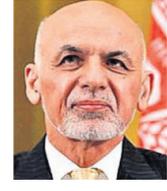




FULFILLING EXPERIENCE
 Actor Parineeti Chopra says that watching her movie *Saina* on television is going to be a fulfilling experience
LEISURE P2



RAJ KUNDRA MOVES BOMBAY HC
 Raj Kundra challenges before Bombay HC his arrest in a case of alleged production & distribution of pornographic films
TWO STATES P8



TALIBAN'S PEACE PLANK
 Taliban insist there won't be peace until there is a new negotiated govt & President Ashraf Ghani is removed
INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

RELAY RACE

Do not come further close. Maintain social distancing!

ICSE CLASS X, XII RESULTS TO BE OUT TODAY

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The CISCE will announce results for Class X and XII July 24, board Chief Executive and Secretary Gerry Arathoon said Friday. "The results of the Class X (ICSE) and Class XII (ISC) examinations will be declared Saturday, July 24 at 3 PM. The results will be made available on the website of the Council and through SMS," said Arathoon. The Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations had cancelled the exams for both the classes this year in view of the aggressive second wave of COVID-19. The result will be announced on basis of an alternate assessment policy decided by the board.

Arathoon informed that unlike previous years option of rechecking of answer scripts will not be available this year as the candidates have been awarded 'imputed marks'. However, a dispute resolution mechanism will be in place for correction of calculation errors, if any. "In the event a candidate has objections regarding computation of marks in the result, she or he may make a written application to the school, stating the objection in detail along with reasons thereof. Schools will be required to review all such applications, and only upon being satisfied with the contentions made therein, forward the same to the board along with your comments and remarks endorsing the contentions made and documents supporting the opinion regarding the computation of marks," he said.



IN SHADOW OF PANDEMIC: Fireworks on display during the opening ceremony of 2020 Olympics at the National Stadium in Tokyo, Friday. PIC: TWITTER HANDLE OF TOKYO OLYMPICS

GAMES LIKE NO OTHER KICK OFF

AGENCIES

Tokyo, July 23: In an Olympic opening ceremony like none before, one tradition held firm Friday as athletes from across the world paraded into an eerie, almost empty national stadium to represent their nations, for the first time their smiles hidden behind masks. Most countries were represented by both male and female flag-bearers in an Olympic first. The opening ceremony, normally a star-studded display teeming with celebrities, lacked the usual glitz with fewer than 1,000 people in attendance, strict social distancing rules and signs calling on spectators to 'be quiet around the venue'. The Olympic oath, recited by the athletes at the end of the parade, has been updated for the Tokyo Games, with athletes swearing their commitment to inclusion, equality, and non-discrimination for the first time at the Olympics.

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Maha: 112 dead in monsoon mayhem

REUTERS

Mumbai, July 23: At least 112 people have died in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, authorities said Friday, after torrential monsoon rains caused landslides and flooded low-lying areas, cutting off hundreds of villages.

Parts of India's west coast received up to 594 mm (23 inches) of rainfall over 24 hours, forcing authorities to evacuate people from vulnerable areas as they released water from dams that were threatening to overflow.

"Unexpectedly very heavy rainfall triggered landslides in many places and flooded rivers," Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray told journalists.

"Dams and rivers are overflowing. We are forced to release water from dams, and, accordingly, we are moving people residing near the riverbanks to safer places."

The navy and army were helping with rescue operations in coastal areas, he added.

At least 38 people were killed in Taliye, 180 km southeast of the financial capital Mumbai, when a landslide flattened most of the small village, state government officials said. In nine other landslides in other parts of Maharashtra 59 people died and another 15 were killed in accidents linked to the heavy rainfall, they said.

A few dozen people were also feared to have been trapped in landslides in Satara and Raigad districts, said a state government official who asked not to be named.

"Rescue operations are going on at various places in Satara, Raigad and Ratnagiri. Due to heavy rainfall and flooded rivers, we are struggling to move rescue machinery quickly," he said.

Thousands of trucks were stuck on a national highway linking Mumbai with the southern technology hub of Bangalore, with the road submerged in some places, another Maharashtra official said. Meanwhile, hundreds of villages and towns were without electricity and drinking water, he said.

Rivers were also overflowing in the neighbouring southern states of Karnataka and Telangana where authorities were monitoring the situation, government officials there said.



A view of flood-hit areas following heavy monsoon rains in Raigad district of Maharashtra, Friday. PTI PHOTO

SP's clean chit to DFO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, July 23: The sensational case of assistant conservator of forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra's death took a new twist Friday after Gajapati Superintendent of Police (SP) Tapan Kumar Patnaik gave a clean chit to Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sangram Keshari Behera in the case.

The family members of the deceased ACF have accused the Gajapati DFO of being involved in a conspiracy in which the ACF was burned to death.

The CDR reports of the DFO said that the officer did not contact Bidyabharti Panda, the wife of the deceased. The DFO has no link with the cook of the ACF, the SP said.



ACF DEATH CASE
 Paralakhemundi police Friday interrogated accused DFO Behera in connection with the alleged murder of the ACF Behera was brought under the ambit of the probe after Soumya's father Abhiram Mohapatra alleged the DFO was involved in his son's death.

He had also alleged Soumya's wife was having an 'affair' with the DFO.

In another development, a note written by the ACF to his wife surfaced Friday. The note revealed by the ACF's advocate exposed the strained relationship between the two since their marriage. The advocate said the note shows that Soumya was keen on keeping the marriage intact.

"Whatever you want, I will make arrangements for that. I will definitely fulfill that. I will resign from my job and be your servant. But, I want a small place at your feet," the ACF wrote in the note February 22. "I don't want your qualification...I won't ever tell you anything about this. I just need you as my wife and a good friend," the note added.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VI	VA
SENSEX	52975.80	↑	138.59
NIFTY	15856.00	↑	32.00
DOLLAR	74.71	↓	₹0.05
EURO	87.83	↑	₹0.11
GOLD	₹47,461	↓	₹173
SILVER	₹66,773	↓	₹601

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.1°C	29.8°C
TEMP MIN	25.4°C	25.0°C
Humidity	92%	92%
Rainfall	0.6mm	5mm
Forecast	Light rain	very likely

Be prepared for third wave, CM tells babus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Expressing concern over the possible third wave of Covid-19 that may hit the state during the end of August, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday asked state officials to remain fully prepared to tackle the situation.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the Covid-19 situation and preparedness for the possible third wave, Patnaik said, if the third wave comes by the end of August, as per experts' prediction, the state machinery should have to remain fully prepared to deal with any kind of eventuality.

"Even though the situation is under control in the state, it is no time for complacency. More caution will keep us safe from the virus," the CM said.

Patnaik asked his officials to ensure strict enforcement of Covid-19 norms and appealed to the people to adhere to the safety protocols.

"Every life is precious" is the basis of the state's health policy, Patnaik said, adding therefore, everyone starting from the police station IIC and BDO to SP and Collector have to ensure there is no problem in delivery of healthcare services at CHC to district-level.

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra, who was also present at the meeting, emphasised on the vaccination of teachers and school staff before reopening of schools for Classes X and XII July 26.

AGENCIES

Bangalore, July 23: The Karnataka High Court Friday quashed the notice issued to Twitter India Managing Director Manish Maheshwari by Uttar Pradesh police, seeking his personal appearance as part of its probe into a communally sensitive video uploaded by a user on Twitter platform, saying it was issued by malafide.

The single bench of Justice G Narendar said that the notice under Section 41(A) CrPC should be treated as Section under 160 of CrPC, allowing Ghaziabad police to question Maheshwari through virtual mode, at his office or his residential address in Bangalore.

Maintaining that the provisions of the statute under Section 41(A) CrPC should not be permitted to become 'tools of harassment', Justice Narendar said Ghaziabad police did not place any material which would demonstrate even the prima facie involvement of the petitioner, though the hearing has been going on for the past several days.

"In the background of the fact that section 41(a) notice was issued by malafide, the writ petition (filed by Maheshwari seeking quashing) is maintainable. Accordingly, the notice under section Annexure A notice shall be read as section 160 of the CrPC," the court said. "The action of the respondent (Ghaziabad police) trying to invoke section 41(A) of the CrPC gives no doubt in the mind of court that the same has been resorted to as an arm-twisting method."

Xi makes maiden trip to Tibet town bordering Arunachal

HE IS PERHAPS THE FIRST CHINESE LEADER TO VISIT THE TOWN AT THE INDIA-CHINA BORDER

AGENCIES

Beijing, July 23: Chinese President Xi Jinping has made a rare visit to Nyingchi, a strategically located border town close to Arunachal Pradesh, during his first visit to Tibet, the official media reported Friday.

Xi arrived at the Nyingchi Mainling Airport Wednesday and was greeted by local people and officials of various ethnic groups,

Xinhua news agency reported.

He is perhaps the first Chinese leader to visit the town at the India-China border. Xi's politically significant visit was kept under wraps by China's official media till Friday.

During his visit to Nyingchi, Xi, 68, visited the Nyang River Bridge to inspect the ecological preservation in the basin of the Brahmaputra river, which is called Yarlung Zangbo in the Tibetan language.

China this year has approved plans to build a huge dam over the Brahmaputra during the current 14th Five-Year Plan, which raised concerns in the riparian states of India and Bangladesh.

Nyingchi is a prefecture-level city in Tibet that is adjacent to the Arunachal Pradesh border.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, which is firmly rejected by India. The India-China border dispute covers the



3,488-km Line of Actual Control (LAC). Xi's visit to Tibet took place amidst the current India-China military tensions in eastern Ladakh.

India and China have been locked in a military standoff at multiple friction points in eastern Ladakh since early May last year.

The two sides completed the withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong Lake in February following a series of military and

diplomatic talks. The two sides are now engaged in talks to extend the disengagement process to the remaining friction points.

Chinese leaders periodically visit Tibet. But Xi, who also heads the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and the powerful Central Military Commission - the overall high command of the Chinese military - is perhaps the first top leader in recent years to visit Tibet's border town.

China this year has approved plans to build a huge dam over the Brahmaputra during the current 14th Five-Year Plan, which raised concerns in the riparian states of India and Bangladesh.

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EMILY BLUNT ACKNOWLEDGES DWAYNE'S ROLE IN HER CAREER

Emily Blunt has opened up working with Dwayne Johnson in the upcoming film *Jungle Cruise*. The actress talked about how she takes career advice from him and shared that she really appreciates that the Hollywood star has struggled for success.

SEAN PENN REFUSES TO RETURN TO WORK

Actor filmmaker Sean Penn will not resume work on the series *Gaslit* until the entire cast and crew get Covid-19 vaccines. NBC Universal, the studio for *Gaslit*, provided an on-site vaccination clinic for those involved with the production as Penn has put his foot down, reports *variety.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Boy! Are you ambitious today or what! You plan meticulously and perform impeccably. However, you will progress at snail's pace. But don't lose heart, as Ganesh shows his blessings on you, dear one.

TAURUS

This day you are likely to make wasteful expenditure. You will be more reckless, extravagant than you can afford to be. Your expenses are sure to outweigh your income. Be as tightfisted as you can. Not buying anything unnecessary or too costly can help control losses, points out Ganesh.

GEMINI

Analysing other people's minds and thoughts will be your favourite pastime today. You will find yourself thinking about your family life, security and financial issues. Your sensitivity and emotional nature will endear you to many, and they will bestow their love and affection upon you, says Ganesh.

CANCER

The mundane will bring contentment to you today, and you will rather spend the day doing routine stuff. It looks set to be an ordinary day, but then you can always find thrill even in routine activities. Work will keep you on your toes through the day, but then as the day drags ahead, you may feel a tad bored.

LEO

You will accomplish all your tasks with courage today. As a result of which, the efforts you have made in the last few months will now bear fruit. You need to make a schedule of the tasks you need to tackle today. You need to guard against over-stressing yourself, otherwise your health could suffer, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Today you will find yourself overflowing with ideas. You have a soothing touch, the hands of a healer, and so you will be able to help many people, says Ganesh. You will be very considerate, and your mind-reading abilities will work wonders both for you and your loved ones.

LIBRA

Ganesh says you will stay in accordance with your prestige or social status. Your innovative ideas will help you progress in your work field. Now is a good time to put into completion those ideas, which had taken a back seat.

SCORPIO

It's business time and shock your competitors with the launch of the new product. However, stars are not aligned in a favourable way, which indicates that you may come across some hurdles. Take your time, sort out the troubles and go ahead with your launch with much fanfare and celebrations.

SAGITTARIUS

You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

CAPRICORN

For you everything is fair in love and war, and you utilise every possible means to achieve your targets. You have a strong sixth sense and it will direct you while making the right decisions, feels Ganesh. You are a soft hearted person and it makes you sad to see others in sadness and trouble.

AQUARIUS

You are good with words and with the art of eloquence you manage to get through any situation. Today, thanks to your communication skills, you will be able to crack important deals and make people follow your vision. You, however, need to respect opinions of others' as well, advises Ganesh.

PISCES

You will delay taking important decisions in the office or regarding business. You will take you time to come to a conclusion and put in all the required thought and this will grant you clarity on all the issues at hand. While this will be great for you, Ganesh advises you not to make hasty decisions regarding your personal life.

Punchman Padhan smashes another Guinness Record



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Satyapira Padhan of Kalahandi, known as Punchman of India, Friday shattered yet another Guinness World Records after striking 348 double punches in one minute. He overtook Pavel Trusov of Slovakia who held the previous record of 334 punches.

Padhan achieved the feat on Buddha Mandir premises here in the presence of Guinness committee approved observers including expert witness Suresh Chandra Chhatra, and Nrusingha Charan Panda, an independent wit-

ness. Sasmita Rautaray, Sports Officer, Lajpat Rai DAV School, Cuttack and Gajendra Barik were the time keepers while Sugyan Kesharee Pradhan was the punch pad keeper.

The video clip of his performance will be sent to Guinness World Records for final confirmation.

Earlier, Padhan had created two Guinness World Records — one in 2017 and the other in 2018 — and was felicitated by Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik for his record-breaking feat. In 2017, he broke the record of Mohammed Rashid of Pakistan by striking 393 single punches in a minute. Next year,

Padhan broke another record of maximum punches in one minute along with holding 1 kg weight. He hit 312 one handed punches breaking the previous record of 260 punches.

Speaking to **Orissa POST** Padhan said, "The title of Punchman of India made me go after the records. I want to inspire more people, youngsters in particular, to set new records in different disciplines."

More than 10 youths from Odisha and Rajasthan, who were groomed by Padhan, have already set new Guinness World Records in the field of martial arts, athletics and dance.

Playing Saina was fulfilling: Parineeti

Mumbai: Actress Parineeti Chopra says that watching her movie *Saina* on television is going to be a fulfilling experience. She recalls the days she spent preparing for the role.

While sharing her experience, Parineeti says: "Saina has inspired millions and it

was extremely fulfilling to play her on screen. It took blood and sweat to transform myself. I vividly remember spending my days as an athlete and even crying out of pain on the court. But it was all worth it. Saina Nehwal was my initial guiding force. Priyanka Chopra even gave me

pointers on how to mould myself for the role, since she played a sports character in the past."

Ace badminton player Saina Nehwal says it was surreal to see her own life on screen. She is delighted looking at Amole Gupte's creative vision,

Parineeti and child actor Naishaa's portrayal of her character.

Directed by Amole Gupte, the movie also featured Manav Kaul, Meghana Malik and Eshan Naqvi in pivotal roles. The film will premiere July 25 on Zee Cinema.



EZCC's online theatre fest kicks off



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Koraput-based theatre troupe Nandanik staged Odia play *Asantu Banchiba* Thursday, on the first day of the four day online theatre festival organised by Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), under Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The virtual event is being held virtually from July 22 to 25 on the Facebook page and YouTube channel of EZCC. Many troupes from Bhubaneswar, Puri, Khurda, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Kalahandi, Paradip, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Dhenkanal and Koraput are participating in the festival.

Written by Sourav Gupta and directed by Monideepa Gupta, *Asantu Banchiba* is themed on Covid-19 awareness. Saumendra Swain designed the costumes for the play. As many as 12 young actors from different educational institutes of Koraput performed the play on the stage. Apart from Nandanik, nine other teams also staged their plays Thursday.

Ayushmann shares his biggest regret

Mumbai: Actor Ayushmann Khurrana on the occasion of Guru Purnima, which falls Saturday, has acknowledged the impact that late singer-actor Kishore Kumar has had on his life and career.

Ayushmann called the legendary star an 'institution'.

"Kishore Kumar is not just a legend and an

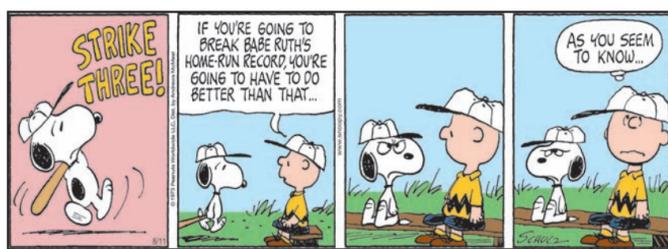
icon, he is an institution. He has always been a beacon of inspiration for me, his songs have given me my biggest learnings when I decided to pursue my passion for music and I'm in awe of the legacy he has left behind," Ayushmann said.

Ayushmann though has a huge regret.

"It is my single biggest regret that I didn't get the opportunity to meet him and seek his blessings, but through his music, I'm blessed to understand his brilliance," added the *Bala* actor.

