realtor later came to know that the duo had provided him some forged documents. Subsequently, the accused had agreed to return the amount received from Patra.

But, they did not return the money to the complainant despite repeated requests. They also assaulted Patra when he went to their home to get back his money.



CIVIC WOES

The condition of the Ring Road near Khannagar in Cuttack speaks volumes of the authority's alertness about road infrastructure

Burglars' gang busted; 6 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 17: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday claimed to have busted a gang of notorious burglars with the arrest of four of its members and two others for buying stolen items from them here.

The accused were identified as Prasant Palai alias Chotu, 23, of IB Road, Biswajit Sahu alias Lipu, 19, of Pradhan Sahi, Anil Kumar Behera alias Chiku, 26, of Ranihaat Sagadia Sahi, Guruba Marndi, 18, of Shanti Nagar in Jagatpur, Prasant Kumar Sahu alias Nilu, 55, of Mangalabag Nuapatna and Laxmidhar Tudu alias Jogi, 26, of Jagatpur Baikuntha Vihar.

About the crackdown, additional deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Pramod Kumar Rath said that they zeroed in on the gang while investigating a burglary under Choudwar police limits here.

Manoj Kumar Baral of Mangarajpur under Choudwar police limits here ap-



While Chiku has at least 13 cases against him, Chotu has around nine cases in several police stations across the state

proached the police July 28 last alleging that they (Manoj and his family) were away for some family function July 27 when unknown miscreants made away with cash and jewellery after twisting open the door locks, the additional DCP said, adding that a case (322/21) was registered on the basis of Baral's complaint.

Acting on a tip-off, the police managed to nab Chotu and Chiku, the gang's masterminds.

"Following leads from the duo, we arrested Lipu and Guruba who confessed to have sold the booty to Nilu and Jogi.

Later, Nilu and Jogi were also taken into custody: Around 165 gram of gold jewellery, two laptops, a digital video recorder, a metal cutter and two two-wheelers were recovered from their possession," the additional DCP said.

The senior police official said that while Chiku has at least 13 cases against him, Chotu has around nine cases in several police stations across the state. Last year, Chiku suffered injuries in a police encounter. Recently, he managed to walk out on bail. If required, they would be brought on remand for further investigation.

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HC: Proof of active role must to prove abetment of suicide

BJP gheraos OSSC office alleging graft

HC grants anticipatory bail to Sudhanshubala

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Members of state BJP thronged the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) office Tuesday alleging large-scale corruption in the public office.

The party alleged that the public office had been playing with the future of poor and meritorious candidates owing to the corrupt practices. The outrage was in connection with the recent revelation regarding the disproportionate assets of a private secretary to a Member of the commission.

BJP leader Babu Singh led the crowd and demanded timely action and transparency in the functioning of the public office which is responsible for the recruitment of government employees through competitive examinations.

“OSSC has been in the news for its involvement in corruption cases. Students are saddened by the unfair practices. Hard working students are worried about their future. We organised this protest to press for our demands for a fair, corruption-free functioning of the office,” Singh said.

He also said that the party would intensify the protest in the coming days to “expose the office and to ensure safe future for candidates burning midnight oil to get jobs in the state government offices”.

Meanwhile, there was a minor scuffle between the protestors and the police personnel when the party members tried to barge into the office. Some protesters were also arrested by the cops. The BJP criticised the police for muzzling voice of party workers against the injustice.

The Vigilance department had apprehended the private secretary of a member of OSSC in case of disproportionate assets.

Admit cards, jewellery, cash and other items, hinting towards his involvement in alleged job scams, were seized.



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CUTTACK: The Orissa High Court Tuesday granted anticipatory bail to the wife of former private secretary to Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) member in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case.

The Vigilance sleuths had arrested Biranchi Narayan Sahoo, the former private secretary to OSSC member, in connection with the DA case July 31 last.

Subsequently, Sahoo's wife Sudhanshubala had moved the HC for anticipatory bail.

The court, however, directed Sudhanshubala to cooperate in the investigation.

The Vigilance sleuths had raided the residences of Sahoo and a few of his relatives in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack July 30 and seized properties worth crores of rupees.

Sahoo was also selling insurance policies under his wife's name since 2009.

A special court in Bhubaneswar had earlier rejected Sahoo's bail plea.

DEATH OF WOMAN IN ANGUL

The HC observed that in order to prove the accused abetted commission of offence, it has to be established that the accused by his acts or omission or by a continued course of conduct, created such circumstances that the deceased was left with no other option except to commit suicide



A woman under Chhendipada police station of Angul district had allegedly committed suicide in June 2020

Police arrested Somanath Sahu, the petitioner, who allegedly had a relationship with the deceased

of Uttar Pradesh, wherein the apex court had ruled that the freedom of an individual cannot be curtailed for indefinite period, Justice Panigrahi held that some of these basic principles appear to have been lost sight of as a result of which more and more persons are being incarcerated for longer periods.

“An important facet of our criminal jurisprudence is that the grant of bail is the general rule and putting a person in jail or in a correction home (whichever expression one may wish to use) is an exception,” the SC had laid down.

It is to be mentioned here that a woman under Chhendipada police station of Angul district had allegedly committed suicide in June 2020. According to her parents, she had left home June 14 to address nature's call but didn't return home.

Her body was found hanging from a tree near a river bank June 17. Police arrested Somanath Sahu, the petitioner. It was suspected that Sahu had a relationship with the deceased. He was sent on judicial custody July 6 last year for allegedly abetting the suicide of the deceased.

‘Immunity level in kids up 50%’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPCR) Tuesday organised a panel discussion on impact of a probable third wave of the pandemic on children and the measures needed to ensure their safety.

On the occasion, OSCPCR chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan said that safety of children during third wave must be the top priority for everyone and this discussion will be helpful in this regard.

Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) director Sanghamitra Pati said that in recent serological survey it was found that immunity

level in 50 per cent of children has increased which is a good sign. She said, “Sero survey will be conducted in 15 districts on children above 6 years of age which will help us in a big way in tackling the third wave. We must focus on stricter implementation of Covid-19 guidelines and independent sero survey of children and mothers.

Mikhael Pradhan, head of Advocacy, World Vision, said that vaccine and regular interaction with children is necessary

District health officers also talked about preparations for a possible third wave such as training to health workers, special beds for the children at hospitals among others.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT



Puri Collector Samarth Verma inspects Sukalata Memorial School near Swargadwar as part of infrastructure development programme, Tuesday

Issue norms for erection of info boards: CS told

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the state Chief Secretary to issue guidelines for the erection of information boards across the state, so as to prevent any mishaps causing death and injury to anyone.

The commission Monday issued the order while hearing a plea filed by human rights activist Dillip Kumar Das in connection with the death of a 13-year-old minor due to the collapse of an information pillar at Kodala block in Ganjam district March 7, 2018.

The Chief Secretary has been asked to submit his response in this regard within six weeks of the receipt of the order.

This apart, the commission has asked the Housing and Urban Development department to pay Rs 3 lakh as compensation to the family members of the deceased minor. The department has been asked to submit details regarding the same.

Notably, two minors of Gola Sahi area climbed up an information pillar erected to show all the details regarding the reconstruction work

of RCC drain. The 4-feet-tall pillar was erected near a culvert, without plinth and any solid foundation.

That fateful day, the sudden collapse of the pillar caused death of one minor while seriously injuring the other.

The district Collector of Ganjam in its report to the NHRC confirmed to the aforesaid facts as well.

The commission observed, “From the perusal of report, it is apparent that the board was erected without taking any specification, construction, support and plan-

ning. It is accepted fact that there was scope for children to utilise the surface area available in the culvert for playing purpose and there was no plinth, durability and strength in the information board which led to this unfortunate incident and death of a child.”

“These facts reveal that there was negligence on part of officials while erection of information board by the NAC, Kodala Administration, and this act of negligence has violated human rights of the deceased victim for which the State Government is vicariously liable,” the commission added.

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ning. It is accepted fact that there was scope for children to utilise the surface area available in the culvert for playing purpose and there was no plinth, durability and strength in the information board which led to this unfortunate incident and death of a child.”

“These facts reveal that there was negligence on part of officials while erection of information board by the NAC, Kodala Administration, and this act of negligence has violated human rights of the deceased victim for which the State Government is vicariously liable,” the commission added.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Government ITI Bhubaneswar principal Jeetamitra Satpathy, Humara Bachpan Trust executive director Arpita Patnaik and FLO Bhubaneswar chapter chairperson Sunita Mohanty.

As per the agreement, the three parties will provide industry-focused quality education to underprivileged girls to overcome the barriers of poverty and become self-reliant.

The agreement aims at raising both employability and productivity among girls through industry-based training modules, which will groom them as competent professionals.

Very heavy rainfall likely in state today



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday warned that heavy to very heavy rainfall may be seen in different parts of the state Wednesday.

The department said that very heavy rainfall could be seen in nine districts whereas 14 districts could witness heavy rainfall.

“Heavy to very heavy rainfall are very likely to occur Wednesday at one or two places over the districts of Khurda, Puri, Boudh, Jagpur, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Gajapati, Balasore, Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Angul and Kalahandi,”

It also said, “Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Khurda, Puri, Boudh, Jagpur, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Gajapati, Balasore, Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Angul and Kalahandi,”

The department stated that the possibility of water logging Wednesday is high for Maklangiri in some places of low lying areas. The department warned of “pos-

sible damage to horticulture crops due to inundation in the areas of heavy rainfall activity for which drainage of excess water may be required from agriculture field”.

The department also said that heavy rainfall could continue Thursday too at one or two places over the districts of Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Sonepur, Angul, Nuapada and Bolangir.

The department however has not issued any warning of heavy rain, thunderstorms and lightning after Thursday this week.

The IMD cited the low pressure area developed over coastal Odisha and adjoining North-West Bay of Bengal as the reason for heavy rainfall.

The weathermen said that Bhubaneswar could see a few spells of rainfall or thundershower while the maximum temperature could go upto 32°C. In the next 48 hours, surface wind speed reaching upto 40kmph to 50kmph could be observed over South Odisha coast. Special warning has been issued for fishermen against venturing into deep sea for the next 48 hours.

Kharasrota row: Left parties for talks with protesters

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Four Left parties of Odisha appealed to the state government Tuesday to hold discussions with the people protesting the mega piped water project over Kharasrota river.

Addressing a joint presser here, CPI state secretary Ashis Kanungo, Forward Bloc state secretary Jyoti Mohapatra, Suresh Panigrahi of CPI-M and Radhakanta Sethi of CPI(ML) Liberation said that the government should suspend the construction work of the project until a consensus with the agitating people is reached.

Condemning the police atrocities on ‘innocent’ villagers, the Left leaders urged the government to release all the persons arrested during their protest against the construction of mega piped water project at Bharigada in Kendrapara district.



They said the claim of the state government that the project is to provide drinking water to three blocks of the neighbouring Bhadrak district is not true. The main objective of the government, the left leaders alleged, is to provide drinking water to Dhamra port of Adani and other companies at Dhamra.

They alleged that the project is being carried out ignoring the water ratio of Kharasrota river, water distress in the nearby areas and its impact on agriculture, environment and the biodiversity of Bhitarkanika National Park.

The leaders said that people of Aul and Rajkanika have been agitating since 1971 for water from Kharasrota river for irrigation and drinking purposes.

At present, they are agitating, apprehending that the construction of the project would turn the river bed dry and increase the salinity. They are also demanding construction of a barrage at the downstream of the river.

Pact for honing skills

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: A tripartite agreement was Tuesday signed among the Government ITI Bhubaneswar, Humara Bachpan Trust (HBT) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) Bhubaneswar chapter to work for economically-deprived sections of the society, especially girls, through skill development.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Government ITI Bhubaneswar principal Jeetamitra Satpathy, Humara Bachpan Trust executive director Arpita Patnaik and FLO Bhubaneswar chapter chairperson Sunita Mohanty.

As per the agreement, the three parties will provide industry-focused quality education to underprivileged girls to overcome the barriers of poverty and become self-reliant.

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Panel to probe sand mining at Brahmani: NGT

The panel will comprise members from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Jajpur Collector, State Pollution Control Board and the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The eastern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued a notice to the Jajpur district administration on allegations regarding illegal sand mining in Uttarpratap Mouza in the district.

The NGT has also asked for formation of a joint committee to investigate the matter relating to illegal sand mining along Brahmani river in the region.

The tribunal in its written order, said, "Issued notice to the respondents returnable within four weeks. Considering the allegations made in the O.A., we deem it appropriate to constitute a committee to investigate the allegations made in respect of illegal sand mining in the district Jajpur, Odisha."

The panel will comprise members from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Jajpur Collector, State Pollution Control Board and the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

The department claimed that the panel has to inform the NGT within one month about their observations based on their findings



at the ground level.

"The committee shall submit its report within one month with regard to illegal sand mining as alleged in the petition, damage caused to the environment; assess the environmental compensation and the penalty to be imposed against the respondent and persons who are involved in illegal sand mining as well as loss of revenue/royalty to the government exchequer due to excess

sand mining," the NGT order said. The tribunal, in its interim order, asked the Jajpur Collector to ensure that the illegal mining activities are ceased. This comes after a petition was filed by one Alok Malik and others on the issue. The petition claimed that the local government had allegedly failed to curb the menace of illegal sand mining at Uttarpratap Mouza under Dharmasala tehsil in the district along the Brahmani river.

It was further alleged that the actions of the erring miners there were in violation of the Standard Environment Clearance Conditions, Consent To Operate (CTO) Conditions, Sustainable Sand Mining Guideline 2016 and Enforcement and monitoring of sand Mining Guidelines 2020 and others.

The allegations related to the use of machines in sand mining (against norms), operations even during monsoon despite prohibition of the same, excess mining, non-maintenance of the daily mining register; no pillar demarcation of the leased areas and polluting local villages due to movement of uncovered trucks transporting collected sand and others.

