

MYRIAD MOODS

Actor Janhvi Kapoor shares various moods while promoting her upcoming flick  
*Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*

LEISURE P2

RHEA APPEARS BEFORE ED

Actor Rhea Chakraborty, accused of abetting suicide of Sushant Singh Rajput, appeared before the ED Friday

TWO STATES P7

LANDSLIDE WIN

Rajapaksa will be sworn in as Lanka's PM for 4th time Sunday after his party won a landslide victory

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Don't you give any frequent flier benefits? I've been flying with you since my childhood!

SHORT TAKES

Kerala landslide kills 15; 60 missing

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Heavy rain followed by a landslide at Rajamalai in Idukki district Thursday night has left at least 15 persons dead, including a child, and more than 60 others are reported missing, a police official said Friday. The latest reports indicate that there were nearly 100 people in the locality, most of whom had returned to the area following the pandemic. The landslide occurred after heavy rains over the last few days in the area mostly inhabited by tea estate workers. P9

India to host T20 World Cup in 2021

**New Delhi:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided that India will host the 2021 edition of the T20 World Cup while the postponed 2020 edition will now be played in Australia in 2022. India is also set to host the 50-over World Cup in India in 2023. The ICC had announced the postponement of the 2020 edition of the World T20 July 20 due to the coronavirus pandemic, but did not mention the venue for the 2021 edition and the 2022 edition. They had only said that the 2023 50-over World Cup will be played in October-November in India. P12

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX			VARIATION
SENSEX	38040.57	▲	15.12
NIFTY	11214.00	▲	13.80
DOLLAR	75.13	▲	₹0.02
EURO	88.36	▼	₹0.57
GOLD	₹55,150	▼	₹695
SILVER	₹74,150	▼	₹1902

WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
TEMP			
MAX	34.2°C	34.6°C	
MIN	26.2°C	24.5°C	
Humidity	98%	95%	
Rainfall	25mm	9.4mm	Forecast Generally cloudy sky

# KERALA PLANE CRASH KILLS 11

AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Kozhikode, August 7:** An Air India Express aircraft skidded off the runway while landing in Kozhikode and plunged into the deep valley below. At least 11 people have reportedly died in the accident, including the pilot of the flight, DV Sathe.

The incident occurred at 7.41 pm Friday when the flight from Dubai to Kozhikode skidded off the runway after landing at the 'table-top' airport.

The aircraft with 190 persons on-board, including six crew members, battled heavy rains while landing.

According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Air India Express AXB1344, a B737 aircraft, with 191 people onboard, landed on Runway 10 amid visibility of 2,000 metres in heavy rain, but continued running till the end of runway, fell down in the valley and broke into two pieces.

As per the Ministry of Civil Aviation, rescue operations are going on and the injured have been moved to the hospital. After landing at runway 10, the flight continued running to end of the runway and fell down in the valley and broke into two portions, the statement said. At least 170 passengers have been rescued.

An airline spokesperson said the aircraft apparently overshot the run-



An Air India Express flight with passengers on board en route from Dubai skidded off the runway while landing in Kozhikode, Friday PTI PHOTO

way. Malappuram SP Abdul Kareem said there could be more casualties.

About 40 ambulances have reached the accident spot and are taking the passengers to various hospitals in Kozhikode and Malappuram. According

to information received here, the passengers sitting in the front row have been seriously injured.

Rescue operations are progressing. It had been raining heavily at the time of the accident. Chief Minister Pinarayi

Vijayan said police and fire force personnel have been directed to take all measures for rescue and relief operations. Further details were not immediately known. Air India Express has only Boeing 737 planes in its fleet.

## COP STRENGTH AT PSES TO BE RAISED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday gave his go-ahead to a plan for rationalisation of 905 posts in Odisha Police and creation of six police stations in various districts, a release from CMO said.

The state government's decision to increase the staff strength at police stations will enable PSES to deliver efficient citizen-centric services and control crime efficiently.

A significant decline in Maoist menace due to security force's response and developmental activities in the infested areas has enabled the state police to re-deploy manpower in police stations in other areas.

The CM had recently directed the DGP to make more personnel available at police stations by way of rationalisation.

The CM also approved the creation of six new police stations in various districts by bifurcating existing police stations. And the existing PSES that are to be bifurcated are Khandagiri PS, Angul town PS, Jharsuguda town PS, Bhanjanagar PS, Bhadrak (rural) PS, Bhadrak and Tihidi PSES.

The rationalisation will make a difference in strengthening 220 police stations and six outposts in 21 police districts in the state,

the release said.

Director General of Police Abhay, through his official twitter handle, thanked the Chief Minister for sanctioning 905 new posts at 220 police stations across the state.

Meanwhile, Commissioner of Police Sudhanshu Sarangi, in a press briefing, expressed his gratitude to the CM for formally giving his approval for establishment of a police station at Bharatpur and increase the cops' strength at 16 police stations and one outpost in the Commissionerate Police.

The new police station at Bharatpur, carved out of Khandagiri police station, will have six sub-inspectors, three assistant sub-inspectors, 21 constables along with an inspector in-charge.

Locals in Khandagiri area have been demanding upgradation of the outpost at Bharatpur into a full-fledged police station.

Similarly, the cops' strength in Balipatna PS, Chandaka, Nayapali, Chandrasekharpur, Airfield, Baliana, Mancheswar, Lingaraj, Jatni, police stations has been increased. The staff strength at Banamalipur outpost under Balipatna police station has been increased too.

The state government has given green signal for the increase of staff strength at Jagatpur, Badambadi, Baranga and Sadar police stations under the Cuttack UPD in Commissionerate.

## Hockey skipper tests Covid +ve

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, August 7:** Indian national men's hockey team skipper Manpreet Singh, along with three of his teammates, has tested positive for coronavirus after reporting to the national camp in Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence here. This was revealed since as a proactive step, SAI made it mandatory for all athletes, who reported back to the camp to take a rapid COVID-19 test upon arrival. Since all the athletes who tested positive had travelled together, there is a high likelihood that they contracted the

virus while travelling from their hometowns to SAI, Bangalore.

All four tested negative in the rapid test. However, since Manpreet and Surender began to display virus symptoms later, they along with other 10 athletes who had travelled together were given the Quantitative RT-PCR test Thursday and the four have been found to be positive. Though the test results have still not been handed over to SAI, the state government has informed the test results to the SAI.



## Road safety classes in schools from this year

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** With an aim to curb fatalities on roads by creating awareness among school students, the state government has included road safety in the textbooks of students between Class-V and Class IX.

Students will learn basic road safety rules and regulations like wearing helmets, seatbelts while driving, driving on left side, among others. The government has already included road safety as a topic in the curriculum of teacher's training programmes being imparted at existing teachers' training institutes. From next academic year, the topic will come up in Class X syllabus. The government has also decided to observe Road Safety

Day in schools once in a week. This day will feature painting, quiz and debate competitions on road safety among students.

"We have included road safety in the school curriculum. Students will learn it in schools from Class-V to Class IX. However, it may change as new education policy-2020 has come into effect. Following the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), we will revise our entire school curriculum," said director of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Gangadhar Sahoo.

Similarly, community education programmes will be conducted in roadside villages with an aim to train 3,500 participants at regular intervals. To provide critical care to accident victims, the govern-

ment also planned to set up trauma care centres (TCCs) in each of 30 districts. So far eight have been made functional.

Fatalities on roads have not stopped even during lockdowns. At least 360 people were killed only in April and May. As police personnel are busy in Covid management duty, it was decided to strengthen enforcement activities by RTO officials, sources said.

To check technical problems on roads, the transport department has conducted audit of all roads. The concerned agency has also recommended necessary measures to fix it. Out of 2,946 km length of national highways under the PWD, audit recommendations have been implemented for 475 km. Each year, 500 km road will be modified.

ROAD SAFETY TO BE INCLUDED IN CLASS-X SYLLABUS FROM NEXT YEAR  
ROAD SAFETY DAY TO BE OBSERVED ONCE IN A WEEK IN SCHOOLS

## Rlys to end Rajera Khalasi system; no fresh hiring

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 7:** The Railways is set to end a colonial-era practise of appointing khalasis or 'bungalow peons' who worked at the residences of senior officials, following an order from the Railway Board barring any new appointment to the post.

In an order issued August 6, the Railway Board has said the issue regarding telephone attendant-cum-dak khalasis (TADKs) is under review.

"The issue regarding the appointment of TADK is under review in Railway Board. It has, therefore, been decided that any appointment of fresh face substitutes as TADK should not either be processed or made with immediate effect. "Further, all cases approved for such appointments since 1st July 2020 may be reviewed and position advised to Board. This may be complied with strictly in all railway establishments," the order said. Upon joining railways as temporary staff, TADKs become Group D staff following a screening process after a period of around three years.

In earlier days, officers posted in remote areas or working in the field during odd hours would be provided a TADK to ensure security for his family as well as do odd official work like take phone calls or ferry files. These TADK staff would usually become ticket examiners, porters, mechanics for air-conditioned coaches and cooks in the running room. However, over the years, the role was relegated to that of domestic helps and then to office peons, officials said. Amid complaints of abuse and ill treatment, the Railways had ordered a review of the post.

## Covid vax to be priced at around ₹225 per dose: Serum

### SERUM INSTITUTE TO PRODUCE 100M DOSES OF COVID VACCINE FOR INDIA & LMICS

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 7:** Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, has entered into a new landmark partnership with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to accelerate the manufacture and delivery of up to 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines for India and low-and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The collaboration will provide upfront capital to SII to help them increase manufacturing capacity now so that, once a vaccine, or vaccines, gains regulatory approval and WHO prequalification, doses can be produced at scale for distribution to India and LMIC as part of the Gavi COVAX AMC mechanism as early as the first half of 2021.

The funding will support at-risk manufacturing by SII for candidate vaccines from AstraZeneca and Novavax, which will be available for procurement if they are successful in attaining full licensure and WHO Prequalification. SII has set an affordable ceiling price of \$3 per dose. The arrangement also provides an option to secure additional doses if the vaccines pillar of the ACT



Accelerator sees a need for it.

"In an attempt to make our fight against COVID-19 stronger and all-embracing; SII has partnered with Gavi and the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation to advance the manufacturing and delivery of up to 100 million doses of future COVID vaccines for India and low and middle income countries in 2021," said

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India.

"The rampant spread of the virus has rendered the entire world in an unimaginable halt of uncertainty. And to ensure maximum immunization coverage and contain the pandemic, it is important to make sure that the most remote and poorest countries of the world have access to affordable cure and preventive measures. Through this association, we seek to ramp up our constant efforts to save the lives of millions of people from this dreadful disease."

SII shares a long history of successful partnerships with Gavi and pharmaceutical companies to manufacture vaccines that protect against meningitis, severe diar-

rhea, pneumonia and measles. This collaboration further underscores India's proven-track record in developing safe and quality vaccines.

Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology said, "India has a proven track record of manufacturing safe and cost-effective vaccines not only for India, but for the world. Over the last decade, Government of India has encouraged innovation, and supported the Indian vaccine industry to manufacture high quality, affordable indigenous tools and products to benefit India and the world. We are very happy to see SII enter this global partnership to respond to the global health crisis posed by Covid-19."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You're finally impressed by the yogis. A degree course in Art of Living? Ganesha approves. You may even fulfill a desire to begin lessons in music or dance, or something that has interested you since long. A good, good day, and it smells of sweet success.

**TAURUS**  
You may feel let down as your folks may not extend the support you expected from them, says Ganesha. You should try to remain practical and not get swayed by emotions. It is highly likely that family feuds may erupt today.

**GEMINI**  
Your long-term goals seem to be shaping up well. You may also expect some good news, which will change the course of your life. Play a waiting game in matters of auctions and sealed tenders. And memorise these words: Prevention is better than cure.

**CANCER**  
Ganesha advises you to watch your back today. However, he wants to make it clear that you may be at the receiving end of others' actions. Anyway, your cautious and watchful approach will save you from needless discomfure.

**LEO**  
Do not be surprised if you find yourself today in a situation that somehow feels like a landmark moment in your life. Whether it is a personal matter or something related to work, that you must wait to find out, you will need all your grit and diplomacy to sail through.

**VIRGO**  
You will be cool as a cucumber today. Nothing that happens will unsettle that composure, says Ganesha. Your loved ones will stand tall and strong behind you, and inspire you to overcome obstacles. Your work will reflect dedication, says Ganesha. Go ahead and ask for work that is intellectually taxing.

**LIBRA**  
Sit back and think hard — think about what is it that you really want when it comes to your business enterprises, because there are many ways to go about things at work, and they all lead you somewhere different.

**SCORPIO**  
While not the Trot, you shall, however, trot on the lines of radicalism today, predicts Ganesha. Learn to think as you would, and always have, but act as others would have you to, advises Ganesha. Be the maverick that you are only with those who are closest and dearest, cautions Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You may have been experiencing hair loss in the past due to back-breaking stress, but things will begin to clean up today. As complex issues begin to fall in place, you are likely to receive some good news about a promotion or increment.

**CAPRICORN**  
Overcome with feelings, you may take decisions that may stand in the way of success. Don't let your sentiments ruin your future prospects because the damage done will be beyond repair, warns Ganesha. Today, there are also chances that your down-to-earth nature and amiable approach will win the hearts of many.

**AQUARIUS**  
You need to think dispassionately and with clarity, says Ganesha. As always, sentiments may come in the way of your success today. Be careful, especially while taking decisions that will impact your future.

**PISCES**  
An important day today, you can expect to reach a much-awaited milestone either on the domestic front or at the workplace, says Ganesha. Expect your professional status and your social standing to receive a boost.



CAMERON OPENS UP ON WHY SHE QUIT ACTING

Former actress Cameron Diaz feels peaceful after retiring from films. On Gwyneth Paltrow's series, In goop Health: The Sessions, Diaz opened up on her decision to quit films, reports *cnn.com*.

NETFLIX NOW AVAILABLE IN HINDI

Netflix Friday launched its user interface in Hindi, saying the move will enable members who prefer the language to easily access their choice of Indian and international films as well as series. The Hindi user interface is available across devices on mobile, TV and the web, it said in a statement.



Janhvi shares her many moods of digital promotion

**Mumbai:** With city-to-city promotions unlikely owing to the ongoing pandemic, celebrities are choosing digital ways to campaign for films.

Actress Janhvi Kapoor has shared her various moods while digitally promoting her upcoming film, *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*.

Janhvi took to Instagram and posted a collage of her flaunting nine different funny expressions.

"Many moods of digital promotions," she wrote alongside the picture.

Janhvi, daughter of late actress Sridevi, has been given the scope to play the title role in the biopic *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*.

The film is inspired by the life of Indian Air Force combat pilot Gunjan Saxena, who entered the war zone during the 1999 Kargil War.

Directed by Sharan Sharma, the cast also features Pankaj Tripathi, Angad Bedi, Vineet Kumar, Manav Vij and Ayesha Raza.



Shivaleeka on being an outsider in filmndom

**New Delhi:** Budding actress Shivaleeka Oberoi admits it is not easy for an outsider to carve a path in Bollywood, and says that one needs to have immense self-belief to survive the journey.