Speaking about his upcoming slate of work, Ayushmann will soon be seen in *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui* directed by Abhishek Kapoor, *Anek* directed by Anubhav Sinha, and *Doctor G* directed by Anubhuti Kashyap.

PEANUTS



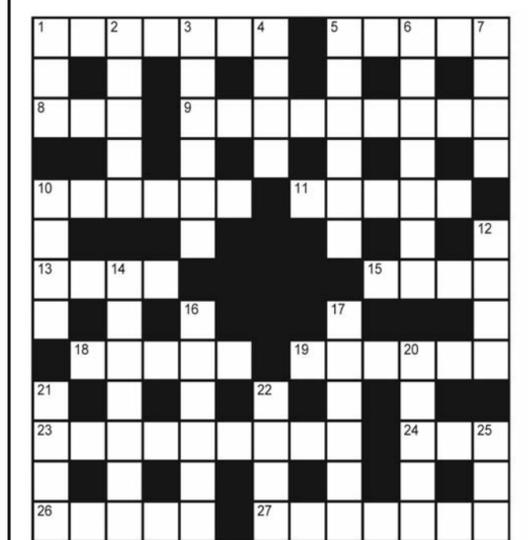
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Messenger of Jupiter
 - 5 Scimitar
 - 8 Swindle
 - 9 National park in Tanzania
 - 10 Manservant
 - 11 Guanaco's cousin
 - 13 Pipe problem
 - 15 Curved molding
 - 18 Devout
 - 19 Recluse
 - 23 Magpie, for one
 - 24 Beaver's work
 - 26 Low cards
 - 27 Quandary
 - 7 Diabolical
 - 10 Unguent
 - 12 Straight, at the bar
 - 14 Rile up
 - 16 *The Fall of Phaeton* painter
 - 17 Saab mover
 - 20 Computer accessory
 - 21 Attention-getter
 - 22 Old-time oath
 - 25 Extinct flightless bird

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.

9			1					
	4	7		6				8
					2	3		
	3		2					
7	1							
					9	2		6
							4	
		8	9					5
5			4			9		2

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

C	R	M	B	S	N	I	O	B	E
A	R	A	M	D	L	P			
P	U	N	C	H	L	I	N	E	U
E		A	C	A	E	A			
S	T	O	R	M	K	I	L	L	J
U	A	E	E	E	E	E			
L	O	T	S	T	Y	L	E	A	D
O	O	M	M	M	N				
I	N	F	E	R	N	O	P	A	S
T	E	D	O	U	E				
R	T	A	A	U	S	T	R	A	L
R	T	R	E	O	A	I	R		
Y	E	A	S	T	R	F	R	A	P

SUDOKU

9	5	4	7	2	3	6	1	8
1	2	6	8	9	4	7	5	3
8	3	7	6	1	5	9	2	4
7	8	1	5	4	6	3	9	2
6	4	2	3	8	9	1	7	5
3	9	5	1	7	2	4	8	6
5	6	9	2	3	7	8	4	1
4	1	3	9	5	8	2	6	7
2	7	8	4	6	1	5	3	9

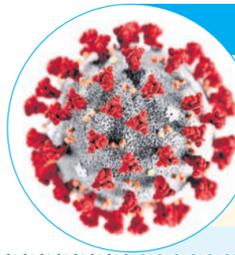
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



EVICTED IN CITY

Civic authorities evict Mahaveer slum of Gadakana area in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	19,36,03,856	17,58,69,027	41,55,011
India	3,12,93,062	3,04,68,079	4,19,470
Odisha	9,63,851	9,39,160	5,377

EX GRATIA TO KIN OF 17 SCRIBES DIED OF COVID

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The state government has sanctioned ₹2.55 crore from Journalists Welfare Fund for disbursement to the next of kin of the journalists, who died of Covid-19.

Official sources said that with the approval of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department has sanctioned ex gratia of ₹15 Lakh each to 17 working journalists of the state who died of Covid-19.

The deceased journalists whose names have been approved by the government under the scheme include Manas Jaypuria (Zee Odisha), Basanta Das, (Freelancer), Bijayalaxmi Mohanty (Ajikali), Pritiman Mohapatra (Times of India), Subhansu Sekhara Mishra (Sambad), Jateesh Chandra Khamari (Sambad), Kailash Chandra Sahoo (Pragatibadi), Gobind Behera (TV News 6-Web) and Pradeep Kishore Sahu (Sambad).



Others are: Kishore Chandra Dash (Samaj), Naresh Kumar Behera (Odisha Files), Karunakar Sahoo (Anupam Bharat), Bhanuprakash Rath (Naxatra TV), Ashok Kumar Sahoo (Manthan), Pravat Kumar Routray (Loka Sampark), Ratnakar Moharana and Nilaya Ranjan Patnaik.

A few more such cases have been received by I&PR department which will be considered after due verification, official sources said.

After enquiry at the district levels, eligible applications will be considered for disbursement of the assistance.

Seafood output up 747% in 10 years

Odisha's seafood has caught the global market particularly in Japan, China, USA, European Union, South East Asia and Middle East

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Brackish water aquaculture in state has witnessed a growth of 747 per cent in the last 10 years with a commensurate increase in the value of seafood exports from the coastal state, an official said Friday.

This was revealed at a high-level meeting held on digital mode under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra.

Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) Secretary R Raghu Prasad said that there has been a significant growth in the sector over the last 10 years.

"The production of brackish water fish increased from 11,460 MT in 2011-12 to 97,125 MT in 2020-21, marking a record growth of 747.51 per cent. Similarly, the area under brackish water aquaculture also increased from 5,860 hectare to 17,780 hectare during the period," Prasad said.

Despite Covid-induced economic slowdown, seafood exports from Odisha increased from ₹801 crore in 2011-12 to ₹3,107 crore in 2020-21. The quantum of exports in 2011-12 was around 21,311 MT which rose to 60,718 MT in 2020-21, he said.

Prasad said that Odisha's seafood has caught the global market more particularly in Japan, China, USA, European Union, South East Asia and Middle East. "There is a greater potential of brackish water aquaculture in the government as well as private land in Odisha. The sector also can attract more private investments," he said.

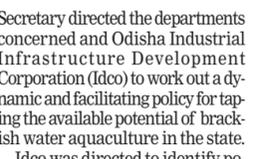
Reviewing the progress, the Chief

Aquaculture boost

The production of brackish water fish increased from 11,460 MT in 2011-12 to 97,125 MT in 2020-21, marking a record growth of 747.51%

The area under brackish water aquaculture also increased from 5,860 hectare to 17,780 hectare during the period

SEAFOOD EXPORTS FROM ODISHA ALSO WITNESSED A RISE FROM ₹801 CRORE IN 2011-12 TO ₹3,107 CRORE IN 2020-21



SEAFOOD EXPORTS FROM ODISHA ALSO WITNESSED A RISE FROM ₹801 CRORE IN 2011-12 TO ₹3,107 CRORE IN 2020-21

Secretary directed the departments concerned and Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Idco) to work out a dynamic and facilitating policy for tapping the available potential of brackish water aquaculture in the state.

Idco was directed to identify potential land in different districts and develop a land bank for the purpose in close coordination with Fisheries department officers and respective Collectors. Mahapatra also directed Idco to identify land in clusters and develop the facilities like saline water drainage, road and power connectivity for building aquaculture parks. The F&ARD officials operating at different levels were asked to drive the programme in a proactive manner.

Forest and Environment Additional Chief Secretary Mona Sharma advised the officials to identify the land patches for brackish water aquaculture keeping in mind the Coastal Regulation Zone and Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act

norms so as to avoid any possible embarrassment to the farmers.

He directed the officials to tap the potentials in the sector by bringing in the self-help groups, primary fishermen cooperative societies, women cooperatives, educated unemployed enterprising youths, partnership farms and state owned cooperatives on commercial basis.

Review showed that around 2,000 applications for brackish water aquaculture were recently submitted to different tehsils in Balasore, Bhardak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam. Mahapatra directed the district administrations concerned to take quick action on the proposals as per the existing provisions.

Brackish water aquaculture is the cultivation of aquatic organisms where the end product is raised in brackish water including estuaries, coves, bays and lagoons in which the salinity may lie or generally fluctuate between 0.5 per-mille and full strength seawater.

CM flags off 3 projects worth ₹436.93 crore

The Chief Minister also lays foundation stones for 11 projects involving investment of ₹1,100.14 crore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday launched three industrial projects worth ₹436.93 crore and laid foundation stones for another 11 projects involving investment of ₹1,100.14 crore.

He inaugurated a solar power plant set up by Aditya Birla Renewables Limited in Bolangir district with an investment of ₹352.50 crore which will generate employment opportunities for 80 persons.

An Aluminium Dross Refining unit of Runaya Refining LLP was also inaugurated at Banjari in Jharsuguda district. The cost of this project is ₹64.43 crore and it is likely to create 175 jobs.

A Garments manufacturing unit at Chhatabar in Khurda district by Wild Lotus Fashions was also inaugurated by Patnaik. This unit has been established with an investment of ₹20 crore which will generate employment opportunities for over 783 persons, the official said.

Speaking at the event, Patnaik said, "Odisha is fast emerging as the 'Manufacturing Hub of Eastern India'. My government's stable policy and regulatory environment has enabled the growth of industries in the state."

Reform initiatives like ease of doing business and facilitation provided by various departments have ensured that businesses continue to grow in the state, he said.

Thanking the state-based industries for their corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, the Chief Minister said, "Our industries have been actively partnering with the state government not only in economic development but also in dis-



Fresh impetus

The CM inaugurates a solar power plant set up by Aditya Birla Renewables Limited in Bolangir district with an investment of ₹352.50 crore which will generate employment opportunities for 80 persons

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charging social responsibility."

During the peak of the second wave, when the whole country was witnessing shortage of medical oxygen, Odisha responded proactively and supported other states in supplying life-saving medical oxygen.

A total of 195 projects were inaugurated and ground breaking performed since November 2017 in the state. Investment value of these projects is ₹92,460.84 crore with the potential to create over 1,18,211 job opportunities, sources said.

BODY ON KUAKHAI RIVERBED

Autopsy report silent on cause of youth's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The suspicious death of a youth whose half-buried body was found on Kuakhai riverbed at Barimunda under Mancheswar police limits July 21 evening is still shrouded in mystery. Sources claimed that the postmortem report further deepened the mystery as it failed to shed light on the reasons behind the death of the deceased youth aged between 18 and 25 years.

The postmortem report revealed no deep wound mark on the deceased youth's body. However, police are yet to get the report from the medical officer formally.



FILE PHOTO

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, a senior police official claimed that the cops have sent the viscera report to the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) for examination. The viscera report would unearth presence of poison or any other substance in the body of the victim.

Meanwhile, several teams of Commissionerate Police Friday visited various areas around the Capital city to find out any missing report registered at the local police stations. Police would soon release posters of the deceased youth.

Earlier, police had revealed that the scientific team used 3D scanner to videograph the whole incident. The body did not bear any injury mark. The height of the youth is around 5ft 8 inch while his weight is around 46 kg. It is suspected that the youth might have been strangled or poisoned to death.



Cong's boat protest against waterlogging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The state unit of Congress Friday organised a unique protest to raise the issue of waterlogging in several areas across the city during the monsoon.

Senior party leaders including Suresh Routray arranged a boat and hopped into it to vent their anger over massive waterlogging at several places like near Iskon temple, Behera Sahi and Bomikhal in the smart city during the recent

rains. Routray said that the problem exists across the state and it needs immediate attention of the government. "Most of the important junctions in the state are now waterlogged. You can see this across the so called smart city be it Nayapalli, Iskon temple area, Rasulgarh, Patia, Bargarh and many other important colonies here," he said.

He also added, "We have organised the protest to draw attention of the Chief Minister, Chief

Secretary and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Sanjay Singh towards the issue."

The Congress leader also said that there is an urgent need to clear the choked drains and roads. "Cases of dengue in the city are now increasing by the day. If our demands are not met, we will gherao the BMC office in the days to come. This is the same BMC which failed miserably in schemes like Mo Cycle," he said.

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davp 09122/11/0003/2122

Now, Environmental Studies & Disaster Mgmt in UG syllabus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Environmental Studies and Disaster Management, a new course prepared by Odisha Higher Education Council, will be introduced in Plus III curriculum from this academic session.

This was revealed by Higher Education Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo at the 4th Odisha Higher Education Council meeting organised by the department here, Friday. Addressing the meeting, Sahoo said that the new course would be taught in Plus III First Year Arts, Science and Commerce classes from this year as a compulsory subject.

The 4-unit syllabus will carry 100 marks in first semester.

Sahoo further said a model syllabus has already been prepared as part of the ongoing examination reforms.

Meanwhile, at the vice chancellors' meeting, vice chairperson of the Council Ashok Kumar Das declared the exam details of both UG and PG courses. All the UG final semester exams will start August 19 and the results will be declared September 2.

This apart, common PG entrance exam for 2021 will be held between August 23 and September 1, 2021 and admissions to PG courses will start October 15.

Similarly, PG final semester examination will start August 31 and result will be declared September 20.

Earlier, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in May this year had resolved



- The new course would be taught in Plus III First Year Arts, Science and Commerce classes from this year as a compulsory subject
- All the UG final semester exams will start August 19 and the results will be declared September 2
- Common PG entrance exam for 2021 will be held between August 23 and September 1, 2021 and admissions to PG courses will start October 15

to make 'Disaster and Pandemic Preparedness' a part of the curriculum in schools and colleges.

At a Cabinet meeting May 29, 2021, the state government had decided to introduce 'Disaster and Pandemic Preparedness' as part of curriculum in schools and colleges. Accordingly, the Higher Education department has revised the existing model syllabus 'Environmental Science' as 'Environmental Study and Disaster Management', the department stated.

This apart, Sahoo said that this year the government faced huge challenges in continuing the education but the process was started with changes in syllabus.

The minister also said that under Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivisation Plan, the HE department is also seeking application for innovative research propos-

als from young faculties (aged below 40 years) of different colleges and universities to carry out research works by getting seed funding from the state government. If a faculty member gets selected, he/she will get seed funding of ₹5 lakh fellowship for research, he added.

Meanwhile, environmentalist JK Panigrahi said that the decision to introduce disaster management in Plus III curriculum is timely and praiseworthy. Considering the staggering environmental challenges the living world is confronted with consistently, environmental science/studies has been made a compulsory subject for all streams, he said. "Now, some units of the subject can be attributed to diverse aspects of the natural and human-induced disasters to make the future citizens well prepared as disaster-warriors," Panigrahi added.

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Last Date for Online Registration	14 th August 2021
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All dates given above may change subject to position of COVID-19

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ECoR GM inspects City railway station renovation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager (GM) Vidya Bhushan Friday inspected Bhubaneswar railway station and took stock of various passenger amenities.

The ECoR GM also enquired about the facilities required to be taken up as part of the station redevelopment plan, sources said. The Bhubaneswar railway station would be developed into a world class station with facilities like an airport. The station will be developed into a commercial hub with aesthetic lighting, improved signage, and better passenger amenities. Apart from this, the surroundings of the station would be beautified. The vicinity of the station would have better drainage system and adequate space for parking of vehicles, ECoR sources said.

A MoU was signed between the state government and the ECoR for the redevelopment for Bhubaneswar railway station in September 2019. Around ₹1,075 crore would be spent on the project. Steps are being taken to make Bhubaneswar railway station as one of the best stations in the eastern India, said the GM.

69 fatalities take Covid toll to 5,377

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Odisha's Covid-19 tally mounted to 9,63,851 Friday as 1,917 more people tested positive for the infection, while 69 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 5,377, a Health department official said.

Of the fresh cases, 1,109 were reported from quarantine centres and the remaining 808 detected during contact tracing, he said.

Khurda district recorded the highest number of new cases at 518, followed by Balasore (256) and Puri (118).

At least 2,210 people were cured of the disease Thursday, taking the total number of recoveries in the state to 9, 39,160, he said.

Khurda district recorded the maximum number of fresh fatalities at 26, followed by Balasore (10), Sambalpur (seven),

IN A NUTSHELL



■ Of the fresh cases, 1,109 were reported from quarantine centres and the remaining 808 detected during contact tracing

■ Khurda district recorded the maximum number of fresh fatalities at 26, followed by Balasore (10), Sambalpur (seven), Kendrapara (six), Bargarh (five), Sundargarh (four), Balasore, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal and Rayagada (two each)

THE STATE HAS SO FAR TESTED OVER 1.54 CRORE SAMPLES AND THE POSITIVITY RATE CURRENTLY STANDS AT 6.24 PER CENT

Kendrapara (six), Bargarh (five), Sundargarh (four), Balasore, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal and

Rayagada (two each). One patient each succumbed to the infection in Dhenkanal,

Deities back in Srimandir as Rath Yatra concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 23: Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra Friday returned to the sanctum sanctorum of Srimandir after culmination of the annual Rath Yatra, which was organised without the presence of devotees due to the Covid-19 pandemic for the second year in a row.

The deities were re-installed on the Ratna Singhasan (bejewelled throne) of the 12th century shrine as part of the Niladri Bijje rituals.

The sibling deities were taken to the sanctum sanctorum from their respective chariots through the ceremonial Pahandi procession that began around 4:30 pm after completion of several routine rituals like Mailam, Madhyahna Dhoopa and Sandhya Dhoopa.

Prior to the Pahandi procession, a canopy was placed above the Ratna Singhasan.

