



**INSTA FEAT OF URVASHI**  
Actor Urvashi Rautela scores a fan following of 39 mn on Instagram. She posted a pic of her celebrating the new number **LEISURE P2**



**US, ALLIES ACCUSE CHINA**  
The US and its allies have accused China's Ministry of State Security of a global cyber hacking campaign **INTERNATIONAL P10**



**SECOND ODI TODAY**  
After overwhelming Sri Lanka in the first ODI, India look to seal 3-match series with a win in the second game **SPORTS P12**

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

Call a journalist and complain about the rising prices. I am sure the govt will listen to you.

**3 more Covid cases at Games**  
Tokyo: One Olympics concerned personnel and a contractor were among three COVID-19 cases detected on Monday by the Games organisers, a day after three sports persons, two of them staying at the athletes Village, tested positive for the virus. The Games concerned personnel is based in Chiba. The third case is of a journalist who has travelled for the event and was under a 14-day quarantine in Tokyo. The contractor is based in Saitama. The three cases were revealed by the organising committee in its daily update of COVID-19 list. The total number of Games-related cases now stands at 58. On Sunday, the first instance of athletes staying at the village catching the infection came to light.

**30 killed, many hurt in Pakistan bus mishap**  
Lahore: At least 30 people were killed, mostly labourers who were going to their hometown to celebrate Eid-ul Azha, and over 40 others injured Monday when a passenger bus collided with a trailer truck on a highway in Dera Ghazi Khan district of Pakistan's Punjab Province. The bus was en route from Sialkot to Rajanpur when the accident took place on the Indus Highway near Taunsa bypass in Dera Ghazi Khan district, some 430 km from Lahore. The majority of the passengers were labourers who were going to their hometown to celebrate Eid-ul Azha Wednesday. The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital where medical staff confirmed the death of 18 people upon their arrival.

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	52553.40 ↓ 586.66
NIFTY	15752.40 ↓ 171.00
DOLLAR	75.54 ↑ ₹0.32
EURO	88.40 ↑ ₹0.21
GOLD	₹48,070 ↑ ₹17
SILVER	₹77,493 ↓ ₹826

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	35.8°C	35.6°C
TEMP MIN	27.4°C	26.4°C
Humidity	100%	72%
Rainfall	32.3mm	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely



**IMPROMPTU FIELD:** Youngsters play football at waterlogged Shivaji Park after heavy rains in Mumbai, Monday, **PTI PHOTO**

**No proof of Covid 3rd wave in state yet: DMET**

**Bhubaneswar, July 19:** Clearing the air on the possible onset of third wave of Covid 19 in Odisha, Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET) Monday said it is still in an assessment stage. Speaking to reporters here, Mohanty said, "The third wave of Covid-19 is still at an estimate stage, we have to see whether it will arrive or not. Different people are making different opinions about the third wave." While many are suggesting that the third wave is likely to hit by October or November, the daily cases are declining and the situation currently is in a plateau stage, he said. Though the spread of Covid-19 in the community has come down, people have to remain cautious and follow all Covid-19 appropriate behaviour till it has not been rooted out, he said. Commenting on the R-value or effective reproduction number used by the Chennai-based Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc) to measure the spread of Covid-19, Mohanty said it does not reflect the situation at the grassroots level. During the first wave, the R value was 2.5 per cent, now it is less than 1 per cent (0.88) in India. So it is just a mathematical model, the director stated. The R-value stands for the number of people one person can infect. If the R-value is more than 1, it means every 100 infected people on an average can pass on the infection to more than 100 people. Meanwhile, Public Health Director Niranjana Mishra said the state government is completely prepared to deal with the possible third wave of Covid-19. The Covid-19 infection graph in the state is in decline while in some districts, it is still on the plateau stage. However, there is no need to panic, Mishra said. Now, the government is giving emphasis on testing, tracking, tracing and jabbing. Meanwhile, the state's Covid tally soared to 9,55,974 Monday as 1,648 more people tested positive for the infection, while 58 fresh fatalities were reported.

## Snoopgate: Oppn puts govt on mat

**CONG DEMANDS INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL OR JPC PROBE INTO PHONE-TAPPING AGENCIES**

**New Delhi, July 19:** Opposition parties Monday hit out at the government over the alleged phone-tapping of prominent personalities in the country using Israeli Pegasus spyware and demanded an independent judicial or parliamentary committee probe. An international media consortium reported Sunday that more than 300 verified mobile phone numbers, including of two serving ministers, over 40 journalists, three opposition leaders and one sitting judge besides scores of businesspersons and activists in India could have been targeted for hacking through an Israeli spyware sold only to government agencies. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the matter using the hashtag "Pegasus". "We know what he's been reading everything on your phone," Gandhi wrote Monday as a tweet-reply to his own post two days ago in which he had asked people, "I'm wondering what you guys are reading these days." The government has, however, dismissed allegations of any kind of surveillance on its part, saying the accusation has no concrete basis or truth associated with it whatsoever. IT and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told Lok Sabha that with several checks and balances being in place, "any sort of illegal surveillance" by unauthorised persons is not possible in India. Terming it a very serious issue concerning national security, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor demanded an independent judicial or parliamentary committee probe. Since the government has said that it has not done any snooping, this

## VAISHNAW, RAHUL, PRASHANT KISHORE POTENTIAL SPYWARE TARGETS

**NEW DELHI:** Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, BJP ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Prahlad Singh Patel, as also former election commissioner Ashok Lavasa and poll strategist Prashant Kishore were among those whose phone numbers were listed as potential targets for hacking through an Israeli spyware sold only to the government agencies, an international media consortium reported Monday. The Wire news portal, in the second part of its revelations from the international collaborative investigation called the Pegasus Project, reported that the phone number of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew and TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee and 11 phone numbers belonging to the Supreme Court staffer and her close relatives, who accused former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi of sexual harassment in April 2019, were selected as targets for surveillance. The government dismissed the media reports on the use of Pegasus software to snoop on Indians, saying the allegations levelled just ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament are aimed at "maligning Indian democracy". should be probed, he said. "I feel that there should be a thorough independent judicial inquiry or a joint parliamentary committee. We cannot just brush it under the carpet," he told reporters. He raised the issue through social media too. "Gol has denied resorting to unauthorised surveillance. The question this raises is, if #Pegasus is only sold to governments, which other govts (China/Pak?) are using it to snoop on prominent Indian citizens? Shouldn't the authorities call for an independent investigation," he tweeted referring to the government of India. The CPIM said two years ago, the party had raised in Parliament that this "dangerous spyware" was being used in India as revealed by WhatsApp. "The Modi government's response had not categorically denied that it engaged the services of NSO (the Israeli tech firm that created the spyware) but claimed that there is no 'unauthorised surveillance'. With these revelations, it is clear that this government has engaged NSO for such surveillance against its own citizens," the party said in a statement Monday. "The central government must

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## PARALAKHEMUNDI ACF'S DEATH NEW TWIST IN DEATH PROBE

**Balalore, July 19:** Mystery continues to deepen over the death of Paralakhemundi Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra whose sudden death due to burns has shocked the state. Mohapatra's mother claimed Monday that her



son and daughter-in-law Bidyabharati had entered into an agreement before marriage that they would not indulge in any form of physical relationship till a year after their wedding. "She (Bidyabharati) did not have any physical relationship with my son. They had an agreement before marriage on this issue," the deceased ACF's mother Tulasi, informed police. "My son once told me that he had a fight with Bidyabharati one night. Then Bidyabharati broke her wedding bangles and left Soumya's quarters late in the night. Soumya finally found her at the residence of DFO Sangram Keshari Behera," Tulasi added. The ACF's mother also alleged that Bidyabharati had

## Excise mop-up on fuel jumps 88 pc

**New Delhi, July 19:** The Union government's tax collections on petrol and diesel jumped by 88 per cent to ₹3.35 lakh crore in the year to March 31, after excise duty was raised to a record high, the Lok Sabha was informed Monday. Excise duty on petrol was hiked from ₹19.98 per litre to ₹32.9 last year to recoup gain arising from international oil prices plunging to multi-year low as pandemic gulped demand. The same on diesel was raised to ₹31.8 from ₹15.83 a litre, according to a written reply to a question given by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teji in the Lok Sabha. This led to excise collections on petrol and diesel jumping to ₹3.35 lakh crore in 2020-21 (April 2020 to March 2021), from ₹1.78 lakh crore a year back, he said. Collections would have been higher but for fuel sales falling due to lockdown and other restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, which muted economic activity and stalled mobility. In 2018-19, excise collections on petrol and diesel were ₹2.13 lakh crore. To a separate question, the Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said excise collections in April-June this year totalled ₹1.01 lakh crore. This number includes excise on not just petrol and diesel but also ATF, natural gas and crude oil. The total excise collection in FY21 was ₹3.89 lakh crore. "Prices of petrol and diesel are market-determined with effect from June 26, 2010 and October 19, 2014 respectively," Teji said. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been taking appropriate decisions on the pricing of petrol and diesel on the basis of international product prices and other market conditions. "The OMCs have increased and decreased the prices of petrol and diesel according to changes in international prices and rupee-dollar exchange rate," he said.

## Free him today: SC on activist held for FB post

**New Delhi, July 19:** The Supreme Court Monday ordered the release of Manipuri activist Erendro Leichombam, on or before 5 pm Monday. Leichombam was booked under the National Security Act (NSA) for a Facebook post criticising BJP leaders for advocating cow dung and cow urine as cure for Covid. A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah said a person cannot be kept in jail even for a day for such an act. Justice Chandrachud said: "He cannot be



The court directed its registrar judicial to communicate the order to Manipur Central Jail for release of the activist before 5 pm Monday. The

counsel for the petitioner submitted that he would press for compensation at the next hearing. The plea was filed in Supreme Court by Leichombam's father L Raghunani Singh, stating that the detention of the activist is a reprisal for his criticism against BJP leaders for advocating cow dung and cow urine as cures for Covid. "Erendro, a Manipuri political activist, has been preventively detained solely to punish him for his criticism of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders for advocating cow dung and cow urine as cures for Covid," said the petition. The plea contended that it is a shocking instance of misuse of preventive detention law to stifle completely innocuous speech, which is fully constitutionally protected. Leichombam was initially arrested May 13 for his Facebook post on the complaint of BJP leaders. On May 17, the day he was granted bail by the local court, the district magistrate Imphal West District, detained him under the stringent NSA, which is a preventive detention law. The plea said he has already spent 45 days in custody for an "innocuous piece of speech".

# leisure

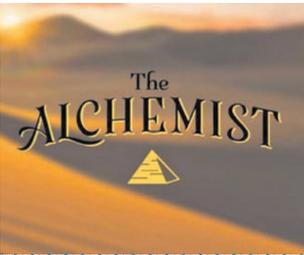


## VETERAN ACTRESS PILAR BARDEM SUCCUMBS TO LUNG DISEASE

Veteran Spanish actress-activist Pilar Bardem, the mother of Oscar-winner Javier Bardem, died due to the complications from lung disease not related to COVID-19. She was 82. The Goya Award-winning actress passed away at the Ruber Hospital in Madrid.

## TOM HOLLANDER-STARRER THE ALCHEMIST DELAYED AGAIN

The film adaptation of Paulo Coelho's beloved novel *The Alchemist*, is still hitting roadblocks due to undisclosed financial obstacles. The project has been shut down, and the crew sent home, said sources.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You need to be very cautious today, says Ganesha. The results of a lot of hard work over a long time may be undone by one impulsive decision. After a stressful morning, you could just wish to spend time with children, playing their childish games.

**TAURUS**  
Love is on the cards, says Ganesha. Your senses are likely to remain highly active today. Stay alert and avoid drifting into your own world at the cost of work. It is best for you to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid any misunderstanding with your near and dear ones, suggests Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
You will become more emotional and sensitive today. Health, diet, career, job and such things will be on your mind and will give rise to mental stress and worry. You need to take care of your health and hygiene, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. And, that's a great thing to do, says Ganesha. Don't lose heart though, if despite the best efforts, the results of your efforts are not too forthcoming. Feeling dejected is only going to hamper your progress.

**LEO**  
You need to keep your temper in check and guard against being aggressive today. You need to channelise your energies towards some productive pursuits, otherwise you may make someone the target of your anger.

**VIRGO**  
You are renewed for your leadership qualities and today they will be much appreciated for the way you manage your team. You will get a long-due promotion, and will come in for some extra cash. Ganesha says you received all this by wisely balancing work and home, so be careful not to slip up on this front.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says you will put everything aside to pay more attention to your outward appearance and your beauty as you will be more aware about it. People will get attracted to your beauty today. You will be able to share your own ideas and thoughts with people, at the same time you will learn about their views and from their experiences.

**SCORPIO**  
Keep your eyes and ears open and believe in only what you see. Remember, believing in rumours may lead to ugly situations. Your efforts to be different and stand out would pay off well, predicts Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
The day begins on a bright note and you decide to flaunt your sunny side up, foresees Ganesha. At home front, sharing of work with your partner will keep the home atmosphere peaceful and harmonious. Both of you discover a joy in cleaning and cooking together.

**CAPRICORN**  
You will be a live wire, today. With amazing exuberance you have completed mammoth tasks and have spread the energy around. It will give you tremendous job-satisfaction, foresees Ganesha. Everything seems well and good the personal front, too.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are a strong-willed person, and during the toughest of times you remain focused. A constant smile on your face and positive attitude will help you win the hearts and minds of people at work as well as at home. Such a feeling of contentment and happiness motivate you to do your best.

**PISCES**  
You will be trading new ground at work. Exciting as that sounds, it merely means you will have to do a lot of travelling today. You will also find yourself swamped with drafting new business proposals, holding meetings, or otherwise networking over the phone.



## Popular K-culture trends visible among Indian youths

Many don't know but South Korean culture or K-culture trends began in the 1980s. Today South Korea is considered a major exporter of popular culture. It started with the K-dramas then the K-pop which spread like a wildfire all across East, Southeast and South Asia. Today these are the five most popular K-culture trends among Indian youths.

Today Korean dramas are very popular in India. Many K-dramas have been adapted into Hindi movies, the most famous ones are *Aawarapan*, *Prem Ratan Dhan Payo*, *Barfi!* and many more.

**KOREAN CUISINE**  
Koreans usually have grilled meats which are accompanied by wonderfully spicy and sour shreds of cabbage. It's called Kimchi. Kimchi is preserved cabbage (also made with other vegetables) that is the cornerstone of Korean cooking. Local inquiries for dishes such as Korean fried chicken, Korean style Ramyeon, Kimchi, gimbap, kimchi-jjigae started flooding in after Korean Expatriates listed their canteens on online food delivery platforms.



**KOREAN FASHION**  
With the Korean Wave sweeping over many countries, the cultural influence of Korea has reached the Indian fashion world, as well. Korean fashion is evident in the outfits worn by artists, who are partnering up with major fashion houses to showcase their work. Today there are several stores that offer only South Korean fashion labels and clothes.

**WEBTOONS**  
It originated in South Korea, but now it has gained immense traction among those aged between 15-24. This new wave has been getting more and more comic readers turning to them. It is visible in the number of monthly active users of Kross Comics, which is a webtoon app. Today the app has crossed 3 million downloads since it commenced service in India in December 2019.

**K-POP**  
It is short for Korean popular music, which is a music genre that also originated in South Korea as part of South Korean culture. The genres take their influence from all around the world, such as pop, experimental, rock, jazz, gospel, hip-hop, R&B, reggae, electronic dance, folk, country, and classical on top of their traditional Korean music roots.

**K-DRAMA**  
The Korean Drama which is now famously called K-Drama. They are Korean language television series that are made in South Korea.



## Shilpa's mantra to reduce stress

**Mumbai:** Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra took to social media Monday to suggest meditation that offers benefits like calming the mind, reducing stress and sharpening the eyesight. The ancient meditation practice is called Tratak.

"We may not always have the power to change what's happening around us, but we can definitely control what happens within. That is possible only through Yoga. Give yourself the ability to calm the mind, reduce unwanted thoughts, centre your wandering

attention, and improve your focus through Tratak Meditation," Shilpa wrote in an Instagram post.

The actress, who is known for her penchant for Yoga, also mentioned the benefits of the meditation, which include increased concentration levels, fighting sleeping difficulties, sharpening eyesight and reducing stress.

On the work front, Shilpa is set to make her comeback into Hindi films after 14 years with the upcoming comedy *Hungama 2*. The Priyadarshan directorial also features Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, Meezaan Jafri and Pranitha Subhash in key roles.



**Urvashi garners 39 mn Insta followers**

**Mumbai:** Actress Urvashi Rautela has scored a fan following of 39 million on Instagram. The actress posted a picture of her celebrating the new number Monday with a picture.

In the Instagram image, Urvashi can be seen posing next to a cake and a room full of balloons. She even put marquee lights which had 39 million written on it.

"39 MILLION LOVE. ON @instagram LOVE YOU ALL. ALSO HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOVE OF MY LIFE #OSCARRAUTELA," she wrote as the caption, with pink heart emojis.

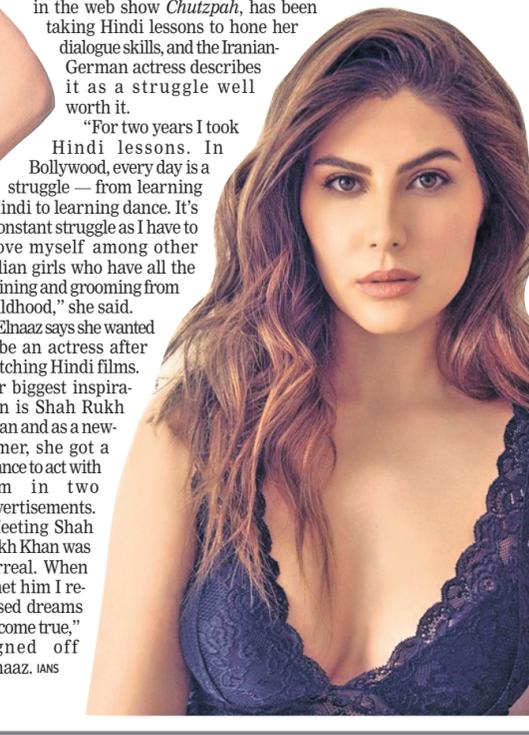
Urvashi will next be seen in the web series *Inspector Avinash*. The series is based on the life of Inspector Mishra and has Randeep Hooda essaying the title role.

## Norouzi taking Hindi lessons

**New Delhi:** Elnaaz Norouzi, who will be seen in the web show *Chutzpah*, has been taking Hindi lessons to hone her dialogue skills, and the Iranian-German actress describes it as a struggle well worth it.

"For two years I took Hindi lessons. In Bollywood, every day is a struggle — from learning Hindi to learning dance. It's a constant struggle as I have to prove myself among other Indian girls who have all the training and grooming from childhood," she said.

Elnaaz says she wanted to be an actress after watching Hindi films. Her biggest inspiration is Shah Rukh Khan and as a newcomer, she got a chance to act with him in two advertisements. "Meeting Shah Rukh Khan was surreal. When I met him I realised dreams do come true," signed off Elnaaz.