"Honestly, it is not easy," Shivaleeka told IANS, when asked how tough it is for an outsider to find a way and sustain in Bollywood, and then added: "But if you believe in yourself and if you are actually talented, and you reach the right places... I have a belief that you have to be at the right place at the right time. Destiny plays a very important role."

"I never thought that I would be an actor. My mom is from a different line, my dad does something else and my sister does something else. I'm the only one in the acting field. My grandfather (Mahavir Oberoi) had produced a film once, but he passed away when my father was young, and since then we had no touch with the industry. I actually found my way, in terms of being on a film set, by becoming an assistant director. I gained maximum experience and knowledge by being an AD. It really helped

me as an actor," she added. Before her debut as an actor, Shivaleeka worked as an assistant director on *Kick* and *Housefull 3*.

She made her acting debut in 2019 with romantic thriller *Yeh Saali Aashiqui* opposite Amrith Puri's grandson Vardhan Puri, and will next be seen in *Khuda Haafiz*.



A digital campaign in support of Indian textiles

**New Delhi:** Slow fashion coupled with the resounding 'Made in India' sentiment continues to garner the support of the fashion conscious in the country, be it organisations, designers or the government. Migrant labour especially those aligned with the textile and fashion industry are amongst the worst affected; their plight has not gone unnoticed. Buyers are stepping up to encourage and bolster weavers and craftsman across the country by focusing their purchases on traditional weaves and textiles instead of fast fashion brands.

"The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) and many other organisations, under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles will be celebrating the 6th National Handloom Day with a digital campaign... This campaign not just focuses on the handloom heritage of our country but also salutes and highlights the quiet warriors, who have tirelessly worked with Indian processes to

6TH NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY



looms, never steering away from the aesthetics of what is rooted in our country," FDCI President Sunil Sethi said in a statement.

The Ministry of Textiles has released the official hashtag, #Vocal4handmade, on its social

media handle and the FDCI shared the announcement to propel the initiative forward.

Sethi added, "With this initiative, we are not only celebrating the kari-

gar, weaver, artisan but also YOU... who have tirelessly supported the weaving and handloom communities."

The FDCI also stated in order to support the handloom makers, it will be opening the third tranche of Covid-19 Support Fund (CSF) for the



weavers, to provide them financial assistance by buying unsold stocks from them. The weavers will be identified by the DC Handlooms, under the Ministry of Textiles.

'Promote Indian organic fabric, preserve planet'



**Mumbai:** Actress Kangana Ranaut urged people to promote Indian organic fabric industries on the occasion of National Handloom Day Friday.

"Most of us have more than we can consume. Fashion industry has become one of the most damaging industries for our environment, new challenges call for new resolves, let's promote our own Indian organic fabric industries and preserve the planet," she said via a tweet posted by Team Kangana Ranaut.

The actress added: "When we choose handloom we choose to elevate our poor weavers out of poverty, we choose vocal for local, we choose our Mother Earth, we choose love for every single being on this planet."

Kangana will be going behind the camera as a director for *Aparajita Ayodhya*. The film will capture the entire six-century journey of the Ram Mandir.

She said: "In my film, there are several real Muslim characters who have fought in favour of the Ram temple. So it's a story of devotion, faith and above all, unity in the country. Ram Rajya is beyond a religion and that's what

*Aparajita Ayodhya* will be about. It's a very tough screenplay as it travels across 600 years." IANS

FUN post

PEANUTS



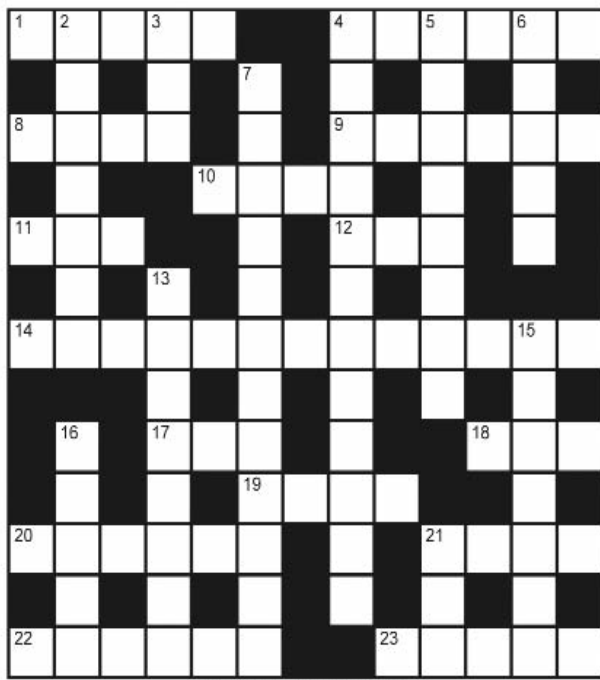
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



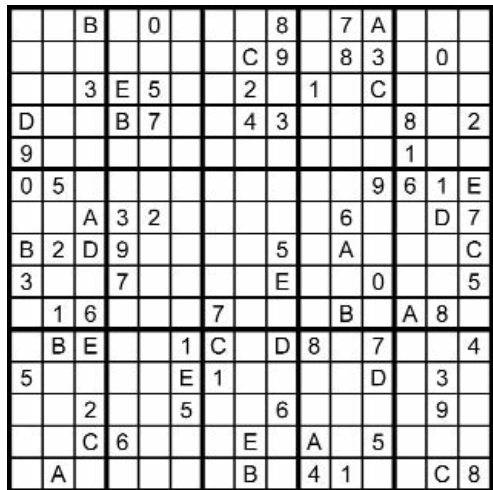
CROSSWORD



- Across**  
1 Ducl, c.g.  
4 Scimitars  
8 Passionate  
9 Banner  
10 Olympic sled  
11 Bio star  
12 Suds source  
14 Screaming meemies (6-7)  
17 Black cuckoo
- Down**  
2 Fashionable (2,5)  
18 Furrow  
19 Milk source  
20 arduous  
21 Adorable  
22 More incisive  
23 Nine-headed monster
- 3 Mortar porter  
4 Horse race type  
5 Nocturnal  
6 African lemur  
7 Tidal bore  
8 Sailing vessel type (6-6)  
13 Scrape  
15 Great circle  
16 In the know  
21 Coquettish

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

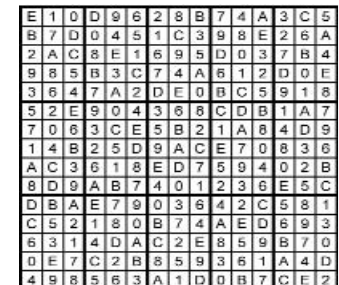


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW







# Biggest single-day surge in cases, deaths

POST NEWS NETWORK/AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** State Friday registered its highest single-day spike in novel coronavirus cases as 1,833 more people tested positive for the infection, while the death toll soared to 247 as 12 more patients succumbed to the disease, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

The new infections reported from 29 of the 30 districts have pushed the state's coronavirus caseload to 42,550, added the official.

As many as 1,118 new cases were reported from quarantine centres, while 715 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing exercise, said the official.

Khurda district, which includes Bhubaneswar, reported 298 fresh cases- the highest so far- followed by Ganjam (279), Rayagada (152), Cuttack (124) and Sundargarh (110), the official said, adding that the remaining districts registered less than 100 fresh infections each.

Ganjam and Sundargarh districts registered three fatalities each, while Mayurbhanj, Kendrapara, Sambalpur, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal and Gajapati reported one death each. Mayurbhanj and Dhenkanal registered their first COVID-19 deaths, the official pointed out.

Of the 247 COVID-19 deaths reported in the state so far, Ganjam



Social Security and SSEPD Minister Ashok Chandra Panda welcomes four plasma donors from Angul to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar

■ 1,833 fresh cases take Odisha's COVID-19 tally to 42,550

■ 12 more fatalities push death toll to 247

■ State records highest single-day recoveries of 1,810 cases

■ Khurda surpasses Ganjam with detection of 298 cases

accounted for the highest at 123, followed by Khurda (31), Sundargarh (16), Gajapati (15) and Cuttack (11), said the official, adding that 45 other COVID-19 patients have died due to other ailments.

Meanwhile, the state registered an all-time high single-day recovery of 1,810 patients, Friday.

The recoveries include 700 from Ganjam, 202 from Khurda, 147 from Cuttack, 136 from Gajapati, 116 from Dhenkanal and 106 from Sundargarh. With this, the total recovered cases of Odisha stand at 28,697.

The state, Thursday, tested a record number of 16,055 samples for COVID-19, taking the total number of tests conducted so far to 6,16,646, the official added.

Meanwhile, Bolangir and Nabarangpur district administrations have declared shutdowns in the districts following spike in virus cases in the last few days. While Bolangir with a report of 588 COVID positive cases declared a complete shutdown for four days, Nabarangpur district with 342 cases, declared three-day shutdown in the district.

The state government has already declared weekend shutdowns in Ganjam, Khurda, Cuttack and Gajapati districts besides the steel city of Rourkela during the August following a rise in virus cases.

The weekend shutdowns have been announced to break the chain of COVID-19 infection and intensify the contact tracing in these coronavirus hotspot districts.

**TWIN CITIES REPORT 182 CASES, 128 RECOVERIES**

The twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack reported 101 and 81 COVID-19 cases respectively.

“Of the fresh cases detected in Bhubaneswar, 52 were quarantine cases and 49 were local contact ones. As many as 106 persons who had earlier tested positive for novel coronavirus recovered Friday,” the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation said.

The Cuttack Municipal Corporation, on the other hand, said, “Out of the 81 cases detected in the Millennium City, 69 were quarantine cases and 12 were local contact ones. The Silver City Friday saw 22 patients recovering from the viral infection.”

# Konark man cremated after 15 hours for COVID-19 fear

POST NEWS NETWORK/AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** The body of a 25-year-old man was left unattended at his residence at Mankaragoradi village in Konark for more than 15 hours as relatives and villagers stayed away suspecting him as COVID-19 infected, officials said Friday.

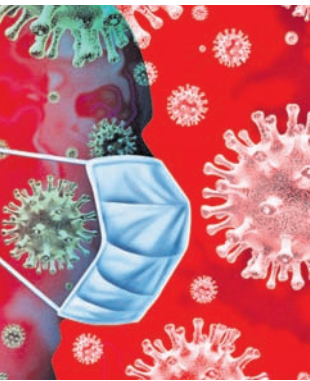
The man had died Wednesday and his family was forced to arrange PPE kits and other protective gear before the body could be taken to the cremation ground on the outskirts of the village.

None was ready to carry his body on their shoulders as is the practice for fear of contracting the disease. His body was instead carried to the local cremation ground in a cycle cart the next day. The last rites were performed Thursday afternoon, the officials said.

According to sources, Vichitra Rout, a tractor driver in the area, had been suffering from high fever for the past few days and was diagnosed to be afflicted with typhoid. Rout was asked by the community health centre where he was being treated to undergo the COVID-19 test, his family members said.

Rout was the sole breadwinner of the family.

He was referred to the district headquarters hospital in Puri for



None was ready to carry his body on the shoulders, as is the practice, for fear of contracting the disease

the test but when he was taken there August 4, work at its outpatient department had been suspended as some health workers there had contracted coronavirus.

Rout was therefore referred to a hospital in Bhubaneswar. However, he died Wednesday before arrangements could be made by his family for taking him to the Capital City, they said.

By then, rumour had spread in the area that he had fallen prey to COVID-19 and the villagers shunned the family. Even the relatives showed reluctance in making arrangements for the last rites and none came forward to help the family.

Konark Notified Area Council (NAC) executive officer M Srinivas said that when he came to know about the plight of the family he sent some officials with PPE kits to the village. The NAC officials convinced the villagers to arrange for the last rites by taking the required safeguards.

Srinivas said the doctor who was treating the man had informed them that Rout was suffering from typhoid for a long time and had prolonged fever. However, the man died before the COVID tests could be done and it was not confirmed whether he was infected with coronavirus.

The hesitant relatives agreed to help in the cremation after they were given PPE kits. The villagers, however, kept off.

The body was wrapped in a plastic sheet and taken to the cremation ground on a cycle cart by his cautious relatives in PPEs, their faces covered with masks and gloves on their hands. Only some close relatives were present during the cremation, Srinivas said.

## I-DAY PREP



Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar being spruced up Friday for the state-level Independence Day celebrations

# Low-key Ganesh Puja in Silver City this year

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, August 7:** This year the Silver City will observe the Ganesh Puja in a simple manner, said Cuttack Mahanagar Shanti Committee Friday.

As per the decision taken by the Committee, the Puja panels in the city won't opt for big tableau to celebrate the Ganesh Puja. The Puja committees have been asked to worship the clay idols of Lord Ganesh at their permanent pandals. They cannot erect temporary pandals on public places to observe Ganesh Puja.

Moreover, the Puja committees have been told to immerse the idols in nearby local bodies. The Mahanagar Shanti Committee has also imposed restrictions on grand processions during the immersion of idols. In a related development, the Shanti Committee has also issued a guideline for Durga Puja panels in the city to collect holy soil for shaping of idols. “Only five persons from each Durga Puja committee in the city can collect the holy



soil on the occasion of Janmashtami. We will take decisions on the organisation of this year's Durga, Kali and Kartikeshwar Puja by considering the Covid-19 pandemic situation in later stage,” said an office bearer of the Shanti Committee.

The Shanti Committee, meanwhile, urged Durga Puja panels in the city not to book any orchestra

or cultural troupe in advance for this year's Dussehra celebration.

“The Covid-19 positive cases in the city are rising day-by-day. We have asked clubs and Puja committees to organise Ganesh Puja in a simple way. They have been asked to follow social distancing and other precautionary measures strictly during the festivals,” said the Shanti Committee office bearer.

## CHINGARI APP WINS INNOVATION CHALLENGE AWARD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** The Chingari app, co-founded by Odisha born Biswatma Nayak, has won the 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' contest in social category beating more than 7,000 apps.

The jury announced the results Friday. The contest was organised by MeitY along with MyGov India, Atal Innovation Mission and Niti Aayog.

The app innovation challenge was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi July 4, and saw participation from 6,940 entrepreneurs and startups across the country. Chingari app beat other finalists in the social category including Koo and YouQuote.

On the momentous win, Biswatma said, “We are super happy and proud to become No 1 made in India app in social category. We thank the government and all our users for showering their love on us. This recognition has given a new boost to our team.”

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before, the Executive Magistrate/Notary Public, Karanjia, Mayurbhanj, I, Smt. Saloni Patwari, w/o Shubham Patwari, Ward No.10, At/Po-PS-Karanjia, Dist. Mayurbhanj, Odisha.

After my marriage, I have changed my surname from Agarwal to Patwari. Henceforth, I will be known as Saloni Patwari, w/o Shubham Patwari for all purposes.

By virtue of affidavit before Notary Public, Chatrapur, I, B.Prabhas Teja, Brahmuniapali, PO/PS - Chatrapur, Ganjam, my actual name is B.Prabhas Teja Patro misplaced in some cases instead of my birth certificate. Henceforth, I shall be known as B.Prabhas Teja Patro for all purposes.