Lord Jagannath and his siblings had embarked on a nine-day sojourn to Srigundicha temple on the occasion of Rath Yatra July 12. The deities returned to the Lions' Gate of Srimandir from Srigundicha temple by riding the three majestic chariots on the occasion of Bahuda Yatra July 20.

They were adorned with gold ornaments on their respective chariots on the Grand Road during the Suna Beshra ritual July 21.

The deities were offered Adhara Pana, a delicious drink, on their chariots July 22.



RWH facilities in 2 more City parks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) has decided to install rain water harvesting (RWH) systems in two parks of the capital city.

Issuing e-tenders, the BDA has invited proposals from interested parties for installation of the RWHs in Kharavela Park in Khandagiri and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Park in Vani Vihar. Moreover, proposals are also invited for development of the first floor of the gymnasium at Indira Gandhi Park.

"We have issued tenders worth ₹76.67 lakh for various projects at different parks of the city. RWH installation will cost ₹10.87 lakh for Kharavela Park. Installation cost of the same in Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Park is estimated to be ₹10.61 lakh. Meanwhile, development works at Indira Gandhi Park are set to cost ₹44.26 lakh. The estimated time of completion for RWHs is 40 days each while it is 60 days for the gymnasium work," a BDA official stated.

There are more than 120 parks in the city, out of which 57 bigger parks are under the management of the BDA while the rest are under the BMC. The BDA had installed the first RWH at Biju Patnaik Park, also known as 'Forest Park', in December last year. It had then planned to introduce this facility at around 32 parks across the city.

Govt inks pact to provide livelihood to urban youths

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The state government Friday signed a Memorandum of Association (MoA) with Pune-based Lighthouse Communities Foundation (LCF) for providing sustainable livelihood to youths in cities and towns of the state.

The MoA was signed between the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department and LCF in the presence of H&UD Minister Pratap Jena here.

Under the three-year-MoA, skilling and livelihood centres will be established in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Berhampur, Dhenkanal, Paradip and Jatni, official sources said.

These skilling centres will train poor urban youths in soft skills and technical skills, and facilitate them with placement services.

The centres are also expected to cover micro-entrepreneurship focused skilling. This program is expected to be implemented in all other cities in a phased manner; the source said.

Speaking on the occasion, Jena said, "Our endeavour through all our missions and schemes is to ensure no citizen in urban Odisha is left behind. We seek to create an enabling environment for every citizen of urban Odisha to fully realise their potential and aspirations."

"We firmly believe that providing the right skills and opportunities to these youths can empower them to fulfill their career aspirations, and transform their communities as well," said LCF chairperson

Ganesh Natarajan visits World Skill Centre

BHUBANESWAR: A business delegation headed by Ganesh Natarajan visited the World Skill Centre in Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar Friday. Natarajan is an entrepreneur and the founder of '5F World', a platform for digital start-ups, skills, and social ventures.

During his visit, he checked the infrastructure of the centre and also held a meeting with Subroto Bagchi, Chairman of the Odisha Skill Development Authority, and shared his collaboration plans. Natarajan has more than 30

Ganesh Natarajan.

A hub and spoke model will be explored leveraging technology, whereby all 114 urban local bodies (ULBs) would be covered in a phased manner.

This partnership marks the be-

ginning of a new phase in JAGA Mission, the earlier two phases of which focused on granting land rights, providing financial assistance for housing, and upgrading basic infrastructure and amenities in slum communities.

years of industry experience including 25 years as CEO of Aptech and Zensar Technologies. He is the co-founder of Global Talent Track, Skills Alpha, and Lighthouse Communities Foundation. He has also co-founded two Indo-US joint ventures, namely Kalzoom Advisors, and Center for AI and Advanced Analytics. He completed his master's in Industrial Engineering from NITIE Mumbai, Ph.D. from IIT Bombay, and Advanced Management Program from Harvard Business School.

NAYAGARH MINOR GIRL DEATH

SC asks Pari's mother to file plea under Art 136

What Articles 32 & 136 say
Article 32 grants a person the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred in Part III of the Constitution. It states that the Supreme Court shall have the power to issue directions or orders or writs for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by Part III
Under Article 136, a person can challenge the order of the lower court/tribunal in the Supreme Court. Article 136 states that the Supreme Court shall have the power to grant special leave to appeal against any judgment or order or decree in any matter or cause, passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India

POST NEWS NETWORK

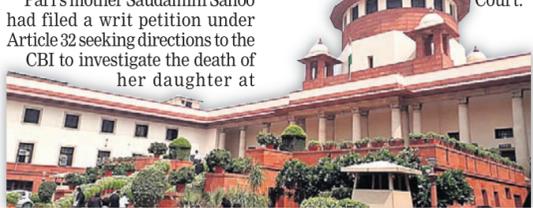
New Delhi, July 23: The Supreme Court Friday asked the petitioner, the mother of a 5-year-old girl Pari who was allegedly kidnapped, raped and killed in July last year, to file a petition under Article 136 of the Constitution challenging the High Court order.

A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna observed that the matter doesn't fall under Article 32 and asked the petitioner to file a special leave petition challenging the order of the Orissa High Court. The top court posted the matter for hearing August 17.

Pari's mother Soudamini Sahoo had filed a writ petition under Article 32 seeking directions to the CBI to investigate the death of her daughter at

Jadupur in Nayagarh.

Earlier, the Orissa High Court had disposed of several petitions seeking inquiry in the Pari case by an independent agency. The High Court had disposed of the petitions filed by Pari's father and granted him liberty to approach the Magistrate. Another petition was filed by the sarpanch of Laxmi Prasad Panchayat, but the HC disposed of his petition as well. One more petition was filed in the High Court seeking CBI inquiry. The petition had been disposed of citing that a petition filed by the mother of Pari is already pending with the Supreme Court.



IMD issues alert of very heavy rainfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday issued orange category warning of extremely heavy rainfall in different parts of the state Saturday.

The department, while issuing the weather warning for Saturday, said, "Heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy falls very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sonapur, Bargarh, Bolangir and Nuapada." It also said that due to heavy rain, temporary water logging, traffic congestion and low visibility may be observed.

The department also said that heavy rain could be seen in Odisha Saturday in districts like Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Koraput, Kalahandi, Boudh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khurda and Puri.

All 6 ECMO machines to reach state by July end

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The Health department Friday said that it would receive all the six extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machines by the end of this month.

Director of Medical Education and Training CBK Mohanty said that the state has already received two sets of the machine and the training for the same is in progress.

"The state has already received two ECMO machines and other orders are likely to be delivered by the end of this month. After receiving the machines, there would be training for health staff to operate the machines. After receiving the machines, it takes around one-to-two weeks to complete the training process before they are put to use," he said.

The department had earlier is-

sued orders for six ECMO machines which would be installed at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. These machines act as life support systems for patients with compromised lungs.

These machines were hardly available in government setups in the state while very few private hospitals in the state had the machines but they used to charge very high costs. Many were left with no option than to migrate to other states for ECMO treatment.

Mohanty also said that Covid cases are declining. "The cases of Covid-19 have now become stagnant in the state. This is the situation in other countries too. We expect that the cases will also come down further. We are already working on vaccination and contact tracing. We have good coverage of Covid vaccination in Bhubaneswar," he said.

BCKIC, Birla Global sign MoU

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) and Birla Global University (BGU) Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for upgradation of scientific, technological and innovation infrastructure.

With the inking of the MoU, BGU has become a formal member of the S&T cluster, sources said. In accordance with the MoU, the two institutes will organise industry-academia collaborative workshops with focus on developing commercial products and technologies.

The two institutes will hold training programmes to generate trained manpower for local industries. Besides, they will spread awareness about science and technology among the people.

The MoU will enable cross mobility of researchers, technical staff and faculty of member in-



The MoU will enable cross mobility of researchers, technical staff and faculty of member institutes through open access of knowledge and infrastructure

stitutes through open access of knowledge and infrastructure.

Moreover, BCKIC and BGU will collaborate with other cluster members to develop and pursue joint proposals for grants from public and private sectors towards creation of dedicated facilities like patent cells, technology transfer cells, science museums and other infrastructure.

The two institutes will collaborate with other cluster members to create short-term exchange programmes between industry and academia, said the MoU.

Book unveiled on 'Bande Utkal Janani'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Dhauri Books recently published a book 'Bande Utkal Janani: Atita O Bartaman'. The book consists of 25 chapters with detailed study about the state song of Odisha, 'Bande Utkal Janani'.



The song was written by Kantakabi Lakshmikanta Mahapatra (1888-1953) and was first sung at the 9th session of the Utkal Union Conference at Puri in 1913. Dr Santosh Kumar Mohanty, a young scholar of Odisha working in Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru, has written the book. The book has been published by author Manu Dash of Dhauri Books, Bhubaneswar.

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LOWER SUKTEL PROJECT

Land pattas handed out to displaced of Koindapalli



IT WAS LEARNT THAT 34 DISPLACED FAMILIES OF KOINDAPALLI WERE PROVIDED PATTAS. THE DISPLACED WILL BE SETTLED AT LURKIPALLI AND SADAIPALLI ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BOLANGIR TOWN

SOURCES SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAS STARTED PROVIDING ALTERNATE LANDS TO THE AFFECTED PEOPLE. THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO IRRIGATE NEARLY 32,000 HECTARES OF LAND IN BALANGIR AND SONEPUR DISTRICTS

Rana distributed pattas to the displaced families.

In the first phase, 47 displaced families of Paradihapalli had been handed out pattas.

For the last 20 years, rehabilitation of people living in Paradihapalli, Koindapalli and another village has been a tough task.

However, displacement process was started at Paradihapalli from June 29, this year. State water resources secretary Anu Garg has recently reviewed the progress of the project, along with several other medium and major irrigation projects, which are under implementation. Garg had asked the officials to resolve the pending issues related to rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) and expedite the earthwork and spillway construction of the project.

Though Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone of the project in 2001, its implementation has been delayed for years owing to the locals' resistance to it over the R&R issues.

Sources said the administration has started providing alternate lands to the affected people.

The project is expected to irrigate nearly 32,000 hectares of land in Balangir and Sonepur districts. Gangadhar Meher Lift Canal System is also being executed in western Odisha. The project was announced ahead of the 2017 Bijepur by-election. It aims to irrigate around 25,600 hectares of drought-hit areas in Bijepur area in Bargarh district. It is said over ₹1200 crore will be spent on the project expected to be ready before 2023-24.



Following heavy rains, a bridge across Jampali-Padantikra creek is inundated in Binika area of Sonepur district, Friday

OP PHOTO

Akash missile successfully test-fired

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, July 23: India successfully flight-tested the new generation surface-to-air Akash missile (Akash-NG) from launch pad-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Balasure coast, Friday.

The flight trial was conducted at around 11.55am from a land-based platform with all weapon system



elements such as multi-function radar, command, control and communication system, and launcher participating in deployment configuration.

The missile system has been developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other Defence Research & Development Organisation laboratories.

Notably, Akash NG was first test-fired January 25, 2021 while its second test was conducted March 23. It was for the fourth time, the missile was test-fired Friday.

By 2023, the missile is expected to be inducted into the Army. It is capable of quickly identifying the enemy missiles and destroying them with precision. Its striking range was 30 km while it was expanded to 70 km.

Vig PP arrested again



sleuths while he was accepting ₹1 lakh from ex-ASI of Mangalpur outpost under Thaumal Rampur block Malay Rana.

However, he was granted bail Thursday and it was when he walked out from the jail that he was arrested again by a vigilance team from Cuttack.

After his medical check-up, the vigilance team from Cuttack is questioning Mishra at Bhawanipatna vigilance office.

According to a senior official, his relatives may be questioned as the PP has failed to give an account of ₹1 crore to the vigilance officials.

The anti-graft agency has been looking into his other sources of income and if he is previously involved in irregularities. Arrest of the PP by the vigilance department for the second time for amassing assets illegally has become talk of the town.

Dudhei river eats into farmlands, farmers fret

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bari, July 23: Dudhei river, one of the distributaries of Kharashrota river, is turning out to be a bane for agriculture in Bari area in Jajpur district. Every monsoon, the river plays havoc in the riparian pocket, bringing miseries for days together.

Another problem for people in riparian villages is that the river has been eroding the banks, thus gobbling up farmlands. This has become a cause for concern for farmers, a report said.

Locals said the river that erodes its banks every year has devoured acres of farmlands in the area, but no measure has been taken to stop the erosion. They fear that if it goes on, the river would devour their habitat. Erosion is taking place on the south side of the river.



Locals added that no embankments have been built on both sides of the river. In the east side of the river, Bari-Kalimatia PWD road

provides a major communication link between Jajpur and Kendrapara districts. The gradual erosion of banks has

widened the river course, posing a threat to the PWD road, locals said, adding that thousands of people commute on this route every day.

Elderly people said that Dudhia nullah was once a creek. Over the years, its course has widened several times, making it a river. Farmers have lost acres of farmlands along the river in the last 25 years.

They observed that there is a need for stone packing of its banks to prevent erosion. If nothing is done, more farmlands on both sides of the river will fast disappear into the river, they feared. Locals lamented that the rate at which the river is eroding into its banks, it may even gobble up the PWD road and villages nearby in a few years.

Locals added that though they had been drawing the attention of the water resources authorities and local leaders towards the problems, they have no concern for it.

Man's body found in pool of blood

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, July 23: Police recovered a man's body lying in a pool of blood outside his house at Panchara village under Kutra police limits in Sundargarh district Friday. The deceased has been identified as Suku Sorenga. Prima facie he was hacked to death by miscreants the previous night.

According to the family members, Suku had slept outside his house Thursday night. Those inside had

no inkling as to what was happening. When they came out Friday morning, they found Suku motionless in a pool of blood.

The family members immediately informed the police. Later, a police team from the Kutra police station rushed to the spot, seized the body for post-mortem.

Police have registered a murder case and launched an investigation. The police are on the job to find out if the deceased had any enmity with others.

NUAPADA: RED CAMP BUSTED, ARMS SEIZED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, July 23: A team of security personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) busted a Maoist camp Friday morning and recovered a huge cache of firearms including explosives from Patadaraha reserve forest near Kandanjaria village in Nuapada district.

According to an official of the 216 CRPF battalion, the camp was busted during a combing operation carried out by the para-military forces at Patadaraha forest. However, the Maoists managed to flee. The se-



curity personnel recovered five guns along with gelatin sticks, detonators

and a number of explosive devices from the camp, the official informed.

Land encroachments hit Boinda's development

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, July 23: Massive land grabbing by mafias has left Boinda town under Kishorenagar block in Angul district with little space to build office buildings or carry out development projects.

Encroachments are on the rise at Boinda Chowk, the business hub of Athmallik sub-division. Due to its proximity to National Highway-55, people are interested to buy lands near Boinda Chowk.

Cashing in on it, the mafia and middlemen have been selling government lands at throwaway prices, ₹50,000 a 'gunth'. These land sharks carry out their business in connivance with staff in the revenue department.

They have allegedly grabbed plots no 1047, 1114, 365, 1169, 1170, 367, 376, 365, 67, 367, 670 and 979 in Nunukaposhi area.

Similarly, government lands under Kadalimunda, Saradhamunda, Baishnabasahi and Boinda Chowk mouza have been encroached upon. Besides this, the canals that connect to Chandan tank have been under en-



croachment.

Protesting against encroachment, Boinda villagers had lodged a complaint with the District Collector and revenue secretary April 10, 2016 and August 18, 2018 respectively.

In 2020, Boinda revenue department identified 252 such people who have squatted on government lands. Notices were also served on them, asking them to deposit fine.

Of them, 35 persons deposited fines amounting to ₹53,000. The Boinda villagers alleged that no action has since been taken against them.

Expressing concern, Bhagaban Gheewala, a resident of Nunukaposhi, said the land mafia

has not even spared village cremation grounds and pasture lands. It's time the administration took steps to get the lands free from them. Or else, the problem would become more serious in coming days, the locals said.

Pointing out the problems arising from illegal encroachment, sarpanch, Jaladhar Sahu said, "Besides other problems, the encroachment has given rise to water-logging. Since rainwater fails to drain out, it creates water-logging problem.

When contacted, Boinda revenue inspector Anand Chandra Sahu said the plots under encroachments have been identified. The process to

demolish the illegally constructed buildings is underway.

Contacted, tehsildar Shanti Swarup Mishra said, "We will soon launch an eviction drive against encroachers. People having encroached upon water canals and drains will be identified and then booked."

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my Client LICHFL, Bhubaneswar for advancing repair and renovation loan to Sri. Bishnu Prasad Pattnaik, 61 years, S/o. Dinakrushna Pattnaik, At/P.O. - Dandamkundpur, Dist. - Puri - 752104 on his property at Plot No. 136, Khata No. 74/8, Area: Ac0.160 decimals at Mouza - Makundpur Hata, Tahasil: Pipili, Dist. - Puri. But it was found that, Sri Bishnu Prasad Pattnaik have lost the original record of Rights No. 74/8, Plot No. 136, Area: Ac0.160 decimals, while he was coming from Pipili shop to his residence on 21.07.2021 in his motor cycle. Therefore, notice is hereby given to General Public that if anybody has got any right, title interest over the property on the missing document, they have to claim before the LICHFL, within 15 days from the date of publication. And after that the documents will lose its legal force and LICHFL will not be responsible for any claim. What-so-ever on the property after 15 days.