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Sundargarh admin launches e-Swasthya for rural people

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, August 17: The district administration here launched three important public welfare programmes for the people with a focus on the rural healthcare.

Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan inaugurated the programmes at a special event organised on the occasion of Independence Day at Vikash Bhawan in Sundargarh.

Among the programmes, e-Swasthya is a major step towards providing preventive health check-up facilities free of cost to the urban as well as rural population. Similarly, block-level integrated physiotherapy and therapeutic unit for various modern therapies and safety kits for protection and well-being of workers were also launched.

Meanwhile, a special nutrition programme for young children completed one year. Under it, kids are distributed ragi laddu mix and spirulina-fortified chiki and sugar through the Anganwadi centres. The initiatives are supported by the District Mineral Foundation (DMF).

This special nutrition programme has turned out to be beneficial in preventing malnutrition among small children and usher in overall growth in them.

The e-Swasthya and physiotherapy services are expected to be immensely useful to the people of Sundargarh.

These new initiatives launched by the district administration will provide various health facilities free of cost to the people in rural areas through the community health centres and public health centres, informed Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan.

The e-Swasthya initiative is a



comprehensive diagnostic test package where residents can now get various tests free under the programme. The beneficiaries can avail over 76 types of test reports from a single sample, including record of vitals.

Lab-in-the-bag, an advanced mobile lab facility introduced under this programme, is available at 12 CHCs across the district. Moreover, sample collection points have been set up in various locations of the district to connect people with the services.

Digitisation of the 'Matrujyoti' data under e-Swasthya will now help the system to record and access the health history of pregnant women digitally. The database will be operated through Web portal and mobile applications, which was launched on the occasion.

With the implementation of Integrated Physiotherapy and Therapeutics unit, rural people from over 150 villages under 11 blocks will benefit from this free service.

The district administration provides a special kit to protect workers of mines, factories, construction and other sectors. The kit containing shoes and socks, goggles, helmet, hand gloves, gum boots,

special mask to protect from dust, safety harness, jacket, first-aid kits, rain coat and other essential equipments, was also launched on this occasion. In the first phase, the district administration plans to provide more than 15,000 beneficiaries with these safety kits. The special kits were given to some workers on the occasion.

The special nutrition programme covering spirulina fortified sugar and chikki and ragi laddu for children in Sundargarh have completed 1 year. The initiative benefits over 1.42 lakh children with spirulina distribution. Similarly, over 63,000 children have benefited from ragi laddu distribution. The district administration has further involved local women self-help groups in this initiative to enable them earn a livelihood.

Among others, Bhairabi Singh Patel, project director, DRDA and CEO DMF, Dr. Saroj Kumar Mishra, CDMO, Ramachandra Nayak, CDAO, Prabasini Chakra, DSWO, Mahesh R.V. chairman Spirulina Foundation and senior officials of the district administration and the DMF were present on the occasion. A millet-based food exhibition was also organised on the occasion.

As spectre of drought looms large, Kalahandi farmers seek loan waiver

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koksara, August 17: Basic agricultural activities have been severely affected in various parts of Koksara block in Kalahandi district owing to deficit rain in July and the first half of August.

"As farmlands have no water, preparing the ground for paddy transplantation is yet to be started in our area," farmers lamented. They feared that they may see a drought-like situation this year owing to shortage of rainfall.

Though the Indravati mega lift irrigation point has been commissioned, not a drop of water is available from it to Podaguda panchayat. There is need for extension of the canal to this area, they added.

Apprehending the possibility of a drought-like situation, farmers have met Koksara tehsildar and submitted a memorandum, seeking fulfillment of some of their



Farmers' demands include loan waiver, electricity connection to deep bore wells and damage assessment

demands.

"Initially, when it rained enough, farmers had started some work, but later rain played truant, leaving the farmlands dry. All agricultural activities have come to a standstill since then. Farmlands

have cracked for lack of sufficient rainfall," they pointed out.

As there are no signs of rain in coming days, farmers fear a spectre of drought in the region soon. Telltale signs of drought were found at several places where farmlands have cracked for want of rain. Farmers expressed concern over the scanty rainfall that has badly affected the farming activities. They demanded that the government should pay input subsidy to the affected farmers.

Their demands include loan waiver, electricity connection to deep bore wells and assessment of crop damage.

In some areas, several hectares have been left fallow. Farmers demanded that the state government should initiate welfare measures and damage assessment in the area. Hundreds of farmers led by local sarpanch submitted a memorandum to the tehsildar Tuesday

Disrespect to Tricolour at school

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koksara, August 17: Disrespecting the Tricolour, the national flag hoisted at a school in Koksara block of Kalahandi district on the occasion of the Independence Day celebrations was not taken down even after sunset and was left fluttering till late in the night.

Independence Day was celebrated at Supad Project Upper Primary School in Ladugaon panchayat. However, teachers forgot to bring it down before they left the school premises.

As per Constitutional norms, the Tricolour has to be 'un-hoisted' before sunset.

Seeing the flag fluttering on its mast, some villagers clicked pictures and uploaded it on various social media platforms.

Koksara block resource centre head, Tophan Majhi said that the matter has come to his notice. Talking to the media Tuesday, he promised disciplinary action against the teachers after probing the matter.



RAIN FURY

A road connecting Korukonda block to Mauliguda village in Malkangiri district was washed away Tuesday following heavy downpour triggered by low-pressure. Communication on this route came to a standstill Tuesday.

Ganjam women script success in flower farming



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, August 17: At the same time as the state government has taken up a host of measures to finically empower women and make them self-reliant through the Odisha Livelihood Mission and Mission Shakti, many women in Ganjam district have scripted success in flower farming and set an example for others, a report said.

Apart from flower cultivation, they have been earning from other activities like mushroom farming, pisciculture, poultry and sattu preparation. Some of them are also earning from collection of electricity bills from consumers.

However, flower cultivation has earned them accolades from various quarters and the government as well. According to reports, scores of

women affiliated to various self-help groups (SHGs) have been cultivating marigold, orchids and gerbera at Nuapalli of Bhikaripalli panchayat under Chhatrapur block.

Most of the women are members of the Gramadevati, Bhairabi and Balkumari SHGs.

The Union Rural Development Ministry has commended the efforts of these women, who have shown the way of earning for others.

In its publication, the department has documented the activities of these hard working women along with their photographs. Their success stories are expected to inspire others, it said.

The story says, 32 women of the three SHGs received ₹9.5 lakh as loan and started their flower farming on over 1,200 sq mts in 2018. They are now earning ₹12 lakh per annum. By taking up such income-generating activities, they have managed to change their life for the better.

"All this has become possible because of our self-help groups and flower farming," they said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 14/ET/SBP/ENGG/2021-22, Dt. 14.08.2021

1. e-Tender No. 09-e-DENS-SBP-21
Description: THROUGH BALLAST RENEWAL FOR 134.06 TKM AT VARIOUS PATCHES IN TITLAGARH-THERUBALI SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹5,32,55,193.39.
Completion period of the Work: 18 (Eighteen) Months.

2. e-Tender No. 10-e-DENS-SBP-21
Description: TRR (P) FOR 3.4 TKM, TSR (P) FOR 14.4 KM. AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SAMBALPUR-TITLAGARH SECTION, TRR(S) FOR 15.769 TKM. IN LANJIGARH-JUNAGARH ROAD SECTION, TTR (CMSC)-5 SETS, TTR (TWS)-220 SETS, TTR (TSR)-50 SETS, GLEUD JOINTS-310 SETS & SEJs-51 SETS AT VARIOUS STATION YARDS & LOCATIONS IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹7,03,48,740.88.
Completion period of the Work: 18 (Eighteen) Months.

3. e-Tender No. 11-e-DENS-SBP-21
Description: RECONDITIONING OF TURN-OUTS, TAKING OUT CORRODED PLATE SCREW, WELDING OF SLIDE CHAIRS ETC. IN DEOGAON ROAD (EX)-TITLAGARH-THERUBALI SECTION IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹37,07,985.52.
Completion period of the Work: 08 (Eight) Months.

4. e-Tender No. 09-e-T-DENW-SBP-21
Description: TSR (P) FOR 3.22 TKM. FROM KM. 105.38-107.8 (SL), TFR FOR 8.806 KM AT VARIOUS PATCHES IN LAKHOLI-TITLAGARH SECTION AND TFR FOR 7.12 KM. AT DIFFERENT PATCHES IN DEOGAON ROAD-TITLAGARH SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹70,69,837.51.
Completion period of the Work: 12 (Twelve) Months.

Date & time of Tender Closing: 06.09.2021, 1500 hrs (For all Tenders).
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 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./ PR-294/M/21-22) Sambalpur

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, KEONJHAR
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) CORRIGENDUM
No. L-45-
Date - 17.08.2021
Letter N. 2802 dt. 17.08.2021: With reference to this office EoI No. 2573 dt. 09.08.2021 the following may be replaced and read as follows.
The financial year for last 3 years in regards to Annual Report, audited financial statement and ITR copy should be read as 2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20 instead of 2018-19, 2019-20 & 2020-21.
If any NGO/Trust has submitted their EoI in the meantime, they are requested to send Annual Report, audited financial statement and ITR copy only for the year 2017-18 separately in the below mentioned address within the revised stipulated date & time.
The EoI of the NGOs/TRUSTs should reach at the OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, KEONJHAR - 758001 in the prescribed form with necessary enclosures on or before 4th September 2021 by 5.30 PM instead of 27th August 2021 through Registered Post/Speed Post and by no other means. The pre-qualification document verifications & presentations of the NGOs will be started on 07th September 2021, 10.30 AM onwards instead of 31st August 2021.
For application form & details please visit www.kendujhar.nic.in, www.apcodisha.net
Sd/- Dy. Director of Horticulture, Keonjhar
OIPR-01405/11/0002/2122

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT, THQ 160 BATTALION BORDER SECURITY FORCE, MV-03, MALKANGIRI (ODISHA)
TELEPHONE NO. 06861-230022
AUCTION NOTICE
A public auction of Condemned/Unserviceable stores will be held on 23rd Aug' 2021 at 11.00 hrs at Rear HQ 160 Bn BSF Khurda (Odisha) and on 30th Aug' 2021 at 11.00 hrs at Tac HQ 160 Bn BSF MV-03, Malkangiri (Odisha).
2. For more details please visit in BSF website www.bsf.nic.in.
Sd/- COMMANDANT
dsvp.19/110/11/0051/2122 160 BN BORDER SECURITY FORCE

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, BALANGIR
Ph. No - (06652 - 234647), Email, ID - eephbgr@yahoo.co.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. SE PH BGR 22 /2021-22 Dt. 13.08.2021
No. C-762:-
01. Name of the Work : 4 Nos.
02. Estimated Cost : Rs. 7.08 to 35.00 Lakhs
03. Period of Completion : 45 Days to 120 Days
04. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 AM of dt. 19.08.2021 to 5.00 PM of dt. 31.08.2021
05. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5 PM of dt. 31.08.2021
06. Date & Time of opening of bids : At 11.00 AM of dt. 01.09.2021
07. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Balangir, At-Tulsinagar, Dist.- Balangir-767001
Further details can be seen from the website <http://tenders.ori.nic.in> or www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.H.Division, Balangir
OIPR-13005/11/0015/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KESINGA
E-mail: eerwkesinga@yahoo.com
e-Procurement Notice
No. O-544
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. EERWKSNG-online-01/2021-22
1. Name of works : 13 Nos. Roads
2. Total No. of work : 13 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Please refer DTCN
4. E. M. D. : Please refer DTCN
5. Cost of Tender document : Please refer DTCN
6. Class of Contractor : Please refer DTCN
7. Period of completion : As per DTCN
8. Other details : As per DTCN

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From To	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kesinga	EERWKSNG-online-01/2021-22	18.08.2021 at 11.00 A.M. to 25.08.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	23.08.2021 upto 11.00 A.M.	26.08.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Website i.e. www.tenderodisha.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kesinga
OIPR-25153/11/0001/2122

PUBLIC NOTICE
M/s SMC Power Generation Limited
At: Industrial Growth Center, Kukurjangha, Badmal, Jharsuguda, Odisha.
It is informed all concerned that the Environmental Clearance granted vide Letter No. J-11011/189/2007-IA II (I) dated 7th August, 2007 in favour of M/s SPS Steel & Power Ltd. for establishment of Steel Plant along with the Captive Power Plant [(WHRB-30 MW) and (AFBC-40 MW)] has been transferred in favour of M/s SMC Power Generation Limited, vide letter no. J-11011/189/2007-IA II (I) dated 24th December, 2020.
The detail of the above related to environmental clearance are available at the State Pollution Control Board, Odisha and the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (www.envfor.nic.in).
Shri J.P. Sharma
Executive Director-Works
SMC Power Generation Limited, Badmal

Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will become so.

THE MOTHER



Fall of Kabul

The world has been shocked and numbed to see the spectacle of a humanitarian crisis of huge magnitude unfolding in Afghanistan that became the starkest reality minutes after the Taliban brandishing weapons and their firepower entered Kabul August 16 morning. It was funny, to say the least, how the Afghan government forces just melted away into thin air as the Taliban leaders and foot soldiers took possession of the country, province by province, till they reached the capital Kabul and eventually the presidential palace without the slightest of resistance. Video footage went viral showing Taliban soldiers enjoying the comfort and food inside.

On the other side of the world, in Washington DC, President Joe Biden held a press conference and unequivocally stated that he stood 'squarely' behind his decision of withdrawal of American combat forces from Afghanistan. He did not forget to mention that the 20 long years of engagement of American and NATO forces in Afghanistan had been the longest war fought in recent American history. He reminded his voters about his pledge during his presidential campaign in 2020 that he would withdraw American troops from Afghanistan if elected. His predecessor Donald Trump was the third president to have presided over the Afghan war and was instrumental in starting a dialogue with the Taliban, keeping bringing back US forces home as the top agenda. When Biden spoke, he reminded not only Americans but also his allies that the US had entered Afghanistan not for a nation building experiment. The world knows that the US had been excessively violent in its reactions against the Al-Qaeda which claimed responsibility for the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington DC. It was obvious that the attack on Afghanistan and the dethroning of the Taliban government was a pure act of revenge and reprisal. To expect Americans to have stayed on even longer, after two decades and trillions of dollars spent and thousands of Americans dead is definitely expecting too much from any country.