# SAI Int'l School to organise maiden digital MUN-2020

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** SAI International School here will organise the first ever 'eSAI Model United Nations 2020' (eSAIMUN 2020), the annual Model United Nations (MUN) Conference, August 13 and 14 on virtual mode.

SAI Model United Nations (SAIMUN) Conference is a duly accredited registered event of United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan (UNIC), under the aegis of the United Nations and follows the UNAMUN procedures. Initiated in the year 2013, the objective of SAIMUN is to seek, through discussion, negotiation and debate solutions to the various problems of the world, enabling the participating students learn to adopt views and attitudes, other than their own and break away from the confined self-interest and develop international cooperation and tolerance.

The theme of SAIMUN is 'one world one family', which inspires the participants to work collaboratively and come out with innovative solutions to the various challenges outlined in the agenda.



Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, Founder and Mentor - SAI International Education Group said, “The pandemic is a challenge thrown to the humanity to re-think and rediscover that is yet untouched and unexplored, to make learning more meaningful.”

The conference will be attended online by Ambassador Kelly Craft, Permanent Representative, US Mission to the United Nations at New York, Joel Riefman, Consul General, US, Consulate General Hyderabad, Daniel Sim, Deputy Consul General, Australian

Consulate Kolkata, Nick Low, Deputy High Commissioner United Kingdom, Kolkata, and Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, Founder and Mentor SAI International Education Group as the key note speakers.

This year, the students will deliberate on global issues in 20 different committees such as United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), United Nations International Children and Emergency Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organization (ILO) and others.

Participants from countries like Pakistan, Australia, Japan, UAE, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Vietnam, USA and India along with 18 Round Square Schools are participating in the mega event.

The first ever eSAIMUN assures to be a more dynamic and intellectually stimulating event and will bring about a prolific change in the learning horizon of all the participants. For easy monitoring and better interaction, two different groups are formed, one for Classes IX and X and another for Classes XI and XII.

## Weavers, artists seek coronavirus relief package

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha Rural and Urban Producers Association (ORUPA) Friday on the occasion of National Handloom Day demanded corona relief package for weavers and artists.

Ashok Kumar Sahoo, CEO, ORUPA, said, “Due to the pandemic, many artists and weavers are facing untold difficulties. Their work and products are not getting sold. Procurement of raw material has also turned out to be a major challenge. Due to the cancellation of multiple exhibitions, they are not getting any chance to sell their work.”

To bring attention in this regard, 400 artists and weavers of the state sent a memorandum to the state and Central governments demanding relief package. They also demanded immediate sale of weavers products, inclusion of all handloom artists under the Aatma nirbhar bharat scheme, full payment of relief money to artists who suffered during Fani, loan facility for all handloom artists under MSME, identity card for all artists and construction of homes for them.

## PPE SCAM Sharma's response sought by Sept 14

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** The Odisha Lokayukta Friday ordered senior IAS officer Hemant Sharma, former chairman of the COVID-19 procurement committee, to submit his statement by September 14 in the alleged irregularities in the purchase of masks, PPE kits, COVID testing kits, and other supplies by the Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL).

Sharma was summoned to depose before the anti-corruption body for hearing of the corruption case scheduled to take place Friday. The Lokayukta was hearing petitions filed by Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) and a city-based NGO Odisha Bikash Parishad alleging massive corruption in the procurement of the PPE kits and other Covid-19 related items by the OSMCL.

The Lokayukta expressed his displeasure over the indifference of senior officials who failed to present their response despite the



Lokayukta's notice on the issue.

The leaders of Congress severely criticized the government officials against whom the notices were served to appear Friday. The party alleged that the government is not supplying any information related to the procurement process under RTI act and even the officers are not cooperating in the case at Lokayukta.

The Lokayukta has asked all the respondents to file submit their responses before the next hearing scheduled September 14.

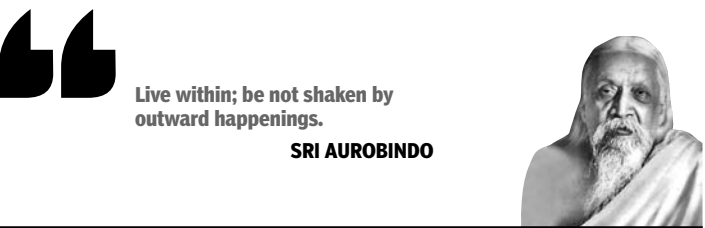
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**Sd./- Deputy Commissioner (Revenue)**  
**Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation**  
OIPR-13002/11/0025/2021





# Sushant for political games

This looks like a nightmarish end to federalism as we know it. Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's tragic death has turned into a deplorable political one-upmanship. The unprecedented face-off between Bihar Police and Mumbai Police on the investigation of the suicide has far-reaching consequences. Many experts are of the view that sending a team of Bihar Police personnel to Mumbai after Rajput's father filed an FIR demanding a probe into the "crime" was out of step. In India, police is a state subject and crimes are investigated by the police depending on where they occurred. If states start to interfere and go after crimes committed against their citizens in another state, we have a recipe for disaster. With the further likely addition of the CBI into this pot, the stew has grown thicker.

Had some worthies shown some prudence, we wouldn't have had to see the DGPs of the two states slinging at each other on the TV news. TV news-rooms or Twitter are not the place to conduct a serious investigation into the death of a popular actor.

The case has grown much bigger with the respective state governments getting into the ring. Bihar CM has given his nod for a CBI probe, bowing to pressure from the actor's family, while Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray is refusing to give in to the demand. Both chief ministers have decided to stand by their police chiefs. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also opened an investigation into alleged money laundering. It is pretty much a no-holds-barred affair now, teetering dangerously on the edge of turning into a farce.

None of this would have merited so much focus and energy were it not for the spectre of Assembly elections in Bihar, due in October. The Bihari "sentiment" seems to have taken the front stage, a thinly veiled euphemism for votes. The politicisation of the police is one of those vexed issues that no amount of reforms has been able to deal with. The recent Vikas Dubey encounter and the police custodial deaths in Sathankulam town near Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu are already forgotten. The Sushant case will likely drag on until it is convenient for the powers that be. But sadly, if this lack of restraint and willful flouting of procedures by the police persists, it will end badly for the country.



**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

## EXIT FROM NITI AAYOG

The repatriation of Niti Aayog Advisor Alok Kumar to his cadre state Uttar Pradesh has set tongues wagging. Barely less than two months ago, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had given Kumar a one-year extension of tenure at the think tank. He was relieved July 31.

The government's U-turn has left many observers bemused. Some say that since the UP government had agreed to an extension for Kumar in May, it is unlikely that it would recall the 1993-batch IAS officer. This then implies that the Centre's U-turn may have been caused by some rift among the higher-ups in Delhi over the babu. The buzz is that there are some differences between the Niti Aayog and the Health Ministry over policy matters, and possibly Kumar was in the middle of the spat. But that may not be the only reason, certainly not enough to warrant this U-turn. After all, Kumar was reportedly handling the majority of the key assignments at the nation's premier think tank. We may never know.

However, observers believe that Kumar's unexpected exit from Niti Aayog will cast a cloud over the empanelment of 1993 batch IAS officers for additional secretary-level posts at the Centre.

*Share a babu experience! Follow dilipcherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect*

## WISDOM CORNER

- A diamond with a flaw is better than a common stone that is perfect. **PROVERB**
- Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats the beauty and the youth. **ARTHASASTRA**
- One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. **PLATO**

## WORDSWORTH

### Tantivy

This archaic British English word for riding at full gallop has strong associations with the hunting field. Those dictionaries that mention it say it imitates the sound of the hooves of galloping horses, but I can't help but feel that a better origin lies in the three notes of the huntsman's horn when rallying the riders, one that is echoed in a hunting song of 1787 by the Irish dramatist John O'Keefe: "With a hey, ho, chivy / Hark forward, hark forward, tantivy". [chivy or chevy is another old hunting cry.] A once-common figurative usage was to ride tantivy, to go at something full speed or headlong, of which a late example appears in Australia Felix by Henry Handel Richardson (1917): "He was of a nature to ride tantivy into anything that promised excitement or adventure." A century earlier, the ubiquitous Sir Walter Scott had a character say in Peveril of the Peak, published 1824: "There are those amongst us who ride tantivy to Rome, and have already made out half the journey". This used the word in another sense, of a nickname given to high churchmen and Tories in the years after the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

### Taphonomist

"Change and decay in all around I see", hymned Henry Francis Lyte in Abide With Me. Nobody is more conscious of that than a taphonomist. The word was found in a dystopian SF book, Zero Point by Neal Asher, in which a future dictator used computer technology to simultaneously kill off eight billion human beings and then had to work out what to do with the bodies. Asher defined the word as a specialist who studies the decomposition of dead organisms. That's pretty much correct, though there's more to it and the timescales can vary hugely. A sub-discipline, forensic taphonomy, takes a relatively short-term view, looking into ways in which human remains decay through natural processes as a way to guide police investigations — you may have heard of macabre studies in which corpses are left out in the open so their decomposition can be studied.

## LOL

### WHAT ARE THE PICTURES?

A young lad was visiting a church for the first time, checking all the announcements and posters along the walls. When he came to a group of pictures of men in uniform, he asked a

nearby usher, "Who are all those men in the pictures?" The usher replied, "Why, those are our boys who died in the service." Dumbfounded, the youngster asked, "Was that the morning service or the evening service?"



Edmund S. Phelps

**MANY AI APPLICATIONS ARE NOT ENTIRELY SAFE. THE OBVIOUS EXAMPLE IS SELF-DRIVING CARS, WHICH CAN (AND HAVE) RUN INTO PEDESTRIANS OR OTHER CARS. BUT, OF COURSE, SO DO HUMAN DRIVERS**

## SPECTRUM HEALTH

# Who takes what from govt in healthcare



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

**THE DOCTORS TREATING COVID PATIENTS ARE FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN WHO WILL LIVE AND WHO WILL DIE. THE CHOICE BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT IS WHETHER THE FEW WILL LIVE AND MANY WILL DIE?**

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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

## FOCUS TECHNOLOGY

# TWO SIDES OF ROBOTS

The robots are no longer coming; they are here. The Covid-19 pandemic is hastening the spread of artificial intelligence (AI), but few have fully considered the short and long run consequences.

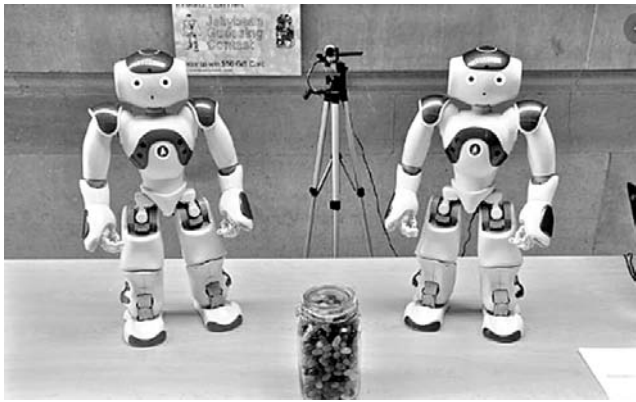
In thinking about AI, it is natural to start from the perspective of welfare economics — productivity and distribution. What are the economic effects of robots that can replicate human labour? Such concerns are not new. In the 19th Century, many feared that new mechanical and industrial innovations would 'replace' workers. The same concerns are being echoed today.

Consider a model of a national economy in which the labour performed by robots matches that performed by humans. The total volume of labour — robotic and human — will reflect the number of human workers, H, plus the number of robots, R. Here, the robots are additive — they add to the labour force rather than multiplying human productivity. To complete the model in the simplest way, suppose the economy has just one sector, and that aggregate output is produced by capital and total labour, human and robotic. This output provides for the country's consumption, with the rest going toward investment, thus increasing the capital stock.

What is the initial economic impact when these additive robots arrive? Elementary economics shows that an increase in total labour relative to initial capital — a drop in the capital-labour ratio — causes wages to drop and profits to rise.

There are three points to add. First, the results would be magnified if the additive robots were created from refashioned capital goods. That would yield the same increase in total labour, with a commensurate reduction in the capital stock, but the drop in the wage rate and the increase in the rate of profit would be greater.

Second, nothing would change if we adopted the Austrian School's two-sector framework in which labour produces the capital good



**The general public tends to assume that robotisation (and automation generally) leads to a permanent disappearance of jobs, and thus to the immiseration of the working class. But such fears are exaggerated**

and the capital good produces the consumer good. The arrival of robots still would decrease the capital-labour ratio, as it did in the one-sector scenario.

Third, there is a striking parallel between the model's additive robots and newly arrived immigrants in their impact on native workers. By pushing down the capital-labour ratio, immigrants, too, initially cause wages to drop and profits to rise. But it should be noted that with the rate of profit elevated, the rate of investment will rise. Owing to the law of diminishing returns, that additional investment will drive down the profit rate until it has fallen back to normal.

At this point, the capital-labour ratio will be back to where it was before the robots arrived, and the wage rate will be pulled back up.

To be sure, the general public tends to assume that robotisation (and automation generally) leads to a permanent disappearance of jobs, and thus to the immiseration of the working class. But such fears are exaggerated. The two models described above abstract from the familiar technological progress that drives up productivity and wages, making it reasonable to anticipate that the global economy will sustain some level

of growth in labour productivity and compensation per worker.

True, sustained robotisation would leave wages on a lower path than they otherwise would have taken, which would create social and political problems. It may prove desirable, as Bill Gates once suggested, to levy taxes on income from robot labour, just as countries levy taxes on income from human labour. This idea deserves careful consideration. But fears of prolonged robotisation appear unrealistic. If robotic labour increased at a non-vanishing pace, it would run into limits of space, atmosphere, and so on.

Moreover, AI has brought not just 'additive' robots but also 'multiplicative' robots that enhance workers' productivity. Some multiplicative robots enable people to work faster or more effectively (as in AI-assisted surgery), while others help people complete tasks they otherwise could not perform.

The arrival of multiplicative robots need not lead to a lengthy recession of aggregate employment and wages. Yet, like additive robots, they have their 'downsides.' Many AI applications are not entirely safe. The obvious example is self-driving cars, which can (and have) run into pedestrians

or other cars. But, of course, so do human drivers.

A society is not wrong, in principle, to deploy robots that are prone to occasional mistakes, just as we tolerate airplane pilots who are not perfect. We must judge costs and benefits. For efficiency, people ought to have the right to sue robots' owners for damages. Inevitably, a society will feel uncomfortable with new methods that introduce 'uncertainty.'

From the perspective of ethics, the interface with AI involves 'imperfect' and 'asymmetric' information. As Wendy Hall of the University of Southampton says, amplifying Nicholas Beale, "We can't just rely on AI systems to act ethically because their objectives seem ethically neutral."

Indeed, some new devices can cause serious harm. Implantable chips for cognitive enhancement, for example, can cause irreversible tissue damage in the brain. The question, then, is whether laws and procedures can be instituted to protect people from a reasonable degree of harm. Barring that, many are calling on Silicon Valley companies to establish their own 'ethics committees.'

All of this reminds me of the criticism leveled at innovations throughout the history of free-market capitalism. One such critique, the book Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft by sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies, ultimately became influential in Germany in the 1920s and led to the 'corporatism' arising there and in Italy in the interwar period — thus bringing an end to the market economy in those countries.