Address for Communication
Branch: LICHFL, Bhubaneswar
Bhubaneswar
N.C. Pattnaik, Advocate
Mob.: 9853311189

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION NO. 1, SAMBALPUR
E-procurement notice
No.B-239
BID IDENTIFICATION No. EE / R&B / SBP /06/2021-22
E-mail - exeengsbp@rediffmail.com, Phone/Fax -0663-2548013
No.4561/ Dated 20.07.2021
1. The Executive Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.1, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of Road / Building / Electrical Work as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.
2. No. of works :- 08 (Eight)
3. Tender Cost :- Rs.6,000/-, Rs.4,000/-, Rs.2,000/-, Rs.600/- & Rs.400/- (On Line)
4. Class of Contractor :- "A" & "B", "B" & "C", "C" & "D" & "HT" & "MV" Contractor
5. Date and time Available in :- 16.00 Hrs. 28.07.2021 to 17.00 Hrs. of 04.08.2021
6. Date of Opening of Tender :- 05.08.2021 at 11.30 Hrs.
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website
8. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.1
OIPR-34042/11/0019/2122

THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-22
Ph: 0674-2541545, 2542921, Fax: 0674-2541543,
E-mail: ophwc.od@nic.in, Website: www.ophwc.nic.in
e-procurement notice No. - 09/OPHCW/2021-22 & 10/OPHCW/2021-22
No.CAD-669 **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**
1. The Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC), Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover/Single Cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the work as detailed below:
2. Nature of work :- **Building works**
3. No. of Works :- **12 Nos.**
4. Bid Cost :- **Rs.7,080/- (To be paid online) for Single Cover bid**
Rs.11,800/- (To be paid online) for Double Cover Bid
5. Value of Tender :- **Rs.10.00 Lakh to Rs.1.50 Cr.**
6. Class of Contractor :- **'D' Class to 'A' Class**
SCHEDULE OF TENDER
7. Availability of Bid :- **Single Cover Bid** Dt.27.07.2021 to Dt.27.07.2021
Double Cover Bid Dt.05.08.2021 Dt.10.08.2021
8. Last date/time of Receipt :- **05.08.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.** Dt.10.08.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.
9. Date of Opening Bid :- **05.08.2021 at 11.30 A.M.** Dt. 11.08.2021 at 11.30 A.M.
10. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Sd./- Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC), Odisha
N.B.- The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T. as applicable under works contract.
OIPR-12025/11/0014/2122

In silence, the consciousness grows. It aspires to know You more and more perfectly.

THE MOTHER



Rail babus to toil twice as hard

Given that the first-time *mantri* is handling two of the biggest ministries in the Modi sarkar, he will be the busiest man in the Cabinet. And he has decided to keep his babus on their toes too!

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has introduced 18-hour workdays in two shifts in the ministry, a carry-over from his brief stint of two years in the corporate sector after quitting as an IAS officer of Odisha cadre. The first shift will be from 7 am to 4 pm and the second from 3 pm to midnight!

Among other things, the move is likely intended to please Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, we are constantly reminded, puts in 18 hours daily.

The order, sources have told DKB, was issued by Ministry of Railways Additional Director General PR DJ Narain and is applicable for officers and staffers of the MR cell or the minister's office only. But rail babus dread that it may soon be extended to other departments in the ministry.

Vaishnav's move has created ripples across the Modi sarkar. It is felt that his new government culture may be adopted by other ministries. The IT Ministry is a fair bet since Vaishnav heads it also. The Commerce Ministry is said to be interested too in adopting this work culture.

Is this an enthusiastic minister's attempt to make his presence felt or will the new culture stick? Babus across ministries are keeping their fingers crossed!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A bunch of babus are very happy that they will be reporting to the most powerful minister of the Modi Cabinet, following the announcement of a new Ministry of Cooperation to be headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The current shift from the Agriculture Ministry will be an informal one since the hierarchy of secretaries goes beyond the protocol list. Quite likely that Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal will continue in the interim, but Shah may ultimately pick a super babu to run the ministry, given Shah's high-security status, quite likely that meetings of the new Cooperation Ministry will be held in the Home Ministry itself.

The Centre has said that the new ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. This needs more manpower. And a new ministry will need bureaucrats and so this means more jobs for babus.

While there are grammar Nazis who question the name of the ministry claiming it is misleading and should be named Ministry of Cooperatives since it is all about the latter, it is not going to deter Shah from envisaging a larger role for the ministry than cooperatives.

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Dr. Panchanan Dalai

AMIDST THE RECURRENT MENACES OF CRIMES IN THE CATHEDRAL CITY BHUBANESWAR, THERE IS AN EXIGENCY OF GRASPING SUCH CRIME CULTURES; AND THIS IS SO AS MUCH FOR THE CITY-DWELLERS AS FOR THE CUSTODIANS OF THE LAW AND ORDER

OF CITIES AND CRIMES

FOCUS CRIME

Amidst the recurrent menaces of crimes in the cathedral city Bhubaneswar; there is an exigency of grasping such crime cultures; and this is so as much for the city-dwellers as for the custodians of the law and order. I am no barrister to magistrate upon crimes and criminology, but as a litterateur, I believe, I too have a role to play, at least in the comprehension of recent criminal cultures. Remember, had it not been for the 18th century English novelist Henry Fielding, the birth of policing in England would not have been possible. And, Fielding was proposing for policing system in a time when English city-streets were infested with road-robbers; so much so, even the powerful gentry were unable to commute to theatre places. Read, for example, the report of an 18th century English essayist, "My friend asked me, in the next place, if there would not be in some danger in coming home late (from play houses), in case the Mohocks (criminals) should be abroad." I think this has been the situation in our cities too, which needs immediate thoughts and remedies, before such evils replace justice and moral goodness.



Curbing crimes is police-public partnership as much as a city is a partnership of people and geography; and for this policing partnership, we need to educate and sensitise our people to thwart any kind of crime culture foreign to our state, let's say, the recent gun culture in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar

of their pandemic policing innovations are unprecedented in Indian policing system. It is imperative that we also need 'Police Education', as much as we need medical education, disaster education, or even computer education in the schools. I think curbing crimes is police-public partnership as much as a city is a partnership of people and geography; and for this policing partnership, we need to educate and sensitise our people to thwart any kind of crime culture foreign to our state, let's say, the recent gun culture in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. Remember, there is a great affinity between 'Gun' and 'Gone' cultures, irrespective of their spelling differences! Should we therefore not be reminded of the proverb 'to nip in the bud', or "a stitch in time saves nine"?

happy and acts nobly. It is impossible to act nobly without acting [to achieve] noble things.... The courage, justice, and prudence of a city have the same power and form as those human beings share in individually who are called just, prudent, and sound. "The urban ethnographers would definitely agree with this humanised definition of a city, which is not just a concrete jungle out there to be defended with muscle and machineries only. The stories of Athens, Sparta, Rome, Constantinople, Indus valleys, etc. reflect the importance of syncretism between human civilization and human habitations. A city has a soul, and that has to be kept unaffected from all sorts of human evils. However, city-crime is not something new. Crimes dominated even during the most enlightened and civilized eras. For example, during the Renaissance time of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth-I, Britain had to fight with increasing crimes, despite the presence of an im-

pressive legal system in England. Consider also Shakespearean and Jacobean revenge tragedies, which dramatised English criminal mentalities. The famous speech - "To be, or not to be" - is not only an example of Hamlet's cognitive indecisiveness, but also his criminal anxiety of murdering his own uncle. Similarly, sulphur, slaughter, sword, arrow, poison, scandals, conspiracies, thieving, spying, trespassing, etc. were the most conspicuous means of crimes, as we have our own kinds - plundering, assault, adultery, murder, counterfeiting, smuggling, lynching, chain snatching, pestilential gangs, not to mention of crime's digital manifestations in our times! What, therefore, worries us is crime's modern incarnations, its evolving criminal engineering, its cultural meanings and repercussions. I am sure all the schoolmen of classical times would have failed to fathom these newer species of crimes. These are certainly great and grave matters of concern, not only for the custodians of law but also for civil society in general. Henry Fielding held the lower classes and rural rustics as potential perpetrators of crimes during the 18th century England. It is a pity that now the cities have to fight with crimes involving both the educated and illiterates. It is true that ours is a new urban space and crime is our epicurean epic! But it is also true that we need to deconstruct and rewrite this urban epic to turn the concrete jungle into a convivium, a space for 'living together'. The absence of this would definitely yield what Homer imagined - "All ills that come to men whose city falls; the people are laid waste, the streets afire, and strangers drag the children all away..."

The writer is Associate Professor, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University. The views expressed are personal.

BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian



Dilli ka Babu has learnt that the frequent changes at the top in National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have been a major problem since 2006 except for three years between 2012 AND 2015 when the then chief RP Singh served a full three-year term. Interestingly, Singh was also the last chairman to be selected through a search-cum-selection process.

A day after Uttarakhand got its new Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the Centre appointed senior IAS officer SS Sandhu as the state's new Chief Secretary. But Uttarakhand's gain is a loss for the NHAI. Sandhu was on Central deputation as NHAI chairman and helming Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari's ambitious infrastructure push.

Gadkari now has to search for a new chairman and also fill two other key posts of Member Finance and Member PPP that have been vacant for several months. Given that Uttarakhand saw three Chief Ministers in five years, the new CM Dhami was allowed to choose his own Chief Secretary. Such are the pitfalls of being an efficient babu of the Uttarakhand cadre!

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

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SPECTRUM ENVIRONMENT

Climate agenda for the G20

Late last year, at their summit in Riyadh, G20 leaders identified climate change as one of the most pressing challenges of the twenty-first century. "As we recover from the pandemic," their communiqué read, "We are committed to safeguarding our planet and building a more environmentally sustainable and inclusive future for all people." That commitment hasn't quite materialised.

To be sure, the carbon intensity of the energy supply in G20 countries is declining. Coal use is falling, power-sector pollution is edging down, and a host of new clean-transport policies is being rolled out. G20-led initiatives to encourage businesses to disclose climate risks are starting to bear fruit.

But none of this is happening fast enough to make a real dent in emissions, not least because G20 countries are also quietly funneling cash toward carbon-intensive sectors. According to Vivid Economics, of the \$4.6 trillion the world's leading economies pumped into the agriculture, industry, waste, energy and transport sectors as part of their pandemic-relief packages, less than \$1.8 trillion was "green."

As a result, in 15 of the 20 economies Vivid Economics assessed, stimulus spending would have a "net-negative environmental impact." The 2020 Climate Transparency Report similarly

found that some 30% of all stimulus spending went toward environmentally-intensive sectors, with coal, oil, gas, and aviation among the biggest beneficiaries.

What happens at October's Rome G20 meeting will play a major role in determining whether November's United Nations climate-change summit (COP26) in Glasgow produces the ambitious emissions-reduction targets and climate-finance pledges the world needs to keep global warming from exceeding 1.5°C, relative to pre-industrial levels.

G20 countries not only account for 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the world's population; they also pump out an estimated 80% of greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions every year, with China alone producing 26% of the global total.

Unfortunately, the G20 has a long record of big talk and little action. If you want impressive rhetoric or a plan for a plan, the G20 is fine. If you want action, you may want to look elsewhere. Yet, given increasingly bleak scientific evidence - and a range of recent extreme weather events - there is renewed tension and pressure.

G20 leaders need to capitalise on promising signs earlier this month at a climate conference in Venice, where Kristalina Georgieva, the managing director of the

International Monetary Fund, and David Malpass, head of the World Bank, called for tougher carbon pricing and an end to the trillions spent on fossil fuel subsidies. Jin Liqun, president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, said financing international coal was losing appeal, even in China. Christine Lagarde, the European Central Bank's president, spoke of a new era of transparency about the financial sector's "climate-related vulnerability," warning that "the most vulnerable 10% of banks may see a 30% increase in the average probability of default of their credit portfolios between now and 2050."

Some G20 economies are taking positive steps. The European Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom have devised more ambitious emissions-reduction plans more closely aligned with the 1.5°C goal. Argentina, Canada, and Japan have also submitted new, tougher 2030 climate targets. South Africa says it will do the same later this year.

Yet many big polluters - Australia, China, India, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia - have still not submitted new plans for COP26. Brazil, Russia, and Mexico have, but none represents an improvement on their previous pledges. Brazil, for one, expects a 35% rise in emissions compared to previous baselines by 2030.

As G20 president, Italy - together with its European, US, and UK partners - is putting pressure on the lagging economies to submit new, more ambitious climate plans, align their long-term strategies to net-zero by 2050, end fossil fuels subsidies by 2025, and end international coal finance. For their part, developed economies need to devise a credible plan to deliver the \$100 billion per year they pledged to help developing countries tackle climate change.

COP26 President-Designate Alok Sharma is rallying developed countries to fulfill that promise, and UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak - who was behind a recent controversial cut to UK overseas aid - needs to step in. But Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi also has a critical role to play in pledging a new and higher climate finance commitment for his country, as well as convincing his counterparts, in particular Xi Jinping, to cooperate.

These efforts will not guarantee success at COP26. But they would be a solid start. This month, G20 leaders should remember that only they have the clout to put the world on the right path.

The writer is Co-Founder of ECCO, an independent Italian think tank on climate change. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Luca Bergamaschi

G20 COUNTRIES NOT ONLY ACCOUNT FOR 85% OF GLOBAL GDP, 75% OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION; THEY ALSO PUMP OUT AN ESTIMATED 80% OF GREENHOUSE-GAS EMISSIONS EVERY YEAR

Spare the judiciary

Sir, Today's social media can make reputations and break them too. There is no better person than Chief Justice of India NV Ramana to express anguish on the trend and caution the judiciary about the amplifying effects of the social media. Even as a judge, Justice Ramana had hit out at the slanderous campaign of the social media against the judiciary. Unrestrained opinions and unverified juicy gossips have taken a toll on almost every public personality and institution, and judiciary is no exception. But Indian judiciary is different, and if it has to remain so, some type of insulation from unsubstantiated allegations is a must. However, vicious social media campaign against judiciary in general and judges in particular has almost become a norm. When the top judge speaks on a contentious issue, heads should turn. Not that the social media trolls are daring - far from it; they are consistently in search of soft targets and, as Justice Ramana said, judiciary is indeed a soft target because judges are quiet human beings. They don't make fuss over criticisms. When a few judges go astray and toe the line of the government, then a habitual troller is bound to sit up and sharpen his arsenal against them. It is unfortunate that in the melee, brilliant and upright judges, too, tend to be viewed in the prism of doubt and hate by the provokers.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Defer school reopening

Sir, Schools in our state are slated to open from Monday, July 26. It is a crucial juncture in our fight and survival against Covid-19 pandemic. Third wave of corona is in the offing. And, it is supposed to hit the children very hard, according to various medical findings and scientific surveys. It might be suicidal to open schools in this crucial hour. We cannot put the lives of our innocent children at a stake. Not a single child in our state has taken Covid-19 vaccination. Even all school teachers might not have taken the second dose of anti-Covid shot. Therefore, the vulnerability of children to corona infections cannot be ruled out. Such complacency at this critical period may prove to be fatal as the health and security of our children are concerned. At least, the schools should remain closed till Durga Puja or the end of October. Life is more important than anything else. Each life is precious.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

WISDOM CORNER

If you can do what you do best and be happy, you're further along in life than most people. LEONARDO DICAPRIO

We should remember that just as a positive outlook on life can promote good health, so can everyday acts of kindness. HILLARY CLINTON

Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve. MARY KAY ASH

WORDSWORTH

Camelion

People have been confused about the names and natures of exotic animals for millennia. The camel's name in medieval English was offend, a word that has been defunct for eight centuries. This was known in earlier Germanic languages and also in Old Church Slavonic (where it was taken to mean "great wandering beast"), but it can be traced back to the Latin elephantus. Basically, people confused the camel with the elephant, not so surprising when you've never seen either and you have to rely on travellers' descriptions relayed many times. Confusion led to the camelopard, a linguistic cross formed in classical Greek between a camel and a pard or panther. The camelopard wasn't thought to be a hybrid but the name was given to it because its body looked like that of a camel with spots like those of the leopard. We prefer to call it a giraffe (from Arabic zarāfa). The animal called a leopard is the result of confusion - its name is lion + pard, because the ancients believed it was a cross between the two. A camelion, however, has nothing to do with camels. The first part comes from a Greek word meaning "on the ground, dwarf", so the animal was a "ground lion" or "earth lion", which you may feel is an odd way to describe a small lizard. In the fourteenth century, the word became confused with camelopard because of a scribe's error in a text read by the Bible translator John Wyclif and for a while it became identified with the giraffe. It was only a couple of hundred years ago that its name changed from camelion to chameleon under the influence of the Latin version of its name.

LOL

Pig with wooden leg

A farmer is walking with a prospective buyer when they see a beautiful pig in the yard, except it has a wooden leg. The buyer asks, "Why the wooden leg?" The farmer replies, "That pig is so smart, I let it drive the kids to school."



"Great, but why the wooden leg?" "The pig is so smart it has a degree in horticulture and philosophy." "Amazing! But why the bloody wooden leg?" "Well when you have a pig that smart you don't eat it all at once!"

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

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SURVIVAL MATTERS



Braving rains, women collect water from a pit in Tikiri area of Rayagada district

OP PHOTO

Kendrapara people pin hopes on Vaishnaw

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, July 23: With Rajya Sabha member from Odisha Ashwini Vaishnaw taking charge as minister of railways, the hope of the residents to get a passenger train to the district has been rekindled.