Biden's decision cannot be faulted if one observes the manner in which the Afghan politicians and especially former President Ashraf Ghani fled the country with tons of cash and how the armed forces capitulated without firing a single shot. A nation which is not committed to protecting itself will never be ready to face enemies within and without. The financial and social corruption that had set in among the government and armed forces of Afghanistan under the protection of American cover was evident at how quickly they caved in and deserted ranks. It seems like the Afghan men were not concerned about the security and future of their own womenfolk. The Taliban rule will probably bring in a dark era for the common citizens of Afghanistan, especially young girls and women.

On the other hand, the success of Taliban will bolster other Islamist extremist organizations worldwide which will look up at this victory as an indication of changing times. Apart from the West, countries neighboring Afghanistan will now have a lot to worry about. It can be a lesson to all corrupt societies that they can no longer depend on their armies alone to protect them. Afghanistan has demonstrated that in spite of modern equipment, arms, ammunition, helicopters and plenty of funding, the armed forces will be as strong or weak as the government and society that is behind them.

WISDOM CORNER

Accept everything about yourself - I mean everything, you are you and that is the beginning and the end - no apologies, no regrets.

HENRY KISSINGER

For everything you have missed, you have gained something else, and for everything you gain, you lose something else.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights cannot claim to be defenders of minorities.

AYN RAND

WORDSWORTH

Ostrobogulous

The word is weird not only because it looks strange and is rather rare but because it can refer to something weird (or a strange, bizarre or generally unusual happening). To increase its peculiarity, it can also mean something mildly risqué, indecent or pornographic. "Ostrobogulous" was Vickybird's favourite word. It stood for anything from the bawdy to the slightly off-colour. Any double entendre that might otherwise have escaped his audience was prefaced by, "if you will pardon the ostrobogulousity" (Magic my Youth, by Arthur Calder-Marshall, 1951). It was coined by Victor Neuburg (Vickybird in the quotation), a gay British Jewish poet and writer and a close friend of the occultist Aleister Crowley, whose sexual magic practices he helped develop. Neuburg said that the word was formed, highly irregularly as you might expect, from Greek ostro, rich, plus English bog, dirt, from the schoolboy slang sense of the toilet, and ending in Latin ulus, full of. So "full of rich dirt". The Oxford English Dictionary doesn't agree, arguing that the first part is from the adjective oestrous. But we ought to let Victor Neuburg have the last word, as it was his creation, even though he was a bit shaky on his etymology — the Greek word was ostreon, a type of mollusc (it's the source, via Latin, of English oyster) that was harvested to obtain a rare and expensive purple dye, hence figuratively something rich. Another meaning of ostrobogulous turns up occasionally. I started out making toys because it was something I could do with no money, an artistic family and a Victorian sewing machine. In the evenings I made "ostrobogulous" toys, a term my mother used to mean harmlessly mischievous, and sold them in Heal's, where I worked by day (The Times, 8 Nov. 2003). This matches a sense known to reader Graham Hill: "When I was at secondary school in the late 1960s ostrobogulous was used as an alternative name for a gonk." (For those too young to remember, or who live in a country in which they never caught on, a gonk was a small furry soft toy, popular at the time.)

Overclass

A word, obviously coined as the antonym of underclass, which sprang into prominence in the US in 1995 but which has only just reached Britain, and in which it is unlikely to become common because of differing social structures. The overclass, it is argued, comprises a small homogeneous elite group of individuals who run American institutions, who form what Michael Lind, in Harper's Magazine, called a "guild oligarchy", separate from and superior to the traditional middle classes. One of the defining characteristics of members of the overclass is their tendency towards isolation, using their resources to exclude themselves voluntarily from society, as the antithesis of the underclass, which is excluded by its poverty.

LOL

New person in prison

A new man is brought into Prison Cell 102. Already there is a long-time resident who looks 100 years old. The new man looks at the old-timer inquiringly. The old-timer says, "Look at me. I'm old and worn out." "You'd never believe that I used to live



the life of Riley."

"I wintered on the Riviera, had a boat, four fine cars, the most beautiful women, and I ate in all the best restaurants of France."

The new man asked, "What happened?" "One day Riley reported his credit cards missing!"

FOCUS NETAJI

BEST KEPT SECRET

At a time when India is commemorating the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and his passing away is still shrouded in mystery, it is worth a while to revisit a seminal work, Verdict from Formosa: Gallant End of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, authored by Harin Shah, a veteran journalist who visited Taiwan, then called Formosa, one year after the tragic plane crash in which Netaji was believed to have died 18 August 1945. The book was published in 1956, and this article is based on the book, which the author claims was "the eyewitness account from the crash to cremation collected on the spot in Formosa." The book has a foreword from Dr Harekrushna Mahatab, then Governor of Bombay.

Shah writes in his book that he was "the only Indian having had the good fortune to visit Formosa after the end of the war" and "the bearer of conclusive eyewitness collected in Formosa, checked with Netaji's co-victim in the air crash Col. Habibur Rehman and upheld by leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel." He opines that "Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose embraced heroic martyrdom at Taipei." Although a number of books have been written about the mystery surrounding the disappearance and passing away of Netaji and also a number of enquiry commissions appointed by the government have submitted their reports, Shah's book is arguably the earliest one based on interviews with informed and knowledgeable people in Taiwan.

The author takes the readers to the hoary era of Asian resurgence during and after the Second World War when leaders like Chiang Kai-shek, Aung San and Dr Sukarno dominated the emerging Asian firmament. The misrule of KMT and misreading of the ground situation by the US contributed to the failure of the KMT in assuming power in China. In early 1946, Harin Shah was at Nanking, the headquarters of the KMT regime in China, heading the Free Press of India News Service launched by Sadanand. From there, he flew to Taipei (now Taipei) via Shanghai along with a battery of foreign correspondents. As unravelling the mystery of Netaji's disappearance was his



Verdict from Formosa: Gallant End of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has so many startling revelations which only an authentic and objective investigation can confirm or contradict or one does not know if the mystery of Netaji's death will remain a best kept secret

main objective, he talked to a cross section of people about this immediately after his arrival in Taipei 30 August 1946. Shah was pleasantly surprised that the first question they shot at him was about 'Chand la Bose', and voluntarily added that they knew he had died in Taipei. He talked to a cross section of intelligentsia in Taipei who were knowledgeable about Netaji. Shah was gratified to find that some of the Formosan newspaper friends had genuinely undertaken to piece together available evidence about Netaji's death in the plane crash.

Shah discussed the issue with as many people as possible while in Formosa. An important personality whom he met in Formosa and who threw light on Netaji's life and times there was Prof KS Wei of Taipei University. Culling out from the notes in his diary after meeting Prof Wei, Shah writes in his book attributing to the former, "... he died in August 1945... News published in Formosa papers... But no photos... He came by a bomber. Bomber was taking off. Gasoline tank leaked. He died in Japanese hospital... He was very brave. I was not in Taihoku at the time of his death. Whenever any accident occurred at the airport, Japanese used to cordon off. So probably, no eyewitness except Japanese military officers... I shall ask my friends to find out more..."

Prof Wei meant his words and sent across a book written in Japanese through Ms. Noliko, the hotel attendant for Shah's room. The Professor's covering letter, scribbled on the blank back page of the contents in the book, said, "...please find page 107 of this book... That will give you some information. Yesterday, I called on a Japanese Professor of Taipei University, who was with the Japanese Military Headquarters as an interpreter when Bose's death was made known. The exact date was August 1945, 19 at 1.30a.m." The name of the Japanese book was 20 years of Pacific Hurricane. It mentioned the death through air crash at Taipei.

Yet one more inference that Shah drew was from Dr Lee wan-chu, who was the editor of the Chinese-language newspaper Shin Sheng Jir Pao, published from Taipei. Dr Lee wan-chu was also the Deputy Chairman of the Provincial Assembly of Formosa. Dr Lee personally went through the files in his office of the closed-down Japanese newspaper Taiwan Nichi Nichi Shimbun, published from Taipei and found the 22 August, 1945 edition of the newspaper carrying an official press-note on Netaji's death through plane crash at Taipei. Dr Lee gave a copy of the original Japanese newspaper carrying the news. It said, "A press-note issued at 2 pm

on 22nd inst. (August 1945) by the Intelligence Bureau of the Japanese Garrison Commander, Taihoku, states that Chandra Bose, Leader of the Provisional Government of Free India set out on a plane from Singapore on 16th August en-route Tokyo. He was proceeding to Tokyo to discuss with the Imperial Government. At 14 hours on 18th, the plane met with an accident in the vicinity of Taihoku airfield and Chandra Bose was heavily wounded."

The news further said, "Although he was given treatment at the 'South Gate' Military Hospital, it proved of no avail, and he passed away on 19th August at zero hour." Shah visited the South Gate Military Hospital which was under Japanese control at the time of the crash. With the cooperation of the Chinese Head of the Hospital Col. Wu Kuo Hsing, Shah could meet sister Tsan Pi Sha who was working with the military hospital from the Japanese time. She dropped a bombshell, to quote the author when she said, "He (Netaji) died here. I was by his side." She further told Shah that Netaji had received injuries from burning. "He was burnt as a result of the crash which took place at the Taihoku airfield just before he was brought to the hospital. It was about the noon time August 18, 1945 that he was brought to the hospital. He was very severely burnt. He died the same night at 11," she added. Shah also met Japanese people and ascertained vital facts. One such person was Dr Kunio Kawaishi, then Professor of Surgery at the University Hospital in Taipei. When Netaji arrived on his last trip to Formosa, Dr Kunio was the Director of the University Hospital. Dr Kunio believed that Netaji probably died at the airport itself, so serious was the burning injury.

The book has so many startling revelations which only an authentic and objective investigation can confirm or contradict or one does not know if the mystery of Netaji's death will remain a best kept secret.

The writer is a senior fellow of the Indian Council of Social Science Research at the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. Views are personal.



Rup Narayan Das

SHAH WRITES IN HIS BOOK THAT HE WAS "THE ONLY INDIAN HAVING HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO VISIT FORMOSA AFTER THE END OF THE WAR"

IN JEST THIS

Take pride in your own vegetables



Melvin Durai

MY LETTUCE PLANTS LOOK SO MISERABLE, EVEN THE RABBITS HAVE TAKEN PITY ON THEM

In my next life, I want to be farmer. Farming is hard work, with no guarantee of making a good living, but let me tell you something from personal experience: there is something magical about sowing seeds, watching them germinate and eventually harvesting something that looks somewhat like food.

Whether it looks like food or not depends partly on your gardening skills, as well as your ability to keep pests away. But here's something I can assure you: no vegetable will taste better on your plate than a vegetable you grew yourself.

I know this because I get immense pleasure from the small vegetable garden behind my home. This year, I'm trying to grow lettuce, coriander, basil, tomatoes, cucumber, chili peppers, brinjal, zucchini and watermelon.

I use the word 'trying,' because I haven't been successful with a few of these vegetables or herbs. My lettuce plants look so miserable,

even the rabbits have taken pity on them. "Oh, you poor things," they say. "We'll be praying for you at church this Sunday."

My coriander plants are just as pitiful. They're growing so slowly, they must be missing some important nutrients. Should I pour a glass of Horlicks on them? Maybe Boost will do the trick, or perhaps Complan.

Most of my other plants are doing fairly well. The brinjal plant has grown quite big and healthy. And who knows, one of these days it may decide to produce an actual brinjal. Perhaps I need to talk to it. According to a British study, plants respond favourably to low levels of vibrations from our voices. This means that you should always speak nicely to your plants. Even if they've done something naughty, like dropped all their leaves in public, you should never yell at them.

While I sometimes have the urge to scold a few of my plants, the watermelon plant isn't one of them.

This is the first time I've tried to grow watermelon, so I was quite excited when the vine produced its first fruit: a tiny watermelon that is now the size of a golf ball. I'll be watching it closely over the next few weeks, hoping it grows as large as a beach ball. If the plant produces a few more watermelons, I might invite some friends over for a special watermelon party. I'll get them all to sit around my garden and admire my watermelons.

"I grew those myself," I will tell them, as I serve them some store-bought watermelon.

"Aren't we going to eat any of yours?" one of my friends may ask.

"Oh no," I'll say. "They're not for eating. They're just for admiring."

This is exactly how I felt about one of the tomatoes I grew last year. This tomato was huge—twice as large as any other tomato I grew. It was the Giannis Antetokounmpo of tomatoes. Giannis, a 6-foot-11 forward from Greece, is a two-time MVP (Most Valuable Player) in

the National Basketball Association. If all the tomatoes got together and formed their own professional league, mine would undoubtedly be the MVT (Most Valuable Tomato).

I admired my tomato for a couple of weeks—while it was still green on the vine and after it turned red. I took photos of it: portrait shots of the tomato by itself and group shots of the tomato with its fellow tomatoes, while trying unsuccessfully to get them to smile. I debated whether I should create a Facebook page for my tomato. What about Instagram and Twitter? But I decided not to do so, because I did not want other gardeners to start following my tomato. I didn't want them to get too envious.

Other gardeners may not be able to grow a tomato as big as mine, but that doesn't mean they should hang their heads in shame. After all, their lettuce plants probably look much healthier than mine, and their brinjal plants are probably producing actual brinjals.