Clearly, how we address the problems raised by AI will be highly consequential. But they are not yet present on a wide scale, and they are not the main cause of the dissatisfaction and resulting polarisation that have gripped the West.

*The writer is the 2006 Nobel laureate in Economics and Director of the Center on Capitalism and Society at Columbia University. @PROJECT SYNDICATE*

### Raksha – for all

Sir, Raksha Bandhan was observed even during this time of pandemic. This is a festival in which sister ties rakhi on the wrist of her brother(s) and the brother(s) promises to protect her for the rest of her life. Question is, why can't a sister promise to protect her brother(s), too, rather? Women are considered weak in physique and such festivals are celebrated in a male-dominated society. Through this festival, the poisonous mentality of the male mainstream society has been forcibly infused into the minds of women since their childhood. It is not our intention to oppose this festival. Rather, let us vow to protect each other for the rest of our lives.  
**Loknath Mohapatra, BERHAMPUR**

### Tags for colleges

Sir, Bestowal of tags like 'Institute of Eminence' and 'Center of Excellence' by the Union HRD Ministry on some education groups had raised eyebrows. Now, it turns out that one such institution is under CBI scanner for wrongdoings, even as this institution has got approval from the Medical Council of India (MCI) for its medical college. The promoter of this institution belongs to the ruling party and is an MP. Higher education institutions are now claiming such tags simply on the strengths of having taller buildings — minus a taller knowledge base. Such tags that raise their 'marketability' come as blows to the higher education sector. Such tags are obtained by institutions by producing wrong and highly magnified status papers to the government. Some of our own established varsities have also claimed themselves to be centers of excellence even as they have large numbers of unfilled faculty vacancies. Those who issue such certificates of excellence are crooks of a kind.  
**Janaki Ballav Dash, MAYURBHANJ**

### BMC, holding tax

Sir, The holding tax as proposed by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) for the current financial has raised eyebrows. The new tax is arbitrary, anti-democratic, anti-poor and unjust. A few years ago, BMC collected user fees from the public in an illegal manner. Now, it is collecting property tax on the benchmark of total square feet of the building area. The new calculation of holding tax is sub-judice. It is improper to collect house tax at such an exorbitant price. Moreover, only online payment is accepted, adding to the woes of city-dwellers. The authorities are urged to reconsider the decision.

**Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR**



# SSR death: Rhea appears before ED

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, August 7:** Actor Rhea Chakraborty, accused of abetting suicide of filmstar Sushant Singh Rajput, appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here Friday in connection with the money laundering case lodged by it.

The ED had summoned Rhea Chakraborty for questioning Friday (August 7), but she had requested the agency to postpone recording of her statement pending hearing of her plea filed in the Supreme Court seeking transfer of the case lodged by the Bihar police to Mumbai.

However, the ED rejected her request. "In view of the fact that the ED has informed the media that the request to postpone her attendance is rejected, Rhea has appeared before the ED office," her advocate Satish Maneshinde said.

The advocate, in a statement, added that Rhea Chakraborty (28), Rajput's girlfriend, is a law-abiding citizen and would cooperate with the probe.

Rajput (34) was found hanging June 14 at his residence in subur-



ban Mumbai.

The Bihar police July 25 based on a complaint filed by Rajput's father K K Singh lodged an FIR against Rhea Chakraborty, her parents - Indrajit and Sandhya Chakraborty, her brother Showik Chakraborty and two others - Samuel Miranda and Shruti Modi.

They were booked on charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating, abetment to suicide and wrongful confinement.

The ED July 31 lodged a case of money laundering after Singh alleged financial irregularities in Rajput's bank accounts.

## Bihar IPS officer released from 'quarantine'

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday said it has allowed Bihar IPS officer Vinay Tiwari, quarantined here after arrival to oversee probe in actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case, to return to his home state. Tiwari, Superintendent of Police of Central Patna, has been exempted from quarantine protocols and allowed to return to his home state, an official said. Thursday, Bihar Police ADG wrote a letter to the Mumbai municipal commissioner, seeking the IPS officer's exemption from quarantine protocols and facilitate his return to Patna to resume his duty. Tiwari's presence is no longer required in Mumbai and his arrival period (in Patna) is within seven days, the letter said. Accordingly, the BMC informed the Bihar police that they are exempting the IPS officer from quarantine norms. The IPS officer, who was under 'home quarantine' at SRPF guest house in suburban Goregaon for two weeks, is expected to return to Bihar later in the day. Tiwari had reached Mumbai on Sunday to oversee investigation into the FIR filed against actress Rhea Chakraborty in the Sushant death case.

# 'As a yogi, I can't attend mosque event'

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, August 7:** After the 'bhoomi puja' for the Ram temple Wednesday, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, when asked if he would attend a similar function for the construction of the mosque in Ayodhya, turned the question on its head, wondering whether he would even be invited for it in the first place.

He later clarified that as a CM, he did not distinguish between religions, castes and communities but as a yogi, as a Hindu, he would not go for such an event since he had the right to express himself in following his religion.

The CM praised Iqbal Ansari, one of the main litigants from the Muslim side, for having accepted the SC's decision on the Ayodhya dispute. "People should take inspiration from him. He fought the case with all his might but also accepted the court's decision. It is a reflection on our democratic system that as a Muslim, he felt safe in Ayodhya while fighting his case. Would a Hindu feel safe in Pakistan or Afghanistan if he was fighting for a temple?"

He said that "pseudo secularism" had become the basis for terrorism,

riots and naxalism in the country and for opposing Hindus and added that the temple movement had unmasked "pseudo secularism". Holding Congress responsible for the prolonged dispute over the Ram temple, Yogi said the "divisiveness" it had created suited the party.

also Muslim and when I asked them about it, they said that they have the right to practise their religion but whatever religion they might follow, they cannot change their ancestors," he said.

The CM revealed Prime Minister Modi never visited Ayodhya in the



**The CM praised Iqbal Ansari, one of the main litigants from the Muslim side, for having accepted the SC's decision on the Ayodhya dispute**

"During elections they run to temples but on other occasions, they curse Hindus. This was not a matter of a temple but of the janmabhoomi where only Lord Ram will stay.

The issue was of Lord Ram's birth place and we wanted that place. Congress never wanted it there and saw advantage in dispute," he said. Yogi said one may change one's way of worshipping but cannot change the ancestor.

"Majority of the performers are

past six years as the court case was on. "He had also given strict instructions that nobody from the party should speak on the matter and if someone did, then an explanation was sought from them," he said.

When asked whether the government would consider changing the name of Babar Road in Delhi, he said: "We have already changed the name of Faizabad and Allahabad. Things will be done at the right time. Wait and see."

## CALAMITOUS LANDSLIDE



Municipal workers remove debris from WEH, following a landslide due to heavy rainfall, in Mumbai, Friday PTT PHOTO

# Audio clip of cops' conversation out

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, August 7:** Nearly a month after Kanpur's notorious gangster Vikas Dubey was put down in an encounter, an audio clip of a conversation between slain circle officer Devendra Mishra and Kanpur SP (Rural) Brijesh Srivastava has gone viral on the social media. They were part of the team that was ambushed and butchered by Dubey's men a week before his death.

The audio clip could spell trouble for the then Station Officer (SO) of Chaubeypur police station Vinay Tiwari and former Kanpur SSP Anant Deo Tiwari. Questions have been raised over the nexus between police officers and Dubey's gang ever since the July 2 massacre in Bikru village.

Vinay Tiwari has been arrested for his complicity with the slain gangster while Anant Deo Tiwari has been shifted to another district after the Bikru massacre.

In the phone conversation, that



apparently took place just before the police raided Dubey's premises on the night of July 2 that led to the death of eight policemen, including slain circle officer; Devendra Mishra, himself, can be heard telling Srivastava that the SO (Vinay Tiwari) is saying the raid will start only after the CO (Mishra) reaches

the spot.

Mishra is also heard making allegations against "former SSP Tiwari" (in an apparent reference to Anant Deo Tiwari) - saying that he took Rs 5 lakh from the SO after a gambling racket was busted by Mishra and dropped all inquiries against the SO.

At the start of the five-minute clip, the SP can be heard saying that a large deployment of police would be required in the village and Mishra says that the deployment should not be a problem.

"The SO is saying that he would go for the raid only after I reach there. So, I am going," Mishra says.

SP Rural tells Mishra that "You should not worry. I will take care of these people very soon and am preparing a list of all that he is doing. The SSP might have asked him to make the arrest. Use your mind and take the force of two-three police stations as we have a great chance of catching him (Vikas Dubey)."

The circle officer who lost his life in the encounter, then says, "I will tell you about him. When he (Vinay Tiwari) touches his (Vikas Dubey) feet, what else we can expect. Once I told him that if he will keep his relations with him (Dubey) then it might lead to 2-4 murders, but he said that only a criminal can tell about other criminals."

# 1,074 farmers end lives in 6 months

**COLLAPSE OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN RESULTED IN A PRICE CRASH IN WHOLESALE MARKETS**

AGENCIES

**Marathwada, August 7:** Maharashtra has recorded 1,074 farmer suicides in the six-month period between January and June this year. In other words, 6 farmers on average ended their lives every day.

The highest number of cases was in June during the lockdown when 214 cases were reported. The lockdown was particularly hard on farmers sowing perishable crops like fruits and vegetables. Initially, transport restrictions had made it difficult for farmers to take their goods to major wholesale markets, and many ended up discarding their produce.

Of 1,074 farmer suicides till June this year, most cases were in June during the lockdown. Collapse of the supply chain resulted in a price crash in wholesale markets. However, government procurement for crops like cotton was the highest in the last decade.

Despite the lockdown, the farmer figures are lower than last year when 1,336 cases were reported during the same period. In 2019, Marathwada had reported a rain deficit and then there were floods in Western Maharashtra which

destroyed large tracts of crop.

"The low-profile marriage season in this pandemic year may have reduced spending pressure on farmers. In summer months, marriages are a key reason for rise in indebtedness," said Kishore Tiwari of Vidarbha Janandolan Samiti. "This year, many chose to postpone marriages or hold very small functions." However, he added that the real challenge this year will be after the kharif harvest.

"Many farmers did not get crop loans and borrowed for the kharif crop. They have pinned hopes on its success," said Tiwari.

"The agrarian crisis cannot be resolved until there is control on prices of agricultural inputs and farmers get a better price for their produce. The availability of crop loans is vital." Farmer leader Vijay Jawandhia from Vidarbha feels that the fear of the pandemic kept the pressure of indebtedness at bay.

Ajit Navale from the Kisan Sabha said so far this year, farmers had been spared a major pest attack. "Also, fruit and vegetable farmers generally come from the irrigated belt. They suffered the most in the pandemic, but also tend to be better off than dry-land farmers," said Navale.



# Panchaganga still flowing dangerously

**THE REASON BEHIND THE STEADY AND SLOW RISE IN THE WATER LEVEL OF THE PANCHGANGA IS DISCHARGE OF WATER FROM THE RADHANAGARI DAM**

**SO FAR 4,413 PEOPLE FROM 1,750 FAMILIES IN 23 VILLAGES IN GADHINGLAS, PANCHALA, KARVEER, GAGANBAWDA, AJARA TEHSILS AND KOLHAPUR CITY HAVE BEEN SHIFTED**

AGENCIES

**Kolhapur, August 7:** The Panchaganga river in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra is still flowing above the danger mark, but the rise in water level is slow and steady due to discharge of water from a dam, officials from the local administration said Friday.

According to the officials, the water level of the Panchaganga at the Rajaram weir (barrage) as on Friday morning (at 7) was at 44.7 feet, which is above the danger mark.

The water level reached the danger mark (at 43 feet) Thursday around 4 pm. Since then, the rise of water level at the Rajaram weir has been slow



but steady, said a duty officer at the district disaster management cell. He said the intensity of rains in the district has reduced, but intermittent showers are continuing.

The reason behind the steady and slow rise in the water level of the Panchaganga is discharge of water from the Radhanagari

dam, which is filled to capacity due to rains in its catchment areas, said the officer. Four gates of the dam, built on the Bhogawati river in Kolhapur district, has been opened so far to release excess water, he said.

As the water level was rising in the Panchaganga Thursday, the district administration had

shifted some 1,750 families from 23 villages to safer places.

So far 4,413 people from 1,750 families in 23 villages in Gadhinglas, Panchala, Karveer, Gaganbawda, Ajara tehsils and Kolhapur city have been shifted, district collector Daulat Desai had said. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has already deployed four teams in Kolhapur district to deal with any situation.

In Sagali, the district administration said it has distributed safety kits in 20 flood-prone villages. Last year, unprecedented rains had wreaked havoc in western Maharashtra, especially in Kolhapur and Sangli districts, claiming over 60 lives.

# Maha ties up with Google to start virtual classes

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, August 7:** Maharashtra government tied up with Google to provide online education to students in the state. Students and teachers will get access to Google Classroom and G Suite for Education that will provide solutions to support remote learning.

The tools allow interactive sessions, which will allow teachers to explain lessons, and students can also ask their doubts while sitting at home. Homework can be uploaded, and teachers can check them online, said state officials.

The project was launched by chief minister (CM) Uddhav Thackeray, and will cover over 1.09 lakh government, private, aided, and unaided schools, and benefit over 22.03 million students.

The move is significant, considering the shutdown of schools due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The new academic year of schools in the state should have started June 15.

Last month, the state government allowed students from Class 1 to 8 to attend online classes so that they can start their academic

**FUTURISTIC PROJECT**

THE TOOLS ALLOW INTERACTIVE SESSIONS, WHICH WILL ALLOW TEACHERS TO EXPLAIN LESSONS, AND STUDENTS CAN ALSO ASK THEIR DOUBTS WHILE SITTING AT HOME

THE PROJECT WILL COVER OVER 1.09 LAKH GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE, AIDED, AND UNAIDED SCHOOLS, AND BENEFIT OVER 22.03 MILLION STUDENTS

year while at home. However, initiating online classes posed a problem, officials said.

"Maharashtra is the first state in the country that is launching such a project. Coronavirus has forced us to adopt the changes that were supposed to come in the future,"

Thackeray said while launching the project online.

"Google Classroom and G Suite, which will be available free of cost, are the tools that allow the education institutes to conduct interactive sessions. Around 250 participants can attend it at a time.

Teachers can make their audio or video presentations; students can clear their doubts, and upload homework and assignments. Even parents can submit their complaints or suggestions through the system," said Dinkar Patil, director, Maharashtra State Council of Educational

**Maharashtra is the first state in the country that is launching such a project. Coronavirus has forced us to adopt the changes that were supposed to come in the future**

**UDDHAV THACKERAY | CM, MAHARASHTRA**

Research and Training (MSCERT). "We are beginning with the training of the teachers. As many as 40,000 teachers will be the master trainers for the remaining 2 lakh teachers. Once, training is completed, students will be asked to register their mobile numbers, and will get notifications with details of each session," Patil added.

School education minister Varsha Gaikwad said, "We have got responses from 1.34 lakh teachers within 48 hours after floating an invitation link for Google Classroom training. The process of teacher training is going to be started on August 7. We are turning the crisis into an opportunity."