It was July 24, 2020 when the first goods train had rolled on the newly-laid out Haridaspur-Paradip broad gauge line. The line passes through Kendrapara district. About a year has gone since, but the district is yet to see any passenger train puffing through it.

As of now, the district people are sanguine that their wait for a passenger train will end soon.

“The Haridaspur-Paradip rail line project was proposed in 1996-97 fiscal. Even though, goods train are rolling on it for about a year, no passenger train has run on it. As our Odisha MP Ashwini Vaishnaw has been made railways minister, it exudes hope that the wait for a passenger train will end soon,” observed Umakanta Biswal, a Pattamundai resident.

Echoing the same opinion, Sunil Kumar Gantayat, president, Mahakalpara Youth Group, said around 3,00,000 people had returned from different parts of the nation to the district during the first wave



of Covid-19. The plight they faced to reach the district was seen on TV screens. Had the passenger train service been started on Haridaspur-Paradip rail line project, they would not have suffered so much. Even as lakhs of people from this district work in different places, it is a matter of concern that passenger train service is yet to be started in the district,” rued Gantayat.

In the absence of passenger train service, people to go outside of the district by train have to go to either Paradip, Cuttack or Haridaspur railway station, he further said, requesting authorities to take steps for early running of a passenger train.

When asked, PRO, ECoR, Nirakar Das said the preparations necessary for running of a passenger train have not yet been completed. “Only after a thorough testing of the station and the signal systems, will permission for a passenger train on the

track be given,” he added.

As the district still waits for the passenger train service, four persons have been arrested on charge of ticket hacking.

Informing about the hackers, inspector, Railway Protection Force, Paradip, PV Ramanna said Pabitra Das, a resident of Babar area of Mahakalpara block in Kendrapara district who ran a Xerox shop, was arrested on charge of selling railway tickets by hacking railway department’s software.

“Prior to him, Jyotiranjana Sahu, Bikram Mallick and Akram Khan under Pattamundai Aadarsh police limits were arrested on the same charge. The modus operandi of these hackers is to hack Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and bank security to sell Tatkal tickets. It is learnt that Pakistan-origin software is being used for this,” he said.

3 suffocated to death inside septic tank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 23: Three persons Thursday died due to suffocation inside an under-construction septic tank at Bikrampur village under Gopalpur police limits in Ganjam.

The tragic incident has sent shock waves across the district. Sources said a mason named Sadananda Reddy went to the house of Siddheswar Reddy of Bikrampur village to dismantle a false ceiling of the septic tank, which was cast a few days ago.

Soon after entering the tank, Sadananda lost his consciousness. Seeing Sadananda’s condition, Siddheswar called two of his neighbours Krishna Reddy and Tarinia Reddy and sought their assistance to rescue the trapped mason.

The two neighbours entered the septic tank, but they also lost consciousness. Other villagers rescued the three in critical condition and rushed them to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. However, the doctors declared the three dead on arrival, a police official said.

On being informed by locals, the Gopalpur police reached the health facility and sent the bodies for post-mortem.

A case has been lodged regarding the unnatural deaths. Police have registered a case and launched a probe.

SCAM IN PLANTATION UNDER MGNREGS

Wages gobbled down, labourers seek Vig probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 23: Lakhs of rupees allocated for the plantation work at Kolagan under Dhama range in Sambalpur district have allegedly been misappropriated. Even as the forest department is trying to suppress the issue, labourers/job card holders engaged in the work have demanded an investigation by the Vigilance department into the scam, a report said.

Many labourers Friday met Vigilance DSP Deonarayan Das here and made a written complaint about the scam, seeking an investigation.

They said that 60 labourers were engaged in the sapling plantation under MGNREGS. Though they have worked under the scheme, their wages have not been cleared till date.

“Some forest officials and a contractor have used the job cards of other labourers and misappropriated their wages. Though we have been repeatedly requesting the forest officials in this regard, not step is being taken. We are disap-



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Labourers said that some forest officials and a contractor have used the job cards of other labourers and misappropriated their wages. Though they have been repeatedly requesting the forest officials in this regard, not step is being taken against the guilty. They are disappointed

pointed,” they lamented.

They added that some of them worked for four weeks and others for a week, but when wages were demanded, forest officials assured to credit the wages into the bank accounts at a later date.

After completion of the work, wages were paid to labourers who

were not engaged in the work. Only ₹300 was paid to each of them, it was alleged. The labourers sought stern action against the officials and the contractor involved in the irregularities. Notably, projects under the rural job scheme have allegedly been marred by irregularities in many cases in the district.

Illegal tree-felling in Bari

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bari, July 23: Trees are being cut down indiscriminately at many places under Bari block in Jajpur district while the administration allegedly looks the other way.

A large number of eucalyptus trees used to adorn the sides of the Bari-Balibili RD road which connects Bari-Kalamatia PWD road. However, the number of trees is dwindling rapidly over last few months.

Local residents saw the trees being cut and transported Thursday night. They immediately informed Bari tehsildar Manas Ranjan Bhoi who went to the spot, but did not intervene. He said it is the duty of the forest department to protect the trees. He said he would write to the forest department seeking action from their end.

However, the tehsildar’s attitude did not go down well with the local people. Jajpur Road ranger’s statement was also no less surprising.

When contacted, ranger Jyoti Mohapatra said they can take ac-



tion only if the concerned department entrusted with the protection of the trees lodges a complaint. “Without a complaint, we can’t take suo motu action as it is not under our jurisdiction,” the ranger said.

It is worth mentioning that BJP workers staged a demonstration protesting illegal felling of trees on the Bari-Baruhan PWD road in front of the tehsil office, a few days ago. The tehsildar had written letters to Jajpur sub-collector and the forest department, seeking action. However, no steps have been taken so far against the offenders.

Local residents alleged that the lenient attitude of the district administration in turn helps those involved in the illegal felling of trees.

Govt plans ₹545-cr inter-river water reservoir at Parjang

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, July 23: Irrigation is going to get a major boost in Dhenkanal district as an inter-river water reservoir project will be executed at Khalpal under Parjang block. An estimated ₹545 crore will be invested in the project, a report said.

Through a video conferencing at OSWAN office here Thursday, 5T Secretary VK Pandian held a review of the project and said the inter-river reservoir project will be executed for conservation of groundwater at Khalpal.



He also added that Kalia Yojana was launched at a farmers’ congregation at Hindol in 2019 and at that time, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik assured the farmers of measures to strengthen the irrigation system to boost agriculture in the district.

In keeping with the assurance, there has been a plan to execute the inter-river water reservoir project at Khalpal, the 5T secretary stated.

He also thanked the industrial units in the district for supplying oxygen at the time of pandemic.

Speaking on the occasion, Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick said the multi-purpose project will come handy in resolving issues related to groundwater conservation, irrigation, water supply to industries and drinking water.

Nagada tribals back to shifting cultivation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kaliapani, July 23: The state government has launched several welfare projects to bring in development to hilltop Nagada villages under Sukinda block of Jajpur district, a report said. However, the Juang tribals at Ashokjhar on the foothills of Nagada have refused to join in the development process and have again taken up shifting cultivation which poses serious threat to the forest cover in the region.

Nagada is a cluster of villages comprising Lower Nagada, Middle Nagada and Upper Nagada in the remote and inaccessible regions of Sukinda block. Reports said that with the funds available from the district mineral foundation (DMF),

over ₹13 crore was spent to construct a road to Nagada villages. Now ₹12 crore has been sanctioned for blacktopping of the road.

This apart, construction of houses under central and state housing schemes, drinking water facilities and various agricultural schemes are being implemented in the area to bring in qualitative changes in the lives of tribals.

Development of tribals has been the main goal of the state government. But the former have failed to realise it and have taken up shifting cultivation—without care for the conservation and awareness about forest protection. This has resulted in a serious face-off between the forest officials and the Juangs. The area is under Ransol forest range



and the newly appointed forester often remains absent in his office after the transfer of his predecessor. Taking advantage of his absence, the Juang tribals have taken up shifting cultivation by clearing the green cover on acres of forest land.

The tribals have cultivated paddy by chopping of trees on the rocky hills. As there was no road to Nagada villages, the tribals managed their livelihood by consuming wild tubers, greens and bamboo shoots. A new road was constructed to the hilltop village after the malnutri-

Development of tribals has been the main goal of the state gov't. But the former have failed to realise it and have taken up shifting cultivation without care for the conservation of forests

tion death in 2016 hit the national and international headlines. Earlier, the forest department officials had asked them to not cut down the trees in the area and twice stopped them from carrying out shifting cultivation.

This correspondent tried to meet

the tribals and sought to know the reason behind taking up shifting cultivation when the government is implementing various developmental and welfare projects in the area. They said ration card holders in the area receive 35-kg rice each every month which falls short of their requirement as they consume rice thrice a day. Every family in Nagada villages needs at least 150-kg rice per month.

Katkiya Padhan, Ainthu Padhan, Desh Padhan and Baraju Padhan wanted to know from where they will get rice if they do not take up shifting cultivation by clearing the forests. Efforts to get the response of Ransol forester Naresh Tudu on phone failed as the calls went unanswered.

Bhuban: Drinking water woes to go

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhuban, July 23: Despite being blessed with the state’s second largest river Brahmani, Bhuban town in Dhenkanal district has been facing acute water crisis. The problem assumes serious proportions in summer.

Since the root of the problem has been traced to depleted groundwater level, Bhuban NAC has started constructing rain water harvesting structures to increase groundwater level which will eventually solve the water problem in the region.

With wells and ponds getting dried up and deep tube wells going defunct every summer, the NAC has to bear the brunt of people’s ire. To end this problem, the NAC has set a target to construct 75 rainwater harvesting structures. These structures are being set up under the state government’s Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan (MUKTA) and the NAC has received a sanc-



tion of ₹30lakh for this.

According to NAC authorities, out of 75 structures, 55 have already been completed while the construction of the rest 20 will be completed within the stipulated time frame.

According to NAC authorities, members of the Mission Shakti in local areas have been engaged in this work. The work on the structures begins only after local tehsildar, executive office and junior engineer select a suitable place for the purpose. Then three staff are as-

signed the job to supervise the work.

The authorities said they are sure that the project will last long since the responsibilities of maintaining and managing structures rest on Mission Shakti members.

Informing about the success of the project, Bhuban NAC, executive officer Duryodhan Sahu said, “With an objective to provide employment to skilled labourers and bring in a change in their living condition, MUKTA yojana is being implemented in 144 urban areas. The

rainwater harvesting structures will go a long way in increasing the groundwater level. The benefits of the project will be achieved when people understand its importance.”

Termining the construction of rainwater harvesting structures as a first step towards finding an ideal town, programme coordinator Ashok Kumar Roul said the projects will help end the water scarcity problem in summer season.

“Such projects are the need of the hour: Since groundwater level has fallen drastically, only with the help of such projects the level can be increased. Once put to use, the drinking water problem will come to an end,” observed Jhunarani Sahu and Pushpanjali Pothal, secretary and member of Mission Shakti respectively.

While the first phase fund has been utilized in constructing the structures, the second phase fund will be used for development of the town.

WINGED MENACE



A vehicle engaged by Angul municipality spraying mosquito repellent in the town, Friday

OP PHOTO

Tackling infighting, dissent in states major challenge for BJP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 23: Controlling differences and infighting among party leaders in state units is turning out to be a major challenge for the BJP.

Months before a series of Assembly polls, sources said that the party's central leaders are trying hard to control the situation in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Punjab as well as in Karnataka, West Bengal, and Rajasthan at the earliest. A party insider said that differences in more than half a dozen state units have come to the notice of the central leadership and they are looking into resolving these.

"Senior national leaders have been trying to resolve the differences within the party unit in these states. Local issues must be addressed so that everyone should put a united effort in fighting the opposition parties instead of fighting against each other," he said.

Another saffron party leader said that this infighting and differences among senior leaders in local units is weakening the party, especially in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Punjab and needs to be addressed at the earliest as it might affect the party's poll prospects.

He also pointed out that differences in other states also do not send a good message among people.

A senior leader told this news agency that the aspirations of leaders are a major reason for the differences.



Months before a series of Assembly polls, the party's central leaders are trying hard to control the situation in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Punjab

In Uttar Pradesh, voices were raised against Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, but for time being, they were silenced after the intervention of BJP central leadership and the RSS

In Rajasthan, former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje is also not on the same page with the state leadership, which recently expelled her supporter, former minister Rohitashv Sharma

Gopal to resolve the differences," a party insider said.

Uttarakhand, where elections are also scheduled early next year, witnessed three Chief Ministers in five months.

In March, the BJP leadership replaced Trivendra Singh Rawat with Tirath Singh Rawat, a Lok Sabha member. However, unable to get him elected to the Assembly, the BJP replaced him with Pushkar Singh Dhami.

In March, the BJP also appointed Madan Kaushik as new state chief.

A party leader from Uttarakhand said: "More than factionalism, changing Chief Ministers frequently in election years sends a wrong signal among voters. During his four months tenure, Tirath Singh Rawat did not address the concern of party cadre which turned out to be reason for replacement of Trivendra Singh."

In Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Health Minister Vishwajit Rane are not on the same page and their differences came out during the peak of the second wave of Covid. It is learnt that BJP chief Nadda had asked them to keep their differences aside and work together.

A party leader from Goa said that Rane is "quite ambitious" and feels he also deserves a chance. "Vishwajit Rane is the son of a former Chief Minister (Pratapsingh Rane) and he feels he has the capabilities," he said.

BJP national General Secretary and Goa in-charge, CT Ravi, however, denied any differences in the

state unit and said everyone is working together to ensure development of the state, and winning next year's Assembly polls.

In Tripura, voices were also being raised within the party and to silence these, the BJP central leadership has allowed a likely reshuffle in the Biplab Deb government.

A senior party leader, however, denied any voice of dissent in the Tripura unit and there are some grievances of some leaders which will be addressed accordingly. Amid this, Santosh and others recently visited Agartala to discuss party affairs with the state leaders, legislators, ministers and other party functionaries.

Earlier this month, West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh met Nadda and apprised him about the leaders not following the party line. After the Assembly polls, several leaders including former Union Minister Babul Supriyo raised voice against state leadership. "I have apprised Nadda ji about the affairs of the party's West Bengal unit and now he has to take a call," he had said.

In Rajasthan, former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje is also not on the same page with the state leadership, which recently expelled her supporter, former minister Rohitashv Sharma, for "anti-party activity".

In Punjab, taking serious note of ongoing infighting in the party ahead of next year's Assembly polls, the state unit has expelled former minister Anil Joshi for raising voice against the leadership.

How Mumbai's dabbawalas are fighting food delivery start-ups

With extended lockdowns forcing millions of Mumbai's white-collar professionals to work from home, many dabbawalas have been struggling to feed their own families since April last year



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mumbai, July 23: After the pandemic shut offices and put Mumbai's renowned lunchbox deliverymen out of work, the 130-year-old "dabbawala" network has tied up with a trendy restaurant chain to take on India's billion-dollar start-ups.

For two decades, neither terror attacks nor monsoon deluges could stop Kailash Shinde from delivering hot lunches to Mumbai office workers, until lockdowns put the father-of-two on a forced hiatus for a whole year.

"It's been very difficult," the 42-year-old said. "I had to sell what I could and work odd jobs to get by." Instantly recognisable in his traditional Gandhi cap and white Indian attire, Shinde is one of 5,000 dabbawalas - or "lunchbox men" in Hindi - who have gained global recognition for delivering home-cooked food with clockwork precision.

An intricate system of alphanumeric codes helps the largely semi-literate or illiterate workforce collect, sort and distribute 200,000 meals across Mumbai each day via bicycles, hand carts and a sprawling local train network.

Their work has been studied as a "model of service excellence" at Harvard Business School, and inspired personal visits from Richard Branson, Prince Charles and executives from global delivery giants FedEx and Amazon, among others. But with extended lockdowns forcing millions of Mumbai's white-collar professionals to work from home, many dabbawalas have been struggling to feed their own families since April last year.

"Our members have had to work as security guards and labourers, in addition to seeking jobs as deliverymen for restaurants," said Ulhas Muke of the Nutan Mumbai Tiffin Box Suppliers Charity Trust, which represents the workforce.

But delivery jobs are harder to come by in a space now increasingly dominated by mobile apps, especially for people like 39-year-old Pandurang Jadhav, who can't read or write. Unemployed for the first time since becoming a dabbawala at 17, Jadhav moved to his ancestral village and spent the last year farming rice. The earnings were meagre and he desperately missed Mumbai, where he managed 30 men.

"I used to love working as a dabbawala," he told AFP, describing it as "the best job".

Help arrived this May in the form of a tie-up with some of Mumbai's most popular eateries, allowing Jadhav and 30 others to return to work. Instead of handling home-cooked meals packed in stainless steel tiffin boxes, he is now delivering restaurant staples from nachos to spaghetti carbonara to time-starved professionals as they continue working from home for a second year.

The scheme offers restaurateurs an alternative to the prevailing local duopoly of delivery giants Zomato and Swiggy, whose steep discounts and razor-thin margins have slashed their profits.

"We are trying to find a way out of the tyranny of the aggregators," said Riyaz Amlani, the owner of Impresario Restaurants, which operates 57 outlets across more than a dozen Indian cities.

A new beginning

Amlani plans to expand his partnership with the dabbawalas, but analysts say that alone may not be enough to help the famed deliverymen survive the pandemic.

"It is paramount for them to be flexible at this point," said Sreedevi R, an assistant professor at Mumbai's SP Jain Institute of Management and Research.