Taliban takeover

Sir, The Taliban have taken control of Afghanistan, almost 20 years after being ousted by a US-led military coalition. The takeover poses great threat to the world. The Taliban are infamous for denying education to women, carrying out public executions of their opponents and persecuting minorities. US President Joe Biden's rash decision to withdraw all forces from Afghanistan has led to a humanitarian catastrophe. A new Taliban regime will definitely become a humanitarian eyesore. It is reported that the Taliban are executing people, torturing women and shutting down schools, blowing up hospitals and infrastructure. As the Taliban are considered to be terrorists, in all likelihood they will support terrorists. As they have a tradition of engaging in terrorist activities, there is no guarantee that Afghanistan wouldn't once again become a safe haven for al-Qaeda and ISIS. As in the past, they may try to do harm to the US or other countries. In fact, the Taliban in Afghanistan have close ties with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan which has waged a bitter insurgency against Pakistani government. The Taliban government in Afghanistan will definitely strengthen the Pakistani Taliban. Islamic extremism has already divided the Pakistani society. The ascendance of Afghan extremists will only strengthen radicals in Pakistan. It is impossible for Pakistan to support the Taliban and maintain good relations with Washington. China has promised big investments in different projects in Afghanistan. China has formally recognised Taliban. As for India, the Taliban rule in Afghanistan poses threat to its peace and security. If the Taliban support terror activities in India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir with the help of Pakistan, it will adversely affect India's security.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

CJI's plain-speaking

Sir, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana lamenting the decline in debating standards in the Parliament does not paint a pretty picture of our present-day netas. The CJI said that the sorry state of affairs resulted in passing laws with a lot of ambiguity and gaps besides leading to increased litigation. He contrasted the present scenario with the initial years after Independence when debates were nothing short of stellar. The CJI's plain-speaking comes against the backdrop of the Opposition's protests over the Pegasus snooping scandal, the controversial farm laws, price rise and other issues.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Watchman claims Gajapati Collector was present during fire mishap

ACF SOUMYA RANJAN'S DEATH CASE



Paralakhemundi, August 17: In a major development in the death case of Paralakhemundi assistant conservator of forest (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra, a watchman Tuesday revealed that the District Collector of Gajapati had visited the official quarters of the divisional forest officer when the former died

in a fire mishap on that day. The watchman, Santosh Biswal, deployed at the main gate of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)'s quarters, said the district Collector visited the DFO's quarters at around 8 pm on the fateful day. The Crime Branch team interrogated six persons in two phases, Tuesday. The team got some vital leads during the interrogation. The district Collector

had visited the DFO's quarters when the deceased Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra sustained critical burn injuries in a fire mishap

Biswal, whose statement was recorded for about four hours Tuesday by the Crime Branch team, said the Collector was even present when ACF Soumya Ranjan was rescued with critical burn injuries and shifted to a hospital.

After the shocking revelation by the watchman, Crime Branch DSP Gyana Ranjan Mishra said, if needed, the allegations will be probed. The Crime Branch team interrogated the watchman at the main gate of DFO's quarters and a gardener Ajay Kumar Behera in the same quarters for around four hours. "The entire investigation now focuses around the incident which happened on the fateful night. We are questioning everyone associated with the case about the circumstances on that night," Mishra said.

STIR FOR LAND PATTAs



Landless people demanding land pattas staging a sit-in outside the tehsil office in Bhadrak, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Farmers sore over black marketing of fertilizers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, August 17: At a time when Covid-induced restrictions have affected all activities, black-marketing of fertilizers and its short supply have added to the woes of the farming community, especially the tribal populace of Siadimal, in Malkangiri.

Taking advantage of short supply of fertilizers, some unscrupulous traders are exploiting these farmers.

A middleman identified as Bhuban Hyder had allegedly hoarded fertilizers in his house and has been accused of selling it at high price.

Villagers have seized the fertilizers and detained Hyder. However, Hyder said that he has stocked the fertilizer for his farmland.

When contacted, district Agriculture officer M Anand said that the matter will be looked into.

This problem cropped up when the farming season is at its peak in district. It is alleged that some unscrupulous dealers are responsible for the erratic supply of fertilizers with tacit support of the Agriculture officer.



Local famers said that the district administration and the Agriculture department should conduct raids on dealers and traders resorting to black marketing of fertilizers in the district.

Like in previous years, farmers in many parts of the district have been facing difficulties in availing fertilizers amid allegation of black marketing.

At this time, paddy farmers require urea and other fertilizers for agriculture. "Urea is not available with the dealers and the primary agricultural co-operative societies sufficiently. Some dealers are deliberately creating artificial shortages of fertilizers," farmers alleged.

Juanga village far from development

Despite huge amounts being sanctioned for the development of tribal villages, Gudinarada in Keonjhar remains far from development - thanks to apathy of officials

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 17: Though crores of rupees are being pumped into a host of schemes and welfare measure for tribal people, many tribal villages in Keonjhar are far from development. Gudinarada is a Juanga-dominated village tucked away in the hilly terrains of Talapada panchayat under Telkoi block. It is among the villages that has been a victim of government apathy.

This village was once a hotbed of Maoists. However, given the sorry state of the villages and its Juanga residents, it is apparent that development has certainly taken a back seat in this tribal village.

As there is no provision of safe drinking water, the tribals have to feed on water from pits or streams.

"The sarpanch hails from our village, but it is an irony that the village development has been given a short shrift. There is no proper road to the village while people walk miles to get rations and pension from the panchayat office,"



locals said.

The panchayat office is 10 km from the village. Elderly people are unable to trek to such a long distance to get their entitlements.

As the village road is in bad shape, emergency services are not available to the villagers. "Access of ambulance and fire tenders to the village is almost impossible. Those who have visited the village once will never want to revisit it," lamented Birabar Nayak, a social activist.

In 2016, 35 families received housing units under Indira Awas Yojana,

The panchayat office is 10 km from Gudinarada village. Elderly people find it to difficult to trek to such a long distance to get their entitlements under social and food security schemes

but most of these houses are left at different stages of construction. "Many have not received housing benefits. They are compelled to

live in misery, enduring the sun and rain. Contractors have left the work halfway," laments Sabitri Juanga, sarpanch.

"Though we have appraised the panchayat and the block authorities of the problems faced by the villagers in the past, no step has been taken to redress them," she added.

There is special provision of development plans in the villages under Forest Rights Act. Under this Act, 13 types of development and welfare activities can be taken up for the tribals - such as Anganwadi centres, school buildings, road connectivity, drinking water, solar-powered lighting systems and irrigation, the sarpanch said.

The gram sabha, on behalf of panchayat, will decide on project proposals. The BDO is supposed to send the proposals through the range officer to the DFO. On his part, the DFO sends the proposals to the Collector for approval. Then, the Collector decides how the works will be undertaken, explained Ananda Charan Sethi, another social activist.

GANJA TRADE: 3 RAJ MEN HELD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 17: In a major success, Koraput police seized over one quintal of ganja from an SUV near Tikaput Chowk in the district Tuesday. Three persons, identified as Mohammad Azharuddin, Jitendra Singh and Bantesh Kumar, have been arrested in this connection. It was learnt that all of them are natives of Rajasthan.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Jalaput and Lamataput police carried out a raid at the Tikaput Chowk area. During the raid, the cops intercepted an SUV and following a thorough search, they found 108 kilograms of ganja concealed in the vehicle. When the occupants of the vehicle failed to produce any valid documents in support of possessing such huge quantity of cannabis, they were arrested. Four mobile phones were seized and a case under NDPS Act was registered against them.

The consignment was being smuggled from Jalaput area to Rajasthan. The cops have launched an investigation into the case.

AGAINST UNFAIR ARREST



Activists of Socialist Unity Centre of India protesting the unfair arrest of the protestors of Kharasrota Banchao agitation in Kendrapara staging a demonstration outside the Angul Collectorate, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

20 yrs on, sexagenarian waits for a pucca house

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, August 17: 'Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.' This time-tested adage does not seem to hold any sense for a wizened Chatur Majhi. The 60-year-old resident of a village in Kesinga block of Kalahandi district has been waiting for over two decades now to get a pucca house under any 'awas yojana'.

Chatur's family is presently living in a shack with four mud walls and a thatched roof covered by a polythene sheet.

A resident of Guhuriapadar village of Kikia gram panchayat, Chatur's family comprises five members - his wife, three sons and himself.

His first and second sons are married and are staying in another house nearby due to shortage of space. Chatur, his wife and his younger son are living a wretched



life in the shack. Their sufferings multiply in their rainy season.

While the roof leaks during rainy season, rain water seeps through the mud walls and the floor becomes damp. They somehow spend the daytime, but at night they are left with no option but to sleep on the wet ground.

For a pucca house, Chatur has been doing rounds of Kikia panchayat office since last 20 years but has not got joy as yet.

"If only a polythene sheet is

given, my family can at least sleep well," said a wizened Chatur.

There are ten other people in the village whose names are in the SC beneficiary list. Like Chatur, they are also waiting for fortune to smile on them.

According to local residents, Kikia gram panchayat sarpanch is allegedly saying that he will not award pucca houses to any beneficiary of Guhuriapadar village in the next five years because they did not vote for him in the last election.

When contacted, Kikia gram panchayat executive officer (PEO) Subhranshu Mishra said there are many genuine beneficiaries in Guhuriapadar village. "As many as 220 beneficiaries had applied for pucca houses in February 2020. But, we are yet to start the survey as we have not received any direction from the government in this regard," he added.

Drug trade increasing in Bargarh district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, August 17: Absence of proper supervision by the police and Excise department in dealing with drugs and contraband items is evident in Atabira, Bhetada, Rusuda, and Godabhaga localities in Bargarh district. The lure of quick money is attracting youths into this illegal trade giving rise to law and order problems in the district.

On both sides of State Highway-54 and National Highway-53 a number of illegal eateries (dhabas) have sprung up. They have turned into safe haven for selling foreign and local liquor as well as drugs. Most of these dhabas have employed underage kids who work and also supply drugs and liquor to interested customers.

Locals have blamed the police and Excise department for the flourishing drug trade in the region. They alleged that instead of ar-



resting the kingpins of drug trade, only small fries are being targeted. This has helped the contraband business to grow over time. They also alleged that officials regularly visit the eateries to collect their share of 'payments'. In case they do not get the payment on time, the conduct raids on the dhabas. Protesting against such nefarious activities, local residents have written to the SPs of Baragarh and Sambalpur towns. When asked to comment on the issue, police said that an investigation has been launched and the culprits will be punished soon.

Freedom Fighters' Museum cries for attention

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 17: Freedom fighters were remembered on the occasion of 75th Independence Day celebrations across the nation, Sunday. However, freedom fighters are yet to get due regard in western Odisha.

For instance, the western Odisha Freedom Fighters' Memorial Hall and Museum at Gourisankar Sahani Park in the city is in a dilapidated state due to lack of maintenance.

With an objective to glorify the role of western Odisha in the freedom struggle and to make the present generation aware about the freedom fighters from this region, the memorial and museum was set up and a park was developed to contribute to the beauty of the building, spending a whopping ₹3.5 crore.

When it was announced that the memorial and museum was coming up, people welcomed it, hoping it will go a long way in informing



the youths about the freedom fighters of western Odisha of the like of Veer Surendra Sai, Nrusingha Guru, Bhagirathi Pattanaik and Chandra Sekhar Behera and their sacrifices. Many of them went to jail and kissed the gallows.

Spread over 1.28 acres, the memorial hall and museum was in-

augurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik February 27, 2016.

There is a 20 feet high pillar in front of the two-storied building in memory of the martyrs. As per plan, portraits of freedom fighters with brief history about them were supposed to be installed in the museum. Besides this, it was sup-

The memorial hall and museum spread over 1.28 acres was inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Feb 27, 2016. For last five years, the museum remains locked for visitors

posed to have the articles they used so that the visitors, particularly those belonging to the present generation, are aware of the freedom fighters from the region.

Five years have passed since the inauguration of the museum, but it continues to remain locked, triggering resentment among local people.

The building has nothing but a sign board to inform people that it is memorial hall and museum. There is nothing inside the mu-

seum - not even a single portrait of a freedom fighter.

Since the building is lying unused and neglected for long, anti-social elements are using it as their favourite haunting ground. With no one there to guard the building, electrical equipment and other articles are also missing, resulting in the building losing its beauty. While the outer walls of the building have a thick layer of dust, liquor bottles, used plastic glasses, empty guthka sachets and piles of garbage are piled on the premises. The memorial pillar is also covered with grass and bush.

It is learnt that the administration is just wriggling out of its responsibilities attributing the present condition of the building to shortage of staff. Residents of the town residents condemned the way the administration is trying to shuffle off its responsibilities. They have urged the administration to take steps for early opening of the memorial hall and museum and maintain it properly.

UP Law Commission submits draft population control Bill

BJP-RULED UTTAR PRADESH'S MOVE FOR A POPULATION CONTROL LAW HAS REIGNITED THE DEBATE ON THE ISSUE IN THE COUNTRY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 17: The Uttar Pradesh State Law Commission has submitted to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath the draft population control bill and made a slew of recommendations, including additional incentives to public servants for adopting the one-child norm and banning those who violate the two-child policy from contesting local bodies' polls.

The recommendations were made in the 19th report on Population Control, Stabilisation and Welfare which, along with the draft of The Uttar Pradesh Population Control, Stabilisation and Welfare Bill, 2021, was handed over by Uttar Pradesh Law Commission chairperson Justice (ret'd) AN Mittal to the chief minister. However, it is still unclear whether the Bill will be tabled in the current Monsoon session of the state legislature.

When contacted by PTI, UP Legislative and Justice minister

IN A NUTSHELL

A specific card should be issued to the person adopting two-child or one-child norm that should be valid proof to obtain the incentives

The proposed legislation should have an overriding effect on other laws that are in force in the state

Bar on contesting election to local bodies on who-so-ever breaches the two-child norm or has children in excess of the two-child norm

Brijesh Pathak refused to comment on this issue.

According to the salient features of the report, the Commission recommended that a specific card should be issued to the person adopting two-child or one-child norm that should be valid proof to obtain the incentives so that the beneficiary is not required to run from pillar to post to prove eligibility

Specific law should be enacted regarding control and stabilisation of population in Uttar Pradesh, the report said, adding that the proposed legislation should have an overriding effect on other laws that are in force in the state.