## of the day quote

The question is, why the 1st LG of UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR has tendered his resignation? Voluntary or instructed? Whether he has been failed to hoodwink the people that everything is going hunky-dory?

**ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY**  
LEADER OF THE CONGRESS IN THE LOK SABHA

Modi govt is committed for the holistic development of our weavers' community. PM Modi's mantra of 'Vocal for Local' will surely boost the morale of handloom sector

**AMIT SHAH** | UNION HOME MINISTER

I spoke to the doctors and parents of the 12-year-old girl, who was sexually assaulted, on phone. I had visited her in the hospital yesterday. She is still fighting for her life. Doctors are trying their best. Please pray for her. In the meanwhile, police has arrested one person

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL** | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### UPSC gets a new chairman

**New Delhi:** Educationist Pradeep Kumar Joshi was on Friday appointed the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which conducts the civil services examination to select the country's bureaucrats and diplomats, officials said. Joshi is currently a member in the Commission. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Arvind Saxena, the outgoing chairman of the UPSC, according to an official statement. Joshi joined the Commission as its member May 12, 2015.

### Thak Thak gang members held

**New Delhi:** Delhi police arrested two members of 'Thak Thak' gang and seized jewellery worth one crore from their possession. The arrested members of the gang have been identified as Sandeep and Santosh. An incident of robbery was reported at DBG road police station on August 6 after which the police scanned the CCTV footage of the area and based on the specific information laid a trap near Central Market, Madangiri.

### Bhojpuri actress commits suicide

**Mumbai:** Bhojpuri film actress Anupama Pathak allegedly committed suicide at her home in Mira Road area of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, police said Friday. Pathak, 40, was found hanging at her rented flat in Mhada Colony on Sunday, police said. Hailing from Purnea district in Bihar, she had moved to Mumbai and worked in Bhojpuri films and TV shows.

### Israeli Covid-19 experts leave India

**New Delhi:** The research team of top Israeli defence scientists and health experts Friday returned home after collecting thousands of samples from Covid-19 patients in India. The research team from the Directorate for Defense Research and Development, Ministry of Defense, accompanied by scientists from the Ministry of Health, arrived in India on July 27 to develop a rapid testing kit for Covid-19.



**The current crisis in Rajasthan is due to CM Ashok Gehlot and the Congress**  
**KAILASH CHAUDHARY** | UNION MINISTER

### 'KISAN RAIL' FLAGGED OFF FROM DEOLALI

Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar Friday flagged off the country's first 'Kisan Rail' train from Deolali in Nashik to Danapur in Bihar, through video-conferencing



# SC refuses to hear PIL for probe against Cong over China pact

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 7:** The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking NIA probe into the alleged 2008 agreement between the Indian National Congress and the Communist Party of China.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde asked senior lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for PIL petitioners Shashank Shekhar Jha and journalist Savio Rodrigues, to withdraw the plea and approach the high court.

"Every relief which you are seeking can be granted by the high court. Secondly, high court is a proper court. Thirdly, we will have the advantage of high court order also," said the bench which also comprised Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The top court, in the hearing conducted through video conferencing, allowed the petitioners to "withdraw the petition with liberty to approach the high court."

At the outset, Jethmalani alleged that it was an "agreement between a political party of this country with the only political party in that country (China)" and the issue pertained to national security.

"We find that there is something which appears to be, what might be called, unheard of and absurd in law. You are saying that China has entered into an agreement with a political party and not the government. How can a political party enter into an agreement with China," the bench observed.

On being stressed by the lawyer that this was the case, the bench said, "we will allow you to withdraw this and file a fresh petition. We will examine what you say in the petition and if we find any false



statement, we may prosecute you".

The court said, "Within our limited experience, we have unheard of it that a political party is making an agreement with other country." Jethmalani argued that the alleged offences, if any disclosed, will be under the NIA Act and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and it will be better if the Supreme Court examine this as it relates to national security.

Amid India-China face-off on Line of Actual Control (LAC), a PIL was filed in the top court seeking NIA probe into the 2008 agreement between Indian National Congress and the Communist Party of China.

"Despite of having a hostile relation with China, Respondent No.1 (Congress) had signed an agreement when it was running a coalition government and hidden the facts and details of the agreement from the country," the PIL alleged.

"The petitioners firmly believe that the Nation's security cannot and shouldn't be compromised by any one," the plea had said. The said agreement was signed between Congress and Communist Party of China in Beijing for exchanging high-level information and co-operation.

# NEP is the foundation of new India: PM

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 7:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the new National Education Policy (NEP) focusses on 'how to think', while the education system till now in the country emphasised on 'what to think'. Referring to the policy as foundation of "new India," the prime minister asked all stakeholders to focus on implementation of reforms laid down in the new policy.

"NEP has given rise to a healthy debate and the more we discuss and debate the more it will benefit the education department. It is palpable that questions will arise on how this huge plan will be implemented. We all will together do this implementation. Each one of you is directly involved in implementation of the NEP. In terms of political will, I am totally committed and with you," he said. The prime minister made these remarks while delivering the inaugural address at the 'Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy' via video link. He also said that there were no major changes in the country's ed-



ucation system over the years. As a result, instead of promoting values ??of curiosity and imagination, herd mentality got encouraged. "In recent years, there have not been major changes in education and thus the values of curiosity and imagination were not given the thrust. Instead, we moved towards a herd community. The mapping of interest, ability, and demand was needed. We need to develop critical thinking and innovative thinking abilities in our youths. It will be possible if we have purpose, philosophy, and pas-

sion of education," he said.

"Till now, we have focussed on what to think but NEP 2020 focuses on how to think. At a time when there is a flood of information and content, it is important that we know which information is necessary and which is not. We need inquiry-based, discovery-based, and analysis-based modes of teaching. This will increase the interest to learn and participate in class," he said. Modi said it is a matter of happiness that after the introduction of the National Education Policy, no region or section has said

that it has any kind of bias, or is leaning towards one side.

"We are also trying to ensure that the talent of India stays in India and works for the development of generations to come," said the prime minister. The NEP allows top ranking institutes of the world to set-up campuses in India. Earlier, the HRD Ministry had introduced several initiatives under the Study in India program. "India is split on the topic of autonomy. One school of thought says that the government should have the say in education institutes, while the other believes every institute should have freedom. The way to quality-education goes from between both these schools of thought. The institutes which will work more on quality education will be given more freedom as a reward. This will increase the quality and encourage higher education institutes to grow," he said. The NEP approved by the Union Cabinet replaces the 34-year-old National Policy on Education framed in 1986 and is aimed at paving the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems to make India a global knowledge superpower.



An artist from Rajasthan gives colour to Krishna idols ahead of Janmashtami festival, in Bangalore, Friday PTI PHOTO

# Curbs eased for OCI card holders from US, UK, Germany and France

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders from the US, UK, German and France, with whom India has signed 'air bubble' arrangements, will be allowed to visit the country, the Home Ministry announced Friday.

Other foreigners from these countries have also been allowed to avail Indian visa facility for business, medical and employment purposes. According to a home ministry notification, Indian citizens have also been allowed to travel to these countries on any type of visa.

"Ministry of Home Affairs has permitted to enter India OCI card holders who belong to countries with which 'air bubble' arrangements have been finalised by Ministry of Civil Aviation," a home ministry spokesperson said. India so far has bilateral air travel arrangements or 'air bubbles' with the US, UK, Germany and France during the coronavirus pandemic-related international travel restrictions.

Other countries may be included under this scheme in future, the notification said.

The home ministry said it has further considered the need for relaxation of visa and travel restric-



**India so far has bilateral air travel arrangements or 'air bubbles' with the US, UK, Germany and France during the pandemic-related international travel restrictions**

tions for more categories of foreign nationals who want to travel to India and Indian nationals intending to visit other countries in the context of the 'air bubble' scheme.

Accordingly, in respect of countries with which 'air bubble' scheme has already been worked out, i.e. the US, UK, Germany and France and the countries that may be included in

such a scheme in future, it has been decided that OCI card holders holding passports of such countries are permitted to enter India, the notification said. Indian missions of these countries will grant appropriate visa, provided papers of the applicants are in order and there is no adverse input about them.

Any Indian national holding any type of valid visa of such countries may be permitted to travel to the country concerned provided there is no travel restriction for Indian nationals to enter the country concerned with the particular visa category before issue of tickets and boarding pass to the Indian passenger, the home ministry said.

It has also been decided that the existing restrictions on incoming passenger traffic into India through the immigration check posts will not apply to such travellers.

The existing restrictions on incoming passenger traffic into India will not be applicable on movement of cargo or goods and supplies in any vehicle, aircraft, ship, train etc. along with their crew, sailor, driver, helper, cleaner etc.

## CASHEW INDIA APP FOR FARMERS LAUNCHED

*The "Cashew India" app is available in 11 languages and can be downloaded from Google Play Store*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mangalore, August 7:** The Directorate of Cashew Research (DCR) in Karnataka has launched a mobile app that would provide information related to the crop's cultivation, market data and research for stakeholders, including the farmers.

The "Cashew India" app of DCR, which is under the Indian council of agricultural research (ICAR) and located at Puttur in Dakshina Kannada district, is available in 11 languages and can be downloaded from Google play store, a senior official said. It gives comprehensive information on cashew grafts, nursery, cultivation, plant protection, post-harvest processing, market information and e-market beneficial for farmers, researchers, developmental agencies and processors at one place, S Mohana, senior scientist at

DCR, who conceptualised and designed this app, said in a release.

He said a farmer or user of the app can upload and store images related to cashew and videos in My Cashew sub-section under the cultivation section. It was also possible to record the expenditure, observations and data of the cashew farm. Real-time chatting is available for users under the chat room section.

The users can give their buying and selling requirements in the market info section. Experts can be contacted through the ask expert section. The app is developed for states including

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Meghalaya, Mohana said, adding this might be the highest number of states covered in an app.



"I want to accelerate that development," he added. On August 5, 2019, Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 was revoked and the state bifurcated into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir; and Ladakh.

Less than 150 people were invited for the swearing-in ceremony. Social distancing norms were observed with all invitees seated away from each other and everyone wearing masks in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sinha and the chief justice briefly took off their masks for the oath-taking.

Sinha succeeds former IAS officer Girish Chandra Murmu, who resigned on Wednesday night and was appointed Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on Thursday.

# Deployment of Indian Navy warships increased across the IOR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** With a considerable increase in the deployment of its warships in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), the Indian Navy is providing strategic support to its fellow services in the ongoing activities related to the border tensions with China.

The officials said that past 100 days have seen the Indian Navy operating from Lakshadweep (with its P-8I surveillance aircraft) in the north to Mauritius, 7,000 km to the south, and from the Red Sea in the west to the Malacca Strait in the east, a distance of nearly 8,000 km.

Indian Navy deploys ships on Mission Based Deployments at key locations in the IOR so as to build a comprehensive maritime picture and respond to developing situations.

At any time, there are warships patrolling the Bay of Bengal, the Malacca Straits, the Andaman Sea, the southern and the central Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf.

Additionally, following maritime security incidents, a combat-ready warship has also been deployed on Operation Sankalp since June 2019 for protection of Indian merchant vessels passing through the



**THE INDIAN NAVY IS SAID TO HAVE INCREASED DEPLOYMENT OF WARSHIPS IN THE IOR SINCE THE BORDER TENSIONS WITH CHINA BEGAN**  
**SOME ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT THE INCREASE IS ALMOST 25 PER CENT**

Persian Gulf.

"Being a network-enabled force, the Navy maintains total awareness of the IOR by using the IFC-IOR

(Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region), ships on Mission Based Deployments, P-8I and Dornier surveillance aircraft and

other high-end surveillance tools," a senior government official said.

Near-coast surveillance is also coordinated by the Indian Navy by coordinating the resources of nearly 20 government agencies to draw an electronic fence over our coastline, to deter any 26/11-type incident.

After Chinese People Liberation Army's activities in eastern Ladakh increased in the months of May and June, culminating in June 15 clashes in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, the chiefs of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force are meeting on a daily basis to coordinate the joint response.

Since then, the Indian Navy has been at the forefront of strategic signalling to the Chinese forces. Signing of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement in June with Australia gave the Indian Navy access to the strategically located Cocos and Keeling Islands in the southern Indian Ocean, which will enable ships and aircraft to keep watch on Chinese Navy ships and submarines entering the Indian Ocean Region. Similarly, the agreement provides Australian ships and aircraft access to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to extend their reach into the South China Sea.



**of the day** **quote**

Our government will soon bring a sports policy to encourage sports and sportspersons

**HEMANT SOREN** | JHARKHAND CHIEF MINISTER

As the chief of the Congress legislative party, I would be putting across to my high command that there should be an alliance of like-minded anti-BJP parties for the next assembly polls in Goa

**DIGAMBAR KAMAR** | GOA CONGRESS LEADER

Even the SC is surprised at the MoU signed by the Congress party with the Chinese Gov. Mrs Gandhi & her son, who led the signing, must explain. Does this explain donations to RGF and opening Indian market for the Chinese in return, which affected Indian businesses?

**J P NADDA** | BJP PRESIDENT

**SHORT TAKES**

**Pakistan violates ceasefire**

**Srinagar:** Six civilians were injured as Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Naugam and Tangdhar sectors of Jammu and Kashmir Friday by resorting to unprovoked firing towards Indian positions, an army official said. "Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation (CFV) along the LoC in Naugam and Tangdhar sectors in Kupwara (district of north Kashmir) by firing mortars and other weapons," the official said. He said six civilians were injured due to Pakistani shelling in Tangdhar sector while no casualties had been reported from Naugam sector so far.

**Electric Vehicle Policy in Delhi**

**New Delhi:** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday launched 'Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy' under which his government will waive registration fee and road tax, and provide incentive of up to Rs 1.5 lakh for new cars in the national capital. Addressing an online media briefing, he said the policy, which aims to boost the economy, create jobs and reduce pollution level, has been notified. The Chief Minister termed it a "progressive policy" of the country.

**Kerala bishop gets bail in rape case**

**Kottayam:** Two days after the Supreme Court dismissed the petition filed by former Jalandhar bishop Franco Mulakkal seeking to discharge him in the Kerala nun rape case, he appeared in court here Friday and secured bail. The Kottayam Additional Sessions Court had issued a non-bailable warrant against him last month and cancelled his earlier bail in the case, after he failed to appear before the court to hear the chargesheet in the case being read out.

**42-year-old man beaten to death**

**Howrah (WB):** A 42-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death in West Bengal's Howrah district, police said Thursday. The incident happened late Wednesday in Bhupatipur village in the Jagatballavpur police station area, they said. Amid a brawl among family members over cutting a papaya tree, Adhir Ray was beaten on his head with a stick, police said.



**No one involved will be spared. Whoever is involved in the hooch tragedy will be given strict punishment as per law**  
**AMARINDER SINGH** | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

**BHU-NHAI TIE-UP**

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between Indian Institute of Technology in Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for improving the quality of roads in the country



**ITALIAN MARINES CASE**

**Let Italy compensate victims' kin: Top court**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** The Supreme Court Friday told the Centre to let Italy pay the victims compensation in the Italian marines case, and then it could allow the withdrawal by the prosecution. The top court insisted that it will have to hear the kin of the victims on adequacy of compensation and till then it would not close the case.

A bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde, Justice AS Bopanna and Justice V Ramasubramanian told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, "bring the cheques and the kin of victims here". The bench noted that the top court cannot think of any relief for the Italian marines till their prosecution is withdrawn in the Kerala court. Mehta replied the Centre is willing to file a petition for withdrawing prosecution of the two marines. The Chief Justice replied "but the family of victims will have a problem. They will have to be heard". Mehta contended before the top court that the Centre is in favour of withdrawing the prosecution of the Italian marines in India, as Italy is ready to prosecute them. The bench noted that without hearing the kin of the deceased it cannot close the case. The top court asked Mehta to file an application seeking impleadment of the families of the victims within a week. The top court adjourned the hearing on the pend-



A file photo of Italian sailors Salvatore Gironi and Massimiliano Latorre

ing petition filed by the two Italian marines - Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Gironi.

On July 3, the Centre had informed the top court that it has accepted the international tribunal award in the killing of two fishermen by the Italian marines. The Centre asked the apex court to close the matter pending before it for eight years.

The tribunal ruled for the trial of the marines in Italy. It said India is entitled to payment of compensation in connection with loss of life, physical harm, material damage to property and moral harm suffered by the captain and other crew members of the Indian fishing boat 'St Antony'.

On February 15, 2012, two Indian fishermen aboard the fishing vessel St Antony were allegedly killed by the two Italian marines aboard the Italian tanker 'Enrica Lexie' off the coast of Kerala.

**SC dismisses Rehana's bail plea**

PNN/AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 7:** The Supreme Court Friday junked a plea filed by Kerala activist Rehana Fathima to challenge a High Court order that rejected her petition against a case registered under the POCSO Act and IT Act over her controversial video.

A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices Arun Mishra, BR Gavai and Krishna Murari observed that the video uploaded by Fathima of her seminude body being painted on by her children was clearly obscene.

"Why do you do all this? You might be an activist but why do this? What kind of nonsense is this? It is obscenity clearly which you are spreading. It will leave the society in a very bad taste. What impression will the kids get," the bench said. The petitioner, mother to a 14-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl, had uploaded a video clip titled 'Body Art and Politics' on YouTube, showing her two children painting on her semi-naked body. Rehana's counsel contended before the apex court that children seen in a video clip are 'fully clothed' and his client has been charged with child pornography and not obscenity. "Does female nudity (even when not visible) per se constitutes obscenity?" he pleaded on behalf of his client. The lawyer insisted that his client Rehana is of the opinion that the only way out of this mindset is to sensitise people. She has moved an anticipatory bail plea in a matter.

**Immunity boosting rotis and hot brews to fight COVID-19**



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, August 7:** Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister CN Ashwath Narayan launched eight startup-developed products to help in the fight against coronavirus.

"These technologies and products add to the list of earlier products launched and developed by the startups at the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC). This shows that Karnataka has emerged as a leading state in developing solutions to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a result of the robust innovation ecosystem present here," said Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan. These products have been developed by various startups at BBC, an initiative of Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S & T, Government of Karnataka. Padma Vitals+ is a

centralized monitoring system for ECG, respiration, SpO2 and body temperature. It can measure the vitals continuously and send information through telemetry. This device helps in contactless monitoring of Covid patients and has been validated by Narayana Hrudayalaya.

Malli's Cordytea is an immunity boosting tea prepared with mushroom cordyceps, and is known to have anti-viral properties. It helps in boosting immunity levels and has been approved by the FSSAI.

CD4 Shield is a chewable tablet containing curcumin and vitamin B12. Both ingredients are known to fight inflammation and infection. "The product (CD4 Shield) ensures activation of innate immunity by activating CD4+, CD8+ and IFN1 to virus specific effect and has immunomodulatory properties. It also reduces cytokine storm in response to viral infection," said the official. Padma Vitals+, Malli's Cordytea, CD4 Shield, BemaRoti, Immune booster daily drops, VegPhal, Water Sanitiser and Anti-Microbial HVAC module are the eight products that have been launched.

BeamRoti is an immunity boosting chapati (Indian bread), laced with herbs recommended by the Ayush ministry.

Immune booster daily drops boost immunity, possessing a mixture of Ayush ministry recommended herbs.



under the worst case scenario.

Similarly, the average temperature over India is projected to rise by approximately 4.4 degrees Celsius under such a scenario, he said. Romshoo noted that there will be significant impacts on almost every sec-



Debris lie on the ground after a landslide due to heavy rainfall in the area

ers at the picturesque area near a tea plantation, about 30 kms from the tourist town of Munnar. Big boulders are also scattered around the site. Addressing a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram, the Chief Minister said 15 people died in the mishap. Teams of National Disaster Response Force personnel were on their way to Pettimudi for joining the rescue operations and the government has also sought an Indian Air Force helicopter to assist in the mission, he said.

Condoling the death of workers in the tragedy, the Chief Minister announced initial solatium of Rs 5 lakh each for the kin of the dead. Treatment expenses for the injured will be borne by the government, he said. In view of the Pettimudi incident, the district collectors have been directed to ensure safety and security of the workers staying in dwelling units in the tea estates. The Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet that an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of those killed in the landslide. Rs 50,000 each would be given to those

injured. "Pained by the loss of lives due to a landslide in Rajamalai, Idukki. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved families," Modi tweeted. Praying for the early recovery of the injured, he said NDRF and the administration were working on the ground, providing assistance to the affected.

Home Minister Shah in a tweet said an NDRF team has reached Idukki to assist in the rescue and relief operations. Rahul Gandhi, who represents Wayanad in Lok Sabha, in a message said "This is a terrible tragedy. I urge all our Congress party workers and leaders to lend a helping hand at this time and do whatever they can to mitigate the suffering of our brothers and sisters who are in need of help."

The death toll in rain-related incidents since June 1 this year has risen to 51. One person died in a house collapse in Palakkad on Friday, officials said.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department has sounded a red alert for Idukki on Friday, indicating extremely heavy rains of over 20 cms.

**CHILLING OUT**



Children jump into a pond to take bath at Ranaghat in Nadia district, Friday

PTI PHOTO

**Govts don't act till we direct them: SC**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** The Supreme Court Friday said that the governments in the country did not act till the court directed them.

"We have seen from our experience that governments do not act until we direct them," a bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian said. "That is why this system is here," the court remarked. The observation came

during hearing of a plea filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind that alleged "demonising of the Muslim minority" in the wake of Tablighi Jamaat congregation in Delhi in March. The Chief Justice said that the criticism is not aimed at Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

Senior Advocate Dushyant Dave submitted before the bench regarding news reports on the Jamaat event, and insisted that only the government can take action and not the self-regulating bodies gov-

erning the media. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in an affidavit filed through advocate Rajat Nair, informed the top court that it cannot gag the media from reporting on the Jamaat issue. The Centre claimed that steps have already been taken to prevent any dissemination of false and provocative information, and a blanket gag order cannot be passed against media reportage, as this could effectively harm the freedom of speech and expression and press freedom.

**Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh could heat up by 7°C by 2100**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, August 7:** Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh may witness a temperature increase of up to 6.9 degrees Celsius by the end of the century due to climate change, according to a study which warns that the glaciers in this Himalayan region could shrink by 85 per cent if the projections come true.

The study published in the journal Climatic Change July 29, predicted the impact of future climate change in the Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Himalaya, by the end of the twenty-first century using an ensemble of 11 models under three greenhouse gas emission scenarios. It also highlights the changes in the distribution of the prevalent climate zones in the region.

"The study has been carried over the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir, including Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Aksai Chin and other regions across the Line of Control (LoC)," noted Professor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Dean of Research at the University of Kashmir. "The average annual temperature is projected to increase by 4.5 degrees Celsius, 3.98 degrees Celsius, and 6.93 degrees Celsius by the end of the twenty-first century under three different scenarios, respectively," Romshoo, lead author of the research, told PTL.

Romshoo added that if the current emission rates of greenhouse gases are sustained, the global average temperature is likely to rise by nearly 5 degrees Celsius by the end of the twenty-first century

tor of the economy in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh due to this climate change driven temperature increase.

"The glaciers, the most important resource of the region, are going to shrink by around 85 per cent

by the end of the century if the projections come true," the professor at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir, noted. He explained that this would lead to significant depletion of the streamflows in the Indus basin, the

waters of which are shared between several countries in South Asia.

Similarly, the impacts on agriculture, horticulture and even tourism shall significantly threaten the livelihood of the dependent population in the region, the environmentalist warned. The researchers, including Jasia Bashir and Irfan Rashid from the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir, noted that the drivers of climate change are primarily the increasing emission rates of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gas emission is directly related to fossil fuel use, industrialisation, deforestation, air pollution, and other environmental unfriendly activities across the globe, they explained.



# international

## of the day quote

Iran is the world's number one sponsor of terrorism. Russia and China will become "co-sponsors" if they block a resolution to extend the UN arms embargo on Iran

KELLY CRAFT | US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

US seeks a sovereign, unified and democratic Afghanistan that is at peace with itself and its neighbours

MIKE POMPEO | US SECRETARY OF STATE

The UK will not hesitate to add more countries to its travel quarantine list in order to protect public health amid the COVID-19 pandemic

RISHI SUNAK | BRITISH POLITICIAN

## SHORT TAKES

### Polish President sworn in

**Warsaw:** Polish President Andrzej Duda was sworn in for his second five-year term in office after he was re-elected in a run-off on July 12. Duda was administered his oath of office by the National Assembly, the country's joint sitting of both houses of parliament, reports Xinhua news agency.

### Man arrested

**Beijing:** Chinese police have arrested a man for posting "rumours" on social media alleging that poor-quality military vehicles have caused the "death" of PLA soldiers during the India-China border clash, the official media here reported. Recently, a netizen surnamed Zhou was arrested by police for "spreading rumours online stating that the poor quality of military vehicles supplied by the Dongfeng Off-road Vehicle Co., Ltd. has caused the death of Chinese soldiers during the China-India border clash," a report in Chinamil.com, which is attached to the Chinese Ministry of Defence, said.

### Three boys held

**Miami:** Three teenage boys were arrested after they fled police and ended up in US President Donald Trump's Florida resort with a loaded AK-47 assault rifle found inside a backpack they were carrying, media reports said. The three 15-year-old boys jumped a wall at the Mar-a-Lago on Friday, but probably didn't know that's where they were, Xinhua news agency quoted Palm Beach Police spokesman Michael Ogradnick as saying.

### Boat mishap

**Dakar (Senegal):** At least 27 people died when a boat carrying migrants capsized off the West African coast between Mauritania and Western Sahara, United Nations agencies said Friday. More than 40 were initially feared dead on Thursday, according to initial reports by the U.N. refugee agency.

## SL polls: Rajapaksa clan registers big win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, August 7:** Mahinda Rajapaksa will be sworn in as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister for the fourth time Sunday after his party registered a landslide victory in the general election, securing two-thirds majority in Parliament needed to amend the Constitution to further consolidate the powerful Rajapaksa family's grip on power.

The Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), led by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, won in 145 constituencies, bagging a total of 150 seats with its allies, a two-thirds majority in the 225-member Parliament, according to the results announced by the election commission Friday.

It won all but four of the 22 electoral districts on offer, polling 6.8 million votes (59.9 per cent). The 74-year-old Prime Minister Mahinda thanked the Sri Lankan people for putting their faith in the SLPP and said that the country will not stand disappointed during its tenure.

"Heartfelt gratitude to all Sri Lankans for placing their trust in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, myself and the Podujana Party and voting for the 'Saubhagye Dakkama' election manifesto in overwhelming numbers. We will ensure Sri Lanka will not stand disappointed during our tenure," he said.

Mahinda will be sworn in as the new Prime Minister for the fourth time Sunday at a ceremony at the historic Buddhist temple of Kelaniya, a north Colombo suburb, according to an official statement.

He created a record in polling over 500,000 individual preference votes, the highest ever recorded by a candidate in the history of elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to congratulate Mahinda on the outcome of the elections and said the two sides will work together to further advance all areas of bilateral cooperation and to take their special ties to ever newer heights.

"Thank you PM @narendramodi for your congratulatory phone call. With the strong support of the people of #SriLanka, I look forward to working with you closely to further enhance the long-standing co-



Mahinda Rajapaksa will be sworn in as the Prime Minister for the fourth time Sunday at a ceremony at the historic Buddhist temple of Kelaniya, a north Colombo suburb

The Sri Lanka People's Party, led by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, won in 145 constituencies

He created a record in polling over 500,000 individual preference votes, the highest ever recorded by a candidate in the history of elections

operation between our two countries. Sri Lanka & India are friends & relations," Mahinda tweeted.

The Rajapaksa family has dominated Sri Lankan politics for two decades. Mahinda was previously president, from 2005 to 2015. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had won the November presidential election on the SLPP ticket.

In the parliamentary election, he was seeking 150 seats mandatory to execute constitutional changes, including to repeal the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which had curbed the presidential powers while strengthening the role of Parliament. Activists, already alarmed by the diminishing space for dissent and criticism in the island nation, fear such a move could lead to authoritarianism. Meanwhile, the biggest casualty from the election outcome was the United National Party (UNP) of former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The UNP managed to win only one seat and that too came thanks to the cumulative votes polled nationally.

## US lifts Covid travel advisory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, August 7:** The US has lifted the highest level of its global health travel advisory for Americans due to the coronavirus pandemic and restored the previous country-specific system without changing the status of over 50 countries, including that of India and China.

The US state department issued the Level 4: Do Not Travel advisory -- the highest level of travel advisory -- on March 19, urging American citizens not to travel overseas due to the coronavirus pandemic. India remains on the Level 4 of the travel advisory along with more than 50 countries, including China. This means that the US urges its citizens not to travel to India due to the increasing coronavirus cases.

The state department, in its latest travel advisory on India issued on Thursday, said: "Do not travel to India due to COVID-19. Exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism".

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Level 3 (avoid non-essential travel) Travel Health Notice for India due to COVID-19, it said. Travellers to



India may experience border closures, airport closures, travel prohibitions, stay at home orders, business closures and other emergency conditions within India due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it said.

Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Carl Risch told reporters during a conference call that the State Department, in close coordination with the CDC, has lifted the Global Level 4 Health Advisory and has returned to the previous system of country-specific levels of travel advice, with levels from 1 to 4 depending on country-specific conditions.

The CDC has similarly removed its Level 3 Global COVID-19 Pandemic Notice. This important

welcomed by both the Trump administration and US lawmakers.

"The United States must take aggressive action against the owners of TikTok to protect our national security," Trump said in his executive order. In his next executive order he said the country must take "aggressive action" against WeChat to protect America's national security. In a communique to the Congress, Trump said the spread in the United States of mobile applications developed and owned by companies in China continues to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the

country. Trump noted that these risks have led other countries, including Australia and India, to begin restricting or banning the use of TikTok and WeChat. TikTok which has up to 80 million active monthly users in America - has exploded in popularity in recent years, mostly with people under 20.