### PEANUTS



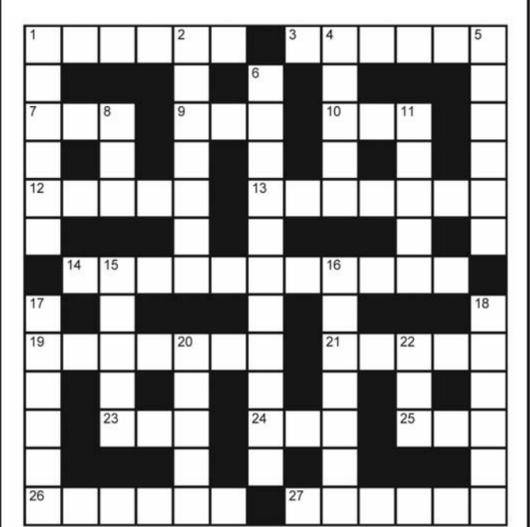
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



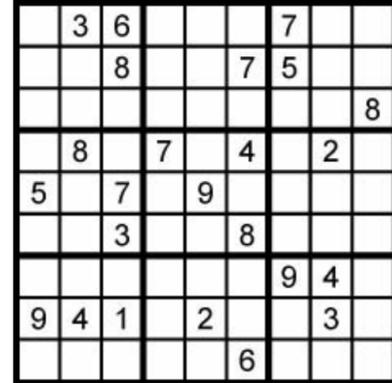
### FUN post CROSSWORD



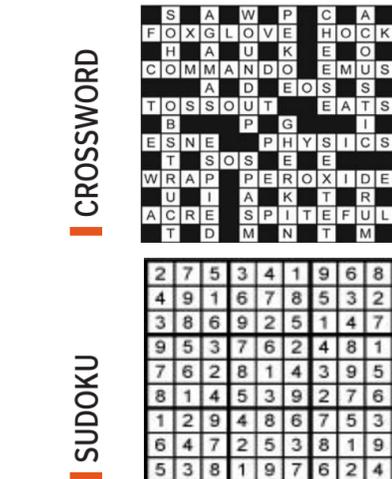
- Across**
- 1 Fast bird of prey
  - 3 Court game
  - 7 Jar part
  - 9 Historic period
  - 10 Barley bristle
  - 12 Jet black
  - 13 Policeman
  - 14 Without compunction or human feeling (4-7)
  - 19 Catch-22
  - 21 Praise
  - 23 Drunkard
  - 24 Swedish shag rug
  - 25 Darjeeling or oolong
  - 26 No-nos
  - 27 Gdansk locale
  - Down**
  - 1 Made a movie
  - 2 Like Cyclops (3-4)
  - 4 Swig
  - 5 Source of danger
  - 6 Where an heiress is raised? (3,2,6)
  - 8 Twosome
  - 11 Mother-of-pearl
  - 15 Monsters
  - 16 Sauce ingredient
  - 17 Decide against doing something (3,3)
  - 18 London theatre district street
  - 20 "Likewise"
  - 22 Back at sea

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## Mo Buses ferry 15K on Day 1

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

Bhubaneswar, July 19: After more than two months' hiatus, Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) Monday resumed operations of its Mo Buses in the state capital.

CRUT has announced resumption of Mo Bus operations with only 87 buses on 16 routes. Sources said that all the buses were thoroughly sanitised both inside and outside for passenger safety. The first day saw about 80 per cent occupancy with more than 15,000 riders.

"About 15,000 to 20,000 riders took the bus Monday. However, since no passenger was allowed to stand during the ride, as per state government's guidelines, only 80 per cent occupancy was observed. We will keep adding more buses and routes over a period of time," an official at CRUT stated.

It can be mentioned that CRUT has a fleet of more than 200 buses operating in about 25 routes covering Puri, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

The daily ridership of the buses in the Capital city had crossed more than 1 lakh before Covid.

However, the numbers saw a steady rise in 2020 until state government instructed lockdown May 5.

Moreover, CRUT stated that it would keep regular operation of the Mo Bus service suspended during weekend shutdowns.

However, bus services for incoming passengers will continue from railway station to Cuttack and Khurda, and shuttle service will be available from airport to railway station during weekends.

# HOME COMING OF THE TRINITY

## Bahuda special

# Tight security for deities' RETURN JOURNEY



The SJTA has urged devotees and public to stay indoors and witness the festival through television

22 special police teams have been deployed to check unauthorised entry to the Grand Road during the curfew period

Lodges and hotels in the Holy City have been vacated ahead of the curfew that is in place from 8pm July 19 to 8pm July 21

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

Puri, July 19: The district and Srimandir administration have made elaborate arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of the Bahuda Yatra of the deities that will be performed in the Holy City sans devotees for the second year in a row.

In order to ensure that servitors and policemen involved in pulling of the chariots don't feel the pinch of the soaring daytime temperature, they will be served with ORS drinks. This apart, Fire Services and PHEO authorities have been asked to sprinkle water on the road in regular intervals, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief Krishan Kumar said after holding a review meeting with senior officials here.

Tata Power has been asked to ensure uninterrupted power during the return car festival of the Srimandir deities, Kumar said.

The SJTA has urged devotees and public to stay indoors and witness the festival through television.

On the other hand, lodges and hotels in the Holy City have been vacated ahead of the curfew that is in place from 8pm July 19 to 8pm July 21. "In case of any information regarding any unauthorised check-in at hotels or lodgings during the period, stringent action will be taken," Puri superintendent of police (SP) KV Singh said.

Sources said that the district police has deployed 22 special teams to check unauthorised entry to the Grand Road during the curfew period. Each team will have a videographer apart from senior police officials. This apart, three mobile teams will also be deployed on the Grand Road.

The SP further said that the security arrangements during Bahuda will also remain in force during Suna Basha, Adharapana and Niladri Bije rituals. "Curfew will also be clamped during the festivities from July 20 to 23 and 10 dedicated teams, each having an executive magistrate and senior police officials, will be deployed on the Grand Road during the period," Singh said.

As per rituals, the Mangala Alati of the deities will be performed at 4am while Abakash will be performed by 5am. After completion of a few other rituals, the Pahandi of the deities will start at 12 noon and conclude by 2.30pm. The Chhera Panhara ritual will be conducted by 3.30pm. The pulling of the chariots will start by 4pm.

Lord Jagannath and His siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra are all set to

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**Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice in connection with the Credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with our Koraput Branch: Classified as NPA**

We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor that their A/c mentioned below have been classified as NPA account pursuant to their default in making repayment of dues/installment/interest. Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower/Guarantor of Union Bank of India, Koraput Branch but the same could not be served on the below mentioned parties which was sent by Regd. Post A.D. The outstanding amount in their accounts are shown in the below column against their names. The details are given below:

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Type / Loan Limit	Demand Notice Date Outstanding Amount	Details of the properties
1	<b>Borrower: Mrs. Harapriya Patra, W/o: Amit Patra / Guarantor: Mr Amit Patra, S/o: Bhairab Patra, both are At: 2nd Lane, Gandhinagar, Koraput, Odisha-764020.</b>	<b>OCC : ₹25,00,000/- PSSEI : ₹20,00,000/- TLMEI : ₹5,00,000/-</b>	<b>25.05.2021 / ₹25,53,259.70+ ₹13,50,580.30+ ₹3,72,480.00= ₹42,76,320.00 as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021</b>	EMD of Residential land and building at Plot No.: 391, New Khata No.: 91/1147 & Old Khata No.: 58, At: Manabar, Near Malabar Railway Station, Koraput, admeasuring Ac. 0.80 cents belonging to <b>Mr. Amit Patra.</b>
2	<b>Borrower: M/s Maa Mutyalumaa Enterprises, Prop: Mr Amit Patra, S/o: Bhairab Patra / Guarantor: Mrs. Harapriya Patra, W/o: Amit Patra, both are At: 2nd Lane, Gandhinagar, Koraput, Odisha-764020.</b>	<b>SOD : ₹55,00,000/-</b>	<b>15.04.2021 / ₹26,38,311.00 as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021</b>	EMD of Residential land and building to <b>Mrs. Harapriya Patra</b> (Owner of the property) over Plot No.: 776/147, Area: Ac. 0.480 dec., Mouza: Manabar, Tahasil: Koraput, Dist: Koraput, <b>Plot No.: 01, Area: Ac. 0.04 dec., Boundary-East: 18'</b>
3	<b>Borrower: Mr. P Madhav Krishna, S/o: P Durga Rao / Guarantor: Mrs. P Laxmi, W/o: Late P Durga Rao, both are At: Puchila Street, Koraput, Koraput.</b>	<b>SODGN : ₹25,00,000/-</b>	<b>15.04.2021 / ₹25,27,347.00 as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021</b>	EMD of Residential land and building to <b>Mrs. P. Laxmi</b> (Owner of the property) over Plot No.: 289 (old), 289/1136 (new), Khata No.: 415/299 (new) to an extent of Ac. 0.01 cents, Mouza: Koraput Nagar, Tahasil/Dist: Koraput, Bounded by-East: House property of Mrs. P Laxmi, West: Land of Jagannatha Rao, North: 3 feet vacant site left for passage, South: Land of Jagannatha Rao.
4	<b>Borrower: Mr. P Madhav Krishna, S/o: P Durga Rao / Guarantor: Mrs. P Laxmi Prasana, W/o: P Durga Rao, both are At: Puchila Street, Koraput-764020.</b>	<b>HLPGN : ₹20,00,000/-</b>	<b>15.04.2021 / ₹20,42,957.00 as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021</b>	EMD of Residential land and building to <b>Mr. P. Madhav Krishna</b> over Plot No.: 608 (old), 608/1735 (new), Khata No.: 68 (old), 91/988 (new), Sub Plot No.: 9, to an extent of Ac. 0.05 cents, Mouza: Manbar, Tahasil/Dist: Koraput, Odisha, Bounded by-East: Sub Plot No. 10, West: Sub Plot No. 8, North: 12 feet Road, South: Coffee Board.
5	<b>Borrower: Mr. Pradip Kumar Jena, S/o: Natabar Jena / Guarantor: Mr. Dilip Kumar Jena, S/o: Natabar Jena, both are At: Aurobinda Nagar, Janiguda, Koraput.</b>	<b>SOD : ₹50,00,000/-</b>	<b>15.04.2021 / ₹52,67,085/- as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021</b>	EMD of Residential land and building to <b>Mr. Dilip Kumar Jena</b> (Owner of the property) over Plot No.: 195/1099, 195/1099/1, 195/1100, Khata No.: 48 (old), 125/379 (new), Area: Ac. 0.865 cents, At: Janiguda, Tahasil/Dist: Koraput, Bounded by-East: Road, West: Land of Dilip Kumar Jena and Pradeep Kumar Jena, North: Drain, South: Land of Parbatil Jena.
6	<b>Borrower: Mr. Sheikh Jamaluddin, S/o: Kamiruddin Sheikh, Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mrs. Monorama Mohapatra, W/o: Sheikh Jamaluddin, both are At: Jaya House, Pujariput, Rona Sahi, Koraput, Odisha-764020.</b>	<b>SOD : ₹21,00,000/- PSSEI : ₹1,44,000/- TL005 : ₹1,11,716/-</b>	<b>19.05.2021 / ₹21,18,277.00+ ₹24,571.65+ ₹37,426.53= ₹21,80,275.18 as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021</b>	EMD of Residential House site belongs to <b>Mrs. Manorama Mohapatra</b> (Owner of the property) over Plot No.: 62, Khata No.: 106, Area: Ac. 0.20 cents, Mouza: Kumbha-II, Tahasil/Dist: Koraput, Bounded by-East: Prema Chandra Suna, West: Govt Land, North: PWD Road, South: Prema Chandra Suna.
7	<b>Borrower: Mr. Tankadhar Khilla, S/o: Debo Khilla / Co-applicant: Mrs. Bati Khilla, W/o: Tankadhar Khilla, both are At: Eco Railway Colony, Qtr. No.: Type-II, 7/C, Koraput-764020 / Guarantor: Prafulla Kumar Khora, S/o: Sadak Khora, At: Eco Railway Colony, Qtr. No.: Type-II, 14/B, Koraput-764020.</b>	<b>HLPGN : ₹5,66,996.79 ₹2,37,331.37</b>	<b>15.04.2021 / ₹5,66,996.79+ ₹2,37,331.37= ₹8,04,328.16 as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021</b>	EMD of Residential land & building belongs to <b>Mr. Tankadhar Khilla</b> over Plot No.: 112/478 (old), 112/478/979 (new), Khata No.: 27/428 (old), 27/1230 (new), to an extent of Ac. 0.05 cents, Mouza: Kanheiput, Dist: Koraput, Odisha, Bounded by-East: Proposed Road, West: Land of Girish, North: Land of Sabata Babu, South: Land of Debodatta Indoria.
8	<b>Borrower: Mr. Lingaraj Behera, S/o: Mr Dhanurjaya Behera, At: Pujariput, Koraput, Dist: Koraput-764020 / Guarantor: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Jena, S/o: Late Natabar Jena, At: Aurobinda Nagar, Janiguda, Dist: Koraput.</b>	<b>SODGN : ₹50,00,000</b>	<b>15.04.2021 / ₹42,56,631.00 as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021</b>	EMD of Residential land & building belongs to <b>Mr. Lingaraj Behera</b> over Plot No.: 100/1175 (old), 100/1291 (new), Khata No.: 125/448 (old), 125/1794 (new), to an extent of Ac. 0.02 <sup>25</sup> cents, situated at Pujariput, Mouza: Kumbha-I, Koraput, Tahasil/Dist: Koraput, Odisha, Bounded by-East: Land of Panigrahi Babu, West: Land of Madhab Behera, North: Rest Land of Laita Behera, South: Land of Kumaramani Sahu & N Ramapati.

In spite of our repeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your accounts, you have not discharged your liabilities. We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned above against your notice together with interest from the date mentioned above at contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the above securities created by you in favour of the Bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act. 1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues together with contractual rate of interest from the date mentioned above within 60 days as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you, and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act, and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debts Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you. 2) As per sec. 13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please note that any violation of this section entails serious consequences. 3) Your kind attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 19.07.2021, Place: Koraput **Sd/-Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India**

## The tradition of Bahuda Yatra

As per tradition, three chariots were pulled one by one with southward turn from the entry gate parking and stationed at the exit gate of Gundicha temple known as Nakachandwar facing towards the main temple Saturday.

While the chariot of Subhadra was pulled first followed by the chariot of Balabhadra, the chariot of Lord Jagannath was pulled at the last. This exercise is called "Dakshini Moda".

After the observance of the daily needs of deities in the Adap mandap, three Pujapandas came with the "agyamallyas" in a procession Saturday and handed over the order of the deities to park the chariots in front of the Nakachandwar for the return journey.

About five hundred police personnel were engaged in making all the three chariots on the Dakshini moda exercise.

This apart, from the preparation by the temple administration was on to observe Suna Basha, the golden attire of the Trinity and Adharapana rituals of deities after their arrival at the Singhadwar of the main temple.

Official sources said a total of 5,000 Covid-19 tests were conducted, including 3,500 servitors and police personnel. As per the Supreme Court directive, only servitors who tested Covid-19 negative could pull the chariots while the police personnel tested Covid negative should be engaged in festival duty.

The entire city and Badadanda would be placed under curfew for 48 hours for the Return Car Festival. The district administration has asked all the hotels and lodging houses located on either side of the Grand road to vacate the rooms occupied by the visitors.

Temple sources said after arriving at Lions' Gate July 20, the Suna Basha of deities on the Rathis would be held July 21 followed by Adharapana offering July 22 and finally, the presiding deities would return to their original abode in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple July 23 known as Niladri Bije (homecoming of deities).

**A Well Wisher**

# BELOW 2K COVID CASES AFTER 5 DAYS Irrigation boost to 15K ha farmland

## 1.40 CRORE PEOPLE, INCLUDING 2,306 PREGNANT WOMEN, HAVE BEEN INOCULATED SO FAR



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 19:** Odisha's daily Covid-19 cases dropped below 2,000 for the first time in five days as 1,648 people tested positive for the viral infection in the past 24 hours, a Health official said Monday. The state had last reported below 2,000 daily cases (1,930) July 12. While 2,074 persons tested positive for the infection July 13, the coastal state registered 2,110 fresh infections a day after. July 15 witnessed 2,070 fresh cases, while July 16 saw 2,182 persons tested positive for the virus. Odisha registered 2,215 new Covid cases July 17, said the official. With 1,648 fresh cases, Odisha's Covid-19 tally soared to 9,55,974. Meanwhile, 58 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 5,116. As many as 955 new cases were

**The Test Positivity Rate,** which has been hovering around 2.9 per cent for the last few days, further reduced to 2.3 per cent

**Khurda district recorded the highest number of fresh fatalities at 19,** followed by Bargarh (seven), Ganjam (five) and Bolangir (four)

reported in quarantine centres, while 693 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing, said the official.

In the past 24 hours, only four of the 30 districts registered more than 100 Covid cases with Cuttack reporting the highest number of 332 cases followed by Khurda (211), Jagpur (113) and Jagatsinghpur (112).

Khurda district, of which Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded the highest number of fresh fatalities

at 19, followed by Bargarh (seven), Ganjam (five) and Bolangir (four).

The state now has 20,387 active cases, while 9,30,418 people have recovered from the disease to date, including 2,492 Sunday Fifty-three coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities thus far.

As far as the active cases are concerned, Khurda district has the highest 4,498 cases followed by Cuttack (2,842), Balasore (1,625) and Jagpur (1,461). The other 26 districts in the state have active cases below 1,000 of which eight districts have less than 100 active cases.

Health experts claimed that considering a decline in the daily Covid cases in the past few days, the infection has almost reached a plateau stage in almost all the districts. The Test Positivity Rate (TPR), which has been hovering around 2.9 per cent for the last few days, further reduced to 2.3 per cent with 1,648 samples out of the 69,812 tested for the viral infection turned out positive Sunday.

Only Cuttack district has TPR above 5 per cent, while other 29 districts have recorded TPR less than 5 per cent. Nabarangpur district in southern Odisha has the lowest TPR of 0.2 per cent.

Odisha has so far tested over 1.51 crore samples for Covid-19, including 69,812 Sunday. The state's positivity rate stands at 6.31 per cent.

As many as 1.40 crore people, including 2,306 pregnant women, have been inoculated to date, the Health official pointed out.

### POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 19:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday inaugurated irrigation facility for 15,359 hectares of farmland in five blocks of Mayurbhanj district on virtual mode.

With the inauguration of the facility, 15,359 hectares of land in 94 villages of Baripada, Betanti, Morada, Suliapada and Rasgovindpur blocks of Mayurbhanj will get water from Subarnarekha river through a canal system.

Patnaik said, "This is a great day for Mayurbhanj district and the whole of Odisha. This new irrigation facility will bring forth golden harvest for Mayurbhanj."

He said irrigation facilities will be provided to 1.06 lakh hectares of land in Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts through the Subarnarekha irrigation project.

Stating that he is giving special emphasis on Mayurbhanj, Patnaik said the district is witnessing development in all the sectors, whether



The Subarnarekha irrigation project inaugurated by CM Naveen Patnaik, Monday

it is the healthcare or the successful implementation of Mission Shakti or the development of the tribals.

"Mayurbhanj will be one of the few districts in the country to provide piped drinking water to all the households," Patnaik said, adding, the government is spending around Rs 768 crore on piped water projects in the district.

Stating that irrigation is a priority area of his government, the Chief Minister said that 10,000 hectares of land would be irrigated from Deo irrigation project from the next Kharif season. He said

that about 15 irrigation projects would be completed in the next 2/3 years. As water is a valuable natural resource, he advised all concerned to utilize the natural resource properly. Speaking about welfare activities undertaken for farmers, the Patnaik said the state government has always been with the farmers and working for their betterment. Over 67 lakh farmer families are getting benefits under the Kalia scheme, he said.

"The farmers are able to live with dignity today because of various welfare programmes of the state gov-

## FILLIP TO AGRI PRODUCTIVITY

**W**ith the inauguration of the facility, 15,359 hectares of land in 94 villages of Baripada, Betanti, Morada, Suliapada and Rasgovindpur blocks of Mayurbhanj will get water from Subarnarekha river through a canal system

**T**he Chief Minister said that 10,000 hectares of land would be irrigated from Deo irrigation project from the next Kharif season

ernment," he said. His government would continue its fight for the rights of farmers, he added.

Attending the function, Panchayat Raj Minister Pratap Jena said that about 70,000 hectares of land in Mayurbhanj district will be irrigated by January 2024. Secretary to Chief Minister (ST) VK Pandian coordinated the programme.

## DENOUNCING FUEL PRICE HIKE



Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim and other Congress leaders take part in a signature campaign in CDA area of the Silver City condemning the skyrocketing fuel prices, Monday

## BPUT students demand reopening of institutions

### POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 19:** Students and members of All Odisha BPUT Students' Organisation Monday met Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Premananda Nayak congratulating him for the state government's decision to upgrade the College of Engineering and Technology (CET), Bhubaneswar to a non-affiliating university to facilitate research and higher studies.

Welcoming the decision, the students said that this would help improve the technical education in the state in a big way. They also demanded reopening of all technical institutions in the state.

Minister Nayak, after meeting the students, said that a meeting will soon be held to take a decision in this regard.

## SCHEDULE FOR OCS PRELIMS OUT

### POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 19:** The Odisha Public Service Commission Monday declared the schedule for Odisha Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2020. The exam will be conducted August 27 in Balasore, Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Sambalpur.

As per the schedule, out of the two papers of the Odisha Civil Services (Preliminary) Exam, Paper-I (General Studies) will be held from 10am to 12 noon August 27 (Friday). Paper-II (General Studies) will be from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. The Commission further said that differently-abled candidates will be given 40 minutes extra in each sitting.