It is also proposed that the subject of population control be included in the school curriculum so that proper education, as well as guidance, may be provided at the school age.

The success of any policy depends upon incentives and disincentives. Therefore, to control the population certain incentives to public servants who adopt the two-child norm and additional incentives to those who adopt the one-child policy should be provided, according to the report.

Special benefits should be provided to married couples having only one child in the shape of a one-time lump sum amount as may be notified by the state government, it said.

There should also be a provision for revocation of benefits and disincentives for those who do not follow the two-child norm.

There should be a provision for bar on contesting election to local bodies on who-so-ever breaches the two-child norm or has children in excess of the two-child norm and they shall be ineligible for being chosen as, or for being a member of any elective office under any local authority or public corporation, according to the report.

In the proposed law, various incentives and disincentives and bars are being provided, which may be in contravention of some laws in force in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, in the opinion of the Commission, the provisions of this proposed law should have an overriding effect, the report said.

HUES OF ONAM



Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan looks at the Onam Pookalam made by the State Secretariat employees inside the Secretariat premises for the upcoming Onam festival, in Thiruvananthapuram

41 KERALITES STRANDED IN KABUL

STATE GOVT SEEKS CENTRE'S INTERVENTION FOR THEIR SAFE EVACUATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, August 17: The Kerala government Tuesday said at least 41 Malayalis including women and children have been stranded in Taliban-controlled Kabul and requested the Centre to make necessary arrangements for their safe evacuation to the home country.

In the wake of panic calls from the stranded people received at the Department of NORKA, the state-run welfare agency of non-resident Keralites, the government sent letters to the External Affairs Ministry seeking immediate steps for their repatriation.

As directed by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, K Elangovan,



Principal Secretary to the state government and Harikrishnan Nambuthiri K, the CEO of the NORKA, sent separate letters to the Ministry detailing the plight of

the stranded Keralites there. An estimated 41 Malayalis including women and children working in various companies have requested the government to arrange

for their safe evacuation immediately to India, Elangovan said in the letter. Some of the messages received by the state government even stated that the Taliban were verifying the identity of the stranded Indians and taking away their passports and other important documents, he said. The letter also said that a huge threat is hanging on the life of the Malayalis.

Earlier, Nambuthiri contacted some of the stranded Malayalis in Kabul and said steps were on to trace whether more Keralites were trapped in the Afghanistan capital. The NORKA has already passed the information they received to the External Affairs Ministry, government sources added.

With 23 lakh jabs a day, UP keeps adding records

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, August 17: Uttar Pradesh administered 23 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine to people across the state in a single day, creating a record of sorts, officials said Tuesday.

After 29.52 lakh doses August 3, this is the second highest number of vaccinations undertaken in the state in a single day Monday, officials said. With this, Uttar Pradesh became the first state to have more than five crore people who have taken at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

As per CoWin portal update till 11 pm Monday, as many as 23,01,031 doses of the vaccine were administered in the state on the day taking the total number of doses to 5.97 crore. In Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh's nearest contender, 5.01 crore doses have been administered so far.

Officials at the state health department claimed that nearly 35 per cent of the total eligible population of 14 crore has now taken at least one dose.

Among districts, Lucknow (23.12 lakh) tops the list of total doses administered while Chitrakoot (2.95 lakh) ranks lowest.



Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Meerut and Gorakhpur are districts where more than 15 lakh doses have been given.

Uttar Pradesh also recorded its lowest ever case of Covid-19 in the past 16 months.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said only 17 persons have tested positive in the past 24 hours while 36 persons recovered from the infection in the same duration.

The official bulletin indicated that the 17 cases were reported from 13 districts while 45 districts saw no new entry.

The daily Covid test positivity rate (TPR) - the number of positive cases against the total tests done - came down to 0.01 percent, the lowest in the country.

Now, plans to rename Aligarh, Mainpuri

Zila panchayat members of Aligarh claimed that it was a long pending demand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aligarh, August 17: After Firozabad, it is now the zila panchayat of Aligarh that has passed a resolution seeking to rename Aligarh as Harigarh.

The resolution was passed Monday and the members claimed that it was a long pending demand.

The proposal was passed in the first meeting of the panchayat without any opposition with 50 out of 72 members in attendance.

Vijay Singh, zila panchayat chairman for Aligarh, said, "It was a long pending demand to rename Aligarh as Harigarh."

The zila panchayat approved the proposal unopposed. It would now be forwarded to the state government for approval.

Earlier, the local BJP leaders had passed a proposal to name the Aligarh airport after BJP leader Kalyan Singh.

Kalyan Singh is a resident of Aligarh and was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh during the Ram Janambhoomi movement.

In Mainpuri Monday, the zila panchayat passed a resolution, seeking to rename Mainpuri as Mayan Nagar after sage Mayan who founded



the present day Mainpuri.

One of the zila panchayat members had moved the proposal for renaming Mainpuri as Mayan Nagar and the proposal was passed Monday with 23 members supporting the motion and two opposing it, said Archana Bhadoria, zila panchayat chairperson of Mainpuri.

Mainpuri is the stronghold of Samajwadi Party (SP) patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, who won five elections from the constituency.

Earlier this month, the Firozabad district panchayat had passed a resolution demanding that Firozabad be renamed as

Chandra Nagar. Locals believed that King Chandrasen lived in Firozabad and because of this it was earlier known as Chandranagar till about 1560 AD.

Later, a representative of Emperor Akbar, Firoz Shah, visited the area and the place was named after him as Firozabad. The demand to rename Firozabad as Chandra Nagar has been raised time and again, said a local BJP leader.

The Yogi Adityanath government has already changed the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj, Faizabad to Aayodhya and Mughalsarai to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

BJP slams Covid-19 mgmt, law & order situation in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kozhikode, August 17: BJP National President JP Nadda Tuesday flayed the Covid management and the law and order situation in Kerala and blamed the Left government's political attitude for the crimes against women, alleged operation of terror cells and increasing coronavirus cases in the state.

Nadda began his speech at the event by stating that despite all the support given to the southern state by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kerala was not functioning as it was supposed to.

TPR rises above 15%

Even as festivities for the hugely popular Onam were set to begin, the Covid test positivity rate in Kerala stayed high, reaching 15.48 per cent Tuesday. A statement issued here by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said 21,613 people turned Covid positive after 1,39,623 samples were tested in the past 24 hours. The three-day Onam festivities begin Friday and the state government has banned all public activities and has asked people to maintain absolute caution.

He said there was no Covid management, but only mismanagement in the state, which on an average has been seeing about 20,000 fresh cases every day and was accounting for more than half of the country's caseload of new infections each day. He said that the burden of Covid mismanagement in the state has become a burden of the country and asked where the Kerala plan of Covid management has gone.

Comparing the percentage of people infected in the state till date with that of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Nadda said the northern states fared very well in their Covid management.

One of the reasons for the high number of Covid cases in Kerala was that the state initially went for Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) and it was much later that it opted for



The burden of Covid mismanagement in the state has become a burden of the country. Where has the Kerala plan of Covid management gone? JP NADDA | NATIONAL PREZ, BJP

RTPCR tests, he said.

On the law and order situation in Kerala, the BJP president said it has gone haywire in view of the number of rape cases, targeting of women and children, presence of terror modules and the alleged involvement of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in the gold smuggling through diplomatic channels case.

He also alleged the CMO has not been able to come out of the shade of the gold smuggling case.

Nadda further claimed that Kerala was now being identified by terrorist modules operating in various shapes, gold smuggling and as an ISIS recruitment centre.

Apart from these, the other problems in the state were - Kerala's development being hampered and coming to a standstill by the political culture prevailing here for the last 30-40 years and the huge economic debt of around ₹3.5 lakh crore that the state was under, Nadda alleged.

Claiming that various central government schemes were also not being utilised by Kerala, Nadda expressed hope that the ₹267.35 crore allocated to the state for strengthening its healthcare infrastructure and preparing for any third wave of Covid-19 would be properly utilised.

Praying, waiting for God: Mother of jailed IS recruit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, August 17: Bindhu, the mother of Nimisha, who along with her kid, is in a jail in Kabul for being an Islamic State supporter, said she is deep in prayers and waiting for God to act.

Speaking to IANS, Bindhu noted that it has been 24 hours since the situation in Afghanistan has rapidly changed with the Taliban taking over Kabul.

All what I can do is to pray for my daughter and her kid and I am very confident that for God to act, it takes only a second... I am waiting for that miracle to happen.

As and when God acts, my last hope for the first step is to be made by my Indian government. Now what I am doing is am writing emails to all in the Centre to help me. I know that the role of the



All what I can do is to pray for my daughter and her kid and I am very confident that for God to act, it takes only a second... I am waiting for that miracle to happen

BINDHU | NIMISHA'S MOTHER

Kerala government is limited, so I am knocking on all doors of whose ever matters in the Centre, she said.

In June, Bindhu, who lives in the state capital, was dismayed at reports that the Indian government is unlikely to bring back four women, including Nimisha, jailed in Kabul for links to the IS.

MAROONED IN AFGHANISTAN



The other three women are Soniya, Merin, and Raheela, all Keralites.

The news of a number of Keralites joining the IS surfaced after the Kerala government contacted various central agencies, including the IB, the NIA, and the

RAW, in 2016 about the veracity of reports about 19 missing people from the state have gone to Afghanistan, where they, according to some of the relatives, were believed to have joined the IS.

These 19 comprised 10 men, six women and three children and of

these, most hail from Kasargode and a few from Palakkad. They also include Christian and Hindu converts to Islam.

In the past three years, some of them who had joined IS were reportedly killed, according to their relatives, and these included the husbands of these four women.

The state government had acted after Bindhu, who is settled near Manacadu in the state capital, approached Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in 2016 and sought his help to locate her daughter who had gone missing.

It later came to be known that Nimisha had got married to her friend Eeza, a Christian who had converted to Islam. Further to this, the news came that she had left for Afghanistan and the last contact the mother and daughter had was in November 2019.

national

of the day quote

Rahul Gandhi's political tourism is also happening here in Kerala. He lost in amethi, so he ran to Wayanad
J P NADDA | BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

No temple priest removed from service to appoint new person
MK STALIN | TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

I don't think I have compromised my ideology in joining the TMC. My joining the TMC is unconditional and I will take any responsibility given to me by Mamata Banerjee
SUSHMITA DEV | FORMER CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

BJP worker shot dead by militants

Srinagar: Militants Tuesday shot dead a BJP worker in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The assailants fired upon Javed Ahmad Dar near his residence at Brazloo Jageer area of the south Kashmir district at around 4.30 pm, they said. Dar, who was the BJP's constituency president of Himeshalbough assembly constituency, died on the spot, they said.

HP landslide: Death toll climbs to 28

Shimla: With the recovery of three more bodies Tuesday, the death toll in the landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district climbed to 28, a senior official said. State Disaster Management Director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta said according to the information provided by the Bhawanagar DSP, three bodies have been found in Chaura village on National Highway 5 in Nichar tehsil. He said search and rescue operations, which were suspended Monday night, resumed this morning.

Fresh 25,166 Covid-19 cases

New Delhi: India saw a single-day rise of 25,166 new Covid-19 cases, the lowest in 154 days, taking the tally to 3,22,50,679, while the national recovery rate was recorded at 97.51 per cent, the highest since March 2020, according to the Union health ministry data updated Tuesday.

45 villagers hospitalised

Yavatmal: At least 45 people have been hospitalised after allegedly suffering from food poisoning in a village in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district, an official said Tuesday. Residents of Anjinaik village in Arni tehsil consumed food at a funeral Monday, following which they complained of stomach ache, diarrhoea and vomiting, he said. The affected villagers were taken to Bhambara primary health centre, from where a few of them were shifted to a rural government hospital after their condition deteriorated, while a woman and a child were shifted to Yavatmal government hospital, the official said, adding that more details are awaited.

Woman kills self

Mahoba (UP): The 30-year-old woman, who was allegedly set on fire by parents of a man booked by her in a molestation case lodged by the victim, died during treatment in a hospital Tuesday. The police said that the woman has been admitted to the Jhansi medical college in a critical condition. The mother of the accused has been taken into custody and the matter is being probed.



The development in Afghanistan is disturbing. Our priority is to bring back all Indians from Afghanistan. We are concerned about every Indian
PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER

CURFEW CLAMPED IN TEA GARDEN

An indefinite curfew has been clamped in Serispora Tea Garden and its nearby areas in Hailakandi district of Assam following a clash between two groups over an accident, an official said Tuesday



AFGHANISTAN CRISIS

India brings back its envoy, officials

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 17: India Tuesday rushed back home its ambassador and staff from the embassy in Kabul in a military transport aircraft in the wake of escalating tension, fear and uncertainty gripping the Afghan capital after its take over by the Taliban two days back.

The C-17 Globemaster aircraft of the Indian Air Force carrying around 150 people, including diplomats, officials, security personnel and some stranded Indians, landed at the Hindon airbase near the national capital at around 5 PM after a brief halt at Jamnagar in Gujarat.

It is the second evacuation flight as another C-17 aircraft brought back around 40 people from the Hamid Karzai International (HKI) Airport in Kabul Monday as part of India's emergency evacuation mission that was carried out following coordination with relevant authorities including US officials handling security at the airport in the Afghan capital.

Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Rudrendra Tandon told media persons in Jamnagar that the situation in Kabul is complex and "quite fluid" now, and the remaining Indians stuck in the city will be brought back home when the commercial flight services resume.

"Happy to be back home safely and securely. We are a very large mission. We are a mission of 192 personnel who were evacuated from Afghanistan literally within a period of three days in a very



e-Emergency visa

India will issue an emergency visa to Afghans under a new category "e-Emergency X-Misc Visa" and all Afghan nationals can apply for it, sources said Tuesday. These visas will be valid for six months only and will be granted only after security clearance, the sources said.

orderly fashion in two phases," he said. Tandon, who assumed charge as Indian ambassador in Afghanistan in August last year, said the embassy provided assistance and even shelter to many distressed Indians following the fast-changing situation in Kabul.