"The dabbawalas could become delivery agents for last-mile delivery not just for restaurants but also for any e-commerce business," she said.

COVID THIRD WAVE

NITI AAYOG MEMBER ASKS DELHI TO BE WATCHFUL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: Niti Aayog member VK Paul has told the Delhi government to remain watchful as the next three months are important and unlocking activities can lead to an increase in coronavirus cases.

At a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) July 9, he also suggested that the city government consult the Centre before imposing any travel restrictions in the capital.

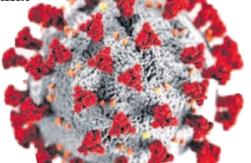
Dr Paul said that "unlock activity could lead to an increase in cases, though at present the positivity rate of cases is at its lowest point", according to the minutes of the meeting made public July 20.

"The next three months are important; we need to be watchful," the Niti Aayog member of health said.

Chief Secretary Vijay Dev flagged the presence of the Delta Plus - a coronavirus variant of concern - in 12 states and referred to the high case positivity rate in northeast India.

He recalled that Delhi had earlier imposed some restrictive measures such as carrying negative RT-PCR reports for people coming from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.

Dr Paul suggested that



the "advice of the Government of India should be taken before imposing any restrictions on the movement of interstate travel with Delhi being the capital of the country".

Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, who chaired the DDMA meeting, suggested that rather than asking for negative RT-PCR test reports, vaccination certificates should be the criteria, as it will also promote vaccination.

The DDMA devises Covid-19 management policies for the national capital.

At the meeting, Chief Secretary Dev raised the issue of idle stocks of vaccines with the private sector. Dr Paul suggested the Delhi administration may explore options, including procuring such vaccine stocks for optimal utilization and early vaccination of focused sections of society.

Dr Samrindra Panda of the Indian Council of Medical Research told the DDMA that the third wave of Covid-19 is "unlikely to be as severe as the second wave".

PROTEST AGAINST SNOOPGATE



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party leaders, DMK and other parties MPs stage a protest near the Gandhi statue against Pegasus project, during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi, Friday.

PTI PHOTO

Kundra moves HC SMOG TOWER TO HELP DELHI BREATHE BUT EXPERTS SCEPTICAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 23: Businessman Raj Kundra Friday challenged before the Bombay High Court his arrest in a case of alleged production and distribution of pornographic films through apps, saying these videos might be described as "lascivious" but do not show "explicit sexual acts".

Kundra (45), the husband of actor Shilpa Shetty, was arrested July 19 by Mumbai Police. A magistrate's court remanded him in police custody till July 27.

The petition sought quashing of the lower court's order.

The magistrate's order sending him in police custody violated the law as serving a notice under Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (before arrest) is mandatory, especially in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, it said.

As per section 41A, the police may, in cases where arrest is not warranted, issue summons to the accused person and record his or her statement.

The material which the police claim to be pornographic did not "depict direct explicit sexual acts and sexual intercourse but shows material in the form of short movies which are lascivious or appeal to the prurient interest of persons at best", Kundra's plea contended.

Hence Section 67A of the Information Technology Act (publishing sexually explicit content) cannot be invoked, and at the most it would attract Section 67 (publishing lascivious content), it said.



On July 19, 2021, the police carried out a search at his office and requested him to go to the police station to record statement, Kundra said. "The respondent (police) arrested the petitioner in the police station where he was called under the garb of recording his statement," the plea alleged.

After his arrest Kundra was asked to sign a notice issued under Section 41A of CrPC which he refused to do, it claimed.

Further, the sections under which he is booked do not prescribe a sentence of more than seven years in jail, so his arrest, without prior notice under Section 41 A, "is completely illegal", the petition said. When the First Information Report (FIR) was registered in February 2021, he was not even named as accused, Kundra said, adding that a charge sheet was filed in the case in April and several other accused are now out on bail.

THE \$2 MILLION "SMOG TOWER" HAS NO SHORTAGE OF DOUBTERS WHO SAY IT WILL NOT HELP A CITY NOTORIOUS FOR SOME OF THE WORLD'S DIRTIEST AIR

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New Delhi, July 23: A new attempt at purifying New Delhi's notoriously polluted air will see 40 giant fans push out filtered air in the heart of the Indian capital's posh downtown shopping district.

But the \$2 million "smog tower" has no shortage of doubters who say it will not help a city notorious for some of the world's dirtiest air.

The 25-metre (82 foot) high tower is meant to filter air over a one square kilometre radius around the swanky shops and cafes in Connaught Place.

The neighbourhood's British colonial-era buildings are hit by grey-yellow smog every winter.

"Smog is an annual phenomenon because of particulate matter. So we are (trying) to contain this," said Anwar Ali Khan, who is in



A fresh air tower in Delhi will see 40 giant fans push out filtered air across a one square kilometre area

charge of the project.

The engineer added the objective is to eliminate up to 50 per cent of the most deadly PM2.5 particles from the air. The city has said more towers could be built if this experiment works.

Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal once called the Indian capital a "gas chamber" because of its intense pollution.

Experts say that while smog towers may work they are just a pinprick against the relentless foe of car and truck fumes, construction dirt, industrial emissions and the agricultural stubble burning that

engulf the city of more than 20 million. "Installing smog towers has never been, and will never be a solution," Sunil Dahiya, an analyst with the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, told AFP.

"If we really, really want to address pollution, it has to be addressed at the source," Dahiya added the tower will be powered by regular grid-based electricity with more than 70 per cent of India's electricity coming from coal.

"So we will only be adding to pollution elsewhere in the country." China built a 60-metre high smog tower in the badly polluted city of

Xian, but the experiment has not spread to other cities.

Delhi's attempts to halve the number of cars allowed on the city's roads have not had much success. "Every government claims that they're working to reduce pollution but we don't see the results," Delhi resident Pradeep Kumar said.

Engineers hope to complete the smog tower by August 15, when India celebrates its Independence Day.

More mega purifiers are already in the works in Delhi and Bangalore.

national

of the day quote

We have to make the Congress victorious in Punjab and Uttarakhand and pave the way for the formation of the party-led government at the Centre in 2024 under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi

HARISH RAWAT | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

The ideal situation would be to open schools after vaccination. We will see for some days the experiences of other states where schools are opening and then decide. Parents are still worried about their child's safety

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

No one can deny that Mamata Banerjee has emerged as the nucleus of opposition politics

KUNAL GHOSH | TMC STATE GENERAL SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

2 militants gunned down in Kashmir

Srinagar: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, including a top commander of the outfit involved in several attacks, were killed in an overnight encounter with security forces in the Sopore area of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said Friday. A police spokesperson said the security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Warpora area of Sopore Thursday.

Heavy rains in K'taka, thousands evacuated

Bangalore: Heavy rains in various parts of Karnataka over the past 24 hours have claimed three lives, led to landslides in eight places and evacuation of about 9,000 people, while the government has sounded a red alert in seven districts. The Indian Coast Guard said that it conducted a day-long rescue operation in the flood-hit Uttara Kannada District and rescued 161 people from Khargejoog village, Unglijoog, Kharejoog and Bodojoog Islands.

Pegasus in Kashmir

New Delhi: Besides Delhi-based Kashmiri journalists and a prominent civil society activist critical of official policy towards Jammu and Kashmir, more than 25 people from the Kashmir Valley were selected as potential targets of intrusive surveillance between 2017 and mid-2019 by an as yet unidentified government agency that is also believed to be a client of the Israeli company NSO Group, according to leaked records reviewed by The Wire.



It is our government's priority to create world class facilities in Bangalore and we will work towards achieving this goal

B S YEDIYURAPPA | KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

FOR A CAUSE

The 'Kisan sansad', being held at Jantar Mantar near Parliament where the Monsoon Session is underway, entered its second day Friday. Paramilitary forces and police personnel have been deployed at the site with heavy barricading at the entrance to avoid any kind of untoward incident



No timeline fixed: Centre changes stance on vax drive

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 23: The Centre Friday told the Lok Sabha that no fixed timeline can be indicated now for the completion of the Covid-19 vaccination drive in the country in view of the dynamic and evolving nature of the pandemic but it is expected all beneficiaries aged 18 years and above will be inoculated by December this year.

At the same time, the Centre asserted that the pace of the Covid vaccination across India is amongst the fastest in the world. The Centre's position on the pace of the vaccination drive against Covid was spelt out by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. An identical reply was given by his deputy Bharati Pravin Pawar in the Lower House in response to a question by Congress member Rahul Gandhi and TMC's Mala Roy whether the government proposes to complete the exercise of full Covid vaccination of all adults by the end of the year. Pawar also said there has been no delay in entering into purchase agreements with domestic Covid vaccine manufacturers and advance payments have also been made for the supply orders placed with them. Mandaviya said Covid-19 vaccination is an ongoing and dynamic process, which is being guided by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) on the basis

of concurrent scientific evidence. "In view of the dynamic and evolving nature of Covid-19 pandemic, no fixed timeline at present can be indicated for the completion of the vaccination drive, however, it is expected that all beneficiaries aged 18 years and above will be vaccinated by December 2021," he said.

On related issues, Mandaviya said while there have been instances of vaccine wastage in states and Union territories (UTs), but extra doses have also been extracted from a given vial according to the Co-WIN portal. "The vaccine doses wasted and maximum possible doses extracted beyond the labelled quantity are taken into account to arrive at vaccine wastage figures for a state," he noted. Mandaviya was responding to a question on whether the states/UTs are not keeping up the pace of the vaccination and wasting the doses. "Between May 1, 2021 to July 13, 2021, a total of 2.49 lakh doses were wasted, while 41.12 lakh extra doses were extracted beyond the labelled quantity," he said. Asked whether the government is aware that many inoculation sites got closed down due to non-availability of vaccines there, Minister Pawar said there has been no shortage of vaccines and that the Central Government has been providing free supply of vaccines to states and UTs for administration to prioritised beneficiaries as recommended by NEGVAC.



JOVIAL MOOD



Students celebrate after West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education(WBCHSE) declared class 12th results in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

Sidhu takes over as Pb Cong chief

CM Amarinder Singh said they will work together towards the state's welfare

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 23: Navjot Singh Sidhu Friday took over as president of the Punjab Congress in the presence of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh who said they will work together for the welfare of Punjab, their public truce indicating an end to a fractious chapter in the party's state unit.

Executing a bat stroke in the air with a flourish before heading to the rostrum, Sidhu told the packed house gathered at the party headquarters that the Congress was united and his aim was to work towards giving power back to the people. "Punjab will win, Punjabis will win," the once famous batsman and now politician said. "All Congress workers in Punjab have become the party's state unit chief today. There is no difference between a leader and a worker," Sidhu said in an impassioned speech. The Amritsar East MLA was appointed the Punjab Congress



chief despite strong opposition from Amarinder Singh. He had earlier refused to meet Sidhu without an apology for the "derogatory" tweets against him. Today was the first time in four months the two leaders met each other. Sidhu takes over the reins of the party from Sunil Jakhar along with four working presidents -- Sangat Singh Gilzian, Sukhwinder Singh Danny, Pawan Goel and Kuljit Singh Nagra -- appointed by the party high command to assist him

in the run-up to the state Assembly elections next year. Without naming anyone, the former cricketer said in his speech in Punjab that those who oppose him make him better. Declaring he has no ego issues and will take everyone along and work shoulder-to-shoulder, he said, "We are incomplete without power of our workers, who are party's soul." The purpose of his party president's post is to resolve people's issues. If these are not resolved then it counts for nothing, he said.

At one point, he gestured towards Amarinder Singh on stage and said, "CM sahib, issues have to be resolved..." The chief minister, on his part, also urged party workers to extend full support to the new state president. "We will move together in politics. We have to think of Punjab's welfare," the chief minister said. Pointing towards Sidhu, Amarinder Singh said they will work together towards the state's welfare.

CRIME BRANCH QUIZZES SHILPA



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 23: Businessman Raj Kundra and his IT head Ryan Thorpe will remain in police custody till July 27, a magistrate ruled here Friday.

The day was also marked by much drama at the Juhu residence of Kundra and his wife, actress and businesswoman Shilpa Shetty, after Crime Branch sleuths came calling. They reportedly questioned Shetty over whether she had any knowledge of her husband's alleged involvement in the production of pornographic content.

Though the Crime Branch did not make any statement on the visit by its officials to the Kundra-Shetty home, sources said that they believe that the money allegedly earned by Kundra from pornography was used for online betting. The Crime Branch is believed to be investigating the money trail. After reportedly recording Shetty's statement and collecting documents related to the case, the Crime Branch officials escorted Kundra back to the Byculla police station. There was no statement from the couple or their lawyers regarding the activities at their home Friday.

Kundra, meanwhile, has moved the Bombay High Court challenging the police remand and the cases against him. The Mumbai Police have thus far arrested 10 people along with Kundra for their alleged involvement in the production of porn films and circulating them through mobile apps.

Rahul demands Shah's resignation, SC probe against PM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 23: Upping the ante against the government, former Congress Chief Rahul Gandhi Friday described Pegasus as a weapon and demanded resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

He also demanded a Supreme Court probe against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the media outside Parliament, Rahul Gandhi said, "Pegasus is classified by the Israeli State as a weapon and that weapon is supposed to be used against the terrorist. The Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) and Union Home Minister have

PEGASUS ROW

used this weapon against the Indian State and against our institutions." He alleged that the government used it politically.

"They have used it in Karnataka, they have used it to scuttle probes, they have used it against the Supreme Court and against all the institutions of this country," he alleged.

Targeting the government, Rahul Gandhi said, "The only word for this is treason. There is no other word for this." "And this has to be investigated and the Home Minister has to resign," the Congress leader

TMC MP Santanu Sen suspended from RS

TMC MP Santanu Sen was Friday suspended from Rajya Sabha for the remaining period of the Monsoon session for snatching and tearing the statement of IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on the Pegasus row, as Upper House Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu dubbed Sen's action an "assault on the country's parliamentary democracy." TMC leader's suspension came after a motion moved by the government was passed in the House with voice vote. Naidu also expressed anguish over frequent disruptions as he made a passionate appeal to members to allow smooth functioning of the House so that more meaningful discussions could take place.

demanded. He also accused the Prime Minister of using this (Pegasus) weapon against the people of the country and also to scuttle the probe of the Rafale fighter jet deal.

The Congress leader also said

that "they tapped my phone." "This is not about my privacy, not about the privacy of Rahul Gandhi. I am an opposition leader and I raise issues of public. This is an attack on that. This is an attack on the voice of the people," he said.

Why can't IMD forecast extreme rainfall beyond 200 mm?

THERE HAS BEEN AN OBSERVED INCREASE IN NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE COUNTRY DURING RECENT YEARS



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Mumbai, July 23: When mediapersons wanted to know the response of the Maharashtra government Friday

after massive landslides killed more than 100 people with several districts witnessing extreme rainfall and floods, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that there is a need to change the definitions of the terms used by the weather department.

"I have been taking stock of the situation for the last 4-5 days. Whatever forecast that the weather department had made, going by that we will need to change the definitions. It said 'atvrishti' (extremely heavy rainfall), but there was no upper limit. It is raining beyond 'extremely heavy rainfall'. This is an unexpected disaster. There are landslides, flood waters are increasing, rivers are swelling and we are facing such extreme disasters," Thackeray told mediapersons in Mumbai. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) uses the term 'Heavy Rain' for 64.5 to 115.5 mm rainfall; 'Very Heavy Rain' for 115.6 to 204.4 mm and

'Extremely Heavy Rain' for all rainfall more than 204.4 mm. Some places such as Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra or Agumbe in Karnataka or for that matter Cherrapunji in Meghalaya are known to have record rainfalls in the range of 40 to 60 cm (400 mm to 600 mm) on a given day. But for other places, it is for the IMD to forecast accurately and that is where the definitions fall short.

SO WHAT IS THE MISSING FACTOR?

Mahesh Narvekar, Director, Disaster Management, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), pointed at that the need for a proper early warning for preventing loss of life or property. "Any kind of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures or Disaster Risk Management (DRM) efforts will need proper early warnings. But this early warning is dependent on proper forecasting,"

Narvekar said. The financial capital of India faced extreme rainfall Saturday (July 17), similar to what the Konkan region and several places across the Western Ghats have been facing.

Narvekar cited the example from north Mumbai wherein at 1 p.m., the IMD issued a yellow alert (heavy rainfall, up to 115 mm), "but about 12 hours later, it rained so much that it could have qualified as cloudburst. Why cannot they tell us one hour before about this extreme rainfall?" He said because of the heavy rainfall that night, the water level in Mithi River raised from 1.80m to 4.2m. "At 3 a.m., the IMD NowCast said extremely heavy rainfall. But the rainfall stopped at 4 a.m.," he said. The IMD has been constantly attacked for such misses by the local media, but Thackeray's remarks have put the agency in a different predicament. "Thackeray's concern is well taken. But if we look

at the science, it is not possible with reasonable accuracy to say that in such a particular place, there will be rainfall of 30 cm or 40 cm," IMD's Director General (Meteorology) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told IANS.

The IMD deploys Doppler radar and satellite images that give observational data, which means they can tell what has happened. But forecast comes from the models. These models we go on improving year-wise and every year, he said. Even with the state-of-the-art models that are presently used by the meteorologists, not just in India but across the world, it is a problem to deterministically determine the centimetre rainfall such as 30 cm or 40 cm (or for that matter, even more), Mohapatra claimed. There has been an observed increase in natural disasters like cyclones and floods in the country during recent years, in many cases due to climate change.