Candidates will have to answer a total of 180 questions in the exam. They will answer 100 multiple choice questions (MCQs) in Paper-I and 80 MCQs in Paper-II.

## RS PAYS HOMAGE TO MOHAPATRA

### POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, July 19:** The Rajya Sabha Monday paid homage to Raghunath Mohapatra, a sculptor and member of the Upper House who passed away May 9 at the age of 78 due to Covid related complications.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said in an obituary that Mohapatra was a genius in the world of sculpture. He was the recipient of several prestigious awards and recognitions like Padma Shri in the year 1976, Padma Bhushan in the year 2001 and Padma Vidushan in the year 2013. "Though he did not get any formal training in sculpture, his craftsmanship was such that he was revered as an encyclopedia in the field of sculpture. The uniqueness about his craft was that he never used machines for sculpting but chose chisel and hammer only to create several masterpieces," the Chairman said.

## BJP takes to streets over 'Mo Cycle' imbroglio

### AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 19:** Odisha BJP activists Monday held a demonstration here alleging massive corruption in Mo Cycle project and demanded arrest of all government officers involved in the scam.

The BJP activists, led by Bhubaneswar district unit president Babu Singh, took out a rally from the party office to Sishu Bhawan Square and demanded the government to recover the money from the officers.

The party alleged that the government had bought 2,000 bicycles at Rs 25,000 each in 2018 and spent Rs 1 crore more on their maintenance under Mo Cycle scheme, launched with an objective to help



**The govt had bought 2,000 bicycles at ₹25,000 each and spent ₹1 crore on their maintenance, the BJP alleged**

people commute at a cheaper cost in the city. A 37-km long coloured cycle track was also made for easy movement of the cyclists.

Singh said these cycles were sold to a scrap dealer at Rs 500 each and sought a clarification from the BMC and the BSCL as to how the cycles fitted with GPS landed in a scrap yard at Dumduma. Accusing BMC and BSCL of looting crores of central assistance provided to the

state under the Smart City initiative, he demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged scam.

He questioned the silence of both BMC and BSCL and their inaction towards filing an FIR to inquire into the scam even after it was widely reported in the media.

The BJP leader alleged that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has betrayed people by showing a rosy picture of the smart city.

## NCC Cuttack conducts virtual camp



### POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, July 19:** NCC Group Cuttack started a virtual camp 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat VIII' Monday under the aegis of NCC Directorate Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

The camp will continue till July 27. A total of 250 NCC Cadets and Associate NCC Officers from the states of Odisha, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & union territory of Chandigarh will participate in the event.

The organisers have chosen 'Google meet G suite' platform to train the cadets even during Covid. The theme of the camp is 'Kargil War, 1999'. The camp will be conducted through various presentations, discussions and interactions to showcase the history, geography, cuisines, tourism and cultural heritages of both paired states and two union territories.

## 'IGCSE curriculum at SAI Int'l for 360-degree education'

### POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 19:** SAI International School has received affiliation from the Cambridge Assessment International Education, UK to offer its world-leading Cambridge programme. SAI has received affiliation for the early grades - the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the AS&A (Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced) levels.

Primary segment will completely follow the IGCSE curriculum while students of Classes IV and above can opt for either IGCSE curriculum or CBSE curriculum. The school will continue to remain affiliated to the CBSE as well.

SAI International School will set up a new block for IGCSE classes.

The new IGCSE block will have all facilities to ensure that every student gets a 360-degree education. The facilities include music lab, science lab, robotics lab, innovation lab, computer lab, language lab, art lab, multi-activity rooms, outdoor science park, outdoor sports area, recreation area and cafeteria.

Silpi Sahoo, co-founder and chairperson, SAI International Education Group, said, "As we prepare our children to be tomorrow's citizens in the rapidly changing globalised world, the new Cambridge programme will infuse international understanding and intercultural behaviour."

## ₹95 crore for 'Mo School' Abhiyan

**BHUBANESWAR:** The 26th Executive Council meeting of 'Mo School' Abhiyan was held Monday under the chairmanship of School and Mass Education (S&ME) department principal secretary Satyabrata Sahu. The meeting, which was held in virtual mode, approved projects worth Rs 95 crore in 23 districts of Odisha. In the last one month, more than 23,000 alumni have joined the 'Mo School' Abhiyan. Alumni members along with various philanthropic organisations have contributed Rs 11.56 crore for development of schools across the state.

## Babus told to know intricacies of MPI

### POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 19:** Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra asked the secretaries and senior officers of various departments to understand the intricacies of Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and monitor the developmental interventions accordingly for speedy attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mahapatra gave this direction while attending a one-day consultative workshop on SDG related MPI here Monday.

"The focus of SDG is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Therefore, the multidimensional poverty measurement parameter is crucial for working towards the achievement of the SDG-2030 agenda," he said in the meeting.

Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena said, "MPI reflects both the incidence and intensity of poverty. It shows how

### WORKSHOP ON SDG

**M**PI IS CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 10 INDICATORS ARRANGED INTO THREE SECTORS NAMELY HEALTH, EDUCATION AND STANDARD OF LIVING

**S**TANDARD OF LIVING COVERS THE INDICATORS LIKE COOKING FUEL, SANITATION, DRINKING WATER, HOUSING, ELECTRICITY AND ASSETS

many are poor in a given population and what is the level of their deprivation."

The MPI experts from NITI Aayog said that MPI reflects people's experience of poverty in different forms and dimensions. It also reflects the policy priorities regarding poverty eradication.

Discussions in the workshop showed that MPI is calculated on the basis of 10 indicators arranged

into three sectors namely health, education and standard of living.

Health includes the indicators like nutrition and child mortality; education embraces years of schooling of a household member and school attendance up to the age of the completion of Class VIII; and standard of living covers the indicators like cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, housing, electricity and assets.

## BJD SUPPORTS MARINE AIDS NAVIGATION BILL

### POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, July 19:** Supporting the Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday appreciated the move of the Union government to develop 65 lighthouses in PPP mode and said that Odisha's five lighthouses present huge potential for tourism.

Speaking on behalf of the party in Rajya Sabha, BJD MP Subhash Singh suggested that Chilika Lake and the Gopalpur beach will be added attractions if developed as places of tourist interest.

"As the Centre seeks to develop 65 lighthouses in PPP mode, Odisha's five lighthouses present huge potential for tourism. One of the five lighthouses situated along Odisha coast is the 180-year old functional tower, which continues to guide ships. The British-era 'False Point' island lighthouse, a 129-ft massive

minaret-like structure, is situated off the Kendrapara coast. Its location, which is close to massive mangrove vegetation infested with crocodiles, makes it an adventurous tourist place on the eastern coast," Subhash Chandra Singh said. He also said that the False Point is the oldest working lighthouse in India.

The BJD MP said that the Paradip lighthouse holds tourism potential because of its proximity to the port town, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar cities (100 kilometres). "Another century-old lighthouse is at Gopalpur in Ganjam district. The 150-year old tower used to assist ships sailing between Rangoon and the Coromandel coast ports and is already a tourist place," Singh said. It is to be mentioned that Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021, provides for the development, maintenance and management of aids to navigation in India.

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# Posters urging Maoists to give up arms found in Swabhiman Anchal

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, July 19:** In a welcome change, posters appealing to the Maoists to give up arms and join the mainstream were found stuck by the Intelligence department of Odisha Police in the Swabhiman Anchal of this district, Monday.

The development comes a day after the Odisha Police DG Abhaya visited Malkangiri district and reviewed the Left-wing Extremism (LWE) situation in the region. Two Maoists carrying bounties on their head surrendered before the DG and other security officials in the district.

The posters were found stuck near Sarkubandha village and they called upon the Maoists to shun the path of violence and join the mainstream by accepting the incentives offered by the state government. The Maoists who would surrender and join the mainstream would be provided with free vocational training for employment, a house to live in and all the cases registered against them will be withdrawn, the posters read.

## WELCOME CHANGE

The development comes a day after Odisha Police DG Abhaya visited Malkangiri district and reviewed the Left-wing Extremism (LWE) situation in the region. Two Maoists carrying bounties on their head surrendered before the DG and other security officials



Earlier, posters of the Maoists outfits were only found in the Swabhiman area through which they tried to instigate the local residents against the security forces and over implementation of developmental projects in the area

Posters stuck by the security officials is being viewed as a welcome and important change, indicating that the ultras are losing ground in the region, as the security forces take control of the area

The posters issued by the Intelligence department have also released the phone number that the Maoists can contact before surrendering.

Earlier, posters of the Maoists outfits were only found in the Swabhiman area through which they tried to instigate the local residents against the security

forces as well as against the implementation of developmental projects in the area.

However, the posters stuck by the security officials is being viewed as a welcome and important change, indicating that the ultras are losing ground in the region, as the security forces take control of the area.

# TWO KILLED, 2 INJURED IN ROAD MISHAP

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, July 19:** Two persons were killed and two others were critically injured after their motorbikes collided head-on at Patharala Chowk under Bijepur tehsil in Bargarh district late Sunday night.

The deceased have been identified as Jyotiranjana Sahoo of Mahala village under Binika police limits in Sundargarh district and Ashish Pradhan, a resident of Bargarh town. The injured persons are Sunil Bag and Dhyanchand Jhankar.

According to a source, Sunil and Ashish were travelling by a bike and as they neared Patharala Chowk, they collided head-on with the bike that Jyotiranjana was riding. Due to the impact of the collision, Ashish and Jyotiranjana died on the spot. Incidentally, both were not wearing helmets.



On being informed, police reached the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them for post-mortem. The injured were rushed to a nearby government hospital.

Police have launched a probe to ascertain the cause of the accident. However, with both the injured still unconscious, details about the accident are yet to be obtained. Some locals said that both the bikes were travelling at very high speed.

# ADMIN TURNS INDIFFERENT Villagers set example, build their own Anganwadi centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, July 19:** Despite the repeated plea of the villagers for an Anganwadi building at Balichatur village in Sayan panchayat under Tihidi block of Bhadrak, no action has been taken in this regard there has been no effort in direction by the district administration.

Upset and aggrieved over the administrative indifference, the villagers have now decided not to wait for the authorities for help. They have made up their mind to build their own Anganwadi centre.

The villagers collected funds and contributed labour and built a house for their kids - what they call it their Anganwadi centre. According to reports, the village has been sanctioned a mini Anganwadi centre, but no building was constructed. As a result, children are made to sit on the verandah of a villager's house where they are not sheltered from summer heat or rains during the monsoon.

Villagers alleged that when it rains, their children get drenched. In that event, the Anganwadi worker has no option but to suspend the classes. This is a routine affair during the monsoon. Fed up with the miseries, the mothers of the children got together one day and resolved to build their own Anganwadi centre.

The villagers said that the administration had made an estimate for construction of a mini Anganwadi centre in the village in 2018. Thereafter, locals pleaded



The village was sanctioned a mini Anganwadi centre, but no building was constructed for which children are made to sit on the verandah of a villager's house where they are not sheltered from summer heat or monsoon rains

with the BDO and the tehsildar to identify a place for the building of the proposed Anganwadi centre. However, nothing worked out as the administration failed to earmark a place. With no place to sit, children continued to suffer, while their mothers were worried every time it rained.

Anganwadi worker Simalata Mallick recounted her difficulties in tending children in the verandah where managing things on a daily basis was almost an uphill task. "After three days of labour, the villagers managed to erect poles, walls and roof of the mini Anganwadi centre. Now, the children at least have a place to sit. However, even now every time it rains, children are sent home," she lamented.

When contacted for his comments, Tihidi BDO Basant Kumar Sahani said that funds have been sanctioned for the mini Anganwadi building in the village, but a suitable site is yet to be identified.

The BDO was all praise for the villagers for their united efforts. He assured that the process to identify the land will be hastened.

# Two electrocuted in Sonepur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sonepur/Tarabha, July 19:** In an unfortunate incident, two farmers were electrocuted on an agricultural land at Pandikimal village under Tarabha block in Subarnapur district, Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Radheshyam Sahu, 45, and Gopa Sahu, 20, of the village.

The mishap took place when both were turning on a water pump to irrigate their land, which is witnessing scarce rain. Locals

rescued them and rushed them to a Tarabha hospital, but doctors declared them "brought dead".

On being informed, Tarabha police reached the spot and launched an investigation. However, no case has been registered in this connection yet.

# 2 elephant carcasses recovered in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK



**Keonjhar, July 19:** Two elephant carcasses were spotted at Raba village of Kushakala panchayat under Bhuyan Juang Pirh forest Range in Keonjhar district Monday morning, leaving animal lovers in the state shocked.

The carcasses were of a female elephant and a calf. According to the local villagers, a herd of elephants

had strayed into the village Sunday night. They found two pachyderms lying dead Monday morning and immediately informed the Forest department. DFO Swayam Mallick and a team reached the spot and recovered the carcasses and sent them for autopsy.

While the cause of the deaths is yet to be ascertained, the Forest department has launched an investigation into the matter. Whether deaths are a result of electrocution, poisoning or natural death will only be known after the post-mortem.

When asked, DFO Mallick said he has ordered an investigation into the deaths. "It is too early to say anything about the reason of the death," he added.

# FATHER HACKS SON TO DEATH

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, July 19:** In a shocking incident, a man allegedly hacked his son to death Monday morning at Naranakhunta village under Badasahi police limits in Mayurbhanj district, a police official informed. The deceased has been identified as Pramod Kumar Singh, while the accused is his father Anil Kumar Singh.

The two were involved in a heated altercation Monday morning over some issue. Things took an ugly turn when

Anil became violent. In a fit of anger, he attacked Pramod with a sharp weapon causing fatal injuries. Subsequently, Pramod died on the spot.

Anil fled the spot immediately after committing the crime. When the villagers arrived at the spot, they found Pramod lying in a pool of blood.

On being informed, Badasahi police arrived at the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. A murder case has been registered in this connection and police have launched a manhunt to nab Anil.



REGIONAL OFFICE RAYAGADA Ainthapali Road, Sambalpur				DEMAND NOTICE	Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Type / Loan Limit	Demand Notice Date Outstanding Amount	Details of the properties
<b>Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice in connection with the Credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with our Rayagada Branch: Classified as NPA</b> We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor that their A/c mentioned below have been classified as NPA account pursuant to their default in making repayment of dues/installment/interest. Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower/Guarantor of Union Bank of India, but the same could not be served on the below mentioned parties which was sent by Regd. Post A.D. The outstanding amount in their accounts are shown in the below column against their names. The details are given below:									
<b>RAYAGADA BRANCH</b>									
1	Borrower: M/s Sai Ram Dresses, Partners: M Srinivas Rao & Ramesh, Collectorate Road, Rayagada, Partner: (1) Mr M Srinivas Rao, S/o: M Ananta Rao, Indira Nagar, Rayagada, (2) Mr R Ramesh, S/o: R Chandra Rao, LIC Colony, Rayagada.	RTREI : ₹2,78,156.06 + ₹8,17,011.50 = ₹10,95,167.56 as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	06.05.2021 / ₹2,78,156.06 + ₹8,17,011.50 = ₹10,95,167.56 as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	Property-1: Land situated at Mouza: Kolliguda, Thana: Chandilli, Dist: Rayagada, Khata No.: 30/553 (old) & 30/2041 (new), Plot No.: 87/3001, Area: Ac. 0.020 cents standing in the name of Mr. M Srinivas Rao, bounded by-East: Layout Plot No. 63, West: Layout Plot No. 61 of R Ramesh, North: 22 feet Road, South: Layout Plot No. 45. Property-2: Land situated at Mouza: Kothapeta, Thana: Chandilli, Dist: Rayagada, Khata No.: 50/379 (old) & 50/931 (new), Plot No.: 126/643/1202, Area: Ac. 0.020 cents standing in the name of Mr. M Srinivas Rao, bounded by-East: Layout Plot No. 62 of M Srinivas Rao, West: Layout Plot No. 60, North: 22 feet Road, South: Layout Plot No. 46.					
2	Borrower: M/s Sanjay Kirana Stores, Prop: Sanjay Kumar Goudi, S/o: Kakuma Goudi, New Colony, Goutam Nagar, Rayagada / Guarantor: Mr. Sunil Kumar Goudi, S/o: Kakuma Goudi, New Colony, Convent School Road, Rayagada.	OCCGN : ₹49,00,000/- UGECL : ₹9,90,000/-	06.05.2021 / ₹49,51,912/- + ₹9,11,010/- = ₹58,62,922/- as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Sanjay Kumar Goudi & Mr. Sunil Kumar Goudi (Owner of the property) situated at Plot No.: 324/1927/3061, Khata No.: 1486/831, Door No.: 8/746, Area: Ac. 0.085 dec., Mouza: Rayagad, SBI ADB Building, Near Kapilas Hotel, Dist: Rayagada, Odisha and bounded by-East: House of R. Chakrapani Choudhury, West: Site of K. Ugra Narasimha Kumundan, North: House V. Padnabham & others, South: Road leading to Polytechnic college					
3	Borrower: Mr. Sanjay Kumar Goudi, S/o: Kakuma Goudi / Guarantor: Mr. Sunil Kumar Goudi, S/o: Kakuma Goudi, both are at: Sacred Heart Convent School Road, Rayagada.	HLPGN : ₹22,00,000/-	20.05.2021 / ₹16,68,444.11 as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Sanjay Kumar Goudi & Mr. Sunil Kumar Goudi (Owner of the property) situated at Plot No.: 324/1927/3061, Khata No.: 1486/831, Door No.: 8/746, Area: Ac. 0.085 dec., Mouza: Rayagad, SBI ADB Building, Near Kapilas Hotel, Dist: Rayagada, Odisha and bounded by-East: House of Ratnala Chakrapani Choudhury, West: Site of Kothakota Ugra Narasimha Kumundan, North: House Voolla Padnabham & others, South: Municipality Road.					
<b>SEMILIGUDA BRANCH</b>									
1	Borrower: Mrs. Sabitri Barik, W/o: Gouri Shankar Barik / Guarantor: Mr. Gouri Shankar Barik, S/o: Banshidhar Barik, both are At: Block Colony, Semiliguda, Dist: Koraput, Pin-764036.	HLGEN : ₹35,00,000/-	25.05.2021 / ₹3,99,048/- + ₹80,000/- = ₹4,79,048/- as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	EMD of Residential land belongs to Mrs. Sabitri Barik over Plot No.: 118/1933, Khata No.: 113/1223, Block Colony, Semiliguda, Dist: Koraput, Odisha.					
2	Borrower: M/s Sai Krupa Foods, Prop.: Ardhendu Kumar Patro, Sai Nagar, NALCO Junction, Semiliguda, Dist: Koraput, Odisha-764036 / Guarantor: Mr. Budumuru Ananta Rao, S/o: Jagannatham, Tala Soura Street, Old Gunupur, PO: Gunupur, Dist: Rayagada, Odisha / Guarantors: (1) Budumuru Sridevi, Qr. No.: B/14, DPS Colony, Sector-3, NALCO Township, Damanjodi, Dist: Koraput, Odisha, (2) P. Ashok Kumar Senapati, S/o: P. Hari Narayan Senapati, Satya Nagar, Semiliguda, Dist: Koraput, Odisha.	BESUB : ₹13,12,000/- OCCOP : ₹5,66,000/- UGECL : ₹2,73,000/-	25.05.2021 / ₹5,79,866/- + ₹5,71,192/- + ₹2,74,371/- = ₹14,25,429/- as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mr. Budumuru Ananta Rao (Owner of the property) over Plot No.: 686/5557, Khata No.: 65/5246, Area: Ac. 0.020 dec., Mouza: Semiliguda, Tahasil: Semiliguda, Dist: Koraput, bounded by-East: Sub Plot No. 26, West: Road, North: Sub Plot No. 41 & 40, South: Road.					
3	Borrower: Mr. Tapan Kumar Swain, S/o: Hari Swain / Guarantor / Mortgagee: Mrs. Sarojini Swain, W/o: Tapan Kumar Swain, both are At: Near Maa Santoshi Maa Mandir, Semiliguda, Dist: Koraput, Odisha.	LUCCD : ₹4,00,000/- UGECL : ₹80,000/-	25.05.2021 / ₹3,99,048/- + ₹80,000/- = ₹4,79,048/- as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	EMD of Residential land belongs to Mrs. Sarojini Swain (Owner of the property) over Plot No.: 564/5841, Khata No.: 65/5558, Area: 1800 Sqft., Mouza: Semiliguda, Tahasil: Semiliguda, Dist: Koraput, bounded by-East: Road, West: Vendor Land, North: G. Gitanjali Dora, South: Vendor Land.					
<b>KESINGA BRANCH</b>									
1	Borrower: Mr. Ajay Kumar Joshi, S/o: Gourachandra Joshi / Guarantor / Mortgagee: Mr. Satya Narayan Joshi, S/o: Gourachandra Joshi / Guarantor: Mr. Govind Agrawal, S/o: Late Ram Kumar Agrawal, C/o: R K Modern R & B Rice Mill, all are At/PO: Jolko, Kesinga, Dist: Kalahandi.	SOD : ₹15,00,000/- RTREI : ₹4,00,000/-	07.05.2021 / ₹17,20,349/- + ₹1,91,345/- = ₹19,11,694/- as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mr. Satya Narayan Joshi over Khata No.: 208/254, Plot No.: 498/408, Area: 3024 Sqft, bounded by-East: Loknath Bag, West: Plot No.: 496 & 497, North: Road, South: Seller area 3024 Sqft.					
2	Borrower: Mr. Bipin Bihari Joshi, S/o: Khetramohan Joshi / Guarantor / Mortgagee: Mr. Satya Narayan Joshi, S/o: Gourachandra Joshi /	SOD : ₹15,00,000/-	07.05.2021 / ₹17,70,459/- as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mr. Satya Narayan Joshi (Owner of the property) over Plot No.: 501, Khata No.: 186, Area: 0.04 dec., At: Jolko, Kesinga.					
Guarantors: (1) Mr. Govind Agrawal, S/o: Late Ram Kumar Agrawal, C/o: R K Modern R & B Rice Mill, all are At/PO: Jolko, Kesinga, Dist: Kalahandi, (2) Ajit Padhan, S/o: Sebak Padhan, At: Kulltapada, Gaigaon, Kesinga, Dist: Kalahandi.									
<b>PARALAKHEMUNDI BRANCH-2</b>									
1	Borrowers: (1) M/s Jagannath Yatri Ticket Seva Kendra, Prop: Mukhalinga Padhi, S/o: Kapil Chandra Padhi, (2) Mrs. Khetramani Padhi, W/o: Mukhalinga Padhi, both are At: Girls High School Road, Paralakhemundi, Dist: Gajapati, Odisha-761200, (3) Mr. Kilamsettery Srinivasa Rao, S/o: Ganapati Rao, Plot No.: 4-2, Balaji Residency, Nehru Road, Near 2-Town Police Station, Dist: Srikakulam, AP-532001 / Guarantor: Niranjan Padhi, S/o: Late Kapil Chandra Padhi, Rice Mills, Kotari Industries, Akhusing, Dist: Rayagada, Odisha-765025.	SODGN : ₹15,00,000/- TLOEI : ₹29,00,000/-	28.04.2021 / ₹15,12,154/- + ₹22,26,139/- = ₹37,38,293/- as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021	EMD of Commercial land and building belongs to Mr. Mukhalinga Padhi over Holding No.: 339, War No.: 10, Plot No.: 1685/3800, 1687/3799, Khata No.: 218/1101, Padhi Market Complex, Paralakhemundi Town, Dist: Gajapati, Odisha-761200.					
<b>BHAWANIPATNA BRANCH</b>									
1	Borrowers: (1) Mrs. Anita Negi, W/o: Ranjit Kumar Mohanty, (2) Mr. Ranjit Kumar Mohanty, S/o: Ramakanta Mohanty, both are At: Bahadur Bagicha Pada, B h a w a n i p a t n a, Kalahandi-766001.	HL : ₹20,00,000/- HL : ₹7,00,000/-	15.05.2021 / ₹22,54,330/- + ₹7,71,647/- = ₹30,25,977/- as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mrs. Anita Negi over Plot No.: 31/313, Khata No.: 32/202, Area : Ac. 0.07 Dec. Mouza: Trishulmunda, Tahasil: Bhawanipatna, Dist: Kalahandi, Odisha, bounded by-East: Odisha, bounded by-West: Odisha, bounded by-South: Trilochan Das, West: Manorajan Padhi, North: Road, South: Part of Plot No.31.					
<b>BADABANDHA BRANCH</b>									
1	Borrowers: (1) Mr. Fakir Mohan Purohit, S/o: Ghasiram Purohit, (2) Mr. Pyari Mohan Purohit, S/o: Ghasiram Purohit, both are At: Kuturia, PO: Muringingh, PS: Tusura, Dist: Bolangir, Pin-767029.	Property Term Loan : ₹6,40,000/-	10.05.2021 / ₹6,68,753.00 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	All that piece and parcel of property over Khata No.: 184/20, Plot No.: 491/2744, measuring Ac. 0.06 dec. situated at Mouza: Landapathar, P.S.: Tusura, Dist: Bolangir, Odisha, bounded by-East: Govt Land, West: Land of Sitaram Swain, North: Road, South: Owner Plot.					
<b>UMURI BRANCH</b>									
1	Borrowers: (1) Mrs. Kamala Hial, W/o: Balaram Hial, (2) Mr. Balaram Hial, S/o: Dambaru Hial / Guarantor: Mr. P. Siva Narayana, S/o: Potunuru Amana Chetty, all are At: Umuri, P.O.: Umuri, Dist: Koraput, Pin-764002.	ABPTL : ₹8,00,000/-	27.04.2021 / ₹8,38,368.33 as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021	All that residential land and building belongs to Mrs. Kamala Hial over Plot No.: 192/1519, Khata No.: 154/1021, to an extent of Ac. 0.04 cents situated at Mouza: Umuri, Tahasil: Jeyapore, Dist: Koraput, Odisha, bounded by-East: House of Dabalu Christian, West: House of Mina Naik, North: House of Balaram Gadaba, South: Road-National Highway No. 26.					
In spite of our repeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your accounts, you have not discharged your liabilities. We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned above against your notice together with interest from the date mentioned above at contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the above securities created by you in favour of the Bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act. 1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues together with contractual rate of interest from the date mentioned above within 60 days as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you, and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act, and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debits Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you. 2) As per sec. 13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please note that any violation of this section entails serious consequences. 3) Your kind attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.									
Date: 19.07.2021 Place: Sambalpur									Sd/-Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