"We are continuously monitoring the situation because there are still some Indian citizens who are there. That is why Air India will continue to run its commercial services to Kabul as long as the airport in Kabul functions," Tandon said. Tandon said India will remain in contact with the Afghan people and will continue to work for their welfare. "It's not that we

have abandoned the people of Afghanistan, their welfare and our relationship with them is very much on our minds. We will try and continue our interaction with them. I can't say in what form as the situation is changing," he said in a statement.

Tandon also thanked the Indian Air Force for the evacuation flights. "Your welcome has an impact on all of us. Thank you to the Indian Air Force who flew us out under conditions that are not normal," he said. Asked about the stranded Indians, he said the embassy extended help to many of them.

The people who have returned on board the aircraft included two Delhi-based journalists who had gone to Afghanistan to cover the unfolding developments after the Taliban began capturing key provincial capitals.

In the morning, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said it was decided that the ambassador and his Indian staff will move to India immediately considering the circumstances in Kabul.

J&K POLICE LATHICHARGE JOURNALISTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 17: Police Tuesday lathicharged and thrashed a group of journalists covering a Muharram procession here, evoking criticism from various quarters.

Police also detained a few Shia mourners at Jehangir Chowk in the city as they tried to take out a procession to mark the eighth day of the 10-day Muharram mourning period. The traditional Muharram procession used to pass through the areas of Abi Guzar, Lal Chowk and Dalgate areas, but has been banned since the eruption of militancy in 1990 as authorities maintain that the religious gathering has been used for propagating separatist politics.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said police respects the religious sentiments of the public, but at the same time, it is their joint responsibility to defeat the ill designs of vested interests who try to disturb the peaceful atmosphere. As the media personnel, mostly photo and video journalists, were discharging their professional duties, police swung into action and lathicharged them, the scribes said. They said the policemen, armed with batons, also thrashed some of the journalists and caused damage to their equipment. The pictures and the videos of the incident were uploaded on various social media forums as the journalists protested the police action.



Nearly two million terrorist watchlist records leaked online

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 17: A cyber security researcher has discovered nearly two million terrorist watchlist records, including "no-fly" list indicators, which were left exposed online last month.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) did not remove them until three weeks later. Cyber security researcher Bob Diachenko came across a plethora of records that were exposed online.

"On July 19, I discovered a terrorist watchlist containing 1.9 million records online without a password or any other authentication required to access it," Diachenko said in a LinkedIn post Monday.

"The TSC maintains the country's no-fly list, which is a subset of the larger watchlist. A typical record in the list contains full name, citizenship, gender, date of birth, passport number, no-fly indicator, and more," he wrote. The cyber se-

curity researcher reported the matter to the Department of Homeland Security, which acknowledged the incident. "The DHS did not provide any further official comment, though," he said.

The files were indexed by multiple search engines in an easily readable format. The exposed server was taken down about three weeks later, on August 9. The list was left accessible on an Elasticsearch cluster that had no password on it.

"If it falls in wrong hands, this list could be used to oppress, harass or persecute people mentioned on the list and their families. It could cause any number of personal and professional problems for innocent people whose names are included in the list," Diachenko said in a statement.

There have been several reports of US authorities recruiting informants in exchange for keeping their names off the no-fly list. Some past or present informants' identities could have been leaked.

SEEKING SHELTER



People of a flood-hit village use a boat to shift to safe places in Patna

PTI PHOTO

GLOBAL WARMING

77% Indians recognise earth close to tipping points: Survey

ACROSS THE WORLD'S LARGEST ECONOMIES, 73% OF PEOPLE BELIEVE THE EARTH IS APPROACHING POTENTIALLY ABRUPT OR IRREVERSIBLE TIPPING POINTS BECAUSE OF HUMAN ACTION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 17: Seventy-seven per cent of the Indians recognise the earth is close to tipping points in terms of global warming and they are worried about the state of nature today, a survey of the G20 nations said Tuesday.

Following an alarming IPCC climate report that outlines an alarming future, IPSOS Mori and the Global Commons Alliance released a set of new and extremely detailed research on public attitudes towards tipping points, planetary stewardship and necessary economic and societal transformations.

The results provide some of the most granular insights to date on these critical issues from the G20 countries.

Across the world's largest economies, 73 per cent of people believe the earth is approaching potentially abrupt or irreversible tipping points because of human action. The survey also found that the majority of people (58 per cent) living in G20 countries are very concerned or extremely concerned about the state of the global commons, and 83 per cent of people are willing to do more to become better "planetary stewards" and protect and regenerate the global commons.

People in developing economies showed greater willingness to do more to protect nature and climate than those in advanced economies: Indonesia (96 per cent), South Africa (94 per cent), China (93 per cent), Mexico (93 per cent), Brazil (91 per



cent), compared with Japan (61 per cent), Germany (70 per cent), and the US (74 per cent).

"The world is not sleepwalking towards catastrophe. People know

we are taking colossal risks, they want to do more and they want their governments to do more," said Owen Gaffney, the lead author of the report 'The Global

Commons Survey: Attitudes to planetary stewardship and transformation among G20 countries', and director of communications for the Global Commons Alliance.

The survey highlighted significant discontent with the dominant economic systems across G20 countries. Among G20 countries, 74 per cent of people support the idea that their country moves beyond a singular focus on profit and economic growth and focus more on human wellbeing and ecological protection and regeneration.

This view is consistently high among all G20 countries. It is particularly high in Indonesia (86 per cent), Turkey (85 per cent) and Russia (84 per cent), but even the lowest scoring countries score highly: the US (68 per cent), the UK (68 per

cent) and Canada (69 per cent).

The survey revealed that people are less aware of the scientific consensus that sweeping systemic transformations needed in the next decade to protect the global commons and meet climate targets set out in the UN's Paris Agreement.

While 59 per cent of people in G20 countries know scientists acknowledge a very rapid energy transition is needed in the next decade, just right per cent of people think this is about a need for broader economic changes in the next decade, including dietary change, price of goods and services to include environmental costs and moving to circular economies.

However, 28 per cent of people are aware that scientists think significant change is needed.

international



As we carry out this departure, we have made it clear to the Taliban, if they attack our personnel or disrupt our operation, the US presence will be swift, and the response will be swift and forceful
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH'S STATUE VANDALISED IN PAK

A nine-foot tall cold bronze statue of the first Sikh ruler Maharaja Ranjit Singh was Tuesday vandalised by an activist of the banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) at the Lahore Fort in Pakistan's Punjab province



of the day quote

Whenever we are in critical problems, it is India which comes forward to help us. Bangladesh and India have been working together in partnership since the outbreak of the pandemic
AK ABDUL MOMEN | FOREIGN MINISTER, BANGLADESH

Iran has no credible need to produce uranium metal, which has direct relevance to nuclear weapons development. Such escalations will not provide Iran negotiating leverage in any renewed talks
NED PRICE | STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, US

Afghanistan must never again become a haven for terrorists. This is the bottom line that must be held firmly for any future political solution in Afghanistan
GENG SHUANG | CHINA'S DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, UN

SHORT TAKES

Wildfires spread in Southern France

Marseille: Thousands of people, including tourists in campsites, have been evacuated as a wildfire raged near the plush resort of Saint-Tropez in southern France, the fire service said Tuesday. Around 750 firefighters and water-dropping aircraft were battling the blaze in difficult conditions, with high temperatures and strong winds. "Thousands of people have been evacuated as a precautionary measure, but there are no victims," a fire service spokesman said, adding that the blaze was "still very fierce".

China holds assault drills near Taiwan

Beijing: China carried out assault drills near Taiwan Tuesday, with warships and fighter jets exercising off the southwest and southeast of the island in what the country's armed forces said was a response to "external interference" and "provocations". In a brief statement, the PLA's Eastern Theatre Command said warships, anti-submarine aircraft and fighter jets had been dispatched close to Taiwan to carry out "joint fire assault and other drills using actual troops".

Malaysia's king in search for new PM

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's king is set Tuesday to meet the heads of political parties as he swiftly began the task of finding a new prime minister amid a worsening coronavirus pandemic. The resignation Monday of Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin after less than 18 months in office followed mounting public anger over what was widely perceived as his government's poor handling of the pandemic. The monarch has ruled out a general election as many parts of the country are Covid-19 red zones and health facilities are inadequate.

Thai protesters clash with police

Bangkok: Police in Thailand used water cannon to break up a demonstration at the national police headquarters Tuesday, a day after clashes during which a young protester was left in a coma with a bullet lodged in his head. Protesters gathered in central Bangkok for a third successive day to demand Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha resign amid rising anger over his handling of the country's Covid-19 epidemic, which saw a record 239 deaths Tuesday.

Taliban promise rights to women under Islamic law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kabul, August 17: The Afghan Taliban said Tuesday they wanted peaceful relations with other countries and would respect the rights of women within the framework of Islamic law, as they held their first official news briefing since their shock seizure of Kabul.

The Taliban announcements, short on details but suggesting a softer line than during their rule 20 years ago, came as the United States and Western allies evacuated diplomats and civilians the day after scenes of chaos at Kabul airport as Afghans thronged the airfield.

As they rush to evacuate, foreign powers are assessing how to respond to the changed situation on the ground after Afghan forces melted away in just days, with what many had predicted as the likely fast unravelling of women's rights.

During their 1996-2001 rule, also guided by Islamic law, or sharia, the Taliban stopped women from working and administered punishments including public stoning. Girls were not allowed to go to school and women had to wear all-



TALIBAN SAY
NO RETRIBUTION AGAINST SOLDIERS, CONTRACTORS
WOMEN'S RIGHTS WILL BE RESPECTED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ISLAM
BURQA IS NOT MANDATORY, HIJAB IS

enveloping burqas to go out. Mujahid said the Taliban

Afghan ex-Vice President vows new fight

Panjshir: Afghanistan's defiant vice president made one thing clear as the Taliban seized control of the capital following the collapse of his government - he will not surrender. It appears he has retreated to the country's last remaining holdout: the Panjshir Valley northeast of Kabul. "I won't dis-appoint millions who listened to me. I will never be under one ceiling with Taliban. NEVER," he wrote in English on Twitter Sunday, before going underground. A day later, pictures began to surface on social media of the former vice president with the son of his former mentor and famed anti-Taliban fighter Ahmed Shah Massoud in Panjshir -- a mountainous redoubt tucked into the Hindu Kush. Saleh and Massoud's son, who commands a militia force, appear to be putting together the first pieces of a guerilla movement to take on the victorious Taliban, as fighters regroup in Panjshir.



would not seek retribution against former soldiers and members of the Western-backed government, adding the movement was granting an amnesty for former Afghan government soldiers as well as contractors and translators who worked for international forces.

"Nobody is going to harm you, nobody is going to knock on your doors," he said, adding that there was a "huge difference" between the Taliban now and 20 years ago.

He said private media could continue to be free and independent in Afghanistan and that the Taliban were committed to the media within their cultural framework.

He also said families trying to flee the country at the airport should return home and nothing would happen to them.

Over single Delta case NZ thrown into lockdown

AGENCIES

Wellington, August 17: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern put New Zealand under strict lockdown Tuesday after the country's first coronavirus case in six months was reported in the largest city of Auckland.

Ardern's "go hard, go early" strategy has helped curb Covid-19 but her announcement left people struggling to stack up essentials, businesses shutting abruptly and schools and offices making last-minute changes to go online.

All New Zealand will be in the toughest, level-four lockdown for at least three days from Wednesday. Auckland and Coromandel, a coastal town where the infected person also spent time, will be in lockdown for seven days.

"The best thing we can do to get out of this as quickly as we can is to go hard," Ardern told a news conference.

"We have made the decision on the basis that it is better to start high and go down levels rather than to go low, not contain the virus and see it move quickly."

Schools, offices and businesses will close and only essential services will be operational.



Shoppers crowded supermarkets as news of the new case and the imminent lockdown spread.

Ardern said authorities were assuming the patient, a 58-year-old man from Auckland who was not identified, had contracted the highly contagious Delta variant of Covid-19 although genome sequencing was yet to be completed.

There may also be other cases, she said. The Auckland Regional Public Health unit is interviewing the patient for contact-tracing purposes and Covid-19 vaccinations are to be suspended for at least 48 hours.

Bob Dylan sued for sexually abusing minor in 1965

ACCORDING TO THE LAWSUIT, THE NOBEL LAUREATE SINGER GROOMED THE YOUNG GIRL FOR WEEKS WHILE FEEDING HER DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

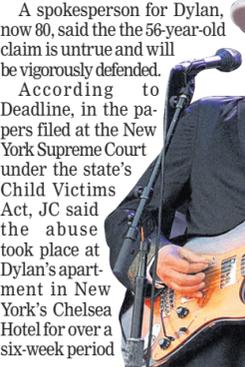
Los Angeles, August 17: Legendary singer-songwriter Bob

Dylan has been sued by a woman who claims he sexually abused her in 1965 when she was 12, an allegation the Nobel Prize winner has called untrue.

The lawsuit filed last week on behalf of JC (initials of the unnamed lady), now a 68-year-old woman living in Greenwich, Connecticut, alleges that Dylan, then 23 or 24-year-old, exploited his status as a musician to provide (the plaintiff) with alcohol and drugs and sexually abused her multiple times. The survivor, claimed that the traumatic incident left her "scarred and psychologically damaged to this day."

A spokesperson for Dylan, now 80, said the the 56-year-old claim is untrue and will be vigorously defended.

According to Deadline, in the papers filed at the New York Supreme Court under the state's Child Victims Act, JC said the abuse took place at Dylan's apartment in New York's Chelsea Hotel for over a six-week period



NATURE'S FURY

Quake-struck Haiti lashed by storm

HAITIAN AUTHORITIES SAID MONDAY THAT 1,419 DEATHS HAD BEEN CONFIRMED, WITH SOME 6,900 PEOPLE INJURED

AGENCIES

Les Cayes, August 17: Heavy rains lashed Haiti Tuesday night, complicating rescue efforts and drenching thousands left homeless by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 1,419 people, as hopes dimmed for survivors.