TikTok, a video-sharing mobile application owned by the Chinese company ByteDance Ltd, automatically captures vast swaths of information from its users, Trump said. This data collection threatens to allow the ruling Chinese Communist Party access to

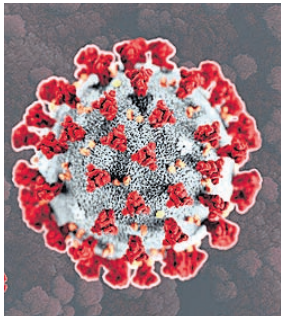


You cannot defeat this virus in a divided world

TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WHO

## FREE COVID TEST

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam says the semi-autonomous Chinese city will offer free coronavirus testing for all its 7.5 million residents beginning in two weeks



## LEBANON PRESIDENT EXPANDS BLAST PROBE

The search for those missing intensified, as rescuers sifted rubble in a race to find anyone still alive after Tuesday's explosion that killed 154, smashed up a swathe of the city and sent shockwaves around the region

REUTERS

**Beirut, August 7:** Lebanon's president said Friday an investigation into the biggest blast in Beirut's history would examine whether "external interference" had a role, as residents tried to rebuild their shattered lives and homes after the explosion.

The search for those missing intensified, as rescuers sifted rubble in a race to find anyone still alive after Tuesday's explosion that killed 154, smashed up a swathe of the city and sent shockwaves around the region.

"The cause has not been determined yet. There is a possibility of external interference through a rocket or bomb or other act," President Michel Aoun said in comments carried by local media and confirmed by his office.

He said it would also consider whether it was a result of negligence or an accident. He previously blamed negligence in the storage of highly explosive material for years at the port.

The United States has previously said it has not ruled out an attack.



Israel, which has fought several wars with Lebanon, has also previously denied it had any role.

Security forces fired teargas at a furious crowd in Beirut late on Thursday, as anger boiled over at the ruling elite, who have presided over a nation that faced economic collapse even before the deadly port blast injured 5,000 people.

The small crowd, some hurling stones, marked a return to the kind of protests that had become a feature of life in Beirut, as Lebanese watched their savings evaporate

and currency disintegrate, while government decision-making floundered.

"There is no way we can rebuild this house. Where is the state?" Tony Abdou, an unemployed 60-year-old. His family home is in Gemmayze, a district that lies a few hundred metres from the port warehouses where 2,750 tonnes of highly explosive ammonium nitrate was stored for years, a ticking time bomb near a densely populated area.

A security source and local media



An Asiatic lion reacts during feeding time at London Zoo

REUTERS

## HAPPY RETIREMENT

### No more 'mouse catching' for UK's Foreign Office cat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, August 7:** The resident cat at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London, dubbed "Lord Palmerston the Chief Mouser" in reference to its mouse-catching duties, is to retire from diplomatic service, the FCO said on Friday.

Lord Palmerston, famed for regular territorial tiffs with neighbouring Downing Street mouse-catcher Larry, will see out his retirement in the English countryside, where he has been spending lockdown already at the home of a member of Foreign Office staff.

Both cats have their own social media profiles and are very popular with news photographers on Downing Street duties. "In April 2016, a cat called Palmerston arrived from Battersea (dogs and cat shelter in London). I thought I was employing a mouser. What I got



was a social media phenomenon, with 105,000 Twitter followers," said Sir Simon McDonald, the Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service at the FCO, announcing Palmerston's retirement.

"After four happy years, @Diplomog (Palmerston's Twitter handle) will retire: he's enjoyed lockdown life in the countryside so much, he's accepted an invitation to stay. Everyone at the Foreign Office will miss him (our mice less so). We wish him a long & happy retirement," said McDonald in a Twitter statement.

### Pak Parliament okays FATF-related Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, August 7:** Amidst vociferous protests from Pakistan's religious parties, the Parliament has approved a third Bill related to the tough conditions set by the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog FATF.

The legislation is part of the efforts by Pakistan to move from the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list to the white list. The FATF put Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mutual Legal Assistance (Criminal Matter) Bill, 2020 -- which calls for exchange of information and criminals with countries -- was passed late Thursday evening in a joint sitting of Parliament after a hectic two-day consultation with the two major Opposition parties -- Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

The Bill was passed after the government agreed to include over two dozen Opposition-proposed amendments with a majority vote amidst noisy protest by the religious and nationalist parties, the *Dawn News* reported.

### Fourth Canadian gets death sentence

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beijing, August 7:** China has sentenced a fourth Canadian citizen to death on drug charges in less than two years following a sharp downturn in ties over the arrest of an executive of Chinese tech giant Huawei.

Ye Jianhui was sentenced Friday by the Foshan Municipal Intermediate Court in the southern province of Guangdong.

Ye had been found guilty of manufacturing and transporting drugs, the court said in a brief statement.

Another suspect in the case was also given the death penalty and four others sentenced to between seven years and life in prison. Death sentences are automatically referred to China's highest court for review.

Ties between Canada and China have nosedived over Canada's late 2018 arrest of Meng Wanzhou, a company executive and the daughter of Huawei's founder, at Vancouver's airport in at the request of the US, which wants her extradited to face fraud charges over the company's dealings with Iran.

Her arrest enraged Beijing, which calls it a political move aimed at constraining China's rise as a global technology power.

Ye's sentencing comes a day after fellow Canadian Xu Weihong was given the death penalty by the Guangzhou Municipal Intermediate Court, also in Guangdong province.

## Trump signs executive orders banning TikTok, WeChat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, August 7:** President Donald Trump, citing India's recent ban on Chinese social media apps, has signed executive orders that would prevent TikTok and WeChat from operating in the US as they threatened America's national security and economy. The ban comes into effect in 45 days, Trump said in two separate executive orders signed on Thursday.

India was the first country to ban TikTok and WeChat, citing national security concerns. India has banned as many as 106 Chinese apps, a move

of federal employees and contractors, build dossiers of personal information for blackmail, and conduct corporate espionage, he alleged.

TikTok also reportedly censors content that the Chinese Communist Party deems politically sensitive, such as content concerning protests in Hong Kong and China's treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. TikTok may also be used for disinformation campaigns that benefit the Chinese Communist Party, the president said.

"To deal with this threat, the order prohibits, beginning 45 days after the date of this order, to the extent per-



Americans' personal and proprietary information - potentially allowing China to track the locations

mitted under applicable law, any transaction by any person, or with respect to any property, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, with ByteDance Ltd., Beijing, China, or its subsidiaries, in which any such company has any interest, as identified by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary)," Trump said.

He delegated power to the commerce secretary to take such actions, including adopting appropriate rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by International Emergency Economic Powers Act as may be necessary to implement the order.



## of the day quote

The decision to hold the policy rate is a prudent one in the prevailing circumstances as the trajectory of economic growth, inflation and external demand continues to remain uncertain

**RAJNISH KUMAR** | SBI CHAIRMAN

REITs are good news for investors who have a small appetite and yet want to invest in the otherwise highly cost-intensive commercial real estate (CRE) market. With REITs, they can literally take a small bite of the large Indian CRE pie

**ANUJ PURI** | CHAIRMAN, ANAROCK

As the number of BharatBenz owners rapidly increases, we feel it is the right time to tap the massive potential presented by the used CV segment. We look forward to delivering BharatBenz's superior quality, service and TCO to an even larger customer base

**SATYAKAM ARYA** | MD AND CEO, DICV

## SHORT TAKES

### CDSL gets UIDAI nod

**New Delhi:** Leading depository CDSL has received clearance from UIDAI to carry out e-KYC authentication using Aadhaar. The clearance has been obtained to act as a local Authentication User Agency or e-KYC User Agency, CDSL said in a statement. Once market intermediaries register as KUA, they can open accounts using Aadhaar-based e-KYC (electronic Know Your Customer). CDSL said it will facilitate intermediaries to offer seamless online account opening using Aadhaar-based e-KYC.

### Dabur expands product portfolio

**New Delhi:** Homegrown FMCG firm Dabur has announced the expansion of its baby care portfolio with the launch of eight new Ayurveda-based products looking into the growing demand of baby care products. Dabur has launched the new baby care products on e-commerce platform Amazon, where these would be exclusively available, the company said. Marketing Head-Healthcare OTC AS Parihar said, "With the growing demand of baby care products, we have decided to expand the Baby Care portfolio with a range of products enriched with Ayurvedic herbs."

### Exim Bank extends LOC

**New Delhi:** Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended a \$250-million (about ₹1,870 crore) line of credit (LOC) to Mozambique for improving power supply quality in the country. The agreement to this effect was signed August 3 through exchange between Saroj Khuntia, GM, Exim Bank, and Adriano Isaias Ubisse, national directorate of treasury, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mozambique. With the signing of this LOC agreement, Exim Bank till date has extended 14 LOCs to Mozambique, taking their total value to \$772.44 million.

### Murugappa Group to invest ₹700 cr

**New Delhi:** Murugappa Group firm Tube Investments of India Ltd (TIIL) has agreed to invest ₹700 crore in CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd for a 51% stake, the scam-hit company said Friday. Tube Investments of India Ltd will be issued 64.25 crore shares at ₹8.56 apiece aggregating to ₹550 crore, CG Power said in a regulatory filing.



The focus is on restructuring (window for corporates). Finance ministry is actively engaged with RBI on this. In principle, the idea that there may be a restructuring required, is well taken

**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN** | FINANCE MINISTER

## UK CONFIDENT OF BREXIT TRADE DEAL

UK's Michael Gove, overseeing Brexit talks is confident a FTA would be clinched with the EU as there had been a distinct change of tone from the bloc in recent weeks allowing progress to be made. The UK left the EU January but the main terms of its membership remain in place



# 'Smartphone market set to recover in H2'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 7:** After a steep decline of over 50% in Q2, the India smartphone market is set for a gradual recovery in the second half as the country enters the festive season, the IDC India said Friday.

The online channel registered a high market share of 44.8% in June quarter but declined 39.9% (Y-o-Y) in unit terms due to lockdown restrictions on the delivery of electronics as well as severely limited stock for most of the quarter.

"The surge in demand is expected to continue throughout the first half of 3Q20 (third quarter) as well, requiring a steady supply of devices in the market," said



Navkendar Singh, Research Director, Client Devices & IPDS, IDC India.

IDC expects the market to show signs of recovery in the second

half of the year, as the country approaches the festive quarter, with the majority of the consumers looking to buy low-end and mid-range devices.

However, this will be dependent on brand marketing and channel initiatives, especially by eTailers during the festive sales.

"Brand initiatives around multi or hybrid channel strategies will also play a key role as offline partners and brands will be looking for pockets of growth in these crucial next few months," explained Singh.

Overall, the June quarter saw a sharp year-over-year decline of (-50.6 per cent) in the second quarter to 18.2 million units, as the country remained under lockdown through the first half of the quarter.

Many offline channel partners adopted new ways of marketing by reaching out to consumers through social media platforms, WhatsApp,

## 'Apple dominates market again'

**NEW DELHI:** Riding on the success of its iPhone 11 and iPhone XR devices, Apple once again dominated the India premium smartphone market with 48.8% market share in the lockdown-hit June quarter, the IDC India said Friday. Shipments in the premium (\$500 and above) segment declined by (-35.4%) in Q2 (Y-o-Y) but Apple maintained its lead, followed by Samsung and OnePlus. The iPhone 11 and iPhone XR together accounted for 28% shipments in this segment in Q2, said the report.

references, etc., for doorstep demos and deliveries, as well as accepting contactless payments.

## Efficient farming must for food security: Naidu



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 7:** Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu Friday said there is an urgent need to make agriculture more efficient and profitable to ensure food and nutrition security.

In a virtual address inaugurating a conference 'Science for Resilient Food, Nutrition and Livelihood: Contemporary Challenges' Naidu said, "If we are to ensure food and nutrition security to millions, there is an imminent need to make agriculture more efficient, resilient, profitable and productive. Pre-harvest and post-harvest losses have to be minimised."

The conference was organised by the city-based MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).

According to Naidu, the market infrastructure and the national road and transportation network must be improved so that farmers are able to get their produce from the farm gates to markets at reasonable cost.

"We must step up investments in improved storage, processing and preservation to retain the nutritional value of food products, rather than investing in highly processed foods. Food, agriculture and trade policies have to be constantly reviewed and updated to suit the times," Naidu said.

Pointing out the negative health impact owing to poor diet quality, Naidu said there is need to reorient agriculture priorities towards more nutrition-sensitive food.

He said diets of poor quality are a principal contributor to the multiple burdens of malnutrition: stunting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity.

# RBI forms panel to deal with stressed assets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 7:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday set up an expert committee under veteran banker KV Kamath to suggest financial parameters for resolution of coronavirus-related stressed assets. The committee will submit its recommendations to the RBI, which will notify them along with modifications, if any, in 30 days.

As part of the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies released along with the Monetary Policy Statement on Thursday, the RBI has announced a 'Resolution Framework for COVID-19-related Stress', as a special window under the Prudential Framework on Resolution of Stressed Assets issued June 7, 2019.

The resolution framework envisages constitution of an expert committee by the RBI to make recommendations on the required financial parameters to be factored in into the resolution plans, with sec-



The expert committee will be headed by KV Kamath and will suggest financial parameters for resolution of Covid-related stressed assets

This committee will also undertake the process validation for the resolution plans to be implemented under this framework

The other members of the committee will be Diwakar Gupta, TN Manoharan, and Ashvin Parekh

tor-specific benchmark ranges for such parameters.

The expert committee will also undertake the process validation for the resolution plans to be implemented under this framework, without going into the commercial aspects, in respect of all accounts with an aggregate exposure of ₹1,500 crore and above at the time of invocation.

The other members of the committee will be Diwakar Gupta (effective September 1, 2020, after the completion of his term as vice-

president of ADB); TN Manoharan (effective August 14, 2020, after the completion of his term as chairman of Canara Bank); and Ashvin Parekh will be strategy advisor; and the Indian Banks' Association CEO will function as member secretary of the panel.

In a major relief to corporate and retail borrowers, the RBI Thursday permitted banks to go for one-time restructuring of loans that are facing stress due to the COVID-19 crisis with a view to mitigating risks to financial stability.

## Seminar on post pandemic scenario organised by ICC



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Odisha organised the e-conference on The Human Resource (HR) – Post Pandemic Scenario through Virtual Platform.

The Chief Guest of the programme was Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State, for MSME and Fisheries & Animal Husbandry (FAHD), Government of India, Bijay Kumar Patnaik, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha and Sridhar Patra, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NALCO.

The deliberation focused on va-

riety of intricate issues pertaining how the organisations, the leadership and the HR leaders should take actions not only just to overcome the catastrophic effect of the COVID-19 pandemic but also deliberated on the strategy and preparedness to face similar catastrophes in future.

Saranghi emphasised that the authentic human character should be nurtured and re-cultivated among the masses. Re-skilling, devotion and discipline, are a must to survive and compete in this world.

Meanwhile, Sridhar Patra said, "Through experience it has developed its preparedness and planning and today we have ensured that there is no casualty even if we face cyclones every year. Therefore, learning out of the situation is important to combat the calamities effectively."

The panelists said that work-force strategies in the recovery phase will be best orchestrated through five critical actions: reflect, recommit, re-engage, rethink, and reboot.