FOCUS TWO-CHILD POLICY

# COERCIVE & UNNECESSARY



The fact is that due to various socio-economic factors, identified by the government's own reports, high GDP growth, rapid urbanisation, increasing female literacy will all lead to a quick fall in fertility rates in any case

Tamil Nadu is much lower than a Hindu from Bihar. So, it is region not religion which seems to be the predominant factor; apart from socio-economic characteristics. Coercive population planning policies do more harm than good. Former Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh, Nirmala Buch, has extensively studied this issue on the ground level, and in her 2006 book "The Law of Two Child Norm" has documented that due to the two-child law adopted in various states, there was a rise in sex-selective and unsafe abortions; men divorced their wives to run for local body elections; and families gave up children for adoption to avoid disqualification. Thus, it is women who bear the disproportionate burden and negative consequence of the two-child law.

Unfortunately, such a law pertaining to being disqualified from contesting local body elections is in force in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha and Haryana. It is interesting that the law does not apply to those contesting elections to the state Assembly or the Parliament. Does it not imply elitism? China adopted a strict one-child policy for more than 30 years which it abandoned in 2016, realising the folly of this approach. And this year it is officially encouraging a three-child norm. Singapore offers generous incentives for families with more children. Apart from the socio-economic angle of the ill-effects of coercive family planning, we must also acknowledge that it infringes upon the individuals' right to choose. The policies to focus on are to increase female literacy and their participation in the workforce, and measures that increase productivity and per-capita incomes. The small family norm will automatically emerge as seen across the world.

Former Chief Election Commissioner, Dr SY Quraishi, in his book "The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India" has clearly shown with data and analysis, that fertility rates are determined more by socio-economic factors and not religion. Indeed, as even the National Family Health Survey, fourth round, has documented, the fertility rate of a Muslim from

The writer is an economist and Senior Fellow, Takshashila Institution. ©THE BILLION PRESS

India's young demography has been considered to be its structural advantage. Half the population is below the age of 27. Of course, there are poorer African countries whose median age is much lower. For example, it is 14.8 years for Niger, 15.8 for Uganda, 19.7 for Kenya. India's own median age in 1970, when it was much poorer, was just 19.3 years. India is still below the world's median age of 31. The median age in Japan is 47.3 and is similarly high in Northern European countries. One consequence of an ageing society such as Japan is that productivity gains are slow. A 2016 research paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research, using data for different states of America, showed that a 10 per cent increase in the share of population above the age of 60 reduces the per-capita GDP growth rate by 5.5 per cent. This effect is due to slower growth in labour productivity and lower growth in the active labour force.

The flip side of ageing societies is the decline in their total fertility rate (TFR). This is the average number of children that a woman of child bearing age will have during her lifetime. This number is 1.4 for Japan and 1.1 for South Korea and these are among the lowest for countries of their size. For Taiwan it is 1.1. One stylised fact that seems to emerge is that developed and rich economies are ageing, and their fertility rates are rapidly declining. This is true even within countries, where richer and more educated folks tend to have smaller families. When fertility rates fall below 2.1 they go below the replacement rate. When a woman produces two children, they replace the two parents. Adjusting for infant mortality the replacement rate, which corresponds to zero population growth, is 2.1. If this rate stabilises for some time, then the population will cease to grow. Indeed, due to sustained low TFR, the populations of countries like Japan, Germany and Russia are actually shrinking.

Demographic projections unlike those of economic growth are much more reliable. The fact of today's India is that more than 16 states already have TFRs below the replacement rate of 2.1. These are 1.5 for West Bengal, 1.6 for Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, 1.7 for Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The country as a whole has a TFR of 2.2. The states with high TFRs are Bihar (3.2), Uttar Pradesh (2.9), Madhya Pradesh (2.7), Rajasthan and Jharkhand (2.5). Assam has 2.2 and Gujarat has 2.1. These figures are from the Sample Registration System of 2018. Based on this, the Economic Survey, the official document of the government of India in 2018-19, had flagged the issue of ageing dynamics in India. It said that by 2031 all the states of India would reach TFR levels below the replacement rate of 2.1. This trend is attributed to an increase in female education levels, postponement of marriage, access to family planning methods, and the continued decline in infant mortality rate. So, it is fair to say that on an average across India families are choosing to have fewer children.

Why then are we imposing the two-child law? The fact is that due to various socio-economic factors, identified by the government's own reports, high GDP growth,



Ajit Ranade

APART FROM THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANGLE OF THE ILL-EFFECTS OF COERCIVE FAMILY PLANNING, WE MUST ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT INFRINGES UPON THE INDIVIDUALS' RIGHT TO CHOOSE

There is no better way to become friends than to laugh together.  
THE MOTHER



## Pegasus Watch

At a time when the Indian government is locked in a tussle with social network service providers over guarding the privacy of users and preserving their right to criticise government actions and policies, a shattering report published July 18 reveals activists, politicians and journalists from around the world are under surveillance with the help of the Israeli company NSO Group's software - Pegasus. As per the NSO's declared policy, only government agencies are sold the spyware to track terrorists and India is among its clients. In fact, phones of 40 Indian journalists and social activists, two Union ministers and three Opposition leaders were among those allegedly bugged and kept under watch. An investigation by the France-based media non-profit Forbidden Stories and Amnesty International into a massive data leak was shared with The Guardian, The Washington Post, The Wire (of India) and 15 other media outlets.

The report said 'authoritarian governments' abused the Pegasus software, 'hacking smartphones.' The leak contains a list of more than 50,000 numbers believed to have been of interest to clients of NSO since 2016. Over 1,000 individuals, including 189 journalists, 600 politicians, 65 business executives and 85 human rights activists in 50 countries were allegedly selected by NSO clients for potential surveillance.

The Washington Post reported numbers on the list also belonged to heads of states and prime ministers, members of Arab royal families and diplomats. The inclusion of the numbers of heads of states and ministers suggest their relatives were also being spied on. The list included journalists for media organisations around the world including The Hindustan Times, The Hindu, The Wire, The Indian Express, Agence France-Presse, The Wall Street Journal, CNN, The New York Times, Al Jazeera, France 24, Radio Free Europe, Mediapart, El Pais, The Associated Press, Le Monde, Bloomberg, The Economist, Reuters and Voice of America, among others.

According to forensic analysis by Amnesty's Security Lab, two women, close to slain Saudi columnist Jamal Khashoggi, were targeted with Pegasus spyware. The phone of Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, was infected with the spyware days after his murder in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018, the Washington Post reported.

The surveillance tool developed by NSO is so sophisticated that the victims can be easily taken off guard and their phones hacked through the technique called 'zero click'. Claudio Guarnieri, who runs Amnesty International's Security Lab, said once a phone was infected with Pegasus, a client of NSO could in effect take control of the phone, enabling them to extract a person's messages, calls, photos and emails, secretly activate cameras or microphones, and read the contents of encrypted messaging apps such as WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal. By accessing GPS and hardware sensors in the phone, a person's past movements and present location can also be tracked with pinpoint accuracy. By simply placing a WhatsApp call to a target device, Pegasus code could be installed on the phone, even if the target never answered the call. The scale is staggering compared with anything the world has ever seen.

Predictably, the NSO, which previously alleged police abuses of its software, has firmly denied what it calls 'false claims'. It said in a release published by The Guardian that most of the claims are "unsubstantiated theories that raise serious doubts about the reliability of your sources, as well as the basis of your story."

Amnesty International insists the spyware is being used since December to compromise telephones of journalists of well known media outlets in four continents. Forensic tests conducted as part of this project showed clear signs of targeting by Pegasus spyware in hundreds of phones, of which 300 are Indian. The leaked database was accessed by Forbidden Stories and Amnesty International as part of a collaborative investigation called the 'Pegasus Project'. A majority of the numbers identified in the list were geographically concentrated in 10 country clusters: India, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has immediately begun damage control, asserting the allegations regarding government surveillance on specific people have no 'concrete basis'. Ironically, the newly appointed Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw who denied misuse of Pegasus in India has had his name come up in the list of Indians being spied on. The government's defence appears to be on weak grounds since NSO's declared policy is to pass on its spyware only to governments and their agencies and India is one of its clients. If that is so, it is no big guess who is using Pegasus for snooping on India's journalists, social activists and politicians. This snooping spyware was supposedly to be used against terror and criminal activities. Unfortunately in India, it is being exclusively used for monitoring those whom the Central government does not trust.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

## Our responsibility to climate migrants

Last November, two big storms - Eta and Iota - ripped into Central America. A Washington Post reporter covering their aftermath interviewed a Honduran woman named Blanca Costa, who was sheltering beneath a highway overpass. She supported her three daughters by working as a trash collector, and had three horses to pull her garbage cart. Except now the horses had drowned. "I'll just have to go on foot now," said Costa, 40, one of about 100 people finding refuge under the bridge. "But it will be more difficult."

The storms caused massive damage in Central America. According to early estimates, the economic toll in Honduras was equivalent to 40 per cent of the country's GDP. So, it should not surprise anyone that plenty of people from the region are now on the move.

When climate-driven disasters strike, the vast majority of people don't need or want to move far. If drought drives a farm out of business, workers usually look for new jobs as near to home as possible. When extreme weather destroys homes, people seek a temporary escape, not permanent relocation. But as adverse climate events become more extreme - and they will - people will need to move farther

for longer. It is of course entirely unfair that Hondurans have done so little to cause the climate crisis that is now taking such a costly toll there. Someone who collects trash with a horse-drawn cart does not generate a lot of carbon dioxide emissions, in contrast to someone in the United States driving a 310-horsepower Ford Bronco SUV.

By any moral calculation, therefore, the US should be figuring out what its responsibilities are to Central American climate migrants. And, whether they cross international borders or not, it should be US policy to make their journeys as safe and humane as possible.

So, if the top priority is to limit temperature increases so that climate disasters force fewer people from their homes, the second priority is to manage the trauma of involuntary migration. Whether governments like it or not, millions of people globally are already resorting to migration to cope with the climate crisis. The US in particular must respond with more than walls, cages, or the stern warning issued by President Joe Biden's administration to Central Americans: "do not come."

But climate migrants aren't heading to the US because they want to.

They have no choice, and their journey is at least as traumatic as the storms that caused it. Families are torn apart, and people travel in difficult and dangerous conditions. Some die, others are killed, and many more are robbed, extorted, or assaulted.

The main cause of the danger, death, and suffering migrants face is often international borders. When desperate people are denied the right to cross a frontier safely and legally, they have no option but to do so under cover of darkness, across deserts and oceans, and over fences and walls.

Moreover, border militarisation is now big business. Private security firms patrol borders for profit, having secured government contracts totaling billions of dollars to hunt, capture, and imprison migrants and refugees.

The firms currently profiting from turning borders into death-traps will not simply walk away from this lucrative business, while governments hooked on their own "tough on migration" policies won't back down without a fight. But those seeking justice for migrants and refugees have been fighting and winning immigration battles on the streets. In addition, activists and labour unions are pushing com-

panies to ditch their border-surveillance and detention contracts - and investors are noticing, with Microsoft's ties with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement the latest to be put under the spotlight.

The climate movement must now act in solidarity with migrant and refugee activists and be part of their efforts to ensure safe, legal migration. We should be thinking about how to support people making dangerous journeys, how to create meaningful work for them, and how to provide education, housing, and health care as they seek new places to settle. And we should be thinking about how to build communities that encompass both new arrivals and existing residents.

These questions have already roiled the politics of many countries. But they won't go away - quite the contrary. For the sake of climate migrants everywhere, we must address them. Our CO2 emissions pay no attention to national borders, and nor should our compassion.

The writer, a scholar in environmental sciences at Middlebury College and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, is a co-founder of 350.org. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light. HELEN KELLER
- Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which you must see the world. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
- Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less. MARIE CURIE

WORDSWORTH

On tenterhooks

It's been so long since anyone has seen either a tenter, or the hooks on one, that the word and the idea behind it are now quite mysterious, so much so that it sometimes appears as on tenterhooks, which sounds as though it ought to make more sense. But at one time, the phrase on tenterhooks would have evoked an image that was immediately understandable. It comes from one of the processes of making woollen cloth. After it had been woven, the cloth still contained oil from the fleece, mixed with dirt. It was cleaned in a fulling mill, but then it had to be dried carefully or it would shrink and crease. So the lengths of wet cloth were stretched on wooden frames, and left out in the open for some time. This allowed them to dry and straightened their weave. These frames were the tenters, and the tenter hooks were the metal hooks used to fix the cloth to the frame. At one time, it would have been common in manufacturing areas to see fields full of these frames (older English maps sometimes marked an area as a tenter-field). So it was not a huge leap of the imagination to think of somebody on tenterhooks as being in an state of anxious suspense, stretched like the cloth on the tenter. The tenters have gone, but the meaning has survived. Tenter comes from the Latin tendere, to stretch, via a French intermediate. The word has been in the language since the fourteenth century, and on tenter soon after became a phrase meaning painful anxiety. The exact phrase on tenterhooks seems first to have been used by Tobias Smollett in Roderick Random in 1748.

LOL

Chief is at a wedding

A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street. "But officer," the man began, "I can explain." "Just be quiet," snapped the officer. "I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back." "But, officer, I just wanted to say," the

motorist said. "And I said to keep quiet! You're going to jail!" the officer said. A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief is at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back." "Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Climate catastrophe

Sir, Heavy rainfall triggered devastating floods causing dozens of casualties in Western Europe. Raging rivers submerged towns leaving Europeans shocked. Hundreds had died of heat in the north western United States a few days earlier. Wildfire removed a village from the map in Canada. Two important facts are emerging from these disasters: the world is not willing to slow down climate change; and the world is not willing to live with climate change either. Some of the world's wealthiest nations that are burning coal, oil and gas in large amounts have been severely affected by climate change. These disasters that occurred a few months before climate negotiations in Glasgow serve as a warning not just for the developed countries but for all countries. Global emissions have increased since the 2015 Paris Agreement negotiations. China is considered to be the world's biggest emitter today. While emissions have declined in the USA and Europe, it is not sufficient to limit global temperature rise. Although developed countries are aware of the catastrophic results of rise in temperature, they do not adopt strict measures to combat it.