Tropical Depression Grace churned over the regions of southwest Haiti worst-hit by Saturday's quake of magnitude 7.2, whipping devastated towns with high winds and torrential rains, causing flooding in at least one area.

Several major hospitals were severely damaged, hampering humanitarian efforts, as were the focal points of many shattered communities, such as churches and schools.

As hopes began to dim of finding significant numbers of survivors among the wreckage, the storm impeded rescuers in the seaside city of Les Cayes, about 150 km (90 miles) west of the capital Port-au-Prince, which bore the brunt of the quake.



The storm is expected to dump up to 15 inches (38 cm) of water on parts of Haiti, creating a risk of flash floods, according to the US National Hurricane Centre.

Rescue workers from across Haiti were digging alongside residents through the rubble Monday evening in a bid to reach bodies, though few voiced hope of finding anyone alive. A smell of dust and decomposing bodies permeated the air.

"We came from all over to help: from the north, from Port-au-Prince, from everywhere," said Maria Fleurant, a firefighter from northern Haiti. With about 37,312 houses destroyed by the quake, according to Haitian authorities, and many of those still unexcavated, the death toll is expected to rise.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who was sworn in less than a month ago after Moise's assassination, vowed to disburse humanitarian aid better than in the wake of the 2010 quake.



Iraqi Shi'ite Muslims perform the torch procession ahead of Ashura, the holiest day on the Shi'ite Muslim calendar in the holy city of Najaf, Iraq

Sudoku creator departs at 69

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, August 17: Maki Kaji, the creator of the popular numbers puzzle Sudoku whose life's work was spreading the joy of puzzles, has died, his Japanese company said Tuesday. He was 69 and had bile duct cancer.

Known as the "Godfather of Sudoku," Kaji created the puzzle to be easy for children and others who didn't want to think too hard. Its name is made up of the Japanese characters for "number" and "single," and players place the numbers 1 through 9 in rows, columns and blocks without repeating them.

Ironically, it wasn't until 2004 when Sudoku became a global hit, after a fan from New Zealand pitched it and got it published in the British newspaper The Times. Two years later, Japan rediscovered its own puzzle as a "gyakuyunyu," or "reimpost."

Kaji was chief executive at his puzzle company, Nikoli Co, until July and died August 10 at his home in Mitaka, a city in the Tokyo metro area.

Maki traveled to more than 30 countries spreading his enjoyment of puzzles. Sudoku championships have drawn some 200 million people in 100 countries over the years, according to Tokyo-based Nikoli.

"Kaji-san came up with the name Sudoku and was loved by puzzle fans from all over the world. We are grateful from the bottom of our hearts for the patronage you have shown throughout his life," the company said in a statement.

Originally, Sudoku was called "Suji-wa-Dokushin-ni-Kagiru," which translates to, "Numbers should be single, a bachelor." In recent years, Sudoku, believed to be the world's most popular pencil puzzle, has come out in digital versions.



business

of the day quote

We must set a target of spreading awareness about IPR (intellectual property rights) among a million students in the next 52 weeks. And, then we can consider including it in the curriculum

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

The Samsung DOST programme is aligned to the Government of India's Skill India initiative and is an embodiment of our vision of #PoweringDigitalIndia that seeks to empower the next generation of young India

KEN KANG | SAMSUNG SWA PRESIDENT & CEO

I believe for a country of 1.3 billion people, 100, 200, or 300 odd incubators won't do. We will be scaling up the network of incubators and accelerators to phenomenally multiple levels...10X to 40X is the kind of numbers we are going to look forward to in the next three years

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS & IT

SHORT TAKES

CBol-Sambalpur's outreach meet

Bhubaneswar: The Central Bank of India (CBoI), Sambalpur region organised a customer outreach meet to extend loan facilities to customers. DN Rajendra Kumar (Field General Manager of Kolkata Zone) and Sukesh Kumar Jha (Regional Manager, Sambalpur Region) were present at the meet and they interacted with customers of 35 branches, spread across western Odisha. Rajendra Kumar sanctioned 224 loan letters to the customers. The sanctioned loan is amounting to ₹35.45 crore. During this interaction Kumar created awareness on cyber crimes. He said that his purpose to visit Sambalpur was to create awareness about cyber crimes. A review meeting was also conducted in the afternoon with branch managers.

OnePlus opens first store in City

Bhubaneswar: OnePlus, a global technology brand, opened its first OnePlus experience store at Esplanade Mall here. With the launch, the brand aims to bring its premium offline experience to customers in the region and to meet the demands of its rapidly growing user community in the eastern region. The new store is spread over 1000 sq. ft. Senior Spokesperson, OnePlus India, said, "Eastern India is an important market for OnePlus and our users here have been longing for a premium retail experience. We look forward to serve the needs of our community." OnePlus is currently present in over 10,000 offline stores including partnered stores across India. In 2020, OnePlus announced an investment of ₹100 crore towards offline expansion in India for this year.

Sony introduces new X-Series

New Delhi: Sony India announced its new range of wireless portable speakers — SRS-XP700, SRS-XP500 and SRS-XG500, powered with mega bass and live sound. The new X-Series range of speakers is specially designed to provide a powerful and wide-spread sound to compliment any genre of music. The new products are good in sound quality, portability, durability and lighting. Innovative X-balanced speaker units come up with mega bass and live sound mode for enhanced music experience.



As governments are rapidly scaling up their investments into digital technologies, cybersecurity has become a pressing concern to ensure a safe and secure digital transformation for all

BOUTHAINA GUERMAZI | DIRECTOR OF WORLD BANK'S DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT GLOBAL PRACTICE

BEZOS SUES NASA

Billionaire Jeff Bezos' space firm Blue Origin has sued US space agency NASA for picking Elon Musk-owned SpaceX for its prestigious \$2.9 billion Moon lander programme. The US space agency was expected to pick two lunar lander prototypes (including one of Blue Origin's) but funding cut from the Congress led the agency to select SpaceX over Blue Origin.



Govt unveils sops to boost exports

Rates of tax refunds announced under the export promotion scheme RoDTEP for 8,555 products

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 17: To boost exports, the government Tuesday announced rates of tax refunds under the export promotion scheme RoDTEP for 8,555 products, such as marine goods, yarn, dairy items.

The government has set aside ₹12,454 crore for refunds under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme for the current fiscal, a top official said.

Under the RoDTEP, various central and state duties, taxes, and levies imposed on input products, among others, will be refunded to exporters.

Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said that ₹19,400 crore would be available for 2021-22 for both the RoDTEP and the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL). The RoSCTL scheme was announced for the export of garments and apparels.

For the RoDTEP scheme, the amount is ₹12,454 crore and the remaining ₹6,946 crore for RoSCTL.

As the RoDTEP scheme came into effect from January 1 this year, additional funds will be provided at pro-rata basis for the period January to March.



"Today we have notified the rates. RoDTEP is going to be a long-lasting scheme and it is going to be a flagship scheme of the commerce ministry. It is also compliant to the World Trade Organisation," the secretary told reporters here.

He added that both the schemes together would cover 95 per cent of the tariff lines or goods and exports. However three sectors of steel, chemicals and pharmaceuticals would not get the benefit of RoDTEP as they have 'done well without' incentives.

The reimbursement of taxes

such as duty on power charges, VAT on fuel in transportation, farm sector; captive power generation, mandi tax, stamp duty and central excise duty on fuel used in transportation would make Indian products competitive in global markets, he said.

The tax refund rates range from 0.5 per cent to 4.3 per cent for various sectors.

The rebate under the scheme would not be available in respect of duties and taxes already exempted or remitted or credited.

RoDTEP support will be available

to eligible exporters at a notified rate as a percentage of Freight On Board (FOB) value. Rebates on certain export products will also be subject to value cap per unit of the exported product.

It will be implemented by Customs through a simplified IT System. Rebates will be issued in the form of a transferable duty credit/ electronic scrip (e-scrip) which will be maintained in an electronic ledger by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

Employment-oriented sectors like marine, agriculture, leather, gems and jewellery are covered under the scheme. Other segments like automobile, plastics, electrical / electronics, machinery are also getting the support.

The ministry also notified scheme guidelines for RoDTEP. According to the guidelines, certain categories which would not avail the benefits include export goods which are subject to minimum export price, restricted and prohibited items, deemed exports, supplies of goods manufactured by domestic tariff area units to SEZs, and products manufactured or exported by units situated in special economic zones.

India asks US court to reject Cairn's \$1.2bn suit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: The Indian government has asked a federal court in Washington to dismiss Britain's Cairn Energy suit seeking enforcement of a USD 1.2 billion arbitral award, saying it had sovereign immunity under US law.

Cairn had in May asked a US federal court to force Air India to pay a USD 1.26 billion arbitration award the firm had won in December. The government August 13 filed a 'Motion to Dismiss' petition in the US District Court for the District of Columbia, saying it lacked subject matter jurisdiction in the dispute between Cairn and the Indian tax authority, according to a filing seen by PTI.

This comes a week after the government enacted legislation to scrap a tax rule that gave the tax department power to go 50 years back and slap capital gains levies wherever ownership had changed hands overseas, but business assets were in India. That rule had been used to levy a cumulative of ₹1.10 lakh crore of tax on 17 entities, including ₹10,247 crore on Cairn.

Officials said rules for withdrawal of such tax demands are in the process of being framed.



"One of the requirements for the dropping of the retrospective tax demands is that the parties concerned have to give an undertaking for withdrawal all cases against the government/tax department. So, while all this is in process, the government is obligated to respond in any legal matter where there is a time bar for doing so," an official explained.

Cairn had challenged the tax demand before an international arbitration tribunal, which in December last year overturned the same and ordered the government to refund the money collected. The government initially refused to return USD 1.2 billion, forcing Cairn to take action to recover that money through a seizure of Indian assets overseas.

RBI says inflation is on track to meet projections

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 17: Inflation is likely to remain within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) projected levels for the rest of the year, it said Tuesday while highlighting that inflation containment comes at the cost of economic growth.

Earlier this month the RBI raised its 2021/22 inflation forecast to 5.7% from 5.1% and reiterated that it will continue to keep monetary policy accommodative as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis.

The retained stance and increased inflation forecast started a debate over whether monetary policy has forsaken its primary mandate of price stability in the face of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.



The RBI is mandated to bring down retail inflation to 4% over the medium term while keeping it within a range of 2-6%, a band it has breached twice this year. Inflation is on the central bank's envisaged trajectory and likely to stabilise over the rest of the year, the RBI said of what it described in Tuesday's bulletin as "a credible forward-looking mission statement for the path of inflation".

Amway India ropes in Chanu as brand ambassador for Nutrilite

POST NEWS NETWORK



Bhubaneswar, August 17: Amway India, one of the country's leading FMCG direct selling companies, appointed Olympian Saikhom Mirabai Chanu as the brand ambassador for Amway and its Nutrilite range of products. The announcement was made during a virtual press meet held Tuesday.

Chanu will spearhead the company's campaigns focused on its foundation range such as Nutrilite Daily, Omega and All Plant Protein amongst others, across platforms.

Anshu Budhraj, CEO, Amway India said, "Our association with Mirabai Chanu is a natural choice.

She exemplifies our values of hope, commitment, self-empowerment, healthy living; and our commitment to fitness is unparalleled. This makes her the perfect partner to further amplify our ethos of helping people live better, healthier lives."

"Our association with Chanu is also a tribute to our incredible women leaders who have been leading from the front. Comprising over 60% direct sellers, women and youth are at the heart of this incredible organisation and are the enablers in helping us drive the commitment towards entrepreneurship to empower women," Budhraj said.

Khimji Jewellers launches silver filigree Raksha Bandhan collection

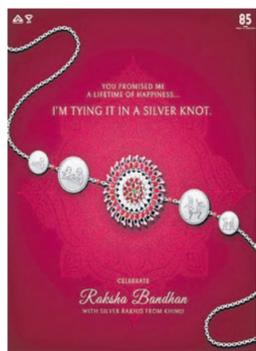
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Khimji Jewellers, the largest jewellery chain of Odisha, launched its exclusive silver Rakhi collection this Raksha Bandhan.

Inspired by the rich culture of Odisha, the exquisite collections have been designed intricately in the fine art of Cuttack filigree with delicate detailing and fine craftsmanship.

The collection that consists of more than 100 unique filigree designs, has been handcrafted by Khimji's own artisans to offer its customers on this auspicious occasion.

Director of Khimji Jewellers



Sumeet Khimji said, "To cherish and make this Raksha Bandhan

more auspicious, we at Khimji Jewellers, have come up with this exclusive silver Rakhi collection of filigree designs. It would give a touch of our own Odisha's cultural tradition to this occasion."

The new collection is priced from ₹200 to ₹2000. Khimji Jewellers also offers gold Rakhis to its customers.

Khimji Jewellers has recently introduced its end of season sale (EOSS) for its customers. EOSS offers upto 70% off on making charges of gold jewellery, upto 20% off on diamonds value and flat 25% off on making charges on silver WT items and flat 15% off on silver MRP items. This is available across all its stores in Odisha.

NPS crosses 30L non-government subscribers mark

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 17: India's National Pension System (NPS) has reached the milestone of 30 lakh voluntary subscribers over a period of 12 years.

According to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), more than 9,100 entities or employers have already adopted NPS for their employees. "The achievement of 3 million subscribers in the non-government sector is remarkable as they are voluntary enrolments as compared to government sector," said Supratim Bandyopadhyay, Chairman, PFRDA.

"With the current momentum of 50 per cent growth in enrolments over last year, we look forward to add a million new subscribers during the current fiscal in the non-government sector." As on August 14, the total number of subscribers under the NPS and Atal Pension Yojana schemes is at 4.48 crore.