Use of plastic sticks may be banned from next Jan: Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: Candy sticks and ice-cream sticks made of plastic may get phased out from January 1, 2022, the Centre informed Parliament Friday.



Responding to a query on the phasing out schedule of single-use plastic, Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Choubey said as per the draft notification issued earlier this year, manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of some of the identified single-use plastic items are proposed to be prohibited by

January 1, 2022.

Earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocool) for decoration are proposed to be phased out by January 1, while single-use plastic (including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene) items – plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, straw, container and container lids, trays, plastic/PVC banners less than 100 microns and stirrers are expected to be phased out by July next year. Single-use plastic items expected to be phased out by September 30 this year include carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic less than 120 microns in thickness and non-woven plastic carry bag less than 60 GSM (gram per square metre) or 240 microns in thickness, the minister informed Lok Sabha in a written response, adding that the provisions shall not apply to commodities (including carry bags) made of compostable plastic material.

international



We all feel for the people of the DPRK, who are indeed facing all the most difficult circumstances given the pandemic, and what it means as well for their food security
WENDY SHERMAN | DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, US

"I WAS REBORN AGED 102"

Russian WW II veteran Nikolai Bagayev feels like he has cheated death twice. This time though, the enemy was not the German troops invading the Soviet Union but Covid-19. Bagayev, 102, had 80% lung damage when he was admitted to hospital



of the day quote

I refute the unfounded and slanderous US government sanctions against Army Corp General Alvaro Lopez Miera and the National Special Brigade
BRUNO RODRIGUEZ PARRILLA | FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER, CUBA

African countries must go all out and speed up their vaccine rollouts by 5 to 6 times if they are to get all these doses into arms and fully vaccinate the most vulnerable 10 per cent of their people by the end of September
MATSHIDISO MOETI | REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, WHO

The people showed their displeasure ... but we cannot really blame the people and their issues must be taken care of. Now, thank God, all the various agencies, governmental and non-governmental, are working to resolve the water crisis
AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENI | SUPREME LEADER, IRAN

AFGHAN PRESIDENT MUST GO: TALIBAN

Taliban spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, dismissed Ghani's right to govern, resurrecting allegations of widespread fraud that surrounded Ghani's 2019 election win

PRICE FOR PEACE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamabad, July 23: The Taliban say they don't want to monopolize power, but they insist there won't be peace in Afghanistan until there is a new negotiated government in Kabul and President Ashraf Ghani is removed.

In an interview, Taliban spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, who is also a member of the group's negotiating team, laid out the insurgents' stance on what should come next in a country on the precipice.

The Taliban have swiftly captured territory in recent weeks, seized strategic border crossings and are threatening a number of provincial capitals, as the last US and NATO soldiers leave Afghanistan.

Shaheen said the Taliban will lay down their weapons when a negotiated government acceptable to all sides in the conflict is installed in Kabul and Ghani's government is gone.

"I want to make it clear that we do not believe in the monopoly of power because any governments who (sought) to monopolize power in Afghanistan in the past, were



UNDER NEW GOVT

Women will be allowed to work, go to school, and participate in politics, but they will have to wear the hijab, or headscarf

Women won't be required to have a male relative with them to leave their home

not successful governments," said Shaheen, apparently including the Taliban's own five-year rule in that assessment. "So we do not want to repeat that same formula."

Ghani has often said he will remain in office until new elections can determine the next government. His critics — including ones outside the Taliban — accuse him of seeking only to keep power, causing splits among government supporters. Before any ceasefire, there must be an

Recent air strikes in Afghan to repel Taliban: Pentagon

The US carried out airstrikes across Afghanistan in the last several days as part of an effort to support the Afghan security forces fighting Taliban insurgents, the Pentagon has said. The news of US airstrikes in Afghanistan came a day after America's most senior military officer admitted that the Taliban had gained "strategic momentum," with their forces now controlling about half of Afghanistan's more than 400 district centres. "Without speaking to specifics, I can say that in the last several days, we have acted through airstrikes to support the ANDSF (Afghan National Defense and Security Forces) but I won't get into tactical details of those strikes," Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby told reporters Thursday at a news conference. "But we continue to be able to and we continue to, as the Secretary said yesterday, conduct airstrikes in support of the ANDSF," he said.

PEGASUS PROJECT

Pak urges UN to probe India's 'spyware use'

AGENCIES

Islamabad, July 23: Pakistan called on the United Nations Friday to investigate whether India used Israeli-made Pegasus spyware to spy on public figures including Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The Pakistani leader's phone number was on a list of what an investigation by a group of 17 international media organisations and Amnesty International said were potential surveillance targets for countries that bought the spyware.

Pakistan's foreign office issued a statement accusing India of "state-sponsored, continuing and widespread surveillance and spying operations in clear breach of global norms of responsible state behaviour."

"In view of the gravity of these reports, we call on the relevant UN bodies to thoroughly investigate the matter; bring the facts to light, and hold the Indian perpetrators to account," it said.

The Indian government has already faced calls by domestic political opponents to investigate allegations of spying on officials including the main opposition leader, Rahul Gandhi.

The investigation published by



Imran Khan's name was on the list of potential targets submitted by a group of 17 international media organisations and Amnesty International

the media organisations Sunday said spyware made and licensed by Israeli company NSO had been used in attempted and successful hacks of 37 smartphones belonging to journalists, government officials and human rights activists.

Arch-rivals and neighbours, Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, which both claim in full.

SHORT TAKES

Blinken to meet PM Modi, EAM

Washington: US Secretary of State Tony Blinken during his maiden trip to India next week would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to discuss wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues, his spokesperson said Friday. "In New Delhi July 28, Secretary Blinken will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss a wide range of issues, including continued cooperation on Covid-19 response efforts, Indo-Pacific engagement, shared regional security interests, shared democratic values and addressing the climate crisis," Price said.

Japan PM seeks Pfizer vax doses

Tokyo: Japan's Prime Minister met with Pfizer's CEO in an unusually high-profile setting Friday to make sure the drugmaker would deliver the Covid-19 vaccine as promised by this fall as the nation faces supply concerns and a growing outbreak. Pfizer Inc CEO Albert Bourla, who is in Tokyo to attend Friday's opening ceremony of the Olympics, was greeted by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga at the Akasaka Palace state guest house, usually used to welcome heads of state.

Boat carrying 45 migrants capsizes

Istanbul: Eight people remain missing after a boat carrying migrants and refugees sank off southwest Turkey, said the Turkish defence ministry, with search and rescue efforts ongoing. 37 people were rescued from the vessel, the ministry added Friday, which sank some 259 km southwest of the Turkish resort town of Kas late Thursday. Turkish naval ships and an aircraft were involved in the search and rescue operation.

Pak crosses over 1M Covid cases

Islamabad: Pakistan has reported 1,425 new cases of Coronavirus in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of infections in the country to over a million, the health ministry said Friday. The Ministry of National Health Services said that the total number of infections as of now in the country stands at 1,000,034 while the total deaths happened so far is 22,939 after 11 more people with the disease died in the last one day.

Protests flare at Haiti Prez's funeral

AGENCIES

Cap-Haitien, July 23: A US delegation and other dignitaries were hurried to vehicles as reports emerged of shots fired and crowd control gas used on protesters outside the funeral of late Haitian president Jovenel Moise Friday.

There were no immediate reports of injuries among protesters or authorities, and no indications any guests at the funeral were in danger.

A brass band and church choir opened Moise's ceremony minutes earlier as his wife looked on, two weeks after a still-unexplained assassination at their home by foreign mercenaries.

The service was punctuated by angry shouts of protest by supporters accusing authorities of responsibility for Moise's death, their words sometimes drowned out by loud swells of taped somber church music.



"Why do you have all this security, where were the police on the day of the President's assassination?" one protester said.

Inside the auditorium where the Roman Catholic funeral was held, four pallbearers in military attire solemnly stood by the closed wooden casket. It was draped with a Haitian flag and set on a dais garlanded with white flowers.

COVID CASES SOAR

Sydney outbreak a 'national emergency'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sydney, July 23: Sydney's fast-growing coronavirus outbreak has become a "national emergency," state leaders said Friday, as Australia's largest city reported another record number of new infections.

Admitting a month-long lockdown had so far failed to stop a Delta-variant outbreak, the state of New South Wales pleaded for Canberra to urgently send more vaccines and resources.

Declaring the outbreak a national emergency could pave the way for more federal government involvement in stemming the crisis.

"We have an obligation on behalf of the nation to contain the virus," said New South Wales premier



Gladys Berejiklian. "There is no doubt that the numbers are not going in the right direction."

With the virus "spreading everywhere" and half the country's 25 million people currently in lockdown, Berejiklian said the government must "refocus" its glacial vaccine rollout.

"We need, at least, more first doses of Pfizer," Berejiklian said, while warning Sydney's five million residents that restrictions could run until October.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison Thursday apologised for the country's slow vaccine rollout, admitting targets had not been met.

NZ suspends travel bubble

New Zealand Friday suspended its quarantine-free travel bubble with Australia for at least eight weeks due to a growing Covid-19 cluster in Sydney. New Zealand recently imposed quarantine restrictions on travellers from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia states, where lockdowns have been introduced to contain delta variant clusters. PM Jacinda Ardern said quarantine-free travel would be suspended from anywhere in Australia from 11:59 pm. The travel bubble has existed since April and has provided both countries with their only quarantine-free international flights.

B'desh reimposes 14-day shutdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, July 23: Bangladesh Friday reimposed a "stricter" 14-day nationwide shutdown to contain the spread of Coronavirus, amid mounting fear that easing of restrictions ahead of Eid when tens of millions of people returned to their villages may result in a rise in Covid-19 cases.

The government said everyone must stay indoors as offices, courts, garment factories and all other export-oriented industries will remain closed. "The stricter lockdown has been ordered for the next 14 days . . . Unlike the previous restrictions export-oriented factories will come under its purview," a cabinet division spokesman said Friday.



A couple walks on a street in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, along Ahr river in Rhineland-Palatinate state, Germany REUTERS

Great Barrier Reef avoids UNESCO 'in danger' listing

REPRESENTATIVES OF 16 OF THE 21 COMMITTEE NATIONS APART FROM AUSTRALIA SPOKE IN FAVOUR OF THE AMENDMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE POSITION WITHOUT A VOTE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canberra, July 23: Australia Friday garnered enough international support to defer for two years an attempt by the United Nations' cultural organization to downgrade the Great Barrier Reef's World Heritage status because of damage caused by climate change.

UNESCO had recommended that its World Heritage Committee add the world's largest coral reef ecosystem off the northeast Australian coast to the World Heritage in Danger list, mainly due to rising ocean temperatures.

But Australian-proposed amendments to the draft decision at a committee meeting in China Friday

deferred the "in danger" question until 2023.

In the meantime, a monitoring mission will visit the reef to determine how the impact of climate change can be managed.

Australian Environment Minister Sussan Ley told the virtual meeting that downgrading the reef's status before the committee had finalized its own climate change policy made no sense.

"Delegates, we ask only two things: time for experts to see firsthand our commitment to the reef, its present condition and our management, and for the final climate policy to provide a consistent framework for addressing the impacts of climate change on all World



Heritage properties," she said from Australia, where she in quarantine after lobbying delegates in Europe and the Middle East on the

decision. In 2014, Australia was warned that an "in danger" listing was being considered rather than being proposed for immediate action.

Australia had time to respond by developing a long-term plan to improve the reef's health called the Reef 2050 Plan.

Since then, the reef has suffered significantly from coral bleaching caused by unusually warm ocean temperatures in 2016, 2017 and last year. The bleaching damaged two thirds of the coral.

Australia reacted angrily last month when the draft decision was published to remove the network of 2,500 reefs covering 348,000 square kilometers (134,000 square miles)

from the World Heritage list it joined 40 years ago for its "outstanding universal value." The "in danger" listing is one step away from losing all World Heritage standing.

Many in Australia's conservative government saw the move as an attempt to pressure it into committing to reducing the nation's greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050 and to stop allowing coal mines to be expanded.

The Chinese host of the committee meeting in the city of Fuzhou this week defended the proposed "in danger" listing against Australian government suspicion that China influenced the finding for political reasons.

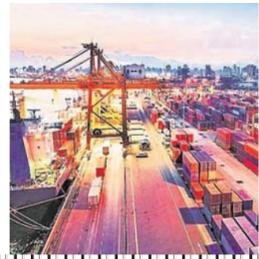


Our latest survey insights indicate that the Indian consumer is showing signs of reduced anxiety and is open to looking at increasing discretionary spends

PORUS DOCTOR | PARTNER AND CONSUMER INDUSTRY LEADER, DTTLLP

INDIA IMPROVES IN UN'S SURVEY

India has scored 90.32% in the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. A Finance Ministry statement said this was a remarkable jump from 78.49% in 2019



Fuel supply by Coal India to power sector rises 36% in Q1



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: The despatch of coal by state-owned CIL to the power sector registered an increase of 35.6 per cent to 127.31 million tonnes in the first quarter of the ongoing fiscal. Coal India (CIL) had supplied 93.89 million tonnes (MT) to the power sector in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, according to government data.

The despatch of coal by the maharatna firm also increased to 39.79 MT in June 2021, over 31.15 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal, data showed.

CIL, one of the major suppliers of the fossil fuel to the power sector, accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal output. It is eyeing one billion tonnes of output by 2023-24.

State-owned CIL will pump in over ₹1.22 lakh crore on projects related to coal evacuation, exploration and clean coal technologies by 2023-24, to achieve the said production target.

Out of the proposed spend of over ₹2.22 lakh crore, CIL has planned to invest ₹32,696 crore on coal evacuation, ₹25,117 crore on mine infrastructure and ₹29,461 crore on project development by 2023-24. The state-owned company will also invest ₹32,199 on diversification and clean coal technologies, ₹1,495 crore on social infrastructure and ₹1,893 crore on exploration works.

DREAM DEBUT

Zomato's market-cap crosses ₹1L cr during initial hours of trade

AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 23: Stocks of online food delivery platform Zomato made a stellar debut on the stock markets with market valuation crossing the ₹1 lakh crore mark during the initial hours of trade on the first day. At the end of the day's trade, the market capitalisation of Zomato was at ₹98,731.59 crore.

On Friday, its shares on the BSE closed at ₹125.85, higher by ₹10.85 or 9.43 per cent from the issue price of ₹76 per share. At the BSE, it got listed at ₹115 a share.

Further, on the National Stock Exchange, its shares ended the day's trade at ₹125.30, against the issue price of ₹76. It got listed on the NSE at ₹116 per share.

The much-anticipated initial public offering (IPO) of Zomato was subscribed over 38 times by the end of the final day of the issue on Friday.

According to data on the BSE website, qualified institutional buyers (QIB) subscribed 51.79 times of their earmarked portion. The portion of the non-institutional investors was subscribed 32.96 times.

of the day quote

The policy reforms are set to ensure that the Fund (IMF) has the capacity to respond flexibly to low-income countries' needs over the medium-term while continuing to provide concessional loans at zero interest rates

SEAN NOLAN | DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STRATEGY POLICY AND REVIEW DEPARTMENT, IMF

Engineering goods sector has been one of the top performers in exports. It recorded 50 per cent or higher year-on-year growth for the fourth straight month in June. During this period, engineering goods export was at its all-time high

MAHESH DESAI | CHAIRMAN, EEPIC INDIA

e-Commerce is an emerging economic engine powering inclusive growth, creating large-scale employment and skilling opportunities for the youth and integrating MSMEs from tier-II cities and beyond in national and global supply chains

SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN | MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR

SHORT TAKES

RBI raises loan limit

Mumbai: The RBI has raised the limit of loan that can be given by banks to a Director on the board of a bank to ₹5 crore from the previous cap of ₹25 lakh. In a circular issued Friday, the central bank said that unless sanctioned by the Board of Directors or the Management Committee, banks should not grant loans and advances aggregating ₹5 crore and above to any relative other than spouse and minor or dependent children of their own Chairmen and MDs.

United Spirits Q1 net profit at ₹50cr

New Delhi: Diageo-controlled liquor maker United Spirits Ltd Friday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹50.3 crore for the quarter ended June 2021, helped by double-digit growth in sales. The company had posted a net loss of ₹246.6 crore in the April-June period a year ago when most of the liquor shops were closed due to the national lockdown. Its revenue from operations rose 61.44% to ₹6,168.5 crore as against ₹3,820.7 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, United Spirits said in a filing.

Tesla seeks reduction

New Delhi: US-based electric car major Tesla has demanded reduction in import duties on electric vehicles (EVs) in India, a senior government official said Friday. At present, cars imported as completely built units (CBUs) attract customs duty ranging from 60% to 100%, depending on engine size and cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value less or above \$40,000. "Actually it's a revenue matter. But yes, their demand for lower tariffs is in public domain," the official said.

ECB leaves key rates unchanged

Frankfurt: The European Central Bank (ECB) said that it has decided to leave key interest rates unchanged and revised its forward guidance according to the new 2 per cent symmetric inflation target. The ECB Governing Council "expects the key ECB interest rates to remain at their present or lower levels until it sees inflation reaching two percent well ahead of the end of its projection horizon and durably for the rest of the projection horizon", the central bank said.