## British Airways staff to lose jobs



**LONDON:** Thousands of British Airways staff will be sent letters telling them they have lost their jobs Friday, as the airline pushes ahead with a plan to cut employee numbers by 29% in the face of bitter opposition from unions. British Airways, owned by IAG, said in April it would need to axe up to 12,000 of its 42,000 staff to survive the COVID-19 pandemic and remain competitive. But the plan has met fierce resistance from cabin crew union Unite which said Friday it would also keep fighting against pay cuts for existing staff. BA said that 6,000 employees had decided to take voluntary redundancy, while thousands of others would receive a letter in the coming days to tell them their fate.

## Gold, silver prices touch record levels

**NEW DELHI:** Gold price surged for the 16th straight session Friday and touched an all-time high of ₹57,008 per 10 grams in the national capital, according to HDFC Securities. Silver too continued its upward movement, with the price touching a record-high of ₹77,840 per kilogram. Silver price jumped by ₹576 compared to the closing level of ₹77,264 per kg Thursday. In the previous trade, gold had closed at ₹57,002 per 10 grams. On Friday, the price increased by ₹6 to ₹57,008 per 10 grams. Prices of both the metals recorded all-time high prices, HDFC Securities said. "Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi continued to scale new highs by gaining ₹6. Gold prices are trading higher for the 16th consecutive day in India," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

## Forex reserves hit all-time high

**MUMBAI:** The country's foreign exchange reserves hit an all-time high of \$534.568 billion after surging by massive \$11.938 billion in the week ended July 31, the RBI data showed. While announcing the monetary policy Thursday, the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the reserves at \$534.6 billion are equivalent to 13.4 months of imports. So far in FY2020-21 (up to July 31), the reserves have risen by \$56.8 billion, he had said. In the week ended July 24, reserves had increased by \$4.993 billion to \$522.630 billion. The reserves had crossed the half-a-trillion mark for the first time in the week ended June 5. In the week ended July 31, it rose due to gains in foreign currency assets, a major component of the overall reserves.



# Global AI market to see 12.3% growth in 2020: IDC

WHILE THIS YEAR'S GROWTH IS SOMEWHAT SLOWER THAN PREVIOUS YEAR'S DUE TO THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19, INVESTMENT IN AI WILL RECOVER QUICKLY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**San Francisco, August 7:** Worldwide revenues for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) market, including software, hardware, and services, are expected to total \$156.5 billion in 2020, a growth of 12.3% over the previous year, according to a new forecast by International Data Corporation (IDC).

While this year's growth is somewhat slower than previous year's due to the economic impact of COVID-19, investment in AI will recover quickly, said the IDC 'Worldwide Semiannual Artificial Intelligence Tracker'.

Worldwide AI market revenue revenues are likely to surpass \$300

AI applications continue to be at the forefront of digital transformation (DX) initiatives, driving both innovation and improvement to business operations

**ritu jyoti** | PROGRAMME VP, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH, IDC

billion in 2024 with a five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.1%.

Software is the largest AI technology group delivering roughly 80% of all AI revenue.

Most of the software revenue comes from AI applications – \$120.4 billion in 2020 – with AI Software Platforms delivering the remain-



der.

"AI applications continue to be at the forefront of digital transformation (DX) initiatives, driving both innovation and improvement to business operations," Ritu Jyoti, programme Vice President, Artificial Intelligence Research at IDC, said in a statement.

Customer relationship manage-

ment (CRM) AI applications and enterprise relationship management (ERM) AI Applications are the two largest segments with 20% and 17% share of the AI applications market. Other key segments include AI for content workflow and management applications, production applications, and collaborative applications.

In terms of vendor share, Adobe had the top spot for AI-centric CRM applications while Microsoft was No.1 in AI non-centric CRM Applications.

Meanwhile, in ERM AI applications, Ceridian and Intuit take the top spots in AI-centric and AI non-centric types, respectively, IDC said. As for the rest of the AI applications market, IBM is in first position under AI-centric type while Microsoft occupies the top spot under AI non-centric type.

The second largest AI category is services, which IDC forecasts will reach \$18.4 billion in 2020, an increase of 13% year over year.

Within the AI services market, AI IT services accounts for nearly 80%

of the category's revenue with AI Business Services delivering the rest. The top five companies in terms of market share – IBM, Accenture, Deloitte, Infosys, and Cognizant – captured roughly one third of the worldwide AI services market in 2019.

IDC expects AI hardware (server and storage combined) revenues to reach \$13.4 billion in 2020, representing 10.3% year-over-year growth. In terms of vendor share, the top three companies in AI Server are Dell, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and Inspur, IDC said.

In the AI Storage market, Dell Technologies, NetApp and Hewlett Packard Enterprise hold the top three positions, it added.



Barcelona may need youth to get past Napoli as well as to reach Champions League quarters

# MAJOR TASK IN HAND

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Barcelona, August 7:** Barcelona coach Quique Setien says that he is ready to count on youngsters Ansu Fati and Riqui Puig to eliminate Napoli and advance to the Champions League final eight in Portugal.

Barcelona will be without midfielders Sergio Busquets, Arturo Vidal and Arthur for Saturday's second leg of their round of 16 tie. The match will be played five months after the Spanish side earned a 1-1 draw at Napoli before the pandemic brought most sports to a halt.

"Both Rique and Ansu are ready to play," Setien said Friday. "They have performed and played pretty well and could perfectly well start (against Napoli). And if they do start, I am sure they will be guaranteed to play well."

The 20-year-old Puig has a good chance to earn his debut in Europe's top-tier club competition with both Busquets and Vidal suspended for the critical match. Arthur has had a falling out with the club after securing his transfer to Juventus for next season and refusing to return to team practice.

Setien values Puig's passing and ball-control skills, which remind some Barcelona fans of Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta, and rewarded him with a bigger role during the final stretch of the Spanish league.

Fati, 17, made a huge splash this season by becoming the youngest player to score in the Spanish league and the Champions League, among other precocious scoring milestones.

With Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez set to start in attack, Fati could get picked over fellow forward Antoine Griezmann, who was cleared to play by team doctors Friday after having recovered from a right thigh injury last month.

Clement Lenglet was also cleared by team doctors and will likely play with Gerard Pique in the center of the defense with Samuel Umtiti still injured.

With only 13 first-team players available, Setien has called up seven members of Barcelona's youth squad, including American Konrad de la Fuente.

"It would have been better to have all our players available, but that is not the case," Setien said. "We are going to have to rely on many players from our youth team. We have to adapt and we will do our best not to miss the players who can't be with us."

The match at Camp Nou will be played without spectators due to local health regulations. Barcelona and

large areas of northeast Spain are seeing a recent spike in cases of the virus that causes COVID-19, but health officials have assured UEFA that the game is safe to play despite the concerns of Napoli.

Setien said that he is confident that keeping his job does not hinge on qualifying for the 'bubble' Champions League tournament to be played in Lisbon later this month. Setien has been under intense

pressure since Barcelona lost the Spanish league to Real Madrid last month, when Messi called his team 'weak' and said that unless the team turned things around it would lose to Napoli.

"In no moment have I thought that tomorrow's game could be my last," Setien said. "We are focused on advancing and playing the rest of the competition in Portugal with the same sense of excitement that we feel now."

## TEAM NEWS

**Barcelona will be without the services of central defender Samuel Umtiti due to a knee injury, while midfielders Sergio Busquets and Arturo Vidal are both suspended for the home side. Arthur, on the other hand, will also not feature for the Catalans**

**As for Napoli, Kostas Manolas is absent due to a rib injury, but the Italians are hopeful that Lorenzo Insigne will be able to shake off a thigh problem in time for the contest. Nikola Maksimovic is also struggling with a knee injury**

## KEY NOTES

**Barca are unbeaten in their last 35 Champions League matches on home soil, while they have not lost in any of their last 15 home fixtures against Italian opposition, picking up 12 victories in the process**

**Barca's last success in this competition came back in 2015, and they were incredibly eliminated by Liverpool in the semifinals of last season's tournament despite running out 3-0 winners in the first leg of their last four tie with the Merseyside giants**

**Napoli have actually never been past this stage of the Champions League, losing to Chelsea and Real Madrid in their last two last 16 ties**

**The Italian side have only won seven of their last 21 matches in this competition and have lost their last four two-legged ties against Spanish opposition**

**Defeats on their last three visits to Spain, coupled with an overall away record of two wins and five defeats to La Liga opposition, means that the Italian outfit are the underdogs heading into Saturday's contest**

## HEAD TO HEAD

The two sides have only met once previously in UEFA competitions - in the first leg of this last 16 tie in Naples. Antoine Griezmann sealed a draw with an away goal after Dries Mertens opened the scoring for Napoli

## TONIGHT'S MATCHES

**BARCELONA vs NAPOLI**  
**BAYERN MUNICH vs CHELSEA**

**Time: 12:30 am**

**Telecast: Sony Ten channels**

# Sevilla, Wolves in quarterfinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Duisburg, August 7:** Sevilla defeated Roma 2-0 in the round of 16 to stay in the hunt for a record sixth Europa League title, as Wolverhampton, Bayer Leverkusen and Basel also qualified for the quarterfinals.

Full-back Sergio Reguilon gave Sevilla the lead with a surging run through the Roma defense and a shot past keeper Pau Lopez in the 22nd minute. Youssef En-Nesyri added the second just before half-time, tapping in a low cross from Lucas Ocampos.

It was a single game at a neutral venue in Germany because no first leg was played in March before the season was suspended amid the coronavirus pandemic. No fans are allowed at any Europa League games.

Roma defender Gianluca Mancini was sent off in added time after video review for making contact with Luuk De Jong's head in a challenge for the ball.

It was Roma's first game since its USD 700 million takeover by the Texas-based Friedkin Group was confirmed Thursday morning.

The venue was a world away from that high-powered dealmak-

ing. Roma and Sevilla played at the stadium of third-tier German club Duisburg, whose fans have been raising money from T-shirt sales to help the club with the financial impact of the coronavirus.

Sevilla will next face Wolves Tuesday after the English team squeezed past Olympiakos 1-0 on the night and 2-1 on aggregate for its first European quarterfinal in 48 years.



## UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Raul Jimenez scored the only goal from the penalty spot in the ninth minute after Olympiakos goalkeeper Bobby Allain gave away a spot-kick with a clumsy challenge after he failed to control the ball.

Both teams had plenty of chances to score in an action-packed second half but a combination of poor finishing and solid goal-keeping kept the score down.

Bayer Leverkusen earned a quarterfinal against Inter Milan, beating Rangers 1-0 Thursday thanks to a powerful shot from Moussa Diaby for a 4-1 aggregate win.

Basel already had a 3-0 lead from the first leg and made the quarterfinals after Fabian Frei scored the only goal of the game in a 1-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt. Basel next plays Shakhtar Donetsk.



**KEEPING FORM INTACT:** Sergio Reguilon (C) is surrounded by his teammates after scoring Sevilla's first goal; (inset) Raul Jimenez reacts after converting a penalty for Wolves, Thursday

## ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

# India to host 2021 edition, Aus in 2022



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided that India will host the 2021 edition of the T20 World Cup while the postponed 2020 edition will now be played in Australia in 2022. India is also set to host the 50-over World Cup in India in 2023.

The ICC had announced July 20 the postponement of the 2020 edition World T20 due to the coronavirus pandemic, but did not mention the venue for the 2021 edition and the 2022 edition. They had only said that the 2023 50-over World Cup will be played in October-November in India.

Speaking to this agency, an ICC board member had said that the reason why the ICC release hadn't mentioned the venue of the 2021 and 2022 T20 World Cup was because a decision was yet to be taken on whether India would be requested to hand the rights of hosting the next year's showpiece event to Australia.

"See, the whole idea is to reach a decision which is agreeable to all. The only reason why the venues haven't been given and the 50-

**WINDOWS FOR ICC MEN'S EVENTS**

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will be played in India in October-November with the final set for November 14

T20 World Cup 2022 will take place in Australia in October-November with the final to be played November 13

50-Over World Cup 2023 will be played in India October-November with the final set for November 26

over World Cup has been delayed by a few months is to keep enough breathing space for the broadcasters," the board member had explained.

When contacted, a BCCI official had said that it will be a decision that will be taken by both the Indian board and Cricket Australia (CA) in unison.

"The BCCI and CA share a very strong bond and any decision in this regard would be taken keeping each others' trust and after discussions between the two boards. With the exit of the former chairman, the era of cloak and dagger in the ICC is all but over," the official had told this agency.

## Bottas fastest in 1st practice

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Silverstone, August 7:** Valtteri Bottas set the fastest time in the first practice session for the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix at Silverstone Friday, just ahead of his Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton.

Bottas posted a lap of one minute 26.166 seconds, beating Hamilton's best time by 0.138 seconds. Max Verstappen was third-fastest for Red Bull in 1:26.893. Nico Hulkenberg placed fourth for Racing Point.

Ferrari was again off Mercedes' pace, with Charles Leclerc fifth-fastest and Sebastian Vettel seventh. Mercedes has won every race so far this year.

The race marks the 70th year since the Formula One championship began. The first race of the 1950 season was held at Silverstone. It's the second race in Britain after the calendar was re-shaped by the pandemic.

## FIVE-TEST SERIES OF WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP MOVES TO EARLY 2021

# INDIA-ENGLAND SERIES POSTPONED



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** India's white-ball series against England, scheduled at home in September-October, was Friday postponed to

early 2021 with both the boards citing the COVID-19 pandemic, which wrecked the international calendar and created space for the IPL during this window.

Both teams were scheduled to

# Yasir spins web around England as Pak in control

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Manchester, August 7:** Yasir Shah (4/66) helped Pakistan take a crucial 107-run first innings lead as England were bowled out for 219 in their first essay of the first Test here at the Old Trafford, Friday.

In reply, England fast bowler Stuart Broad struck early in Pakistan's second innings after the visitors took a huge first innings lead in the second session of Day 3. Azhar Ali and his troops are firmly in the driver's seat as they lead by 127 runs at tea with nine wickets in the bag.

There was a chance for England to pick their second wicket but Ben

Stokes dropped an easy chance in the slip to give Abid a second chance off the bowling of Anderson in the seventh over.

Earlier, Jos Buttler (38) and Chris Woakes (19) resumed the hosts' innings after lunch and the wicket-keeper batsman fell straightaway to Yasir without adding a single run to his score. Dominic Bess was the next to depart as he became Yasir's third wicket of the innings for one. Few overs later, Yasir struck again and this time it was Woakes.

Broad (29 n o) then slammed three consecutive boundaries in one Shaheen Afridi over, adding crucial runs to the England total. His partner Jofra Archer, however,



Yasir Shah punches in the air in celebration after dismissing Jos Buttler (inset)

couldn't last long as he was dismissed by Shadab Khan for 16.

Broad continued to hit boundaries on the other end as this time he hit a six and four off Yasir. But he soon ran out of partners as James Anderson was dismissed LBW by Shadab for seven.

England folded in their first innings for 219. Yasir was the pick of Pakistan bowlers and he ended with a four-wicket haul. Mohammad Abbas and Shadab scalped two each for the visitors.

**BRIEF SCORES (AT TEA):** Pakistan 326 & 20/1 (Abid 15 batting; Stuart Broad 1/2); England 219 (Ollie Pope 62; Yasir 4/66). Match to continue.