USFBL expands its presence in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (USFBL) Tuesday inaugurated three branches in the Bhubaneswar zone. With this launch, the bank has now 56 micro-branching branches in Bhubaneswar zone.

The bank has inaugurated 15 micro-banking branches in the regions of Gorakhpur, Muzaffarpur, Ranchi, Patna and Bhubaneswar. Countrywide branches of the bank stand at 586 as of August 13, 2021.

Govind Singh, MD & CEO, USFBL, said, "These branch launches are of much significance to us, as this reinforces our commitment in supporting and building entrepreneurial spirit of the local community. This gives the local community the opportunity to consider an option that not only helps in building their financial confidence, but also acts as an enabler for building an environment



of employment and achievement."

These branches will provide micro-banking loans for business development services to the underprivileged or low-income individuals or groups who have limited access to financial services. In an attempt to ease the burden of loan repayment as also towards encouraging setting up of small businesses for livelihood support, USFBL brings the Joint Liability Group (JLG) Loan Model along with the launch of these branches.

Safe-haven currencies supported on signs on weakening sentiment

DISAPPOINTING ECONOMIC DATA FROM CHINA, THE SPREADING DELTA VARIANT AND POLITICAL TENSION IN AFGHANISTAN WEIGHED ON RISK APPETITE

REUTERS

Tokyo, August 17: Safe-haven currencies such as the yen held firm against riskier currencies Tuesday as disappointing economic data from China, the spreading Delta variant of the coronavirus and political tension in Afghanistan weighed on risk appetite.

The dollar eased to 109.24 yen, having lost about 1% over the past two sessions while the euro slipped to as low as 128.50 yen, touching its lowest level since late March.

The Swiss franc also held on to

latest gains at 0.9124 franc per dollar. On the euro, it stood at 1.0745 franc to the euro, staying near its nine-month high of 1.0720 set earlier this month.

The US dollar, which is also often seen as the ultimate safe-haven currency, held firm against many other rivals, including the euro and commodity-linked currencies. The euro changed hands at \$1.1785.

"The moves seem to reflect deterioration in market sentiment. You could say the impact of Delta variant is behind this," said Yukio Ishizuki, senior strategist at Daiwa



Securities. The New York Federal Reserve said Monday its barometer of manufacturing business activity in New York State declined more than expected in August after growing at a record-setting pace in the month before.

That came after the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment dropped sharply in early August to its lowest level in a decade.

In China, data published Monday showed July retail sales, industrial production and fixed asset investment were all weaker than ex-

pected as the latest COVID-19 outbreak weighed on the world's second-biggest economy.

Investors' risk mood was also curtailed by developments in Afghanistan after the Taliban seized the capital, though direct impacts on markets have been limited so far, traders said.

The risk-sensitive Australian dollar stood at \$0.7333, near the low end of its narrow trading range around \$0.73-74. In cryptocurrencies, bitcoin was trading at \$46,133, not far from Saturday's three-month high of \$48,190. Ether stood \$3,190.

'On field tension helped' India

India to face Pak in campaign opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 17: India captain Virat Kohli said that the verbal altercation between England players and the two Indian tail-enders Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah spurred them to go flat out at the home team in 60 available overs.

And Indians eventually got the job done in 51.5 overs with pacers producing a high quality show to dismiss England for 120.

"Super proud of the whole team. The way we stuck to our plans after being put in. The pitch didn't offer much in the first three days. First day was the most challenging," said Kohli at the post-match presentation.

"The way we played in the second innings after being put under pressure - Jasprit and Shami were outstanding. We had the belief we can get them out in 60 overs. The tension in the field in our second innings, what happened there, helped us," Kohli, who had sledged Ollie Robinson during the fag end of the second innings, said.

India set England a 272 run target following an 89-run stand between tail-enders Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Shami. The duo's special was applauded by the entire team which came down from the dressing room to welcome them.

"Putting their hand up was something we were really proud of and we wanted to let them know (standing ovation for Bumrah-Shami). Batting coach has worked really hard with the boys.

"They have the desire in them to do well for the team. We know how priceless those runs are. The belief (from lower-order) was missing for a while but now it is back," said Kohli.

It was India's third Test win at Lord's and Kohli called it a special



Virat Kohli and Jos Buttler have something to talk about during the final day's play at the Lord's, Monday

one. "Have been a part of the winning Test last time under MS (Dhoni). That was pretty special. But this one, to get a result in 60 overs

is quite special. And especially with someone like Siraj playing for the first time at Lord's and he bowled superbly.

Cricket fraternity lauds Lord's victory

The cricket fraternity saluted the Indian team's 'resilience and grit' during the incredible win in the second Test against England at the iconic Lord's...

SACHIN TENDULKAR: That was some Test match Team India! Enjoyed watching every moment of it. The resilience and grit that the team displayed in difficult situations is something that stood out for me. Very well played!

SOURAV GANGULY: Fantastic win for India. What character and guts from the team. Each and everyone. Such a pleasure to watch it from so close.

VVS LAXMAN: What an incredible day of Test Match Cricket and one to remember for a long time for every Indian Fan. Bumrah and Shami fighting with the bat early in the day, and pace attack of Siraj, Ishant, Bumrah, Shami giving it their all and India registering a sensational win (Lords Test).

DINESH KARTHIK: From survival to revival, the final day at Lord's was no less than a binge-worthy thriller. Big win Team India. This one's highlights are gonna be replayed many times in the future!

SHANE WARNE: What a test match at Lords. Great pitch, great cricket & great character shown by India. Remember they lost the toss, got sent in, gave up a 1st inn lead & today everyone thought Pant out & Eng win! India fought hard & deserved the win. India should be 2-0 up. Red hearttest cricket!!

MICHAEL VAUGHAN: Amazing game of Cricket.. India today showed why they are so much better than England.. The belief to Win was immense..

"We decided 60 is our mark. Crucial breakthroughs with the new ball was the right start for us. Very happy with the support (crowd) we got," he added.

England skipper Joe Root admitted they got their tactics wrong when Shami and Bumrah were batting. "We went from a very strong position where we looked like we would win the game to losing. More than anything, just got a few things wrong. That partnership,

they did pretty well. But lots of things I'd do differently if given an opportunity."

On the positives, Root added: "His attitude (Mark Wood), the way he goes about things.. Mo's (Moeen Ali) come back well. There are things we can take from this game. We're used to playing five-match series. Important not to panic and stay calm. So good to have the crowds back to sporting arenas in general," said Root.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 17: India will clash with arch-rivals Pakistan in their ICC T20 World Cup opener October 24 here, the ICC announced Tuesday

As per the schedule announced by the ICC, India's next opponent will be New Zealand on October 31 in Dubai, followed by a match against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi November 3.

India's remaining two Super 12 matches are against the winner of Group B (November 5 in Dubai) and second placed side of Group A (November 8 in Dubai).

ICC T20 WORLD CUP

The tournament's first round kicks off October 17 in Oman, with the hosts taking on Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh playing Scotland.

Group A consists of 2014 champions Sri Lanka, Ireland, the Netherlands and Namibia, while Group B has Bangladesh, Scotland, Papua New Guinea and Oman.

The top two teams from each group will qualify for the Super 12 stage.

The Super 12s - round two of the tournament, with two groups - will begin October 23, with Australia facing South Africa in Abu Dhabi and England up against title holders and two-time champions West Indies in Dubai.

The first semifinal will be played in Abu Dhabi November 10, while the second will be played in Dubai November 11. The final will be held in Dubai November 14 with November 15 marked as reserve day. The tournament is being hosted by India in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman since a third wave of the COVID-19 is being anticipated at that time of the tournament.

SCHEDULE

ROUND 1:		
Date	Match	Venue
Oct 17	OMN v PNG	Muscat
Oct 17	BAN v SCO	Muscat
Oct 18	IRE v NED	Abu Dhabi
Oct 18	SL v PNG	Abu Dhabi
Oct 19	SCO v NAM	Muscat
Oct 19	OMN v BAN	Muscat
Oct 20	NAM v NED	Abu Dhabi
Oct 20	SL v IRE	Abu Dhabi
Oct 21	BAN v PNG	Muscat
Oct 21	OMN v SCO	Muscat
Oct 22	NAM v IRE	Sharjah
Oct 22	SL v NED	Sharjah
SUPER 12s		
Oct 23	AUS v SA	Abu Dhabi
Oct 23	ENG v WI	Dubai
Oct 24	A1 v B2	Sharjah
Oct 24	IND v PAK	Dubai
Oct 24	AFG v B1	Sharjah
Oct 26	SA v WI	Dubai
Oct 26	PAK v NZ	Sharjah
Oct 27	ENG v B2	Abu Dhabi
Oct 27	B1 v A2	Abu Dhabi
Oct 28	AUS v A1	Dubai
Oct 29	WI v B2	Sharjah
Oct 29	PAK v AFG	Dubai
Oct 30	SA v A1	Sharjah
Oct 30	AUS v ENG	Dubai
Oct 31	AFG v A2	Abu Dhabi
Oct 31	IND v NZ	Dubai
Nov 1	ENG v A1	Sharjah
Nov 2	SA v B2	Abu Dhabi
Nov 2	PAK v A2	Abu Dhabi
Nov 3	NZ v B1	Dubai
Nov 3	IND v AFG	Abu Dhabi
Nov 4	AUS v B2	Dubai
Nov 4	WI v A1	Abu Dhabi
Nov 5	NZ v A2	Sharjah
Nov 5	IND v B1	Dubai
Nov 6	AUS v WI	Abu Dhabi
Nov 6	ENG v SA	Sharjah
Nov 7	NZ v AFG	Abu Dhabi
Nov 7	PAK v B1	Sharjah
Nov 8	IND v A2	Dubai
KNOCK-OUT STAGE		
Nov 10	SF (A1 v B2)	Abu Dhabi
Nov 11	SF (B1 v A2)	Dubai
Nov 14	Final	Dubai

Hockey teams given traditional welcome

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The men's and women's hockey teams arrived here Tuesday after achieving historic feats during their spectacular Tokyo Olympics journey. The Manpreet Singh-led men's team won bronze, ending a 41-year wait for an Olympic medal, while the Rani Rampal-captained eves registered their first-ever semifinal finish at the Games.

"The team and I are very happy to be present here as we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the Odisha government for supporting our team. Our team are always made to feel so welcome when we come here that Odisha feels very much like the home of Indian hockey now

RANI RAMPAL MANPREET SINGH

recognising their achievements and potential, Odisha will continue to sponsor Indian hockey teams, for another 10 years.

Each player was awarded ₹10 Lakh and each support staff was awarded ₹5 lakhs. As a token of regards and appreciation, each team gifted a framed Jersey autographed by the players to Patnaik.

Patnaik also gave away 13 individual awards, which included ₹5 lakhs prize money for each winner.

It feels good to be back in Odisha, the place we call our home away from home, and now one of the biggest reasons behind our success at the Tokyo Olympics

Amid beats of dhol, traditional dance and cheers, the hockey teams were given a grand welcome at the Biju Patnaik International airport. After reaching the airport, the hockey players were driven to a hotel in the city under tight security.

A press conference was organised for the media persons as Manpreet, PR Sreejesh, Odisha star Birendra Lakra and Harmanpreet Singh represented the men's team, while Rani, Vandana Katariya, Savita punia and state hero Deep Grace Ekka represented the women's team.

Later, both the teams were felicitated at the Kalinga Stadium by the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who also announced,

Harmanpreet won the 'Player with most goals scored', while Sreejesh won the 'Player with the most goals saved'.

Nilakanta Sharma won the 'Player with most assists' and Rupinder Pal Singh won the 'Player with most defensive tackles'. Harmanpreet and Amit Rohidas won the 'Players with most interceptions in the midfield'.

In the Women's team, Gurjit Kaur and Vandana won the 'Players with most goals scored', while Savita won the 'Player with most goals saved'. Rani and Navneet Kaur jointly won the 'Players with most assists'. Deep Grace won the 'Player with most defensive tackles', while P Sushila Chanu for 'Player with most interceptions in the midfield'.

Neeraj leaves function midway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: Exhaustion and 'slight' fever forced star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra to leave midway the welcome ceremony at his village near Panipat, organised to celebrate his historic gold medal at Tokyo Olympics.

The 23-year-old Chopra, who has been on a busy schedule since his return to the country Monday last after winning India's first Olympic medal in athletics, has taken a break to give his body some much-needed rest. A source close to Chopra told this agency that the star athlete should be fine after a good rest and that he left the function as a precautionary measure.

Chopra has been attending various felicitation functions in Delhi.

Finally, he returned home at his native Khandra village, around 15 km from Panipat, Tuesday to a rousing reception from the locals.

"A lot of people turned up and he reached the venue of the welcome function near his village on a cavalcade. It took time to reach the venue of the function," the source said.

"But midway into the function he was feeling exhausted and started having slight fever. So, he left the function and had taken rest at a house nearby," the source said.

"There are some rumours that he has been taken to a hospital. It is not like that. He is all right, it's not a serious issue. Basically, he is feeling exhausted due to attending many functions non-stop after arrival from Tokyo. He is taking rest at a place not very far from his house."

PICTURES TELL STORIES



(1) Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik poses with Indian men's and women's team goalkeepers PR Sreejesh (R) and Savita Punia during the teams' felicitation ceremony at Kalinga Stadium, Tuesday.

(2) Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera presents a bouquet to men's team skipper Manpreet Singh.

(3) Behera greets women's team players.

(4) Sreejesh waves at cheering supporters.

(5) Odisha star Amit Rohidas poses for a picture in the bus.

(6) Artists perform outside a city hotel to welcome the hockey teams.

(7) A couple of women's team players have something to smile for.

(8) A fan shows his support for the teams waving the Tricolour.

(9 & 10) Players of Women's team (from R: Rani Rampal, Vandana Katariya, Savita Punia and Deep Grace Ekka) and men's team (From L: Sreejesh, Manpreet, Harmanpreet Singh and Birendra Lakra) during the press meet ahead of the felicitation ceremony.