Venu GS, Kollam

Parliament session

Sir, This is in reference to "Oppn prepares to corner govt," Orissa POST, July 19. With the Parliament back in session, the government and the Opposition must remember that this is a particularly testing time for ordinary citizens. Usual political preoccupations matter even less now. Unemployment and high fuel prices are real issues, much more important than MPs' altercations over superficial controversies. A constructive Parliament session will be one that discusses and debates the Covid-induced economic debacle and, hopefully, even evolves a national consensus on reforms that can propel a turnaround. Treasury benches finding ways to run away from crucial debates or Opposition disruption will be particularly awful at this moment. The run-up has witnessed a flurry of political activities in both government and Opposition camps. A major Cabinet reshuffle has given the government a much-needed facelift. Key portfolios have new ministers, which may help blunt to an extent Opposition criticism of government failures. But the Opposition should ask tough questions, and the government should be responsible enough to answer them. The Parliament offers a valuable platform to the government to present its performance. The value of this session will be gauged by its success in moving the national conversation forward.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

# Seedling death haunts Kesinga farmers

# IIM Sambalpur begins its virtual induction week

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
(1) Notice No. eT-SRDM-WAT-166-2021  
NAME OF THE WORK: AMC FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF OTHER SYSTEMS FITTED IN 140 TON DIESEL BREAK DOWN CRANE NO. 144032 UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / CARRIAGE & WAGON / KORAPUT OF WALTAIR DIVISION FOR 03 (THREE) YEARS WITH OEM / AUTHORIZED DEALERS OF OEM - M/S. GOTTWALD.  
Approx. cost of the work (₹) : 15,00,000/-  
Tender Document Cost (₹) : 2,360/-  
Period of Completion : 36 (Thirty six) Months.  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 13.08.2021.  
(2) Notice No. eT-SRDM-WAT-167-2021  
NAME OF THE WORK: AMC FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF OTHER SYSTEMS FITTED IN 140 TON DIESEL BREAK DOWN CRANE NO. 142034 UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / CARRIAGE & WAGON / RAYGADA OF WALTAIR DIVISION FOR 03 (THREE) YEARS WITH OEM / AUTHORIZED DEALERS OF OEM - M/S. GOTTWALD.  
Approx. cost of the work (₹) : 15,00,000/-  
Tender Document Cost (₹) : 2,360/-  
Period of Completion : 36 (Thirty six) Months.  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 17.08.2021.  
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <https://www.irps.gov.in>  
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.  
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, PR-222/M/21-22 Waltair

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Kesinga, July 19:** With rains playing truant, the farmers in Kesinga block of Kalahandi district are staring at another year of seedling death (gaja marudi) situation. They have been facing this problem for the last six years in a row.  
Farmers spraying water on seedlings is a common sight in Kesinga block these days. They are trying their best to save the seedlings at least till the next spell of rainfall.  
Kesinga's share of rainfall in June has been between 71.8 mm and 84.6 mm as against the normal of 150 mm and 200 mm for in the last six years. This is the main reason why paddy cultivation has suffered in this part of the district. According to the Central Water Commission, Kesinga branch, the block received only 78.4 mm rain



**SCANTY RAINFALL**  
One of the main reasons why agricultural activities get delayed in some parts of the block is due to the soil type. The panchayats of Balsi, Paralsinga, Kandel, Shirol, Tundla, Belkhandi and Turlakhama of the soil type there known as 'balia dorasa' by the locals. Without adequate rainwater

it is difficult to plough this variety of soil. Hence, agricultural activities suffer due to lack of rain.

Similarly, by June end, cotton cultivation should have been completed in 10,000 hectares. But till mid-July, it has been done in only 6,000 hectares. While maize cultivation has been carried out in 105 hectares, sowing of groundnut and pulse crops is yet to start.  
What has added to the farmers' woes is that they are having problems in acquiring seeds. They alleged that the Agriculture department is not providing them sufficient quantity of seeds.  
When contacted, assistant agriculture officer, Kesinga, Janaki Ballav Pattanayak admitted that agricultural activities have been delayed due to scanty rainfall. When asked about seeds, he said steps are being taken to provide seeds to the farmers as soon as possible.

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, July 19:** Continuing its streak of high gender diversity, the IIM Sambalpur welcomed their MBA class for the 2021-23 academic year via a virtual inauguration programme.  
Speaking on the occasion, Prof Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, said, "The vision of IIM Sambalpur is to 'Nurture responsible leaders with entrepreneurial mind set', and we operate around our three core values: innovation, inclusiveness and integrity.  
"Our inclusiveness and value propositions are evident from the fact that we became the first IIM in 2019 with highest gender inclusive diversity of 49% female students in MBA, 44% in 2020 and

48% in 2021. As a result, every other IIMs started following our inclusive policy and now we are happy to see that this has become the trend in all other institutes," said Jaiswal.  
"Another evidence of our inclusiveness value propositions is that we have signed MOUs with MSME, Government of India, and India SME Forum to develop small businesses and start-ups in smaller towns to make business more inclusive and not keep it confined to big companies in big towns."  
"This year we have 48% girls in a batch of 169 students for MBA 2021-23 academic year from more than 22 different states in India. Sixty-seven per cent of the candidates are from engineering background and 65% students have prior working experience."

## AWARENESS DRIVE



Conch blowers participating in an awareness drive on Covid vaccination in Rangeilunda block of Ganjam district, Monday

# Kendrapara stadium in a dilapidated state



**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Kendrapara, July 19:** The Biju Pattnaik Stadium at Saranga locality in this town lies neglected and in a dilapidated condition today. Not a single sports event has been organised at the stadium in the last 13 years. Locals blamed it on apathy of the administration and said the stadium is inaccessible as it does not have proper road connectivity.  
The stadium is now used by some locals for drying cow-dung cakes and paddy as well. It has also turned into a safe haven for anti-social elements, the locals alleged. It is worth mentioning here that the stadium was constructed at a cost of over ₹1 crore.  
Kendrapara district has produced a number of state-level sports persons, including sprinter Liza Bera and three women cricketers - Sasmita Senapati, Smrutirupa Mallick and Laxmi Priya Behera. All the three women cricketers are from Teragaon panchayat under Mahakalpada block.  
Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Liza has come back from the sports hostel and is now staying at her parental house. Since her return, she has been forced to train on roads as the stadium does not

have proper facilities. Various sports persons also complained that their careers are facing premature ends as the town does not have proper training facilities. They blamed the district administration for such a sorry state of affairs.  
On being contacted, district sports officer Lokanath Panigrahi said, "An amount of ₹31.31,440 was sanctioned for repair of the stadium. We have utilised it for construction of a compound wall and infrastructure development. Provisions for drinking water and electrification of stadium have also been made. A proposal for construction of a sports hostel in the town awaits government's approval. When it is completed it will help the budding talents in Kendrapara district."

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. eT-M-KUR-TV-TLHR-147-R-21  
NAME OF WORK: HIRING OF ONE 6-WHEELER 10T CARRYING CAPACITY TRUCK FOR MOBILE TOOL VAN TO BE DEPLOYED AT TALCHER FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.  
Advertised Value (₹) : 17,75,312.43,  
Tender Document Cost (₹) : 2,360/-  
Period of Completion : 36 Months.  
Bidding Start Date : 23.07.2021,  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. of 06.08.2021.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete details and Tender documents will be available at website <https://www.irps.gov.in>  
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, PR-223/M/21-22 Khurda Road

# 10-yr RI for chopping migrant workers' hands

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**Bhawanipatna, July 19:** A court in Odisha Monday convicted a man and sentenced him to 10 years in jail after convicting him for chopping off the hands of two migrant workers in Kalahandi district eight years ago.  
Parsuram Naik, the ninth accused in the case who was absconding, was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of 10 years and

also fined ₹15,000 by Dharamgarh Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bandana Kar.  
Earlier in 2016, the court had convicted eight other accused persons and sentenced them to life imprisonment, besides imposing a fine of ₹20,000 each.  
In December 2013, some 12 labourers of Nuaguda and Pipalguda villages in Jaipatna area were contracted to work in a brick factory in Raipur in neighboring

Chhattisgarh. However, instead they were moved to Hyderabad. Two of the labourers managed to escape. However, agents followed them and forcibly took them to the jungles of Bolangir district.  
The agents kept them in their custody illegally and December 15, chopped off their hands and left them in the jungle. This incident was reported widely by the media and the National Human Rights Commission took up the issue.

# Wonder girl from Mayurbhanj placed in India Book of Records



**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Baripada, July 19:** While children of her age can hardly remember the names of their family members, two year-and-seven-months-old Shreyasi Mahanta of Mayurbhanj district is gifted with ability to spell the names of animals and identify colours etc. This wonder kid, who currently stays with her parents in New Delhi, has secured a place in 'India Book of Records'.  
Shreyasi is the daughter of Subrat Mahanta, who is engaged with the paramedical department of Indo-Tibetan Border Police in New Delhi, and Truptilata, who is a housewife. They both said that their daughter possesses

tremendous memory power which enables her to remember things. She also has a huge desire to learn new things.  
Shreyasi can recite all the letters of English alphabet and 10 Odisha alphabets. She can identify 10 animals, seven food items and seven colours without any mistake.  
Subrat recorded a video of his daughter and sent it to the 'India Book of Records' office and Shreyasi easily qualified for the final stage.  
Subsequently, Subrat was informed June 23 that Shreyasi has found a place in the 'India Book of Records'.  
The family received all documents and a certificate from 'India Book of Records' July 17. As the news broke, congratulatory messages started pouring in from relatives, friends, villagers and even from unknown people.  
Residents of Bati Sahi village of Ghagarbada panchayat under Karuan block, where Shreyasi hails from, said Monday that by achieving such a feat at this tender age Shreyasi has brought glory not only to Mayurbhanj but also to Odisha.

## BOLANGIR-3 BRANCH DEMAND NOTICE

**Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice in connection with the Credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with our Bolangir-3 Branch: Classified as NPA**  
We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor that their A/c mentioned below have been classified as NPA account pursuant to their default in making repayment of dues/installment/interest. Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower/Guarantor of Union Bank of India, Bolangir-3 Branch but the same could not be served on the below mentioned parties which was sent by Regd. Post A.D. The outstanding amount in their accounts are shown in the below column against their names. The details are given below:

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Type / Loan Limit	Demand Notice Date Outstanding Amount	Details of the properties
1	<b>Borrowers: (1) Mr. Gurda Bibhar, S/o: Kshamanidhi Bibhar, (2) Mr. Bhisma Bibhar, S/o: Kshamanidhi Bibhar, (3) Mr. Ranapratap Bibhar, S/o: Bhisma Bibhar, (4) Mrs. Bhanumati Bibhar, W/o: Bhisma Bibhar, (5) Mrs. Jangyaseni Bibhar, W/o: Ranapratap Bibhar, all are At: Malamunda, PO: Randa, Bolangir-767002.</b>	CH : ₹6,95,000/-	05.05.2021 / ₹5,57,220.00 as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	All that piece and parcel of the property over Khata No.: 248/140, Plot No.: 992, measuring Ac. 0.06 dec. situated at Mouza: Malmunda, P.S./Tahasil: Bolangir, P.S. No.: 213, Dist: Bolangir, Odisha, bounded by-East: Land of Pradeep Patel, West: Road, North: Land of Durbadai Rout, South: Land of Gopabandhu Bibhar.
2	<b>Borrowers: (1) Mr. Ananta Kumar Bag, S/o: Asharam Bag, (2) Mrs. Mousumi Tandi, W/o: Mr. Ananta Kumar Bag, both are at Village: Baghala, PO: Chandanbhati, Dist: Bolangir-767001.</b>	CH : ₹7,00,000/-	05.05.2021 / ₹6,57,349.00 as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	All that piece and parcel of the property over Holding No.: 214/360, Plot No.: 769, measuring Ac. 0.080 dec. situated at Mouza: Baghala, P.S./Tahasil: Bolangir, Dist: Bolangir, Odisha, bounded by-East: Road, West: Land of Artaratana Kara, North: Road, South: Land of Santosh Pradhan.
3	<b>Borrowers: (1) Mrs. Kanhalya Mobiles, Represented by its Proprietor: Mr. Pratap Kumar Sahu, At: Tikira Pada, Gandhi Chowk, Bolangir, Dist: Bolangir-767001, (2) Mr. Pratap Kumar Sahu, S/o: Biranchi Narayan Sahu, At: Padara Pada, P.S: Tarava, Dist: Subarnapur.</b>	WCTLE : ₹7,00,000/-	10.05.2021 / ₹6,82,684.00 as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	All that piece and parcel of the property over Khata No.: 331/648, Plot No.: 836/3291, measuring Ac. 0.059 dec. situated at Mouza: Bishnumunda, P.S./Tahasil: Bolangir, Dist: Bolangir, Odisha, bounded by-East/West/North: Land of Gopaljee Naik, South: Road.

In spite of our repeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your accounts, you have not discharged your liabilities. We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned above against your notice together with interest from the date mentioned above at contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the above securities created by you in favour of the Bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act. 1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues together with contractual rate of interest from the date mentioned above within 60 days as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you, and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act, and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debt Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you. 2) As per sec. 13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please note that any violation of this section entails serious consequences. 3) Your kind attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 19.07.2021, Place: Bolangir Sd/-Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

## MALKANGIRI BRANCH-2 DEMAND NOTICE

**Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice in connection with the Credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with our Malkangiri Branch-2: Classified as NPA**  
We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor that their A/c mentioned below have been classified as NPA account pursuant to their default in making repayment of dues/installment/interest. Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower/Guarantor of Union Bank of India, Malkangiri Branch-2 but the same could not be served on the below mentioned parties which was sent by Regd. Post A.D. The outstanding amount in their accounts are shown in the below column against their names. The details are given below:

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Type / Loan Limit	Demand Notice Date Outstanding Amount	Details of the properties
1	<b>Borrower: Mr. Arun Kumar Sen, S/o: Jiten Sen, At/PO: Malkangiri, Jayanagar, M.V-42, Dist: Malkangiri, Odisha-764045 / Guarantor/ Mortgagor: Mr. Umesh Goswami, S/o: Rama Krishna Goswami, At/PO: Malkangiri, Kalimela Road, Near South RMC Road, Dist: Malkangiri-764045, Odisha.</b>	HLGEN : ₹10,00,000/- ATLKB : ₹3,00,000/-	03.05.2021 / ₹9,09,706/- + ₹1,93,274/- = ₹11,02,980/- as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mr. Arun Kumar Sen, S/o: Jiten Sen over Plot No.: 22/650, Khata No.: 72/335, Area: 2788 sqft., Mouza: Jaya Nagar, M.V-42, Tahasil/P.S.: Dist: Malkangiri, Odisha, bounded by-East: Proposed Road, West: Rajendra Nath Biswas, North: Proposed Road, South: Govind Gain.
2	<b>Borrower: M/s Radha Madhab Enterprises, Prop: Bibhuti Mandal, S/o: Suklal Mandal, Near Daily Market, At/PO: Malkangiri, Dist: Malkangiri-764045, Odisha / Guarantor: Mr. Suklal Mandal, S/o: Adhir Chandra Mandal, At: M.P.V-23, Near Ram Nagar, Dist: Malkangiri, Odisha.</b>	BENEI : ₹5,00,000/-	03.05.2021 / ₹2,21,486/- as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mr. Suklal Mandal, S/o: Adhir Chandra Mandal situated bearing Khata No.: 994/429, Plot No.: 2752/6333, Ward No.: 80/11, extent Ac. 0.013 hectore, Mouza: Malkangiri, Near Daily Market, At/PO/Dist: Malkangiri, Odisha.
3	<b>Borrower: Mr. Bipra Mondal, S/o: Late Ranjan Mondal, At/PO: Kalimela, Tumbaguda, Dist: Malkangiri, Odisha-764048 / Guarantor / Mortgator: Mr. Dipankar Barai, S/o: Anil Chandra Barai, At/PO: Kalimela, EPPD Colony, MV 35 Road, Dist: Malkangiri, Odisha-764048.</b>	HLPGEN : ₹9,00,000/-	03.05.2021 / ₹7,90,502/- as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mr. Bipra Mondal, S/o: Late Ranjan Mondal situated bearing Khata No.: 287/370, Plot No.: 187/2324, RSD No.: 11231000169, Dt. 15.05.2010 of an extent of area 2178 Sqft., At/PO: Malkangiri, Reclamation Colony, Mouza: Goreguda, Dist: Malkangiri, Odisha, bounded by-East: Site Vendors Land, North/South: Proposed Road.
4	<b>Borrower: M/s Maa Manasa Matching Centre, Prop: Smt. Antara Kundu, W/o: Ram Kundu / Guarantor: Mr. Ram Kundu, S/o: Biswanath Kundu, both are At/PO: Malkangiri, DNK Colony, Dist: Malkangiri-764045, Odisha.</b>	CC : ₹7,00,000/-	03.05.2021 / ₹7,23,185/- as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021	EMD of Residential site belongs to Mr. Ram Kundu, S/o: Biswanath Kundu over Plot No.: 461/7806, Khata No.: 994/1933, At/PO: Malkangiri, Back side of fire station, Mouza/Tahasil/P.S./Dist: Malkangiri, Odisha.

In spite of our repeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your accounts, you have not discharged your liabilities. We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned above against your notice together with interest from the date mentioned above at contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the above securities created by you in favour of the Bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act. 1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues together with contractual rate of interest from the date mentioned above within 60 days as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you, and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act, and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debt Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you. 2) As per sec. 13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please note that any violation of this section entails serious consequences. 3) Your kind attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 19.07.2021, Place: Malkangiri Sd/-Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

# BJP in no mood to give Yedi time to consolidate

Party sources explain that if CM Yediyurappa gets time to make a decision regarding his exit, there is a chance that he may try to consolidate his position by getting the support of MLAs



been asked to take a call immediately after July 26, on the completion of two years of the BJP government in Karnataka. However, it is said that he is asking for time till August.

Yediyurappa had earlier, with the support of more than 70 MLAs had not only challenged the high command in 2013, he managed to install DV Sadananda Gowda and Jagadeesh Shettar as Chief Ministers of the state, much to the chagrin of the BJP central leadership.

The past experiences have made the BJP central leadership apprehensive about Yediyurappa, and they are creating pressure on him to take call on the issue in accordance with their terms and conditions, sources said.

It is said that Yediyurappa has

# WB MAY MOVE COURT AGAINST NHRC REPORT



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, July 19:** With the West Bengal government mulling over moving the court challenging the allegations levelled against several Trinamool Congress leaders in the report submitted to Calcutta High Court by the National Human Rights Commission on post-poll violence in the state, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has left for Delhi amid speculation that he might have a detailed discussion with Home Minister Amit Shah on the NHRC report.

The Governor's move came a couple of days after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee met him and

had a detailed discussion for nearly two hours.

The Governor's visit to the national capital assumes significance because he might have a discussion with Home Minister Amit Shah on the NHRC report which was recently submitted to the court.

In its final report submitted to the Calcutta High Court, the NHRC not only criticised the state for its 'indifference' towards the post-poll violence and 'apathy' towards the victims, but also alleged that the state machinery played an important role in the violence.

"The situation in the state of West Bengal is a manifestation of 'law of ruler', instead of 'Rule of

Law," the report said.

The rights body also made it clear that the violent incidents in the state reflected the 'appalling apathy' of the state government towards the plight of the victims.

In the 50-page report, the NHRC said, "The spatio-temporal expanse of violent incidents in the state of West Bengal reflects the appalling apathy of the state government towards the plight of the victims. This was retributive violence by supporters of the ruling party against supporters of the main opposition party it resulted in disruption of life and livelihood of thousands of people and their economic strangulation. The local police have been grossly derelict, if not complicit, in this violence."

Commenting on the Governor's visit to Delhi, BJP leader Shamik Banerjee said, "How would we know why he went to Delhi? The Chief Minister had a closed-door meeting with him for two hours and after that he went to Delhi. It is also possible that he went to Delhi because of that. The Governor is the head of the state and it is expected that he will meet the Chief Minister, the Prime Minister and the President for the development of the state."

Meanwhile, the state is also mulling to move the court challenging the NHRC report where several Trinamool Congress leaders have been labelled as 'criminals/goons' for the post-poll violence in the state.

# Professional courses in Kannada from 2022-23



We have initiated translation of curriculum into the regional language to teach professional courses like engineering and medicine in also Kannada from next academic year

CN ASHWATH NARAYAN I  
DEPUTY CM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, July 19:** Giving prominence to the promotion of local language, professional courses, including engineering would be taught in Kannada from next academic year (2022-23) across Karnataka, said state Deputy Chief Minister CN Ashwath Narayan Sunday.