THREE DECADES OF LIBERALISATION

'Road ahead more daunting, need to recalibrate priorities'

The liberalisation process in 1991 was triggered by an economic crisis that confronted our nation then, but it was not limited to crisis management. The edifice of India's economic reforms was built on the desire to prosper

MANMOHAN SINGH | FORMER PRIME MINISTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: The road ahead is even more daunting than during the 1991 economic crisis and the nation would need to recalibrate its priorities to ensure a dignified life for all Indians, said former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Friday.

In a statement marking the 30th anniversary of economic liberalisation, Singh said he was deeply saddened at the devastation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the loss of millions of fellow Indians and livelihoods.

Recalling that as finance minister in 1991, he ended his budget speech by quoting Victor Hugo, 'No power on Earth can stop an idea whose time has come', and said, 'Thirty years later, as a nation, we must remember Robert Frost's poem - 'But



I have promises to keep. And miles to go before I sleep.'

"It is not a time to rejoice and exult but to introspect and ponder. The road ahead is even more daunting than during the 1991 crisis," Singh said in the statement.

"Our priorities as a nation need to be recalibrated to foremost ensure a healthy and dignified life for every single Indian."

AGR CALCULATION

SC dismisses Vi, Airtel pleas seeking correction

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 23: In a big setback for telecom companies, the Supreme Court Friday dismissed their plea seeking correction of alleged errors in Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) calculation. A bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said all applications dismissed. On Monday, the apex court already said it would pass its order on applications filed by - Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel and Tata Tele Services Ltd - alleging arithmetical errors in calculation of AGR dues payable by them.

The top court, citing an earlier order in the matter, had noted the order clearly point out that no re-assessment of AGR related dues can be done. The telcos submitted that arithmetical errors can be rectified and there are cases of duplication of entries.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Vodafone Idea, had submitted they were not blaming the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for it, and there are arithmetical errors. Rohatgi added that they want to



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bring these errors to the attention of concerned department, for their rectification. The bench reiterated that the apex court order had made it clear that there can't be any re-assessment.

Rohatgi responded figures are "not cast in stone" and added, tribunals don't have the power of review but they can correct arithmetical errors. He submitted that they were not seeking any extension of time.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, representing Tata Tele Services

Ltd, submitted rectification of errors in calculation can be done. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, submitted he has not received any instructions from the DoT on allowing correction of errors. The bench had said that it has said not just once, but twice and thrice that AGR demand can't be recomputed.

Senior advocate AM Singhvi, representing Airtel, said there are cases of duplication and also of payments made but not accounted for.

BIZ BUZZ

Britannia to invest ₹94cr at Odisha plant

Bhubaneswar:

Home-grown food company Britannia Industries Friday said it will invest ₹94 crore to increase production capacity at its Odisha plant. The company will add two new manufacturing lines that will increase its production capacity by nearly 85% to 65,000 metric tonnes per annum from the current 35,000 metric tonnes per annum, said Britannia Industries in a statement. The plant, which will manufacture Britannia's flagship brands comprising Marie Gold, Vita Marie Gold, Tiger Glucose & Good Day, will also generate additional employment to 450 people after the investment, the Wadia group added. "The new capacities in Odisha will be operational by October 2022," said Britannia Industries. The new manufacturing lines will feature fully automated processing and packing lines, as well as the latest warehousing infrastructure to optimise supply chain and quality management.



China's Didi facing record fine, weeks after US listing

Beijing: Chinese regulators could hit ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing with a more severe punishment than Alibaba's record fine, just weeks after its contentious New York initial public offering, a report said. Despite pushback from China against the move, Didi on June 30 went ahead with its debut in New York, surging 10 percent. However, just days later Beijing announced a probe into the company citing cybersecurity concerns, and ordered its app be removed from stores. The move sent the firm's shares plummeting and raised concerns about its business outlook. And its problems got worse earlier this month when officials from seven departments, including the ministry of public security, were sent to the firm for on-site cybersecurity investigations.

PPL conducts 'Cheer for India Meet'

Paradip/Bhubaneswar: Ahead of the Tokyo Olympics, Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) organised 'Cheer for India Meet' where all the senior executives, students and staff of DAV school participated in a signature campaign; greeting and wishing the Tokyo-bound Indian contingent that is representing the country in Japan. Ranjit Singh Chugh, Chief Operating Officer, PPL inaugurated the meet and expressed his hearty desire towards the Indian athletes, expecting them to win medals and bring laurels for India. Jagannath Khuntia, General Manager (HR) and Sanjeeb Sahoo, Principal, PPL DAV school narrated the importance of Olympics and how sports is the best medium to augment global brotherhood; putting a foundation for a healthy nation. During the occasion, four DAV students were felicitated by Chugh. Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Head of Corporate Affairs conducted the meeting.



'Gig economy to boost employment of women in formal sector'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 23: The rise of the gig economy in the wake of Covid-19 has the potential to boost women's employment in the formal sector, according to a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The adoption of new technologies could create better opportunities for women, however, re-skilling will be crucial to expand opportunities for women in the formal sector, according to the study titled 'The Future of Work for Women in the Formal Sector in India'.

The study conducted through a survey and direct interactions with over 150 CEOs and CXOs from the manufacturing and service sectors underscores the fast-changing work environment, where tech-

nology will change the world of work, with the potential to expand opportunities for women working in the formal sector.

The survey responses indicate that the loss of jobs for women in the formal sector during the Covid-19 pandemic could be temporary in nature, and women could gradually get back into the workforce.

Around 57 per cent of the respondent firms agree that the gig economy will itself expand and boost women's employment because it is based on flexible, temporary, or freelance jobs, often involving connecting with clients or customers through an online platform.

This underscores that alternative work arrangements in the gig economy have the potential to absorb more women and increase their participation in the workforce.

A boost in the use of digital tech-



nology and increased acceptance of virtual working for sales and distribution jobs, could open opportunities for women to enter fields where interactions are man-

aged through apps and phone calls, states the study.

"The study on 'The Future of Work for Women in the Formal Sector in India' indeed gives hope for a better future with more employment opportunities for women. However, concerted efforts are needed to understand how new technologies are impacting specific industries

for a better future with more employment opportunities for women. However, concerted efforts are needed to understand how new technologies are impacting specific industries and to address challenges facing

The survey also reflects that some key sectors that are likely to see an increase in women's employment are health and pharmaceuticals (by 59 per cent), electrical and electronics (by 44 per cent), and Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (perishable goods) industry (by 41 per cent). At the same time, women's employment in the finance and accounting divisions may moderately change due to the adoption of new technology.

"We are glad that we received a very positive response from the industry. We are thankful that over 150 CXOs from over 30 sectors took out time and shared their genuine feedback and comments for this study. Also, we are keen to take this work ahead and create a clear road map of a successful career for future-ready women workforce in India", stated Dilip Chenoy, Secretary-General of FICCI, India.

The study on 'The Future of Work for Women in the Formal Sector in India' gives hope for a better future with more employment opportunities for women. However, concerted efforts are needed to understand how new technologies are impacting specific industries

NADIA RASHEED | UNDP DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA

women in the workplace", stated Nadia Rasheed, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in India, at the formal launch event of the study.

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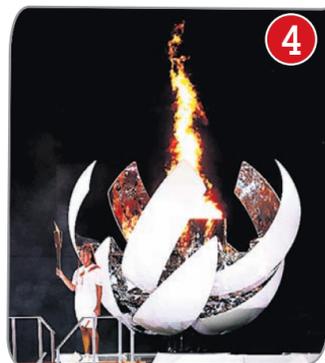
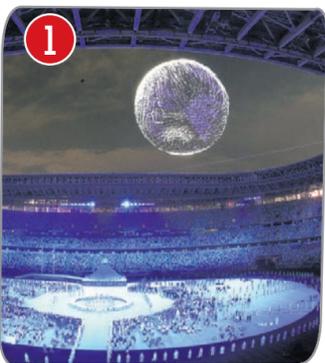
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NO CUSTOMARY RAZZMATAZZ



Tokyo Olympics opening ceremony goes under shadow amid pandemic as participating nations' athletes parade in an empty National Stadium in the Japanese capital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, July 23: The Olympics like no other opened here on Friday sans the customary razzle dazzle, the toned-down ceremony showcasing Japan's grandeur, rich culture and heritage while reflecting the sombre mood of a world ravaged by an unrelenting pandemic.

Japanese emperor Naruhito was there to inaugurate the Games, a month after voicing concerns over the possible spread of coronavirus during the Olympics, becoming the third member from his family to do the honours.

Fewer athletes across contingents took part in the ceremony, some to stay focussed on their events Saturday, a lot others out of the fear of catching the infection that has already found its way into the Games village.

Even as the opening ceremony took place, protestors gathered outside the stadium and made their voices heard, forcing the police to act. Although there were no spectators, there were fireworks and music, led by Greece, home of the Ancient Olympic Games, with host nation Japan entering the stadium last.

Athletes marched to the music of some of Japan's best-selling video games such as Dragon Quest and Final Fantasy, as country names on placards were shown in speech bubbles often used in manga cartoons.

A total of 19 Indian athletes, including flag-bearers iconic boxer MC Mary Kom and men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh, besides six officials, participated in the ceremony.

Delegations tried their best to liven the mood. Uganda, wearing bright traditional costumes, did a few measures of a dance, while the Argentine delegation jumped up and down on entering.

The show began with a video of geometric shapes drawn on a blackboard in chalk. A hand-drawn animation set them into motion, and the shapes gradually turned into the National Stadium.

In the field of play, a lone female athlete stood at its centre, her hand placed on the ground while feeling the presence of the seed. As she slowly stood, her shadow stretched out in the shape of a seedling.

With the Games being held in the wake of an unprecedented health crisis that tested the world, the strength of the athletes is portrayed in a video that counts down the final moments until the start of the ceremony.

The final second of the countdown was a bird's-eye view of the National Stadium, which resembled a zero when seen from above.

When the countdown hit zero, a fireworks display began that lasted for approximately 20 seconds, the colours of which were indigo and

white—the colours of the Tokyo 2020 emblem—and shaped like a fan, which is an auspicious symbol in Japanese culture.

There was a lot of focus on unity in diversity, peace and solidarity during the ceremony, with the message 'you may be apart, but not alone', to the athletes who have for long trained in isolation because of the fear of contracting the COVID virus.

In the second segment, the protagonist was a lone female athlete, training in the darkness, running silently on a treadmill, paying a tribute to the many solitary athletes training all over the world.

The Japanese flag was carried out by eight children, four eminent athletes of the country, a person with an impairment and health care professionals in recognition of their relentless service during the pandemic.

With a moment of silence, the ceremony then remembered all the people who lost their lives during the pandemic, members of the Israeli delegation killed during the 1972 Munich Games massacre, the 2011 earthquake, Tsunami and the nuclear disaster.

Members of the Japanese self defence forces raised the national flag on the Protocol Stage as the national anthem 'Kimi Ga Yo' played in the background. The country's famous singer Misia sang the national anthem.



- 1 Drone show over the venue
- 2 Artistes perform during the opening ceremony
- 3 Tongo flag-bearer hogs limelight during the parade
- 4 Naomi Osaka stands in front of Olympic cauldron
- 5 Flag-bearers Manpreet Singh and MC Mary Kom lead India's parade at National Stadium
- 6 Protest outside the stadium against holding the Olympic Games in Tokyo



INDIA SCHEDULE

ARCHERY: Deepika Kumari & Pravin Jadhav vs Chia-En Lin and Chih-Chun Tang (Chinese Taipei) in Mixed Team 1/8 Eliminations; **6:00am IST**

BADMINTON: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Shetty Chirag vs Yang Lee/Chi-Lin Wang (Chinese Taipei) in Men's Doubles Group A match; **8:50am IST**; B Sai Praneeth vs Misha Zilberman (Israel) in Men's Singles Group D match; **9:30am IST**

BOXING: Vikash Krishan vs Sewonrets Quincy Mensah Okazawa (JPN); **69kg Round of 32 match; 3:54pm IST**

HOCKEY: India vs New Zealand in Men's Pool A match; **6:30am IST**; India vs Netherlands in Women's Pool A match; **5:15pm IST**

ROWING: Arjun Lal Jat & Arvind Singh in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls Heat 2; **7:30am IST**

SHOOTING: Apurvi Chandela and Elavenil Valarivan in Women's 10m Air Rifle Qualification; **5:00am IST**; Abhishek Verma and Saurabh Chaudhary in Men's 10m Air Rifle Qualification; **9:30am IST**

TABLE TENNIS: Sharath Kamal & Manika Batra vs Yun Ju Lin and Ching Cheng (Chinese Taipei) in Mixed Doubles Round of 16; **8:30am IST**; Manika Batra vs Tin-Tin Ho (Great Britain) in Women's Singles Round 1; **12:15pm IST**; Sutirtha Mukherjee vs Linda Bergstrom of Sweden in Women's Singles Round 1; **1:00pm IST**

TENNIS: Sumit Nagal vs Denis Istomin (Uzbekistan) in Men's Singles Round 1 2nd match after **7:30am IST start**

WEIGHTLIFTING: Mirabai Chanu in women's 49kg; **10:20am IST**

Deepika fails to impress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, July 23: Star Indian archer Deepika Kumari finished ninth in the women's individual ranking round to secure an easy first-round clash in the main event as the country's Olympic campaign kickstarted at the Yumenoshima Park here Friday.

The World No.1 finished with 663 points, while 20-year-old Korean prodigy An San (680) topped the qualification round with an Olympic record score of 680. Deepika will now have an easy first-round outing against World No.193 Karma of Bhutan, who finished 56th in the ranking round.

The Indian might run into San in the quarterfinal stage. Deepika had lost to her in straight sets during their only exchange in an Olympic Test event at the same venue in 2019.

The previous Olympic record score in the individual ranking round was 673 held by Ukraine's Lina Gerasymenko way back at Atlanta 1996 Olympics. The world record (692) is held by Kang Chae



Wong, the world No.3 who finished third with 675 points for a Korean top-three in the qualification round. Jang Minhee (677) finished second.

The qualifying round results are used to seed the athletes and nations for the individual, mixed team and team competitions, deciding their opponents in the competition.

Archers shoot 72 arrows at the target set 70 metres away, in 12 series of six arrows. An archer's position after the ranking round becomes their seeding for matchplay.

Avishka, spinners lift Sri Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 23: Opener Avishka Fernando (76) and spinners helped Sri Lanka secure a consolation 3-wicket win the third and final ODI against India here, Friday. A second string Indian side however won the series 2-1.

Chasing 227, the hosts lost Minod Bhanuka early, before a 109-run partnership between Avishka and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (65) put them in a strong position. From 194/3, SL saw a late collapse as they were reduced to 220/7. However, it didn't make any difference in securing the result for the home team.

Debutants leggie Rahul Chahar (3/54) and left-arm pacer Chetan Sakariya (2/34) bowled well. Hardik Pandya (1/43) and K Gowtham (1/49) bagged a wicket each.

Earlier, India's young batsmen paid for their profligacy and inexperience as Sri Lanka's spinners made best use of a rain break to dismiss the visitors for a lowly 225 in 43.1 overs.

With the series pocketed, India coach Rahul Dravid rejigged the



Avishka Fernando pulls one for a six; Akila Dananjaya (inset) appeals during their match against India

bowling line-up along with a couple of changes in the batting order, but it was evident that the lack of game awareness became their undoing on the day.

The rain-break at the end of the 23rd over, which reduced the game to 47-overs per side, helped the home team. Left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama (3/59) and off-spinner Akila Dananjaya (3/44) blew away the lower middle order with turn and bounce.

However, Prithvi Shaw (49) dazzled with his breathtaking array of

strokes, while Sanju Samson again made batting look easy in his run-a-ball 46. Suryakumar Yadav (40) again batted like a dream but just like in the last match, the ball that sharply turns in became his undoing.

BRIEF SCORES: India 225 (Prithvi Shaw 49, Sanju Samson 46, Suryakumar Yadav 40; Akila Dananjaya 3/44, Praveen Jayawickrama 3/59) lost to Sri Lanka 227/7 (Avishka Fernando 76, Bhanuka Rajapaksa 65; Rahul Chahar 3/54, Chetan Sakariya 2/34) by 3 wickets.

AFI to take action against poor-performers at Games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) Friday threatened action against all those who do not perform well in the Olympics after deciding not to pull out long jumper M Sreeshankar and 20km race walker KT Irfan from the Games despite a dip in their form. AFI's selection committee, in an emergency meeting, arrived at a 'unanimous decision' to not pull the two athletes out of the 26-member squad.

Despite the strong opinion from some members that both should be withdrawn after they underperformed in the trials in Bengaluru, the committee noted that the federation had called the trials to assess fitness and not form.

AFI President Adille Sumariwalla said the coaches of both the athletes had been spoken to about their lacklustre form in the trials. "The coaches have promised that their respective athletes would give their best in Tokyo. Sreeshankar's father and coach have assured of

good performance from his athlete. If athletes do not perform well in the Olympics, we will take action against them," he said.

During a fitness trial held Wednesday at the Sports Authority of India Centre in Bangalore, Sreeshankar's best jump was 7.48m, a far cry from the 8.26m he had come up during the Federation Cup in March to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

Sreeshankar had pulled out of the National Inter-State Championships (June 25-29) just before his event after warming up on the field at the NIS Patiala.

Irfan, who underwent a fitness trial July 9, was the first track and field athlete to qualify for the Olympics way back in March 2019 during the Asian Race Walking Championships in Nomi, Japan.

His last competition was during the National Race Walking Championships in March in Ranchi, where he did not finish the race. He had contracted COVID-19 in May and has recovered since then.