"We have initiated translation of curriculum into the regional language to teach professional courses like engineering and medicine in also Kannada from next academic year," said Narayan at a webinar, hosted by All Language Faculty Association of Karnataka University on New Education Policy - Study of Indian Languages'.

Narayan, who also holds the portfolio of IT, BT, Science and Technology and Higher Education, said Kannada would be strengthened as mother tongue under the

New Education Policy (NEP).

"As the NEP stresses on providing professional courses in regional languages, we are taking steps to realise its benefits," said Narayan.

Advocating that Kannada should also flourish with other languages in line with the progress being made in other spheres of learning like innovation and technology, the minister said courses and curriculum would be designed by universities and subject experts.

"The NEP does not allow outsiders to enforce other languages on the natives," he added.

## TESTING TIMES



A worker sanitises the hands of a student before she appears for the SSLC exam, during Covid-induced lockdown in Bangalore, Monday.

PTI PHOTO

# 13 years after Singur fiasco, Bengal minister says Tatas 'most welcome'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, July 19:** Thirteen years after their small car project was forced out of West Bengal following the anti-land acquisition movement in Singur, Industry and IT Minister Partha Chatterjee has said talks are on with the Tatas for big-ticket investments in the state.

Underscoring job creation as the TMC government's top priority, Chatterjee also said incentives to companies will depend on ability to generate employment. He said the Mamata Banerjee dispensation wants two large manufacturing units to be set up by any prominent industrial house at the earliest.

"We never had any enmity with the Tatas, neither we fought against them. They are one of the most respected and biggest business houses of this country and also abroad. You can't blame the Tatas (for the Singur fiasco). The problem was with the Left Front government and its forcible land acquisition policy. Tata group is always most welcome to come and invest in Bengal," Chatterjee, also the ruling TMC's secretary general, told PTI in an interview.

Chatterjee said the salt to steel



business conglomerate has shown interest in setting up another Tata Centre in Kolkata to house its offices. "We already have the presence of Tata Metaliks, one Tata Centre besides the TCS here. But if they are willing to come up with big-ticket investments in manufacturing or other sectors, there is no problem. Our IT secretary recently told me they had shown interest in setting up a Tata Centre here," he said.

When asked whether the state government will go the extra mile to reach out to the Tatas, Chatterjee said he is already in touch with group officials to attract investment. Singur, once known for multiple crop farming, hogged media

limelight after Tata Motors set its sight on the land to build its cheapest car Nano in 2006. The Left Front government acquired 997.11 acres along the National Highway 2 and handed it over to the company.

Mamata Banerjee, then in the opposition, called a 26-day hunger strike demanding the return of 347 acres of farmland that was "forcibly" acquired.

Despite several rounds of meetings between the TMC and the Left Front government, the issue could not be resolved and the Tatas eventually moved out of Singur to Sanand in Gujarat in 2008. The land acquired for the project was subsequently returned to farmers in 2016.

# Overconfidence of BJP leaders led to party's rout: Suwendu



AGENCIES

**Kolkata, July 19:** In his first public criticism after BJP's defeat in the West Bengal assembly polls, Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Suwendu Adhikari Sunday said the BJP lost because of several leaders' overconfidence that the party would get over 170 seats.

At a party meeting in Chandipur area of Purba Medinipur district, Adhikari said this smugness and overconfidence led to lack of understanding of the emerging ground situation.

"As we did well in the first two poll phases in these parts of assembly segments, many of our leaders became smug and overconfident. They started believing that the BJP will secure 170-180 seats in the elections, but they did not do the groundwork. This cost us dearly," the TMC turncoat said.

He said continuing work at the ground level was equally important as setting up targets, which was realistic but needed hard work.

Reacting to Adhikari's claims, Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "Suwendu has conveniently forgotten the slew of social welfare projects and a spree of development by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and the mandate against BJP heavyweights' sustained campaign against the CM and TMC."

"The BJP was living in a fool's paradise as many of their leaders predicted that the saffron camp will cross 200 seats. Why he is finding fault with others? Didn't Suwendu also boast repeatedly that his party will get 180 seats at least? Actually, they don't know the pulse of Bengal, Trinamool does." Ghosh, the state general secretary of the TMC, said.

# BJP admission on Nisith Pramanik fuels controversy

If Pramanik was indeed born in Bangladesh in 1986 and came to India after birth, he clearly does not qualify to be an Indian citizen, unless the government of the day had provided him citizenship under some special consideration

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, July 19:** By admitting that Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nisith Pramanik came to India from Bangladesh as a refugee, the BJP has waded into a bigger controversy -- how could a 1986 born in Bangladesh get Indian citizenship?

BJP West Bengal general secretary Sayantan Basu told the media Sunday that Pramanik had come to India from Bangladesh as a refugee like 'millions of others'.

This came a day after Assam Congress chief Ripun Bora had urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enquire into the nationality of the newly-appointed Union Minister.

July 17, Bora tweeted a letter he wrote to Modi the previous day urging the Prime Minister to conduct an enquiry. "Therefore, I urge upon you to conduct an enquiry about the actual birthplace and nationality of Nisith Pramanik in a most transparent way and clarify the whole issue as it creates confusion across the country," Bora wrote in his letter.

Pramanik was inducted into the Union Cabinet July 7. He was ear-



lier with the TMC. In 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, he sided with the BJP. 'Pujar Mala', a Facebook page from Bangladesh, had first sparked a controversy by posting that Pramanik was born in the Harinathpur of Gaibandha in Bangladesh. Pramanik's official entries in India say he was born January 17, 1986, at Dinhat in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district.

But if Pramanik was indeed born in Bangladesh in 1986 and came to India after birth, he clearly

does not qualify to be an Indian citizen, unless the government of the day had provided him citizenship under some special consideration. March 26, 1971, has been marked as the cut-off date and only those entering India before that date would automatically qualify for Indian citizenship.

The 1985 Assam Accord reiterated this cut-off date and provided for action against those entering the state after that date.

Sayantan Basu said the BJP is

committed to enforce the Citizenship Amendment Act passed in Parliament precisely to provide citizenship to those entering India on grounds of religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh after 1971.

"The point is the CAA is not yet implemented in West Bengal and nobody, surely not Pramanik, has yet applied for citizenship under CAA provisions," said a senior lawyer close to the TMC.

He said Pramanik has already claimed he was an Indian citizen and that he was born in Dinhat in India. "Now if it is established he was born in Bangladesh and came to India after birth, the question is whether his claim of Indian citizenship is valid and tenable in law," the lawyer said.

And it also leaves behind questions over his integrity because of the contradictory data about his place of birth.

Pramanik won a seat in the Bengal Assembly elections this summer but resigned to retain his Lok Sabha membership.

He had written his Madhyamik Pariksha or secondary exam as his highest educational qualification in both affidavits.

The one for the assembly election was submitted March 18, 2021, and the one for the Lok Sabha election was submitted March 25, 2019.

However, Pramanik's profile on the Lok Sabha website says his educational qualification is "Bachelors of Computer Applications (B.C.A.) Educated at Balakura Junior Basic School".

"In March, his highest educational qualification was that he had appeared in the higher secondary exam  $\frac{1}{2}$  he did not clarify in his affidavit if he passed the exam. And now, in July, he has a bachelor's degree!" asked former TMC MLA Udayan Guha.

Guha alleged that the school that Pramanik's Lok Sabha profile refers to is a non-descript junior school where no such course as BCA has ever been offered.

"This is a junior basic school, so how can it offer a Bachelor's degree?"

Pramanik's profile, however, does not mention that the school gave him the degree. It says that the course was conducted at the school. However, the profile also does not mention which institution offered the degree, even if the school premises was used as a venue.

# national



**Pegasus revelations are abhorrent. If true, the Modi government seems to have launched a grave and sinister attack on the Right to Privacy - constitutionally guaranteed to Indian citizens as a Fundamental Right**  
PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONG GENERAL SECY

## of the day quote

Congress is ready to face elections in Karnataka at any point of time  
**SIDDARAMAIAH**  
SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

The ED has provisionally seized my family's property estimated at around Rs 4 crore  
**ANI DESHMUKH**  
FORMER MAHARASHTRA HOME MINISTER

Yoga training has been included in the Study in India programme to encourage people from abroad seeking to learn to get authentic training in the country  
**DHARMENDRA PRADHAN**  
UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

**Cloudburst in U'khand**  
**Dehradun:** Three members of a family, including a mother-daughter duo, were killed while one person was reportedly missing after a cloudburst hit two adjacent villages in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district, officials said Monday. Those killed in the incident that took place Sunday night in Mandav village were identified as Madhuri Devi (36), Ritu Devi (32) and her three-year-old daughter Trishvi, Uttarkashi's Disaster Management Officer Devendra Patwal said, adding that all the bodies have been recovered.

**BSF nabs three B'desh nationals**  
**Kolkata:** Border Security Force (BSF) apprehended three Bangladeshi nationals, including a woman, when they were illegally crossing the international border between India and Bangladesh at different places in West Bengal, an official said here Monday. The woman, who hailed from Rajbari district in Bangladesh, was apprehended Monday by the border guards in Jhorpara area for illegally entering the Indian territory, a BSF official said.

**Kalyan Singh's condition unstable**  
**Lucknow:** The condition of former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh is unstable, and doctors are closely monitoring him, the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) here said Monday.

# RS sees repeated adjournments



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 19:** Rajya Sabha witnessed repeated adjournments on Day One of the Monsoon session amidst uproar over various issues by MPs from Opposition parties who did not even allow Prime Minister Narendra Modi to introduce newly inducted Union ministers to the Upper House. Opposition also sought to raise the issue of the nationality of a newly inducted Union Minister of State alleging he was a Bangladeshi national, but the government dismissed the charge as "baseless" and slammed them for casting such aspersions on a leader from a tribal community. The House, which paid tributes to the departed sitting and former MPs in the morning, was adjourned several times as slogan-shouting MPs from Opposition parties kept insisting that their issues should be taken up first. Several of them had also trooped into

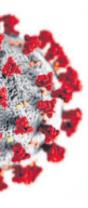
the Well of the House holding placards. The House was adjourned for the day at around 3.30 pm, much ahead of its scheduled time. As the Prime Minister started introduction of the new ministers, the Opposition upped its sloganeering. Anguished over the Opposition's conduct, Modi said it seems Opposition members were not happy on induction of such a large number of women, dalit and scheduled tribe ministers in the union council. It was for the first time that such a negative mindset was on display in the House, Modi said, and laid the list of new ministers on the table of the House. Newly appointed Leader of the House and Union minister Piyush Goyal too condemned the Opposition behaviour, saying introduction of new ministers to the House was a practice being followed since the times of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Such conduct would undermine the Indian democratic traditions, he said. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu made several attempts to pacify the protesting MPs so that the House could conduct listed business, but in vain. He also rejected 17 notices by different Opposition party members for suspension of the listed business to take up issues raised by them. The first adjournment due to disruptions took place at around 12.45 PM till 2 PM, and one more till 3 PM. But the Opposition's sloganeering continued leading to adjournment for day at around 3.30 PM. Amidst uproar, the government introduced the Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021, which was passed by Lok Sabha in March. Opposition members led by TMC MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray and Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge asked the government to clear its stand over the nationality of a minister. They, however, did not name the minister. The government dismissed their charge as "baseless" and slammed them for casting such aspersions on a leader from a tribal community. Earlier, Naidu urged members to have informed discussions on all aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic so that the country is better equipped to tackle the possible third wave. The Monsoon session, which has 19 sittings scheduled, assumes enhanced significance in the context of the prevailing situation in the country and the suffering of the people further compounded by the possible third wave, he said.

## Delta variant 40-60% more transmissible than Alpha

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 19:** Delta variant of Covid-19 virus is around 40-60 per cent more transmissible than its predecessor Alpha variant and has already spread to more than 80 countries, including the UK, the US, Singapore, and so on, said N.K. Arora, co-chair, Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG). Arora, the chief of the Covid-19 working group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI), also said that Delta variant has mutations in its spike protein, which helps it bind to the ACE2 receptors present on the surface of the cells more firmly, making it more transmissible and capable of evading the body's immunity. Citing some studies that show that there are some mutations in this variant that promote "syncytium formation", Arora said, "Besides, on invading a human cell, it replicates faster. It leads to

a strong inflammatory response in organs like the lungs. However, it is difficult to say that disease due to delta variant is more severe. The age profile and the deaths during the second wave in India were quite similar to that seen during the first wave." Delta variant was first identified in October 2020 in India, and was primarily responsible for the second wave in the country and today accounting for over 80 per cent of new Covid-19 cases. It emerged in Maharashtra and travelled northwards along the western states of the country before entering the central and the eastern states. While elaborating about the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for testing and follow-up on variants, what makes the Delta variant so transmissible, Arora said there is a need to keep a strict vigil on the emergence of variants of concern and outbreaks so that they can be contained before they spread to a larger region.



## HEAVY RAINS IN MUMBAI AGAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 19:** A day after heavy showers pounded Mumbai, the rain intensity reduced briefly on Monday morning but picked up momentum again during the day, causing water-logging at some places and disruption of local train services on the Central Railway route, officials said. On Sunday, 30 people were killed in the metropolis in rain-related incidents, including 19 in Mahul area of Chembur where a retaining wall collapsed on some houses after a landslide. On Monday, no fresh death was reported, an official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said. However, after a brief spell of reduced intensity in the morning, the rains picked up pace again during the day, causing inundation in some areas. Local train services on the Central Railway's slow line were suspended for about half-an-hour around 3 pm Monday due to flooding on tracks between Kalwa and Mumbai stations in neighbouring Thane district, CR's chief spokesperson Shivaji Sutar said. The services were later restored on the slow corridor by 3.35 pm, he said. Earlier in the day, water-logging occurred between Vikhroli and Bhandup rail section following heavy showers in parts of the suburbs, Sutar said.

## The Kashmir 'kingdom'?

The diverse discourse around Jammu and Kashmir is historically deep-rooted and had many parallels along the nature and conduct of contemporary Hyderabad

AGENCIES

The Kashmir region is predominantly mountainous, with deep, narrow valleys and high, barren plateaus. Many people believe that Jammu & Kashmir became one administrative unit only after the Anglo-Sikh war of 1846. Prior to this, both Jammu and Kashmir had their independent existence. The First Anglo-Sikh War was fought between the Sikh Empire and the British East India Company in 1845 and 1846 in and around the Ferozepur district of Punjab. It resulted in defeat and partial subjugation of the Sikh kingdom and cession of Jammu and Kashmir as a separate princely state under British suzerainty. Here one must also note that the name which the state gave to itself was Riyasat e Jammu wa Kashmir wa Ladakh wa Tibet ha (kingdom of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and Tibet). It is also true that the views, concerns and interests of people inhabiting frontier regions — Ladakh, Chitral, Gilgit, Baltistan and Tibet — have been peripheral to the discourse.

If we were to discuss about this region, we will have to start with the oldest extant calendar anywhere in the world — the Saptarishi calendar which is now in its 5097th edition. As per 'Rajatarangini' — a history of Kashmir by Kalhana (12th CE) — Kashmir derives her name from Rishi Kashyap who established a vale by creating 12 streams (Varaha Mula, now Baramulla). Etymologically, Jammu is derived from Jambupura, the settlement on the banks of river Tawi established by Raja Jambulochan in the 14th BCE. Jammu was always with the Dogras, either directly or under the lordship of Delhi or the Suba of Punjab. The state of Jammu & Kashmir, which was earlier under the rule of Hindus and Muslims, came under the rule of Mughals under emperor Akbar. Parallels can easily be drawn between Hyderabad and J&K — both were 21-gun salute states with a large territory and population. Both refused to sign the Instrument of Accession before 15th August and harboured illusions of sovereignty. While Nizam had leased out Berar to the British, the Maharaja had leased



out Gilgit Baltistan. Both denied representation and participation to the majority populations (Hindus in the case of Hyderabad and Muslims in the case of J&K). Both faced popular movements against their rule (Congress, Arya Samaj and the Communists against the Nizam, and the National Conference and Muslim Conference against the Maharaja). The Press Attaché to Mountbatten Campbell was asked by Mountbatten to visit both the states as his special representative to bring conciliation between the states and the Dominion. In both states, the 'Mulki' or local residents started an agitation seeking reservation of government jobs for locals. The Congress and the RSS — both wielded considerable influence — though did not have a strong organi-

sational presence. In Hyderabad, they piggybacked on the Arya Samaj, and in J&K, they found their 'soulmate' in Sheikh Abdullah. In both situations, the Indian Army was called in to meet the strategic objectives of the Indian State. However, while they completed the task in Hyderabad, in J&K, they were hamstrung on account of Prime Minister Nehru's faith in the UN. Perhaps, having learnt the lessons in J&K in 1947/48, India was better prepared to accomplish all the goals of Mission Polo. Both the Nizam and the Maharaja were driven to the wall before they signed the Instrument of Accession. Both became Rajpramukhs in 1950, but thanks to the internationalisation of the dispute, J&K got Article 370, and its residents got dual citizenship, and these anomalies continued right up to 2019.

## BOOST TO TIES

Indian warship INS Tabar was part of a two-day exercise with French frigate FNS Aquitaine and four Rafale fighter aircraft of the French Navy in the Bay of Biscay last week, officials said Monday



## FESTIVE FERVOUR



People shop at a market on the eve of Eid-ul-Zuha amid Covid-19 restrictions in Srinagar

# MY JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN: SIDHU

Sidhu who replaced Sunil Jakhar as Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief, was elevated to the position despite Amarinder Singh's strong reservations

AGENCIES

**Chandigarh, July 19:** Declaring that his journey has "just begun", Punjab Congress' new president Navjot Singh Sidhu Monday pledged to work with every "member of the Cong family" to fulfil the "Jitge Punjab" mission, a day after being appointed to the key post after months of a bitter, polarising spat between him and Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. The 57-year-old cricketer-turned-politician, who had a busy day calling on leaders and ministers, thanked the Congress leadership for appointing him head of the Punjab unit, asserted he would strengthen the party's organisation in the state. Assembly polls in the Congress-ruled state are due next year. "Today, to work further for the same dream and strengthen the invincible fort of the Congress in Punjab. I am grateful to Hon'ble Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi for bestowing their faith in me and giving me this pivotal responsibility," he said on Twitter.



Sidhu arrived in Chandigarh Monday morning and met several party leaders, including former chief minister Rajinder Kaur Bhathal, ministers Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Charanjit Singh, Razia Sultana and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa. "Will work along every member of Congress family in Punjab to fulfil the mission of 'Jitge Punjab' as a humble Congress worker to give power to the people back to the people through the Punjab model and the high commands 18-point agenda... My journey has just begun," Sidhu said in another tweet.

यूनियन बँक Union Bank of India		KASTURI NAGAR BRANCH		DEMAND NOTICE
Near LIC Office, 1st Lane, Kasturi Nagar, Rayagada, Pin-765001, Odisha				
<b>Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice in connection with the Credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with our Kasturi Nagar Branch: Classified as NPA</b>				
We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor that their A/c mentioned below have been classified as NPA account pursuant to their default in making repayment of dues/installment/interest. Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower/Guarantor of Union Bank of India, Kasturi Nagar Branch but the same could not be served on the below mentioned parties which was sent by Regd. Post A.D. The outstanding amount in their accounts are shown in the below column against their names. The details are given below:				
Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor	Type / Loan Limit	Demand Notice Date Outstanding Amount	Details of the properties
1	<b>Borrower:</b> M/s Sai Kalyani Traders, Prop: Mr. K. Namu Shankar / <b>Guarantor/Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Kinthali Kamala	SODGN : ₹48,00,000/-	20.05.2021 / ₹13,51,206.01 as on 30.04.2021 + further expenses from 01.05.2021	EMD of land and building (residential) belonging to Mr. Kinthali Kamala Nabha Rao (Owner of the property) situated bearing Plot No.: 279 (Old), 279/546 (New), Khata No.: 21 (Old), 62/224 (New), extent Ac. 0.353 dec., Revenue Mouza: Tumbiguda, J.K. Pur Road, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, At/PO: Rayagada, Dist: Rayagada, Odisha.
2	<b>Borrowers:</b> (1) Mr. Malla Bangari Babu, S/o: M Dharmaraju Babu, (2) Mrs. Malla Saujanya, W/o: Malla Bangari Babu, both are At: Opp. Angan Hotel,	HLPGN : ₹48,00,000/-	29.04.2021 / ₹1,84,774.21 as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mr. Malla Bangari Babu over Plot No.: 73/2017, Khata No.: 37, Mouza: Kholliiguda, Rayagada, Dist: Rayagada, Odisha.
3	<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Denesh Singh, Proprietor of M/s Sivananda Stone Crusher, At: Sorispadar, G.P.: Gulanti, Tahasil:	SSSUB : ₹20,08,000/-	29.04.2021 / ₹5,98,751.79 as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mr. Denesh Kumar Singh over Plot No.: 160, Khata No.: 5/180, Mouza: Sorispadar, Tahasil: Ramanguda, Dist: Rayagada, Odisha, bounded by East: Own land of Ganga Bodogodia, West: Own land of Ganga Bodogodia, North: Potro Jangal, South: Boundary of mouza Sourada.
4	<b>Borrower:</b> M/s Sivananda Stone Crusher, Prop: Mr. Denesh Kumar Singh, At: Kapildev Singh lane, J.K. Pur, P.S.: Chandilli,	SSSUB : ₹20,08,000/-	29.04.2021 / ₹5,98,751.79 as on 31.03.2021 + further expenses from 01.04.2021	EMD of Residential land and building belongs to Mr. Kapil Dev Singh (Owner of the property) over Plot No.: 722, Khata No.: 59/142, Area: Ac. 0.427 dec., Mouza: Chandil, Tahasil: Rayagada, Dist: Rayagada, bounded by-East: Jagannath Temple, West: NH-326 (B.C.Road), North: Badri Prasad Chahric, South: Colony Road.
In spite of our repeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your accounts, you have not discharged your liabilities. We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned above against your notice together with interest from the date mentioned above at contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the above securities created by you in favour of the Bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act. 1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues together with contractual rate of interest from the date mentioned above within 60 days as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you, and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act, and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debts Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you. 2) As per sec. 13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please note that any violation of this section entails serious consequences. 3) Your kind attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.				
Date: 19.07.2021		Sd/-Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India		
Place: Kasturi Nagar				



What is concerning overall, not just with this advisory, would be a constant tit-for-tat between US And China when it comes to Hong Kong (which) in many ways is caught right in the middle  
TARA JOSEPH | PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG

## WILDFIRE IN OREGON

The Bootleg fire in the US state of Oregon has burned more than 300,00 acres of land since it erupted on July 6, fire officials said Monday



## of the day quote

We're doing a big opening up, and that's quite right. If we don't do it now we'll be opening up in the autumn and winter months when the virus has the advantage of the cold weather. We'll lose the precious firebreak we get with the school holidays  
BORIS JOHNSON | BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

The Tokyo Olympics are a festival of peace for people around the world, and we hope that Japan holds the Olympics safely and successfully  
MOON JAE-IN | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

Today, as we reflect on the suffering of all victims and survivors of grave crimes, I encourage all states to ratify the Rome Statute, and call on the international community to drive forward efforts to achieve accountability and justice for all  
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

# US, allies accuse China of global 'cyber sabotage'

REUTERS

Washington, July 19: The United States and a coalition of allies Monday accused China's Ministry of State Security of a global cyber hacking campaign, specifically attributing a large Microsoft attack disclosed earlier this year to hackers working on Beijing's behalf. Opening a new area of tensions with China, the United States is joined by NATO, the European Union, Britain, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Canada to level the allegations, according to a White House fact sheet released Monday morning.

The announcement comes a month after G7 and NATO leaders agreed with President Joe Biden at summits in Cornwall, England, and Brussels in accusing China of posing systemic challenges to the world order.

The governments "will formally attribute the malicious cyber campaign utilizing the zero-day vulnerabilities in the Microsoft Exchange Server disclosed in March to malicious cyber actors affiliated with the (Chinese Ministry of State Security) with high confidence," the US senior administration official told reporters ahead



Opening a new area of tensions with China, the United States is joined by NATO, the European Union, Britain, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Canada to level the allegations

of the announcement. "The United States and our allies and partners are exposing further details of the PRC's (People's Republic of China's) pattern of malicious cyber activ-

ities and taking further action to counter it."

The Chinese embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Chinese officials have previously said China is also a victim of hacking and opposes all forms of cyber attacks.

US federal agencies, including the National Security Council, the FBI and the National Security Agency, will outline more than 50 techniques and procedures that "China state-sponsored actors" use in targeting US networks, the official said.

Chinese state-sponsored cyber actors consistently scan target net-

works for critical and high vulnerabilities within days of the vulnerability's public disclosure, the 31-page US cybersecurity advisory seen by Reuters says.

"We will show how the PRC's MSS, Ministry of State Security, uses criminal contract hackers to conduct unsanctioned cyber operations globally, including for their own personal profit," the official said.

The United States in recent months has focused heavy attention on Russia in accusing Russian cyberhackers of a string of ransomware attacks in the United States.

In Monday's announcement, US officials formally blamed the Chinese government "with high confidence" for the hack that hit businesses and government agencies in the United States using a Microsoft email service. Microsoft has already accused China of responsibility.

The operation specifically exploited weaknesses in Microsoft's exchange program, a common email software. Cybersecurity experts were shaken by the scale and volume of the incident, totaling thousands of potential US victims.

# Saudis behind spyware attack on Khashoggi's family

Forensic analysis revealed that the phones of those close to the dissident journalist were targeted before and after he was murdered

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 19: Saudis were behind an NSO spyware attack on the family of murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi, The Guardian said in a report. Forensic analysis revealed that the phones of those close to the dissident journalist were targeted before and after he was murdered.

A joint investigation by the Guardian and other media organisations, based on leaked data and forensic analysis of phones, has uncovered new evidence that the company's spyware was used to try and monitor people close to Khashoggi both before and after his death.

In one case, a person in Khashoggi's inner circle was hacked four days after his murder, according to peer-reviewed forensic analysis of her device.

The investigation points to an apparent attempt by Saudi Arabia and its close ally the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to leverage the



NSO's spy technology after Khashoggi's death to monitor his associates and the Turkish murder investigation, even going so far as to select the phone of Istanbul's chief prosecutor for potential surveillance, the Guardian report said. Khashoggi was killed and dismembered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018.

While the investigation mostly points to Khashoggi's close associates being targeted in the months after the murder, it also identified evidence suggesting that an NSO client targeted the phone of his former wife, Hanan Elatr, several months before his death, between November 2017 and April 2018.

## SHORT TAKES

### Pared-back Haj in Mecca

Mecca (Saudi Arabia): Tens of thousands of vaccinated Muslim pilgrims circled Islam's holiest site in Mecca Sunday, but remained socially distanced and wore masks as the coronavirus takes its toll on the hajj for a second year running. The hajj pilgrimage, which once drew some 2.5 million Muslims from all walks of life from across the globe, is now almost unrecognisable. It is being scaled back for the second year in a row due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### Nepal PM thanks Modi

Kathmandu: Nepal's newly-appointed Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba Monday thanked his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for the congratulatory message and said he shared views with him on further strengthening ties between the two neighbouring countries during a cordial telephone conversation. PM Modi had immediately congratulated Deuba after the veteran Nepalese leader won a vote of confidence in the reinstated House of Representatives Sunday night.

### nCoV vax for teenagers

Kuwait City: Kuwait has started vaccinating teenagers aged 12-15 against Covid-19 in preparation for the new school year that begins in September. Buthaina Al-Mudhaf, assistant undersecretary for public health affairs of the Kuwaiti Health Ministry, said in a statement Sunday that the vaccination campaign took place in health centres across six governorates.

### One killed in CA shooting

San Francisco: One person was killed and three others were injured during a shooting in Walnut Creek, Northern California, police said. Local police responded after receiving reports of a shooting at 1.37 a.m. Sunday, Xinhua news agency quoted the police as saying in a Facebook post.

### Lockdown begins in Iran

Tehran: Iran Monday imposed a week-long lockdown on the capital, Tehran, and the surrounding region as the country struggles with another surge in the coronavirus pandemic, state media reported.

# Russia to hold military drills near Af border next month

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Moscow, July 19: Russia said Monday it will stage military drills next month with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan near the border with Afghanistan where the Taliban has led a lightning offensive against government troops. The insurgents have capitalised on the withdrawal of foreign troops to launch a series of offensives across the country.

Afghan government troops and refugees have in recent weeks crossed into Tajikistan, fleeing Taliban advances.

The joint drills will take place August 5-10 at the Kharbmaidon training ground in Tajikistan near the Afghan border, the Russian defence ministry said in a statement.

Alexander Lapin, commander of the Central Military District, said that the troops will run drills to defeat "illegal armed units that invaded the territory of an allied country". Troops from a Russian military base in Tajikistan and the Central Military District will take part in the games, the defence ministry said.



# WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE



A child looks on as water floods through a fence, in Wessem, Netherlands

REUTERS

# Iran to continue Vienna talks after Raisi takes office

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tehran, July 19: Iran will continue to attend the Vienna talks to revive the 2015 nuclear agreement after President-elect Ebrahim Raisi and his cabinet take office in August, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The spokesman for the Ministry, Saeed Khatibzadeh, said during an online press conference that Iran has announced its intention to continue the talks with its partners in the Joint Commission of the agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reports Xinhua



news agency. Iran's policy will not change under the new administration, he said, adding that the country will

return to its commitments as soon as the US returns to its obligations and Tehran verifies it. Under the deal reached in 2015,

Tehran agreed to roll back parts of its nuclear program in exchange for decreased economic sanctions.

However, Iran gradually stopped implementing parts of its commitments in May 2019, a year after the administration of former US President Donald Trump unilaterally abandoned the agreement and re-imposed sanctions on Tehran.

Between April 6 and June 20, the JCPOA Joint Commission, attended by a US delegation indirectly, held talks in Vienna to discuss a possible return of Washington to the agreement and the way to ensure a full and effective implementation of the deal.

# Danish who drew contentious Muhammad caricature dies at 86

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Helsinki, July 19: Danish cartoonist Kurt Westergaard, whose image of the Prophet Muhammad wearing a bomb as a turban was at the center of widespread anti-Danish anger in the Muslim world in the mid-2000s, has died. He was 86.

Westergaard's family announced his death to Danish media late Sunday and told the newspaper Berlingske that Westergaard died in his sleep after a long period of illness. Danish media reported that he died July 14, a day after his birthday.

From the early 1980s, Westergaard worked as a cartoonist for Jyllands-Posten, one of Denmark's leading newspapers, and was associated with the daily until he turned 75.

Westergaard became known worldwide in 2005 for his controversial depiction of the Prophet Muhammad in Jyllands-Posten, which published 12 editorial cartoons of the principal figure of Islam. Muslims consider images of the prophet to be sacrilegious and encouraging idolatry.



The images, particularly Westergaard's, sparked a huge wave of anger in the Muslim world and escalated into violent anti-Danish protests by Muslims worldwide in 2006.

Several newspapers in neighbouring Norway also published the controversial cartoons. Danish and Norwegian embassies in Syria were burned down by angry crowds during the demonstrations.

# Climate change sees Swiss Alps add over 1,000 lakes: Study

AGENCIES

Geneva, July 19: Climate change has dramatically altered the Swiss Alps landscape -- at a quicker pace than expected -- as melting glaciers have created more than 1,000 new lakes across in the mountains, a study published Monday showed.

The inventory of Swiss Glacial lakes showed that almost 1,200 new lakes have formed in formerly glaciated regions of the Swiss Alps since the end of the Little Ice Age around 1850.

Around 1,000 of them still exist today, according to the study published by the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag). That is far more than the few hundreds the researchers had expected to find at the beginning of the project.

"We were surprised by the



After a brief decline, the lake formation rate surged between 2006 and 2016, with 18 new lakes appearing each year on average, while the water surface swelled by over 400 square metres (4,300 square feet) annually

sheer numbers," Daniel Oermert, head of the Eawag Remote Sensing Group that carried out the study, said in a statement. He said the "marked acceleration in formation" was

also surprising, pointing out that "180 have been added in the last decade alone".

## RISING CONCERNS

The inventory of Swiss Glacial lakes showed that almost 1,200 new lakes have formed in formerly glaciated regions of the Swiss Alps

Around 1,000 of them still exist today, according to the study published by the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology

Glaciers in the Swiss Alps are in steady decline, losing a full two percent of their volume last year alone

Glaciers in the Swiss Alps are in steady decline, losing a full two percent of their volume last year alone, according to an annual study published by the Swiss Academies of Science.

And even if the world were to fully implement the 2015 Paris Agreement -- which calls for capping global warming at least two degrees Celsius -- two-thirds of the Alpine glaciers will likely be lost, according to a 2019 study by the ETH technical university in Zurich. The Eawag assessment showed that there was an initial peak in glacial lake formation in the Swiss Alps between 1946 and 1973, when nearly eight new lakes appeared on average each year.

After a brief decline, the lake formation rate surged between 2006 and 2016, with 18 new lakes appearing each year on average, while

the water surface swelled by over 400 square metres (4,300 square feet) annually.

This, Eawag said, is "visible evidence of climate change in the Alps". The comprehensive inventory was made possible by large troves of data gathered from the Switzerland's glaciers since the mid-19th century. In total, the researchers were able to draw on data from seven periods between 1850 and 2016.

For each of the 1,200 lakes formed since 1850, the scientists recorded the location, elevation, shape and area of the lake at the different times, as well as the type of material of the dam and surface drainage. Based on such basic information, researchers can estimate hazards, including the risk of a sudden emptying in the event of a dam failure.

## of the day quote

In the last 15-18 months, we have seen a lot of customers move online, not just in the tier-I & II cities but also in smaller towns. Today, 65 per cent of customer orders and over 85 per cent of new customers on Amazon are from tier-II and below geographies

**PRANAV BHASIN** | DIRECTOR, MSME AND SELLING PARTNER EXPERIENCE, AMAZON INDIA

India has 35 million out of the world's 222 million university students. Learning is a perennial pandemic for many Indian learners but Covid has been catastrophic because of our many pre-existing challenges

**SHANTANU ROOJ** | CEO, TEAMLEASE EDTECH

Currently, Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for auction of 27 mineral are issued by four states, namely, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha and Jharkhand. The minister further said "114 mineral blocks are auctioned by various State Governments

**PRALHAD JOSHI** | COAL AND MINES MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### RIL's retail biz to grow 3 times

**Mumbai:** Reliance Industries' (RIL) retail business is expected to grow three times in next the next three to five years at a robust CAGR of 35-40 per cent, said a Bernstein report. Digital or new commerce continues to scale up and contributes 10 per cent of sales, it said. It further said that, RIL's recently announced clean energy business may well create a valuation of about \$36 billion. It said clean energy has the potential to be value accretive if Reliance can pull it off.

### Gold tumbles by ₹126; silver by ₹97

**New Delhi:** Gold in the national capital Monday dipped ₹126 to ₹46,967 per 10 gram in line with a fall in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹47,093 per 10 grams. Silver also went lower by ₹97 to ₹66,856 per kilogram from ₹66,953 per kilogram in the previous trade. In the global market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,805 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 25.39 per ounce.

### BharatPe to hire 100 people

**New Delhi:** Fintech firm BharatPe Monday said it will hire 100 people across various roles for its technology team in the current financial year. The company, which is planning to launch a slew of products in the merchant and consumer lending space, said it will be almost tripling the strength of its technology team and hiring 100 more members.

### Cisco, NSDC for 'digital upskilling'

**New Delhi:** Cisco Networking Academy and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Monday announced a partnership that is aimed at addressing the shortage of tech-proficient workforce in India and creating career opportunities for millions in the digital economy. The partnership will offer access to the Cisco Networking Academy courses through NSDC's e-Skill India platform to provide comprehensive digital skills critical for the digital-first world, a statement said.



The government has taken a farsighted decision to encourage Russian miners to supply coking coal to Indian steel mills. India can import at least 50 per cent coking coal from Russia and balance from other countries

**VR SHARMA** | MANAGING DIRECTOR, JSPL

### 'CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT EXPECTED TO WIDEN'

India's FY22 Y-o-Y current account deficit is expected to widen, Acuite Ratings & Research said. The ratings agency estimates approximately \$30 billion deficit vis-a-vis \$26 billion estimate in FY21



## 'Strong market size will continue to attract foreign investments'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 19:** Asserting that the Indian economy is showing signs of revival since the peaking of second Covid wave in May, the government Monday said the country's strong fundamentals and market size will continue to attract market-seeking greenfield investments.

Quoting the World Investment Report 2021, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a written reply to Lok Sabha said FDI inflows into India rose by 25.4 per cent to reach USD 64 billion in 2020, from USD 51 billion in 2019, becoming fifth largest recipient in the world in 2020, up from eighth position it held in the previous year.

However, the announced greenfield projects in India contracted by 19 per cent in 2020, she said, adding that this decline is significantly lower than the 44 per cent decline in developing economies.

"As has been witnessed in overall FDI inflows, India's strong fundamentals and market size will continue to attract market-seeking greenfield investments," she said.

In a reply to another question, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said, India's forex reserves as on June 25, 2021 stood at USD 608.99 billion.

India has emerged as the fifth largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia, he said in a written reply to Lok Sabha.

"India's foreign exchange reserves position is comfortable in terms of import cover of more than 18 months and provides cushion against unforeseen external shocks. The government and RBI are closely monitoring the emerging external position calibrating policies or regulations to support robust macroeconomic growth," he said.



As has been witnessed in overall FDI inflows, India's strong fundamentals and market size will continue to attract market-seeking greenfield investments

**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN** | FINANCE MINISTER

Replying to another question Chaudhary said "the Indian economy is showing signs of revival since the peaking of the second wave in the first half of May 2021 on the back of targeted fiscal relief, strong push for capital expenditure, RBI's monetary policy measures, and a rapid vaccination drive."

This is reflected in movement of several high frequency indicators like E-way bills, power consumption, rail freight, UPI transactions, vehicle registrations, etc, he said.

With regard to India's contraction in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 7.3 per cent in 2020-21, Sitharaman said this reflects the unparalleled effect of the 'once in a century' Covid-19 pandemic and the containment measures that were taken to control the pandemic.

The fundamentals of the economy remained strong as gradual scaling back of lockdowns, along with the astute support of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Mission placed the economy firmly on the path of recovery from the second half of FY 2020-21, she added.

## Blackstone invests \$250mn in Simplilearn

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, July 19:** American private equity firm Blackstone Monday said it is acquiring a 70 per cent stake in online learning platform Simplilearn Solutions for USD 250 million (about ₹1,860 crore).

In a joint statement, Blackstone said private equity funds managed by it have entered into a definitive agreement to buy out the existing investors - Kalaari Capital, Helion Venture Partners and Mayfield Fund, who collectively own 60 per cent of Simplilearn.

Simplilearn founder and chief executive Krishna Kumar said that Blackstone is investing USD 250 million in the company and previous investors - Kalaari Capital, Helion Venture Partners and Mayfield Fund - are exiting the firm.

According to sources, the deal will provide an exit to the existing investors by buying out their 60 per cent stake and also picking up an additional 10 per cent from promoters and other management personnel, and values the San Francisco- and Bangalore-based company at USD 400 million.

Blackstone already has a long list of investments in the country's



THIS IS A FIRST FOR THE AMERICAN PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM WHERE IT WILL HAVE MANAGEMENT CONTROL AND MAJORITY EQUITY

educational space, including in Byju's, Aakash Educational Services, Ascend Learning, Ellucian and Articulate - the SaaS-based training and development platform for companies.

This is a first for Blackstone where it will have management control and majority equity. However, Kumar said he will continue to run the company.

Simplilearn was founded in 2010 by Kumar and has since trained over 2 million profes-

sionals across the world, making it the world's largest Bootcamp for digital skilling that helps them acquire higher skills.

## Lenskart raises \$220mn, now valued at \$2.5bn

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 19:** Eyewear retailer Lenskart Monday announced it has raised \$220 million in fresh funding led by Temasek and Falcon Edge Capital, taking its valuation to nearly \$2.5 billion. The company recently raised \$95 million from global investment fund KKR, taking the total transaction size to \$315 million to date. The current round also saw participation from Bay Capital and Chiratae, the company said in a statement.

"We're already the largest eyewear player in India and in the top 3 in Singapore. Lenskart envisions

to have 50 per cent of India wearing its specs over the next five years and become the #1 eyewear platform in Southeast Asia and Middle East over the next 18 to 24 months through organic and inorganic expansion," Founder and CEO Peyush Bansal said.

The company said that fresh funds will help it expand its presence in India as well as scaling its growing operations in Southeast Asia and Middle East.

"Lenskart has built a world-class fully backward-integrated omnichannel eyewear retail experience with extreme customer

centricity," Falcon Edge Capital co-Founder and Partner Navroz Udhwadia said. The market opportunity for Lenskart in target geographies is expected to be over \$15 billion by 2025.

Along with the expansion, Lenskart is also planning to use the capital to deepen its investments in technology and AI-driven innovations to create a personalised experience for its customers.

Founded in 2010, Lenskart is currently serving over seven million customers annually through its omni-channel shopping experience with more than 750 omni-channel stores in 175 cities.

## '104 startups registered on Startup India Showcase platform'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 19:** As many as 104 startups from different sectors have been registered on the Startup India Showcase platform, where most promising budding startups, chosen through various programmes, are exhibited in the form of virtual profiles, an official statement said Monday.

Startup India Showcase is an online discovery platform for the most promising startups of the country. These innovations span across various cutting-edge sectors such as Fintech, EnterpriseTech, Social Impact, HealthTech and EdTech.

These startups are solving critical problems and have shown exceptional innovation in their respective sectors, the commerce and industry ministry said.

On the platform, each startup has a profile page with a detailed pitch about their product, innovation, and USP in the form of videos and PDF links.

This provides unique visibility to them in front of the entire startup ecosystem. The startups act as the flag bearers of good quality of Indian startups. All DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)-recognised startups under Startup India are eligible to apply for the showcase platform.

An apex committee has been constituted by DPIIT for the selection of startups for the showcase platform. The selection is done from the list of applications of startups, recommendations from states, and any other startup that the committee deems fit.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Microsoft unveils Windows 365

**New Delhi:** Microsoft Corporation has announced the Windows 365 - a cloud service that introduces a new way to experience Windows 10/Windows 11 to businesses of all sizes. Windows 365 takes the operating system to the Microsoft Cloud, streaming the full Windows experience - apps, data, and settings - to personal or corporate devices. Secure by design and built with the principles of Zero Trust, Windows 365 secures and stores information in the cloud, not on the device, providing a secure, productive experience for workers from interns and contractors to software developers and industrial designers. Windows 365 also creates a new hybrid personal computing category called Cloud PC, which uses both the power of the cloud and the capabilities of the device to provide a full, personalized Windows experience.



### 100 premium incense sticks launched in a year

**New Delhi:** Prabhu Shree Ram, a premium agarbatti (incense sticks) brand, launched over 100 premium agarbatti in last one year. The new brand, launched in August 2020, has successfully expanded its market. The brand is easily available across the country. As the brand has associated with 'Aastha', it added a range of premium perfumes to its array of premium products. With an aggressive marketing strategy and manufacturing of premium quality products, Prabhu Shree Ram is establishing a strong identity in this segment.

## Tata Steel Mining, Jindal Stainless sign MoU for joint mining operation

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 19:** Tata Steel Mining Limited (TSML) and Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) have signed a MoU July 16, 2021 to jointly unearth chrome ore locked up in the boundary between their mines located in Sukinda located at Jajpur district. This would help conservation of chromite ore.

This unique partnership sets an example for sustainable chrome ore mining in an innovative manner: TSML and JSL would now initiate steps to get necessary statutory approvals from concerned authorities before jointly starting mining operations.

The MoU was signed by MC Thomas, Managing Director, Tata Steel Mining Limited, and Shashibhushan Upadhyay, Vice President (Projects), Jindal Stainless Limited. Ratan Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Stainless Limited, Managing Director Abhyuday Jindal and other senior officials



from both companies had joined virtually during the pact.

Thomas said, "We are committed to sustainable mining and such a joint initiative will set examples for organisations especially in the mining industry to collaborate in the larger interest of mineral conservation and sustainability. These will redefine the way mining is done through technology, mineral conservation and safety."

Commenting on the occasion, Abhyuday Jindal said, "This is a very unique collaboration where JSL and TSML will derive maximum value from a joint mining effort. This effort will enhance the availability of ore in the region without any adverse environmental impact, as it is an already explored area. The move will also benefit local economy. We are also committed to sustainable mining activity in the region."

## Recovery signs: Vistara noticing recovery in leisure travel

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 19:** India's accelerated vaccination drive as well as pent-up demand has triggered a recovery in leisure air travel, said Tata-SIA airline Vistara. The travel trend, which includes the VFR category, is still in a nascent stage but is expected to sustain.

In an interaction with IANS, Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer, Vinod Kannan, said the airline remains optimistic about the future.

"We understand that people have held back their travel plans due to various reasons like travel restrictions, rapid spread of the virus in the second wave etc., and going by the trend, we hope they will resume travelling as soon as the situation gets stabilised. In fact, we are noticing some level of recovery

in VFR and leisure travel."

On corporate travel trend, he said a complete rebound is unlikely until more of the global population is fully vaccinated.

"Corporates are already trying their best to vaccinate their staff. International travel to client locations is also inhibited to ensure that the employees are not stuck under quarantine in different countries abroad. However, we feel this is temporary.

"The number of trips may be fewer compared to pre-Covid levels; however, they will not completely stop. Virtual meetings cannot completely replace physical interactions; hence, we are positive that corporate traffic will also pick up slowly," Kannan said.

At present, the sector faces its most challenging time with high



cost of business, fluctuating demand and looming uncertainties. However, the country's vaccination drive has instilled confidence in the travelling population.

"Vaccination being the only known way to fight the pandemic, it is definitely expected to have an impact

across all aspects of our lives, including aviation," Kannan said. Besides, he expects 'vaccine passports' to become a key requirement for the future of global travel.

"We feel that some level of relaxation can be offered to fully vaccinated travellers for ease of move-

ment," he said.

According to the recent figures gathered by IATA, more than 20 countries have partially or entirely lifted

We understand that people have held back their travel plans due to various reasons like travel restrictions, rapid spread of the virus in the second wave etc., and going by the trend, we hope they will resume travelling as soon as the situation gets stabilised

**VINOD KANNAN** | CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER, VISTARA

their entry restrictions for those vaccinated against Covid-19. This is being seen as an indication for the revival of in-

ternational travel. Furthermore, he said that the airline plans to start long-haul operations to the US in the coming months.

"We have initiated the process with the relevant authorities and have already received a temporary 'Foreign Air Carrier' permit from the Department of Transportation, US. "We continue to monitor the market and evaluate more such opportunities from both from the commercial viability and feasibility of operations point of view," Kannan said. Lately, the airline has expanded its international network under the 'air bubble' agreements.

In this period, eight international destinations, including London, Dhaka, Dubai, Doha, Frankfurt, Sharjah, Male and Tokyo, were added.

# India aim to stamp authority

# Warm-up game: Eyes on 'opener' Mayank



## Determined to hit 1st ball for 6: Ishan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, July 19:** Before going out to bat in his debut ODI against Sri Lanka, young Ishan Kishan had announced in the dressing room that he would hit the first ball for a six, irrespective of the bowler and where the ball would be pitched.

And he did what he had promised by hitting a six off Dhananjaya De Silva, the home team's off-spinner.

Kishan, who celebrated his 23rd birthday with a smashing 42-ball, 59 told teammate Yuzvendra Chahal on 'bcci.tv' that he had a fair idea that the surface was not providing enough assistance to the slow bowlers.

"I kept (wickets) for 50 overs and understood that the track didn't have much help for the spinners. So I was determined that wherever the bowler pitches, I would hit him for a six. I had told that to everyone in the dressing room before going out to bat," Kishan said.

When asked why he was looking to hit every ball out of sight during the initial phase, the Jharkhand keeper-batter said that it was the confidence that he had gained while batting in the nets in the run-up to the series.

"Practice is very important and I was in good touch during the net sessions. The pitch on which we practised, was also of similar nature. So since I was connecting well, I didn't have to do anything different. Just



execute it in match situation. No change in game-plan. If I have a ball in my radar, I will hit it," Kishan said.

He also said that getting the India cap from skipper Shikhar Dhawan indeed was a special moment. "There can't be a prouder moment than receiving your India cap. I was cherishing it and all my friends in the team also wanted that I get the cap.

"It was a special feeling when my teammates shook hands. Also you know your family is also watching and it's a big occasion for them," Kishan said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Durham, July 19:** Mayank Agarwal's fight to reclaim his place in Indian Test eleven starts on Tuesday when he walks out to open in a three-day game against 'County Select XI', starting here tomorrow as best friend KL Rahul gears up to keep wickets in Rishabh Pant's absence.

The match has been accorded first-class status, a first for India in many years since MS Dhoni took over captain. The Jharkhand dasher believed that an 'official match' robbed all players from getting some game time.

However, the team management wanted a proper first-class game to get into the groove before the start of the Test series next month.

According to BCCI sources, Pant, who had tested positive for COVID-19, has completed his stipulated 10-day isolation in an acquaintance's place in London and is "recovering well" but he is yet to join the team bubble here.

"Even if Pant would have reached in time for the practice game, he would have been given adequate rest to get back in peak physical condition. He has been asymptomatic but would need to train well ahead of the first Test in Nottingham," a senior BCCI official told this agency on conditions of anonymity.

"In any case both Pant and Wriddhiman, who is isolated as a

precautionary measure will be available for first Test." As it had been reported earlier, KL Rahul, who has been doing keeping drills, will don the big gloves for the game.

However, it will be Mayank, whose form will be closely monitored by the team management as he is likely to partner Rohit Sharma in the first Test after Shubman Gill was ruled out of the series with shin splints.

Mayank hasn't been in best of forms in Australia and had lost his place to Rohit, who missed the first two Tests 'Down Under' due to quarantine rules post hamstring injury break.

While Rahul has also scored bulk of his 2000 runs opening the innings, it is understood that he is being considered as a middle-order batsman and may be used later in the series in case one of the senior batters (read Ajinkya Rahane) don't get back to form.

Against a team comprising mostly of youngsters, with only James Bracey being a current England international, India might just try both Rahul and Mayank if they get a second innings. The match being a three-day affair, the probability of that isn't high.

In bowling department, Mohammed Siraj will like to give a good account of himself and Jasprit Bumrah wouldn't mind getting a few wickets under his belt just like Ravichandran Ashwin did last week for Surrey.



## Lahiri finishes T3 at Barbasol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nicholasville (US), July 19:** Olympic-bound Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri fired a stellar seven-under 65 to finish tied third at the Barbasol Championship here for his best result of the season, a timely boost ahead of the Tokyo Games.

Lahiri, 34, made eight birdies, including four over his closing five holes, at Keene Trace Golf Club here Sunday to end his week on 20-under 268, one stroke behind the playoff duo of Seamus Power and JT Poston. Ireland's Power went on to earn his first PGA TOUR title following a six-hole playoff.

It was a welcome return to form for Lahiri. His third career top-three finish on the PGA TOUR moved him up from 129th to 108th on the FedExCup standings.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, July 19:** India's young guns will get another opportunity to flaunt their exceptional talent and secure a series win against a hapless Sri Lankan outfit in the second ODI here Tuesday.

Skipper Shikhar Dhawan was left in complete awe at the other end as the likes of Prithvi Shaw, Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav made batting look ridiculously easy in the first ODI Sunday night.

In the long run, India want to play more aggressively in the shorter formats and the performance of the trio served as a perfect template in that context.

Their sensational batting also reinforced the might of India's bench strength with ODI debutants Kishan and Yadav bossing the opposition from ball one. Sri Lanka bowlers also made it easier for the marauding Indian batters who romped home to the win in the 37th over.

India are unlikely to make changes as they would like to pocket

the series before giving chances to other youngsters in the squad.

The only one feeling the heat would be Manish Pandey, who laboured to a 40-ball 26 in the series opener when others were at their fluent best.

Shaw, in his comeback game, played breathtaking strokes on the off-side but missed out on a big score. It is something he would like to correct Tuesday.

It was good to see Kuldeep Chahal and Yuzvendra Chahal bowl in tandem after a long time and they proved once again that they perform better as a pair. With spinners bowling the bulk of the overs, star all-rounder Hardik Pandya showed promise in the five overs he bowled.

Senior-most pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar did not have the best of days but trust him to be back in his elements in the next game. It will take a special effort from the struggling Sri Lankan side to pull one back against the rampaging visitors.

The inexperienced team showed

it has the talent to compete with the opposition if not win. Most of the batsmen got starts but could not convert. It is something they will have to fix to test India.

Thanks to Chamika Karunaratne's 35-ball 43, Sri Lanka were able to cross 250. He feels his team can regularly score 300-plus if the batsmen don't squander starts.

"We were trying to play longer innings - even when I was batting with Dasun Shanaka in the 42nd or 43rd over I asked him if I should go for some big shots, but he told me to wait until the 45th over.

"If more of our batsmen had been able to bat longer, we could have attacked earlier and gone for a bigger score. We do have the ability to get to 300 or 350, and hopefully that will happen in the next games," said Karunaratne.

The bowlers too need to raise their game significantly to put pressure on the high-quality Indian batsmen. Both teams might be interested in chasing with the slow pitch playing better in the evening.

# Flawless Morikawa wins British Open golf

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Sandwich (England), July 19:** Collin Morikawa was making one of the most satisfying walks in golf, down the 18th fairway as a soon-to-be British Open champion, when he looked up at the huge grandstand surrounding the green.

It was filled with spectators, who firstly were applauding and soon giving a standing ovation to a 24-year-old American making a historic start to his major championship career.

So different to 11 months ago, when Morikawa won his first major — the PGA Championship — at an empty venue.

"I hope the thing is off the table," Morikawa said, "that I can play with fans and I can play well on a Sunday." Fans. No fans. Parkland. Now even links. Morikawa is the

real deal, make no mistake.

The mature-beyond-his-years Californian closed with a bogey-free, 4-under 66 at Royal St George's and won the British Open in his debut Sunday, becoming the first player to capture two different majors on the first attempt.

And this time there was a crowd, at 32,000 the biggest since golf returned following the coronavirus outbreak.

After tapping in for par to win by two shots over Jordan Spieth, he gave a fist pump before applauding the spectators. Before long, he was being handed the claret jug that so many go their entire career without winning. He gazed adoringly at it, then thrust it into the air and gave it a kiss.

People were seeing a young player already halfway to the career Grand Slam after eight starts, the first



since Bobby Jones in 1926 to win two majors in so few appearances. He follows Gene Sarazen, Jones, Jack Nicklaus, Seve Ballesteros, Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and Spieth in winning multiple majors before turning 25.

His total of 15-under 265 was a 72-hole record in 15 British Opens at Royal St George's. In 13 of them, the winning score has been 5 under or lower. "When you make history," he said, "it's hard to grasp, it's hard to really take it in... At 24 years old, it's so hard to look back at the two short years that I have been a pro and see what I've done because I want more."

He did it with style amid immaculate weather on the links off Sandwich Bay, flushing shots with his irons and getting up-and-down on the rare occasions he found trouble. He called his putting display one of the best of his short career, turning a statistical weakness into strength.

He completed a feat achieved by Ben Curtis on the same course in 2003, winning golf's oldest championship in his links debut.

## OLYMPICS DIARY

### Mixed reviews for Indian food; hot water needed

**TOKYO:** The Indian contingent was largely satisfied with the food and facilities provided at the Olympic Games Village, but a request has gone out to the Indian Embassy for 100 plus electric kettles to meet the athletes' requirement of warm water.

The kettles have not been kept in rooms at the Village. Also, the rooms will be cleaned every third day to minimise their contact with the house-keeping staff as organisers face a huge task of staging the Games in COVID-19 times.

A major chunk of the Indian contingent arrived here on Sunday and has spent close to two days at the Village. "The request for the kettle has come from the athletes. They need to drink warm water in the morning. We have requested the Indian Embassy here and it should be arranged soon," India's Deputy Chef de Mission Prem Verma told PTI Monday.

A team official informed PTI that accommodation is spick and span but cleaning has not been done since they checked in Sunday. On that front, Verma said: "To minimise contact, Local Organising Committee has advised for clean-

ing every third day but if someone wants to get the room cleaned daily, they can ask for it. The towels can be changed from the ground floor on a daily basis."

The athletes are being served food from all around the world including India. Indian paddler G Sathiyam told PTI that he has had no issues with the food and training arrangements so far but another team official said the 'desi food' can be a lot better.

However, the team official added: "I would advise the athletes to go for continental or Japanese food. The Indian food at best is average and at times undercooked. You rather have the local food. It is much better and the sea food being served is very fresh."

Majority of the athletes are being handed testing kits daily so that they can hand over their swab samples to the IOA officials before leaving for training.

On food arrangements, Verma said: "When you come to another country, you should embrace its culture including food. There is nothing wrong with the Indian food being served in the dining hall but one should not compare with what we get back home."



# BLAST FROM THE PAST

## Helsinki Games, 1952



Israel entered the Olympic Games for the first time.

The Soviet Union rejoined the Olympic Games having been absent since 1912

A cold-war atmosphere dominated the Games as the Soviets set up a rival Olympic village for Eastern Bloc countries.

USSR women gymnasts, who won the team competition, began a streak that would continue for 40 years until the Soviet Union broke up into separate republics.

The Helsinki Games marked the return of German and Japanese teams to Olympic competition. East Germany had applied for

participation in the Games but was denied, and the German team consisted of athletes from West Germany only.

Czech long-distance runner Emil Zatopek won the 5,000m, successfully defended his 10,000m title and then took his third gold medal in his first-ever marathon to complete a triple that remains unique in Olympic history.

Lis Hartel of Denmark, who was paralysed below the knees, claimed silver in the equestrian dressage. She had to be helped on and off her horse.

Lars Hall, a carpenter from Sweden, became the first non-military winner of the modern pentathlon.

## Melbourne Games, 1956



Melbourne won the right to host the 1956 Olympic Games by one vote over Buenos Aires.

It was the first time that the Games were held in the Southern Hemisphere.

Due to the reversal of seasons, the Games were held in November and December.

While most of the athletes traveled down under for the 1956 Olympics, the horses and riders in the equestrian events did not. Due to Australia's strict quarantine rules, the equestrian competitions were moved to Stockholm, Sweden—nearly 9,700 miles away—and held five months before the rest of the Games.

Egypt, Lebanon, and Iraq boycotted the Games in protest of the Israeli invasion of the Sinai Peninsula.

The Soviet invasion of Hungary provoked protests from numerous Western countries, and some of them, such as Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands, withdrew from the Games.

People's Republic of China refused to participate because of the presence of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

East and West Germany competed as a single team, a practice that would last through the 1964 Games.

The US Basketball team put on the most dominant performance in Olympic history, scoring more than

With the Tokyo Olympics approaching, let's take a look at interesting facts and trivia about the Games from its previous editions. Here are some highlights and fun facts from the 1952, 1956 and 1960 Olympics Games...

twice as many points as their opponents and won each of their games by at least 30 points.

Athletes entered the stadium together during the closing ceremony as a symbol of global unity rather than in alphabetical order by National Olympic Committees which was the practice.

The electric foil was introduced for the first time in fencing and in swimming, the semi-automatic, digital-display timing device appeared.

## Rome Games, 1960



Rome finally got its chance to stage the Olympic Games, 54 years after it had to give up hosting rights of the 1908 Games, on financial grounds following the violent eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1906 which caused widespread

devastation to the city of Naples. An Olympic Stadium, home to the opening and closing ceremonies and the track-and-field competition, and a Sports Palace were built for the Games, and several ancient sites were restored and used as venues.

The wrestling competition were held in the Basilica of Maxentius, an ancient building in the Roman Forum, and gymnastics in the Caracalla Baths while the marathon was run along the Appian Way and ended under the Arch of Constantine.

Ethiopian runner Abebe Bikila won the marathon barefoot, becoming the first Black African Olympic champion.

USA's Cassius Marcellus Clay, later known as Muhammad Ali, won the light-heavyweight gold medal. In 1958, the IOC made the decision to adopt the Anthem composed by Spyros Samaras, with words by Kostis Palamas, as the official Olympic Anthem. It was played for the first time in the 1960 Rome Games.

It was the last Games in which South Africa was allowed to participate until 1992 as the IOC could not tolerate the racist policies of the South African government.

The Games were broadcast live in 18 European countries and, with only a few hours delay, to the United States, Canada and Japan.